

San Jose Branch

BONFIRE



Empowering Women Since 1881

CHOOSE how you vote

With the implementation of a new Vote Center election model, voters now have **more days** and **more ways** to vote!

For more information, please visit our website:
www.sccvote.org/VotersChoice

For presentation, workshop, or supply inquiries, please contact our Voter Education & Outreach Team:
outreach@rov.sccgov.org

Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters
VOTER'S CHOICE
 your new voting experience

Third Wednesday Program

October 16, 7-8:30 pm

Voting in Santa Clara County is Changing! Come hear how the Voter’s Choice Act will change your voting experience, from a “voting ambassador” trained by the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters.

Learn the answers to these (and many other) questions:

- Will the polls be open on weekends?
- I vote by mail – will voting be changed for me?
- How can I make sure my vote is really counted?
- Can I register to vote online?
- I am a poll worker and I like my stipend. Can I earn more?
- I have a long commute and voting is a hassle. Will this make life easier for me?
- Will I get a sticker with my mail-in ballot?

Your voting experience is changing!

New opportunities for Poll Workers

New ways to participate in the election

“To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.”

President's Corner

Peg Carlson-Bowen



I hope you had a chance to find something to pique your interest at the Fall Gathering. Whether it's a new interest group with new (and old) friends, a Community Action Project (CAP) that allows you to give back, or an advocacy activity that aligns your values, AAUW San Jose has a place for you. This year, we had an almost full schedule of programs and events already worked out. You can pick up a flyer at Headquarters if you didn't get one at the Fall Gathering and save the dates. In addition to our Third Wednesday and weekend programs, we will also have some more "done-in-a-day" volunteer opportunities, including our joint effort with the League of Women Voters to pre-register 16 and 17-year old high school juniors. Look for that early 2020.

Have you had a chance to see the remodeled kitchen and bath at Headquarters? The Trombetta family, through both Ruby and Diane, has been so generous with their donations to this project. We are grateful to them and to the Building and Properties Committee, who worked tirelessly on the myriad details to accomplish this beautiful transformation.

Look for new marketing materials from a new San Jose State University Public Relations class this year. Member Nancy Moreno has renewed this collaboration and is working on more integrated marketing efforts to let the community know about how AAUW San Jose advocates for gender equity for women and girls.

Branch General Fund Financial Activity Report

2018-2019

Pat Diamond, Finance Officer

Revenue: \$15,407

(Dues/Roundup/Directory) \$8,618

(Donations) \$6,789

Expenses: \$13,910

(Membership) \$1,640

(Programs) \$4,137

(Meetings) \$2,034

(Tech Trek) \$2,000

(Conventions/Communication) \$1,030

(Insurance/Operations) \$2,522

(Misc.) \$ 547

Building Fund Financial Activity Report

2018-2019

Pat Diamond, Finance Officer

Revenue: \$33,340

(Rent) \$23,940

(Donations) \$ 9,400

Ready for a Raise? Know Someone Who Is?

Peg Carlson-Bowen

According to Pew Research, the gender wage gap has stalled at 80% for about 15 years. AAUW's goal is to eliminate the wage gap by 2030. We now have a new tool - free salary negotiation training through Work Smart. AAUW has already trained almost 100,000 women across the nation at in-person workshops and online. The goal is to train 10 million women by 2022. The training features negotiation techniques especially designed for women's success. The online course is free and available 24x7 at salary.aauw.org. In-person workshops are also offered in selected cities.

Though the online training can be done independently, we have found that in pilot sessions, people have more success with some in-person support in addition to the online modules. To that end, AAUW San Jose is holding a Work Smart Showcase Series of three sessions (see schedule below) to get people started and help with in-person practice. These sessions will be held at the Willow Glen Library (next to Branch Headquarters) in the Community Room. Attendees completing the course will leave with a custom salary target, statements showing the value they bring to a company, and a strategy for success.

Session 1: Wed Oct 9, from 7 - 8:30 pm - Registration, Navigation and Course Overview

Session 2: Wed. Oct 30, from 7 - 8:30 pm - Know Your Value

Session 3: Thurs. Nov 14, from 7 - 8:30 pm - Know Your Strategy and Interview Practice

Even if you are no longer in the job market, surely you know someone who is. The public is welcome to come to this free workshop series. Tell your women friends, neighbors and family members about Work Smart!



An Update on Gabriela Gonzalez 2019 Local Scholarship Recipient

Cheryl Markman, Local Scholarship Committee

Gabriela Gonzalez was selected earlier this year by AAUW San Jose's Local Scholarship Committee to receive the \$3,100 Los Gatos History Club's Marcella Vandenberg Memorial Scholarship. An additional \$1,900 was awarded by our Local Scholarship Committee to this outstanding student. She will continue attending San Jose State University with the goal of becoming a Physician Assistant and will graduate in the Fall of 2020.

In 2017, Gabriela completed a seven-year Navy career as a Hospital Corpsman deployed in Kuwait. While there she received numerous Navy and Marine Corps awards and commendations, three annual Navy and Marine achievement medals, a Letter of Commendation from the Commander of Navy Medicine West, and a letter of appreciation from the US Embassy in Kuwait.

Gabriela loves the medical field and left the Navy to pursue her education. Her goal is to obtain a Master's Degree, become a Physician Assistant, and then return to the Navy and become an Officer. Since leaving the Navy she has worked as a physical therapy aide. She founded the Veteran's Expeditionary group at San Jose State to act as a peer support group for veteran students, who have little in common with the younger students at the university. Gabriela is very focused on her goals and dedicated to her career path. She expressed enormous satisfaction and pride in providing medical services to injured military personnel in the field.



How AAUW Fundraising Has Changed

Sonia Wright

Over the years AAUW members and branches have done an amazing job of giving to program specific funds that support AAUW's mission. *Because of that ardent support, some funds, such as the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF), are in tremendous shape.* However, funds designated to LAF cannot go to other important initiatives AAUW must undertake to champion equity such as Start Smart and Work Smart. The new broader fund categories, "Education and Training Fund," "Economic Security Fund" and "Leadership Fund" allow more flexibility to support programs aligned to the issues, rather than a specific fund. This allows for supporting new initiatives in a timely manner, rather than waiting two or more years for a fund to grow.

Research is another passion of AAUW members. But research can conceivably be done along each of the strategic focus areas-research around Education and Training such as *Where the Girls Are: The Facts About Gender Equity in Education*, or research around Economic Security such as *The Simple Truth*. So, it is more about supporting the efforts. advocacy, research, or even case support related along specific issues than the program itself.

All of that is true for the Legal Advocacy Fund. AAUW takes cases that fall into the aforementioned strategic areas impacting education and Title IX along with issues of economic security. Support for these efforts can come from the associated strategic areas that members may care about. You can continue to give to any specific fund, but the most valuable way to support AAUW is through the Greatest Needs Fund, or one of the three broad program areas, so that AAUW can continue to promote equity and education for women and girls.



October Blanket & Sleeping Bag Drive

Mary Jane Vitkovich

During the month of October, Neighbors Helping Neighbors is sponsoring a blanket and sleeping bag drive to benefit both Santa Maria Urban Ministries and Sacred Heart Community Service. New or gently-used blankets, sleeping bags, spreads and comforters will be collected. Please drop off donations at Headquarters in the entryway or Parlor bins Labeled "Neighbors Helping Neighbors."

Speaking of blankets, at our October 7th meeting, we will be making children's fleece blankets for Project Linus. Come and join us at 6:30 pm

Branch Members Attend Trust Students Rally

Susan Karlins, Public Policy Committee



Peg Carlson-Bowen, Branch president, and Susan Karlins, Branch legislative liaison, visited the State Capitol in Sacramento on September 3 to attend the Trust Students Rally in support of SB 24, which would make the abortion pill available on public university campuses. After attending the spirited rally for the bill supported by AAUW-CA, we visited the legislative offices of Senator Jim Beall and Assemblyman Evan Low to express our support for SB 24 and update their staff on current AAUW projects and priorities. We're shown above with rally speakers Erin Grant of the Abortion Care Network and Dr. Monica McLemore, Assistant Professor at UCSF School of Nursing. Anyone who wants to be involved in public policy is welcome to attend our meetings, which take place the first Thursday of the month from 7 - 8:30 pm at Headquarters.

Our Leadership Scholarship Recipients Attend NCCWSL Conference

Alyce Athanasiou

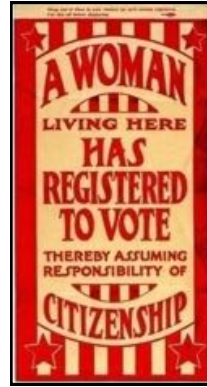
Chair of College–University Relations Committee

Every May, AAUW sponsors the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) at the University of Maryland, where over 800 young women from across the nation gather for four days to hone their leadership skills and prepare to shape their world. This year, our Branch sponsored Ashley Lopez and Victoria Huynh, two bright and accomplished young women. Last month, the BONFIRE had an article on Ashley's achievements and this month, the focus is on Victoria's accomplishments.

Victoria Huynh is a junior at Soka University of America, a private four-year liberal arts college and graduate school that was founded in 1987 in Orange County. She is studying for her Liberal Arts bachelor's degree with a concentration in International Studies. She has been involved with the Asian Americans for Community Involvement (AACI), where she was an advocacy intern, writing public comments and letters of support for Measure A in Santa Clara County, Planned Parenthood, Title X, and California bill SB 54. As part of her internship with Reappropriate.Co, an Asian American feminist blog, people of color were interviewed and their comments transcribed in order to advocate for issues affecting the Asian American community. As an "alternative spring break," Victoria collaborated with 19 other team members for a week-long service project in Puerto Rico in 2018. She has been to Seoul, Korea as one of 10 students, to address over 50,000 Rotarians at the Rotary International Conference of 2016, and coordinated 90,000 service hours and fundraised \$120,000 for Syrian refugees. In 2015, she founded Project 6, an educational program for elementary and high school students of Milpitas Unified School District (MUSD), which encourages community service.

At the NCCWSL Conference, Victoria was inspired by the words of the keynote speaker, Roxane Gay, to publish and continue her student activism. The women of color she met at NCCWSL are also involved in their communities, and she felt a kinship with them and saw

them as resources for her work. Victoria will be putting on the first Students of Color Conference on the Soka campus, and will be organizing initiatives that will promote ethnic studies and Asian diaspora activism.



2020 Suffrage Celebration Update

Sharon Bouska

On Monday, August 26, Santa Clara County kicked off a year-long commitment to plan and implement activities to commemorate and honor the 100th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage. I was asked to stand on a soapbox and share a few words about the importance of this celebration. Here is what I said:

Beginning in 1787 with the signing of the Constitution, unless one was a white property-owning male over 21, your right to vote was not guaranteed. Your right to vote had to be WON. The right to vote was a battlefield based on race and gender. That in itself shows the importance and power of the vote. Those who could put restrictions on who could vote and how they could vote did so. The power of the vote was feared and therefore controlled and purposefully kept from anyone who was deemed different.

Equal voting rights, which we still are fighting for today, does not mean that one group will have less if other groups vote. What equal voting rights should mean, and what the year-long celebration of the passage of the 19th Amendment can stand for, is that what we need for ourselves we work for others to have and we join them in their right to have it.

Celebrate the 233-year suffrage equality battle, honor the fighters, register to vote, and vote! Why? In the words of Alexander Hamilton from the musical *Hamilton*, "because America must be a place where even orphan immigrants can leave their fingerprints and rise up."

**Local Scholarship Holiday Boutique
Saturday, November 9**

Cheryl Markman, Local Scholarship Committee

AAUW San Jose has been providing scholarships for women for 39 years through the Local Scholarship Community Action Project. Originally, scholarships in the amount of \$100 were awarded to young women graduating from high school and going on to a four-year institution. Later, the focus was changed to women who have completed two full years at an accredited college or university and are enrolled in a four-year institution. The grant amounts have increased to as much as \$5,000 for four specially-named scholarships. In 2019, we awarded \$74,000 to 16 deserving recipients.

In addition to monetary donations from AAUW San Jose members, Local Scholarship is funded through foundations and corporate matching funds and an annual Holiday Boutique, now looking forward to its 18th year. The Boutique will be held this year on Saturday, November 9. Please consider donating home-baked goods, handcrafted jewelry, needlework and craft items, hand-knitted scarves, small gifts, holiday decorations and other items of décor. For the past several years, Interest Groups have generously donated thematic baskets related to their respective areas of interest, and we hope the tradition will continue. Thanks to your generosity, now in giving and with your purchases at the Boutique, we look forward to another successful fundraising event!

For more information, please contact Virginia Beck.



**August 2019 Bridge Winners
Bobbie Eckerman**

- First Monday: Cancelled
- Second Monday: Cancelled
- Second Thursday: Darline Wilson, Judy Hart
- Second Friday: Cancelled
- Third Friday: Virginia Beck, Lida Kluzek
- Fourth Tuesday: Judy Hart, Darline Wilson



**Donations, Dollars, and
December Sign-ups!**

Jan Giroux, Gifts for Teens

Gifts for Teens was knee deep in a donation of school supplies from Sacred Heart Community Services in August. A dedicated group of Gifts for Teens committee/AAUW members and community volunteers diligently worked unwrapping, sorting, and boxing school supplies. Popular items like USB drives, calculators, and spiral notebooks will be a welcome addition to our holiday gift bags.

Join fellow AAUW members on Friday, December 6, 9 am to noon. This shift during the gift bag assembly is dedicated just for AAUW members. Sign up now, as the 20 slots fill up quickly. Get in the holiday spirit and join us! Assembly location pending at this time. Other dates to volunteer: December 4 - 18, 9 am to noon and 1pm - 4 pm shifts. Contact Kathy@gifts4teens.org to sign up to volunteer.

Looking for another way to help? Ten-dollar gift cards for Target or fast food restaurants are one of the most requested teen gift items. Help us make sure each of the 1,200 bags contain gift cards and put a smile on the face of a deserving teen. Contact Beverly@gifts4teens.org to donate.

IRA Withdrawal Deadline

Cheryl Markman, Local Scholarship Committee

As we approach the IRA withdrawal deadline, the Local Scholarship Committee would like you to consider making a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your IRA to the San Jose Local Scholarship Community Action Project. There are income tax benefits to a QCD, whether you file the short form or itemize. Any donation to Local Scholarship will help make a difference in a deserving college woman's life by helping to provide scholarships to continuing college women through our branch's Local Scholarship program. Please contact Sandra Savage, or your financial advisor, if you have any questions about QCD.

AAUW San Jose Branch BONFIRE

October 2019 Calendar

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are at Headquarters and are shown in **BLUE**. Events in **RED** meet elsewhere. To schedule a meeting, check the [Branch Calendar](#), then contact Katherine Linnemann. RSVP means the group needs to know who will attend. Weekend Walkers meets most Saturdays and Sundays at 8am for an hour-long walk. To receive weekly emails about walks, contact [Jean Reed](#).

Tue Oct 1	10:00am - 12:00pm	German Conversation (RSVP Barbara Snyder)
Thu Oct 3	1:00pm - 3:00pm	Knitting Know How (RSVP Margaret McCartney)
Mon Oct 7	10:00am - 1:00pm	Bridge First Monday (RSVP Bobbie Eckerman)
	6:30pm - 8:00pm	Neighbors Helping Neighbors (Bobbie Baker)
Tue Oct 8	10:00am - 1:30pm	Conversacion Espanol (RSVP Barbara Synder)
	7:00pm - 8:30pm	WorkSmart – Willow Glen Library- (Sari Fitzwater)
Wed Oct 9	10:00am - 2:00pm	Art Appreciation/Lesher Center, Walnut Creek (Jan Bartolotta)
	7:00pm - 8:30pm	Evening Book Discussion: Convenience Store Woman by Sayaka Murata- (Laura Manthey)
Thu Oct 10	1:00pm - 4:00pm	Bridge 2nd Thursday (RSVP Bobbie Eckerman)
Fri Oct 11	10:00am - 2:00pm	Duplicate Bridge (RSVP Lida Kluzek)
Sat Oct 12	6:30pm - 9:30pm	Couples Gourmet (RSVP Margaret Bard)
Sun Oct 13	All day	Film Fans (RSVP Linda Snashall)
Mon Oct 14	10:00am - 1:00pm	Bridge 2nd Monday (RSVP Rosemary Busch)
	6:00pm - 9:00pm	Light Gourmet (RSVP Cheryl Markman)
Tue Oct 15	10:00am - 11:45am	French Conversation (RSVP Barbara Snyder)
	1:00pm - 3:00pm	Knitting Know How (RSVP Margaret McCartney)
Wed Oct 16	7:00pm - 8:30pm	3rd Wed Program:Voter’s Choice:The new Election Experience (Peg Carlson-Bowen)
Thu Oct 17	10:00am - 12:00pm	Family History (Susan Brundage)
	7:00pm - 8:30pm	Mystery Lovers The Demands (Or as Good as Dead) by M. Bilingham (Sharon Shephard)
Fri Oct 18	10:00am - 1:00pm	Bridge (RSVP Lida Kluzek)
Mon Oct 21	9:30am - 11:00am	Exploring World Literature: The Immortal Irishman by Timothy Egan (Diana Taylor)
	6:30pm - 8:30pm	International Gourmet: Cuban (Hostess Jan Bartolotta)
Tue Oct 22	1:00pm - 4:00pm	Bridge 4th Tuesday (RSVP Bobbie Eckerman)
	7:00pm - 8:30pm	Great Decisions Evening Group (Karelle Cornwell / Angie Ho)
Thu Oct 24	6:30pm - 8:30pm	Game Night (Sandee Plymire)
Fri Oct 25	1:00pm - 3:00pm	Local Scholarship (Margaret Bard)
Mon Oct 28	9:30am - 11:00am	Building and Properties Committee (Pamela Dougherty)
	11:30am - 12:30pm	Gourmet Vegetarian (Jean Wyatt)
Tue Oct 29	9:00am - 12:00pm	MAKE A GIFTS FOR TEENS: (RSVP Jan Giroux)
Wed Oct 30	7:00pm - 8:30pm	WorkSmart – Willow Glen Library (Sara Fitzwater)

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The sole purpose of this publication is to convey the association's business to its membership. Only articles and announcements related to Branch business will be considered for inclusion.

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PERIODICALS
POSTAGE PAID

AAUW San Jose Branch *Established 1909*

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, November 9

10 am - 2 pm

Local Scholarship Holiday Boutique

AAUW Headquarters - 1165 Minnesota Avenue

Bring friends and family – Shop for the holidays!

Empowering Women Since 1881



See the San Jose Branch Website at www.aauwsanjose.org for more information.