



BONFIRE

San Jose Branch

Empowering Women Since 1881



March 3 California Presidential Primary

Peg Carlson-Bowen, President

The California presidential primary is March 3! Because of the new Voters Choice Act, vote centers will be open up to eleven days before the election, and you will be able to vote in any voting location in Santa Clara County. Everyone will also receive a mail-in ballot automatically, which is a lot more convenient! For more information on changes visit: <https://www.sccgov.org/sites/rov/VCA/Pages/home.aspx>

Are You Registered as “No Party Preference?” Read This!

If you are a voter registered as No Party Preference, you must request a primary election ballot if you want to vote for a presidential candidate. The American Independent, Democratic, and Libertarian Parties allow No Party Preference voters to participate in their Presidential Primary Elections. However, the Green, Peace and Freedom, and Republican Parties require that you re-register with that specific party.

Your county elections officials are sending you a postcard that allows you to request an American Independent, Democratic, or Libertarian Party ballot. Once you make your selection, return it in the mail. If you do not return this postcard, you will be mailed a ballot without any presidential candidates. If this happens, you can still request a ballot from your county elections official by phone, email or fax:

Toll-Free Phone Number: 1-866-430-VOTE (8683)

Fax: (408) 998-7314

Email: registrar@rov.sccgov.org

You can also bring your vote-by-mail ballot to a vote center and exchange it for a Democratic, American Independent or Libertarian ballot that lists those presidential candidates. (Please be aware that the ‘American Independent’ party is not unaffiliated—you may want to research parties before choosing.)

You can re-register to vote online at registertovote.ca.gov. If you need to re-register after February 18, 2020, you may need to register to vote in person at a polling place, vote center, or your county elections office.

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

President's Corner

Peg Carlson-Bowen



Our 2020-2021 Nominating Committee has formed! If you are interested in serving on the 2020-2021 Board, please contact [Virginia Beck](#). Serving on a non-profit board adds great experience to a resume. And AAUW San Jose Board service does not involve a fund-raising commitment (as many non-profit boards do), just a fulfilling role in the AAUW mission.

This month is also the run-up to the California presidential primary on March 3 as stated in the front-page article, and voting is substantially changing in Santa Clara County because of the adoption of the [Voter's Choice Act](#)! Ballots will be automatically mailed to all registered voters (remember that California has a "closed primary" system, which means only persons who are registered members of a political party may vote the ballot of that political party, so be sure you are registered accordingly). Also, vote centers will be open up to 11 days and you can vote in ANY center in Santa Clara County, instead of being restricted to one near your home. YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE - please make your voice heard.

All the best,
Peg

A woman is like a tea bag—you can't tell how strong she is until you put her in hot water.

Eleanor Roosevelt



How Humane Society Silicon Valley Helps You Plan for Your Future

February 19, 7 - 8:30 pm
Third Wednesday Program

As women who have successfully planned your lives, do you have a plan for your pets? Join us on February 19 at 7 pm at Headquarters. Learn how Humane Society Silicon Valley (HSSV) is redefining today's animal shelter, especially now that more and more women are pursuing animal medicine as a career. Through the HSSV Pet Guardianship Program, you can enjoy the peace of mind of knowing you have a plan (or a Plan B) for your pet's future.

Third Wednesday program coming up in March: Dr. Sara Cody, Health Officer and Public Health Director for the County of Santa Clara, will be addressing emerging and ongoing public health issues for the County, including vaping and lung injuries from vaping, and the dramatic rise in syphilis locally, statewide and nationally and its relationship to women in the jail system.

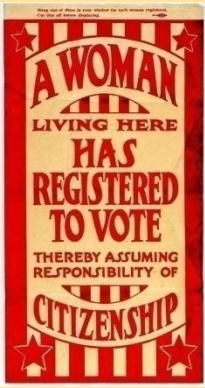


Book Discussion PM Group

Laura Manthey and Nancy Hooton
Book Discussion PM Group

The list of remaining books to be discussed by the PM group are as follows:

- "Foursome: Alfred Stieglitz, Georgia O'Keeffe, Paul Strand, Rebecca Salsbury" by Carolyn Burke
- "Educated" by Tara Westover
- "Persuasion" by Jane Austen
- "Essentialism: The Disciplined Pursuit of Less" by Greg McKeown
- "Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine" by Gail Honeyman



2020 Suffrage Celebration Update

Sharon Bouska

Suffragists or Suffragettes? What's in a suffix?

While American women were fighting for the right to vote, our

British sisters were also engaging in an emancipation battle. Women's suffrage societies began to emerge in Britain in the mid-19th century. Those involved in the first wave of the campaign are known as "suffragists." They believed in peaceful, constitutional campaign methods. In the early twentieth century, after the suffragists failed to make significant progress, a new generation of activists emerged.

A British journalist coined the label "these women suffragettes" to mock and diminish the suffragists, who used militant efforts including arson, hunger strikes, destruction of public property and even bombing. Adding the diminutive suffix "-ette" was meant to curtail these women, bring them under control and elevate them to being constitutional Suffrage advocates who relied on non-militant



efforts, including petitioning, lobbying and marches.

Some US publications, threatened by the non-violent power of the 19th Amendment advocates, used the term in reference to American campaigners. Suffragette was considered an offensive, demeaning term meaning "less than" (think kitchenette, dinette, bachelorette). In the early 1900s, American and British publications portrayed suffragettes as unladylike and reckless. At the same time, they described suffragists as gentle and innocent, but vulnerable to joining their counterparts. A 1912 issue of *The Boston Daily Globe* depicted the suffragist and suffragette as the two on the left.

Whether it was the US women's victory in 1920 or the British women's victory in 1928, the path for women to achieve the vote was long and hard on both sides of the Atlantic. Emancipation foes used name-calling and negative branding out of fear of the women's vote. Let's make sure that whatever they call us, or however they want to control us, WE VOTE!

Information taken from [British Library Learning](#) published 6 Feb 2018, and an article by Alice Janigro, Tufts University student

Book Discussion AM Group

Edith Young, Book Discussion AM Group

The Tuesday morning book group discussed the charming and inspiring "Becoming" by Michelle Obama. We enjoyed her authenticity and adaptability. She takes the "high road" with good humor. We had a wonderful time.

- List of books to be read are as follows:
"Founding Mothers" by Cokie Roberts
"Warlight" by Michael Ondontje
"The Moment of Lift" by Melinda Gates

Office Space Available in April 2020

Pamela Dougherty, Chair,
Building and Properties Committee

We will be seeking a new tenant for our second story 1,259 square feet of office space (includes storage, bathroom and kitchenette area). We anticipate a \$2,195 monthly cost inclusive of garbage and landscaping and exclusive of janitorial and PG&E. There is a separate outside entrance and street signage. Please contact [Pamela Dougherty](#) for more information.

**AAUW Morgan Hill
37th Annual Wildflower Run
March 29
Live Oak High School
1505 E Main Ave, Morgan Hill, CA**



Our sister AAUW branch in Morgan Hill is holding their 37th Annual Wildflower Run on March 29, 2020, raising funds for scholarships for women and girls. Flat, fast 5K and 10K courses are on scenic local back roads. The 2K events are on the school track for children ages 5-10, followed by seniors ages 60+.

The Morgan Hill members would love to see their fellow AAUW members and their families out on the course! Registration and details at WildflowerRun.org. You can use the discount code GOFARAAUW when registering yourself and your families.

Hygiene Kits for the Homeless

Mary Jane Vitkovich, Neighbors Helping Neighbors



At its January meeting, devoted NHN members assembled 100 hygiene kits for Sacred Heart Community Service's homeless clients. Sacred Heart was very appreciative of our donations. Thanks to the generosity of members, we are able to give dignity and care to disadvantaged neighbors in our community.

Our Warm Hearts Drive, collecting coats, sweaters, blankets and scarves for Santa Maria Urban Ministry, continues to March. Thank you to the many who have already contributed jackets and coats in such great condition.



Public Policy Holiday Event Recap

Susan Karlins, Public Policy Committee



The Public Policy Committee enjoyed its holiday event on December 5! Our first activity was writing 39 personalized letters to infrequent, under-represented voters in Milwaukee, urging them to vote in the spring election this year. Very satisfying work! We wrote 25 more letters at our January meeting. We plan to write letters for the first half hour of our meetings in the coming year; you are welcome to join us the first Thursday of each month at 7 pm.



It Was a Very Good Year!

Jan Giroux, Gifts for Teens

Rewarding and fulfilling doesn't begin to describe the feelings of the Gifts for Teens committee members, our AAUW colleagues, and community volunteers, as we filled 1,136 holiday gift bags and special gift packages this past December. These gift bags were the nicest and fullest bags we have ever done. A heartfelt "thank you" goes out to the generous donors, volunteers and our thrifty Gifts for Teens buyers. A group of jolly AAUW members again donated their time on the dedicated AAUW shift. Their community spirit and dedication to teens in need is always welcomed and appreciated.

The Gifts for Teens buyers are already actively purchasing items for this year as we hope to meet or exceed our goal for 2020. We couldn't do it without your continued support and gifts of time. Thank you.



**An Update on
Kelly Duangrudeeswat,
2019 Local Scholarship Recipient**

Cheryl Markman, Local Scholarship Committee



Kelly Duangrudeeswat is a first-time Local Scholarship recipient and a computer scientist, who will graduate from Mission College with an Associate Degree in Natural Sciences and Mathematics. Kelly will transfer to California State University - Long Beach to major in Computer Science. She is in her third consecutive year on the Dean's List. As the first person in her family to attend college, being on the Dean's List was an important milestone for her.

A few days after graduation from Mission College, Kelly flew to Washington DC where she spent the next three months interning at the National Science Foundation (NSF). At NSF, she had her first experience working in the public sector and she felt a sense of gratitude knowing her work could affect the nation. She worked on two teams, fulfilling the roles of a business analyst on an IT Support team and as NSF's first LaTeX Developer. As a business analyst, she supported help desk tickets for the reimbursing system that serves approximately 20,000 reviewers annually. In addition, she observed and learned how teams use the Agile software development methodology to ensure deadlines are met, how to create a network, and met intelligent, kind people.

Kelly is also a member of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE), Women in Computing club (WIC), and a member of the propulsion subsystem Avionics Beach Launch Team, where the team is currently building a rocket with hopes to be the first college-based team to launch a rocket into space. Kelly also advocates for gender diversity, or building rockets, and she works in an organic chemistry lab researching a ligand combination for use in cancer treatment. She practices mindfulness and Muay Thai kickboxing and hopes to work as a researcher. Kelly will succeed at whatever goal she sets for herself!



December 2019 Bridge Winners

Bobbie Eckerman

- First Monday: No Bridge
- Second Monday: Rosemary Busch, Judy Kumagai, Peggy Maibaum
- Second Thursday: Nancy Valby, Peggy Baggese
- Second Friday: Cancelled
- Third Friday: Lida Kluzek, Tynka Dees
- Fourth Tuesday: No Bridge

In Memoriam



Branch member and past president Fran Sneed passed away peacefully early on the morning of January 2, 2020. Branch member and good friend of Fran, Barbara Snyder, provided this tribute:

Fran Sneed held many positions within our Branch, including being President from 1977 to 1978. She was active in a number of local interest groups, primarily book discussions. She was an avid reader and always had wonderful comments on any topic. They did not have a TV in their home, but well-read books were always everywhere.

Fran was active in several Branch study groups, including Redefining Goals in Education, which was a national AAUW topic. Other branches were constantly calling for ideas on how to proceed. One result of the group was a speakers' bureau (made up of members of the study group) that set out to inform PTAs and other groups on how to defeat the Watson Initiative, which was setup to modify school funding.

Fran had two daughters, and for many years she sewed most of their clothes. She started a Branch interest group that lasted one year for those of us who sewed for our children. We had a pattern exchange and discussed the latest ideas on sewing for children.

Her husband, Bob, died several years ago. Their two daughters had successful careers and families. She moved fairly recently into a retirement home. Fran was a dear friend and will be sorely missed. A service in Fran's memory will be held at Campbell United Methodist Church, 1675 S. Winchester Boulevard, on Saturday, February 15 at 2 pm.



Womxn's March San Jose January 18, 2020

AAUW BONFIRE San Jose Branch

February 2020 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 that the group needs to know who will be attending. Weekend Walkers meet most Saturdays and Sundays for an hour-long walk. To receive weekly emails about walks, contact [Judy Burt](#).

- Mon Feb 3 10 am - 1 pm **Bridge First Monday** (RSVP [Bobbie Eckerman](#))
6:30 - 8 pm **Neighbors Helping Neighbors** ([Bobbie Baker](#))
- Tue Feb 4 10 am - 12 pm **German Conversation** (RSVP [Barbara Snyder](#))
- Wed Feb 5 6:30 - 8:30 pm **AAUW BOARD Meeting** - Light supper to begin at 6:30 pm
([Peg Carlson-Bowen](#))
- Thu Feb 6 1 - 3 pm **Knitting Know How** (RSVP [Margaret McCartney](#))
7 - 8:30 pm **Public Policy Committee** ([Elissa Stankewicz](#))
- Sat Feb 8 6:30 - 9:30 pm **Couples Gourmet** (RSVP [Harriet Tower](#))
- Sun Feb 9 All day **Film Fans** (RSVP [Linda Snashall](#))
- Mon Feb 10 10 - 1 pm **Bridge 2nd Monday** (RSVP [Rosemary Busch](#))
6 - 9 pm **Light Gourmet** (RSVP [Cheryl Markman](#))
- Tue Feb 11 10 - 11:30 am **2nd Tues. Book Group** Founding Mothers by C. Roberts ([Lida Kluzek](#))
10 - 11:30 am **Conversacion Espanol** (RSVP [Barbara Snyder](#))
- Wed Feb 12 9:30 am - 3 pm **Art Appreciation-Japanese** Art Museum/San Jose ([Jan Bartolotta](#))
7 - 8:30 pm **Evening Book Discussion**: Foursome: Alfred Stieglitz, Georgia O'Keeffe, Paul Strand, Rebecca Salsbury by Carolyn Burke – Barb Purdy ([Nancy Hooton](#))
- Thu Feb 13 9:30 - 11 am **Great Decisions AM** ([Mary Ann Carnavale](#))
1 - 4 pm **Bridge 2nd Thursday** (RSVP [Bobbie Eckerman](#))
- Fri Feb 14 10 - 2 pm **Duplicate Bridge** (RSVP [Lida Kluzek](#))
- Mon Feb 17 6:30 - 8:30 pm **Intl. Gourmet**-Tenni Thai Rest.-RSVP G. Hicks (RSVP [Jan Bartolotta](#))
9:30 - 11 am **Exploring World Literature**: Echoes by M. Benchley ([Mary Barry](#))
- Tue Feb 18 10 - 11:45 am **French Conversation** (RSVP [Barbara Snyder](#))
1 - 3 pm **Knitting Know How** (RSVP [Margaret McCartney](#))
- Wed Feb 19 7 - 8:30 pm **3rd Wed Program**: A Day in the Life of the Humane Society
([Elissa Stankewicz](#))
- Thu Feb 20 10 - 12 pm **Family History** ([Susan Brundage](#))
7 - 8:30 pm **Mystery Lovers**-Charlesgate Confidential by S. Von Doviak ([Sharon Shephard](#))
- Fri Feb 21 10 - 1 pm **Bridge** (RSVP [Lida Kluzek](#))
- Mon Feb 24 9:30 - 11 am **Building and Properties Committee** ([Pamela Dougherty](#))
11:30 - 12:30 pm **Gourmet Vegetarian** ([Jean Wyatt](#))
- Tue Feb 25 11:30 am - 1 pm **Lunch Bunch** ([Diana Taylor](#))
1 - 4 pm **Bridge 4th Tuesday** (RSVP [Bobbie Eckerman](#))
7 - 8:30 pm **Great Decisions – PM** ([Sharon Shephard](#))
- Thu Feb 27 9:30 - 11 am **Great Decisions AM** ([Mary Ann Carnavale](#))
6:30 - 8:30 pm **Game Night** ([Sandee Plymire](#))
- Fri Feb 28 11:30 - 1 pm **Local Scholarship Fundraising Com.** ([Mary Jane Vitkovich](#))
1 - 3 pm **Local Scholarship** ([Margaret Bard](#))

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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
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AAUW San Jose Branch *Established 1909*



SAVE THE DATE



**City Lights Theater Company Partners
with Local Scholarship**

Cheryl Markman, Local Scholarship Committee

Save the date and help support Local Scholarship! Please plan to attend the [City Lights Theater Company](#) production of "The Little Foxes," running May 14 - June. As part of their non-profit partnerships program, City Lights will donate to Local Scholarship a portion of every ticket purchased using the promo code "AAUW" for any performance during the run of the play. In addition, for our non-profit partner performance on May 24 (matinee at 2 pm), City Lights will donate to Local Scholarship 25% of the proceeds received from the regular-priced single tickets that are purchased using the promo code "AAUW". You can purchase tickets online at cltc.org/tickets, in person at the theater, or call 408-295-4200. Invite your friends, and we'll see you at the theater!



Empowering Women Since 1881

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