



BONFIRE

San Jose Branch

Empowering Women Since 1881



What Does the AAUW California Convention Offer You? Convention Dates: April 17 - 19

Cultural Diversity, Understanding Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation, Effective Branch Financial Management, How to Get Out the Vote, Impacting Future Members on Campus, Gov Trek, Understanding Unconscious Bias, Effective Promotion of Branch Events, and more ... plus a hands-on project to impact girls' lives in Rwanda. This is in addition to the Keynote talk our own Sharon Bouska will give on "How California Women Won the Vote." Virginia Beck, our immediate Past President, has guided this convention to be a groundbreaking one, taking place in nearby Millbrae.

Registration Deadline: April 10 <https://www.aauw-ca.org/2020-convention/>

Reduced Rate Rooms: available until March 20 (limited number) [Marriot AAUW CA Convention booking](#)

Earn a partial refund of registration: [Volunteer sign-up](#)

We also have the opportunity to have a Branch Brag table display — which of your AAUW San Jose activities can inspire other branches? Contact [Peg Carlson-Bowen](#) so we can coordinate our local groups. Deadline to apply to the state staff for a resource table is March 8.

Thank You for Your Generosity

Sonia Wright, AAUW Funds

Thank you to the 55 people (members and friends) who made contributions to AAUW Funds from July 1, 2019 to January 20, 2020. Your generosity to six funds puts our Branch total at \$12,060, with the largest amount of \$6,560 going to the Greatest Needs Fund. Your contributions make it possible for us to address the changing needs of women and girls through education, advocacy, research, and leadership training. You can still make contributions; either send checks payable to AAUW Funds to 1165 Minnesota Avenue, Suite 100, San Jose, CA 95125, or donate at the AAUW giving site:

<https://ww2.aauw.org/donate-gift-new/>.

Potential New Member Coffee and Conversation Open House

Anna Fox, Co-VP - Membership Committee
March 7, 10 am - noon at Headquarters

Join us, invite a friend, recommend it to someone who is a good fit. Come have a cup of coffee/tea and a breakfast snack, socialize, learn more about AAUW San Jose, and share about your experience. Formal program begins at 10:30 am.

Save the date for "Coffee and Conversation" on Saturday, April 4 from 10 am - noon at Headquarters. The focus will be helping new members get the most out of their AAUW experience, but it is also an all-Branch opportunity to socialize!

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

President's Corner

Peg Carlson-Bowen



AAUW San Jose initiated and is very involved in the Women's Equity Commission 2020 Commemoration of the 19th Amendment. Because of this involvement, Sharon Bouska and I were invited to join other community leaders on the dais for AAUW San Jose member Cindy Chavez's State of the County speech, her first as the new President of the Board of Supervisors. To carry on the tradition of the Suffragists, we all wore white. Cindy highlighted priorities for the county that align with AAUW's concerns for women and girls. One was the unprecedented accomplishment of testing all Santa Clara County rape kits; because of Cindy's prioritization of this important issue, all rape kits in the county were tested in only 14 days in 2019! (The average time it takes to test a rape kit nationwide is over 700 days — if it is tested at all.) This new standard will be held as an example across the US of what can be done locally when leaders are focused and citizens speak up. Cindy also acknowledged the greater need to prevent rapes, and that there is much work for us all to do on many fronts ... "We have to do it all, and we have to do it all the time." Her energy to make life in Santa Clara County better was palpable and engaging. The photo below shows, starting from the left, Cindy Chavez, Sharon Bouska, and Peg Carlson-Bowen.



This is only one area where AAUW's profile is rising. We were asked to participate in the Women's Policy Leadership Summit, moderate a Gender Pay Gap panel at Evergreen Valley College's Gender Equity Symposium, and continue on multiple committees of the Women's Equity Commission. And we had a great showing of prospective members from the Women's March. Our Local Scholarship applications are about to be made available, and our recipients for the National Conference of College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) have been selected. Our Neighbors Helping Neighbors group works with seven local agencies to advance their work. You are all part of an amazing organization.

Thanks for all you do.
Peg

News from Headquarters

Pamela Dougherty, Chair,
Building and Properties Committee

AED Training - March 4, 4 pm

We have an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) in the bathroom. It is easy to use and many of you have already received training. It is wise to revisit the training yearly; it is also fun! We pull out dummies from the basement for practice purposes. Each Interest Group that uses Headquarters should have at least one person who has been trained on the AED. Please RSVP to Buildings@aauwsanjose.org to sign up for the training.

Garbage Duty Process at Headquarters

Buildings and Properties Committee puts the garbage out on Mondays. On Tuesdays, kind people bring in the trash container. However, we are never totally sure if the cycle has been completed. If you bring it in, please call the person who has garbage duty for the month (list is posted on the bulletin board on your right as you enter the back porch) in order to save a trip.



**New! Climate Action Interest Group
March 25, 7 pm**

Are you concerned about the climate crisis and want to help make a difference? We are hosting information sessions to explore the level of interest in forming a new interest group focused on Climate Action, possible solutions and how we can mitigate its effects on women and girls.

We welcome your participation and invite you to attend the first meeting on March 25 at 7 pm at Headquarters to help shape this potentially new Interest Group. The focus will be on magnifying positive impacts, strengthening networks and helping you become a climate solutions resource to benefit the Branch and the community!

Contact Elizabeth Guimarin

at ClimateAction@aauwsanjose.org with questions, to express your interest, and to RSVP. Or just show up on March 25!

Sock Drive Success

Mary Jane Vitkovich, Neighbors Helping Neighbors



You really socked it to us! Thanks to your generosity, over 175 pairs of new socks were donated to Front Door Communities. In addition, members assembled and delivered 90 lunch bags for the downtown organization to give out to the homeless.

The next NHN drive will take place in April, and the recipient will be Family Supportive Housing. Please donate new or gently used full size bath towels and bath mats. Their clients need them when they move in or out of the temporary housing. Time to clean out those linen closets!



Los Gatos History Club presents "A World of Taste"

April 8, 11 am to 2 pm

History Club of Los Gatos, 123 Los Gatos Blvd., Los Gatos

Come enjoy culinary treats from around the world at a fundraiser for Tech Trek Camp Curry and Camp Hopper to raise money for those incidental expenses that come up during camp weeks. There will be food and beverages from eight different countries. Tickets are \$30 and will benefit both AAUW San Jose and Los Gatos branches' Tech Trek groups. You may purchase tickets by check or credit card. Contact Therese Wiese at tickets@historyclublosgatos.org for more information.

Progress Doesn't Often Come Without a Fight: AAUW Made the USA a Better Place*

Louise Persson, Legal Advocacy Fund Vice President

As we look ahead to a critical election year, we need our members to stand united. We must work together to ensure every voice is heard, particularly as we commemorate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment and the 55th Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act this year, two milestones that secured women's right to vote. They inspire us to persist, knowing that progress doesn't often come without a fight.

Seven ways AAUW made our country a better place:

- Thanks to a \$500,000 grant from The Coca-Cola Foundation, we trained more than 102,000 women in salary negotiation skills through *Work Smart and Start Smart*.

- We successfully led the effort to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act in the House.

- We helped strengthen equity and protection laws in eleven states.

- The grant from The Coca-Cola Foundation also enabled us to implement *Empower*, our new

leadership development and networking event in six major cities, including San Francisco.

- Our newest groundbreaking research, "Limiting our Livelihoods: The Cumulative Impact of Sexual Harassment on Women's Careers," has just been released. Updated studies, "The Simple Truth About the Gender Pay Gap" and "Deeper in Debt," examine how student debt disproportionately impacts women.

- AAUW remains one of the world's leading supporters of graduate women's education providing millions in fellowships and grants.

- Commemorating the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment and the 55th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act, we'll launch a project called "Every Voice, Every Vote." This project will focus on ensuring that every voice is heard and every vote is counted.

We can be proud of the powerful impact AAUW made in the past year - our work for equity continues.

* Summarized from AAUW website



Teens Helping Teens

Jan Giroux, Gifts for Teens

Gifts for Teens was fortunate to have a teen advocate at Pioneer High School this past year. Our "best ever" holiday teen gift bags had a personal touch due to the efforts of Sammy Schweizer and her Gifts for Teens Club. Sammy, now a junior at Pioneer, started the Gifts for Teens Club as a sophomore. In 2018, Sammy and her club had a school-wide sock and cosmetic drive for Gifts for Teens, but felt something was missing. Last year, along with the sock drive, the Gifts for Teens Club decided to write 1,200 personal handwritten letters for each of the teen gift bags.

This ambitious effort took 3-4 months of club meeting time to accomplish. As Sammy explained, all of the club members "were excited about doing something personal for the teens and making a small difference in their holidays." Sammy is already mobilizing her club to write letters for this year's Gifts for Teens bags. It's a tradition Gifts for Teens will continue to foster with community-minded teens like Sammy "giving from the heart."

Announcing a New ISPF Investment Account for Local Scholarship

Diane Trombetta, Chair,
Local Scholarship Investment Account Committee

The Local Scholarship Community Action Project is happy to announce the opening of an investment account at Fidelity Investments. This Local Scholarship Investment Account (LSIA) does not replace the existing ISPF bank savings account, which contains donations that are solicited and awarded yearly to scholarship recipients. Instead, the new account hopes to:

- attract legacy gifts and donations from members who want to support the future growth of AAUW-San Jose scholarships
- create a reserve fund for possible "lean years" and
- increase the number and size of scholarships awarded in the future

The LSIA will accept tax-deductible gifts of cash or stock. Donors can maximize their donation by transferring low cost-basis stock directly into this charitable account. Donations of stock or cash may be invested in the donor's choice of two index mutual funds: The Fidelity US Sustainability Index Fund (FITLX) holds stocks of large-to-mid-capitalization US companies with high environmental, social, and governance (ESG) performance; and The Fidelity Zero Total Market Index Fund (FZROX) invests in a broad range of publicly traded US companies.

To learn more about the account and how to donate and support the long-term growth of our Local Scholarship project, contact [Diane Trombetta](#).



January 2020 Bridge Winners

Bobbie Eckerman

First Monday: Kennette Shannon, Pat Seaman,
Joan Benedetti

Second Monday: Mary Braley, Pat Seaman,
Bobbie Eckerman

Second Thursday: Cancelled

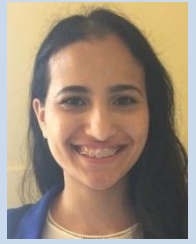
Second Friday: Kennette Shannon

Third Friday: Pat Seaman, Judy Kumagai

Fourth Tuesday: Bobbie Eckerman, Judy Kumagai

An Update on Mamta Kanda 2019 Local Scholarship Recipient

Cheryl Markman, Local Scholarship
Committee



Mamta Kanda was the 2019 recipient of the Goldberg Family Scholarship. She recently completed the first semester of her junior year at San Jose State University where she is studying Industrial and Systems Engineering. Aside from her upper-division classes, this semester Mamta is also President of the Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineering Organization. There she coordinated multiple events and company tours designed to engage the 100+ members and to help students gain the necessary industry insight to succeed. She and others in the organization also hosted various community service events to get involved in their local community and to help the less fortunate through food drives. Mamta is also an active member of the Society of Women Engineers, the Society of Asian Scientists and Engineers, and Tau Beta Pi, an engineering honor society. In addition to these extracurricular activities, she is also a part-time Plant Engineering Intern at Lockheed Martin, where she assists their Facilities and Operations Team. Considering all of her education-related activities, Mamta is rightly proud to say that she was able to finish the semester strong by making the President's List with a 4.0 GPA. In her own words, "This definitely could not have been possible without the assistance received from AAUW; thank you from the bottom of my heart!"

Although it's difficult to imagine that she has any, during her free time Mamta enjoys playing badminton, painting, nail art, and trying out new make-up.

New Member Profiles

Claire Campodonico

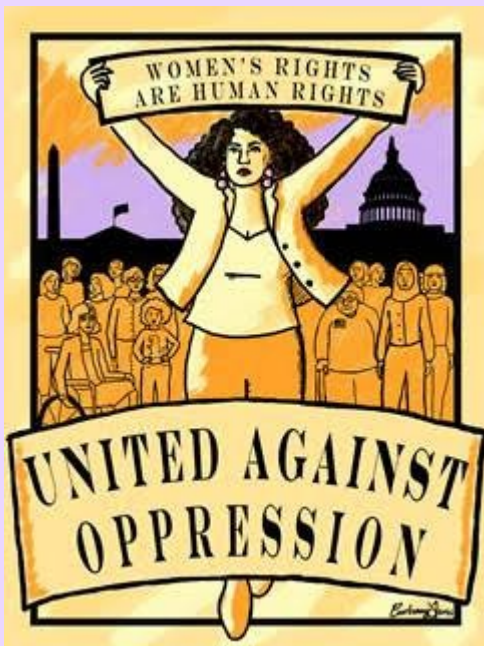
CHRISTINE HEJMANOWSKI received a Masters degree from St. Mary's College in Moraga. She studied Business Administration with an emphasis in Contract Management. She has 27 years of experience in contract management, specializing in computer software and hardware. Now retired, Christine is returning as a dual member with the Los Gatos/Saratoga Branch.

CAROL PAVAN recently retired from West Valley Community College. She was employed there as a Counselor for more than twenty years. Carol earned a Bachelor's degree in Sociology from SJSU and a Masters degree in Counseling Psychology from Santa Clara University. She lives in the Willow Glen area and noticed our building and signage.

JANET DIEHL joined our Branch after receiving an enthusiastic recommendation from member Kathy Bechly. Janet received a Bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences from UC Davis. As a Clinical Operations Consultant, she worked with biotech and pharmaceutical companies in human and clinical trials. Now retired, Janet has a passion for traveling, exercising and attending movies.

LESLIE FLOWERS is self-employed and currently works as a Development and Communications Consultant for Grail Family Services, a non-profit in East San Jose. Fellow member of South Bay Striders, Jean Reed, referred her to our Branch. Lynn is a previous member of the Fremont Branch of AAUW. She earned a Bachelor's degree in Journalism with minors in French and English from Marshall University in West Virginia.

NANCY BECKMAN received a Masters degree from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She is both an engineer and a project manager. She lives in Willow Glen and is very interested in our Branch's Public Policy programs. She was referred by member Monika Ryser.



Suffragist Poster Contest

Sharon Bouska

Students in K-12th grade are invited to enter the Silicon Valley Reads Poster/Digital Poster Contest. The theme for this year is "Women Making It Happen." Students will select one suffragist as the focus of the poster and conduct research on their selection, gathering credible primary and secondary sources about their subject. A panel will select winners by grade span (K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12) for first, second, and third place prizes of \$150, \$100 and \$50, respectively.

For contest details, visit <http://www.siliconvalleyreads.org/> and look to the left side to click on the poster information. A fascinating article "Women's Suffrage and the Enduring Fight for Equality" will appear. It is a great read and adds to our knowledge of the concept of "Hard Won, Not Done."

AAUW BONFIRE San Jose Branch

March 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 Mar 2	10 - 1pm Bridge First Monday (RSVP Bobbie Eckerman) 6:30 - 8pm Neighbors Helping Neighbors (Bobbie Baker)
Tue Mar 3	10 - 12pm German Conversation (RSVP Barbara Snyder)
Wed Mar 4	4 - 5pm AED (Automated External Defibrillator) Training (RSVP Pamela Dougherty) 7 - 8:30pm AAUW BOARD Meeting (Peg Carlson-Bowen)
Thu Mar 5	1 - 3pm Knitting Know How (RSVP Margaret McCartney) 7 - 8:30pm Public Policy Committee (Elissa Stankiewicz)
Sat Mar 7	9 - 12:30pm Open House/Coffee&Conversation (Nancy Moreno)
Sun Mar 8	All day Film Fans (RSVP Linda Snashall)
Mon Mar 9	10 - 1pm Bridge 2nd Monday (RSVP Rosemary Busch) 6 - 9pm Light Gourmet (RSVP Cheryl Markman)
Tue Mar 10	10 - 11:30am 2nd Tuesday Book Group -Warlight by M. Ondaatje (Lida Kluzek) 10 - 11:30am Conversacion Espanol (RSVP Barbara Snyder)
Wed Mar 11	9:30 - 3pm Art Appreciation SF Stairways (Jan Bartolotta) 7 - 8:30pm Evening Book Discussion : Educated by Tara Westover – (Mary-Ann Hudson)
Thu Mar 12	9:30 - 11am Great Decisions - AM (Mary Ann Carnavale) 1 - 4pm Bridge 2nd Thursday (RSVP Bobbie Eckerman)
Fri Mar 13	10 - 2pm Duplicate Bridge (RSVP Lida Kluzek)
Sat Mar 14	6:30 - 9:30pm Couples Gourmet (RSVP Harriet Tower)
Mon Mar 16	9 :30 - 11am Exploring World Literature : Gulliver's Travels by J. Swift (Diana Taylor) 6:30 - 8:30pm International Gourmet: Bali (Hostess Jan Bartolotta)
Tue Mar 17	10 - 11:45am French Conversation (RSVP Barbara Snyder) 1 - 3pm Knitting Know How (RSVP Margaret McCartney)
Wed Mar 18	7 - 8:30pm 3rd Wed Program : Reproductive Rights-and Threats (Elissa Stankiewicz)
Thu Mar 19	10 - 12pm Family History (Susan Brundage) 7 - 8:30pm Mystery Lovers : Before the Fall by N.Hawley (Sharon Shephard)
Fri Mar 20	10 - 1pm Bridge (RSVP Lida Kluzek)
Mon Mar 23	9:30 - 11am Building and Properties Committee (Pamela Dougherty) 11:30 - 12:30pm Gourmet Vegetarian (Jean Wyatt)
Tue Mar 24	11:30 - 1pm Lunch Bunch - Rosie McCann's-Santana Row (Diana Taylor) 1 - 4pm Bridge 4th Tuesday (RSVP Bobbie Eckerman) 7 - 8:30pm Great Decisions – PM (Sharon Shepherd)
Wed Mar 25	7 – 9pm Climate Change Action Group (Elizabeth Guimarin)
Thu Mar 26	9:30 - 11am Great Decisions - AM (Mary Ann Carnavale) 6:30 - 8:30pm Game Night (Sandee Plymire)
Fri Mar 27	11:30 - 1pm Local Scholarship Fundraising Committee (Mary Jane Vitkovich) 1 - 3pm Local Scholarship (Margaret Bard)
Sun Mar 29	8:30 - 11am Wildflower Run (Judy Burt)

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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.

San Jose Branch

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PERIODICALS

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AAUW San Jose Branch *Established 1909*

SAVE THE DATE

**Third Wednesday Program
Reproductive Rights and Threats
March 18, 7 pm - 8:30 pm**



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. The coronavirus will also be a topic of discussion per Emily Harrison.



Empowering Women Since 1881

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