



# BONFIRE

San Jose Branch

**Empowering Women Since 1881**

**AAUW San Jose Annual Spring Luncheon  
Election and Installation of 2020-2021 Officers  
Saturday, May 2  
11:30 am — 2 pm  
San Jose Country Club  
15571 Alum Rock Avenue, San Jose, CA 95127**

Enjoy seeing old friends and welcoming new members. Celebrate your 2020-2021 slate of officers and thank your 2019-2020 officers.

Our guest speaker, Elissa Stankiewicz, AAUW San Jose member and Chair of our Public Policy Committee, will share with us this innovative approach to success: "A Meandering Path to Education – A Year Up Journey." More than 80,000 young adults in the Bay Area, a disproportionate percentage of whom are low-income and people of color, have been systematically disconnected from stable career pathways. Poor educational systems, lack of access to resources, and economic challenges work in concert to prevent these Opportunity Youth from realizing their potential. Year Up Bay Area provides young adults with the skills, experience and support that will empower them to reach their potential through professional careers and higher education.

## Menu

Hearts of Romaine with Mango, Avocado, Cucumber and Tomato with Mango Vinaigrette, Rolls and Butter

## Entrée Choices:

Artichoke and Parmesan-Filled Chicken Breast with Creamy Supreme Sauce  
Roast Salmon, Lemon Beurre Blanc with Capers  
Vegetarian Penne Pasta Marinara

## Dessert:

Lemon Bars with Fresh Berries  
Coffee, Hot Tea, Iced Tea and Lemonade

Please send your check for \$40.00, which includes tax and tip, to: Risë Berry, 460 Golfview Drive, San Jose, CA 95127, **no later than Saturday, April 25**. Make your check payable to AAUW-SJ and indicate your entrée choice in the memo line. Parking is somewhat limited, so please carpool if possible.

**"To advance gender equity for women and girls  
through research, education, and advocacy."**

## President's Corner

### Peg Carlson-Bowen



For the first time in a long time, Women's Equal Pay Day was pulled from April into March—Women's History Month. It's a small victory, but something to keep our spirits up as we saw the last remaining woman running for president drop out. So, how to keep persevering?

In March, I joined a group of fellow AAUW members to see our former AAUW San Jose member Marlene Bjornsrud give an inspiring talk (she lives in Colorado now). She spoke on 'Passing the Baton,' reminding us of the women in the sports world who reached back and passed the baton to those now on the field, in sports media, and in coaching. Being on the field was all made possible by those women who fought for Title IX in the first place. They made a path for others to follow.

You may not know that Title IX was originally written to guarantee women equal access to medical and law school; it also helps protect and defend students against sexual assault and sexual harassment. I myself didn't know this until I heard Marlene speak at my first AAUW San Jose event in 2009. That event inspired me to join AAUW. Marlene, in a way, handed me a baton, and inspired me to activism and advocacy. Each of us can do this, in our own small ways. Every step matters. Every action matters. You never know when you might inspire someone to change their life. Pass it on....

Take good care,  
Peg Carlson-Bowen

**"Keep your face to the sunshine and you  
cannot see a shadow."**

Helen Keller  
Author

## AAUW San Jose 2020-2021

### Slate of Officers and Building & Properties Committee Members

Virginia Kay Beck, Past President and  
Nominating Committee Chairperson

On behalf of the 2019-2020 Nominating Committee, I am pleased to present the AAUW San Jose 2020-2021 Slate of Officers and Building & Properties Committee members:

President: Peg Carlson-Bowen (continuing)  
President-Elect: Sonia Wright  
Program VP: Sara Fitzwater (continuing)  
AAUW Fund VP: Elissa Stankiewicz  
Membership Co-VP: Nancy Moreno (continuing)  
Membership Co-VP: Sarah Janigian (continuing)  
Membership Co-VP: Anna Fox (continuing)  
Membership Co-VP: Leticia Cowan (continuing)  
Secretary: Monika Ryser (continuing)  
Finance Officer: Pat Diamond  
Treasurer: Anne Wustrow (2-year term)  
Barb Purdy (1-year term)  
Past President: TBD

Building & Properties Committee Members:  
Pam Dougherty (continuing)  
Judy Burt (continuing)  
Paul Bowen (continuing)  
Sandee Plymire (continuing)  
Shirley Karabian (continuing)  
Linda Dorian  
Diane Trombetta  
Tynka Dees

We will vote to elect these officers and Building & Properties Committee members at the Saturday, May 2, 2020, Annual Meeting of the Branch. I hope you will plan to attend. Nominations from the floor will also be accepted.

Thank you to Linda Goldberg, Bobbie Baker, Susan Karlins, Laura Manthey and Grace O'Leary for serving on the Nominating Committee.

### Third Wednesday Program

#### Road Map for Revolutionaries: Resistance, Activism and Advocacy for All

Wednesday, April 15

7 pm — 8:30 pm

On-Line Meeting (see instructions below)

*Is there any question that change is needed? You can be the change!*

In an environment where we all may be constantly angry, upset, overwhelmed, or anxious, Elisa Camahort Page's best-selling book, *Road Map for Revolutionaries: Resistance, Activism, and Advocacy for All*, was designed to help people build their own personal roadmap to make advocacy and change-making sustainable and fulfilling lifelong pursuits.



Learn how to “be the change” from Elisa on Wednesday April 15. This will be a on-line meeting starting at 7pm; please join a few minutes early so we can start on time. We recommend that you join from your computer so that you can “see” the presentation. Elisa will tell us about her guiding principle that “Innovation + Empathy > Innovation + Efficiency” as described in her book.

Best known as the co-founder and COO of women's media company BlogHer, Inc., Elisa is also the founding CEO of Cygnus, a data visualization tool for candidates and causes. *Road Map for Revolutionaries* was published by Ten Speed Press in September 2018 and was an Amazon #1 New Release. #RoadMap4revs is a hands-on resource guide to activating around the causes you care most about. Find more at: <https://elisacp.com>.



#### Open House/Coffee and Conversation

Saturday, April 4 at Headquarters  
10 am — noon

Anna Fox, Membership Committee

Coffee, tea, and breakfast snacks will be provided. The focus is helping new members get the most out of their AAUW experience, but it is also an all-Branch opportunity to socialize!

#### Action Items ... What YOU Can Do

Sharon Bouska

Learn more about pay inequality, occupational segregation, pay secrecy and retaliation for discussing pay, pregnancy and caregiver discrimination, workplace harassment, wage theft and inadequate minimum wage. Check these sources: Pay equity and what to do: <https://www.aauw.org/?s=pay+equity>; AAUW Work Smart Online Salary Negotiation Training program: <https://salary.aauw.org>; and know your rights in the workplace: [Fight for Pay Equity](#).

REGISTER TO VOTE: <https://registertovote.ca.gov>. One can preregister in the 2020 election at age 16.

VOTE: be prepared, encourage your friends and family to vote. Learn about the candidates and issues: a non-partisan, comprehensive online voting guide, <https://votersedge.org/ca> following items can be found.

#### How to Join On-Line Meetings

AAUW San Jose will be having some meetings using an on-line tool called Free Conference Call. There are two ways to join - by telephone (listening only) or on your computer (you can see the presenter's slides and will use your computer microphone and speaker). Please use only one method. **Via Computer:** See instructions in separate email or contact Jean Reed.





**Earth Day 2020: Climate Action  
Wednesday, April 22**

**7 pm — 9 pm at Headquarters**

Elizabeth Guimarin, Climate Action Interest Group

Climate change represents the biggest challenge to humanity and the life-support systems that make our world habitable. The enormous challenges and vast opportunities of acting on climate change make it the most distinguished issue for the 50th anniversary of Earth Day.

Are you concerned about the climate crisis and want to help make a difference? We are hosting information sessions to explore forming a new interest group focused on Climate Action. Join us on Wednesday, April 22 to celebrate this 50<sup>th</sup> Earth Day, and help shape this potentially new Interest Group. Please bring one positive climate action that you see happening to share.

Contact Elizabeth Guimarin at [ClimateAction@aauwsanjose.org](mailto:ClimateAction@aauwsanjose.org), or to let us know you are interested via RSVP. Or just show up!



**Teens and Agencies Respond  
with Gratitude**

Jan Giroux, Gifts for Teens

Gifts for Teens holiday gift bags in 2019 were a big hit again with homeless and low-income teens, as well as the agencies who serve this population. Our best bags ever were stuffed with warm hooded sweatshirts, a USB drive, pajamas, 2 tee shirts, gift cards (\$20 — \$25) value and needed hygiene and school supplies. Each bag also contained snack food, candy and fun items like games and jewelry.

Feedback from the teens and agencies is always welcomed and encouraged. This past year, one teen said, "I was sad about not being able to be with my family, but this duffel bag brightened by Christmas. Everything was useful. I even liked how some wrapped special gifts were in there for us." At the agency level, Bill Wilson Homeless Drop-In Center commented that the bags were "extremely appreciated," and Advent made the point that the "totes and duffels serve as luggage" when the teens leave the program, as many end up using only garbage bags for their belongings.

Gifts for Teens is very appreciative of the ongoing generosity of individual AAUW members, Bay Area philanthropic groups and the corporate world for donations received in 2019 and early 2020. Special thanks go to Hitachi Vantara, the Sharks Foundation and to Diane Trombetta and the S.D. Trombetta Foundation for their continued support of our mission.



**Would You Like to Learn to Knit? Or Improve Your Knitting Skills?**

Margaret McCartney, Knitting Know-How Interest Group

There are three openings in the third Tuesday of the month class of Knitting Know-How. We meet at Headquarters from 1 to 3 pm, and have a lot of laughter and sharing. If you are interested, please contact [Margaret McCartney](#). We would love to have you!



### April Drive for Family Supportive Housing

Bobbie Baker, Neighbors Helping Neighbors

During our March meeting, members packed 20 survival sacks full of supplies for homeless men and women. Soap, shampoos, blankets, combs and other hygiene items were packed into a sturdy backpack for distribution through Sacred Heart. The supplies were purchased from donations made by generous AAUW members. Thank you!

In April, Neighbors Helping Neighbors (NHN) will be collecting new and gently used bath towels and bathmats (please note that smaller towels are NOT requested). These towels will be donated to Family Supportive Housing for their clients. A bin for this drive will be in the entry hall of Headquarters. So, clean out those linen closets and help a homeless family!

Finally, the social event of the year, NHN's June Soiree will be Monday, June 1. Save the date!



### February 2020 Bridge Winners

Bobbie Eckerman

First Monday: Leela Viswanathan

Second Monday: Judy Kumagai, Mary Braley,  
Lida Kluzek

Second Thursday: Bobbie Eckerman, Sandra Savage

Second Friday: Bobbie Eckerman

Third Friday: Bobbie Eckerman, Sandy Bonnet

Fourth Tuesday: Virginia Beck, Darline Wilson,  
Patty Baggesse

### An Update on Jessica Miranda, Past Local Scholarship Recipient

Cheryl Markman, Local Scholarship



Jessica Miranda received an AAUW San Jose Local Scholarship in 2019. She is very grateful to AAUW for the scholarship, which will help her with her educational and career goals in the field of dietetics and nutrition. Jessica is currently attending San Jose State University, working to achieve her Bachelor of Science in Nutritional Science: Dietetics. She will graduate in December 2020 and go directly into her six-month dietetic internship, hopefully at a major hospital. Upon completion of the internship, she will take the exam to become a Registered Dietitian. The AAUW scholarship will help her pay for the internship. Jessica plans to become a certified diabetes educator and plans to work as a Registered Dietitian for about three years before pursuing her Master's degree in Nutrition Education.

Because of this award, she was able to leave a food service job and take a part-time job as a wellness counselor at Apple and focus on her education. Her current job will help her to enhance her motivational interviewing skills. Motivational interviewing is a big part of being a registered dietitian because it allows one to make changes in their lifestyle to improve their health. When Jessica has free time, she likes to read self-help books. She likes to spend time with friends, to cook, and to learn new things in the kitchen. Jessica encourages people to be active, and she stays active at the gym, goes for hikes, and loves to play volleyball and basketball. She also enjoys watching football, especially the 49ers!

## Presidential Election and Legal Advocacy Issues

Louise Persson, Legal Advocacy Fund

As a non-partisan organization, AAUW does not endorse specific candidates. But that does not mean we are not advocates for the policies that matter most to us. And now, with no women currently left in the presidential race, it's important for women voters to be vigilant about the issues that affect women and girls and the families and communities where we live. For example, in light of COVID-19, did you know that the US is the only developed country without paid family and sick leave?

In the months ahead, we should all be watching closely to see where candidates stand on these five issues:

1. Equal Pay for Equal Work. To close the stubborn wage gap, we need leaders who will pass the federal Paycheck Fairness Act, and advocate for laws and policies that ensure women are not discriminated against at work.
2. Investing in Education. Education is the pathway for women and girls, but too many of our schools are falling short. We need to raise teacher pay, invest in STEM education, protect Title IX, and make education a top national priority.
3. Reducing Student Debt. Women hold two-thirds of the nation's \$1.46 trillion educational debt. Policymakers should protect grant programs, champion tuition- and debt-free options, and expand loan forgiveness programs.
4. Strengthening Social Security. Because of lower wages and time off from work, women collect about \$320 a month less than men do in Social Security benefits. Our lawmakers need to address the retirement wage gap women face.
5. Implementing Paid Leave. The US is the only developed country without paid family and sick leave. Let us adopt policies to give workers paid time off for illness and caregiving.

You know how much is at stake in the next election. So, please, do what you've done in the past: tune in, get involved, make your voices heard — and ensure that we harness the power of women to drive the national agenda. Above all, please VOTE. And be sure your friends and family vote, too!



### City Lights Theater Company Partners with Local Scholarship

Cheryl Markman, Local Scholarship Committee



It's fun and easy to help support Local Scholarship! Please plan to attend the [City Lights Theater Company](#) production of "Little Foxes," running Thursday, May 14 – Sunday, June 14. 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, City Lights will donate to Local Scholarship 25% of the proceeds from regular-priced single tickets purchased using the promo code "AAUW" for our non-profit partner performance on Sunday, May 24 (this is a matinee at 2:00 pm). Just be sure to give the code "AAUW" when you buy your tickets on-line at [cltc.org/tickets](http://cltc.org/tickets), in person at the theater, or by calling 408-295-4200. Invite your friends and we'll see you at the theater!

Note from the General Manager of City Lights Theater:

We are excited to partner with AAUW, as well. Unfortunately, our ticketing system does not allow the entry of two 'coupon' codes when entering tickets. The best way for a CLTC season-pass holder to support AAUW is to put a donation into the dedicated AAUW donation box in the lobby when attending. Another great way to support AAUW is to encourage their personal networks to attend the production, especially on your dedicated outreach night.

# AAUW BONFIRE San Jose Branch

## April 2020 Calendar—meetings only if “shelter in place” restrictions lifted

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](#).

Wed Apr 1 6:30 - 7 pm **AAUW Board Social Hour**  
([Peg Carlson-Bowen](#))  
7 - 8:30 pm **AAUW BOARD Meeting**  
([Peg Carlson-Bowen](#))  
Thu Apr 2 1 - 3 pm **Knitting Know How**  
(RSVP [Margaret McCartney](#))  
7 - 8:30 pm **Public Policy Committee**  
([Elissa Stankiewicz](#))  
Sat Apr 4 9 - 12:30 pm **Open House Coffee & Conversation** ([Nancy Moreno](#))

Mon Apr 6 10 - 1 pm **Bridge First Monday**  
(RSVP [Bobbie Eckerman](#))  
6:30 - 8 pm **Neighbors Helping Neighbors**  
([Bobbie Baker](#))  
Tue Apr 7 10 - 12 pm **German Conversation**  
(RSVP [Barbara Snyder](#))  
Wed Apr 8 9:30 - 3 pm **Art Appreciation-TBA**  
([Jan Bartolotta](#))  
7 - 8:30 pm **Evening Book Discussion:**  
Persuasion by J.Austen  
([Laura Manthey](#))  
Thu Apr 9 9:30 - 11 am **Great Decisions - AM**  
([Mary Ann Carnavale](#))  
1 - 4 pm **Bridge 2nd Thursday**  
(RSVP [Bobbie Eckerman](#))  
Fri Apr 10 10 - 2 pm **Duplicate Bridge**  
(RSVP [Lida Kluzek](#))  
Sat Apr 11 6:30 - 9:30 pm **Couples Gourmet**  
(RSVP [Harriet Tower](#))

Sun Apr 12 All day **Film Fans** (RSVP [Linda Snashall](#))  
Mon Apr 13 10 - 1 pm **Bridge 2nd Monday**  
(RSVP [Rosemary Busch](#))  
6 - 9 pm **Light Gourmet**  
(RSVP [Cheryl Markman](#))  
Tue Apr 14 10-11:30 am **2nd Tuesday Book Group:**  
The Moment of Lift by M. Gates  
([Lida Kluzek](#))  
10 - 11:30 am **Conversacion Espanol**  
(RSVP [Barbara Snyder](#))  
Wed Apr 15 7 - 8:30 pm **3rd Wed Program—on-line:**  
Road Map for Revolutionaries ([Elissa Stankiewicz](#))

Thu Apr 16 10 - 12 pm **Family History**  
([Susan Brundage](#))  
7 - 8:30 pm: **Mystery Lovers:** Before the  
Fall - Noah Hawley (Sharon Shepherd)  
Fri Apr 17 10 - 1 pm **Bridge** (RSVP [Lida Kluzek](#))  
Fri Apr 17-21 **AAUW Convention CANCELLED**

Mon Apr 20 9:30 - 11 am **Exploring World Literature:**  
Brooklyn by Colm Toibin  
([Diana Taylor](#))  
6:30 - 8:30 pm **International Gourmet:**  
Ludwig's German  
(Hostess [Jan Bartolotta](#))  
Tue Apr 21 10 - 11:45 am **French Conversation**  
(RSVP [Barbara Snyder](#))  
1 - 3 pm **Knitting Know How**  
(RSVP [Margaret McCartney](#))  
Wed Apr 22 7 - 9 pm **Climate Action Interest Group**  
(RSVP [Elizabeth Guimarin](#))  
Thu Apr 23 9:30 - 11 am **Great Decisions - AM**  
([Mary Ann Carnavale](#))  
6:30 - 8:30 pm **Game Night**  
([Sandee Plymire](#))  
Fri Apr 24 11:30 - 1 pm **Local Scholarship**  
**Fundraising Committee** ([M. J. Vitkovich](#))  
1 - 3 pm **Local Scholarship**  
([Margaret Bard](#))

Mon Apr 27 9:30 - 11 am **Building and Properties**  
**Committee** ([Pamela Dougherty](#))  
11:30 - 12:30 pm **Gourmet Vegetarian**  
([Jean Wyatt](#))  
Tue Apr 28 11:30 - 1 pm **Lunch Bunch** ([Diana Taylor](#))  
1 - 4 pm **Bridge 4th Tuesday**  
(RSVP [Bobbie Eckerman](#))  
3-4:30 pm **Tea and Art** at Reflections  
Elegante Fine Arts Gallery  
(RSVP [K.Linnemann](#))  
7 - 8:30 pm **Great Decisions – PM**  
([Sharon Shepherd](#))

**We need your feedback. Do you like the calendar in this format or the old format? Please let us know. Thanks.**

**San Jose Branch BONFIRE** (USPS 857-400) is published monthly except July for \$8.95 per year by AAUW San Jose Branch, 1165 Minnesota Ave., San Jose CA 95125-3324.

Periodicals Postage Paid at San Jose, CA

Postmaster: Send address changes to AAUW San Jose Branch, 1165 Minnesota Avenue, San Jose, CA

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**BONFIRE Editor:** Ruth Dusan

**Editorial Staff:** Elin Bolt, Copy Editor; Katherine Linnemann, Calendar Editor; Jan Giroux, Proofreader; Barb Purdy, Layout Editor

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**BONFIRE ARTICLE SUBMITTAL RULES:**

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**

**Wednesday, May 20**

**7 pm — 8:30 pm**

**Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Training**

Local activist Ellyn Bloomfield will lead us in a training to review the various terminology we hear every day. Come with your questions for a Q&A afterwards. Contact [Elissa Stankiewicz](#) for more information.



*Empowering Women Since 1881*

See the San Jose Branch Website at [www.aauwsanjose.org](http://www.aauwsanjose.org) for more information.