



BONFIRE

San Jose Branch

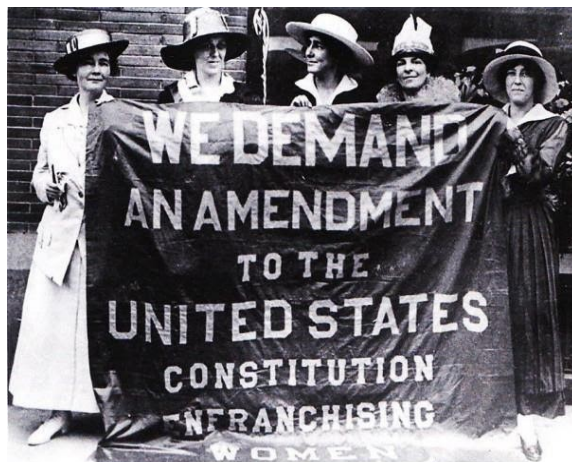
Empowering Women Since 1881

Saturday, August 22, 2020 ~ NEW DATE! 10:30 am to 12 Noon
“The History of Women’s Suffrage” Saratoga Library
13650 Saratoga Avenue, Saratoga
Virginia Beck on behalf of the AAUW Los Gatos-Saratoga Branch

After a hard-fought series of votes in the US Congress and in state legislatures, the Nineteenth Amendment became part of the Constitution of the United States, on August 18, 1920. To mark this year’s centennial of Women’s Suffrage, Bonnie J. Morris, PhD, will offer a lively history of the arguments FOR and AGAINST women’s suffrage, taking us back to the nineteenth century attitudes toward women in politics and public life. Dr. Morris is currently a lecturer at UC Berkeley, and the author of sixteen books, including *Women’s History for Beginners* which was broadcast on C-Span. Her book, **The Feminist Revolution** was selected by Oprah magazine as top reading for Women’s History Month. She has taught women’s history for over 25 years at various universities and has been a guest lecturer for the Library of Congress and the State Department.

Open to the Public

Co-sponsored by Saratoga Library and Los Gatos-Saratoga branch of AAUW
Sister Branch website is <https://losgatos-saratoga-ca.aauw/net>



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

President's Corner

Peg Carlson-Bowen



It was sad not to be able to have our annual luncheon, but we have a new Board for the 2020-2021 Year through online creativity. We had a very successful online election with 92 respondents electing the new Board! Before congratulating the "newbies," I need to thank many Board members, Committee and CAP chairs who are continuing on into this next year! I still have a few appointed positions to fill, but for the elected positions, congratulations go to:

President: Peg Carlson-Bowen (continuing)
President-Elect: Sonia Wright (new position)
Program VP: Sara Fitzwater (continuing)
AAUW Fund VP: Elissa Stankiewicz (new position)
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 (continuing)
Treasurer: Anne Wustrow (2-year term); Barb Purdy (1-year term for overlap training)

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

In other positions:

We have a new Membership Treasurer, Katherine Oven, who joined in November. We owe so much to Kathy Heihn, whose organizational skills and conscientious consistency have been hallmarks of maintaining our membership database over the last five years. Ruth Dusan is joining the Board as Local Scholarship Chair. Many thanks go to Margaret Bard for her contributions to this vital effort. Susan Karlins will be joining as Chair of Public Policy, as Elissa Stankiewicz moves to the Funds position. Thanks to Sonia Wright and Louise Persson for their Funds help this past year. Susan has been serving as our Legislative Liaison, and will continue to lead there with her innovative One Person, One Bill initiative, as well as letter writing campaigns and legislative visits. Also joining in the November 2019 cohort, Marty Behler will be the new College/University Relations Chair. Thanks to Alyce Athanasiou for her service in this area over the last four years. Immediate Past President Virginia Beck will be leaving the Board. I'm sure many who were looking forward to the great convention she planned are sad that circumstances prevented it. Thanks, Virginia!

The Board is always a great group of interesting women who are steering our organization in work that is as important now as ever. If you are ever interested in serving, please contact me or any member of the Board to visit with them about their experience.

As we move forward in this unique year, I do hope we have the chance to visit in person, but I so admire so many coming "up to speed" on technology and participating online. We will continue to try new things to maintain connections and friendships while making the world better for women and girls, even in these challenging times.

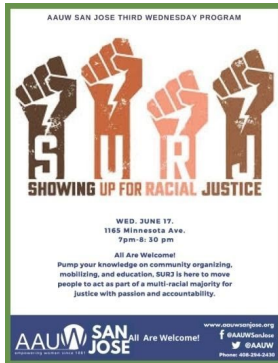


Third Wednesday Program

Sari Fitzwater, Program VP

Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ)

June 17 - 7 pm - 8:30 pm



The San Jose chapter of Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) is leading White Privilege Workshops for organizations within our community. We are very honored to have the SURJ team bring this workshop to our 3rd Wednesday Program on June 17. SURJ is a national network of chapters, affiliates, and individuals working to undermine white supremacy, and moving people and systems toward racial justice. Through community organizing, mobilizing, and education, SURJ moves white people to act as part of a multi-racial majority for justice with passion and accountability. These sessions are designed to introduce attendees to the concept of white privilege and how it impacts our nation, community, and our own lives. The workshop will engage us in guided reflection and discussion to explore the role of white privilege and white supremacy in our own lives.

We look forward to this very powerful evening. As we continue to Shelter in Place, SURJ will bring this workshop to us virtually via Zoom.

Join Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88194073752?pwd=REhWWkI3ZzQrSnlvUUxNcUF4b2pndz09>

Meeting ID: 881 9407 3752

Password: 452304

For more information and to RSVP, please contact [Sari Fitzwater](#).

Legal Advocacy Fund Changes

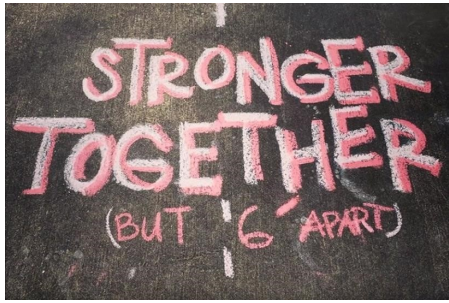
Louise Persson, Legal Advocacy Fund VP

The Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) challenges sex discrimination in higher education and the workplace. There will be changes in the San Jose Branch LAF structure next year and going forward. In line with our national structure, the LAF will now be included in with the AAUW Funds. There will not be a separate LAF Vice President in the San Jose branch. It has been my privilege to serve as Branch LAF Vice President for several years, as well as on the State LAF Committee and the National LAF Committee. My work for LAF has been deeply meaningful, and I am proud of the important and powerful work the LAF has done and continues to do to support equity for women and girls.

The LAF was created in 1981 by AAUW members and has provided millions of dollars to balance the scales of justice for people working toward gender equity through the legal system. The LAF will continue to operate, supporting brave plaintiffs seeking legal redress for equal pay, Title IX, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and tenure denial violations. The LAF currently provides \$100,000 annually to help fund landmark cases, such as *WalMart v. Dukes* and military sexual assault cases such as *Cioca v. Rumsfeld*, as well as cases with the potential to set future precedents like *Rizo v. Fresno County Office of Education*, California.

Our national leadership advises us that the LAF is now fully funded, and members who wish to fund AAUW work in areas previously supported by the LAF can make contributions to the Economic Security area of our funding program.





Coming Together for a Cause

Elaine Benoit, Gifts for Teens Chair

As we continue to shelter in place in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Gifts for Teens wishes all our many wonderful volunteers and donors good health. While we all wait, our Community Action Project has not been idle! Currently we are collecting and buying bag contents; items the teens need and like.

Generous donors are giving cash, fun items, and other practical things. Our buyers are actively pursuing sales and online bargains for gifts. We will let supporters know 2020 dates and times for bag assembly when sanctions are lifted. This year Gifts for Teens' abundant bags will be doubly appreciated by the low income teenagers and homeless youth we serve! Please stay in touch for news of our future plans and stay safe. Or you can visit our website: www.gifts4teens.org.

TECH TREK Camp 2020

Karelle Cornwell, Tech Trek Chair

Twenty-one 7th grade girls from five San Jose schools submitted applications for a scholarship to attend AAUW's Tech Trek camp held in July at Stanford University. Our Tech Trek team read their applications and essays and interviewed each of the girls. What a delight it was to have an opportunity to interact with such intelligent and motivated girls who have a love and aptitude for math and science and hopes and aspirations for a career in STEM. We then had the difficult task of narrowing down the twenty-one outstanding candidates to seven. No sooner had we made the final cut when we received the news. Tech Trek 2020 had been cancelled. It was a disappointing blow and yet we all realized that it was for the best in order to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Although these girls will miss the opportunity to attend camp this summer, it's reassuring to think that one day these girls may use their passion for math and science to make the world better place.

Economic Security Fund

Louise Persson, Legal Advocacy Fund VP

The AAUW Economic Security Fund 4449, promotes women's livelihoods through advocacy for fair-pay legislation, fosters research on the pay gap, trains women to negotiate for the salaries they deserve, and advises employers to adopt cultures of fairness. The fund focuses on women and workplace equity including women and student debt; the gendered workforce; workplace sexual harassment; the motherhood penalty; women and retirement and the future of work.

AAUW stands firm in its belief that economic security for women is non-negotiable. Money is power and women will never be equal to men until they achieve full parity in earnings and wealth.



Local Scholarship Community Action Project Awards

Margaret Bard, Local Scholarship Committee Chair

Local Scholarship awarded scholarships to 22 outstanding women for the 2020-2021 college year. We received 54 applications and a total of \$102,000 was awarded to applicants. The Committee worked hard to raise the funds and to process the applications. We thank the membership for their contributions, which are much needed by students this year.

**An Update on Elly Hudson
Past Local Scholarship Recipient**

Cheryl Markman
Local Scholarship Committee



Elly Hudson was the recipient of the AAUW Local Scholarship Edie Kerr Memorial Scholarship in 2019. Since then, much has changed in her academic life. For one, before classes even began at UC Berkeley, she was grateful to be recognized by the Cal Alumni Association with the Leadership Award. This award is for involvement and leadership in Elly's past projects and work, particularly regarding international humanitarian assistance. Shortly after arriving at UC Berkeley, she was struck with an urgent sense of how little time she would have at this new place where she had worked so hard to be. She stressed over finding a good job, making new friends, joining organizations and clubs that suited her interests, and ultimately achieving success in the short two years that she would be there.

Elly immediately went into planning mode. Creating a plan for herself helped to calm her nerves and chart her course. She created a to-do task list with information of when and how she could complete the items listed. Utilizing campus resources for guidance, as well as her peers for undergraduate tips and tricks, Elly constructed her desired experience.

Having job-searched throughout the summer prior to transferring to UC Berkeley, Elly had interviews lined up early on in the semester. This resulted in her landing a wonderful job at the Berkeley Law School as an assistant in the Field Placement Program. She also joined several organizations including Berkeley's ACLU chapter and the Cal Berkeley Democrats.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Elly was in the process of planning a summer study abroad trip to Spain, which of course has since been cancelled. Nevertheless, she will continue her attempts to study abroad when it is safer. The novel coronavirus has undeniably affected Elly's education as well, having many events moved to online formats, if not cancelled. She has been working to find ways to navigate this new system so she can continue her projected path. She expects to graduate in May 2021 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science, and then move on to graduate school, perhaps at UC Berkeley, for a master's degree in International Relations.

Elly also participates in groups for leisure, including an improvisation troupe and a recreational soccer team, naturally making friends along the way. Additionally, she was elected to be the house president of her cooperative home next fall. The unit is a form of cooperative housing holding 38 people, who work together to collectively reduce rent rates.

Receiving this invaluable scholarship from AAUW has allowed Elly to function more effectively as a student, and is a contributing factor in her success.

Have convictions, and be passionate in them. But also be compassionate toward those who disagree. Concessions are inevitable; do your best to make them equitable. And don't put your identity in your political affiliation — there are other places in which to find community and value.

— Brian Hawkins, Columbus, Ohio

AAUW-California Annual Meeting Awards

Sonia Wright, AAUW Funds

Congratulations and thank you to Catherine M. Foxhoven, Jane J. Niemeier and Donna Lilly! AAUW-CA was proud to announce at its Annual Meeting on April 18 that AAUW Honorary Funds have been established for Co-Presidents Cathy Foxhoven (Fund #4484) and Jane Niemeier (Fund #4485). These Honorary Funds were established in recognition of their leadership and commitment to AAUW-CA for the past two years, 2018-2020. Branches and individuals may contribute to these two funds beginning immediately, using the above designation numbers.

Donna Lilly, past AAUW-CA President and current AAUW-CA College/University Chair, was named 2019 State Named Gift Honoree at the Annual Meeting. Donna is a facilitator of both Start Smart and Work Smart and an active member of the San Diego and Del Mar Leucadia Branches.

Our own Branch's Named Gift Honorees will be announced at our fall meeting due to our spring event



In Memoriam

courtesy of the Reno newspaper

Diana J. Larson, AAUW San Jose President 1968-69

Diana J. Larson, 84, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, May 5, 2020, in Reno, Nevada, with her loving daughter Pamela by her side.

Diana had a lifelong passion for charities. After college, she joined AAUW (American Association of University Women) and became the president of the San Jose branch. When she and Bob moved to Lake Tahoe, she became the president of their branch as well. She received a 50-year membership award from AAUW a few years ago. She also helped establish the Tahoe League for Charity. She was a docent at the Lake Tahoe Historical Museum. When Diana moved to Reno, she immediately joined the Assistance League charity there. While living in Sunnyvale, Diana worked for the California Faculty Association at San Jose State for 14 years. She loved being back on campus amid faculty and students alike.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Bob, in 1995. She is survived by three children, Pamela Larson of Reno, Eric Larson of Mexico, and Kristi (Jeff) Rhodes of Kings, IL, her brother Robert (Mimi) Friedberger of Modesto, CA.

Services are not planned at this time.

June-July 2020 Calendar

Katherine Linnemann, Calendar Editor

In compliance with the County mandated "Shelter in Place" the AAUW San Jose Headquarters is closed. No meetings will occur on site for the months of June-July. Interest Group Chairs and Committee Heads may elect to conduct meetings remotely via Zoom, Skype, etc. They will contact members with details/instructions.

As yet, no decision for on-site future meetings has been made.

Stay in. Stay safe. Stay healthy, and please take very good care of yourself.

Santa Clara County and COVID-19

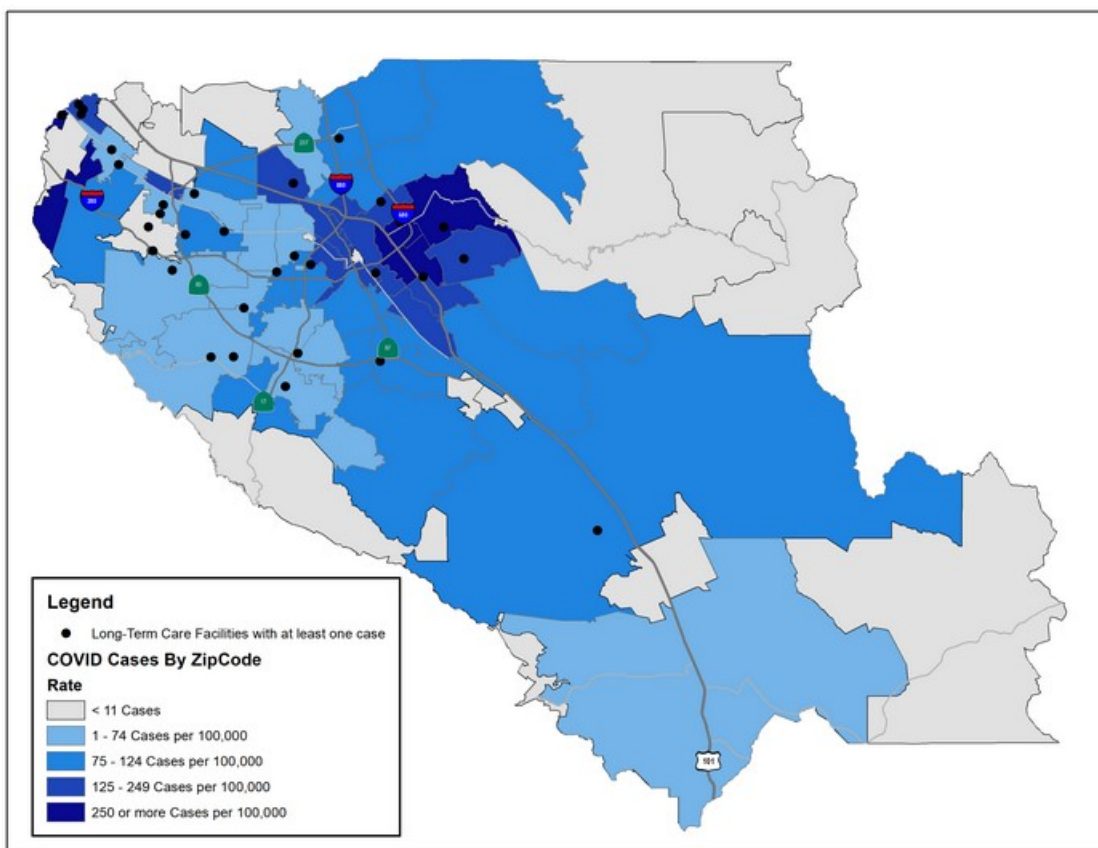
submitted by Peg Carlson-Bowen

Santa Clara County is providing extensive online data about changing conditions and Public Health guidance with regard to COVID-19 in Santa Clara County. These data include current information about restrictions and allowable activities, as well as current and historical data on confirmed cases, hospitalizations, morbidity, demographics of those we have lost, and details about Long Term Care and Skilled Nursing Facilities. Want to know how many tests have been conducted and how many were positive versus negative? It's there. Concerned about hospital surge capacity? Santa Clara County is tracking it and making it available to all of us. I know there are many scientists among our membership, and I think you'll appreciate the work being done. Please visit:

<https://www.sccgov.org/sites/covid19/Pages/home.aspx>

Here is an example of one of the interactive charts showing how our county is affected:

COVID-19 Rates by Zip Code with Long-Term Care Facilities that have at least 1 Case



Behind much of this data-based approach is Cindy Chavez, the president of the Board of Supervisors, who is a

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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*



1881



AAUW was founded by Marion Talbot, who became the Dean of the College of Women at the University of Chicago and a leading figure in higher education, and by Ellen Swallow Richards, who was the first woman to earn a degree in chemistry and a leader in the field of home economics.

Marion Talbot and Ellen Swallow Richards met in Boston with 15 alumnae from eight colleges to discuss the need for college-educated women to have greater opportunities and for more women to have access to higher education. aauw.org/about/history



Empowering Women Since 1881

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