



## The History of Women's Suffrage - 2020 Centennial

Saturday, August 22, 2020—3 to 4:00 pm

Online Event co-sponsored by the Los Gatos-Saratoga Branch of the American Association of University Women and Santa Clara County Library District.

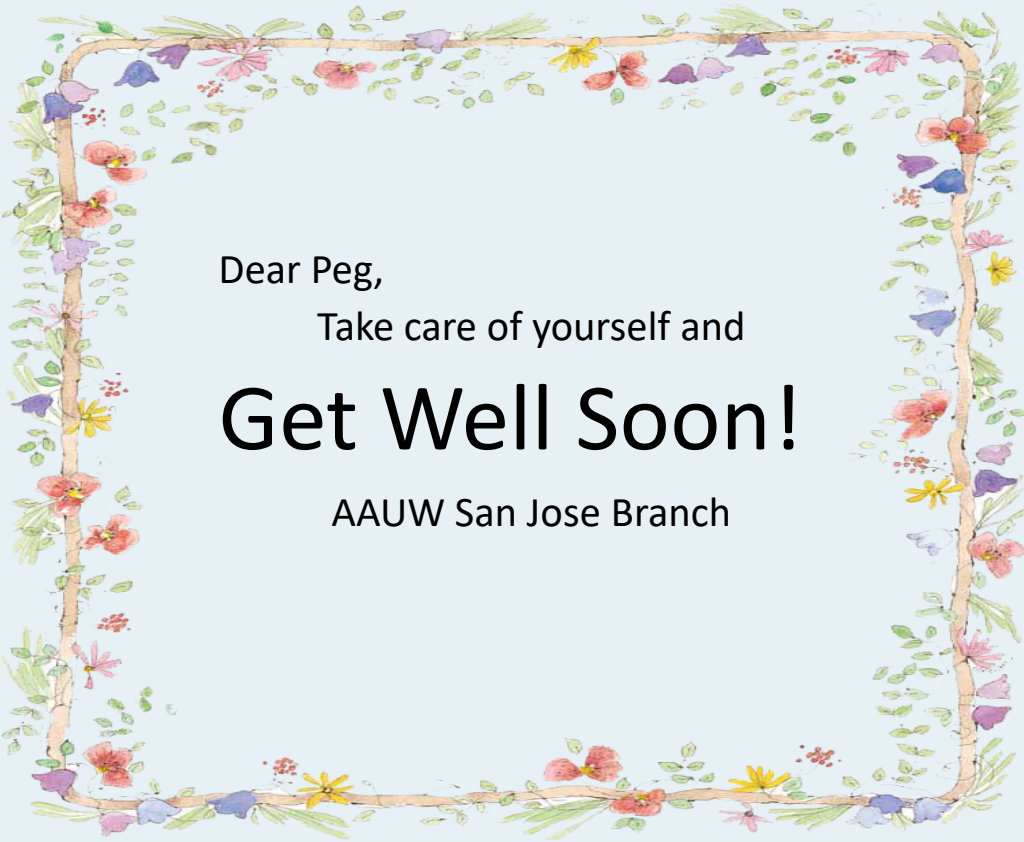
This program will be hosted on Zoom. A link will be sent to registered participants by 10:00 a.m. the day of the event. Registration will close at that time.

**Register:** click on this link or copy and paste in your browser to RSVP - <https://sccl.bibliocommons.com/events/5f1555cc5084523a00456a4e>

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.

Our sister Los Gatos-Saratoga Branch website: <https://logatos-saratoga-ca.aauw.net/>.



Dear Peg,  
Take care of yourself and  
**Get Well Soon!**  
AAUW San Jose Branch



**President's Corner**  
**Peg Carlson-Bowen**



**Egg Carton Drive  
for Sacred Heart Community Service**

Mary Jane Vitkovich and Bobbie Baker,  
Neighbors Helping Neighbors



We put the word out that empty egg cartons were needed at Sacred Heart Community Service and you certainly responded! Over 700 cartons were collected and brought to the agency during our June and July drive. Sacred Heart receives eggs in very large flats and uses the empty egg cartons for easy distribution to customers. Thank you for helping to make this an “eggstraordinary” drive.

A special thanks also to the History Club of Los Gatos and Delta Theta Tau who heard about our drive and collected several hundreds of egg cartons.

Sacred Heart has an ongoing need for the egg cartons (any size). Donations can be brought to Sacred Heart, so please check their website [sacredheartcs.org](http://sacredheartcs.org) for hours of donation.

## TITLE IX

### While We Were Sheltering ... Harmful Title IX Rules Issued During Pandemic

Jean Reed, Public Policy Committee

What happened? In May, the Department of Education issued a long-anticipated but extremely harmful rule designed to substantially weaken Title IX, rolling back important protections for student survivors of sexual harassment and assault.

What does this mean? The new rules make it easier for students accused of sexual assault to evade consequences, while making it harder for victims to get the help and resources they need. AAUW has vigorously opposed this change for more than a year, as it certainly means that fewer victims will come forward.

What can you do? Support the Patsy T. Mink and Louise M. Slaughter Gender Equity in Education Act (GEEA) of 2019, which helps address sex discrimination in education by providing additional resources, training and technical assistance to educational entities in order to ensure compliance with Title IX. Write to Senator Kamala Harris to thank her for co-sponsoring [S.1964](#). Write to Senator Dianne Feinstein, asking her to sign on as a co-sponsor of S.1964. Write to your Congressperson, asking them to co-sponsor [HR 3513](#).

Do all of the above in one step by signing up to become a Two-Minute Activist. Staff in our legislators' offices tally responses daily and use the data to support their positions advocating for legislation. Make your voice heard!

### Supporting AAUW CA Legislative Priorities and Getting Out the Vote for November

Susan Karlins, Public Policy Committee Chair

Our San Jose Public Policy Committee is supporting AAUW CA's legislative priorities with our One Person/One Bill program. We each pick one or more bills from the list AAUW CA supports — something that matters to each of us personally. It's easier than anticipated to contact the bill's author's office, talk with the staff person shepherding the bill, write letters (from templates — no creative writing needed) to support the committees considering the bill, and feel the satisfaction of being part of the solution. This year, COVID and Black Lives Matter have influenced which bills are moving forward, so we'll have a chance to support some new bills focused on improving the lives of women in Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color (BIPOC) communities. In addition, we are writing letters to traditionally under-represented registered voters, encouraging them to vote in the November election. We are part of a nationwide group hoping to send ten million letters this year.

If you'd like to participate in either or both of these activities or learn more about our activities, contact Public Policy Committee Chair [Susan Karlins](#).

*"I know nothing of man's rights, or woman's rights; human rights are all that I recognize."*

—Sarah Moore Grimke



## Update on Suffrage Centennial Celebration Activities

Sharon Bouska

The 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment activities have been SIP (sheltering in place) but not idle! As you can imagine, events and activities for the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment celebration have been postponed and are waiting, like all of us, for the safest time to reconvene. That does not mean that the Santa Clara County Office of Women's Policy, the guiding woman power behind [WE2020](#), has been idle.

The first action taken has been to change the name "Centennial Celebration" to "Centennial Call to Action." The reason for the name change emphasizes the importance of the task at hand and to ensure that issues of importance to women and girls are not abandoned. To me, a centennial celebration is one in which we can wear our pearls and gloves. A Centennial Call to Action means, to me, we shorten our pearls, roll up our sleeves and get to work!

A second change happening revolves around the Soup, Salad, and Suffrage event, where a lunch would be provided and information regarding the centennial would be shared. Now, this event is going virtual! The concept is "bring your own soup and salad ... we'll bring the suffrage!" This event will be from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm on the following dates, featuring different keynote speakers: Thursday, August 13 - Foundation and Education: the Significance and Importance of Constitutional Amendments; Thursday, Sept 3 - Call to Action; and Thursday, Sept. 17 - Mobilization. Our very own AAUW San Jose's Elisa Camahort Page is confirmed as the moderator. Promotional material to go out as speakers are confirmed.

Because this BONFIRE issue will be published close to the first session, I will be sending out an email blast with information, as well as posting information on our webpage and Facebook page. Please share this information with all as soon as it is available.

The third important event, the 2020 Centennial Commemoration Call to Action, is still scheduled for Wednesday, August 26. Santa Clara County Supervisor Cindy Chavez is taking the lead on this virtual event, which will feature a keynote speaker and will emphasize "get out the vote." Again, as more information is released, I will let you all know.

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*"It was we, the people; not we the white male citizens; nor yet we, the male citizens; but we the whole people, that formed the Union...the men, their rights and nothing more; women, their rights and nothing less."*

*-Susan B. Anthony*

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## **An Update on Giavanni Hurtado, Past Local Scholarship Recipient**

Cheryl Markman,  
Local Scholarship Committee Community Action Project



Giavanni Hurtado received a Local Scholarship in 2019. Having graduated from Evergreen Valley College with honors and an Associate's degree in Sociology, she transferred to San Jose State University (SJSU). As a low-income student, receiving the scholarship in her first semester of university was "a spectacular help" in light of the much higher expenses as compared to community college.

Giavanni will soon complete her first year at SJSU, majoring in Social Work. One of the requirements of the major is to complete 72 hours of service-learning volunteer work during the junior year. This work was accomplished at Sacred Heart Community Center, working in the food pantry and clothes closet units. She worked with the homeless population and various diverse individuals and families in poverty, finding it "a great meaningful experience" where she "demonstrated cultural competence, confidentiality, and a respectful partnership with clients and staff." This happened, all while receiving A's in all four of her courses, earning her recognition as an honor student at SJSU, and an invitation to join Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society.

A second requirement of the Social Work major is to complete a year-long internship of 480 hours during the senior year. Giavanni has interviewed for internship placements for her senior year with Franklin-McKinley School District, East Side Union High School District, and Santa Clara County Behavioral Health Department. She received internship offers after interviews with both of the school districts. Recently, she had a final interview with the Santa Clara County Behavioral Health Department and is awaiting a response. This internship is her first choice since she has a strong interest in mental health and hopes to obtain employment there, after obtaining her Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Work in December 2021. She hopes eventually to be able to enter the Master's program in Social Work once she is working in the field. Giavanni intends to focus her work experience on gaining additional knowledge and skills and helping people in her community.

In addition to her strictly academic activities, Giavanni is a member of the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) for first-generation low-income students and the Undergraduate Social Work Association (USWA) in her major's department. On a personal level, Giavanni looks forward to eventually owning a home of her own, getting married, starting a family, and being able to help her mother whenever needed.

Although Giavanni is obviously very focused on her education and activities related to it, she does manage to find some time just for fun. She enjoys reading and even writes short stories. She also enjoys "playing with make-up using my face as my canvas," shopping for some "retail therapy," and "cooking delicious dishes," which she posts on social media to the delight of family and friends.





### Giving From the Heart - Now More Than Ever!

Jan Giroux  
Gifts for Teens  
Community Action Project

Gifts for Teens continues to forge ahead with plans for our annual holiday gift bags. With Covid-19 concerns ever-present, volunteers, number of gift bags, and assembly site are all in flux. But what has not changed is the growing need of low-income and homeless teens for our gift bags filled with clothing, hygiene items, gift cards, and this year, masks and hand sanitizers.

This year, Gifts for Teens is also focusing on increasing the dollar amount on our gift cards in each bag; \$25 gift cards for Target and/or Walmart would allow the teens to choose from clothing, food, or essential health care items. If you would like to help, donations of \$25 gift cards to either Target or Walmart would be greatly appreciated to help us meet our goal. Of course, cash donations or smaller dollar amount gift cards would be welcomed, too. For more information on gift cards, contact [Beverly Bassett](#).

Special thanks to all the AAUW members who have already generously donated to Gifts for Teens with their dues payments. As of June, Branch members have donated over \$9,100. AAUW members continue to give from the heart to make a difference in their community. Thank you! Be well and stay well.



### AAUW's Equity Network

Diane Trombetta, Chair  
Keep-in-Touch Subcommittee

Recently, AAUW created an online community that provides exciting learning, networking, and advocacy resources for college students, post-grads, and working women. The Equity Network connects individuals who share a commitment to inclusion on campuses, in workplaces, and in communities. Members have access to a range of skill-building webinars and the Equity Express newsletter. For people who have not completed the minimum two years of college required for AAUW membership, the Network is a great way to benefit from affiliation with AAUW and to help promote our common mission and goals. Check it out at [Equity Network Information](#).

### New Member Profiles

Claire Campodonico

**MEREDITH CURRY** earned her BA from UCLA in 2004. She is an Operations Consultant for a local non-profit. She is also an AAUW grant recipient. She wholly believes in the mission of AAUW and that is why she joined our Branch.

**ASHLEY DARGERT** graduated from Loyola Marymount in 2018 with a BA in Sociology. She just completed her first year at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in the Masters of Public Policy program. She works as a grad assistant for Safer (Cal Poly's campus resource for gender and power-based violence). Her goal is to work for the Santa Clara Office of Women's Policy. Ashley found our Branch as she drove by our headquarters.

**THERESA LOPEZ** is a Registered Nurse who recently graduated from Capella University. She is a resident of Campbell and learned of AAUW at the Women's March. Theresa looks forward to becoming active in civic and community matters, including Neighbors Helping Neighbors.

August 2020 Calendar

Our roof is being replaced August 10-15 at Headquarters. In compliance with the County mandated "Shelter in Place" and National AAUW guidelines, the AAUW San Jose Headquarters is closed for meetings. No meetings will occur on site for the month of August. There are several interest group meetings that are being held remotely via ZOOM.

August ZOOM meetings are as follows:

- Thu Aug 6      7 - 8:30 pm    Public Policy Committee ([Susan Karlins](#))
- Thu Aug 17      6:30 pm    International Gourmet Menu TBA (RSVP [Jan Bartolotta](#))
- Thu Aug 20      7 - 8:30 pm    Mystery Lovers ([Sharon Shephard](#))
- Mon Aug 24    9:30 - 11 am    Building and Properties Committee ([Pamela Dougherty](#))
- Tue Aug 25      7—8:30 pm    Great Decisions - PM ([Sharon Shephard](#))
- Fri Aug 28      1 - 3 pm    Local Scholarship ([Ruth Dusan](#))

(Other Interest Group and Committee Chairs may elect to conduct meetings remotely via Zoom, Skype, etc. They will contact members of the interest group or committee with details/instructions.)

Please click the below link for more information on COVID-19 from AAUW California:  
[AAUW California COVID-19 Information](#)



**Important Covid Reminder**

AAUW does not sanction in-person meetings at this time nor for the foreseeable future. Our insurance coverage may allow meetings if waivers are signed, but exercising that option would likely be tested in court. AAUW's guidance is in adherence with California mandates and in the best interests of all our members. Let's remain safe today and enjoy gatherings in the future!

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**Editorial Staff:** Elin Bolt, Copy 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.

San Jose Branch  
**AAUW Headquarters**  
1165 Minnesota Avenue  
San Jose, CA 95125-3324  
Phone: 408-294-2430

**PERIODICALS  
POSTAGE PAID**

AAUW San Jose Branch *Established 1909*

**SAVE THE DATE**

**AAUW SAN JOSE — Virtual FALL GATHERING**  
**Leticia Cowan, Co-VP, Membership Committee**  
**Saturday, September 26, 2020**  
**10 —11:30 am**  
**Registration via EventBrite Coming Soon!**

COVID-19 has presented us with challenges and opportunities. Not being able to gather in-person is certainly a disappointment, but having our event online means access to this event can expand to more attendees near and further afield. Our President, Peg Carlson-Bowen, and the Membership Committee are working with our Special Interest Groups, Local Scholarships, and CAPs to bring you an interesting and informative event. Be on the lookout in the coming weeks for an email with registration information. Sign up right away!

You'll be able to see your AAUW friends on-line and learn what the Board has planned to keep our branch going on stronger than ever!



*Empowering Women Since 1881*

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