



BONFIRE

San Jose Branch

Empowering women since 1881



AAUW SAN JOSE FALL GATHERING AND KICK-OFF

Saturday, September 26

10 - 11:30 am

Online Event - Register for Tickets on [Eventbrite](#)



Join us online to hear Climate Justice Leader, Dr. Tracy Osborne, talk about how climate changes affect women and girls. Dr. Osborne, Professor at UC Merced, will highlight climate justice and the stories of its effect on women and girls. Her research on the social, political and economic dimensions of climate change mitigation informs global environmental governance, climate equity, and justice debates. She also leads the Climate Alliance Mapping Project, a collaborative effort between academics, environmental non-governmental organizations, and Indigenous organizations working for a socially just response to climate change through research, maps and digital stories.

This year you ***must*** register to attend. We need our members, members' friends, scholarship recipients, student members and prospective new members to register for this event via [Eventbrite](#). Information for the Zoom-powered Fall Gathering will be provided to you. We will have much of our usual program, followed by 50-year member recognition and "thank you" videos from Local Scholarship recipients.

Grab your coffee and your muffin and come connect with us! See you on September 26!



MESSAGE from AAUW-CA: Whether meetings are held at Headquarters or at members' homes, 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!

MESSAGE from AAUW San Jose Branch: As AAUW San Jose is a non-essential non-profit business, Headquarters is closed except for Minimum Basic Operations. We have filed a Social Distancing Protocol with the County and accordingly posted signs to describe what is covered under Minimum Basic Operations. We have identified ten (10) people who may enter the premises for known Minimum Basic Operations. However, only four (4) people may be in the building at one time. If you feel you have a task that fits under the guidelines and you are not on the list and want to enter the building, please contact Pamela Dougherty so that she can be sure that there will not be a conflict for usage of Headquarters.

Another part of our posted signage covers the rules for gathering outside for AAUW-sponsored activities. Essentially, if you are in a high-risk group (over 50 or with underlying conditions), you should not participate in a gathering. We do anticipate that in a rare instance we might have a gathering that would be in compliance with State and County guidelines and consistent with AAUW-CA guidelines. That is one of the reasons for filing a Social Distancing Protocol.

As a bonus, and knowing how many of you walk, we have also posted tips from the County for walking safely.

While we miss our AAUW activities, Zoom has filled in some of the gaps. For now, please protect your precious selves, family and friends by following the guidelines of California, Santa Clara County and AAUW-CA. We will get to the finish line together by sheltering in place with attention to what really matters in the long run.

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



President's Corner
Peg Carlson-Bowen

First and foremost, thank you all for the support, cards, meals, and good wishes you sent me while I was recovering from my surgeries. I know some of our members have also faced breast cancer, and their stories of recovery were especially meaningful. I have a good prognosis and am grateful.

Thanks also to all Board Members, CAP Chairs, Interest Group leaders, BONFIRE staff and the Building & Properties Committee, who stepped up to keep activities and essential business functions going, especially with the added challenge of the pandemic. Though summer may be a bit slow for members, it can be a busy time preparing for the upcoming year.

We managed to migrate to online Zoom meetings and even increased attendance. Our "Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ)" Zoom meeting had 77 attendees! Members who have moved away but remain Branch members, or those who no longer drive at night, are now able to attend meetings remotely. Many members have told us that the pandemic will limit their in-person attendance for some time, no matter what "official" county rules are, so the Branch has purchased Zoom access for the entire year. We are also exploring how to have "hybrid" online and in-person meetings when restrictions ease up.

As you will see elsewhere in the BONFIRE, access to Headquarters is restricted for those not specifically authorized by the Building & Properties Committee for the purposes of essential operations. They have done a great job in understanding, in great detail, what our legal obligations are from both local county orders and from AAUW National. Please be aware.

By the way, have you renewed your membership yet? Your dues are important to helping us adjust to changing conditions and continuing our fight for equity for all. Our Membership Committee has designed a very creative online Fall Gathering on September 26 -- don't miss it! I look forward to "seeing" you then.



Drive Through Free Lunch for 60-Plus

Sharon Potter, Couples Gourmet Interest Group

Free lunch — there is one available to any resident of San Jose aged 60 or over. This free lunch is available Monday through Friday, and Saturday in some locations. It is set up like a drive through! Saves trips to the grocery store! You can just show up the first day and you will receive a boxed, often

hot lunch placed in the trunk of your car. If your spouse is over 60, you can get two lunches. It is based only on living in the county and the age limit. Available at local senior centers and other locations: see https://www.sccgov.org/sites/ssa/food-assistance/snp/Pages/senior_nutrition.aspx or <https://www.sanjoseca.gov/home/showdocument?id=56299> for a current list.

My experience has been at Almaden's drive through, located at the library. The line of cars ended at the library driveway and often went around the block. The first day I received a form to fill out, and was told they only need your age, zip code and name. You then will be given a placard on which you write your name (s) to show them on your second visit. They even gave me a month-long menu! The food is quite good and some of it, especially Mexican meals, are ordered from a restaurant. Always included is a milk carton, fruit or salad.

ZOOMING ALONG! — Zoom Meetings Process

Pat Diamond, Finance Officer

Are you trying to keep your branch connected? Do you need more help? Encourage your members to volunteer to learn how to teleconference and become your branch expert. The web team has recorded training videos available on the AAUW CA website for all branch members and leaders so please have a look at their website.

Some of you are already Zooming, using either the free (basic) account, a member's paid account, or (like the Building and Properties Committee) the Branch's paid Zoom account. Others of you have never hosted a Zoom meeting but are considering it. Whether you're new to Zoom or have been using it for a while, before you schedule your next Zoom meeting, please consider attending a webinar or viewing a video tutorial. Zoom has recently changed and it's important that we use it as well and as safely as possible, with no Zoom bombing.

Eventually, our Branch will develop its own instructions, but for now please use this process:

1. Zoom provides a series of live webinars and video tutorials that you can access from their site. Go to <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/sections/201740096-Training>.
2. AAUW-CA provides webinars and documents on their website. Note that some of the information in the AAUW-CA training (such as creating an Outlook invitation) won't apply to you or the Branch. Just ignore those things and focus on what does apply.
3. If you're planning a Zoom meeting for your group or committee, please let Tynka Dees know at calendar@aauwsanjose.org so she can post it on the Branch calendar at. Tynka will not be posting the login or sign-in information, only the fact of the meeting.
4. On the Branch's Zoom account, for the topic use a name to identify which AAUW San Jose group is doing that meeting and who the host is (e.g., Finance Cmte; Pat D). For members who can only attend by telephone, you'll need to figure out alternative ways to keep all your committee or group members informed and included. Protect the credentials that are used to login to Zoom to set up your meeting. Do not send the login email or password through email.

***“For most of history,
Anonymous was a woman”
Virginia Woolf***

AAUW-CA Strengthens Commitment to Increasing Equity for Black Women and Girls

Melissa Maceyko,
AAUW-CA Public Policy Committee

In 2020, a widespread protest movement has emerged, clearly and loudly demanding greater racial equity through systemic change. This protest movement is in line with the core mission of AAUW: “To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.” How are these two aligned? AAUW’s central mission statement implies a focus on ALL women and girls. To achieve this mission, we must demand greater equity for Black women and girls.

At the national level, AAUW has acknowledged that the organization has historically fallen short of this goal, as it has lacked diversity and inclusion in leadership, membership, and focus. AAUW has taken concrete steps to create organizational change, to better address their mission of serving all women.

Individual AAUW members can also take concrete steps to make sure that the inclusive mission of AAUW is made into a reality—here with a specific focus on racial equity for Black women and girls. One way this can be done is through white members learning about and engaging in anti-racism and white allyship.

Anti-racism is the active practice of calling out racism when it is encountered, which may include having uncomfortable conversations about race and racism in everyday life. Non-racism, the internal and often silent opposition to racism, is positive, but it is not enough to create necessary change. Related to anti-racism is white allyship. White allies are people who make the long-term commitments and efforts necessary to recognize their racially based privilege and who continually work in solidarity with oppressed groups engaged in institutional and political struggles for justice.

We hope you will join AAUW CA’s webinar on August 26 to learn what concrete steps you can take to ensure that the inclusive mission of AAUW will someday become a reality.

AAUW CONNECTIONS ... Give Some, Get Some!

Joan Meyer, Film Fans Interest Group

At this time, this is not an official Interest Group, but if you've been feeling isolated, alone or just want more safe connections during this time of shelter in place, this group is for you! If you want phone calls and are willing to call others, then sign up! My idea is to put people into small groups (2-4) and they will work out how they'll call/check in on each other, perhaps 3-4 times a week. The calls can be as long or as short as you each like. This will be helpful, especially for those of us living alone who would like more people-safe contact!

If you'd like to be part of AAUW CONNECTIONS, please email [Joan Meyer](mailto:Joan.Meyer@aauw.org) from the email address you want me to use (please note that it will not be private); include your name and the phone number you prefer for calls. In the subject line, please write the words “AAUW CONNECTIONS”. Once your group is set up, the group can decide whether to use Zoom, FaceTime, etc., to connect. After a time, each group will probably be rearranged; i.e., more could join or leave.



Neighbors Helping Neighbors Is Going Virtual!

Bobbie Baker, Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Due to Labor Day, our first meeting will be on September 14 at 6:30 pm. At this September meeting, we will plan and budget for our projects in the coming year. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, there can be no hands-on projects done at Headquarters, but we hope to organize parking lot drives and continue to contribute goods and services when possible to our agencies. So, Zoom into our first meeting as we plan to help the homeless, poor and others in need in our community.

An Update on Diana Mucino, Past Local Scholarship Recipient

Cheryl Markman, Local Scholarship Committee

Although Diana Mucino was awarded an AAUW Local Scholarship in 2018, it was deferred until 2019 while she remained at San Jose City College, still pondering the question why she wanted to be a nurse in the first place. After some self-reflection, she learned about medical social workers, whose job it is to advocate for their patients and make sure that they are receiving the help that they need as well as to help them find resources outside of the hospital that they can utilize. She fell in love with the major, and during her first class she knew that she had made the right choice.

Diana entered UC Berkeley in the fall of 2019, the first step toward earning a BA in Social Welfare and her new goal of becoming a medical social worker. Currently she is participating in a summer internship with Health Career Connections as a health equity scholar. Today, she is completing a group project examining the correlation between diabetes hospitalization rates and COVID-19 hospitalization rates.

Having recently completed her first year at UC Berkeley with all of its challenges, Diana is excited to be working on her honors thesis which will focus on the impact of healthcare access on the physical health of undocumented Latinx people living in California in the last ten years. She will also research how healthcare programs can be developed to better serve this community and make the healthcare system a bit more fair and accessible to all regardless of citizenship status. Although this upcoming academic year will be even more challenging, especially since most of it will be on-line, Diana is excited to see what her research will reveal and how she can use it to help her community. After graduation Diana plans to work for a year or two and then apply to UC Berkeley's Masters in Social Work program to eventually become a medical social worker.

Given the current restrictions due to the pandemic, Diana is enjoying spending time with her family, playing board games, watching movies, and just being together. She is also using her free time to explore her artistic side by learning how to paint, adding that this has helped her stay sane during this difficult time.

Gifts for Teens Holiday Bag Recipients - Where Do Your Donations Go?

Jan Giroux, Gifts for Teens

As a Community Action Project of AAUW San Jose, the objective of Gifts for Teens is to provide a valuable and fun December holiday gift bag to teenagers who, due to family poverty or homelessness, may not otherwise have any gift or special attention this time of year. Diverse South Bay youth, up to 24 years of age, are given full gift bags based on need, as recommended by local social service agencies. Recipient teens, as Elaine Benoit states, "Recognize that the South Bay community supports them and is concerned about the negative effects of poverty on their lives."

The agencies Gift for Teens will support this year include:

- Bill Wilson Center - homeless and teens in the residential shelters
- Unity Care - teens in foster care homes
- Advent - addicted teens living in group homes
- Sacred Heart Community Service –teens living in low income families



Through many avenues such as corporate grants, high school drives, philanthropic clubs, church service groups and AAUW members, donations of cash for purchase of gift cards continue to be welcome as we gear up for this coming holiday. Gift cards from Target or Walmart are still needed in the amount of \$25 and should be received by October 10. Contact Beverly Bassett at beverly@gifts4teens.org to donate.

During the Covid-19 crisis, the need to reach out and help those less fortunate is greater than ever. If you would like to help Gifts for Teens indirectly, consider donating to Gifts for Teens on Amazon via smile.amazon and choosing Gifts for Teens as your charity. There is no cost to you and Amazon gives a percentage to the charity. Be well and stay well!

The 19th Amendment Call to Action

Sharon Bouska



As we have passed the centennial anniversary of the 19th Amendment and are on to our second hundred years, it is important NOT to rest on the enfranchisement victories made by and for women. Consider the following as a reminder that what we may take for granted now, what women fought so hard for, often has happened recently.

The following list is of NINE things a woman could not do in 1971 – yes the date is correct, 1971. She could not:

Get a credit card in her own name — it wasn't until 1974 that a law forced credit card companies to issue cards to women without their husband's signature.

Be guaranteed that they wouldn't be unceremoniously fired for the offense of getting pregnant — that changed with the Pregnancy Discrimination Act of 1978.

Serve on a jury – it varied by state (Utah deemed women fit for jury duty way back in 1879), but the main reason women were kept out of jury pools was that they were considered the center of the home, which was their primary responsibility as caregivers. They were also thought to be too fragile to hear the grisly details of crimes and too sympathetic by nature to be able to remain objective about those accused of offenses. In 1961, the Supreme Court changed that, but it wasn't until 1973 that women could serve on juries in all 50 states.

Fight on the front lines — admitted into military academies in 1976, it wasn't until 2013 that the military ban on women in combat was lifted.

Get an Ivy League education – Yale and Princeton didn't accept female students until 1969. Harvard didn't admit women until 1977 (when it merged with the all-female Radcliffe College). Brown (which merged with women's college Pembroke), Dartmouth and Columbia did not offer admission to women until 1971, 1972 and 1981, respectively.

Take legal action against workplace sexual harassment. The first time a court recognized office sexual harassment as grounds for any legal action was in 1977!

Decide not to have sex if their husband wanted to — spousal rape wasn't criminalized in all 50 states until 1993.

Obtain health insurance at the same monetary rate as a man. Sex discrimination wasn't outlawed in health insurance until 2010 and today many, including sitting elected officials at the Federal level, feel women don't mind paying a little more. Again, that date was 2010.

The birth control pill: Issues like reproductive freedom for women were only just beginning to be openly discussed in the 1960s. In 1957, the FDA approved of the birth control pill for “severe menstrual distress.” In 1960, the pill was approved for use as a contraceptive. Even so, the pill was illegal in some states and could be prescribed only to married women for purposes of family planning, and not all pharmacies stocked it. Some of those opposed said oral contraceptives were “immoral, promoted prostitution and were tantamount to abortion.”

Oh, and one more thing, prior to 1880 which is just a few years before the photo of this very proud lady was taken, the age of consent for sex was set at 10 or 12 in most states, with the exception of Delaware – where it was 7 YEARS OLD!

Remember to vote. It is good to celebrate 100 years of suffrage, but as you can see from the above information, we cannot rest. This is the beginning of the second century of women's suffrage: it needs to be better than the first.

September 2020 Calendar

Submitted by Tynka Dees, Calendar Editor

In compliance with the County mandated "Shelter in Place" and National AAUW guidelines the AAUW San Jose Headquarters is closed for meetings. No AAUW physical meetings will occur on site/off site for the month of September. Use of the parking lot is only authorized under specific Gathering Protocol and must be cleared with Pam Dougherty, B&P Chair.

September ZOOM meetings

Tue Sep 1	10:30 - 11:30 am	German Conversation ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder)
Wed Sep 2	6:30 - 7 pm	AAUW Board Social Hour ZOOM (Peg Carlson-Bowen)
	7:00 - 8:30 pm	ZOOM AAUW BOARD Meeting (Peg Carlson-Bowen)
Thu Sep 3	7 - 8:30 pm	Public Policy Committee ZOOM (Susan Karlins)
Tue Sep 8	10:30 - 11:30 am	Conversacion Espanol ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder)
Mon Sep 14	6:30 - 8:30 pm	Neighbors Helping Neighbors ZOOM (Bobbie Baker)
	6:30 - 9:30 pm	Light Gourmet ZOOM (RSVP Cheryl Markman)
Tue Sep 15	10:30 - 11:30 am	French Conversation ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder)
Thu Sep 17	10 - 12 pm	Family History ZOOM (Susan Brundage)
	7 - 8:30 pm	Mystery Lovers ZOOM (Sharon Shephard)
Sat Sep 19	All day	Parking Lot Packing Gifts for Teens (Elaine Benoit)
Mon Sep 21	7 pm	International Gourmet ZOOM(Jan Bartolotta)
Tue Sep 22	7 - 8:30 pm	Great Decisions – PM ZOOM(Sharon Shephard)
Fri Sep 25	1:30 - 3 pm	Local Scholarship ZOOM (Ruth Dusan)
Sat Sep 26	10 - 11:30 am	Fall Event ZOOM
Mon Sep 28	9:30 - 11 am	Building and Properties Committee ZOOM (Pamela Dougherty)
	1 - 4 pm	Interbranch Council ZOOM (Peg Carlson-Bowen)

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



Local Scholarship Awards Scholarships

Margaret Bard, Local Scholarship Committee

The Local Scholarship Committee awarded scholarships to 22 recipients this year. These award recipients will attend San Jose State, UC Berkeley, CSU Monterey Bay, UC Davis, UCLA, UC San Diego, and University of San Francisco. There were 57 applicants from West Valley College, San Jose City College, San Jose State, Mission College, Evergreen Valley College, as well as four recipients of 2019 scholarship awards.

Majors included were as follows: Chemistry, Microbiology, Biochemistry, Operations Research & Management Sciences, Packaging Engineering, Biology, Special Education, Early Childhood Education, Communications Disorders, Psychology, Nursing, Political Science, Sociology, and English.

The Committee is extremely proud of these women and their perseverance in overcoming obstacles while achieving high scores academically. Short bios of the 2020 scholarship recipients are available on our website on the Education page at <https://sanjose-ca.aauw.net/2020-local-scholarship-recipients/>.

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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
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AAUW San Jose Branch *Established 1909*

Getting Ready to Vote!

Susan Karlins, Public Policy Committee



No matter how fired up we are about voting this year, we still have to confront the need to understand often-confusing ballot propositions. Ballot propositions often seem to be purposely perplexing! Join the Public Policy Committee on Thursday, October 1 at 7 pm to review some of these propositions and better understand what they mean. Join the meeting on Zoom at <https://yearup.zoom.us/j/98670478168>. AAUW-CA will be making some ballot proposition recommendations this year and we'll plan to share those during the session.

The Public Policy Committee will be planning this session at our September 3 meeting, so join us then (same Zoom address as above) if you want to contribute to the planning process. Let us know if you plan to attend. If you have any questions, please contact [Susan Karlins](#).



Empowering Women Since 1881

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