

**BONFIRE**

San Jose Branch

Empowering women since 1881

**California Ballot Propositions Presentation****Thursday, October 1 at 7 pm****via Zoom****Susan Karlins, Public Policy Committee**

Let us help you understand those often-confusing ballot propositions. You won't have your ballot in hand just yet, but you can learn about the 12 State propositions and be better prepared. The Public Policy Committee will help with the time-consuming work of researching propositions ahead of the November election. For each of the propositions facing you on this year's ballot, you will learn a brief summary of:

What are the arguments for and against?
Where's the money coming from?
Has AAUW-CA endorsed this proposition?

Sadly, it won't be a wine and conversation gathering like we enjoyed in 2018, but still a great opportunity to learn about the State propositions. We'll be on Zoom, presenting for 5 minutes each on the 12 propositions. We will start promptly at 7 pm, so please join a few minutes early to settle in. We have limited volunteer staffing, so we may not be able to accommodate all latecomers.

Join via Zoom at <https://yearup.zoom.us/j/98670478168>.

Here's to enjoying wine and conversation when we meet again in 2022.

"There never will be complete equality until women themselves help to make laws and elect lawmakers."

— **Susan B. Anthony**



Here is a montage representing our focus on one of the most important events to occur this year — our November election.



Peg Carlson-Bowen
President's Corner



They fought for it. Use it.



The Gift of Glamour for Girl Teens this Holiday

Jan Giroux, Gifts for Teens

“I feel pretty” will have a special meaning to teen girl gift bag recipients this year. Gifts for Teens received a fabulous donation of 2,090 tubes of mascara from Thrive Causemetics! Thrive Causemetics describes their donation project as “Beauty with a purpose. For every product purchased, one is donated to help a woman or girl thrive.” There will be enough mascaras to gift each girl two mascara wands of this popular brand, with extras for future gifting. Along with the two tubes of mascara, a cosmetic bag will be filled with other popular cosmetic brands.

And remember, it's not too late to donate purchased Target or Walmart gift cards of \$25.00 or a cash donation to help add that little extra to our teen gift bags. Contact Beverly Bassett at beverly@gifts4teens.org to donate. Thank you and be well.



Thrive Causemetics



Parking Lot Collection on Saturday, October 10

Bobbie Baker, Neighbors Helping Neighbors Co-Chair

Neighbors Helping Neighbors (NHN) is trying something new in this time of Covid. We're collecting toilet paper and bath rugs/mats for Family Supportive Housing (FSH) in the parking lot of Headquarters on Saturday, October 10, from 10 am to 2 pm. Just pull into the parking lot, a masked NHN member will be waiting to take your donation, and you don't even have to get out of your car! FSH is the only homeless shelter in San Jose where an entire family can stay. They specifically asked for these items as things they need. So, if you overbought toilet paper, this is a good way to reduce your supply! Bath rugs or bath mats ... either is fine!

Help Wanted!

Pam Dougherty, Building & Properties Committee

The Building & Properties Committee needs one more member. This is an ideal time to join our group. We meet monthly on ZOOM. The position that is open handles supplies, which is a light workload currently.

Please let me know if you are interested -- Pamela.dougherty@icloud.com or 408-806-0859. This is a great opportunity to learn about what goes on behind the scenes and to support our maintenance planning for the building.

The 2020 Election: Responsibilities and Opportunities

Nancy Mahr, AAUW CA Public Policy Committee

Submitted by Susan Karlins, Public Policy Committee

Responsibility: Vote and help others vote. First you have to register. You can check your registration status online at the CA Secretary of State's website. See <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/> for all the information you need to vote in November.

Then you have to vote. All registered voters in California will receive a Vote-by-Mail (VBM) ballot in early October. Early Voting is also available at the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters' Office, 1555 Berger Drive, Building 2, San Jose, CA 95112 on the following schedule:

Monday - Friday October 5, 2020 - November 2, 2020 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Saturday - Sunday October 24, 2020 - October 25, 2020

October 31, 2020 - November 1, 2020 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

You have choices for using that ballot:

1) Complete it and mail it in — if you do this, mail early. Ballots must be postmarked by November 3. They have 17 days after that date to reach the Registrar's office, but the postmark must be by November 3. If you put it in a mailbox on Nov 3, it will not be postmarked in time. Be early!

2) Complete the ballot and drop it in an official drop box. Your Registrar of Voters will post locations of drop boxes. The 24-Hour Official Ballot Drop Boxes will be available from October 5 to November 3, 2020 until 8 p.m. Election Day. The Registrar regularly collects the ballots from the boxes. Drop box locations are available at <https://www.sccgov.org/sites/rov/VBM/Pages/VoteEarly.aspx>

3) Take your completed ballot to a Vote Center and hand it in. You don't have to use the VBM ballot. You can vote in person and just hand in your unused ballot at a Vote Center. Vote Center locations are available at <https://eservices.sccgov.org/Rov?tab=vc>. That site also lists options to track your ballot and see local election results.

Opportunity: Candidates - Black women and other women of color. This election gives all of us an opportunity to expand our thinking and vision by making a conscious commitment to AAUW's work for racial justice and societal change. The coronavirus pandemic has disproportionately impacted Black Americans. We are seeing a call to address police brutality. In the face of these historic challenges, a record number of Black women are running for Congress, determined to work for change. The Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP) reports that Black women are nearly 8% of the U.S. population, but 4.3% of Congress — only 22 out of 435 Representatives and 1 out of 100 Senators. They are underrepresented in statewide executive jobs and among mayors and city councils.

This November, in addition to federal, state and county elections, local elections are on the ballot -- cities, school districts, and water districts. There may be Black women or women of other ethnicities on the ballot

in your area. You can support women of color who are running for office in your community, state and nation. Be aware. Create an environment of inclusion. Make an effort to meet and talk with these candidates. Commend them for stepping up. Listen to their stories and their goals. Ensure they are included in election discussions and activities.

AAUW has a long tradition of advocating for positive societal change and political activism. Change is underway, and AAUW can be a part of that.

Read our statement on racism on the AAUW website at

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/news/media/press-releases/aauw-stands-against-racism/>.

Sources: The Washington Post, Reuters, Higher Heights for America

PLEASE NOTE: You will soon have the opportunity to contribute to AAUW CA's Public Policy Priorities for 2021-23. All members will soon be receiving an online survey asking for their input. Please complete it by the deadline, October 15, so we can begin revising it for a member vote in April 2021.

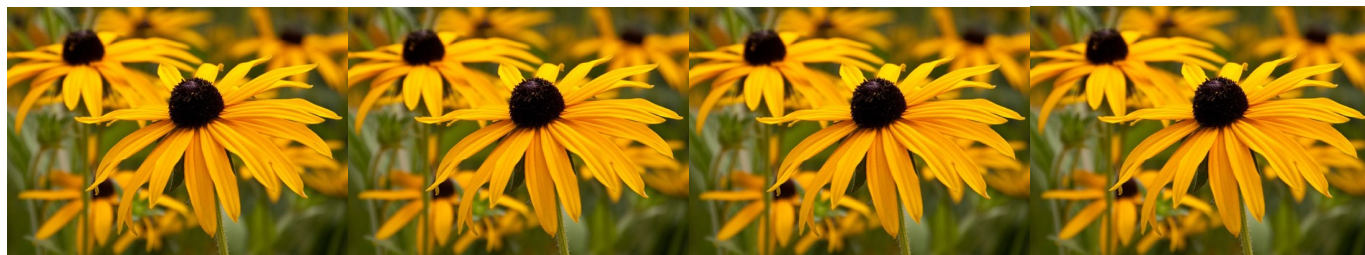
Film Fans Interest Group is also using Zoom

Linda Snashall, Film Fans Interest Group Chair

So, times are challenging. Rather than admit defeat, thrive. Honestly, if one of our cooking groups is staying connected with Zoom so can you. And, so can we, the members of Film Fans.

I'd like to thank all the interest groups who jumped to Zoom before us, but I'd especially like to applaud International Gourmet. Seeing your group listed in the September calendar gave me the extra confidence I needed to conduct our first Film Fans meeting, Sunday, September 13. Our interest group like yours has had to restructure. As we can no longer safely watch first run movies at public movie theaters, we will be getting together with Zoom to discuss movies found on Netflix, On Demand, the internet, and the public library.

I am happy to tell everyone in the Branch my experience signing onto the Branch Zoom account and setting up a Zoom meeting was easy. Running a Zoom meeting is easy too. So, rather than cowing down to Covid-19, check out the Branch Zoom account. It's a fun way to connect with long time and new branch members.



Our Grace

Marilyn Jackson, Local
Scholarship Committee



As a tribute to Grace O'Leary, the AAUW San Jose Local Scholarship Committee is pleased to establish a one-year Honorary Named Scholarship in her name, to be awarded in May 2021. After many years as Chair of Local Scholarship, Grace has limited her volunteer hours, but continues to be a vital member of the Committee. She is a much-loved member of AAUW San Jose. Grace has served the Branch and its members in many ways for many years. Her leadership and gift of gentle persuasion have convinced many of us to attempt more than we could have expected of ourselves.

Make checks payable to:

ISPF - AAUW

Memo: Local Scholarship/Grace O'Leary

Mail to:

AAUW San Jose Local Scholarship
1165 Minnesota Avenue, Suite 100
San Jose, CA 95125-3324

Your help in funding this scholarship is greatly appreciated. Personal notes or comments sent with your donations will be compiled and given to Grace in May.

AAUW San Jose Local Scholarship is funded through the Interbranch Special Projects Foundation (ISPF), a registered 501(c)(3) charity. Donations are tax deductible.

Latest news from AAUW CA about Tech Trek

Submitted by Karelle Cornwell, Tech Trek Chair

Tech Trek will live on! The health and safety of branch members, school partners and young students must remain the number one priority. We know you're concerned about this beloved AAUW project in year two of the pandemic. We want you to know that the Tech Trek Committee is exploring ideas for alternative ways to select campers and has advised branches to postpone that process until January 2021.

"Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world."

—Harriet Tubman



October 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 October. Use of the parking lot is only authorized under specific Gathering Protocol and must be cleared with Pam Dougherty, B&P Chair. 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.

Thu Oct 1	7 - 8:30pm	Learn about State Ballot Propositions with the Public Policy Committee ZOOM - (Open to AAUW members as well as members of the public to review the California Propositions) (Susan Karlins)
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Mon Oct 5	6:30 - 8:30pm	Neighbors Helping Neighbors ZOOM (Bobbie Baker)
Tue Oct 6	10:30 - 11:30am	German Conversation ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder)
Wed Oct 7	8 - 9 am	Treasurer minimum basic duties (2 people) (Anne Wustrow)
	6:30 - 7pm	AAUW Board Social Hour ZOOM (Peg Carlson-Bowen)
	7 - 8:30pm	ZOOM AAUW BOARD Meeting (Peg Carlson-Bowen)
Thu Oct 8	2 - 3:30pm	Great Decisions Daytime ZOOM (Jean Boyden)
Sat Oct 10	10am - 2pm	Neighbors Helping Neighbors Parking lot drop off (MaryJaneVitkovich)

Sun Oct 11	11:30am - 1pm	Film Fan via ZOOM (Linda Snashall)
Mon Oct 12	6:30 - 8:30pm	Light Gourmet ZOOM (RSVP Cheryl Markman)
Tue Oct 13	10:30 - 11:30am	Conversacion Espanol ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder)
Wed Oct 14	8 - 9 am	Treasurer minimum basic duties (2 people) (Anne Wustrow)
Thu Oct 15	10 - 12pm	Family History ZOOM (Susan Brundage)
	7 - 8:30pm	Mystery Lovers ZOOM (Sharon Shephard)
Sat Oct 17	7am - 6pm	Parking Lot Packing Gifts for Teens (Elaine Benoit)

Mon Oct 19	9:30 - 11am	Exploring World Literature ZOOM (Diana Taylor)
	7 pm	International Gourmet ZOOM(Jan Bartolotta)
Tue Oct 20	10:30 - 11:30am	French Conversation ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder)
	7am - 6pm	Gifts for Teens packing in parking lot (Elaine Benoit)
Wed Oct 21	8-9 am	Treasurer minimum basic duties (2 people) (Anne Wustrow)
	7 pm	Third Wednesday Program - Mental Health in time of Covid (Sari Fitzwater)
Fri Oct 23	1:30 - 3:00pm	Local Scholarship ZOOM (Ruth Dusan)

Mon Oct 26	9:30 - 11am	Building and Properties Committee ZOOM (Pamela Dougherty)
Tue Oct 27	11:30am - 1pm	Lunch Bunch ZOOM (DianaTaylor)
	7 - 8:30pm	Great Decisions – PM ZOOM(Sharon Shephard)
Wed Oct 28	8 - 9 am	Treasurer minimum basic duties (2 people) (Anne Wustrow)

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The sole purpose of this publication is to
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**PERIODICALS
POSTAGE PAID**

AAUW San Jose Branch *Established 1909*

Third Wednesday Program

Managing and Maintaining Good Mental Health in Challenging Times

Wednesday, October 21, 2020 at 7 pm
Sari Fitzwater, Program Vice President



Please join us for an impactful virtual evening on Managing and Maintaining Good Mental Health during challenging times. We are fortunate to have Lesa Pascali and Kathy Forward from NAMI Santa Clara County (National Alliance on Mental Illness) talk to us about how catastrophes (COVID-19, Racial Injustice, Natural Disasters) affect us on a daily basis. Collectively we are all experiencing levels of anxiety, isolation, and depression among other feelings. Lesa Pascali (who is a Marriage Family Therapist) will address how to cope with such feelings during these uncertain times.

Facebook has an event set up, and the Eventbrite link for people to register. The Zoom information will be sent to those who register a day or two before the event.

Please register at the following EventBrite Link:

<https://maintaining-mental-health-in-challenging-times.eventbrite.com>



Empowering Women Since 1881
See the San Jose Branch Website at www.aauwsanjose.org for more information