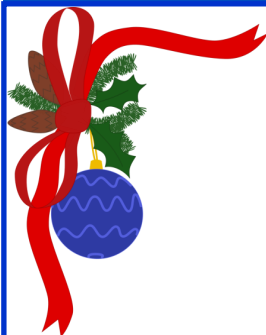




BONFIRE

San Jose Branch

Empowering women since 1881



GIVE THE GIFT OF EDUCATION THIS MONTH! **Local Scholarship ONLINE Holiday Campaign** **Tuesday, December 1 - Saturday, December 5**

Join our Branch's first-ever online fundraising campaign for Local Scholarship. No Holiday Boutique? Our AAUW mission still leads us, and college women still need us. Fill a virtual "basket" with college degrees for local women.

Donating is easy and fun! You can donate through [PayPal](#), with a credit card, or with a personal check by going to bit.ly/HolidayAAUW (case sensitive). Please remember that checks must be made out to "ISPF-AAUW" and must have "Local Scholarship" written on memo line in order to be processed. Send personal checks to AAUW San Jose, 1165 Minnesota Ave., Suite 100, San Jose, CA 95125.

OR you can donate by scanning this QR code with your phone:



Spread the word to friends and family. No donation is too small. Donate early and **DOUBLE** the value of your donation with \$5,000 in available matching funds! Donate at least \$100 and enter a drawing for fabulous prizes:

- 2-night Santa Cruz Harbor vacation package
- King-size hand-stitched quilt
- Gourmet gift basket or case of wine from Joseph George Wines
- Fused-glass jewelry and hand-woven scarf sets



For additional information, contact scholarships@aauwsanjose.org.

President's Corner

We are an organization that fights for women and girls and is truly non-partisan — because the wage gap doesn't care about a person's politics. Bias in the classroom happens in red states and blue. Economic security is needed by every woman. Health care is a right. Families benefit when women have equal opportunities and control their own fate.

Our weapons are research, education, and advocacy. The last four years saw few advances and many rollbacks. Now it feels like we have a chance to regain some ground. That being said, we all need to take a breath, to rest and restore. I know I do. But we cannot sit on the sidelines long — we have seen what happens if we are not diligent. So, take some time, but do keep these AAUW principles in front of you. They are too easily eroded. We are your community and when you are ready, we are here.



Peg Carlson-Bowen
President

Advocate for Women and Girls. Close the Wage Gap. Expand and Protect the Right to Vote. Support LGBTQ Rights. Stop Harassment in the Workplace and on Campus. Reduce Student Debt. Ensure Access to High-Quality Healthcare. Protect Pregnant Workers. Defend and Strengthen Title IX. Support Reproductive Rights. Expand Opportunities for Women and Girls in STEM. Ratify the Equal Rights Amendment. Implement Paid Leave and Paid Sick Days. Fight Human Trafficking. Raise the Minimum Wage. Embrace Diversity, Inclusion and Intergenerational Collaboration. Promote Higher Education. Advance Women in Leadership.

Non-partisan: NOT Values Neutral.



Annual "Warm Hearts" Drive **Saturday, December 5 and** **Saturday, December 12** **10 am - 2 pm**

AAUW San Jose Headquarters

Neighbors Helping Neighbors (NHN) Co-Chair,
Mary Jane Vitkovich

Once again, Santa Maria Urban Ministry clients are in need of your gently used coats, sweatshirts, sweaters, scarves, comforters, and blankets. Help keep your neighbors warm this winter by

dropping off these items in the Branch Headquarters parking lot. Questions? Contact Mary Jane Vitkovich at neighbors@aauwsanjose.org.

Also, a great big "thank you" goes to our members who donated new socks to our drive for Front Door Communities and Santa Maria Urban Ministry in November. NHN collected 638 donated pairs of socks. You really "socked it" to us!

Financial Position Report

Pat Diamond, Finance Officer

AAUW San Jose Branch's Financial Position report, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, is summarized below. The complete report is available upon request.

Assets \$322,920:

Cash (checking, savings, CD) \$190,370
Book value of real estate \$132,550

Liabilities and Equity \$322,920:

Dues & donations payable to AAUW \$10,367
Dues accrued for next year \$4,720
Restricted donations \$48,058
Other accruals and deposits \$3,495
Equity \$243,173
Net income General Fund and Building Fund \$13,107

The final income and expense reports for the General Fund (operations) and the Building Fund (maintenance of Headquarters) for the fiscal year July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020 are summarized below. The complete reports are available upon request.

General Fund Actuals 2019-2020

Pat Diamond, Finance Officer

Income: \$8,759:

Dues \$6,311
Donations and Other \$2,448

Expenses: \$5,895:

Membership \$286
Programs \$462
BONFIRE and Handbook \$986
Community Action Projects \$400
Fall Gathering \$845
Operating Expenses \$1,719
President/Board/Treasurer \$504
Zoom and Social Media \$450
Supplies and Miscellaneous \$243

Net Income: \$2,864 (added to General Fund reserves)

Building Fund Actuals for 2019-2020

Pam Dougherty, Building & Properties Chair

Income: \$40,748:

Rental \$21,845
Donations and other \$18,903

Continued in next column

Building Fund Actuals for 2019-2020 continue**Expenses: \$30,505**

Taxes and Insurance \$4,150
Clean/Janitor \$2,805
Utilities \$3,665
Gardening & Landscape \$2,220
Repair and Maintenance -
Short Term \$1,023 Other \$861
Repair and Maintenance -
Long Term \$15,781

Income: \$10,243 (added to Building Fund reserves)

General Fund Budget for 2020-2021

Pat Diamond, Finance Officer

Income: \$16,800:

Dues \$6,000
Donations and Other \$10,800

Expenses: \$17,595:

Membership \$1,295
Programs \$4,170
Women's Equality 2020 \$4,300
BONFIRE and Handbook \$1,910
Community Action Projects \$100
Fall Gathering \$1,475
Annual and other meetings \$540
Operating Expenses \$1,705
President/Board/Treasurer \$275
Computer/Equipment \$795
Zoom and Social Media \$500
Supplies and Miscellaneous \$530

Deficit: \$795 (excess of expenses over income will be taken from General Fund reserves)

Building Fund Budget for 2020-2021

Pam Dougherty, Building & Properties Chair

Income: \$42,850:

Rental \$22,450
Donations \$20,400

Expenses: \$85,346

Taxes and Insurance \$4,521
Clean/Janitor \$3,100
Utilities \$4,700
Gardening & Landscape \$2,300
Repair and Maintenance -
Short Term \$4,825
Other \$2,400
Repair and Maintenance -
Long Term \$63,500 (new roof and solar panels)

Deficit: \$42,496 (excess of expenses over income will be taken from Building Fund reserves)

Great Decisions

Jill Osofsky, Great Decisions AM Co-Chair

Regardless of who is elected president, the Covid-19 pandemic will continue to challenge and affect US foreign policy and global relations in the coming year. Great Decisions meetings provide the opportunity to become better informed on timely foreign policy issues during friendly, engaging, and enlightening discussions based on articles from the non-partisan Foreign Policy Association publication, *Great Decisions*.

After reading selections from the program's booklet and viewing the accompanying video, participants take part in guided discussion on the remarkably timely issues. For information on the 2021 discussion topics and ordering the program booklet visit the Foreign Policy Association's Great Decisions website:

[https://www.fpa.org/news/index.cfm?](https://www.fpa.org/news/index.cfm?act=show_announcement&announcement_id=451)

[act=show_announcement&announcement_id=451.](https://www.fpa.org/news/index.cfm?act=show_announcement&announcement_id=451)

This is a non-partisan discussion group. Both new and former participants are welcome and encouraged to join. Great Decisions AM group meetings are currently held at 2 pm on the second and fourth Thursdays, January through May. The PM group meetings are held at 7 pm on the fourth Tuesday of the month, January through October. Both groups will continue to meet via Zoom for the foreseeable future.

For further information contact

greatdecisions-am@aauwsanjose.org or

greatdecisions-pm@aauwsanjose.org.



Community and Volunteers Rally Around Gifts for Teens

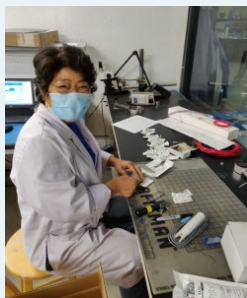
Jan Giroux, Gifts for Teens



Beverly Bassett of Gifts for Teens, with a Walmart representative from the Almaden store for the presentation of the \$1,000 grant

Kudos to the many donors, community businesses and volunteers who made Gifts for Teens possible this year. A heartfelt thank you goes to the following: Walmart Almaden store for their grant of \$1,000, Carl's Jr. for 400 gift-meal cards, and ongoing sponsor Emerald Hills Golfland for 400 admission passes. Funds were contributed by the Almaden Valley Singles, Delta Theta Tau Sorority, Dentist Susan Di Bene, and tasty protein bars were given by local Sprouts, Trader Joe's, and Whole Foods Markets. In addition to a fully stuffed bag, each of the 400 gift bags had a \$25 gift card from either Target or Walmart. To add a more personal touch, the Gifts for Teens Club (students at Pioneer High School) made 400 personalized, handwritten notes, one for each teen recipient.

Committee members along with a limited number of community volunteers from the Almaden and Blossom Hill Chapter of National Charity League, Pioneer High School students, History Club of Los Gatos, and Xi Iota Zeta Sorority assembled and filled bags on September 19, and October 17 and 20. Agencies receiving gift bags this year include Sacred Heart Community Service (serving teens of low-income families), Advent (serving teens suffering from substance abuse) and the Bill Wilson Center (serving foster teens and homeless drop-ins). The generosity of AAUW members, community businesses and volunteers during this pandemic year has been overwhelming and greatly appreciated. Knowing that you contributed to making a merrier holiday for a deserving teen is a reward in itself. Thank you!



Tu testing the seal of a package

An Update on Tu Chung, Past Local Scholarship Recipient

Cheryl Markman, Local Scholarship Committee

Tu Chung received an AAUW Local Scholarship award in May 2020. She describes herself as a single mom who has dedicated her life to her daughter's education. Tu adds "the happiness of learning new things has been integrated into my genes." Thus, once her daughter graduated from UC Davis, Spring 2016, she entered San Jose State University in Fall 2016 as a Nutritional Sciences major. After taking a general packaging course, she discovered that was what she wanted to do for her future and she switched to a Packaging major in her second semester. She notes that she has always been interested in the preservation of food items,

thinks about the ways foods are packaged, why they look good in one package but not in another, and why an item is wrapped in plastic versus paper, etc. Her desire to work in an industrial laboratory environment was fulfilled in June 2020 when she was offered a three-month paid internship at Test-O-Pack, Inc., a company with expertise in medical device testing.

Tu notes that during her academic life she has received financial support from many sources, including school scholarships, and has continuously been one of the Dean's honorees for several semesters. In her own words, "This scholarship has two meanings for me: helping me to pay for my tuition, and also pride and confidence in having received it...A happy mom's model for my daughter and relatives." Again, in her own words, "In my life, whenever I set a goal, there are many troubles on the way to reach the target, but I always try to overcome; failures are my own experiences on the way to achieve my goal."

Tu will graduate in December 2020 with a BS in Packaging. She plans to work and gain experience in the field. Then she will consider going on for an MS in Packaging Engineering at SJSU, the only state college in California that has a Packaging major.

In her free time, Tu has served the community as a volunteer for the Second Harvest Food Pantry at SJSU and in Milpitas. Every year, except this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, she was part of Admitted Spartan, where she introduced new SJSU students to the campus. Since the pandemic began, she has made handmade masks for her family, relatives and friends. She also loves to travel, take photos, and walk to keep herself healthy.

New Member Profiles



In 2005, **AMANDA DILLON** proudly earned her MA in Educational Leadership from Grand Valley State University in Michigan. She had previously received her BA in Secondary Education from Eastern Michigan University. She learned of AAUW on Facebook and at the 2020 Women's March. A mother of two, Amanda is an Employee Benefit Specialist for Allstate Insurance. She is also a Board member of West San Jose Kiwanis.

ALICIA SILKA recently moved to the Bay Area from Southern California. She heard of our Branch from her mother, Sandra McCluskey, a former member. She earned her BA degree from Ithaca College in New York. Alicia's major was English, with a minor in Marketing. She is employed as a Project Manager for a small women-owned corporate relocation company. She is the proud mother of three grown daughters.

AAUW San Jose Branch Bylaws Updates

Linda Snashall, Branch Parliamentarian

Our current Branch bylaws no longer comply with AAUW (National), AAUW CA (State), or our Branch Policies and Procedures. For this reason, the Branch board has worked diligently to update them. All changes required by AAUW and AAUW CA do not require a Branch vote, but any changes to align with our current policies and procedures do.

The Branch board recommends making these bylaw changes for the following reasons:

Better clarification of the names, AAUW and AAUW CA, for new members.

Remove items eliminated by AAUW to align with current AAUW policy.

Return the position of Finance Officer and Treasurer to a two-year term to provide better financial continuity and better training of the accounting system.

The changes listed below are the changes to the Bylaws. A complete copy of the Bylaws, including the changes, is located at: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Btcqjf7ZSqqOxx_n81PfLgI0A6a3h4Fe/view?usp=sharing

A Survey Monkey ballot will be sent out to members by email in approximately 21 days. For those members without email, a paper copy of the complete Bylaws and a paper ballot will be mailed directly to them.

AAUW San Jose Branch Bylaw changes:

ARTICLE I. NAME AND GOVERNANCE:

Add Sections 1a and 1b to clarify the names "AAUW" and "AAUW CA"

ARTICLE X. OFFICERS, Section 3 and ARTICLE XI Section 2:

Change "the State" to "AAUW CA"

ARTICLE X. Section 1:

Remove "LAF Funds" to align with AAUW's elimination of "LAF Funds"

ARTICLE X. Section 2a:

Add two-year term for "Finance Officer" and for "Treasurer"

ARTICLE X. Section 2:

Add paragraph: "If deemed absolutely necessary, Article X, Section 2a, 2b, or 2e can be suspended for a specific length of time by approval of the Board."

ARTICLE X. Section 3b:

Remove from the President's duties: "enrolling the Branch in state insurance"

ARTICLE X. Section 3d:

Add to the Finance Officer duties: "enrolling the Branch in state insurance"

ARTICLE XVII. AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS. Section 2: Prior approval before a Branch vote:

Remove section 2 because prior approval by AAUW and AAUW CA of non-mandated changes to our bylaws is no longer required by AAUW or AAUW CA.

Please contact Linda Snashall with questions.



In Memoriam

Elaine McMahon passed away on October 20 due to complications from a stroke. She was a long-time member of AAUW San Jose until recently. She served on the Board as Secretary, on the Nominating Committee and enjoyed several of our interest groups. According to her family, whether it was working in the yard, being a part of an aerobics class, joining a dance group, or going for a hike, Elaine loved to be active. "Being with Elaine meant being with peace, her presence was that calming." She is survived by her husband Tom, her two sons, Tommy and Stephen, and their families, including five grandchildren.

December 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 December. 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.)

| | | |
|-----------|------------------|--|
| Tue Dec 1 | 10:30 - 11:30 am | German Conversation ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder) |
| Wed Dec 2 | 6:30 pm - 7 pm | AAUW Board Social Hour ZOOM (Peg Carlson-Bowen) |
| | 7 pm - 8:30 pm | AAUW BOARD Meeting ZOOM (Peg Carlson-Bowen) |
| Thu Dec 3 | 7 pm - 8:30 pm | Public Policy Committee ZOOM (Susan Karlins) |
| Sat Dec 5 | 10 am - 2 pm | Neighbors helping Neighbors parking lot drop off (Mary Jane Vitkovich) |

| | | |
|------------|-------------------|--|
| Tue Dec 8 | 10:30 - 11:30 am | Conversacion Espanol ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder) |
| Sat Dec 12 | 10 am - 2 pm | Neighbors helping Neighbors parking lot drop off (Mary Jane Vitkovich) |
| | 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm | Couples Gourmet ZOOM (RSVP Harriet Tower) |

| | | |
|------------|--------------------|--|
| Sun Dec 13 | 11:30 am - 1:30 pm | Film Fans ZOOM (RSVP Linda Snashall) |
| Mon Dec 14 | 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm | Light Gourmet ZOOM (RSVP Cheryl Markman) |
| Tue Dec 15 | 10:30 - 11:30 am | French Conversation ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder) |
| Wed Dec 16 | 7 pm - 9 pm | University Women Investment Club ZOOM (Linda Snashall) |
| | 7 pm - 8:30 pm | Holiday Fun Night (Peg Carlson-Bowen) |
| Thu Dec 17 | 7 pm - 8:30 pm | Mystery Lovers ZOOM (Sharon Shephard) |
| Fri Dec 18 | 1:30 - 3:30 pm | Local Scholarship ZOOM (Ruth Dusan) |

| | | |
|------------|----------------|---|
| Mon Dec 21 | 6:30 - 8:30 pm | International Gourmet ZOOM (Jan Bartolotta) |
| Mon Dec 28 | 9:30-11 am | Building and Properties Committee ZOOM (Pamela Dougherty) |



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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*

Holiday Fun Night **Wednesday, December 16** **7 pm to 8:30 pm**



Join other AAUW San Jose members for an online get together of holiday fun! Mix up your favorite holiday beverage and meet up with members you may not have seen in a while. We'll have some games, fun-sharing, and 'breakout' sessions to visit in smaller groups. Wear your festive holiday hat, sweater, jewelry, tiaras for a "best of" attire contest. Eventbrite sign up is required for admission — you can register at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/aauw-san-jose-holiday-fun-night-tickets-128449761695>.

A Zoom link will be provided in the confirmation email and in reminder emails before the event. "See" you there!



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