



**Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About
AAUW San Jose, But Never Had a Venue to Ask!
Third Wednesday Program
Wednesday, January 20, 2021 - 7 pm**

What is a CAP? How do you "join" an interest group? What do Tech Trek volunteers do? Do we have regular group meetings where all members attend? Who receives Local Scholarships? What is "AAUW National?" Can I organize a 3rd Wednesday activity? What is the BONFIRE? What's in the basement, anyway? Who are the "neighbors" served by "Neighbors Helping Neighbors?" Is there a volunteer opportunity where I can just shop? (There is!)

We know that some long-time members have these questions, or can answer them! All members are invited to join and bring your AAUW San Jose oral history and your favorite beverage (as we'll be celebrating the inauguration of the first female VP as well) on January 20, 2021, at 7 pm. We'll have some fun trivia games and share while having a good time.

For online security and to receive the Zoom link information, you must register to attend on Eventbrite at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/everything-you-always-wanted-to-know-about-aauw-san-jose-tickets-131791390597>



Preliminary Results for Online Fundraising Campaign
Diane Trombetta, Holiday Fundraiser Campaign Chair

The Local Scholarship Committee thanks all of you who made our Holiday fundraiser a tremendous success! Thank you for helping us raise over \$16,000 to help local women achieve a college education. Final numbers, names of prize winners, and other fun facts about the campaign will appear in the February issue of the BONFIRE.



Gifts for Teens Gets "Shout Out" in AAUW CA Website
Jan Giroux, Gifts for Teens

AAUW of California Digital Newsletter highlighted Gifts for Teens on November 21, 2020. Apala G. Egan, a San Jose Branch member, submitted a write-up of the Gifts for Teens holiday gift bag project and our mission. If you haven't checked out the AAUW CA site recently, you can visit the home page aauw-ca.org and search for "Branch Brag" or click [here](#) for our article. Also included in the article are links to articles in the San Jose Mercury News and East Bay Times, as well as a Gifts for Teens video. So be sure to check them out.

Thank you Apala and the AAUW CA Communications Team for publishing Gifts for Teens' accomplishments and letting other statewide members know about our program. Our Branch member should be proud of this Branch Brag!

President's Corner

It's hard to figure out how to approach 2021. Trauma and grief are affecting individuals and communities. Ongoing injustices are discouraging, even as our awareness of them encourages personal growth. We are exhausted from the assaults on policies we cherish and the fights we waged to defend them. And we are not on the other side of the pandemic and its psychological and economic upheaval. Hopefully you had some time for (forced) quiet holidays to rest and renew. You deserved it. But what now?

We celebrate that a woman of color (and a Californian!) will be Vice President! The President-Elect has appointed an all-female communication team. More women than ever are in Congress, will be in the Cabinet, are leading major cities, and will have seats at the table where decisions are made. But we can't abandon our advocacy, as equity has waited long enough. With great disruption, such as the crises we are experiencing, comes the possibility of great change. Let's make it happen! Our motto needs to be "Stay Engaged." Whatever you do, it will make a difference.



**Peg
Carlson-Bowen
President**



Membership Coffee & Convo

Saturday, January 30, 2021, 10 — 11 am

Leticia Cowan, Membership Committee

Members and prospective members are invited to an informal Coffee and Conversation, January 30, 2021, 10 am — 11 am. Grab your favorite cuppa something good and maybe a little snack as we cover the highlights of what the AAUW San Jose Branch has to offer

Learn more about our Branch ... a group of over 270 members who enjoy a variety of opportunities to get social, participate with service-orientated/ community giving projects, including nonpartisan political advocacy, and learn how to sign up and attend any of our monthly meetings and presentations, etc. Be sure to register here on our Eventbrite link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/aauw-san-jose-coffee-convo-open-house-tickets-131623500433>

Zoom info to be sent out via your registration. See you there!

What I Do As Sunshine Chair

Claire Campodonico, Sunshine Chair



Upon the request of our president, other Board members or Branch members, I write and send cards and notes to members for get well, congratulations, condolences or other important events in their lives.

I began doing this in January of 2013. To date, I have written 169 cards. The cards have very varied sentiments — from congratulating a member on reaching her 100th birthday to wishing a member good health after her dog bit her (by mistake, of course).

If you know of a fellow member who needs a note of cheer, please let me know — sunshinechair@aauwsanjose.org. I truly enjoy composing these notes and cards. It brings such a personal touch to our Branch. We are all members of a wonderful organization and we care for one another.

Things You May Need to Know ...

**AAUW SJ
Membership and Programs Committees
Need You!**

Leticia Cowan and Sarah Janigian,
Membership Co-VPs
Sari Fitzwater, Programs VP

Membership and Programs are in need of committee members. If you are interested in being part of these dynamic groups, please contact membership@aauwsanjose.org and programs@aauwsanjose.org.

Programs is also asking for volunteers to organize a 3rd Wednesday program on a topic that is of interest to AAUW members. For more information, please contact programs@aauwsanjose.org.

Susan Karlins,
AAUW San Jose Public Policy Chair,
publicpolicy@aauwsanjose.org

The Public Policy Committee wrapped up our 2020 activities with a Zoom meeting, including planning for next year and some fun activities. A summary of our accomplishments includes:

-As part of one person/one bill, ended up supporting 16 bills by calling legislative offices, writing letters of support to committee chairs, our own legislators, and the governor and attending a virtual hearing for one of the bills. Most were signed by the governor in September.

-We researched and presented concise summaries of all 12 statewide propositions to members and friends on Thursday, October 1 so they could understand a big chunk of what would be on the November ballot.

-We wrote 2,225 letters to infrequent voters around the country to encourage them to participate in our democracy by voting in the November 3 election.

-In November, we wrote 1,000 postcards to Georgia voters, encouraging them to vote early in the January 5 Senate runoff.

We'll be meeting in January to continue planning and to hear from one of our young members about Safer, the Cal Poly climate survey on sexual violence. Join us on Zoom Thursday, January 7 at <https://yearup.zoom.us/j/98670478168>.

Reaching Out to Our Neighbors

Mary Jane Vitkovich, Neighbors Helping Neighbors Co-Chair



Branch member Mary Jane Vitkovich with Sacred Heart Volunteer



Branch members Kim Pugh, Shirley Karabian, Sarah Janigian, and from Sacred Heart, Annette Pizzo (in car)

Our outreach to the community continued over this past month because of your generous donations. We donated \$250 worth of gift cards to Sacred Heart Community Service for their annual Holiday Toy Program. Bags and bags of warm clothing were collected by our members during our winter Warm Hearts drive for Santa Maria Urban Ministry.

We are grateful and thankful for your support this year. Wishing you a very Happy 2021 New Year!



Communications Team Supports Member Engagement!

Tracey Clark, Director, AAUW CA Communications Committee Chair

Using a variety of techniques, the communications team has successfully engaged members while supporting a number of important board initiatives.

A whopping 83% of branches have attended the twice-monthly webinar series. With topics ranging from fundraising techniques to the importance of public policy and how to hold a virtual speech trek competition, everyone can find a topic of interest. Missed any of the twelve webinars that have been held since the beginning of July? Want to know what is coming next? See our webinar schedule online <https://www.aauw-ca.org/2020-2021-webinars/>.

Engagement in social media climbed as the GOTV (Get Out The Vote) campaign encouraged members to be active on any channel of social media. We saw the engagement on our own Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn accounts skyrocket as a result.

Public Policy got a facelift this month so you can find information more easily. Check out the new format.

There are many opportunities to work behind the scenes making AAUW California more visible, by optimizing messages, supporting our website and webinars, and maintaining a variety of information. We expect additional opportunities as we engage with the new marketing initiative. If you have skills you'd like to share, submit an application to join the team. You can use your red pen to edit, embrace your love for spreadsheets to track information, solve the puzzle of how to best share information on our website, and design newsletters. If you want to get involved, apply. We'll work with you to find the perfect spot and even provide training if you have the passion.

The National Election Is Over – What Are You Going To Do With All Your Free Time?

Janice Lee, Nominations & Elections Chair

AAUW California is looking for a few good members to run for state office. As 2020 has been a year like no other, what better time is there to step up and run for state office. There are three positions open for this year: President-Elect – a big job. If it is too big, think about Chief Financial Officer. No financial background? There is still an opportunity to run for a director. If you know how AAUW works at the branch level, you have experience to bring, so please think about running.

BET YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS... Bold, Brave, & Brilliant!

These are the leadership traits we are looking for in candidates to fill three open positions on the 2021 AAUW California Board of Directors.

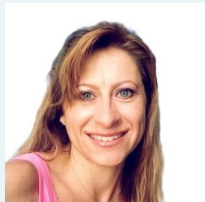
President-Elect (one-year term 2021-2022) during the second year of the president's term, followed by a two-year term (2022-2024) as president

Chief Financial Officer (two-year term 2021-2023)

Director (two-year term 2021-2023)

We bet that You have these leadership qualities. If you have been thinking about getting more involved at the state level with AAUW and have been enjoying and learning from all the webinars this year and appreciate all the programs planned to meet AAUW's mission, then contact the Nominations & Elections Committee. Deanna Arthur, Charlene Goehring, and Janice Lee are here to cheer you on and to answer your questions at nominating@aauw-ca.org.

It's a collaborative, fun, action-oriented time to be part of AAUW California's leadership team. Click [HERE](#) for details on "How to Proceed," but we are also happy to guide you through the process personally and to give you the inside scoop!



An Update on Kinsey Robertson, Past Local Scholarship Recipient

Cheryl Markman, Local Scholarship Committee

Kinsey Robertson was awarded an AAUW Local Scholarship in 2020. Soon afterwards she was recognized as a President's Scholar for the spring 2020 semester at San Jose State University. At SJSU she is majoring in Communication Disorders and Sciences with a minor in Special Education, Mild to Moderate Disabilities. She will graduate in the spring of 2021 with a BA degree. She is currently applying to graduate school to pursue a Master's degree in Speech-Language Pathology. She hopes to stay in California so she can stay close to family and friends. Her ultimate career goal is to be a Speech-Language Pathologist, to work with children with learning differences and disabilities. Kinsey wants to positively impact their lives and their future, She is also interested in working with school-aged children with dyslexia, autism, or neuro-divergence. She is extremely passionate about raising awareness and educating others about neurodiversity and acceptance.

Kinsey is a member of Delta Zeta Sorority at SJSU. Delta Zeta's national philanthropy is speech and hearing. She is on the philanthropy committee, as she is passionate about their mission, and the membership committee, where she helps to raise morale and improve their sisterhood. Kinsey is also on the executive board as the fundraising chair for the National Speech Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA) at SJSU, a student organization for individuals studying communication disorders and sciences. She has been a member of NSSLHA since 2019 and was the junior representative that year.

Previously Kinsey was a member of the Sirens of Sparta, the dance team that performs at basketball games on the sidelines and during halftime. Prior to the dance team, during her freshman and sophomore years, she was a color guard for SJSU with the Spartan Marching Band where she performed at all football games during pregame and halftime.

As for community involvement, Kinsey was interning for Thrive Therapy in their speech clinic. Unfortunately it was put on hold in March due to COVID-19, but she has since been doing research for their speech-language pathologists. She was also a reading tutor for children with dyslexia, which was also put on hold in March but was able to switch to online sessions. In the past, she has also volunteered at the Santa Clara Recreation Center in their therapeutic services department and at a local occupational therapy clinic.

Outside of school, Kinsey enjoys spending time with friends and family, exercising, and volunteering in her community.

AAUW CA

Dianne Owens, President, AAUW California, statepresident@aauw-ca.org

This is the time of year when I start looking forward to the possibilities of a NEW YEAR. I am shopping, baking, and preparing for the holidays and, also, looking forward to a new beginning. I am looking forward to working with our new marketing consultant, Dowitcher DESIGNS, and learning how all of us can make AAUW California more visible in our golden state. I am looking forward to working with our new advocacy firm, MVM Strategies, and preparing for our virtual Lobby Day in late March. I hope you will all join us that day.

I am looking forward to our April 17, 2021, virtual Annual Meeting with exciting speakers, new awards, and our Speech Trek contest. Be sure to join us to see some new twists. I am looking forward to seeing everyone in person again in the summer or fall of 2021. The timing is still unknown, but we will all look forward to that.

I am looking forward to saying: "Goodbye 2020." It was not the greatest year, but we learned a lot about Zoom, webinars, and more techie stuff than we thought we needed to know. Have a wonderful and safe holiday everyone! Be kind to yourself and others.



Afternoon Tea and Talks with Authors

Sponsored by Los Gatos-Saratoga AAUW Branch
Proceeds benefit Local Scholarships to women majoring in STEM fields



Join us virtually for a series of THREE afternoon talks with local authors telling us about their latest books. Sit down with a cup of tea and your favorite snack for a one-hour Zoom meeting with each author. Books can be ordered from the websites listed.



Lisa Prince Newman
Thursday, January 21, 2021,
4 — 5 pm
For the Love of Apricots

Short essays sprinkled through this beautiful cookbook evoke the region's orchard era and the transformation of the Valley of Heart's

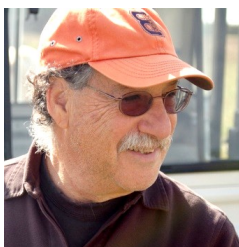
Delight into Silicon Valley. See Website: fortheLove-ofapricots.com.



Richard Haiduck
Thursday, February 18, 2021,
4 — 5 pm
Shifting Gears

How are people shifting gears as they retire? Sometimes they shift smoothly, sometimes they grind

the gears, and often they take some time to find their groove. See Website: richardhaiduck.com.



Mark Greenside
Thursday, March 18, 2021,
4 — 5 pm
I'll Never Be French (no matter what I do)

On a trip to France with his wife, everything in the "Old World"

seemed new to Mark, including himself. Enjoy his explorations in his fun books. See Website:

markgreenside.com

Cost: \$50 per person (tax deductible)

How to Register for the Series:

- You must register at least 24 hours in advance.
- Make your \$50 check payable to ISPF-AAUW and include your email address.
- Mail your check and email address to: Arleen Pickett, 204 Danville Drive, Los Gatos, CA 95032
- Payment may also be made through PayPal by clicking on the Donate button on our AAUW branch website at <https://losgatos-saratoga-ca.aauw.net/>

Want to Help Give Local Women a Pay Boost?

Elaine Peterson, Work Smart

In 2019-20, AAUW San Jose enabled 100+ Bay Area women to better negotiate a more equitable salary. Three AAUW San Jose members piloted a small-group in-person Work Smart workshop and presented two large group one-hour Work Smart Zoom workshops that supplemented national AAUW Work Smart workshops. For 2021, we have the opportunity to present at least three to four local large-group Zoom workshops. We can only fulfill that promise by expanding our number of AAUW San Jose Work Smart volunteers.

We need your help in one or more of the following areas to:

Develop or update AAUW San Jose Work Smart workshop presentations.

Present in-person and/or ZOOM workshops to local groups.

Brainstorm, reach out and build relationships with partner organizations to sell our Work Smart workshops.

Compose, post and process pre-workshop presentations as well as post-workshop feedback surveys.

Meeting times, dates and frequency to be determined. If you are interested or have questions, contact Elaine Peterson by the end of January 2021.

January 2021 Calendar

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.)

Mon Jan 4	6:30 pm — 8 pm	Neighbors Helping Neighbors ZOOM (Bobbie Baker)
Tue Jan 5	10:30 am — 11:30 am	German Conversation ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder)
Wed Jan 6	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 Jan 7	7 pm — 8:30 pm	Public Policy Committee ZOOM (Susan Karlins)
Sat Jan 9	6:30 pm — 9:30 pm	Couples Gourmet ZOOM (RSVP Cheryl Markman)
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Sun Jan 10	11:30 am — 1:30 pm	Film Fans ZOOM (RSVP Linda Snashall)
Mon Jan 11	6:30 pm — 8:30 pm	Light Gourmet ZOOM (RSVP Cheryl Markman)
Tue Jan 12	10:30 am — 11:30 am	Conversacion Espanol ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder)
Thu Jan 14	2 pm — 4:00 pm	Great Decisions AM ZOOM (Jill Osofsky)
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Mon Jan 18	9:30 am — 11:30 am	Exploring World Literature ZOOM (Diana Taylor)
	6:30 pm — 8:30 pm	International Gourmet ZOOM(Jan Bartolotta)
Tue Jan 19	10:30 am — 11:30 am	French Conversation ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder)
Wed Jan 20	7 pm — 8:30 pm	Third Wednesday No program at this time (Sari Fitzwater)
Thu Jan 21	10 am — 12:00 pm	Family History (Susan Brundage)
	7 pm — 8:30 pm	Mystery Lovers ZOOM (Sharon Shephard)
Fri Jan 22	1:30 pm — 3:30 pm	Local Scholarship ZOOM (Ruth Dusan)
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Mon Jan 25	9:30 am — 11 am	Building and Properties Committee ZOOM (Pamela Dougherty)
	1 pm — 4:00 pm	Interbranch Council (Sharon Bouska)
Tue Jan 26	11:30 am — 1:00 pm	Lunch Bunch (Diana Taylor)
	7 pm — 8:30 pm	Great Decisions PM (Sharon Shephard)
Thu Jan 28	2 pm — 4:00 pm	Great Decisions AM (Jill Osofsky)
Sat Jan 30	10 am — 11:00 am	New Member/Prospective Member Open House ZOOM (Leticia Cowan)

San Jose Branch BONFIRE (USPS 857-400)
Published monthly except for July by AAUW
San Jose Branch, 1165 Minnesota Ave. San
Jose, 95125-3324

Periodicals Postage Paid at San Jose, CA
Postmaster: Send address changes to AAUW
San Jose Branch, 1165 Minnesota Avenue,
San Jose, CA

President: Peg Carlson-Bowen
BONFIRE Editor: Ruth Dusan
Editorial Staff: Elin Bolt, Copy Editor;
Tynka Dees, Calendar Editor; Jan Giroux,
Proofreader; Barb Purdy, Layout Editor
Distribution: Ruth Dusan & Linda Guyer

Change of Address: Katherine Oven

**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

Monday, January 11, 2021, at 7 pm

TITLE IX - BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS 2020

Alicia Hetman, Title IX Consultant, titleix@aauw-ca.org

Provided by Linda Slater



On Monday, January 11, 2021, at 7 pm, AAUW California will present this important educational webinar for our members to bring Title IX/Gender Equity back to a level where our members are "keeping their eyes on equity." Members will learn all about Title IX and how to exercise their voices to "see something and say something" so that they will become more effective as advocates for protecting our students. Click [HERE](#) to register for the webinar.

The speakers include: Kiki Williams, Executive Director of Student Experience and Equity Compliance at San Francisco Unified School District, and Kim Turner, Senior Staff Attorney for Legal Aid at Work. Kim works with the gender equity and LGBT rights program. Jean Reed, Co-President of Petaluma AAUW Branch will discuss the AAUW San Jose Sports Equity Community Project.



Empowering Women Since 1881

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