



President's Corner Peg Carlson-Bowen

I hope you all have fun plans for the summer. This past year and a half has been so hard on everyone, that it's really time for getting out — safely. This will be my last column as president, and I welcome our new president, Sonia Wright, for the upcoming year. Sonia has experience as a branch president and state board member — plus she is a wonderful, fun, and inspiring person. I know the Branch will flourish with her leadership.



Peg Carlson-Bowen

I have learned so much over the past two years, and am so grateful to everyone who has helped along the way. You may not realize how much a few words from a member, a smile (over Zoom), a timely text, email or phone call have buoyed me up and made me grateful to know you. If I started to individually list each person who has contributed to helping me serve as president, I would go well over the word limit needed to keep this newsletter manageable!

One of my favorite quotes is "When you walk to the edge of all the light you have, and take that first step into the darkness of the unknown, you must believe that one of two things will happen: there will be something solid for you to stand upon, or you will be taught how to fly." I thank all of you for making this true for me.

Thanks so much to those who have volunteered to take the Branch forward — those elected and those who have stepped up to fill appointed positions. It's a great group, and I will look forward to learning from them as I have from all those who have served in the past two years.

AAUW San Jose embodies the best of AAUW — from expanding our minds, to changing policy, to serving the broader community. We change lives — our own and others. Onward!

Article on Barbara Snyder

The May 16, 2021 Mercury News featured a great article, written by Apala G. Egan, about our very own trailblazer and long-term member Barbara Synder. Click the links below to read and enjoy the story:

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2021/05/16/trailblazing-teacher-helps-esl-students-break-barriers-in-math/>

Barbara was also featured in the May 21, 2021 Willow Glen Resident. Follow the link below to view the article.
https://mercurynews-ca-app.newsmemory.com/?publink=16d672bb5_1345d7d

To Meet or Not to Meet ... in Person?

Peg Carlson-Bowen

AAUW National and AAUW CA are still strongly recommending not gathering in person, but local recommendations need to help us decide as well. Our Branch headquarters can accommodate a small number of people (up to 5 in the living room), but we will be watching for guidance as to when larger groups can gather. Because we have had members who want to attend our events, but have moved away, don't drive or haven't the time to attend in-person meetings, a small group will explore how to have "hybrid" meetings, with some attending in person and some attending on Zoom. Wish us luck!

AAUW San Jose 2021-2022 Elected Leadership Team

Peg Carlson-Bowen

Please welcome your incoming 2021-2022 Officers and Building & Properties Committee members! Their terms of office begin July 1, 2021.

OFFICE	NAME	ROLE
President	Sonia Wright	president@aauwsanjose.org
President Elect	TBD	
Finance Officer	Pat Diamond	finance@aauwsanjose.org
Treasurer	Julia Howlett	treasurer@aauwsanjose.org
Secretary	Alicia Silka	secretary@aauwsanjose.org
Program Vice President	TBD	programs@aauwsanjose.org
Membership Co VPs	Leticia Cowen Peg Carlson Bowen Sarah Janigian Monika Ryser	membership@aauwsanjose.org
AAUW Funds Co VPs	Shirley Karabian Catherine Kilkenny	aauwFunds@aaussanjose.org
Building & Properties (B&P) Chair	Pam Dougherty	buildings@aauwsanjose.org
New Members of B&P Committee	Loriann Baggett Marcy Keeler Monica Honja	

As you can see, there are still two opportunities available: President-Elect and Vice President of Programs. If you are interested in either spot, please contact [Peg Carlson-Bowen](#).

Membership Renewal for Fiscal Year 2021-22 Is Underway

Katherine Oven, Membership Treasurer

The membership renewal packets (including the opportunity to make a donation to AAUW San Jose's Community Action Projects [CAPs]) were recently sent out to all members who need to renew for the coming fiscal year. The packet contents are hard to miss — a bright pink renewal form and a bright green CAP donation form!

The breakdown of the \$108 membership renewal fee for regular members is as follows:

National dues: \$62 (\$59 of this fee is tax-deductible)

State dues: \$20

Branch dues: \$26

The Membership Team's names and phone numbers are provided on the forms. Don't hesitate to contact them if you have any questions or concerns. Please return your completed form(s) and your check(s) by June 15, 2021.



Neighbors Helping Neighbors Donation Drive AAUW Parking Lot — Saturday, June 5; 11 am to 1 pm

Neighbors Helping Neighbors will be hosting its final donation drive for the year, which will be for [HomeFirst Services](#), a provider of Santa Clara County's largest homeless shelter and support programs for the unhoused.

Some statistics on the unhoused in Santa Clara County are as follows:

- Has the 5th largest homeless population in the US
- 30% of homelessness is due to loss of a job
- 2.2 million renters are competing for 664,000 units of affordable housing

Let's help out! Please donate laundry pods and new women's underwear (any size or color). Questions? Contact [Mary Jane Vitkovich](#).

An Invitation to Join the Couples Dining Group

Cheryl Markman

Couples Dining (formerly known as Couples Gourmet) is seeking new members. As the name implies, our group is open to Branch members and their significant others. As you might expect, things have not been the same during the pandemic since we have been "meeting" virtually. But we still had a good time each month, and now we are returning to in-person dinners.

We meet at 6:30 pm on the second Saturday of each month, and each couple hosts twice during the calendar year. We keep the group size at six couples to accommodate the size of our respective dining rooms. The host couple designs the menu, provides the recipes and assigns who will make each item.

The main thing is to enjoy the company. There's always much lively conversation and it's a very fun evening! If this sounds like something you would enjoy, please let [me](#) know. I'd be happy to tell you more about it!



Gifts for Teens Grateful for Gifts Cheryl Markman, Gifts for Teens

Gifts for Teens (GFT) could not succeed without the generosity of our Branch members, community donors and corporate sponsors. We are grateful to everyone who has donated to this very worthwhile cause.

Many of our Branch members, usually over one-third, include a donation to GFT when paying their renewal dues in May and early June. A new feature on the Branch website, the Donate button, makes it easy to donate online, and many of you and other community donors have taken advantage of it. We are grateful to all of you who have contributed. Cash funds will allow us to purchase duffel bags and sturdy totes, sweatshirts and other warm apparel, school supplies, store gift cards, and personal items. These and other fun and useful items will fill over 500 bags for holiday giving to low-income teens this year.

We are also grateful for the fun donations from the San Francisco Giants, the San Jose Sharks, the Grateful Garment project, Golfland, Kohl's, Walmart and Target. Of course, it can't go without saying that we are grateful for the physical help of committee members and volunteers. Committee members will prepare items this summer, sizing, folding and rolling, and tying clothing items with decorative ribbons. In the fall we will be happy to be joined by youthful volunteers from local high schools and service groups, including the National Charity League mothers and their teen daughters, who will assemble and fill the bags. Gifts for Teens is grateful to you all. Thank you for your continued support!



Strong Start and AB 1361

AAUW CA Public Policy Committee

Submitted by Susan Karlins, AAUW SJ Public Policy Chair

Strong Start, Santa Clara County Office of Education Early Childhood Care and Education project, promotes the increase and improvement of early childhood quality programs for all SCC pre-school age children. It is their goal to provide universal childcare and pre-school, with special emphasis on under-served communities in the county, a priority of AAUW CA. AAUW CA Public Policy committee supports AB 1361 (Blanca Rubio), a bill also supported by Strong Start and the Stopping the Pipeline project of Black Men for Educational Equity, among others. The legislation would take the following actions:

- Revise and recast provisions relating to the suspension and/or expulsion (unenrollment) of a child from the state preschool program. Existing prohibitions on expulsion are currently flexibly applied.
- Establish requirements for the use of suspensions.
- Support continuity between the childcare in the program and at home.
- Refine and update mental health services, access, and reimbursement protocol.

In addition, the bill would require programs to maintain records on expulsion and suspension and the State Department of Education to collect and annually publish a report with this information. Right now, in California preschool is not mandatory, but research has shown that early child education helps prevent the school to prison pipeline for low-income and minority children. AAUW is supporting programs that improve the opportunities for all children, and especially for under-represented families.

Finally, if you know relations or friends with small children needing childcare, send those parents to Steps to Success, another project of the SCC Office of Education. In this time of continued pandemic, and also an opportunity to resume a normal life, the project builds awareness of the benefits of enrolling and attending early childhood education programs. In June 2021, please go to www.enroll.santaclara.org for information about all the ECE possibilities in Santa Clara County.

To support this or another AAUW CA bill, you can participate in AAUW San Jose's "One Person/One Bill" project by contacting [Susan Karlins](mailto:Susan.Karlins@aauw.org) or by attending the Public Policy Meeting on June 3 at 7 pm via Zoom: <https://yearup.zoom.us/j/98670478168>.



A Further Update on Mamta Kanda, Two-Time Local Scholarship Recipient Cheryl Markman, Local Scholarship Committee

Mamta Kanda, first profiled in March 2020, was the 2019 recipient of the Goldberg Family Scholarship and was awarded a second scholarship in 2020. She graduated summa cum laude in Industrial and Systems Engineering with a minor in mathematics from San Jose State University in May. Prior to graduation, she remained active in the

Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineers (IISE) Organization, the Society of Women Engineers, the Society of Asian Scientists and Engineers, and Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society. She is also a part of the IISE Young Professionals Organization, where her committee is helping to plan an upcoming conference for the IISE Western Region.

Mamta is currently a Plant Engineering Intern at Lockheed Martin. She plans to return to school in a couple of years to pursue a graduate degree in Engineering Management after gaining further industry experience. During her free time, Mamta enjoys doing nail art, painting, traveling, and spending time with her German Shepherd puppy.

**A Further Update on Giavanni Hurtada,
Two-Time Local Scholarship Recipient**
Cheryl Markman, Local Scholarship Committee



Giavanni Hurtada, first profiled in August 2020, received a Local Scholarship in 2019 and again in 2020. She graduated from San Jose State University in May with a Bachelor's degree in Social Work with magna cum laude honors. During her two years at SJSU, she obtained straight A's, was recognized as a Dean's Scholar in both Spring 2020 and Fall 2020 terms, and was invited twice into the Phi Kappa Phi Honors Society.

Prior to graduation, she was active in the Undergraduate Social Work Association (USWA), Educational Opportunity Program (EOP), and the Chicana/Latina Student Success Center.

As part of her degree requirements, Giavanni participated in an internship placement with Zephyr Self-Help Center, a mental health agency under the Santa Clara County Behavioral Health Department, where she served as a peer support worker.

Considering the stress of the past academic year during the pandemic, amplified by the loss of her great grandmother in June 2020 and her great grandfather in January 2021, Giavanni decided to postpone graduate school for one year to recharge her physical self as well as her mental health. In the interim, she plans to seek entry level employment opportunities in the medical, county or educational settings in the field of social work.

Giavanni's personal goals include hopefully getting married to her long-time boyfriend of 15 years, now that she has completed her academic goals. She also looks forward to starting a family and having a home of her own. In her free time, Giavanni enjoys reading and writing short stories. She also enjoys "cooking delicious dishes" that she then posts on social media to the delight of her family and friends.



Building & Properties Report
Pamela Dougherty, B&P Committee Chair

The B&P Committee is pleased to surprise you with some of our big projects of this fiscal year. While much of our work can't be seen, many of the items listed below will have positive, long-term benefits. And, we already have plans for the next fiscal year! For now, let me acknowledge the wonderful work of Diane Trombetta, Paul Bowen, Judy Burt, Shirley Karabian, Dr. Tynka Dees, and Linda Guyer.

August

- Tenant Air conditioners
- New roof
- Trees treated for mites (organically) and new landscaping company hired

September – Little Library installed

October - Gutter screens installed

November - Full property inspection

December – Trees trimmed to avoid PG&E lines per inspection report

March - Electrical repairs per inspection report

April (A busy month!)

- ‘Caffe Trombetta’ set up in the kitchen to acknowledge the Trombetta family for their financial contribution to the kitchen remodel. (How lucky to discover Caffe Trombetta brand coffee!)
- Copper repipe of basement/tenant space as the aging pipes were shedding sludge
- Repair/resurface/new handrails for outside entrance to basement; sump pump installed and door repaired to prevent flooding
- Solar panels installed to cover electrical costs for the entire building
- Tenant space repairs

Editor's Note: I was unaware of a few terms used in the heartbreaking article below written by Archana Maniar and found it helpful to look up the terminology. The review of terms in the link below were very interesting and informative:

<https://www.verywellmind.com/gender-nonconforming-definition-4582878>

Discrimination against Black Transgender and Gender Non-conforming People by Archana Maniar, AAUW CA Public Policy

Increasing attention has been focused on the multitude of ways in which black transgender and gender non-conforming individuals encounter discrimination. A recent study by the National Center for Transgender Equality addressed these forms of discrimination through the National Transgender Discrimination Survey. The study highlighted a variety of economic, safety, and physical and mental health challenges faced by transgender and gender “non-conforming” individuals.

Black transgender people had unemployment rates four times the rate of the general population and twice the rate of transgender people at large. A startling 41% of black transgender or gender non-conforming individuals said they had experienced being unsheltered. Black transgender individuals suffered extreme poverty at a rate of 31% which is twice that of transgender individuals of all races and eight times the general US population.

Furthermore, 50% of black respondents who attended school while expressing their transgender identity or gender non-conformity reported harassment in the survey. Nearly half of black respondents to the survey had attempted to commit suicide and more than 20% were living with HIV compared to 0.60% of the general population.

The findings highlight the profound challenges faced by black transgender and gender non-conforming individuals and point to the need for social justice advocates and government officials to address the intersection between race and gender identity to assure equity of transgender or gender non-conforming citizens. <https://www.thetaskforce.org/new-analysis-shows-startling-levels-of-discrimination-against-black-transgender-people/>

Local Scholarship Needs You!

Diane Trombetta, Local Scholarship Committee

Please remember to support our AAUW San Jose Local Scholarship program when you renew your membership dues. We know you will be inspired to do so! In May 2021, we selected 19 women to receive college scholarship awards, totaling over \$120,000 from our fundraising efforts.

Why, you might ask, does AAUW San Jose have a scholarship program? Because of the following:

Women held almost two-thirds of cumulative student debt, almost \$1.46 trillion, in 2019. Every dollar we give to support a student is one less she will have to repay after graduation.

Debt obligation creates a burden affecting college studies and the ability to focus on a desired career.

Women in particular have suffered economic hardship during the pandemic, forcing many to leave jobs as well as college.

To every Branch member who donated money last year, THANK YOU! If you have already renewed your membership, you can still mail a check to AAUW San Jose, attention Local Scholarship Treasurer, 1165 Minnesota Ave., Suite 100, San Jose, CA 95125-3324. Please make checks payable to ISPF-AAUW and write Local Scholarship in the memo line. To donate online, please go to www.aauwsanjose.org/ and select the Local Scholarship donate button. Any amount is always appreciated. Questions? Please contact scholarships@aauwsanjose.org or call 408-294-2430.

June & July Calendar

Submitted by Tynka Dees, Calendar Editor

The county is starting to open up but for May we are still having meetings via ZOOM. Only a very few people could meet at headquarters masked, vaccinated and still with distancing. Pam Dougherty has the information in her May Bonfire article on maximum limits per room. We are still severely limited. Use of the parking lot is only authorized under specific Gathering Protocol and must be cleared with Pam Dougherty, B&P Chair.

Tue Jun 1	10:30-11:30 am	German Conversation ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder)
Wed Jun 2	6:30-7 pm	AAUW Board Social Hour Old/New Board ZOOM (Peg Carlson-Bowen)
	7-8:30 pm	ZOOM AAUW BOARD Meeting Old/New Board (Peg Carlson-Bowen)
Thu Jun 3	7-8:30 pm	Public Policy Committee ZOOM (Susan Karlins)
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Tue Jun 8	10:30-11:30 am	Conversacion Espanol ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder)
Sat Jun 12	11 am-1 pm	Neighbors Helping Neighbors Parking lot drop off (MaryJane Vitkovich)
	6:30-9:30 pm	Couples Dining ZOOM (RSVP Cheryl Markman)
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Sun Jun 13	11:30 am-1:30 pm	Film Fans ZOOM (RSVP Linda Snashall)
Mon Jun 14	6:30- 8:30 pm	Light Gourmet ZOOM (RSVP Cheryl Markman)
Tue Jun 15	10:30-11:30 am	French Conversation ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder)
Thu Jun 17	7-8:30 pm	Mystery Lovers ZOOM (Sharon Shephard)
Sat Jun 19	10 am-5 pm	Tech Trek pick up kits Parking Lot (Karelle Cornwell)
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Mon Jun 21	9:30-11 am	Exploring World Literature ZOOM (Diana Taylor)
Tue Jun 22	12-1 pm	Lunch Bunch TBA (Diana Taylor)
	7-8:30 pm	Great Decisions PM ZOOM (Sharon Shephard)
Fri Jun 25	12:00- 2:30 pm	Local Scholarship offsite (Ruth Dusan)
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Mon Jun 28	9:30-11 am	Building and Properties Committee ZOOM (Pamela Dougherty)
Thu Jul 1	7-8:30 pm	Public Policy Committee ZOOM (Susan Karlins)
Tue Jul 6	10:30-11:30 am	German Conversation ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder)
Sat Jul 10	10 am-5 pm	Tech Trek pick up kits Parking Lot (Karelle Cornwell)
	6:30-9:30 pm	Couples Dining ZOOM (RSVP Cheryl Markman)
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Sun Jul 11	11:30 am-1:30 pm	Film Fans ZOOM (RSVP Linda Snashall)
Mon Jul 12	6:30- 8:30 pm	Light Gourmet ZOOM (RSVP Cheryl Markman)
Tue Jul 13	10-11:30 am	Book Discussion (Lida Kluzek)
	10:30-11:30 am	Conversacion Espanol ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder)
Thu Jul 15	7-8:30 pm	Mystery Lovers ZOOM (Sharon Shephard)
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Tue Jul 20	10:30-11:30 am	French Conversation ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder)
	1-3 pm	Knitting Know How To Be Determined (RSVP Margaret McCartney)
Fri Jul 23	1:30-3:30 pm	Local Scholarship - NO MEETING/On Holiday (Ruth Dusan)
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Mon Jul 26	9:30-11 am	Building and Properties Committee ZOOM (Pamela Dougherty)
Tue Jul 27	12-1 pm	Lunch Bunch TBA (Diana Taylor)
	7-8:30 pm	Great Decisions PM ZOOM (Sharon Shephard)

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.

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**PERIODICALS
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AAUW San Jose Branch *Established 1909*

Celebrating Sandra Lee Plymire Peg Carlson-Bowen

Our friend Sandee Plymire passed away on Thursday, March 18, 2021, at Santa Cruz Main Beach. It appears that Sandee, who was a regular beach walker, was caught by a rogue wave.

A Mass was dedicated for her on May 8, and a Blessing of Sandee's ashes took place in the Chapel after the Mass. Additionally, a Celebration of Life will be held at San Jose Municipal Rose Garden on Friday, June 18, with a Bring Your Own Lunch, Drink, Chair and Mask at 11 am and a Celebration of Life Service to follow at noon.

In consideration of Covid 19 regulations, and *at the request of the family, attendees are asked to be vaccinated and wear masks. It is suggested that all others find other ways to celebrate Sandee's life. You may wish to send a card or memory to be included in a Memory Book for Sandee; send c/o Janet Souza Cervantes, 296 Nancy Lane, San Jose, CA 95127.*

To comply with attendance size, please contact Peggi Garvey [(619) 993-3305, garv532@aol.com] to indicate you are planning to attend the June 18 Celebration of Life at the Rose Garden.

If you have any questions, please contact Peggi Garvey (info above), Nancy Doyle-Pontier (408) 667-1325, nancy pontier2@gmail.com), or Janet Souza Cervantes ((408) 812-2783, giavida@yahoo.com).



Empowering Women Since 1881

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