



BONFIRE

San Jose Branch

Empowering women since 1881



**Live on the Back Porch
Member Meeting
Saturday, October 30
10 am to 12 pm**

Open to all members for Coffee and Conversation. New and prospective members are especially welcome! Join your membership team on the back porch at Headquarters, weather and COVID permitting.

If we are able to meet live, we have invited Interest Groups to set up tables in the parking lot to showcase their activities.

Backup Zoom will be available, if needed, at:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83026378186?pwd=Z20wek1GdjJkNE51aE12MHUvZzA2QT09>

Meeting ID: 830 2637 8186

Passcode: 041443

Cheers,

Peg and the Membership Committee

Public Policy Update

Susan Karlins, Public Policy Committee



Zoom meeting with the State Director for Dianne Feinstein

The Public Policy Committee has been supporting 11 AAUW CA supported bills and 5 AAUW National bills through Zoom legislative visits, calls and letters to legislators. We are preparing a mailing to area Title IX coordinators at schools and colleges, and we're planning for a 50th Anniversary of Title IX outreach event next spring with area AAUW branches.

We continue to write postcards to voters of color in Virginia, which has elections for all statewide offices this year. It's easy to do this from home! If you're interested in writing postcards or letters to voters or attending a meeting, contact [Susan Karlins](#). Meetings are via Zoom from 7-8:30 pm on the first Thursday of the month.

President's Corner

During this last year, you may have heard the term DEI — Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. I don't know if it's because I'm the Branch president, or because I work at a university with a HUGE focus on DEI, but I was asked to write about it this month.

The terms cut across all facets of life — access to education, fairness in pay and salaries, career advancement, and even homeownership. But what exactly do we mean when we say diversity, equity and inclusion? When discussing issues of diversity, equity and inclusion, it is important to understand the nuances of the language we use.

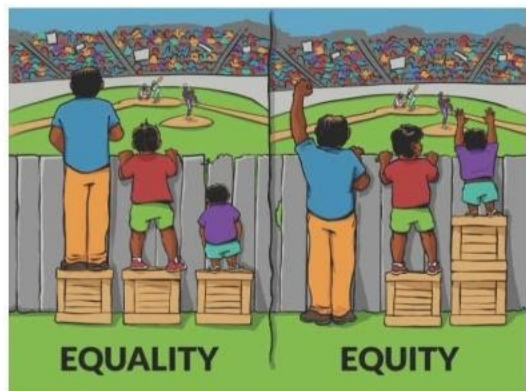


Sonia Wright
President

Diversity: The characteristics that make us unique – variety. That's what diversity means in essence. But it also means that recognizing what makes us different and unique is important and, without taking diversity into consideration, we run the risk of excluding some individuals.

Inclusion: Behaviors and actions. As diversity advocate Verna Myers once said, "Diversity is being invited to the party, and inclusion is being asked to dance." If you don't have both, neither works.

Equity: Everyone having equal access to what they need to be successful. Every AAUW member should understand what we mean by equity. After all, we are the nation's premier organization fighting for gender equity. We fight to narrow the pay gap for women, champion equal opportunity for women in education, and work together to support laws and policies that enable women's success.



There is a difference between equity and equality. People often use the terms interchangeably, but they do mean different things. You may be familiar with Angus Maguire's images of three children standing on boxes to watch a ballgame over the fence. In the first image, each of the children has one of the same-sized box: **equality**. However, because the children are different heights, the shortest child still can't see. In the second image, the tallest child, who doesn't need a box to see over the fence, gives theirs to the shortest of the children, enabling all of the children to see over the fence: **equity**! The key difference here is fairness in the distribution of resources (the boxes) to each child enabling them to all achieve their goal (seeing the game).

Regarding the AAUW Funds speaker registration Saturday, Oct. 23 & 30, 10:00 am-noon and Sunday Nov. 7, 1-3 pm ... go here and click on the one you want to attend:

<https://www.aauw-ca.org/2021-fellow-grant-recipient-speakers/>



Branch Fundraising: An Overview for 2021-22

Diane Trombetta, Local Scholarship Committee

Maybe you've thought there were too many donation requests from our Branch and/or from AAUW. We want to keep the FUN in fundraising while we maintain the strong commitment we all feel to our Branch and Community Action Projects (CAPs). With that goal in mind, a small group met recently to review Branch fundraising and to set guidelines for 2021-22.

Here is a list of this fiscal year's fundraising events.

November-December 2021 - the traditional yearly Local Scholarship fundraiser.

February 2022 - the solicitation letter on behalf of AAUW Funds, sent by our two Funds VP's to all Branch Members.

May and June 2022 - the membership renewal letter, which includes an option to donate to CAPs and the Branch's General Budget (gifts-in-kind are also solicited from Gifts for Teens and Neighbors Helping Neighbors in addition to any grant writing they might do).

It is possible that a special need or project could arise which would inspire an additional call for donations, but we plan to limit our fundraising to these three major campaigns. Of course, we all receive solicitations during the year from AAUW National; specifically, in September, November, April, May, June, July and August. It is entirely up to you whether you want to respond to those or keep your focus on our Branch appeals.

Membership Renewal: Last Call!

Katherine Oven, Membership Treasurer

If you have not yet renewed your membership for the current year, you'll be archived in the Branch database on October 1, 2021. What this means is that you'll no longer receive the BONFIRE or be able to participate in any Branch Interest Groups. If you need assistance renewing online, or wish to get a copy of the renewal form, please email membership@aauwsanjose.org.

Local Scholarship Awards

Marilyn Jackson, Local Scholarship Committee

Local Scholarship is pleased to announce that \$129,000 was awarded in total scholarships to 20 deserving women who will begin their third and fourth years at a college or university. Seven of our recipients received scholarships for the second year and are on schedule to graduate next year. A complete list is posted at Headquarters.

Four women received Named Scholarships:

Reagan Beers - Edie Kerr Founder's Scholarship. Reagan is attending UC San Diego majoring in Chemistry.

Amanda Doan - Grace O'Leary Honorary Scholarship. Amanda is attending UC Santa Barbara majoring in Sociology/Asian American Studies and high school teaching.

Liz Reynoso Gutierrez - Fitzgerald Family Memorial Scholarship. Liz is attending Santa Clara University majoring in Biology and History.

Danielle Apfelbaum - Goldberg Family Scholarship. Danielle is majoring in Psychology.

We are proud to report two new 2021 graduates! Cosette Fitzgerald, a scholarship recipient in 2018 and 2019, was the Valedictorian of her 2021 class at Menlo College. Diana Mucino, a 2019 scholarship recipient, was proud to tell us that she is a brand new 2021 Berkeley grad. She also received the 2021 Social Welfare Dean's Award for Academic Achievement. This is why we do this!

Many thanks to our members and friends. We would not have been as successful without your generous support.



Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Mary Jane Vitkovich

Our first meeting for the 2021-22 year was kicked off with refreshments and budget planning on September 7. All who attended our meeting on the AAUW porch agreed how good it felt to be meeting in person.

We will be hosting a "Warm Hearts" donation drive on Saturday, November 6, from 11am-1pm in the AAUW Parking lot. We are collecting gently used warm clothing items (sweatshirts, sweaters, coats, jackets, hats, gloves) for Santa Maria Urban Ministry. Mark your calendars and clean out those closets!

An Update on Lanayah Wild, Past Local Scholarship Recipient

Cheryl Markman, Local Scholarship Committee



Lanayah Wild was awarded a scholarship from Local Scholarship in 2020. Lanayah is "beyond grateful" for AAUW's financial support and investment in her education because, as she says, "it has opened many doors" for her future. In her final year at San Jose State University, she has remained in good academic standing, making the Dean's List this last semester. She will graduate from SJSU in December 2021 with a Bachelor's degree in Child and Adolescent Development, after which she will pursue a Master's degree in School Counseling. Her ultimate career goal is to work as a school counselor in an elementary or middle school.

While attending university during the pandemic, Lanayah wanted to learn more about how to support her peers "because online school is not easy for anyone." She discovered what she calls a great resource called Peer Connections, which offers tutoring, mentoring and in-class student engagement. She has been hired as a Peer Mentor and as such she meets one-on-one with SJSU students and helps them with whatever challenges they may be experiencing. Also as a Peer Mentor, she hosts workshops to assist students with study strategies and stress management. She is also part of a committee known as Strengths, which hosts virtual seminars to help students learn more about themselves and how to thrive.

In her free time, Lanayah enjoys writing music, spending time outdoors, hiking, volunteering at her church with the food services and doing children's activities.



"Wrapping Up"

Cheryl Markman, Gifts for Teens

Gifts for Teens will be working hard this month to fill 504 duffel bags and sturdy totes, up about 25% from 2020, to have them ready for holiday giving to low-income and homeless teens in the San Jose area. As always, each bag and tote will be filled with sweatshirts and other warm apparel, school supplies, snacks, fast food gift cards, personal hygiene items and so much more. High school students will fill the duffel bags and totes on three busy days in October. Teens helping other teens!

We are still collecting \$25 gift cards from Target and Walmart. Store gift cards allow these teens, who often wear second hand clothes and shoes, to personally select new things they want or need; certainly a rare treat for them. Please mail gift cards to Beverly Bassett, 386 Castlemaine Court, San Jose, CA 95136. Cash donations, which we can use to purchase additional gift cards, are also welcome. No gift is too small. Please make checks payable to ISPF-AAUW Gifts for Teens and mail them to AAUW, c/o Jan Giroux, 4633 Blue Ridge Dr., San Jose, CA 95129. Please help brighten the holidays for these underserved teens.

Gifts for Teens is grateful to you all and thanks you for your continued support! For more information about Gifts for Teens, visit our website www.Gifts4Teens.org, or contact Elaine Benoit at (408) 268-9654.



NCCWSL San Jose's Leadership Scholarship Recipient (Part 2 of 3)

Alyce Athanasiou, College-University Relations Committee

Each May, at the University of Maryland, AAUW has sponsored the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) where over 800 women from the United States meet to learn how to enhance their leadership skills and make changes towards improving their communities. This year, the leadership conference was held virtually. Our Branch sponsored Raquel Garcia, Lauren Chun and Yaneth Gutierrez. We are featuring Lauren Chun for October.

Lauren Chun graduated in May 2021 from SJSU with a Bachelor's of Fine Arts in Digital Media Art and a minor in Architectural Studies, and was a member of the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. She was a president and a vice president of two student organizations, and was the president and treasurer of the Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality Club. Lauren has worked with Intel as a social media coordinator with their Paseo Prototype Challenge by interviewing and mentoring their teams and has received the Intel Award. She is a member of the LGBTQ+ community and is a digital media artist creating 3D models to build virtual worlds that do not require pre-determined identities. She held an internship in 2019 with the E-campus, creating a virtual reality learning tool for Physical Chemistry, and received President Scholar and Dean's Scholar awards through her time at SJSU.

During her senior year, Lauren spearheaded a mentorship program in the Digital Media Arts Major called CADRE Mentorship, which guides incoming students to succeed in their major and to succeed as professionals. New York University accepted her for a Master's professional studies program in Interactive Telecommunications where she will attend in the fall.

The keynote speaker at the NCCWSL virtual conference, Dr. Britney Cooper, impressed Lauren with her discussion of "righteous rage" as it relates to the past and present treatment of women, and her emphasis on the value of women's friendships and the need to shout out the attributes of your friends. Dr. Cooper emphasized that "when one succeeds, then all succeed." The salary negotiations workshop introduced many theories and terminology she was not familiar with, and she will be telling her friends to access the free Work Smart video from AAUW!

Welcome to Our Newest Member

Claire Campodonicio

DIANE GILDEN received her degree from the University of South Carolina at Aiken. Now retired, she worked for many years as a Registered Nurse. She has been a past AAUW member in Aiken as well as in Southern California. Virginia Beck referred her to our Branch. Diane would love to start a Mahjong group! Welcome, Diane.



OCTOBER 2021

Submitted by Tynka Dees, Calendar Editor

Organizer of the meeting must request a certification of vaccine status form from each attendee. Details August Bonfire. Everyone needs to wear a mask indoors regardless of vaccination status, unless alone in a private office with the door closed. Open windows to increase air flow when meeting indoors. If you or a member of your group have symptoms or tested positive for COVID, please do not enter the building. Please report such instances if you have been associating with AAUW members so we can file the necessary reporting. Some meetings this month may change whether they are meeting in person or not so please check with organizer.

Tue Oct 5	10:30-11:30 am	German Conversation ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder)
Wed Oct 6	6:30-7 pm	AAUW Board Social Hour ZOOM (Sonia Wright)
	7-8:30 pm	ZOOM AAUW BOARD Meeting (Sonia Wright)
Thu Oct 7	1-3 pm	Knitting Know How (RSVP Margaret McCartney)
	7-8:30 pm	Public Policy Committee (RSVP Susan Karlins)
Sat Oct 9	All Day	Gifts for Teens Packing in the Parking Lot (Elaine Benoit)
	6:30-9:30 pm	Couples Dining (RSVP Cheryl Markman)
Sun Oct 10	11:30 am-1:30 pm	Film Fans (RSVP Linda Snashall)
Mon Oct 11	6-9 pm	Light Gourmet (RSVP Cheryl Markman)
	6-8 pm	Neighbors Helping Neighbors (RSVP Bobbie Baker)
Tue Oct 12	10-11:30 am	Book Discussion (Lida Kluzek)
	10:30-11:30 am	Conversacion Espanol ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder)
Wed Oct 13	10 am-2 pm	Art Appreciation (RSVP Jan Bartolotta)
	7-8:30 pm	Wednesday Night Book Group (RSVP Laura Manthey)
Sat Oct 16	All Day	Gifts for Teens Packing in the Parking Lot (Elaine Benoit)
Mon Oct 18	9:30-11 am	Exploring World Literature ZOOM (Diana Taylor)
	6:30-9 pm	International Gourmet ZOOM (RSVP Jan Bartolotta)
Tue Oct 19	All Day	Gifts for Teens Packing in the Parking Lot (Elaine Benoit)
	10:30-11:30 am	French Conversation ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder)
	1-3 pm	Knitting Know How (RSVP Margaret McCartney)
Thu Oct 21	10 am-12 pm	Family History ZOOM (Susan Brundage)
	7-8:30 pm	Mystery Lovers ZOOM (Sharon Shephard)
Fri Oct 22	1:30- 3:30 pm	Local Scholarship ZOOM (Ruth Dusan)
Mon Oct 25	9:30-11 am	Building and Properties Committee ZOOM (Pamela Dougherty)
Tue Oct 26	12-1:30 pm	Lunch Bunch ZOOM (Diana Taylor)
	7-8:30 pm	Great Decisions PM ZOOM (Sharon Shephard)
Sat Oct 30	10 am-12 pm	Member Coffee and Conversation Back porch membership@aauwsanjose.org

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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
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will be considered for inclusion.

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**PERIODICALS
POSTAGE PAID**

AAUW San Jose Branch *Established 1909*



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Empowering Women Since 1881

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