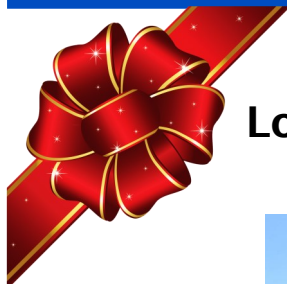




BONFIRE

San Jose Branch

Empowering women since 1881



Give the Gift of Education This Month! Local Scholarship Online Holiday Campaign December 6-10



Santa Cruz Harbor Home



iPad Package

Join the Local Scholarship Committee and its campaign to raise money for 2022 scholarships. College women need our support more than ever. Let's build on last year's success of over \$120,000 awarded to 20 deserving women students!

Donating is easy. Go to [AAUW San Jose](https://www.aauw.org/san-jose) (or Google "aauw san jose") and click on "Local Scholarship" to access the Campaign page on our website for details of how to donate and to see pictures of all the prizes. Or scan the QR code (below) with your phone. Donate with just one click through Pay Pal or with a credit card or mail a personal check.

DOUBLE the value of your donation with our \$5,000 matching fund. Donate at least \$100 and enter a drawing for fabulous prizes:

- 2-night Santa Cruz Harbor vacation package
- New Year's Eve Party basket with high-end wines and treats
- Fine jewelry and hand-woven silk scarves
- iPad package
- Sharks tickets and dinner package
- Stunning Magnolia holiday wreath

Spread the word to friends and family. No donation is too small! Contact Diane Trombetta at scholarships@sanjose-ca.aauw.net with questions or for more information.



President's Corner

I had the opportunity to attend an interesting art exhibit that reminded me of another facet of inclusion - disability. One in four of us either has a disability currently, or will acquire one as we age. Although we have the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), discrimination and exclusion persist. I can attest to that exclusion from my experience of breaking my ankle 10 years ago. I got first-hand experience of trying to navigate with a walker on a college campus for a year — not easy.



**Sonia Wright
President**

***The Art of Disability Culture** is at the Palo Alto Art Center thru December 11. At the heart of this exhibition is a robust celebration of the diverse, personal, and infinitely varied "disability experience." Every artist featured has one or more disabilities, whether visible or invisible. The exhibition centers upon their creativity, vulnerability, and unique perspectives. Work in the exhibition includes traditional portraiture, mixed-media pieces, tactile paintings, ceramics, an interactive labyrinth experience, digital portraiture, video, installation art and a large site-specific sculpture. The guest curator Fran Osborne describes this show as "an invitation and a gentle provocation" and a "safe space of reflection and contemplation — it's fine to stare and experience the humanity of others." Check out the enhanced [website](#) for the exhibition with alt text and audio files with visual descriptions of the works of art in the exhibition. Audio descriptions are also available in the gallery at the Art Center via QR codes, as well as comprehensive Braille guide for blind and visually impaired visitors.*

Hooray for Having a Back Porch

First, we used it for a successful Coffee and Convo put on by the Membership Committee on October 30, then a profitable Back Porch Painting Sale was held on November 5. Judy Ohland, longtime AAUW San Jose member, passed away the day after Christmas in 2020. Through the years she had volunteered in many ways, Building & Properties Committee, Archive Committee, and most recently, Local Scholarship. She had also been an avid gardener and a prolific watercolor artist. Judy's family donated about 40 of her watercolor paintings to the Local Scholarship Committee for a fundraiser.

Fellow & Grant Recipient Talks

Missed the AAUW Fund talks by our Fellows? Never fear-they were recorded, and you can watch them [here](#). We have 37 articulate and impressive Fellows & Grant recipients in California this year. They will make you proud to be an AAUW member and supporter of AAUW Fund!

Condolences

Past President Libby Codd (1999-2000) passed away at 97.5. Notably, she walked and finished the Bay to Breakers three times (7.6 miles across San Francisco) at the ages of 90, 91 and 93. She traveled the world, including a month-long cruise around South American and Antarctica at age 95. She was able to board the Zodiacs, climb up the snow-covered hills onshore, mingle with the penguins and walk 4.5 miles around Santiago, Chile at the end of the trip. May we all have such a full life. A celebration of life is planned for January. Contact daughter Kitty for more info. kclark@clarklaw.com or at 919 The Alameda, San Jose, CA 95126.



First In-Person COFFEE and CONVERSATION Event a Success



Peg Carlson-Bowen talking about all the great things we do in AAUW.



Diane Gilden speaks with Monique Lee about Great Decisions Interest Group.

So great to see everyone who joined the Coffee and Conversations ("Convos") on October 30. It was a wonderful turnout of long-time and new members. Many of our Branch's Interest Groups were represented and I dare say recruited a few new members. The ingenuity and flexibility of our members is amazing. We held an on-the-porch and in-the-parking-lot event, and those who attended were thrilled to see each other. Plus, we had a member join us on Zoom as we tested out the hybrid equipment. Thank you, Monika Ryser, for taking the pictures. Stay tuned for more Coffee and Convos starting in January.

Public Policy Update

Susan Karlins, Public Policy Committee

On November 9, Ashley Dargert presented testimony on behalf of our Branch to the San Jose City Council in support of a resolution affirming the City of San Jose's commitment to reproductive freedom and rights and calling on Congress to protect reproductive freedom nationwide. Later, her presentation was referenced by one of the Council Members. Thanks to AAUW National for their excellent online materials that supported this presentation.

Join Public Policy/Advocacy for a social hour on Thursday, December 16 from 4-5 pm on the back porch at Headquarters. Feel free to bring a nibble to share and/or tour the nearby holiday lights of Willow Glen afterwards. Please be vaccinated, dress warmly for being outdoors, and wear a mask if you wish.



An Update on Erika Cortes Past Local Scholarship Recipient

Cheryl Markman, Local Scholarship

Erika Cortes received an AAUW Local Scholarship in Spring 2020. She is currently enrolled in the Nursing program at the University of San Francisco, and expects to graduate in Fall 2023 with a Bachelor's in Nursing. Since she wants to be a Pediatric Nurse, she is considering pursuing a further 8-month certificate in a specialty department in Pediatrics. To that end, she took a Child Development class this past summer at Mission College. She believes that taking that class really helped her to have a better understanding of children's health development.

In addition to her class at Mission College, Erika also did work study remotely from home as an Office Assistant for the Mission College CalWORKs department. She has also been doing volunteer work at her church, and took a leadership role in organizing a Youth Community Service event in which they helped to provide back-to-school supplies to children in Mexico.

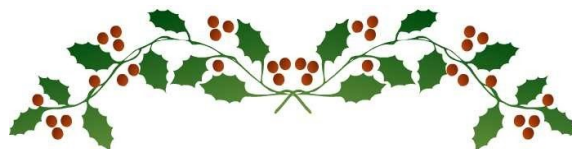
For fun, Erika enjoys going to the San Jose Capitol Drive-In with her two kids, eating pizza, candy and popcorn while watching family movies.

She is grateful for all of our support and the blessing the AAUW scholarship has provided her!

Abortion Justice Update from AAUW California Public Policy Committee

Kathi Harper, Co-Chair

Although the constitutionally guaranteed right to an abortion has been systematically under attack for decades, it is currently in danger of disappearing altogether. As AAUW National recently noted, "Every person should have the ability to make their own informed decisions regarding their reproductive life. It is beyond time for abortion to be secured legally, funded fully, and equitably available for all who need it, when they need it, without shame or stigma." With the recent refusal of the U.S. Supreme Court to intervene in the onerous Texas case, it is clear that we can no longer count on the courts to protect this critical right. Congress must pass the Women's Health Protection Act. Watch for Action Alerts from National, use them to keep pressure on your representatives, and sign-up now for the 2-Minute Activist if you haven't already done so by clicking here <https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/>.





The Grateful Garment Project "Volunteer of the Decade" Award

Mary Jane Vitkovich, Neighbors Helping Neighbor

Jan Giroux, a dedicated member of our Neighbors Helping Neighbors Community Action Project, was recently recognized with a "Volunteer of the Decade" award by The Grateful Garment Project. We have supported this local community non-profit for many years with in-kind and monetary donations. Their mission is to provide resources to benefit victims of sexual assault. Jan has worked tirelessly as a volunteer with them in support of their mission, and as our representative to their non-profit. Congratulations, Jan!

A great big thank you to all of you who donated to our "Warm Hearts Drive" on November 6. As always, our members were generous with their giving--21 large hefty bags of clothing were collected. Many thanks for helping to keep our neighbors warm.



Year-End Wrap-Up for Gifts for Teens

Cheryl Markman, Gifts for Teens



Male Duffel Bags and Girl's Totes packed and ready for pickup.



Gifts for Teens Committee

This year's Gifts for Teens bags and totes were among the nicest and fullest ever in our history.

For the 2021 holiday giving season, Gifts for Teens distributed a total of 504 duffel bags for boys and sturdy tote bags for girls. Each bag contains a heavy sweatshirt and other quality apparel, including t-shirts, socks, knit scarves, caps and gloves; practical items including toiletries and school supplies; \$50 in fast food and store gift cards; and fun items such as games and snacks.

Recipient agencies were Sacred Heart Community Service, which serves needy families (251 bags); Bill Wilson Center, a resource for foster care and homeless youth (220 bags); and Advent Group, which provides counseling and recovery services for teens with addictions (33 bags).

Gifts for Teens, a nonprofit organization, focuses on helping the neediest youth in the area; in particular, homeless teenagers and young adults aging out of foster care, two groups that may be even more vulnerable during the Covid-19 pandemic.

More than 200 donors have made it possible for Gifts for Teens to continue to give so many of the underprivileged youths in our community a more joyful holiday season!

DECEMBER 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.

Wed Dec 1	6:30pm - 7:00pm	AAUW Board Social Hour (President@aauwsan jose.org)
	7:00pm - 8:30pm	AAUW BOARD Meeting ZOOM (President@aauwsan jose.com)
Thu Dec 2	1:00pm - 3:00pm	Knitting Know How (RSVP Margaret McCartney mdmknit@comcast.net)
Tue Dec 7	10:30 - 11:30am	German Conversation ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder germanconversation@aauwsan jose.org)
	12:00 - 1:30pm	Lunch Bunch ZOOM (lunchbunch@aauwsan jose.org)
Wed Dec 8	11:00am-1:00pm	Art Appreciation (Jan Bartolotta artappreciation@aauwsan jose.org)
Sat Dec 11	6:30pm-9:30pm	Couples Dining ZOOM (RSVP Cheryl Markman gourmetcouples1@aauwsan jose.org)
Sun Dec 12	11:30am - 1:30pm	Film Fans ZOOM (RSVP Linda Snashall filmfans@aauwsan jose.org)
Mon Dec 13	6:30pm - 9:30pm	Light Gourmet (RSVP Cheryl Markman gourmetlight@aauwsan jose.org)
Tue Dec 14	10:30 - 11:30am	Conversacion Espanol ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder spanishconversation@aauwsan jose.org)
	11:45am - 1:00pm	Book AM Lunch (RSVP Lida Kluzek bookmorning@aauwsan jose.org)
Thu Dec 16	10am - 12:00pm	Family History ZOOM (Susan Brundage)
	4:00pm - 6:00pm	Public Policy Social Hour on back porch and walk following to see holiday lights 5pm. Potluck finger food (RSVP Susan Karlins publicpolicy@aauwsan jose.org)
Fri Dec 17	1:30-3:00pm	Local Scholarship ZOOM (Ruth Dusan scholarships@aauwsan jose.org)
Mon Dec 20	6:30pm - 9:00pm	International Gourmet (Hostess Jan Bartolotta gourmetinternational@aauwsan jose.org)
Tue Dec 21	10:30-11:30am	French Conversation ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder frenchconversation@aauwsan jose.org)
	1:00pm-3:00pm	Knitting Know How (RSVP Margaret McCartney mdmknit@comcast.net)
Mon Dec 27	9:30-11:00am	Building and Properties Committee ZOOM (Pamela Dougherty buildings@aauwsan jose.org)

Have patience with me, please, please do.
And I'll have patience with you.
Together we can solve the generation gap
And occasionally I'll have something to teach you.

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The sole purpose of this publication is to
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AAUW San Jose Branch *Established 1909*



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