



President's Corner

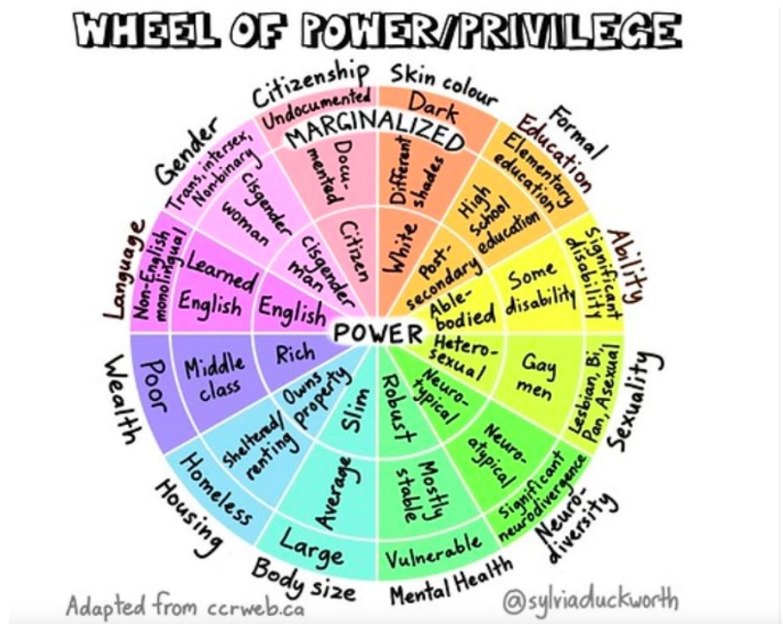
Happy New Year!

Before San Jose State shut down for winter break, I benefited from a workshop presented by our college's Special Director for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Michelle DeCoux Hampton.

For months I've been trying to identify the power/privileges that I've had, but also identify where I may be lacking. I'm a visual person and when she shared Sylvia Duckworth's Wheel of Power and Privilege graphic, it all became clearer for me. Duckworth's illustration can help us get a more intricate visualization of the term "marginalization" -- the further you are from the power, the more ignored and unimportant you feel. Ever the teacher, she asked us: Do you think there are categories missing? What do you think about the categories that are depicted here?



Sonia Wright
President



Looking for a DEI person for our branch

This is the year that every branch in California should be resolved to have a designated diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) contact! Such a resolution will revitalize AAUW in a changing society and enrich the experience of our members. If interested, please contact AAUW-SJ President [Sonia Wright](#).

Click [HERE](#) to find several Plug and Play options in the DEI Toolkit. Each Plug and Play topic includes an explanation of the topic, guidelines for the facilitator(s), and discussion prompts to make the event and conversation as robust as possible. Many other topics are included in the DEI Toolkit.

Continued from the President's Corner

Donor Advised Funds donations

If you're making donations from your Donor Advised Funds to any of our Community Action Projects (Local Scholarships, Gifts for Teens, Neighbors Helping Neighbors, Tech Trek), you list the name as InterBranch Special Project Foundation-AAUW San Jose. EIN (Employer Identification Number) is 77-0202841.

Webinars Abound!

January and February are chock-full of opportunities to enhance AAUW member's marketing skills. Find links to upcoming events on the AAUW state website [HERE](#).

Leadership positions in branch and state

Applications are open for eight positions on the state board

Board members shape the policies and programs for the state and provide support for branches.

Your skills and experience will help the board accomplish our mission of achieving gender equity in California.

The State will be electing:

- Secretary (two-year term 2022– 2024)
- Three Directors (one-year term 2022–2023)
- Four Directors (two-year term 2022– 2024)

Click [HERE](#) for the election process details and nomination form. Candidate information will be posted as it is received. Take the challenge and put your name out there!



Give from Your Heart to Sacred Heart

Mary Jane Vitkovich, Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Neighbors Helping Neighbors has the perfect way for you to celebrate the "heart filled" month of February! Contribute to our AAUW parking lot drive on Saturday, February 12, from 11 am to 1 pm to benefit Sacred Heart Community Service. We will be collecting the following goods:

pop-top cans of protein foods (examples: chili, ready-to-serve soup, Spam, corned beef, spaghetti w/meatballs, peanut butter)
full-sized bottles of shampoo
toothpaste and toothbrushes

These items will be distributed to neighbors in our area who are homeless and need our help. Questions? Contact [Mary Jane Vitkovich](#).

February Public Policy Committee Meeting

Susan Karlins, Public Policy Committee

Public Policy and Advocacy will meet on February 10 this month, via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84137935409?pwd=VzZlOVFkMHVQVWVvSktyWnI3UnZSUT09>.

Our meeting will include a hands-on voting rights activity, promoting our Title IX 50th anniversary commemoration event, and planning for 2022. In collaboration with the Center for Common Ground, we are writing postcards NOW to African-American voters in Texas, urging their engagement in the primary election this spring. Anyone can participate! Contact [Susan Karlins](#) for postcards and addresses.

Local Scholarship Holiday Campaign Results

Diane Trombetta, Local Scholarship Committee

Our online fundraiser was an enormous success: we raised over \$32,000! No words can adequately express our gratitude to those who helped make this fundraiser such an amazing accomplishment! Thirty-eight percent of donations were from non-members, 62% from AAUW San Jose members. Non-members donated 35% of the money collected, while 65% of the money donated came from Branch members. Donations from non-AAUW members were 312% higher than last year!

We thank all of you who donated money to help women complete a college education. Thank you to the Local Scholarship Committee members who spent hours editing and updating the website content, designing advertising, writing BONFIRE articles and emails, and organizing the prize drawing and data collection.

Thank you to the generous Local Scholarship members who donated matching funds and exceptional prizes. And the lucky winners are:

Jean Luckhardt - 2-night stay in a Santa Cruz vacation home
Lois Robinson - Diamond and ruby necklace and earrings
Linda Snashall - Sharks tickets and dinner package
Katherine Linnemann - iPad with 2-year technology support
Mary Jane Vitkovich - New Year's Eve party basket
Linda Guyer - Magnolia Holiday Wreath
Edna Robison - Blue silk & cotton hand-woven scarf and fused glass necklace
Liza Reynolds - Beige silk hand-woven scarf and fused glass necklace.

Now we must begin publicizing the 2022 scholarships. If you know any potential applicants, please direct them to <https://sanjose-ca.aauw.net/education/> for details on eligibility and the application.





An Update on Danielle Apfelbaum Past Local Scholarship Recipient

Cheryl Markman, Local Scholarship Committee

Danielle Apfelbaum received an AAUW Local Scholarship in the spring of 2021. After completing her second AA degree, Psychology for Transfer, with magna cum laude status at De Anza College, she enrolled as a Junior at San Jose State University, working toward a Bachelor's in Psychology. Then Danielle learned at the beginning of the term, in early August, that she was pregnant with her first child (a boy, and she and her partner were overjoyed!). That being said, the timing of his due date, April 25, combined with the date of finals in the spring, May 12, led her to the tough decision to take off the spring semester. Her goal is to return for the fall semester and graduate by 2024. After completing her Bachelor's, she plans to continue in a Master's program and eventually to become a school psychologist at the college level.

Besides working toward her Bachelor's, Danielle works full-time as a behavioral therapist for a non-profit organization contracted by San Jose Unified School District. As such, in addition to working on her first load of psychology classes at SJSU, with A's in them all, she was placed, as she says, "with a class of wild and fun autistic kindergartners this year and they have kept me on my toes." Since they rotate around, she was at a middle school last year. She helps the teachers with managing behavioral issues in the classroom setting and supports them in reinforcing positive behaviors. All of the classes she serves are Special Education, mostly on the autism spectrum, but also any children with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) who need behavioral assistance. Danielle intends to work until she no longer can and then bring her son into the world.

Although it's hard to imagine that she has any free time, when she does, Danielle enjoys riding her Peloton, spending time with her partner and his 10-year-old daughter, going to movies, exploring new restaurants and, before the pandemic, trips to Disneyland.

"I have learned over the years that when one's mind is made up, this diminishes fear; knowing what must be done does away with fear."

— Rosa Parks (1913–2005)



**An Update on Carmina Rosales
Past Local Scholarship Recipient**
Cheryl Markman, Local Scholarship Committee

Carmina Rosales received an AAUW Local Scholarship in the spring of 2021. She transferred from Evergreen Valley College to UC Davis in the fall. For Carmina, this was a dream come true. As a first-generation college student, she feels truly blessed and humbled to be able to receive a quality education at such a great university. She is a Human Development major, with a minor in Chicana/Chicano Studies, and expects to graduate in June 2023 with a Bachelor of Science degree. Although she is not yet sure exactly what career she wants to pursue, she knows that she would like to be surrounded by the Latinx community or to do work that benefits the community.

Before transferring, Carmina worked as a teacher's assistant at SJB Child Development Center, a daycare center. Although she found that working with children was different than she had anticipated, requiring a strong sense of emotional responsibility, that didn't stop her from enjoying the job. Currently she is waiting to hear about an internship as a marketing and communications student assistant for the UC Davis Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts.

Carmina notes that "being away from home and having her own space has brought her clarity and put her in a new headspace." Her passion for education has been revived, and she feels great knowing that she is excelling mentally and academically.

Besides her coursework, Carmina is involved in several extracurricular clubs. She is currently in FADS (Fashion & Design Society, for which she will be a model for the winter quarter digital catalog), MARS (Mujeres Ayudando La Raza, a Latina community service club for giving back to Chicanas and the Latinx population), Side C Music Club (similar to a book club, but instead of books it focuses on albums, artists, and discographies), and REVIVAL Zine (a feminist publication for which she is an editor, an organization that encourages women to share their thoughts and voices and to broaden their perspectives).

For fun, Carmina "loves going to downtown Davis with friends in the evening and trying out the many restaurants Davis has to offer, going to house shows by local bands on the weekends and small business pop-up markets in Sacramento." She also does art projects such as creating resin trays, art journaling,





We need you

Have you felt helpless and rudderless during the pandemic, wishing things would just get back to normal? You're not alone. Take back your power by participating in a short-term branch project. Almost every branch committee (Public Policy, AAUW Funds, College/University Relations, Programs, Membership, Finance, Buildings & Properties, Newsletter, Communications) and Community Action Project (Neighbors Helping Neighbors, Gifts for Teens, Tech Trek, Local Scholarship) has a small task you could do. It's a great way to learn about AAUW and get leadership experience. Your current president got all her leadership experience through serving on, or leading, an AAUW committee. Email the committee chair (addresses found on page 7 & 8 of the AAUW-SJ Branch handbook) and offer to help.

In the 2021-22 academic year, AAUW awarded nearly

\$5M

in fellowships and grants.

Did you know?

In the early weeks of the coronavirus crisis, women filed nearly 59% of unemployment claims, despite being only half of the labor force.

Latinas' earning ratio compared to white men changed only

4%

between 1988 and 2019.

2021 By the Numbers

AAUW CELEBRATED ITS 140TH ANNIVERSARY
and its legacy of moving women forward.



170,000

members and supporters dedicated to advancing equity for women and girls



68,271

letters from members and supporters sent to elected officials to advocate for AAUW's public policy priorities including paycheck fairness, paid leave, reproductive rights, student loan forgiveness and more.

260

fellows and grantees received \$5 million in funding to pursue academic work and lead innovative community projects to empower women and girls.

4

research reports produced by AAUW in 2021



5

gender discrimination lawsuits supported by AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund

188,675

total people trained to negotiate their salaries through AAUW Work Smart, Start Smart, and Work Smart Online.



3.3 million

impressions from AAUW's social media communities, including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn.



950

girls and their caregivers participated in AAUW STEMEd for Girls, a pilot program designed to encourage high school girls to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and math.



900

aspiring leaders logged on for AAUW's first-ever virtual National Conference for College Women Student Leaders

February 2022

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 Feb 1	10:30-11:30 am	German Conversation ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder)
Wed Feb 2	6:30-7 pm	AAUW Board Social Hour ZOOM (Sonia Wright)
	7-8:30 pm	ZOOM AAUW BOARD Meeting (Sonia Wright)
Thu Feb 3	1-3 pm	Knitting Know How (RSVP Margaret McCartney)
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Mon Feb 7	6:30-8 pm	Neighbors Helping Neighbors ZOOM (Bobbie Baker)
Tue Feb 8	10-11:30 am	Book Discussion (RSVP Lida Kluzek)
	10:30-11:30 am	Conversacion Espanol ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder)
Wed Feb 9	11 am-1 pm	Art Appreciation (RSVP Jan Bartolotta)
	7-8:30 pm	Wednesday Night Book Group ZOOM (RSVP Margaret Bard)
Thu Feb 10	2-3:30 pm	Great Decisions AM Zoom (Monique Lee)
	7-8:30 pm	Public Policy Committee ZOOM (Susan Karlins)
Sat Feb 12	11 am -1pm	Neighbors Helping Neighbors Parking lot drop off (MaryJane Vitkovich)
	6:30-9:30 pm	Couples Dining (RSVP Sharon Potter)
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Sun Feb 13	11:30 am-2 pm	Film Fans ZOOM (Contact Linda Snashall)
Tue Feb 15	10:30-11:30 am	French Conversation ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder)
	1-3 pm	Knitting Know How (RSVP Margaret McCartney)
Wed Feb 16	6:30-9 pm	Light Gourmet (RSVP Cheryl Markman)
Thu Feb 17	10 am-12 pm	Family History ZOOM (Susan Brundage)
	7-8:30 pm	Mystery Lovers ZOOM (Sharon Shephard)
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Mon Feb 21	9:30-11am	Exploring World Literature TBD (RSVP Diana Taylor)
	6:30-9 pm	International Gourmet (RSVP Jan Bartolotta)
Tue Feb 22	12-1:30 pm	Lunch Bunch TBA (RSVP Diana Taylor)
	7-8 pm	Great Decisions PM ZOOM (Sharon Shephard)
Thu Feb 24	2-3:30 pm	Great Decisions AM ZOOM (Monique Lee)
Fri Feb 25	1:30- 3 pm	Local Scholarship ZOOM (Ruth Dusan)
Sat Feb 26	10 am-12 pm	Member and Prospective Members Coffee and Conversation Back porch (Membership@aauwsanjose.org)
Mon Feb 28	9:30-11 am	Building and Properties Committee ZOOM (Pamela Dougherty)

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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*



Title IX: What you do not know CAN hurt you! **Celebrate--Learn--Act**

Title IX will celebrate its 50th anniversary this year! The Santa Clara County Interbranch Council (the seven local branches of AAUW) will host this Zoom event on March 19, 2022, 12-1pm. Save the date! Eventbrite registration details are forthcoming and will also be available on our Facebook page. Experts in the area will help us:

Celebrate 50 years of Title IX of the Educational Amendments Act passed in June of 1972. Hear how Title IX gives each gender equal rights to educational programs, activities, and financial assistance where federal aid is accepted.

Learn how Title IX has evolved over the last 50 years, to expand to include LGBTQ students, and what is still a “work in progress”. The event will address sexual harassment, violence, and coercion as well as equality in Athletics.

Act using resources and strategies to recognize and address sex-based discrimination in education, especially in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) based programs.



Empowering Women Since 1881

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