



President's

Aging Isn't for Sissies

Our friend, Grace O'Leary, has given permission to share how she is doing. She reports that life is quite different now. Grace has sold her vehicles because her hands and feet are unsafe for driving. Her caregiver drives her to appointments, prepares meals, helps with personal hygiene, and helps with writing. She says it's hard to know whether it's the Parkinson's or the rheumatoid arthritis which causes her symptoms. Grace still enjoys hearing from her AAUW friends.



Sonia Wright
President

Several of our AAUW friends have experienced the aging process themselves or with their spouses. I've been traveling back to Oregon on a regular basis to give my sister support and a break from overseeing the care of our father who is in a memory care facility. It's really gotten me thinking about who will take care of me. I have all my powers of attorney and estate plans done, but honestly, who will oversee the day-to-day care? It's the roll of the dice whether I will inherit my dad's side of the family's Alzheimer's, but if I do, I'll need a trusted friend(s) to watch out for me. Even though my dad has caregivers, there still has to be someone paying attention to things like skin cancer growing on his hand at a very fast rate. I got the job of cajoling the dermatology staff into scheduling an immediate appointment, instead of in July. I coordinated the next appointment and transportation to and from because he's in a wheelchair.

Some of our AAUW members have found resources to help our friends, family and ourselves. [Adult Protective Services](#) is a wealth of resources. They have the [Department of Aging and Adult Services](#) under their umbrella, providing several helpful resources. Additionally, there is the [Aging Services Collaborative](#) of Santa Clara County, the [Silicon Valley Healthy Aging Partnership](#), [In-Home Supportive Services](#), as well as a variety of community based senior centers like the [Alma Senior Center](#).

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion

Sonia Wright

What is an Equity Lens?

It is a set of questions we ask ourselves when we plan, develop, or evaluate a program, policy, or decision.

Why should we use an Equity Lens?

It can help us to identify potential impacts on institutionally underserved and marginalized individuals and groups, as well as identify and potentially eliminate barriers. An Equity Lens can help create a positive, respectful, and inclusive environment within our branches.

When should we use an Equity Lens?

You can use an Equity Lens when you are planning programs for your branch, engaging in outreach in the community, writing articles for your newsletter, or designing content for your website/social media. [Go here for more information.](#)



These friends were able to attend Virginia Beck's conversion to Judaism event at Temple Emanu-El on April 1. **Back row:** Nancy Valby, Sue Brundage, Rise Berry, Virginia, Sharon Bouska, Barbara Snyder, Darline Wilson, and Judy Kumagai. **Front row:** Francine Hileman, Cheryl Markman, Carol Fitting, Jean Meyer's sister.

In Memoriam

Brenda Ladewig was a 50-year member and past president of AAUW San Jose. She passed away in March 2022. A natural-born leader, Brenda served the Branch in many different ways. We benefitted from her skills as a banking manager at a bank in San Jose. She served as Treasurer, auditor, financial committee member and many times as a cashier at a Branch fundraiser. Brenda was President in 2005 and she served as Chairperson of Local Scholarship for a few years. She found like-minded AAUW San Jose sisters in our many interest groups such as book clubs, gourmet, crafts, Great Decisions and community action projects. Brenda developed lasting friendships with other members and she will be missed by all of us. The family has not yet set a time for a memorial service. Donations may be made to Local Scholarship to create a Scholarship in Brenda's name.



Spring into Action

Mary Jane Vitkovich, Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Looking for ways to "Spring into Action?" We have several opportunities for you to do just that!

On Saturday, May 7, we will have a donation drive in the Branch Headquarters parking lot from 10 am to 12 pm. The recipient of our drive will be Santa Maria Urban Ministry. A list of their needs includes tuna, peanut butter, cereal, canned stews and soups.

Also mark your calendars for our June 6 evening soiree at Headquarters. Our annual event is open to all members. A representative from Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley will speak to us about the work they do with refugees in our area. Members are asked to donate liquid laundry soap, regular size shampoo, new twin or twin XL mattress pads, or Target gift cards (any denomination).

Questions: contact [Mary Jane Vitkovich](#).

Managing Memberships With the Community Hub

Peg Carlson-Bowen

The long wait is over: the Community Hub has arrived - mostly - replacing the old Member Services Database (MSD) on the AAUW National website. All members will need to reset their password. Click [HERE](#) to go to the AAUW National website. To access your account, click the "Log In" at the top right corner of the home page. **The first time you log in, you'll need to reset your password by clicking the "Forgot Password" link.** From there you will be directed to your "Personal Snapshot." Click [HERE](#) for instructions and several tutorials on how to set up your Personal Snapshot, the new term for your personal AAUW portal (as a current member, you don't need to be concerned about the information in the video on how to add new members).

Once in your Personal Snapshot, you can click on the various links on the left side and add any appropriate information. Check "My Payment Methods" if you want to pay your dues by either your bank account or your credit card. Look for the three dots to the right of each subject to see more options. This is also where you can renew your membership when notified that the renewal process is open and is also the place where you can make donations to the National AAUW Funds. Your local Membership Committee will also be sending out renewal letters that will include ways to donate to our four local Community Action Projects (and you can always donate to them online at our website: <https://sanjose-ca.aauw.net/>. Scroll down a bit on the home page to find the donate buttons.)

Don't Miss AAUW California's Annual Event "Adventures in AAUWLand" Saturday, April 30, 9 am to 3 pm

Peg Carlson-Bowen

It is virtual and it is free!

Highlights:

- Kick off with inspirational words from Gloria Blackwell, AAUW CEO, and Lisa Maatz, former AAUW Policy Rock Star
- Hear about the year's accomplishments
- Honor our leaders with the announcement of the Named Gift Honoree, Equity Champion, and Top 10 Branch Fund Contributions
- Review our advocacy efforts
- Share important news and updates
- Hear the inspiring words of the three Speech Trek finalists
- Be introduced to the candidates for the 2022-23 board of directors
- Meet a dancing scientist, Jasmine Sadler, owner and founder, The STEAM Collaborative
- Honor the three winners of the 2022 Branch Activity of the Year Award

To register, visit <https://www.aauw-ca.org/2022-annual-event-a-real-adventure/>



An Update on Elizabeth Reynoso Past Local Scholarship Recipient

Cheryl Markman, Local Scholarship Committee

Elizabeth (Liz) Reynoso was awarded the Fitzgerald Family Memorial Scholarship in the spring of 2021. She will graduate this spring from Santa Clara University with a double major in Biology and History and a minor in Anthropology. After graduation she hopes to utilize the knowledge and experience that she has gained in college to mentor other first-generation students and to help them navigate their college experience as well. She is currently in the process of finding this mentoring job.

During the 2021-2022 school year, Liz's extracurricular activities have included being the Co-President and Sergeant at Arms of the Sigma Omega Nu Zeta Chapter at Santa Clara University. In addition, she is a mentor for seven freshmen within the LEAD Scholars Program for first generation students at the university. The LEAD Scholars Program provides academic and vocational development opportunities, supportive advising, peer mentoring, and community building through a variety of courses, programs, and support networks. Liz also works alongside an Anthropology professor at the university as her assistant for her ongoing research on the care of Latinx immigrant women postpartum.

When not busy with her schoolwork and extracurricular activities, Liz enjoys listening to music, going on bike rides, and spending time with her cat Ursula.

Headquarters Painting Update

Paul Bowen, Building & Properties Committee

After several months of reviewing 24 different color combinations and obtaining estimates from multiple contractors, the final decisions were made by the Building & Properties Committee. CertaPro was chosen as the contractor as they gave the most detailed (17 pages) and professional estimate for the job in addition to being well within the acceptable price range. The color scheme chosen was a blue combination, along with white trim and a burgundy accent. Work started on Monday, April 4, with a complete power wash of the house. Tuesday was devoted to scraping damaged areas of the existing paint and beginning the priming process, which was completed on Wednesday with the entire house covered in primer. On Thursday, the caulking of known cracks was completed and final coats started where possible. Friday brought the final coats to approximately 60-70% completion.



Help AAUW San Jose Engage Voters of Color for the 2022 Election!

Susan Karlins, Public Policy Committee

Once again, we will be reaching out to voters of color to encourage participation in the 2022 elections and provide information on how to access their right to vote. Door to door canvassing and phone calls can be very effective methods. If anyone is interested, contact [Susan Karlins](#) for more information.

Our Branch activity will be writing postcards and letters to voters. We will be writing letters through Vote Forward to voters of color in Nevada and Arizona. You will receive a file of letters to print and personalize with your own reasons for voting. These will be mailed at the end of October, but we will be keeping track of our progress and celebrating goals met with back porch parties at Headquarters and drawings. We will have a couple of postcard drives, starting early this summer and will be keeping track and celebrating progress towards our goals as well. You write and decorate the postcards with a prepared script from our nonprofit, non-partisan partner, Reclaim Our Vote. If you want to participate, please contact [Susan Karlins](#).

Public Policy Committee Engages State Legislators as Part of AAUW CA Lobby Week

Susan Karlins, Public Policy Committee

As the BONFIRE goes to print, AAUW San Jose is working to set up meetings with our local Assembly and Senate representatives to advocate for three of the six bills that AAUW CA is co-sponsoring this year. Here are the six highest priority bills:

- AB 92—creates an equitable sliding scale for family fees to alleviate the burden on working families struggling to pay for childcare and early childhood education services. Co-sponsor
- AB 1666—enables persons to come from outside California for abortions and not be impacted by laws of other states. Co-sponsor
- AB 1968—mandates the creation of websites at CSU/UC campuses to assist sexual assault survivors.
- AB 2881—Student parents get priority enrollment, registration, and access to basic needs centers, enabling them to remain in California colleges.
- SB 523—Expands contraceptive coverage by requiring health plans to provide point-of-sale coverage without cost-sharing.
- SB 1375—updates statutes relating to abortion care to allow nurse practitioners to practice under standard protocols to provide first-trimester abortion care.

The 31 bills AAUW CA supports this year address our Public Policy Priorities; six bills are related to Economic Security for All Women, seven are related to Equal Access to Public Education, and 18 are related to Social and Racial Justice for all Members of Society.

Tech Trek Student Profile

Karelle Cornwell, Tech Trek Committee

When Tian was in 7th grade, her middle school math teacher nominated her as a candidate for AAUW Tech Trek. After reading Tian's application and essay and holding an in-person interview with her, the members of AAUW San Jose's Tech Trek committee decided to select Tian as one of the eight students from San Jose to attend Tech Trek at Stanford University in the summer of 2019. Tian is now a sophomore in high school, and was so inspired by her time at Tech Trek that she decided to join the Women in STEM (WiSTEM) club at her high school. She contacted me recently to see if I could help her to get a speaker to give a talk at one of the WiSTEM meetings. AAUW San Jose member Michelle Lalljie answered the call. She gave an inspirational presentation to the members of Tian's WiSTEM club on her personal journey, starting with her high school years to her present-day job as a Senior Operations Manager at Amazon. She also provided guidance on how to stay focused on STEM, stay true to one's passion and develop confidence. Her talk was followed by an enthusiastic Q & A session. Tian reported back to me that everyone who attended was very interested in what Michelle had to say and that they all learned a lot.



Congratulations to Gifts for Teens

Cheryl Markman, Gifts for Teens

Gifts for Teens is delighted to announce that our project was awarded a \$10,000 Investment Grant from the 100 Women Charitable Foundation for 2021. Founded in the fall of 2006, the mission of the 100 Women Charitable Foundation is to encourage women's involvement in philanthropy and to make a significant difference in our local community. The foundation funds nonprofit organizations that support education, family, and health and wellness, values that are very much in line with those of AAUW. The foundation began with a very simple concept, to recruit 100 women to give \$100 (or more) and use these funds to make donations that create a greater impact. Over the past 14 years, the foundation has awarded over \$1.9 million in grants. The award to Gifts for Teens underscores the fact that our service project is valued in the community and that others care about needy local teens. Gifts for Teens is honored to have this recognition and help. These funds will buy duffel bags, sweatshirts and store gift cards for the 2022 recipients of our annual holiday gifts. To learn more about the 100 Women Charitable Foundation and the other 2021 grant winners, you are invited to visit their website at 100womenfoundation.org. You will see that Gifts for Teens was against some fierce competition and among some very worthy fellow recipients.

Of course, the work never ends. Gifts for Teens committee members are already busy collecting bag contents and donated funds to support our 2022 efforts. Early spring cash donations are much appreciated and help Gifts for Teens take advantage of bargains and sales throughout the entire year. Checks should be written to ISPF-AAUW - GFT, or donations can be made by using the PayPal button found on www.gifts4teens.org, or on the homepage of our Branch website, <https://sanjose-ca.aauw.net/>. Thank you in advance for your continued support of this truly worthwhile project.

May 2022**Submitted by Tynka Dees Calendar Editor:**

Santa Clara County has removed our mask requirement for indoor meetings. You no longer have to fill out the vaccination certification form. If any member is uncomfortable with unmasked members or simply wishes to remain safe, masks are always welcome. If you are un-vaccinated, we would appreciate it if you wore a mask. If you are a leader of the group meeting please keep a sign in sheet, just in case we need it for checking contacts in future. Please check with the organizer whether the meeting has changed and will be ZOOM or in person.

Mon May 2	6:30-8 pm	Neighbors Helping Neighbors (Bobbie Baker)
Tue May 3	10:30-11:30 am	German Conversation ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder)
Wed May 4	6:30-7 pm	AAUW Board Social Hour ZOOM (Sonia Wright)
	7-8:30 pm	ZOOM AAUW BOARD Meeting (Sonia Wright)
Thu May 5	1-3 pm	Knitting Know How (RSVP Margaret McCartney)
	7-8:30 pm	Public Policy Committee (Susan Karlins)

Sun May 8	11:30 am-2 pm	Film Fans (Contact Linda Snashall)
Mon May 9	6:30-9 pm	Light Gourmet (RSVP Cheryl Markman)
Tue May 10	10-11:30 am	Book Discussion (RSVP Lida Kluzek)
	10:30-11:30 am	Conversacion Espanol ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder)
Wed May 11	11 am-1 pm	Art Appreciation (RSVP Jan Bartolotta)
	7-8:30 pm	ZOOM Book Group (RSVP Margaret Bard)
Thu May 12	1-4 pm	Bridge 2 nd Thursday (RSVP Bobbie Eckerman)
	2-3:30 pm	Great Decisions AM Zoom (Monique Lee)
Sat May 14	6:30-9:30 pm	Couples Dining (RSVP Sharon Potter)

Mon May 16	9:30-11 am	Exploring World Literature TBD (RSVP Diana Taylor)
	1-4 pm	Interbranch Council (Margaret Bard)
	6:30-9 pm	International Gourmet (RSVP Jan Bartolotta)
Tue May 17	10:30-11:30 am	French Conversation ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder)
Thu May 19	10 am-12 pm	Family History ZOOM (Susan Brundage)
	7-8:30 pm	Mystery Lovers ZOOM (Sharon Shephard)
Fri May 20	10 am-1 pm	Bridge (RSVP Lida Kluzek)
	1:30- 3 pm	Local Scholarship ZOOM (Ruth Dusan)
Sat May 21	10-12 pm	Annual Meeting ZOOM (Sonia Wright)

Mon May 23	9:30-11 am	Building & Properties Committee ZOOM buildings@aauwsanjose.org)
Tue May 24	12-1:30 pm	Lunch Bunch TBA (RSVP Diana Taylor)
	1-4 pm	Bridge 4 th Tuesday (RSVP Bobbie Eckerman)
	7-8 pm	Great Decisions PM ZOOM (Sharon Shephard)
Thu May	26 2-3:30 pm	Great Decisions AM ZOOM (Monique Lee)

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Editorial Staff: Elin Bolt, Copy Editor;
Tynka Dees, Calendar Editor; Jan Giroux,
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The sole purpose of this publication is to
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San Jose Branch
AAUW Headquarters
1165 Minnesota Avenue
San Jose, CA 95125-3324
Phone: 408-294-2430

**PERIODICALS
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AAUW San Jose Branch *Established 1909*



Save The Date
Membership Renewal Party
June 11 from 11 am – 2 pm
Headquarters Back Porch
and Parking Lot

Featuring food, fun, friends and a pretty little box to put your membership renewal into. Come one, come all -- bring your checkbook or debit/credit card and check this off your list!



Empowering Women Since 1881

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