



President's Corner



Sonia Wright
President

I attended the California State Convention and Annual Meeting, titled Adventureland. There were three highlights for me: Keynote Speaker Lisa Maatz, Equity Champion recipient Jackie Speier, and three Speech Trek awardees. You can watch it all [here at this link](#). The top video is one of accomplishments, and the video below it is the main event (you can drag the red bar to the area you want to hear as the times and topics are listed below it).

Lisa Maatz was AAUW's VP of Government Relations and Advocacy in Washington D.C. for 15 years. She said AAUW's power is in collaboration with others on common shared goals. She said leading with the facts won't motivate people but sharing your personal story will. The narrative is what connects us.

Congresswoman Jackie Speier was this year's recipient of the Equity Champion Award. She's been an AAUW member for 40 years. She talked about how we've been working for 99 years to pass the ERA. This is what I didn't know. Every written constitution in the world, except the United States, has a form of the ERA written into it. She noted that discrimination is baked into our laws. She gave two examples, one was Peggy Young, a UPS employee. When she got pregnant, she couldn't lift more than 25 pounds and was required to take unpaid leave losing her health insurance, yet the company accommodated men with diabetes and heart disease. This was later reversed. Speier implored us to stay in the fight to pass the ERA.

Speech Trek has been around for 15 years and has given out over \$50,000 in cash prizes in that time. Evaluation is 50 percent on content and 50 percent on delivery. The three speakers were amazing at addressing "Has the U.S. lived up to its pledge of 'liberty and justice for all'?" and "Would requiring the study of diversity, equity and inclusion in a high school setting help insure liberty and justice for all?"

Starting in August, we will have a new column to spotlight our members. We will start with our long-standing members probably in alphabetical order. We want to celebrate and recognize our members now rather than later.

June Public Policy Committee Meeting Date Change
Susan Karlins, Public Policy Committee

The Public Policy Committee will meet on the second Thursday, June 9 -- instead of the first Thursday as we usually do. We will also have letters and postcards to potential voters available at the June 11 Membership Renewal Party. Please join in and make your voice heard!



Neighbors Helping Neighbors Soiree AAUW Headquarters June 6 at 6 pm



All AAUW members are invited to attend our annual soiree on Monday, June 6. Beginning at 6 pm, join us for a casual evening to enjoy beverages, finger food, and conversation.

At 6:30 pm we will have a speaker from Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley who will discuss how their non-profit helps refugees resettle into our local community.

Donations for the organization will be appreciated. Please bring any of the following to our evening event: laundry detergent, full-size shampoos, Target gift cards, and new twin/twin XL mattress pads.

Questions? Contact [Mary Jane Vitkovich](#). Hope to see you there!

Membership Renewal for Fiscal Year 2022-23 Is Underway

Katherine Oven and Leticia Cowan, Membership Committee

The AAUW San Jose membership renewal packets (including the opportunity to make a donation to our Community Action Projects (CAPs)) were sent out in early May to all members who need to renew for the coming fiscal year.

The packet contents are hard to miss — a blue renewal form and a yellow CAP donation form! Instructions are also provided for those who wish to renew online with a credit card. 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.

The breakdown of the \$113 membership renewal fee for regular members is as follows:

National dues: \$67 (\$64 of this fee is tax-deductible)

State dues: \$20

Branch dues: \$26

Total: \$113

We're injecting some FUN into the renewal process this year — a Renewal Party on Saturday, June 11, from 11 am – 1 pm! Come to the Headquarters parking lot/back porch to submit your renewal. This year we'll feature food, fun, friends and a pretty little box to put your membership renewal into. Bring your checkbook or credit/debit card. We'll have our system set up for electronic payment. Check this off your list in a fun way!

Ruby Rilla Trombetta Trust

Linda Guyer, Building and Properties Committee

I recently interviewed Diane Trombetta and Pam Dougherty about the Ruby Rilla Trombetta Trust. Diane Trombetta's mother, Ruby Rilla Trombetta, donated \$100,000 to AAUW San Jose in honor of her 100th birthday in 2015. These funds were used to paint the interior walls, replace the carpet, and remodel the kitchen and bathroom at Headquarters. After her mother's death, Diane offered to donate the yearly income from the trust (about \$35,000) to the Building and Properties Committee. The donation is unrestricted and has been used for several major "home improvements" at Headquarters:

Last 4 years

- Kitchen and bathroom remodel
- Resealing parking lot
- New roof
- Solar panels: we are now 100% solar!
- Reconstruction of basement exterior: repair and reconstruction of concrete ramp and walls going down to the basement and installation of a sump pump (no leaks into the basement ever since!). The new construction was given a good test during a couple of big storms this winter.
- Repair and painting of front and back exterior steps and porch
- Repair of exterior stairway to upper level
- Complete repainting of the house
- Basement: clean-up of electric wiring; removal of old wiring including old telephone wires and boxes
- Major plumbing upgrade: installed copper piping
- New furnace installed. The heating system has never been better!

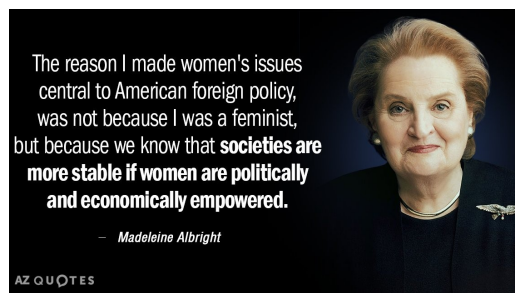
Without this generous support we would be asking for donations and thinking of ways to fund-raise. The Ruby Rilla Trombetta Trust allows Headquarters to be maintained and improved beyond anything we could have imagined. Members are then able to support our Community Action Projects (CAPs) and other initiatives without also being asked to cover the cost of maintaining and gradually upgrading our Headquarters.

The Building and Properties Committee has a variety of items under consideration/exploration as trust funds become available:

- Remodel and update the sunroom
- Create safer access to the basement
- Expand the back porch

The Committee is open to your suggestions.

We owe much gratitude to Diane Trombetta and the Ruby Rilla Trombetta Trust!



An Update on Stephanie Vu **Past Local Scholarship Recipient** Cheryl Markman, Local Scholarship Committee



Stephanie Vu received an AAUW scholarship in the spring of 2021. She will graduate this fall 2022 from CSU Monterey Bay with Honors in Business Administration with a concentration in Marketing. At that time, she will also have completed certain online Data Science courses from Texas A&M University which will augment her BA degree. Stephanie's career goal is to combine her passion for Marketing and Data and become a Data Scientist.

Due to a lack of funding for tuition fees, and because she wanted to gain more work experience, Stephanie took a two-year break from college. This turned out to be a great experience for her. She had the opportunity to work as the Community Manager for Hacker Dojo, a famous tech hub in the Bay Area (where Pinterest and Pebble Watch began!). As she puts it, this wonderful community influenced her enthusiasm for STEM, hence her decision to pursue the Data Science courses through a grant-backed program. Although she was concerned that this gap would hinder her academic success, Stephanie finished her first semester back with flying colors, maintaining her continuous position on the Dean's List.

In addition to returning to college, in September 2021 Stephanie also began volunteering for the Marine Protection Area (MPA) Collaborative Network as a Database Management Specialist. This opportunity not only reinforced her Data Science skills but, as she put it, also taught her precious knowledge about California's network of diverse coastal communities and our efforts to save them. In this position, Stephanie collected and organized data about each collaborative. This data will be used for the MPA's Decadal Management Review Report to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. This report will be presented to the California Fish and Game Commission in December 2022.

Besides working on her CSU courses and the Data Science courses from Texas A&M University, Stephanie serves as an undergraduate researcher at CSU Monterey Bay with a focus on Artificial Intelligence and Marketing. In May 2022 she presented a part of her current research, "Examining the Role of AI in Fostering Growth Mindset vs. Fixed Mindset," in the CSU system's 47th Annual Social Science Research and Instructional Center (SSRIC) Social Science Student Symposium.

While maintaining a hectic yet productive schedule, Stephanie enjoys spending her free time with her favorite people and her two dogs, Oliver and Bear, and relaxing reading good books. During special occasions or holiday breaks, she tries out different recipes for her family, whether it's a new Jiggly Japanese Cheesecake or a new way to cook shrimp.



Welcome New Members

Claire Campodonico

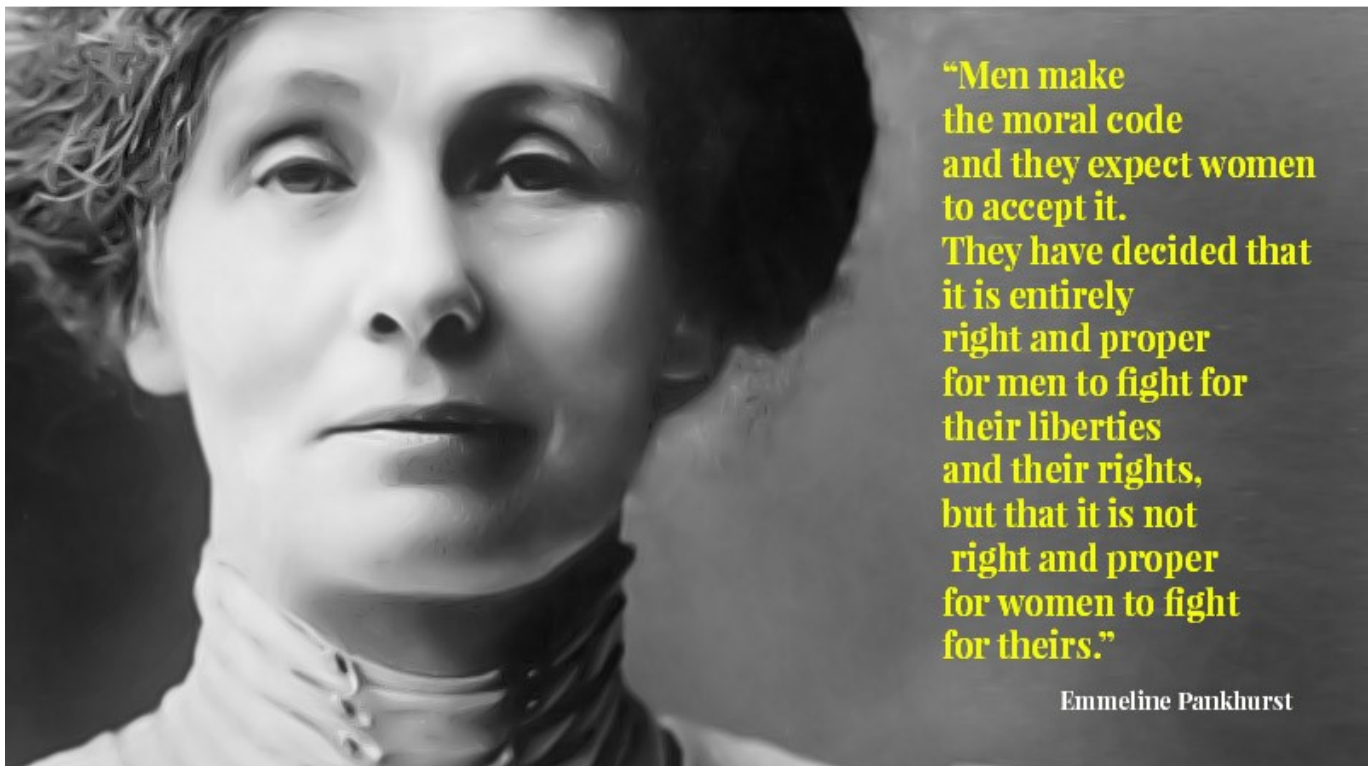
MARIA ARTEAGA-CARRASCO graduated in 2016 from SJSU with a BS in Marketing. She is a renewing member from 2015-2017. She is one of our past Local Scholarship recipients - twice - once in 2014 and again in 2015. She works in the Building Department of the City of San Jose as a Principal Permit Specialist.

RITA GOYAL attended the University of Michigan where she earned a BS in Engineering. She is now retired from her career as an Industrial Engineer. Rita enjoys spending time with her family and friends, traveling, gardening and reading.

PATRICIA RICH is also one of our past Local Scholarship recipients. She received a BS in Child Development from CSU East Bay in 2019. She is now pursuing a Master's in Teaching at Santa Clara University and expects to earn this degree in 2022. Patricia is employed as a teacher.

LINA PROKOPCHAK attended USF where she earned her BS in Economics. She then attended Golden Gate University, earning an MBA. Before her retirement, Lina worked in the fields of high-tech marketing and sales and was also an elementary school teacher for 17 years. Member Jan Bartolotta encouraged her to join.

KAYA KAYA attends SJSU. She plans to graduate in 2024 with a BA in Musical Performance. Member Ruth Dusan encouraged Kaya to join our organization. Kaya is attending SJSU full-time now. Previously, she taught after-school enrichment programs to children ages 5-15 in Queens, New York.



JUNE 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.

Wed Jun 1 6:30-7 pm AAUW Board Social Hour Old/New Board ZOOM ([Sonia Wright](#))
7-8:30 pm ZOOM AAUW BOARD Meeting Old/New Board ([Sonia Wright](#))
Thu Jun 2 1-3 pm Knitting Know How (RSVP [Margaret McCartney](#))

Mon Jun 6 6-8 pm Neighbors Helping Neighbors Soiree ([Bobbie Baker](#))
Tue Jun 7 10:30-11:30 am German Conversation ZOOM (RSVP [Barbara Snyder](#))
Wed Jun 8 11 am-1 pm Art Appreciation (RSVP [Jan Bartolotta](#))
7-830 pm ZOOM/Hybrid Book Group (RSVP [Margaret Bard](#))
Thu Jun 9 1-4 pm Bridge 2nd Thursday (RSVP [Bobbie Eckerman](#))
7-8:30 pm Public Policy Committee ([Susan Karlins](#))
Fri Jun 10 10 am-1 pm Duplicate Bridge (RSV P [Lida Kluzek](#))
Sat Jun 11 11 am-2 pm Member Renewal Party Back Porch ([Membership](#))
6:30-9:30 pm Couples Dining (RSVP [Sharon Potter](#))

Sun Jun 12 11:30 am-1:30 pm Film Fans (RSVP Linda Snashall)
Mon Jun 13 6:30- 8:30 pm Light Gourmet (RSVP [Cheryl Markman](#))
Tue Jun 14 10-1130 am Book Discussion ([Lida Kluzek](#))
10:30-11:30 am Conversacion Espanol ZOOM (RSVP [Barbara Snyder](#))
Thu Jun 16 7-8:30 pm Mystery Lovers ZOOM ([Sharon Shephard](#))
Fri Jun 17 10 am-1 pm Bridge (RSVP [Lida Kluzek](#))

Mon Jun 20 9:30-11 am Exploring World Literature TBD ([Diana Taylor](#))
6:30-9 pm International Gourmet (RSVP [Jan Bartolotta](#))
Tue Jun 21 10:30-11:30 am French Conversation ZOOM (RSVP [Barbara Snyder](#))
1-3 pm Knitting Know How (RSVP [Margaret McCartney](#))
Fri Jun 24 1:30- 3:30 pm Local Scholarship ZOOM ([Ruth Dusan](#))

Mon Jun 27 9:30-11 am Building and Properties Committee ZOOM
(buildings@aauwsanjose.org)
Tue Jun 28 12-1 pm Lunch Bunch ([Diana Taylor](#))
1-4 pm Bridge 4th Tuesday (RSVP [Bobbie Eckerman](#))
7-8:30 pm Great Decisions PM ZOOM ([Sharon Shephard](#))

JULY 2022

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Tue Jul 5	10:30-11:30 am	German Conversation ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder)
Wed Jul 6	6:30-7 pm	AAUW Board Social Hour (Sonia Wright)
	7-8:30 pm	AAUW BOARD Meeting (Sonia Wright)
Thu Jul 7	1-3 pm	Knitting Know How (RSVP Margaret McCartney)
	7-8:30 pm	Public Policy Committee (Susan Karlins)
Fri Jul 8	10 am-2 pm	Duplicate Bridge (RSVP Lida Kluzek)
Sat Jul 9	6:30-9:30 pm	Couples Dining (RSVP Sharon Potter)
Sun Jul 10	11:30 am-1:30 pm	Film Fans (RSVP Linda Snashall)

Mon Jul 11	6:30- 8:30 pm	Light Gourmet (RSVP Cheryl Markman)
Tue Jul 12	10:30-11:30 am	Conversacion Espanol ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder)
Wed Jul 13	11 am-1 pm	Art Appreciation (RSVP Jan Bartolotta)
Thu Jul 14	1-4 pm	Bridge 2 nd Thursday (RSVP Bobbie Eckerman)
Fri Jul 15	10 am-1 pm	Bridge (RSVP Lida Kluzek)

Mon Jul 18	6:30-9 pm	International Gourmet (RSVP Jan Bartolotta)
Tue Jul 19	10:30-11:30 am	French Conversation ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder)
	1-3 pm	Knitting Know How (RSVP Margaret McCartney)
Thu Jul 21	7-8:30 pm	Mystery Lovers ZOOM (Sharon Shephard)
Fri Jul 22	1:30- 3:30 pm	Local Scholarship To Be Determined (Tynka Dees)
Sat Jul 23	10 am-12 pm	Member & Prospective Members Coffee and Conversation Back Porch (Membership@aauwsanjose.org)

Mon Jul 25	9:30-11 am	Building and Properties Committee ZOOM (buildings@aauwsanjose.org)
Tue Jul 26	12-1 pm	Lunch Bunch TBA (Diana Taylor)
	1-4 pm	Bridge 4 th Tuesday (RSVP Bobbie Eckerman)
	7-8:30 pm	Great Decisions PM ZOOM (Sharon Shephard)



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RULES:**

The sole purpose of this publication is to
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**PERIODICALS
POSTAGE PAID**

AAUW San Jose Branch *Established 1909*

SAVE THE DATES



RENEWAL PARTY
SATURDAY, JUNE 11
11 AM -1 PM

Come to the Headquarters parking lot/back porch to submit your renewal. This year we'll feature food, fun, friends and a pretty little box to put your membership renewal into. Bring your checkbook or credit/debit card. We'll have our system set up for electronic payment. Check this off your list in a fun way!



COFFEE and CONVERSATION
Saturday, July 23, 10 am—12 pm
For Members & Prospective Members
Live on the Back Porch!



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