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## President's Corner

By *Sonia Wright*



The last month just flew by and it's time again to present something from the President. I was planning to report about our June Board Retreat but had to postpone that when my dad ended up in the hospital and I drove to Oregon for two weeks. He passed away peacefully in mid-July at his memory care center with my sister by his side. I was

blessed to have a father who taught me how to value education, change the oil in the car, gut a fish, but most of all how to keep a positive outlook on life and lead by example.

Join us as we start to conduct meetings in person again. Reboot your AAUW passion by joining a high-powered group focused on engaging hearts and minds in the fight for equality. In just a few hours a month, you can make a difference in our plans for STEM education, social justice initiatives, and skill-building opportunities, as well as help AAUW's brand shine with effective marketing and communications. Engage with other talented, committed members to help offer our successful signature programs or get in on the ground floor of new ones. The opportunities are nearly endless and always rewarding. See the calendar of events on the last page.

Please save the date for our Fall Gathering on September 24, from 10 am to noon. We welcome all members, families and guests. This event is a showcase—showing what is available in interest groups, community action projects and how to be involved advocating for women and girls. It's also a very popular opportunity to look back on the past year and celebrate what so many of you accomplished.

You'll get to hear from some of the people whom our Community Action Projects helped. We will have a surprise speaker, so stay tuned for more details. The event will be held in person near Headquarters at the Willow Glen United Methodist Church, 1420 Newport Avenue, at the corner of Newport and Minnesota. We will observe all current safety guidelines for Covid—masks are certainly welcome and encouraged.





## Many Thanks from Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Mary Jane Vitkovich

We want to thank the many members of AAUW San Jose who contributed over the past year to NHN. Your generous donations of food, shampoo, clothing, socks, and hygiene donations helped out so many people in our community.

We are particularly proud of our recent donation to Project Linus towards the annual TAPS (Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors) Good Grief Camp.

79 red-white-blue blankets were donated to children who have lost a loved one who served in the Armed Forces. NHN supplied the necessary funds to ship these blankets! Thanks again to all who donate to Neighbors Helping Neighbors!



## From the Board to Board Newsletter

We have moved beyond passively acknowledging AAUW's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. We have now reached a transition point where every branch can make a difference.

Here are some suggestions about DEI strategies:

- Check with the branch DEI coordinator to determine how the DEI toolkit is being used. (San Jose Branch still needs a coordinator)
- Develop an elevator speech about DEI.
- Organize programs that feature DEI.
- Participate in DEI interest groups.
- Enhance DEI visibility on your website and social media.
- Share personal experiences of feeling excluded.
- Collaborate with other regional groups that support DEI.
- Ask questions.
- Be willing to feel uncomfortable.
- Acknowledge members who play a role in DEI branch activities, even if behind the scenes.
- Review Five-Star criteria.

By initiating opportunities for DEI branch commitment to DEI efforts, the branch demonstrates the value of all individuals.



## Gearing Up for the Holiday Season

Cheryl Markman, Gifts for Teens



Gifts for Teens is already gearing up for the holiday giving season. Volunteers will fill duffel bags for boys and sturdy totes for girls to be distributed to low-income and homeless teens in the San Jose area. This year we will fill 600 bags and totes, up 20% over 2021. As always, each bag and tote will be filled with cozy sweatshirts and other warm apparel, school supplies, personal hygiene items, snacks and fast-food gift cards, and so much more.

At this time, we are asking for donations of \$25 and \$50 store gift cards from Target and Walmart. Store gift cards allow these teens, who often wear second-hand clothes and shoes, to personally select new items they want or need, certainly a rare treat for them. Or they may choose to purchase favorite food items which otherwise might be considered a luxury. For more information on gift cards, contact Beverly Bassett, and please send store gift cards directly to her.

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 – GFT or simply to ISPF – AAUW with Gifts for Teens in the memo line. Please mail checks to be received no later than September 15 to AAUW, c/o Jan Giroux, 1165 Minnesota Avenue, San Jose, CA 95125.

Of course, the final task of filling the bags and totes cannot be done without the help of our volunteers. If you would like to join in on this fun and truly rewarding activity, please contact Barb Purdy. Assembly dates are Saturday, October 15 and Tuesday, October 18, from 9 am to noon. The assembly will take place in the parking lot of AAUW San Jose Headquarters. Break time snacks will be provided.

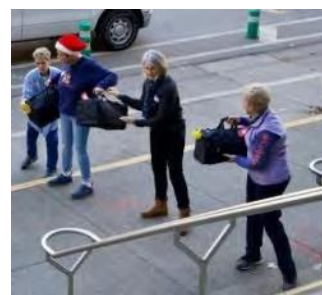
Gifts for Teens is grateful to you all for your continued support! For more information about Gifts for Teens, visit our website, [www.Gifts4Teens.org](http://www.Gifts4Teens.org) or contact Elaine Benoit at (408) 268-9654.



Setting up gift duffel bag items



Holiday Duffel Bags



Holiday gift duffel bags delivery



## **An Update on Elvira Cervantes Two-Time Local Scholarship Recipient**

Cheryl Markman, Local Scholarship Committee

Elvira Cervantes was first awarded an AAUW Local Scholarship in 2020, and was awarded a second scholarship in 2021. She graduated from San Jose State University in May 2022 with a BA in Psychology and a minor in Child and Adolescent Development. She was in both Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society and Psi Chi International Honor Society in Psychology throughout her time at SJSU. She also graduated cum laude and received a medal commemorating that honor. Elvira's parents are very proud as she is the first generation in her family to graduate from university.

Elvira loves working with children. She was working with the YMCA while attending school and continues to work there now.

Elvira feels fortunate to have been hired as an elementary teacher for Rocketship Elementary Discovery Prep in San Jose. She will be teaching a class of her own, having been assigned to work with first graders. Rocketship Elementary is also helping her to obtain her teaching credential. In August she plans to apply to graduate programs at San Jose, East Bay, and San Francisco State Universities to earn her Master's degree as well.

In her free time, Elvira loves going to the beach with her dog, Max. She and her boyfriend got him as a puppy during the COVID quarantine and now he is an 80-pound German Shepherd that is as tall as she is. According to Elvira, Max has "a ton of energy and loves going on walks and makes me stay active." Her parents also enjoy going on her walks with Max. Elvira usually spends her free time with her parents, her boyfriend and Max.



FACES OF AAUW

## **Education Gives Women Dignity**

"Education is everything. Education empowers. Education gives us dignity. Education liberates the girl child."

Tererai Trent, AAUW 2001-02 International Fellow and 2017 Alumnae Recognition Awardee

<https://www.aauw.org/>



## Local Scholarship Does It Again!

Cheryl Markman, Local Scholarship Committee

In May 2022, several members of the Local Scholarship Committee interviewed 24 applicants. Applicants came to us from a wide range of sources. This was very gratifying to the committee since it had sent news of the scholarship process to 72 different places!

Scholarships were awarded to 22 deserving women who will begin their third or fourth year at a college or university, including five recipients who received scholarships for a second year. The scholarships, including four named scholarships, ranged from \$2,500 to \$7,500, for a total of \$131,000. All of this was made possible by our fundraising efforts and your generosity in supporting this project.

Those awarded scholarships will be going to a wide range of universities including SJSU, SFSU, CSU Monterey Bay, UCLA, UC Santa Barbara, UC Berkeley and Santa Clara University. There were also several firsts including Stanford, Northeastern University in Boston, Samuel Merritt University in Oakland and Biola University in La Mirada, California.

This year's recipients also represent an unusually wide array of majors including Chemistry, Biology, Zoology, Mechanical Engineering, Nursing, Nutrition, Psychology, Political Science, Public Relations, Liberal Studies, Sociology, Business Administration, Economics and Finance. Also, a Creative Writing major and a Classical Music-Performance major. And our first potential firefighter is pursuing a Communications major/Meteorology (fire weather) minor.

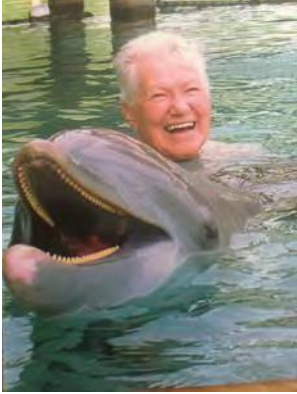
To every Branch member who has already donated money last year, THANK YOU! If you would like to do so now, you can mail a check to AAUW San Jose, attention Local Scholarship Treasurer, 1165 Minnesota Ave., Suite 100, San Jose, CA 95125-3324. Please make checks payable to ISPF-AAUW and write Local Scholarship in the memo line. To donate online, please go to [www.aauwsanjose.org/](http://www.aauwsanjose.org/) and select the Local Scholarship donate button. Any amount is always appreciated. Questions? Please contact [scholarships@aauwsanjose.org](mailto:scholarships@aauwsanjose.org) or call 408-294-2430.



## COFFEE, CONVERSATION and NETWORKING

with Local Scholarship Recipients on September 24.





Alma Powell in Tahiti

## SAN JOSE BRANCH MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Interview courtesy of Pam Dougherty, devoted daughter of Alma Powell

### How did you discover AAUW San Jose?

I lived in Grant's Pass, Oregon. After my husband died, Pam (my daughter) began to suggest that I move south to live with one of my children. Ultimately, I decided to live with Pam. Pam found a place that worked for both of us and I moved down in 2002. I must admit that living in downtown San Jose was not ideal for me. However, my bedroom was on the same floor as the kitchen and living space. Pam had her own bedroom upstairs. I also had an office downstairs.

### How long have you been a member of AAUW?

I am 101 now, so I was an active 81 then. Nevertheless, at 81, it is hard to make friends. So, I joined AAUW with Pam.

### What do you like most about being a member of AAUW?

My passion was playing bridge with the AAUW bridge groups. I also organized the mailing of the BONFIRE for many years. I would bundle all the BONFIRES by zip code and take them to the post office that handled bulk mail. They were very particular about how the mail was sorted and bundled. (It seemed like they changed the rules every month.)

### Is there anything else we can do to improve membership experience?

Speaking for Alma, it seems the constant changing of the rules by the Post Office was the only improvement suggested.

### How would you like to be remembered?

I liked meeting people and contributing.

### What would you like members to know about you?

Alma did provide some insight to her role and member experience from the previous responses.

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## AAUW Updates from Washington

- On April 15th, AAUW awarded its largest amount ever--\$6m to 320 deserving scholars and community programs.
- Check out Gloria Blackwell's interview and [leadership profile](#) featured in Diverse Issues in Higher Education.
- The second of three AAUW Empower events on financial security was held on April 19th. The full series information can be found [HERE](#).
- The Public Policy team is working in coalition and keeping us all informed about front-burner issues regarding [reproductive choice](#).

**AUGUST 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.

Tue Aug 2	10:30am - 11:30am	German Conversation ZOOM ( RSVP <a href="#">Barbara Snyder</a> )
Wed Aug 3	5:00pm - 6:30pm	AAUW Board Setup (( <a href="#">Sonia Wright</a> ))
	6:30pm - 7:00pm	AAUW Board Social Hour (( <a href="#">Sonia Wright</a> ))
	7:00pm - 8:30pm	AAUW BOARD Meeting (( <a href="#">Sonia Wright</a> ))
Thu Aug 4	7-8:30 pm	Public Policy Committee ZOOM ( <a href="#">Susan Karlins</a> )

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Mon Aug 8	6:30- 8:30 pm	Light Gourmet (RSVP <a href="#">Cheryl Markman</a> )
Tue Aug 9	10:30-11:30 am	Conversacion Espanol ZOOM (RSVP <a href="#">Barbara Snyder</a> )
Wed Aug 10	11 am-1 pm	Art Appreciation (RSVP <a href="#">Jan Bartolotta</a> )
Thu Aug 11	1-4 pm	Bridge 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday (RSVP <a href="#">Bobbie Eckerman</a> )
Sat Aug 13	6:30-9:30 pm	Couples Dining (RSVP <a href="#">Sharon Potter</a> )

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Mon Aug 15	6:30-9 pm	International Gourmet (RSVP <a href="#">Jan Bartolotta</a> )
Tue Aug 16	10:30-11:30 am	French Conversation ZOOM (RSVP <a href="#">Barbara Snyder</a> )
	1-3 pm	Knitting Know How (RSVP <a href="#">Margaret McCartney</a> )
Fri Aug 19	10 am-1 pm	Bridge (RSVP <a href="#">Lida Kluzek</a> )

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Mon Aug 22	9:30-11 am	Building and Properties Committee ( <a href="mailto:buildings@aauwsanjose.org">buildings@aauwsanjose.org</a> )
Tue Aug 23	12-1 pm	Lunch Bunch ( <a href="#">Diana Taylor</a> )
	1-4 pm	Bridge 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday (RSVP <a href="#">Bobbie Eckerman</a> )
	7-8:30 pm	Great Decisions PM ZOOM ( <a href="#">Sharon Shephard</a> )
Fri Aug 26	1:30- 3:30 pm	Local Scholarship To be determined ( <a href="#">Tynka Dees</a> )
Sat Aug 27	10 am-12 pm	Prospective Members and Member Meeting Coffee and Conversation Back porch ( <a href="mailto:Membership@aauwsanjose.org">Membership@aauwsanjose.org</a> )

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Wed Aug 31	7-8:30pm	Public Policy Committee ZOOM ( <a href="#">Susan Karlins</a> )
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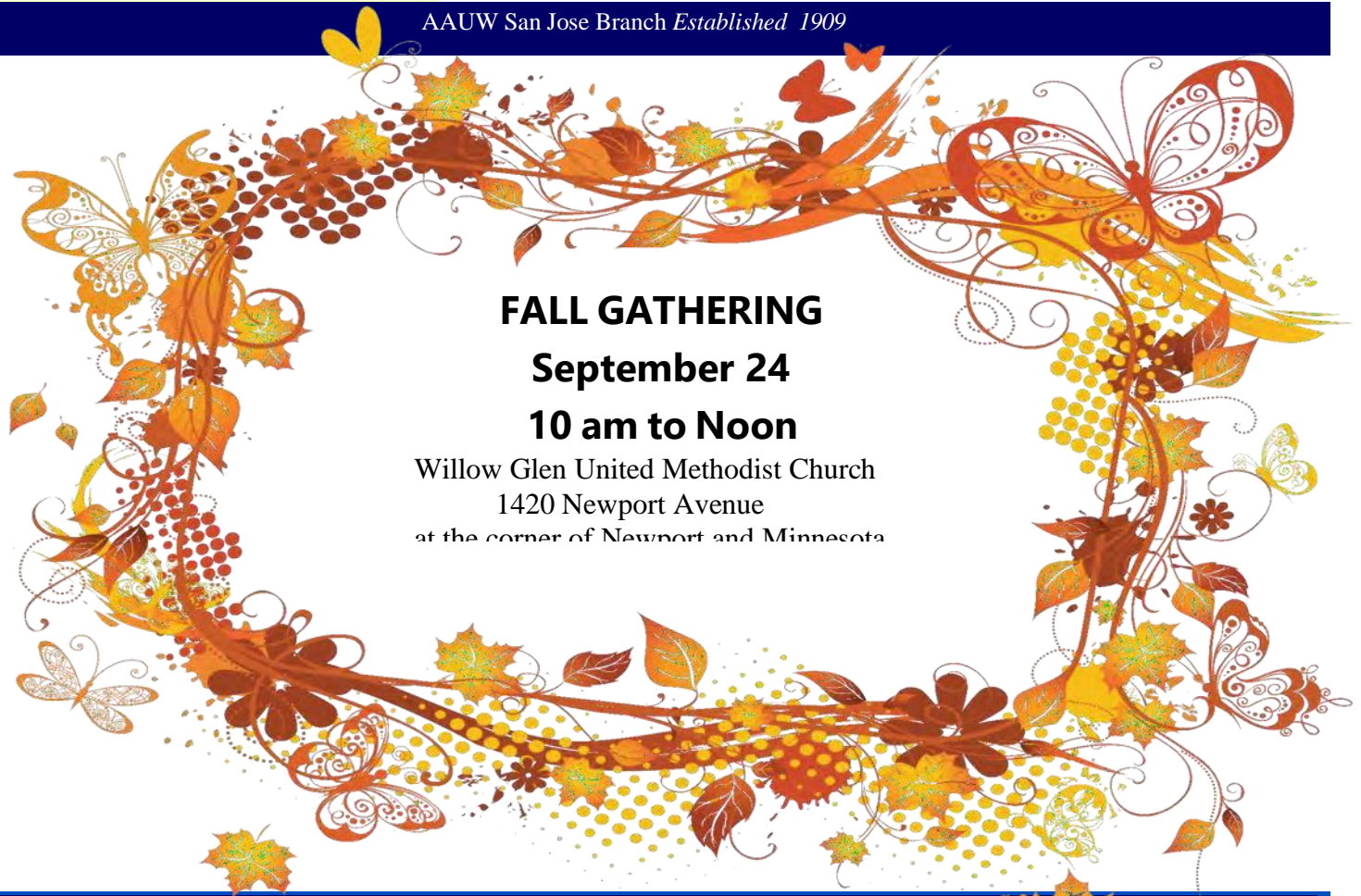
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The sole purpose of this publication is to  
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AAUW San Jose Branch *Established 1909*



**FALL GATHERING**

**September 24**

**10 am to Noon**

Willow Glen United Methodist Church  
1420 Newport Avenue  
at the corner of Newport and Minnesota



*Empowering Women Since 1881*

See the San Jose Branch Website at [www.aauwsanjose.org](http://www.aauwsanjose.org) for more information