

President's Corner

By Sonia Wright



Well, we had the AAUW Fall Gathering and Kick-Off planned, but now we're working on a new date (October is still considered fall). We encourage you to attend the Women's Leadership and Policy Summit on Saturday, September 24 at San Jose State University Student Union.

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This engaging and empowering summit will be filled with mindful activities, educational workshops, and platforms to discuss and share resources for equitable policy changes, leadership development and tools to uplift women.

Full list of workshops and invitation is in the works. For more information:

www.2022womensummit.eventbrite.com



On a personal note, thanks for the cards. We had a memorial in August for the “man of many hats,” my dad, Jim Wright. 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. He had over 150 types of hats which we donned for his send off. This is the bee hat.

Public Policy Committee Promotes Voter Engagement

Susan Karlins, Public Policy Committee

Help meet our goal of 2,500 letters to voters! It takes less than 90 minutes to write 20 letters to voters with AAUW San Jose and Vote Forward. It's very easy -- you receive PDFs of prepared letters, add a personalized sentence about why voting is important to you before you sign (first name only), and then address and stamp the envelopes and mail them when instructed. This is an easy way to encourage voter engagement without having to call or canvass voters. One of our Local Scholarship Recipients, a pre-med student, volunteered to complete 200 this summer because she is "less busy than expected." A Branch member has volunteered to write 20 each week (90 weekly minutes for Democracy!), and another member just adopted 200 letters!

If you would like to join these AAUW sisters and work toward our goal of 2,500 letters by the end of October, contact publicpolicy@aauwsanjose.org for information and to request letters. Thanks to help from the Local Scholarship and Membership committee members, this campaign got off to a great start at the July 23 Coffee and Conversation with our Scholarship recipients. We are now approaching 1,000 letters committed – on our way to 2,500!

Already this summer, Branch members and friends wrote to 600 infrequent Black voters in Florida, encouraging participation in the August primary election. Many thanks to those who wrote and sent postcards!

Neighbors Helping Neighbors Meeting

Bobbie Baker

Neighbors Helping Neighbors will be holding its first meeting for 2022-2023 on Tuesday, September 6 on the back porch of AAUW headquarters. We will begin at 6:00 pm with some appetizers and then begin our meeting shortly after. Our key focus will be to review finances and make plans for the coming year. Questions? Contact Mary Jane or Bobbie at neighbors@aauwsanjose.org.

Getting Too Much From the National Office of AAUW?

By going to aauw.org and clicking in the top right hand Log In button it will take you to a login page. You have to choose a password if this is the first time you've logged in. Then it brings up your Personal Snapshot. Go to the fourth one down on the left, My Preferences, and you can opt In or out of their mailings. The default setting is opting in so you have to click Edit at the top and click all the things you don't want. Whew! I just got rid of a bunch I don't want mailed to me.



A Friendly Reminder from Gifts for Teens

Cheryl Markman, Gifts for Teens

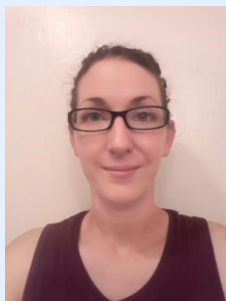
We are asking for donations of \$25 and \$50 store gift cards from Target and Walmart to include in duffel bags for boys and sturdy totes for girls that we distribute to low-income and homeless teens in the San Jose area. Store gift cards allow these teens, who often wear second-hand clothes and shoes, 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 and where to send them, please contact [Beverly Bassett](#). 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" on the memo line, and mail them, to be received no later than September 15, to AAUW San Jose, c/o Jan Giroux, 1165 Minnesota Avenue, San Jose, CA 95125. Thank you!

Where Your AAUW Funds Are Going

AAUW awarded \$6 million in Fellowships and Grants this year to 320 recipients. 49 of these are in California. There will be four Zoom meetings featuring many of these recipients as speakers. You will hear fascinating stories of their research, and branches have an opportunity to schedule some of them as speakers. Registration will start in September for meetings on the following dates (check the [AAUW California](#) website for more): Oct 15, Oct 22, Oct 23, and Nov 12. This is your chance to see where your AAUW Funds dollars go!

Fundraising Calendar for San Jose Branch

- November-December 2022 - the traditional yearly Local Scholarship fundraiser
- February 2023 - AAUW Funds sends a solicitation letter to all branch members
- May and June 2023 - the membership renewal letter, which includes an option to donate to CAPs and the Branch's General Budget
- Cash and gifts-in-kind are solicited throughout the year by Gifts for Teens and Neighbors Helping Neighbors
- AAUW National sends out solicitations 7 out of 12 months of the year. It is your choice whether you want to participate. Keep in mind, it's not your local branch sending these out



An Update on Two-Time Local Scholarship Recipient, Cienna Buckner

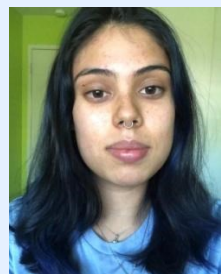
Cheryl Markman

Cienna Buckner, who received her first AAUW Local Scholarship in 2020, received a second one in 2021. She graduated from UC Davis in June 2022, having received a couple of academic awards including a department citation and an outstanding senior award. She continued to intern in the Baumgarth Lab at the Center for Immunology and Infectious Disease for the duration of her senior year, serving a total of 13 months there.

In September, Cienna will be starting her Master's program in Microbiology and Microbial Biotechnology at the University of Helsinki, with the goal of continuing on into a Ph.D. program. She was fortunate enough to be offered a full scholarship plus additional grants to help with relocation and cost of living. She spent the last few months preparing to move herself and her two children (plus two cats!) to Finland. Now they are officially moved and are living in Helsinki, preparing for this next phase in life.

When she has the time and energy, she is an avid reader, likes to get outdoors and go on hikes with her kids, and to travel as much as possible.

Cienna thanks AAUW Local Scholarship for everything our organization has done and continues to do. We wish her the best of luck and success in her exciting new adventure.



An Update on Two-Time AAUW Scholarship Recipient, Reagan Beers

Cheryl Markman, Local Scholarship Committee

Reagan Beers, who received her first Local Scholarship in 2020, received a second one in 2021. She graduated from UC San Diego in June 2022 with a B.S. in Chemistry and will be starting her Ph.D. program in Molecular Engineering at the University of Washington at the end of September. During her graduate career she intends to research materials for environmental applications. Reagan presented a scientific poster at the UCSD ACS-Student Affiliates Conference, where she won the Outstanding Poster Award in the Inorganic Chemistry division.

Currently, she is working as a mentor for UCSD's Research Immersion in Materials Science and Engineering program, where she trains new researchers in scientific communication and how to work on a research project. Although she's not too sure about her career plans yet, her current goal is to work in a Department of Energy National Lab or a military research lab.

For her personal life, Reagan treated herself to a trip to Argentina and Brazil as a well-deserved reward for graduating from college and a last opportunity to travel before starting graduate school.

Workplace Sexual Harassment --[aauw.org/issues/equity/workplace-harassment](https://www.aauw.org/issues/equity/workplace-harassment)

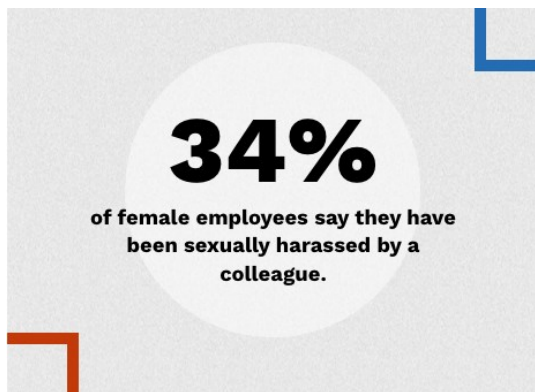
Women are raising their voices about unwanted and unacceptable behavior that creates yet another barrier to their success. Let's make sure those voices are heard!

Why it matters---

The Devastating Impact

As the #MeToo movement made disturbingly clear, sexual assault and harassment persist throughout American institutions and present yet another set of obstacles to women's advancement. And though Title VII protects women in the workplace, one [study](#) found that 34% of female employees say they have been sexually harassed by a colleague. AAUW's recent report, [Limiting Our Livelihoods](#), documents the effects of harassment:

- Threatens women's mental health and physical safety: Psychologists report that sexual harassment can lead to depression and post-traumatic stress disorder. And organizational behaviorists link it to an increased risk of long-term physical health problems.
- Erodes women's short- and long-term economic security: In AAUW's survey, 38% of women who'd been harassed said it contributed to their decision to leave a job early, and 37% said it disrupted their career advancement. When women decrease their hours or leave their job to avoid a harasser, it reduces their wages and ability to save and build wealth.
- Contributes to the leadership gap: Women who attempt to avoid their harasser can miss out on valuable on-the-job training and mentorship — which are critical in helping women rise into leadership positions.



“Do your little bit of good where you are; it is those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.”

— Archbishop Desmond Tutu, South African Anglican bishop & human rights and anti-apartheid activist



HEISING MARY ELLEN

Spotlight on Mary Ellen Heising

Grace O'Leary and Ruth Dusan

How did you discover AAUW SJ?

I joined AAUW SJ Branch in 1966. When I moved with my family to San Jose in 1965, I was already a member of AAUW. I joined in 1957 when we lived in Pennsylvania. My husband worked for GE, and one night I attended a "wives club." Most of the conversation centered on heartburn, diaper rash, and formulas! I was expecting our first child, but I thought there must be something more than this in my future, so when someone asked me that night if I'd be interested in AAUW, saying the word "yes" was a no-brainer.

What do you like most about being a member?

Two things come to mind when I think about what AAUW has given me over these many years. First and foremost, most of my best friends have been members. And, along with these friends, I had the best leadership and team building training one could find anywhere. Our mantra was that whatever you had volunteered to do you gave it your very best. When I returned to the work force, this training provided me with the confidence and experience so essential in leading a fledgling Food Bank - the Second Harvest Food Bank of Silicon Valley.

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

I believe that AAUW is just as important to women today as it was to us when I was active. Women need a safe, challenging and supportive environment where they can learn more about themselves, build lasting relationships and leadership skills while being supportive members of the community. And, all of this can be factored into their time, interests and abilities.

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

I also firmly believe that if the Branch had a more diversified membership, we would all benefit.

We Welcome Our Newest Member

Claire Campodonico

JUDY BLEGEN graduated from the University of California-Santa Barbara with a BA in English. She was referred to our Branch by Peg Carlson-Bowen. Judy's career was in Mergers and Acquisitions at companies including Cisco, SAP and GoDaddy before she retired in 2021. She grew up in Pasadena, has traveled widely, and returned to California in 1997. Judy is passionate about equal opportunity for women and girls. She is married to her husband Bernie and has two adult children.

welcome

September 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.

Thu Sep 1	No Public Policy meeting today (Susan Karlins)
Tue Sep 6	10:30am - 11:30am German Conversation ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder) 6-8 pm Neighbors Helping Neighbors Social first half hour (Bobbie Baker)
Wed Sep 7	6:30pm - 7:00pm AAUW Board Social Hour (Sonia Wright) 7:00pm - 8:30pm AAUW BOARD Meeting (Sonia Wright)
Thu Sep 8	1-4 pm Bridge 2 nd Thursday (RSVP Bobbie Eckerman)
Sat Sep 10	6:30-9:30 pm Couples Dining (RSVP Sharon Potter)
Sun Sep 11	11:30 am-1:30 pm Film Fans (RSVP Linda Snashall)
Mon Sep 12	6:30- 8:30 pm Light Gourmet (RSVP Cheryl Markman)
Tue Sep 13	10-1130 am Book Discussion (Lida Kluzek) 10:30-11:30 am Conversacion Espanol ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder)
Wed Sep 14	11 am-1 pm Art Appreciation (RSVP Jan Bartolotta) 7-830 pm Wednesday Night Book Group (RSVP Renee Sommerfeld)
Thu Sep 15	10 am-12 pm Family History Hybrid (Susan Brundage) 7-8:30 pm Mystery Lovers ZOOM (Sharon Shephard)
Fri Sep 16	10 am-1 pm Bridge (RSVP Lida Kluzek)
Sat Sep 17	7 am-6pm Parking Lot Packing Gifts for Teens (Elaine Benoit)
Mon Sep 19	1-4 pm Interbranch Council (Margaret Bard) 6:30-9 pm International Gourmet (RSVP Jan Bartolotta)
Tue Sep 20	10:30-11:30 am French Conversation ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder) 1-3 pm Knitting Know How (RSVP Margaret McCartney)
Fri Sep 23	1:30- 3:30 pm Local Scholarship To be determined (Tynka Dees)
Mon Sep 26	9:30-11 am Building and Properties Committee (buildings@aauwsanjose.org)
Tue Sep 27	12-1 pm Lunch Bunch (Diana Taylor) 1-4 pm Bridge 4 th Tuesday (RSVP Bobbie Eckerman) 7-8:30 pm Great Decisions PM ZOOM (Sharon Shephard)

San Jose Branch BONFIRE

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AAUW BONFIRE San Jose Branch *Established 1909*



**AAUW Fall Gathering
&
Kick-Off Postponed**

Stay Tuned