



GIVE THE GIFT OF EDUCATION THIS MONTH!!

Local Scholarship

ONLINE Holiday Campaign December 5-9, 2022

Join the AAUW SJ Local Scholarship fundraising campaign. College women need us now more than ever. Yes, our wallets are feeling the pinch of inflation, but college women are among those feeling it the most:

- The rise in college costs has been higher than inflation
- Tuition alone at San Jose State University is over \$8000 per year
- College women carry a disproportionate student debt load
- Women receive low levels of support from non-profits
- Many of our scholarship applicants face language and cultural obstacles that make financial barriers even harder to overcome.
- CA community college students receive only a fraction of the aid received by their peers at other institutions of higher education

Last year donors from our branch and our local community gave \$32,000. Can we do even better this year? Donating is easy and will give you a warm holiday feeling! Our launch date is December 5, 2022. Go to our website <https://sanjose-ca.aauw.net> to access the Local Scholarship Campaign page or scan the QR code below with your phone. DOUBLE the value of your donation with our \$5000 matching fund while it lasts. Donate at least \$100 and you'll be entered in a drawing for fabulous prizes!

- 2-night Santa Cruz Harbor vacation
- Queen size quilt
- Gourmet wine and treats basket from Joseph George Wines
- Fused-glass jewelry and hand-woven scarf set
- Sharks package: tickets and dinner
- Apple wristwatch
- Collection of gift cards to local eateries and markets

Spread the word to family and friends!

If you would like to contribute toward our matching funds contact Tynka Dees momof2star@yahoo.com. Your contribution to matching funds over \$100 also qualifies for the prize drawing.



"Warm Hearts" Donation Drive

November 12 - 10 am to noon

Mary Jane Vitkovich, Neighbors Helping Neighbors

We will be hosting a warm clothing donation drive in the Headquarters parking lot. We are collecting new or gently-worn items (sweatshirts, sweaters, coats, jackets, hats, gloves) for Santa Maria Urban Ministry. Mark your calendars and clean out those closets! Questions? Contact [Mary Jane Vitkovich](#).

San Jose Mayoral Race

Elaine Peterson, Public Policy Committee

Who will you vote for? Who is the best candidate? Those are the questions Public Policy asked this summer. Deciding we needed more information on which to base a well-informed decision, we created a list of 10 questions addressing homelessness, wealth disparity, citizen safety, police recruitment/training and reproductive health that we sent, along with a letter explaining AAUW San Jose's interest in this race, to Mayoral candidates Cindy Chavez and Matt Mahan.

We received responses from both! Their responses are posted on our AAUW San Jose website to help you make an informed decision about the best candidate for San Jose Mayor: <https://sanjose-ca.aauw.net/mayoral-candidate-responses-to-aauw-san-jose-questionnaire/>. Remember to vote on or before November 8, 2022!

Our November Public Policy meeting will take place Wednesday, October 26 via Zoom. Additionally, Public Policy will be presenting on California ballot propositions at the October 29 Fall Event, so come and learn what all those ads don't tell you!



Local Scholarship Recipient in Sondheim's "Into the Woods" at SJSU's Hammer Theatre

Peg Carlson-Bowen



One of our scholars, Kaya (she goes by one name only), will be in "Into the Woods" on November 11, 12, 17-19 (7:30 pm), November 16 (11 am), and November 20 (1 pm). Kaya's voice is one to be heard, so let's go together! Tickets — only \$23 — are selling fast. Get a couple of friends together and buy your tickets directly from [Hammer Theater](#).

I am happy to carpool in the evening on Friday, 11/18, or Sunday, 11/20 at 1 pm (I'm planning on going twice!) Please contact me ([Peg Carlson-Bowen](#)) if you'd like a ride to either of these shows. We will also need other volunteers to drive. Let's show support for our scholarship recipient! (By the way, Kaya is also our College/University Relations chair.)

This play takes everyone's favorite storybook characters and brings them together for a Tony-award winning, timeless, yet relevant, piece. Sponsored by the College of Humanities and the Arts Artistic Excellence Programming Grant. Co-production with the School of Music and Dance.

Please stay home if you don't feel well. They are happy to exchange or refund your tickets due to illness. Face masks are HIGHLY RECOMMENDED for all patrons. Proof of vaccination will NOT be required as of this date, but check the Hammer Theatre website for current protocols.

WHEN SLEEPING WOMEN WAKE,
MOUNTAINS MOVE.
Chinese proverb

AAUW at the Women’s Leadership and Policy Event

Peg Carlson-Bowen



Beverly Bassett and Sharon Bouska



AAUW table at the Resource Fair

Sharon Bouska was on the Steering Committee for this in-person event on September 24, 2022 at SJSU, sponsored by Santa Clara County. “Women’s Rights: Confronting a Crisis Head On” was the theme, and we heard from Stacy Cross, President and CEO of Planned Parenthood Mar Monte (keynote), as well as experts on the implications of the recent Dobbs v. Jackson decision, Reproductive Justice for marginalized communities, Women’s Economic Security, Women’s Overall Health and Well-Being, issues around Birth Options, and how to advocate for women’s rights at the local and national level. Workshops were offered in English, Vietnamese and Spanish, and daycare requests for children were accommodated.

The AAUW table at the Resource Fair was staffed by Sharon Bouska, Beverly Bassett, Leticia Cowan and Peg Carlson-Bowen, and received quite a few inquiries for membership. We will invite these prospective members to the October 29 Fall Event and the November 19 Coffee & Convo, so if you see a new face, please introduce yourself!

2021-22 Legislative Session Closes with Big Wins for AAUW California

Kathi Harper, Chair

AAUW California Public Policy Committee

At the stroke of midnight on September 30, 2022, the 2021-22 legislative session officially came to a close as it marked the Governor's deadline for signing or vetoing bills. The AAUW California Public Policy committee is pleased to announce that we achieved a 70% success rate on the bills on our legislative agenda, and 25 of our 36 bills are now law, including 7 of our 8 top priority bills. The following is a brief synopsis, by each pillar of our Public Policy Priorities:

Economic Security for All Women

8 of our bills were signed by the Governor, 1 was vetoed, and 1 died in the legislature. The most significant bill under this pillar was AB (Assembly Bill) 92, which we co-sponsored. AB 92 was introduced in 2020, and became a 2-year bill, which is why it remained on this year's agenda. This bill originally sought a 1-year waiver of supplemental child-care fees for low-income families, with a request for a sliding scale to be applied thereafter. In his 2021 budget, Governor Newsom included \$120 million for 2-years' worth of waivers. The bill was then amended to request an additional year of waivers through October 2024, with a sliding scale to then be implemented. Unfortunately, the amended bill was vetoed; however, we are still proud of the work we did to get those 2 years of waivers in the budget, so we still consider it a win!

Equal Access to Quality Public Education for All Students

6 of these bills were signed by the Governor, 1 was vetoed, 1 was approved by the legislature (no signature required) and 2 died in the legislature. Of particular note under this pillar are 3 of our top priority bills: AB 1968, which requires campuses to develop and post uniform guidelines for reporting sexual assault; AB 2881 which provides additional support for college students with dependent children; and AJR 23 (Assembly Joint Resolution), a Title IX 50th Anniversary Proclamation.

Social and Racial Justice for All Members of Society

8 of these bills were signed by the Governor, 1 was vetoed, 1 was incorporated by the Governor into an Executive Order, 1 was approved by and 2 died in the legislature. We saw success on all 4 of our top priority bills in this area: AB 1666, which provides protection for those from other states seeking abortions in California, as well as for those providing services here, from the enforcement of a related civil judgment from their home state; SB (Senate Bill) 523, which requires insurance coverage for over-the-counter contraceptive products; SB 1375, which allows certified nurse-practitioners to perform some early-term abortions; and SCA (Senate Constitutional Amendment) 10. SCA 10 was introduced in the Senate as a measure to place a constitutional amendment on the November ballot to enshrine in the California constitution the right to an abortion and to contraception. When this measure passed in the Senate, it became Proposition 1.

To see the results of all the bills on our 2021-22 legislative agenda, check out our webpage for a full agenda summary, here: <https://www.aauw-ca.org/documents/2022/10/results-of-2021-22-legislative-session.pdf/>, or to view our Bill Tracker, here: <https://www.aauw-ca.org/documents/2022/10/bill-tracking.pdf/>.

**DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER! DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!
DON'T FORGET TO TAKE THE PLEDGE TO VOTE "YES" ON PROPOSITION 1!**

An Update on a Two-Time AAUW Local Scholarship Recipient Erika Cortes

Cheryl Markman, Local Scholarship Committee



Erika Cortes received an AAUW Local Scholarship in 2020 and a second one in 2021. She is currently in her junior year in the University of San Francisco nursing program and will be a senior next spring, on track to graduate in the fall of 2023. As she is still interested in becoming a Pediatric Nurse, she plans to do her senior capstone clinical year in behavioral health in Pediatrics.

Outside of her coursework at USF, Erika is doing her clinical hours at Santa Clara Valley Medical Center in San Jose. She also volunteers in Redwood City in an independent home living facility for patients with schizophrenia. Although fulfilling her clinical hours and doing her career-related volunteer work occupies a great deal of her time, Erika manages to find time to volunteer at her church, where she plans activities as a youth leader. And just for fun, she enjoys spending time with her children, going to movies, the park, and Golfland.

An Update on a Two-Time AAUW Local Scholarship Recipient Menely Flores

Cheryl Markman, Local Scholarship Committee



Menely Flores received an AAUW Local Scholarship in 2020 and a second one in 2021. After receiving her second scholarship from AAUW, she had the opportunity to serve as President of San Jose State University's Psi Chi International Honor Society and as Campus Liaison for Hermanx de SJSU for the 2021-2022 academic school year. Menely notes that, "thanks to the support of the generous AAUW scholarship," she was able to take on these roles to further develop her leadership skills, as well as to focus on her schoolwork and finish strong. Through these roles, she was "able to work on a lot of exciting projects to promote student engagement and success, including but not limited to, the Spartan Psychological Association Research Conference. This was an especially important event for Psi Chi, because [they] were able to highlight the many contributions to research from their talented student body within the Psychology Department for the first time in person since the pandemic started."

Menely graduated Magna Cum Laude this past May with a BA in Psychology and a double minor in Forensic Studies and Applied Computing for Behavioral and Social Scientists, officially becoming the first person in her family to graduate from university.

Since graduating, Menely has been actively applying to entry-level job opportunities and internship opportunities to gain more of a competitive edge before she applies to graduate programs next year.

During her free time, Menely enjoys spending time with her family and reading.



Gifts for Teens Successful Bags and Totes Assembly

Cheryl Markman, Gifts for Teens

Thanks to all of the wonderful volunteers who helped fill 312 sturdy totes for girls and 288 duffel bags for boys. These will be distributed in December to low-income and homeless teens via three agencies in the San Jose area. As always, each tote and bag was filled with wonderful items including sweatshirts and pants, t-shirts, pajamas, cosmetics, hygiene products and school supplies "kits," warm apparel and \$50 store gift cards.

600 each hygiene products and school supplies kits were packaged in September in preparation for the final assembly in October. Again, we are very grateful to the Branch for allowing us to use the Headquarters parking lot for the final phase of this year's Gifts for Teens project.

Community volunteers came to us from National Charity League of Blossom Valley, Delta Theta Tau and Xi Iota Zeta Sororities, History Club of Los Gatos, Almaden Valley Women's Club and AAUW San Jose Branch members.

Teen volunteers included students from Pioneer High School Gifts for Teens Club, Leland High School Robotics Club, St. Francis High School Cross Country Track Team and individual students from Notre Dame and St. Francis High Schools.

Once again, we thank all of our wonderful volunteers. We couldn't do this project without you!

New Member Profiles

Claire Campodonico

LILIANE PATEL, a resident of nearby Campbell, first heard of AAUW at a Women's March a few years ago. Recently, she attended one of our Coffee & Convos and decided to join our Branch. Liliane plans to retire in the next several years from her career as a Web Designer. She is planning ahead by networking and developing new interests and friendships. Liliane earned her MA at the Université de Caen in France.

SUSANNE BOHL is a returning member after a lapse of several years. She obtained her MS in Information Studies from New York's Syracuse University. Susanne is employed by Coldwell Banker as a realtor. Interest groups that intrigue her are German Conversation and Couples Gourmet. We all welcome her back, and give a hearty thanks to member Elaine Benoit for encouraging Susanne to rejoin our Branch.

HELEN GENDLER has also delighted us by renewing her membership at our recent Coffee & Convo. Rest assured Helen that we all missed you during your one-year absence. We are so glad that you have reaffirmed your commitment to our mission. Welcome back!

welcome

Spotlight on Diana Taylor

Ruth Dusan and Grace O'Leary



How did you discover AAUW San Jose?

I learned about AAUW when I was a high school senior in our small town in New Mexico and was chosen by the local branch as an AAUW Girl of the Month. We were selected based on our academic achievements and plans to attend college. I decided that membership in AAUW was a goal I would aspire to. Fast forward 10 years, I finally had time to join the branch in Orange County, CA. When we found out we would be moving to San Jose, the president of the branch said SJ was one of the biggest, the best and most forward-thinking branch in California. I could hardly wait to join this branch and have been so happy with my association with this great bunch of challenging and supportive women.

How long have you been a member of AAUW?

I joined in Orange County in 1972, so that makes this year my 50th — a member of AAUW SJ for 47 years.

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

We moved around a lot the first 10 years of our marriage and AAUW was my first meaningful connection to a new community. The members were always so well informed and involved in the community. I love that this group of accomplished women challenges me in every way. Being with them is so energizing.

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

Just pray that we can meet and work together in person again very soon.

What would you like members to know about you?

I was the oldest of 5 children in a military family and first in the family to graduate college after working and paying my way 100%. Two years later, I married my high school sweetheart and worked to help pay off his college loans. We joke that he is still paying me back 58 years later. I must mention my adult children. Neither ever got arrested, both pay a lot of taxes, both graduated from college, have successful careers and all of their children attend or graduated from college.

How would you like to be remembered?

As someone who treasures my AAUW friends and supports the goals and mission of AAUW. I held several board and committee positions before becoming president during the 75th anniversary of the branch. Also, I chaired the 75th year History Book committee, the 100th year History Book committee, and the Archives Committee.

NOVEMBER 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	Nov 1	10:30-11:30 am	German Conversation ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder)
Wed	Nov 2	5:30 -6 pm	AAUW Board Social Hour (Sonia Wright)
		6- 7:30 pm	AAUW BOARD Meeting ZOOM (Sonia Wright)
Thu	Nov 3	7-8:30 pm	Public Policy Committee ZOOM (Susan Karlins)
Mon	Nov 7	6:30-8 pm	Neighbors Helping Neighbors (Bobbie Baker)
Tue	Nov 8	10-1130 am	Book Discussion AM The Song of the Jade Lily by Kirsty Manning (Lida Kluzek)
		10:30-11:30 am	Conversacion Espanol ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder)
Wed	Nov 9	11 am-1 pm	Art Appreciation (RSVP Jan Bartolotta)
		7-830 pm	Wednesday Night Book Group Four Treasures of the Sky by Jenny Zhang (RSVP Renee Sommerfeld)
Thu	Nov 10	1-4 pm	Bridge 2 nd Thursday (RSVP Bobbie Eckerman)
Sat	Nov 12	6:30-9:30 pm	Couples Dining (RSVP Karen Hook)
Sun	Nov 13	11:30 am-1:30 pm	Film Fans (RSVP Linda Snashall)
Mon	Nov 14	6:30- 9:30 pm	Light Gourmet (RSVP Cheryl Markman)
Tue	Nov 15	10:30-11:30 am	French Conversation ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder)
		1-3 pm	Knitting Know How (RSVP Margaret McCartney)
Thu	Nov 17	10 am-12 pm	Family History Hybrid (Susan Brundage)
		7-8:30 pm	Mystery Lovers Time To Be Determined Death at La Fenice By Donna Leon (Sharon Shephard)
Fri	Nov 18	10 am-1 pm	Bridge (RSVP Lida Kluzek)
		1:30- 3:30 pm	Local Scholarship Hybrid (Tynka Dees)
Sat	Nov 19	10 am-12 pm	Prospective Members and Member Meeting Coffee and Conversation Back porch (Membership@aauwsanjose.org)
Mon	Nov 21	9:30-11am	Exploring World Literature Hybrid The Doctors Blackwell by Janice Nimura (RSVP Diana Taylor)
		1-4 pm	Interbranch Council (Peg Carlson-Bowen)
		6:30-9 pm	International Gourmet (RSVP Jan Bartolotta)
Tue	Nov 22	1-4 pm	Bridge 4 th Tuesday (RSVP Bobbie Eckerman)
Mon	Nov 28	9:30-11 am	Building and Properties Committee (Paul Bowen)

San Jose Branch BONFIRE

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AAUW BONFIRE San Jose Branch *Established 1909*



Coffee & Conversation for All Members **November 19 - 10 am to noon**

Prospective & New Members especially welcome!

For new and prospective members, we will cover the highlights of what AAUW San Jose Branch has to offer you: community involvement, advocacy for women and girls, support for education, and interest groups to form new friendships! For ALL members, come connect with those you've missed!

We follow all Santa Clara County Public Health guidelines, which were recently relaxed. We can meet inside in inclement weather, or we'll set up outside with shade if it's nice!