



President's Corner

By Sonia Wright

I've been reflecting on yet another waning calendar year and thinking about what I want to accomplish in 2023. At work I'm mentoring a couple of new skilled development officers. They understand the fundraising world, but need the acculturation to our organization. I would like to do the same for AAUW. We have members who might like to build on leadership skills within the safety of AAUW. Leadership in our branch can be shared among a group, lightening the load for everyone. Below are the nine core skills you can develop in AAUW. Additional resources for each of these nine categories are available on the old [AAUW.org website](http://AAUW.org) under resources and leader essentials. (I don't know about you, but I find their new website difficult to use.)

- 1. Vision and Strategy:** Develops concrete, mission-aligned goals using a big-picture standpoint
- 2. Goals and Resources:** Uses project planning and management skills to drive work
- 3. Motivation and Inspiration:** Actively recruits new members and builds member buy-in on strategic vision and mission
- 4. Engagement and Inclusion:** Supports participation and retention in welcoming and inclusive ways
- 5. Leadership Development:** Identifies and prepares future leaders and coordinates transfer of organizational knowledge
- 6. Team Building:** Builds a stable team environment that supports collaboration
- 7. Communication:** Markets strategically and speaks and writes persuasively about AAUW's mission
- 8. Strategic Relationships:** Collaborates with key community stakeholders and other AAUW entities
- 9. Self-Development:** Assesses own strengths and weaknesses and seeks opportunities to improvement

New Member Profile

Claire Campodonico

AMY GUIMOND recently joined our Branch as a dual member. She joined online via National AAUW. Amy now resides in Phoenix, Arizona where she is a member of her local Branch there. In what is becoming more and more common, Amy works remotely for Invision Analytics which has its corporate offices in San Jose, CA. Her goal is to stay informed as to our goings-on in Santa Clara County. Amy, we are so glad you have joined us!

Soon, we'll be having a paragraph about each of our new members who joined during the Coffee & Convo on Nov. 19. We welcomed Pam Bustillo, Jane Hills, Elisa Koss-Ginsborg, Candace Roney, Erika Engebretson and Beth Redmond.

welcome



Give the Gift of Education

December 5 - December 9, 2022

Join the Local Scholarship Committee and its online campaign to raise money for 2023 scholarships. You may have read the stories of our 2022 recipients in the BONFIRE or heard experiences from Lisette and Chloe at the Fall Gathering! The class of 2022 recipients are amazing. Their majors: Ethnic Studies, Political Science, Biology, Business Administration, Nutrition, Nursing, Psychology, Mechanical Engineering, Finance, Media Law, Creative Writing, Adolescent Education, Musical Performance, Liberal Studies, Biochemistry, Zoology, Meteorology, Asian American Studies. Their schools: SJSU, CSU-Monterey Bay, UCLA, UCSB, SFSU, UCSD, Stanford, UC-Berkeley, Biola, Samuel Merritt University, SCU, and Northeastern University.

The cost of a college education has doubled over the last generation. Because of AAUW research, we know that women take longer to repay their student loans. While there is still some uncertainty about how the Federal Student Loan Relief program will work, there is certainty that the more money AAUW San Jose can raise for exceptional women who value education, will be money well spent.

Donating is easy. The Campaign will go live online on November 25, 2022. Go to our [website](#) (or Google "AAUW San Jose"), select the Local Scholarship dropdown under the Education tab on the homepage to access Campaign details of how to donate and to see pictures of all the prizes. Or scan this QR code with your phone.



You can donate with just one click through Pay Pal or with a credit card. Or you can mail a personal check made payable to AAUW-ISPF; write Local Scholarship on the memo line.

DOUBLE the value of your donation with our \$5,000 matching fund. No donation is too small! Donate at least \$100 and enter a drawing for fabulous prizes:

2-night Santa Cruz Harbor vacation package

Joseph George gift basket with high-end wines and accoutrements

Fine jewelry and hand-woven silk scarves

Apple watch

Sharks tickets and dinner package

Shop Till You Drop wreath filled with gift cards provided by AAUW San Jose Interest Groups

To be eligible for the prize drawing, online donations and checks must be submitted by December 9, 2022. Drawing for prizes will be held Saturday, December 17, 2022. Winners will be notified no later than December 17 by email or phone.



A Banner Year for Gifts for Teens

Cheryl Markman, Gifts for Teens



Gifts for Teens completed a very successful project yet again this year! We assembled 600 very abundant bags, our best holiday bags ever. Almost bursting at the seams with the best contents we have ever given out, each bag was worth about \$350. The donated cosmetics for the girls are amazing and each guy will have a thick hoodie and a pair of cozy sweatpants. Each teen will receive a \$50 store gift card as well as fast food cards. The bags were distributed to Sacred Heart Community Service, Bill Wilson Center and Advent in October for distribution to their clients this month. A sincere thanks to all of you who helped to make this happen, either by donating, volunteering or helping in any other way. We wish all Branch members and community volunteers a very Happy Holiday season.



Fleece Blankets for Project Linus

Mary Jane Vitkovich, Neighbors Helping Neighbors

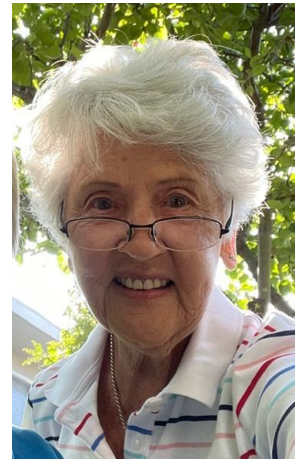


NHN members gathered on November 7 to make cozy blankets for Project Linus, a national organization which distributes fleece blankets for children in crisis situations. Our "finger crocheting" skills came in handy and made for a lively meeting.

We look forward to the coming months as we support our partner nonprofits. A big "thank you" to all our members who generously contribute donations so we can give back to the community.

Spotlight on Carol Fitting

Ruth Dusan and Grace O'Leary



How did you discover AAUW San Jose?

I grew up on the East coast, where I was privileged to attend 9 years of Quaker schooling at the Baltimore Friends School. My own family of four, husband and two baby boys, moved to San Jose in 1967, when my mother gifted me with a membership into the SJ Branch! Meeting so many like-minded women and because of its emphasis on choice, diversity, equity for women, girls, and education on all levels, AAUW became a major part of my life.

How long have you been a member of AAUW?

I joined the Association Life Member folks the year of my Branch presidency, 1997-1998; now I am an Honorary Life Member as well.

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

I was/am enriched by our intelligent, vibrant, involved, dynamic members. Owning our 1911 Headquarters Building in Willow Glen is a real plus.

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

I can't imagine anything that would improve the feelings of camaraderie, unity and friendship that striving for the same goals brings.

How would you like to be remembered?

Besides being married for 60 years and raising three functioning, contributing adult children, I'm proud of the 18 years (1985-2003) that I spent researching, writing and publishing a genealogy of my maternal grandfather's family, from Luxembourg in 1867 to MN. I'm also proud that I carried petitions, successfully gathering signatures, allowing CA women limited legal abortion rights, BEFORE Roe v. Wade. I've been a competitive swimmer, scuba diver, downhill skier, world traveler, avid reader, serious hiker, besides working full time for 15 years as a business travel consultant. I'm currently involved in Democratic politics, writing literally hundreds of post cards and letters. I'm extremely concerned about climate change and our dysfunctional, in-jeopardy Republic.

What would you like members to know about you?

I like to think of myself as ever curious and always learning, outgoing and friendly, generous and giving, interesting and interested, truthful and pragmatic. So — hopefully that's how I'll be remembered!

DECEMBER 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.

Sat Dec 3	2-4 pm	Holiday Party (Bobbie Baker)
Sun Dec 4	8:30-10 am	Weekend Walkers (Judy Burt)
Tue Dec 6	10:30-11:30 am	German Conversation ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder)
	12-1:30 pm	Lunch Bunch (Diana Taylor)
Wed Dec 7	5:30 -6 pm	AAUW Board Social Hour ZOOM (Sonia Wright)
	6- 7:30 pm	AAUW BOARD Meeting ZOOM (Sonia Wright)
Sat Dec 10	6:30-9:30 pm	Couples Dining (RSVP Karen Hook)
Sun Dec 11	8:30-10 am	Weekend Walkers (Judy Burt)
	11:30 am-1:30 pm	Film Fans (RSVP Linda Snashall)
Mon Dec 12	6:30- 9:30 pm	Light Gourmet (RSVP Cheryl Markman)
Tue Dec 13	11:45 am – 1 pm	Book Exchange/Lunch AM (RSVP Lida Kluzek)
	10:30-11:30 am	Conversacion Espanol ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder)
	1-4 pm	Bridge 2 nd Thursday (RSVP Bobbie Eckerman)
Wed Dec 14	11 am-1 pm	Art Appreciation (RSVP Jan Bartolotta)
Fri Dec 16	10 am-1 pm	Bridge (RSVP Lida Kluzek)
Sat Dec 17	10:30 am- 12:30 pm	Local Scholarship Drawing (Tynka Dees)



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AAUW BONFIRE San Jose Branch *Established 1909*

AAUW San Jose Hawaiian Holiday Party

December 3 - 2-4 pm

Break out the mumus and iron up your Hawaiian shirts cause you are invited! We will be celebrating the season on Saturday, December 3, from 2-4 pm at Headquarters. Enjoy ukulele music while sipping tropical punch and sampling Hawaiian treats. Prizes will be awarded for best Hawaiian attire. Come, join the fun! Aloha!