



President's Corner

By Sonia Wright

I read several weekly philanthropy newsletters for my job. One of them is *Nonprofit AF* written by consultant *Vu Le*. His newsletter is a little wacky in that it's often sarcastic with a sprinkling of truthful advice. At the beginning of the year, he did 12 predictions for nonprofit philanthropy for 2023.

I think #9 is prescient. It reads:

"9. The beginning of the end of the traditional board model: Frustration around the traditional board model reaches tipping point. More and more executive leaders will call for "nuking the entire system!" Terrified and/or excited and/or indifferent, boards will agree to try out radical new models. Minimally, viable boards, community boards, co-ops, and other structures will increasingly be in the spotlight. Robert's Rules will fall out of favor. Monthly meetings give way to quarterly or annual meetings. There will be some failures and many lessons learned. Many board members, facing an existential crisis brought on by these changes, will exit boards and join cults."

Okay, maybe our board members exiting won't be joining cults, but they're leaving to do other things.

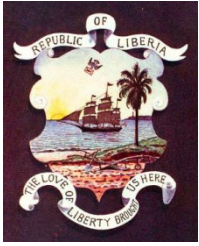
Universally, I think boards and expectations for serving are changing. Our own board has not been able to fill the traditional President and President-Elect roles for a year, and no one is stepping forward to volunteer this next year. The Nominating Committee is trying to fill our traditional slate of roles. Even AAUW National has changed over the last few years. There are only a few legally-required positions now. According to the AAUW Bylaws, affiliates, such as state organizations and branches, are required to have only two officers: president and finance chair. The president/administrator conducts the business of AAUW and develops, implements and oversees AAUW activities within the affiliate and community. The other branch positions they list by name and describe are Fund Chair, STEM Chair and Finance Officer.

Are we ready for a change?

Sunnyvale-Cupertino AAUW Branch 'Sisters in Crime'

This webinar will take place on Wednesday, February 8 at 7 pm , and will be a fundraiser for the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF). We are fortunate to have Michele Drier and Vinnie Hanson who will discuss their books as well as the elements that keep us turning the pages until the wee small hours. Interested in learning more about these authors? Plan on joining for a fascinating evening. As this is a major fundraiser for the Legal Advocacy Fund, the suggested donation is \$15. Simply write a check to AAUW Funds, with LAF on memo line and including your email and mail it to Caroline Hui, 1655 Sparrow Ct., Sunnyvale, CA 94807.

The link will be sent out on Tuesday, February 7.



A Window to the World: Liberia

Monday, February 20

9:30 am

AAUW San Jose Headquarters and on Zoom

This year, the Exploring World Literature Interest Group is reading books about and by famous women. February's subject is Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, a Nobel Peace Prize recipient and the first female president of Liberia, just after a civil war. Also joining us will be member Diane Trombetta, who lived in Liberia as a teenager, and whose essay is included in a new book called, "Never the Same Again: Life, Service and Friendship in Liberia." We invite members who don't belong to this Interest Group to join us, either at Headquarters or on Zoom. If you are interested, please email exploringworldlit@aauwsanjose.org for the

Neighbors Helping Neighbors Donation Drive

Saturday, February 11

10 am - 12 pm

Help us provide our neighbors with the dignity of hygiene. We will be collecting items at AAUW San Jose Headquarters for local community partner, Sacred Heart Community Service.

Open up your heart and donate any of the following:

Diapers - size 4, 5, 6

Pull Ups - size 4, 5, 6

Feminine hygiene items - tampons and sanitary pads

Adult Depends

Warm clothing continues to be needed at Santa Maria Urban Ministry. **Donations of gently worn coats, jackets, scarves, gloves will be collected until March 4.** Bins will be located in the Parlor.

Questions? Contact Mary Jane Vitkovich.

Tech Trek Is Gearing Up for Summer STEM Camps

Cheryl Markman, Tech Trek



Although we are just at the beginning of a new year, members of the San Jose branch Tech Trek CAP are already thinking about the summer. Not about summer vacations, but about the annual STEM camps sponsored by the AAUW CA Tech Trek organization. Founded in 1998 by AAUW CA member Marie Wolbach, Tech Trek celebrated 25 years in 2022.

Tech Trek consists of one-week STEM summer camps held on college campuses across the state and nationwide. The campers stay in dorms on campus and attend hands-on classes on various STEM topics. This is most definitely a not-to-be-forgotten experience for those students fortunate enough to attend a camp.

To qualify for the camp, math and science teachers nominate 7th grade girls for the opportunity to attend Tech Trek. The students complete an application and write an essay on an assigned STEM topic. Members of each branch's Tech Trek committee review the applications and essays, interview the students and select who is best qualified to attend the camp. Branch members donate the funds to sponsor students for the camp.

This year Tech Trek is offering both a residential camp and a virtual camp. We would like to send eight girls to a residential camp at Sonoma State University. Four schools have signed up to nominate students for the opportunity to attend the camp: Renaissance Academy at Fischer, Renaissance Academy at Mathson, University Preparatory Academy and Muwekma Ohlone Middle School. Due to the popularity of the camps, space at the residential camps is limited. Unfortunately, this may result in our having to reduce the number of girls that we can send.

The aforementioned student interviews will take place at each of the schools in March. Any AAUW members interested in participating as an interviewer, please send an email to techtrek@aauwsanjose.org.

2023 Public Policy Events

Susan Karlins, Public Policy Committee

Our Branch Public Policy activities are underway for 2023! On March 20 and 21, we will participate in AAUW California's Lobby Days by meeting with our State Senators and Assemblymembers to promote AAUW CA priority legislation for 2023. Later in the Spring, we will begin our One Person/One Bill program to support California legislation that best aligns with AAUW's priorities. You are invited to participate even if you don't attend Public Policy meetings. Throughout this year there will be opportunities to reach out to voters through postcards and letters. Yes, even in 2023, we will be involved in voter engagement, sending postcards and letters to voters of color in states like Virginia which hold off-year statewide elections. We'll be on the lookout for local and national issues with relevance to our vision and goals.

Most recently, we updated the list of Santa Clara County Title IX Coordinators on our website - see [Title IX Coordinators 2022-2023](#).

Public Policy meets the first Thursday of the month at 7 pm on Zoom. We kick off each meeting with a quick action. For questions, contact [Public Policy](#).

Opportunities for KINDNESS in February



Kathy Myers, Carol Fitting and Past Presidents,
Peg Carlsen-Bowen and Sharon Bouska

Kathy Myers brought this opportunity to explore KINDNESS from AAUW-CA: Join author and descendant Janice Munemitsu for the intimate story of how the kindness of friends and strangers provided hope and strength to persevere against unjust treatment. *The Kindness of Color is a true story of perseverance, unity, and hope. It follows two immigrant families facing separate battles with racism in WWII-era Southern California. In the face of tremendous discrimination, the Mendez and Munemitsu families are sustained by the simple yet harrowing acts of kindness extended to them by friends and strangers as they navigate their difficult journeys toward justice. It is this kindness that encourages their hearts, opens paths to solutions, and creates communities of support - all highlighting the beauty and power of The Kindness of Color. As their paths intertwine, their lives and experiences paved the way for the 1947 landmark court case Mendez, et al v. Westminster and the desegregation of California public schools, seven years before Brown v. Board of Education.*

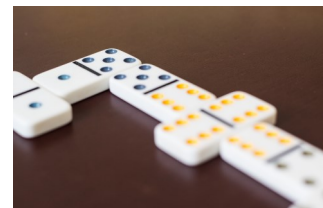
While this webinar took place on January 10, 2023, please check the AAUW CA website as [webinars](#) can be revisited. If not, you may enjoy reading about this important part of our California History.

Carol Fitting shared one of her favorite quotes, attributed to Jane Goodall: "You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make." As Carol says, deciding to impact the world with a kindness decision does make all the difference.

We have received many great quotes and sayings and will use them in future BONFIRES. If you would like to share something, please send your message to [Sharon Bouska](#) or [Peg Carlson-Bowen](#).



Game Day
Wednesday, February 15
1:30 pm - 4 pm and 6:30 pm - 8 pm
AAUW San Jose Headquarters



The entire Branch is invited to an afternoon or evening of games. We'll have games available such as Yahtzee, dominoes and Scrabble, or you can bring your favorite game to share. Snacks will be provided. Come to either or both sessions! It will be a wonderful chance to play and visit and have some good fun.

Local Scholarship Holiday Campaign Results 2022-23

Diane Trombetta and Tynka Dees, Local Scholarship Committee

The Local Scholarship (LS) online fundraiser was, once again, a remarkable success thanks to the generosity of Branch members and the local community. We are grateful to all of you who donated money to help women complete a college education. In a year when inflation affected all our pocketbooks, we were able to raise \$21,585 -- \$16,510 from members and \$5,075 from non-members! Online donations were \$14,235 and checks were \$7,350. The campaign generated an additional grant of \$10,000!

Thank you to everyone who helped make this fundraiser such a success: to the LS Fundraising Committee members who spent hours editing and updating the website content, designing advertising, writing BONFIRE articles and emails, and organizing the prize drawing and data collection, and to the generous LS members who donated matching funds and exceptional prizes.

The lucky winners in the 2022 Local Scholarship Holiday Campaign prize drawing are:

Giftcard Wreath - Nancy Wheeler

Giftcard Wreath - Shirley Karabian

Joseph George Wine Basket - Edna Robison

Handcrafted Scarf and Jewelry Ensemble - Mary Jane Vitkovich

Handcrafted Scarf and Jewelry Ensemble - Jason Landis

Sharks Tickets and Dinner - Peg Carlson-Bowen

Apple Watch - Richard Hughes

Santa Cruz House Stay - Cheryl Markman

Our online LS fundraisers, developed in response to the Covid lockdowns, have also opened the door for online donations to ALL Community Action Projects (CAPs). The donate "buttons" are live on our website homepage, one for each CAP. Donors can use a debit card, a credit card, or PayPal to support our tax-deductible CAPs. Now, when a friend or colleague asks "How can I donate?" you can simply direct them to our [website](#).

Save the Date

Third Wednesday Program

March 15 at 2 pm

Mark your calendars for a presentation by a Community Outreach specialist entitled "Financial Fraud and Common Scams" covering various topics concerning threats to personal finance and other security topics.

Spotlight on Lida Kluzek

Ruth Dusan and Grace O'Leary

This in-person interview was conducted by Ruth Dusan and was edited/approved by Lida and Grace. I hope we were able to capture the essence of Lida.

How did you discover AAUW San Jose?

Lida Kluzek: I was returning from Tucson, AZ and I rented a house on Newport. I very promptly discovered the AAUW house on Minnesota. I saw that they were having a meeting, so I went over and asked to have my membership transferred from Tucson to the San Jose branch.



How long have you been a member of AAUW?

I have been a member over sixty years — first in 1960 then the SJ branch in 1992. I am a 50-year member, with my 50-year badge, and 50-year members do not pay dues at any level.

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

I like the people that are in AAUW and the things that we stand for. And, when I originally joined in Palo Alto, I had three young children and they had a very well-organized babysitting service as part of their AAUW operation.

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

I think the way the membership committee works right now is that they are doing a great job. They try to make it very easy for new people to find a spot that they want to embrace after they pay their dues and become a member. And all the interest groups and service groups that are available are another plus. Our AAUW House (Headquarters) is so important to our branch. I was a member of the Building Committee for two terms and was chairperson when the lift was installed on the back porch. I never dreamed I'd be around at 95 years old and using the lift.

What would you like members to know about you?

I have been a member of four different branches: Palo Alto, Los Gatos-Saratoga, Tucson, AZ, and San Jose. They're all different and they all have goals that appeal to me such as improving women's education, voting rights, and pay equity. I was born and grew up with four sisters on my father's farm, 16 miles from Musselshell, Montana. After attending high school there, I went to Montana State at Bozeman for my BS degree.

How would you like to be remembered?

I'd like to be remembered as a person who loves to play bridge and had other interests that were satisfied by AAUW. I've always belonged to book groups in each of the branches and worked on special projects. I've really enjoyed working on the Archives Committee to document the history of the San Jose branch.

February 2023

Submitted by Tynka Dees Calendar Editor:

Santa Clara County has removed our mask requirement for indoor meetings. 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 Feb 1	5:30 -6 pm	AAUW Board Social Hour ZOOM ((Sonia Wright))
	6- 7:30 pm	AAUW BOARD Meeting ZOOM ((Sonia Wright))
Thu Feb 2	7-8:30 pm	Public Policy Committee ZOOM (Susan Karlins)
Sun Feb 5	8:30-10 am	Weekend Walkers (Judy Burt)
Mon Feb 6	10 am-1 pm	Bridge 1 st Monday (RSVP Bobbie Eckerman)
	6:30-8 pm	Neighbors Helping Neighbors ZOOM (Bobbie Baker)
Tue Feb 7	10-11 am	German Conversation ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder)
Wed Feb 8	11 am-1 pm	Art Appreciation (RSVP Jan Bartolotta)
	7-830 pm	Wednesday Night Book Group The Island of Sea Women by Lisa See (RSVP Renee Sommerfeld)
Thu Feb 9	9:30-11 am	Great Decisions AM Hybrid (Monique Lee)
	1-4 pm	Bridge 2 nd Thursday (RSVP Bobbie Eckerman)
Fri Feb 10	10 am-2 pm	Duplicate Bridge (RSVP Lida Kluzek)
Sat Feb 11	6:30-9:30 pm	Couples Dining (RSVP Karen Hook)
	10 am-12 pm	Neighbors Helping Neighbors Parking lot drop off (MaryJane Vitkovich)
Sun Feb 12	8:30-10 am	Weekend Walkers (Judy Burt)
	11:30 am-1:30 pm	Film Fans (RSVP Linda Snashall)
Mon Feb 13	6:30- 9:30 pm	Light Gourmet (RSVP Cheryl Markman)
Tue Feb 14	10-1130 am	Book Discussion AM The Last Nomad by Shugri Salh (Lida Kluzek)
	10-11 am	Conversacion Espanol ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder)
Wed Feb 15	1:30-4 pm	Game Day (Bobbie Baker)
	6:30-8 pm	Game Day (Bobbie Baker)
Thu Feb 16	10 am-12 pm	Family History Hybrid (Susan Brundage)
	7-8:30 pm	Mystery Lovers ZOOM The Dark Wind by Tony Hillerman (Sharon Shephard)
Fri Feb 17	10 am-1 pm	Bridge (RSVP Lida Kluzek)
Sun Feb 19	8:30-10 am	Weekend Walkers (Judy Burt)
Mon Feb 20	9:30-11am	Exploring World Literature Hybid Madam President by Helene Cooper and Never the Same Again: Life, Service and Friendship in Liberia (RSVP Diana Taylor)
	6:30-9 pm	International Gourmet (RSVP Jan Bartolotta)
Tue Feb 21	10-11 am	French Conversation ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder)
	1-3 pm	Knitting Know How (RSVP Margaret McCartney)
Thu Feb 23	9:30-11 am	Great Decisions AM Hybrid (Monique Lee)
Fri Feb 24	1:30- 3:30 pm	Local Scholarship Hybrid (Tynka Dees)
Sat Feb 25	10 am- 12 pm	Prospective Members and Member Meeting Coffee and Conversation Back porch (Membership@aauwsanjose.org)
Sun Feb 26	8:30-10 am	Weekend Walkers (Judy Burt)
Mon Feb 27	9:30-11 am	Building and Properties Committee (Paul Bowen)
Tue Feb 28	12-1:30 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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February 2023

AAUW BONFIRE San Jose Branch *Established 1909*



Coffee & Conversation

Saturday, February 25

10 am to noon

AAUW San Jose Headquarters

Come join us for coffee (or tea), morning snacks and a relaxed time to learn about AAUW San Jose. For new and prospective members, we cover the highlights of what AAUW San Jose Branch has to offer: community involvement, advocacy for women and girls, support for education, and interest groups to form new friendships. We hold these regularly – usually on the last Saturday morning of the month – and welcome all. Current members, come connect with those you've missed and share your experiences.

AAUW San Jose Headquarters is located next to the Willow Glen Library – look for the blue house with the red-wood trees. We can meet on our back porch and in the parking lot (weather permitting) or inside. If we meet inside, we follow all Santa Clara County Public Health guidelines, which were recently relaxed. Of course, if you wish to mask, please do so.



Empowering Women Since 1881

See the San Jose Branch Website at www.aauwsanjose.org for more information.