

**President's Corner****By Sonia Wright**

Though AAUW San Jose is nonpartisan, we are not values-neutral. We fight to remove the barriers and biases that stand in the way of gender equity and train women to negotiate for pay and benefits and to pursue leadership roles.

Our Branch has committed to developing young leaders by providing two scholarships to AAUW's National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL), May 31 - June 3 at University of Maryland College Park.

Last week, I read the student applications and wished we could send more students. Their past and current leadership roles inspired me. One of them founded a Pre-Veterinary Society at SFSU, one led her school to transform an unused bathroom into the school's "Giving Closet," one wrote about ethical empowerment, and another served as her community college student government president.

NCCWSL is where hundreds of young women come to turn a moment into a movement. Each year, hundreds of college women from around the country come together for three days of leadership training, inspiration and networking. They enter the conference as passionate leaders and leave it with the skills and confidence to pursue their goals.

I look forward to hearing the reports from this year's recipients, Chloe Ettinger and Anaalicia Baiz. Additionally, I want to give a shout-out to Kaya, our College/University Rep, who created the application and promoted it to campus women successfully through social media.

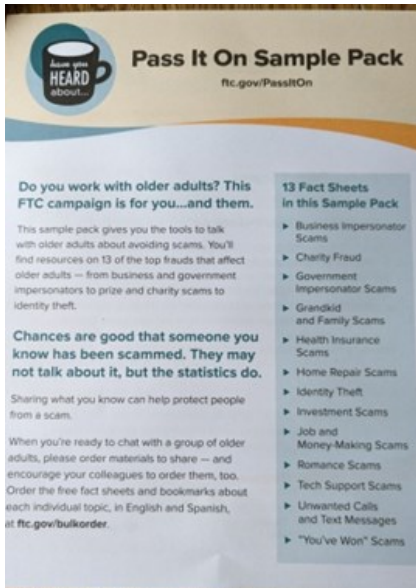
NOTE: If you're a 50-year member, please let Nell Aiello, our Handbook/Directory editor know. We want to update it in our handbook/directory if you're not listed.

Condolences to Pamela Dougherty on the recent passing of her mother Alma Powell. Alma joined AAUW when Pam joined AAUW 20 years ago. She was our first member interviewed for our column [San Jose Branch Member Spotlight in August 2022](#).



Important Websites Noted by the FBI on Frauds and Scams

Bobbie Baker, Programs



Two FBI agents spoke on March 15 to 28 Branch members and guests. Important websites that they noted were:

[IC3](https://www.ic3.gov) (Internet Crime Complaint Center) – a website to report any suspicious or fraudulent activity.

<https://consumer.ftc.gov/features/pass-it-on> – a website with a wealth of information and resources on fraud and scams. You can order the Pass It On Sample Pack with 13 sheets of information on fraud and scams for no charge.

www.tips.fbi.gov is the best place to report fraud and other scams.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Bobbie Baker and Mary Jane Vitkovich, NHN



Save the Date

June 5 from 6 to 8 pm at AAUW Headquarters

You are invited to the annual Neighbors Helping Neighbors June Soiree! Volumes of vino, carloads of carbs, a few healthy options and a community speaker will be featured.

Come to nibble, indulge and socialize! Open to the entire Branch membership, and including friends and neighbors. A donation drive will be available; more information to come. Hope to see you there!

Co-chairs: Bobbie Baker and Mary Jane Vitkovich

Final Report of Nominating Committee 2023

Anne Wustrow, Nominating Committee

The following slate of officers is recommended by the Nominating Committee to the membership for the 2023/24 AAUW San Jose Board:

President - Linda Goldberg
 President Elect - Tynka Dees
 Immediate Past President - Sonia Wright
 Finance Officer - Katherine Oven
 Treasurer - Julia Howlett
 Secretary - Judy Blegen
 Program Vice President - Ruth Dusan
 Membership Co-Vice President - Leticia Cowan
 Membership Co-Vice President - Peg Carlson-Bowen
 Membership Co-Vice President - Bobbie Baker
 Membership Co-Vice President - Margaret Bard
 Membership Treasurer - Renee Sommerfeld
 AAUW Funds Vice President - Mary Jane Vitkovich
 Building and Properties Chair - Wendy Foote; 1 open position
 Gifts for Teens Chair - Elaine Benoit
 Local Scholarship Chair - Sharon Bouska, Tynka Dees
 Public Policy Chair - Susan Karlins, Elaine Peterson
 Neighbors Helping Neighbors Chair - Bobbie Baker, Mary Jane Vitkovich
 Tech Trek Chair - Karelle Cornwell, Anne Wustrow
 Interest Group Coordinator - Elaine Peterson

The Nominating Committee included Sarah Janigian, Monika Ryser, Ruth Dusan, and Anne Wustrow. The committee began meeting the week of January 16 and met each week for approximately 1.5 hours.

Public Policy Update

Susan Karlins, Public Policy Committee

In March, AAUW San Jose members and friends wrote 750 postcards to Black and Latina voters in Wisconsin to encourage participation in the April 4 State Supreme Court election. In March and April, AAUW San Jose Public Policy organized and led four AAUW CA Lobby Day teams, meeting with State Assemblymembers Pellerin, Low and Berman and State Senator Cortese. All meetings were via Zoom and two were directly with the legislators. Lobby Day teams were led by Elaine Peterson, Peg Carlson-Bowen, Candace Roney and Susan Karlins.

AAUW Public Policy member Ashley Dargert provided leadership on the AAUW CA team that reviewed legislation and chose 30 bills for us to support this year. In April, we are beginning our One Person/One Bill effort to write letters of support for some of these priority bills.

AAUW California State Public Policy Committee Sets 2023-24 Legislative Agenda

by Kathi Harper, State Public Policy Chair

The State Public Policy Committee, in conjunction with our Public Policy Advocate Kathy Von Osten (KVO), has completed their selection of the 30 bills that the committee and KVO will be working on this year. This year our bills fall into the following categories from the 3 pillars of our Public Policy Priorities:

- 8 “Economic Security” bills
- 11 “Public Education” bills
- 21 “Social Justice” bills
- 8 “reproductive justice” bills
- 5 “healthcare” bills
- 5 “freedom from violence” including sex exploitation, DV, stalking bills
- 1 “gender-identity protection” bills
- 2 “voting rights” bills

The committee then selected our top three priority bills, including at least one bill which we will co-sponsor (“A” bills). KVO will spend most of her time working on these bills, including working with the authors’ offices, attending committing hearings, and writing letters of support. These are also the three bills members will advocate for in their Lobby Days visits. We then selected three next-level bills (“B” bills), which are important but not as resource intensive. The remaining 24 bills will be handled as “C” level bills. Here is a look at our top three bills:

AB1394 – This is our co-sponsored bill. It would allow victims of child sexual exploitation and trafficking to sue a social media platform for between \$1 million and \$5 million if the victim can prove the platform design knowingly, recklessly or negligently facilitated the use of code words for sexual predators to describe the type of child and the type of sexual activity that resulted in the act of exploitation.

SB287 - Would prohibit a social media platform from using a design, algorithm, or feature that the platform knows, or should know, causes child users to: purchase fentanyl; inflict harm on themselves or others; develop an eating disorder or engage in dangerous dieting; purposely take their own lives; and/or experience addiction to the social media platform. A victim of any of these consequences can sue the platform for up to \$250,000 for each violation.

AB549 - Requires all state agencies to conduct an evaluation of all their departments to ensure the state does not discriminate against women, and report their findings every two years.

“What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.”

– Jane Goodall

welcome

New Member Profile

Claire Campodonico

A resident of Monte Sereno, KELLY WEISBERG studied at Brandeis University, where she earned her PhD in Sociology in 1976. She also earned her JD from UC Berkeley in 1979. Having taught at UC Hastings for almost 40 years, she is now enjoying retirement. Kelly has written a treatise on domestic violence for District Attorneys across the U.S. and has also written text books for various law schools. She now teaches classes in Stress Reduction and Mindful Eating. She is a dual member with the AAUW Los Gatos-Saratoga Branch.

Kindness Corner for May

Sharon Bouska and Peg Carlson-Bowen

As we come to the end of our 2022-2023 AAUW year, our "Kindness Corner" will feature quotes from worldwide leaders concerning kindness. We thank you for your support and kindness shown to others. We have seen that kindness is one of those words that cannot be defined by just a few.

"Kindness is an important aspect of dialogue and dialogue is indispensable to live in peace, to live as brothers and sisters who do not always agree but who nevertheless speak to each other, listen to each other, try to understand each other, and move towards each other. What would the world be like without the patient dialogue of generous people who keep families and communities together? Unlike disagreement and conflict, courageous dialogue does not make headlines, but helps to keep the world together. Kindness then, is a part of dialogue: it is not only an issue of good manners, it is not a question of etiquette or of courteous behavior ... no, this is NOT what we mean when speaking of kindness; instead, it is a virtue to be retrieved and practiced every day in order to go against the tide and to humanize our societies." Pope Francis





Spotlight on Jean Wyatt
Ruth Dusan and Grace O’Leary

This in-person interview was conducted by Jan Bartolotta. Jan and Grace, we thank you for making this interview happen.

How did you discover AAUW San Jose?

Jean Wyatt: When I was in high school one of my teachers wore an AAUW jacket and we thought it was a sport jacket. To our surprise, it wasn’t!

How long have you been a member of AAUW?

I have been a member for over 50 years. To expand my commitment to AAUW, I am an Association Life Member. This means that I prepaid my national dues for life. I also joined the Legacy Circle, which means I have made provision for AAUW in my estate planning.

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

What I like most is meeting people I would never have met in my regular routine. I have enjoyed a wide variety of activities through the years. Early on for me there was play reading sponsored by the AAUW-CA. AAUW-CA sent multiple copies of plays to read aloud in groups. We’ve come a long way in media.

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

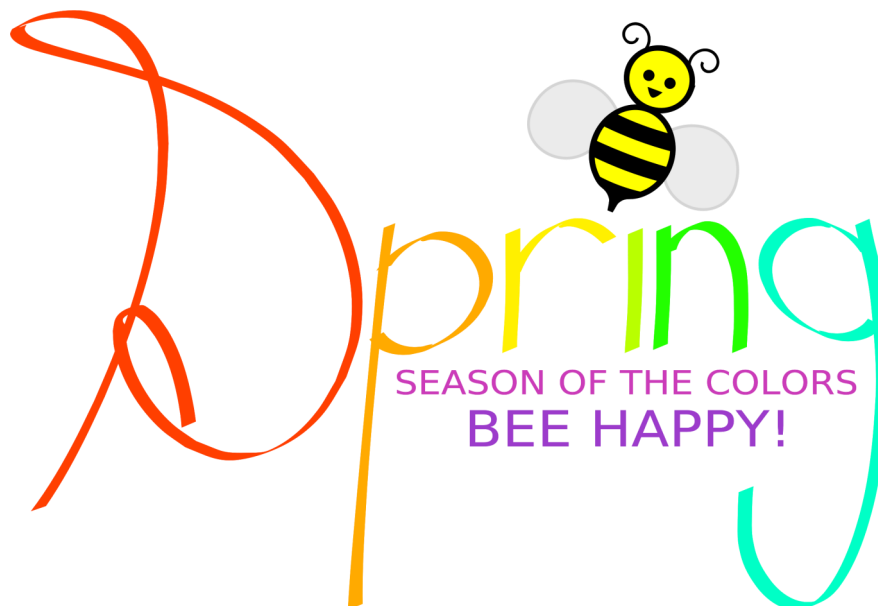
We can improve membership by advertising more widely and making sure people know that they don’t have to be invited.

What would you like members to know about you?

I am mostly very good natured, I have a good memory, and am a good storyteller. I’m a cat lover! And, I’ve also served as Branch President from 1995-1996.

How would you like to be remembered?

I am pleasant to be around.



May 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.

Mon May 1	10 am-1 pm	Bridge 1 st Monday (RSVP Bobbie Eckerman)
	6:30-8 pm	Neighbors Helping Neighbors (Bobbie Baker)
Tue May 2	10-11 am	German Conversation ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder)
Wed May 3	5:30-6 pm	AAUW Board Social Hour ZOOM ((Sonia Wright))
	6-7:30 pm	AAUW BOARD Meeting ZOOM ((Sonia Wright))
Thu May 4	2-3 pm	Great Decisions AM Master Class Video Presentation (Monique Lee)
	7-8:30 pm	Public Policy Committee ZOOM (Susan Karlins)
Mon May 8	6:30- 9:30 pm	Light Gourmet (RSVP Cheryl Markman)
Tue May 9	10-11:30 am	Book Discussion AM American Dirt by Jeanine Cummins (Lida Kluzek)
	10-11 am	Conversacion Espanol ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder)
Wed May 10	11 am-1 pm	Art Appreciation (RSVP Jan Bartolotta)
	7-8:30 pm	Wednesday Night Book Group A Day Like This by Kelley McNeil (RSVP Renee Sommerfeld)
Thu May 11	9:30-11 am	Great Decisions AM Hybrid (Monique Lee)
	1-4 pm	Bridge 2 nd Thursday (RSVP Bobbie Eckerman)
Fri May 12	9:30 am-2 pm	Duplicate Bridge (RSVP Lida Kluzek)
Sat May 13	6:30-9:30 pm	Couples Dining (RSVP Karen Hook)
Sun May 14	11:30 am-1:30 pm	Film Fans (RSVP Linda Snashall)
Mon May 15	9:30-11 am	Exploring World Literature Hybrid The Book of Hope by Jane Goodall (RSVP Diana Taylor)
	6:30-9 pm	International Gourmet (RSVP Jan Bartolotta)
Tue May 16	10-11 am	French Conversation ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder)
	1-3 pm	Knitting Know How (RSVP Margaret McCartney)
Thu May 18	10 am-12 pm	Family History (Susan Brundage)
	2-3 pm	Great Decisions AM Master Class Video Presentation (Monique Lee)
	7-8:30 pm	Mystery Lovers Back to the Garden by Laurie King ZOOM (Sharon Shephard)
Fri May 19	10 am-1 pm	Bridge (RSVP Lida Kluzek)
Sat May 20	10 am- 12 pm	Annual Meeting (Bobbie Baker)
Mon May 22	9:30-11 am	Building and Properties Committee (Paul Bowen)
Tue May 23	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)
Thu May 25	9:30-11 am	Great Decisions AM Hybrid (Monique Lee)
Fri May 26	1:30- 3:30 pm	Local Scholarship Hybrid (Tynka Dees)

San Jose Branch BONFIRE

Published monthly except for July by AAUW

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San Jose, CA 95125-3324

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Distribution: Sonia Wright & Linda Guyer

Change of Address: Katherine Oven

BONFIRE ARTICLE SUBMITTAL RULES: The sole purpose of this publication is to convey the association's business to membership. Only articles and announcements related to Branch business will be considered.

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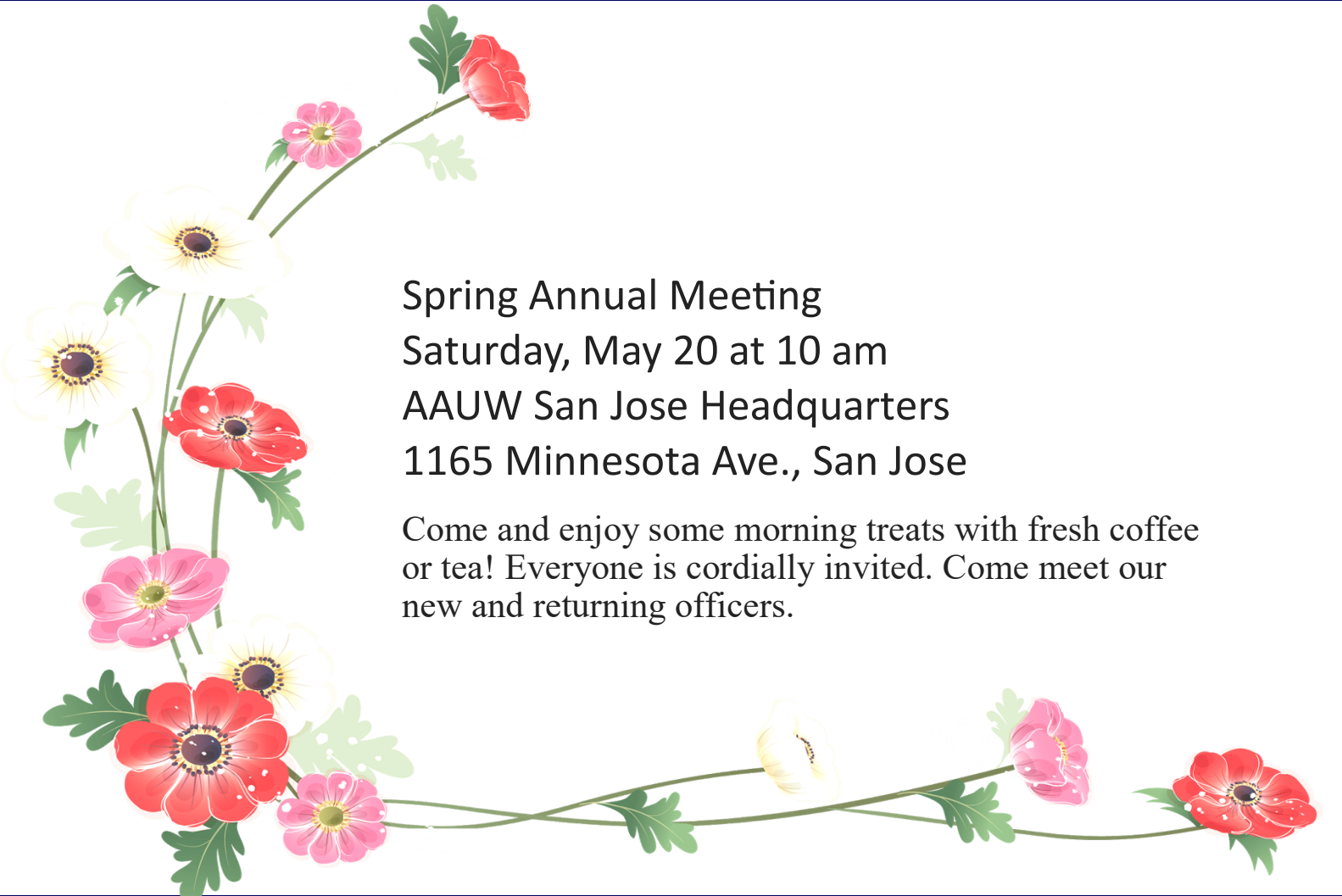
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March 2023

AAUW BONFIRE San Jose Branch *Established 1909*



Spring Annual Meeting
Saturday, May 20 at 10 am
AAUW San Jose Headquarters
1165 Minnesota Ave., San Jose

Come and enjoy some morning treats with fresh coffee or tea! Everyone is cordially invited. Come meet our new and returning officers.



Empowering Women Since 1881

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