

You are Cordially Invited to the Neighbors Helping Neighbors Annual June Soiree

When: Monday, June 5, 6 - 8 pm

Where: AAUW San Jose Headquarters

What: Learn about our local farmworkers from our speaker,
Darlene Tenes, founder of *Farmworker Caravan*

How to Help: Donate women's underwear and sports bras to our
donation drive (any size and color). Items may also be dropped off
prior to the event.

What to Do: Socialize, listen, nibble, sip and enjoy a summer
evening.

We will be serving vegetable and fruit-based appetizers to
recognize the contribution of our local farmworkers!

Contact [Mary Jane Vitkovich](#) if you have any questions.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors News

Once again, our members showed their generosity with large contributions during our NHN drive on April 22. Numerous donations of peanut butter and cereal filled up a car and were delivered to Santa Maria Urban Ministry in downtown San Jose. Thank you for your support!



Kim Pugh and Bobbie Baker



President's Corner

By Sonia Wright

Did you get a yellow postcard from AAUW? I got two of them. AAUW has partnered with PCI (Publishing Concepts) to conduct a comprehensive member data verification project for their Oral History Project. The project's goal is to collect stories from our members to memorialize the history of AAUW through the years. This is an opportunity for you to share your personal experiences with AAUW and how the organization helped shape your life

Participation in this project is purely voluntary and you are NOT obligated to purchase any products to update your member information or to share your story and be a part of the Oral History Project. You can find all the [Frequently Asked Question here](#).

Wow, my second year as president of the San Jose Branch is nearly over. Before I know it, I'll turn the leadership reigns over to newly-elected president Linda Goldberg. It has been great to be your president these last two years. I want to thank our amazingly talented board members who shared the responsibility of leadership this last year by creating the Board agendas and running the meetings. Many hands made light work. I really could not have done it without their help.

These last two years have been crazy for me personally as I cared for my mom through her end of life, then cared for my dad through his end of life, organized two life celebrations and took their urns to Idaho to be buried. I'm still in the process of executing their estate because not all their assets were Transfer on Death, so I'm having to work through the probate process, not to mention eventually cleaning out the house with my sister. Additionally, at work I have a new Associate VP, plus five new colleagues who lean on me for guidance because I'm the senior member of our team. I'll still be around, as I've agreed to be the Parliamentarian for Linda this next year, and I'm continuing my role as BONFIRE Editor (unless someone steps forward and wants to do this job), and continuing to provide guidance to our College/University Rep, Kaya.



Third Wednesday Program

Bobbie Baker, Neighbors Helping Neighbors

On June 21, there will be a program presented by Rose Maria Beebe and Robert M. Senkewicz from the University of Santa Clara, entitled "Testimonios: Early California through the Eyes of Women, 1815 -1840." They will present 13 women's firsthand accounts of life in California during the time when California was part of Spain and Mexico.

Please join us at Headquarters at 6 pm for a short Summer Solstice gathering with refreshments. The talk will follow at 6:30 pm.

Mark Your Calendars for June 24 Membership Renewal Party

The membership renewal packets (including the opportunity to make a donation to AAUW San Jose's Community Action Projects (CAP)] were sent out in mid-May to all members who need to renew for the coming fiscal year.

The packet contents are hard to miss — an orange renewal form and a green CAP donation form! Instructions are also provided for those who wish to renew online with a credit card. Please return your completed form(s) and your check(s) by June 15, 2023.

But if you miss the June 15 deadline, don't despair! The Membership Team is inviting all members (even those who do renew by June 15) to a "prevening" (pre-evening) Renewal Party at Headquarters from 4 to 6 pm on Saturday, June 24. Bring your forms and checkbook or credit card and you can renew on the spot! Appetizers and beverages will be served.

The Membership Team's names and phone numbers are provided on the renewal forms. Don't hesitate to contact them if you have any questions or concerns. We look forward to seeing many of you on June 24!



Gifts for Teens – It's That Time Again

Cheryl Markman, Gifts for Teens

Several members of the Gifts for Teens committee, our intrepid shoppers, are already hard at work buying all the wonderful items that will fill the duffels and totes to be distributed later this year. And, as always, we can use your help.

Once again, we are asking for donations of gift cards from Target, Kohl's and Walmart. Gift cards of any amount are welcome. A total of \$50 worth, including those from the aforementioned stores plus fast-food eateries and others, will be included in each duffel and tote. Please send your gift card donations to Beverly Bassett at her home address, which is in the Branch directory.

If you prefer to donate cash, which we will then use to purchase additional gift cards, go to www.gifts4teens.org and click on the Donate button to use a credit or debit card or the PayPal option. Alternatively, you can send a check, made payable to ISPF – AAUW San Jose, Gifts for Teens, to AAUW – Gifts for Teens at 1165 Minnesota Avenue, San Jose, CA 95125. As with the store gift cards, no amount is too small!

Office Space Available for Lease

Building & Properties Committee



Unique Suite 200 is seeking a new tenant beginning in September. Branch member Pat Diamond is looking at new horizons and will be vacating the Headquarters upstairs space. If you have not seen the spacious, light, open office space, please ask any Building & Properties member to arrange a tour for you.

The space is large, and the lease is very reasonable with 2-3 parking spaces. Access is by our recently redone outside staircase. Solar panels on our roof make the electric bill almost null. It has a kitchenette and half bath. This space can be available 24/7. Perhaps YOU can help us find our new tenant!



Tech Trek Campers on Their Way

Cheryl Markman, Tech Trek

Members of the Tech Trek Committee finalized the 2023 Tech Trek STEM Camp selection process in March. The schools that participated are University Preparatory Academy, Muwekma Ohlone Middle School, Renaissance Academy at Fischer, and Renaissance Academy at Mathson. Our selection process involved evaluating the information on the student's application, their essay on the topic "How would you use math and/or science to make the world a better place?" and an in-person interview.

As always, the difficult part was deciding which girls to send to camp; we were all impressed with the girls, their interest in STEM and their poise during the interview. After much discussion, we chose six girls to send to an in-person camp at Sonoma State University, and two to attend virtual Tech Trek. At least one girl from each school was selected to attend Tech Trek at Sonoma State University. The girls who have been selected and their parents are now busy completing all of the forms for the camp.

Inter Branch Council (IBC) will sponsor an Ice Cream Social at our Branch Headquarters on Sunday, June 4 for the campers and their parents. This will be an informative meeting for them to talk about what Tech Trek camp is like, what to bring (and what not to bring) to camp, and to answer any questions about Tech Trek that they have.

Help Preserve our Branch History!

Diane Trombetta, Building & Properties Committee

The Building & Properties Committee has begun an exciting cleanup of Headquarters' shelves and cabinets. CAPs, Interest Groups and committees are clearing out documents which are not needed currently or are outdated. We want to identify the documents which should be kept and archived at History San Jose. We need volunteers to help determine which materials should be kept and which should be tossed. We have excellent guidelines for this work thanks to Diana Taylor, whose Archive Committee saved Branch documents and memorabilia dating from our founding to 2000. This job will be much easier! Questions? Contact [Diane Trombetta](#).

Public Policy Update

Susan Karlins, Public Policy Committee

In April, Public Policy members wrote a letter of support and provided testimony to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors for the CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women) ordinance — which was approved. We also wrote nine letters of support to the California legislature on behalf of bills supported by AAUW CA. These include:

AB 1054 Berman: Pupil instruction: high schools: computer science
 AB 1057 Webster: California Home Visiting Program
 AB 1393 Calderon: Student Aid Commission: California Dream Act applicants: Food Support Pilot Program
 AB 260 Santiago: Community colleges: part-time employees
 AB 718 Ta: Veterans: mental health
 AB 789 Berman: Student financial aid: Cal Grants: satisfactory academic progress
 SB 257 Portantino: Health care coverage: diagnostic imaging
 SB 376 Rubio: Human trafficking: victim rights
 SB 521 Smallwood-Cuevas: CalWORKS: pregnancy or parenting

To learn more about our CA legislative efforts go to <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1XxWRw4XVPbG7Jm15woKnrDstkYXU1ab7ELIRZJRjvxs/edit#gid=2036600528>

“Women are leaders everywhere you look—from the CEO who runs a Fortune 500 company to the housewife who raises her children and heads her household. Our country was built by strong women, and we will continue to break down walls and defy stereotypes.”

Nancy Pelosi



UPDATE ON MARIJA MIJUSKOVIC PAST LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Cheryl Markman, Local Scholarship Committee

Marija Mijuskovic received an AAUW Local Scholarship in spring 2022. She is currently enrolled at Biola University in Whittier, California, where she has been on the Dean's List throughout her time there. Marija expects to graduate with a Bachelor's degree in Public Health in the spring of 2024 and a Master's degree in Public Health in the spring of 2025. She also intends to pursue a PhD in Nutrition, although she has not yet decided where.

In addition to her academic pursuits, Marija is also a student athlete, competing in water polo. Besides playing for her school, she is part of the Serbian National team. She also played for Red Star, a professional team in Belgrade, Serbia. Her dream is to start a water polo camp in Bali, noting that Bali is a dream destination for many people around the world. Marija explains that when she was a child, she participated in a water polo camp in Malta. She had a great time there and met many people from all around the world. It was a wonderful experience because she began to learn English, played water polo and had a lot of fun. There are not many camps like that and she wants to create one for young water polo players where they can have great experiences connecting with people from all around the world, playing the sport they love, all while learning and having fun.

Marija's goal is to travel to every country in the world. In pursuit of that goal, once she has obtained her PhD in Nutrition, Marija envisions herself traveling around the world speaking to audiences of all ages. She wants to educate people on the importance of being active, eating healthily, and practicing a positive mindset. She hopes to help young adults build healthy habits early in life. She also believes that it is never too late to start improving one's health.

Besides her involvement in water polo, Marija works as a Teaching Assistant for the chemistry lab, is a swim instructor, likes to explore nature and have adventures, and enjoys playing chess. She is a very well-rounded young woman!





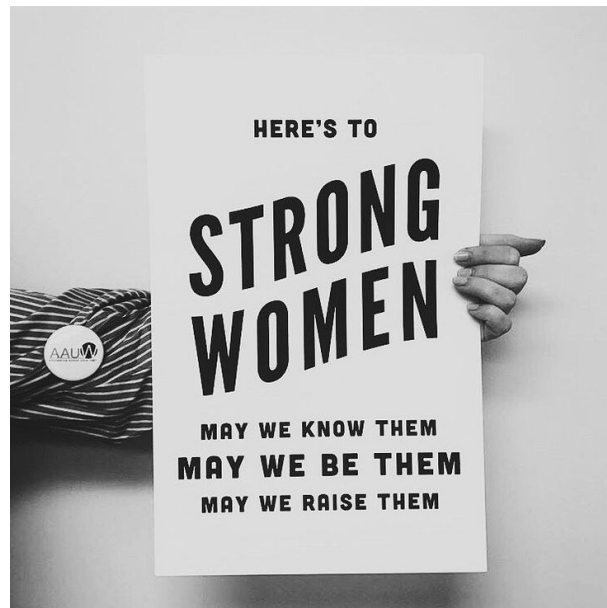
UPDATE ON BEREKET KEBEDE PAST LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

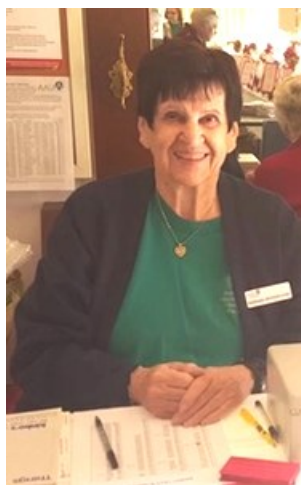
Cheryl Markman, Local Scholarship Committee

Bereket Kebede received an AAUW Local Scholarship in spring 2022. Having transferred from De Anza College, she is currently enrolled at the University of California, San Diego, studying Communications with a concentration in Law. She expects to graduate in June 2024 with a Bachelor’s degree in Communications and a minor in Political Science. Bereket’s extracurricular activities on campus include the Undergraduate Communication Society, East African Student Association, and Black Student Union. She’s excited for the school year ahead to enter leadership roles on campus.

After graduating from UC San Diego, Bereket plans to take some time to work in order to gain professional experience, interning at media and law offices. Her goal is to go to law school to pursue Media Law, a subject that combines her interest in media and the legal system surrounding it. She notes that Media Law is a relatively newer field of law and she’s happy to be a part of its growth. Her career goal is to work at a law firm as a media lawyer, working to stop the spread of misinformation in our country. She hopes to stay in Southern California, preferably in the Los Angeles area, because for this profession it’s a great city to be in.

Something Bereket wants us to know about her is that she loves watching thriller movies and TV shows. She says she “absolutely lives for the suspense of it all; it makes her feel like an amateur detective trying to figure out who is behind the mystery.” In her free time, she enjoys reading books and, because she attends school in what they call “America’s finest city,” she loves spending time at the beach and exploring San Diego. She also wants us to know that she is so grateful to the women of AAUW for the scholarship from Local Scholarship because it would not have been possible for her to attend UCSD without their generous support.





Spotlight on Barbara Bettencourt

Ruth Dusan and Grace O’Leary

A huge thank you to Bobbie Baker and Peg Carlson-Bowen for help in interviewing Barbara Bettencourt and providing her responses. Barbara also planned to support AAUW through the Legacy Circle and Association Life Membership.

How did you discover AAUW San Jose?

Barbara Bettencourt: That's a hard question, but I bet I asked someone who looked interesting and got informed.

How long have you been a member of AAUW?

I haven't the foggiest idea, but a long time ago — like maybe more than 40 years ago.

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

When you move to a new area, it's a way to get to know people. I liked being a member of several interest groups like Great Decisions, Light Gourmet, and two book discussion groups. I enjoyed my contributions to Local Scholarship when I saw the result of the fundraising in the number of scholarships given to deserving students at the college level. I was in charge of collecting the donations and income because I had a cashbox!

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

I think the Coffee and Conversation program that started this past year is one idea to use many times over. Maybe that old COVID-19 had one useful outcome. It's nice to be able to do as much or as little as you want. The more you do, the more you'll get out of it. "It's an organization that actually does things."

What would you like members to know about you?

My husband and I loved to travel. We also enjoyed visiting wineries and drinking fine wine!

How would you like to be remembered?

I was the founder, together with Diane Syversen, of the current NHN community action project. I remember, when we started this project, each member attending the meeting would give \$5, which would be used to feed neighbors and buy items for those in need.

June/July 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.

- Thu Jun 1 7-8:30 pm Public Policy Committee ([Susan Karlins](#))
- Sun Jun 4 All Day Tech Trek Ice Cream Social Orientation ([Karelle Cornwell](#))
- Mon Jun 5 10 am-1 pm Bridge 1st Monday (RSVP [Bobbie Eckerman](#))
- 6-8 pm Neighbors Helping Neighbors Annual Soiree ([Bobbie Baker](#)) with drive for sports bras and women’s underwear
- Tue Jun 6 10:30-11:30 am German Conversation ZOOM (RSVP [Barbara Snyder](#))

Wed Jun 7	5:30-6 pm 6-7:30 pm	AAUW Board Social Hour Old/New Board (Sonia Wright) AAUW BOARD Meeting Old/New Board (Sonia Wright)
Thu Jun 8	1-4 pm	Bridge 2 nd Thursday (RSVP Bobbie Eckerman)
Fri Jun 9	9:30 am-1 pm	Duplicate Bridge (RSVP Lida Kluzek)
Sat Jun 10	6:30-9:30 pm	Couples Dining ((RSVP Karen Hook))
Sun Jun 11	11:30 am-1:30 pm	Film Fans (RSVP Linda Snashall)
Mon Jun 12	6:30- 8:30 pm	Light Gourmet (RSVP Cheryl Markman)
Tue Jun 13	10-1130 am 10:30-11:30 am	Book Discussion Silicon Valley Reads (Lida Kluzek) Conversacion Espanol ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder)
Wed Jun 14	11 am-1 pm 7-830 pm	Art Appreciation (RSVP Jan Bartolotta) Wednesday Night Book Group The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison (RSVP Renee Sommerfeld)
Thu Jun 15	7-8:30 pm	Mystery Lovers ZOOM The House across the Lake (Sharon Shephard)
Fri Jun 16	10 am-1 pm	Bridge (RSVP Lida Kluzek)
Mon Jun 19	9:30-11 am	Exploring World Literature Hybrid (Diana Taylor)
Tue Jun 20	6:30-9 pm 10:30-11:30 am 1-3 pm	International Gourmet (RSVP Jan Bartolotta) French Conversation ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder) Knitting Know How (RSVP Margaret McCartney)
Wed Jun 21	6-8 pm	“Testimonios: Early California through the eyes of Women 1815-1848 “ Solstice refreshments at 6 pm talk begins at 6:30 pm (Bobbie Baker)
Fri Jun 23	11:30 am- 1:30 pm	Local Scholarship Meeting Potluck (RSVP Tynka Dees)
Sat Jun 24	4-6 pm	Member Renewal Party Back Porch (Membership)
Mon Jun 26	9:30-11 am	Building and Properties Committee (Paul Bowen)
Tue Jun 27	12-1:30 pm 1-4 pm 7-8:30 pm	Lunch Bunch (Diana Taylor) Bridge 4 th Tuesday (RSVP Bobbie Eckerman) Great Decisions PM ZOOM (Sharon Shephard)
Mon Jul 3	10 am-1 pm	Bridge 1 st Monday (RSVP Bobbie Eckerman)
Tue Jul 4	10:30-11:30 am	German Conversation ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder)
Wed Jul 5	All Day 5:30-6 pm 6-7:30 pm	Electrical Work in Basement AAUW Board Social Hour To Be Determined (Linda Goldberg) AAUW BOARD Meeting To Be Determined (Linda Goldberg)
Thu Jul 6	7-8:30 pm	Public Policy Committee ZOOM (Susan Karlins)
Sat Jul 8	6:30-9:30 pm	Couples Dining (RSVP Karen Hook)
Sun Jul 9	11:30 am-1:30 pm	Film Fans (RSVP Linda Snashall)
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Wed Jul 12	11 am-1 pm	Art Appreciation (RSVP Jan Bartolotta)
Thu Jul 13	1-4 pm	Bridge 2 nd Thursday (RSVP Bobbie Eckerman)
Fri Jul 14	9:30 am-2 pm	Duplicate Bridge (RSVP Lida Kluzek)
Mon Jul 17	6:30-9 pm	International Gourmet (RSVP Jan Bartolotta)
Tue Jul 18	10:30-11:30 am 1-3 pm	French Conversation ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder) Knitting Know How (RSVP Margaret McCartney)
Thu Jul 20	7-8:30 pm	Mystery Lovers Potluck Beach Reads (Sharon Shephard)
Fri Jul 21	10 am-1 pm	Bridge (RSVP Lida Kluzek)
Mon Jul 24	9:30-11 am	Building and Properties Committee (buildings@aauwsanjose.org)
Tue Jul 25	12-2 pm 1-4 pm 7-8:30 pm	Lunch Bunch TBA (RSVP Diana Taylor) Bridge 4 th Tuesday (RSVP Bobbie Eckerman) Great Decisions PM ZOOM (Sharon Shephard)
Fri Jul 28	1:30- 3:30 pm	Local Scholarship To Be Determined (Tynka Dees)
Sat Jul 29	10 am-12 pm	Local Scholarship Reunion with Member & Prospective Members Coffee and Conversation Back Porch (Membership@aauwsanjose.org)

San Jose Branch BONFIRE

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March 2023

AAUW BONFIRE San Jose Branch *Established 1909*



Celebrating AAUW SJ Scholarship Recipients

Diane Trombetta (for Membership and Keep In Touch Committees)

Join us for a special Coffee and Convo on Saturday, July 29, 2023, 10 am-noon, in the Headquarters parking lot. We will host past and present recipients of our Local Scholarship awards: Our own AAUW SJ scholars! Meet and mingle with dynamic, dedicated, delightful young women who have overcome major obstacles to fulfill their dreams of higher education. Enjoy meeting women who have benefited from your support of women's education through your membership in AAUW SJ. Come and connect with our future leaders and innovators! Refreshments and a prize drawing make this a real party. Questions? Contact membership@aauwsanjose.org or [Diane](#).



Empowering Women Since 1881

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