

President's Corner

by Linda Goldberg



I am excited to begin this year as your President. I want to thank Sonia for her leadership over the past two years - and really the whole team that saw the Branch through these challenging years and kept it thriving. We have mission statements and strategic plans to guide us, but we each bring our own passions and sense of purpose to the Branch and that is what builds our strong community. I hope each of you finds a sense of purpose in the time you give to the Branch this year.

We are looking for at least one, but hopefully two or three people, to join the Building and Properties Committee. Having our own home in San Jose is a gift, but like any home, it needs to be looked after. Please consider joining them. (No heavy lifting or construction skills needed!) The committee has done a tremendous amount of work the last few years to make it a welcoming and usable space for all of our events.

In news from National, they hosted a very successful National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) event in June, with nearly 450 young college women attending. AAUW was represented by CEO Gloria Blackwell at this year's first ever Juneteenth celebration at the White House. She is also featured in an article in the July 3 issue of *Time Magazine*, speaking to the significant burden student loan debt places on women. The striking down of student debt relief has a disproportionate financial impact on women who frequently start their careers with less pay than their male counterparts. As AAUW members, we were equally concerned to see the Supreme Court strike down Affirmative Action for college admissions, but heartened at the quick response to challenge legacy admissions at top universities. It will be interesting to watch new Harvard President, Claudine Gay, navigate these issues. She is a past AAUW American Fellow recipient.



Six past presidents of AAUW San Jose met for lunch on a beautiful summer day to be out and about, catching up on all the news that's fit to discuss. Clockwise, left to right: Zee Del Fiugo, Sonia Wright, Bobbie Baker, Elaine Benoit, Carol Fitting and Rita Skillman.

Legacy Gift Left to San Jose Branch



Dorris Miller (May 22, 1931-July 7, 2021) of Palo Alto recently left AAUW San Jose Branch in her estate as one third recipient, a little more than \$300,000.

She was born in Mesilla Park, NM (a small town now part of Las Cruces). After high school, she attended New Mexico A&M College (now New Mexico State University) at Las Cruces, where she studied Mathematics, graduating in 1953. In college she became a member of Chi Omega sorority, and also met her future husband, John W. Miller (Jack).

Dorris worked at SRI International, from 1962 to 1999, as a Mathematician and Senior Scientific Computer Programmer. She worked in the Communications Laboratory and the Radio Physics Laboratory at SRI. Her work was highly regarded by the engineers for whom she worked.

She and Jack were avid world travelers. She loved music, and had a contagious laugh and a wonderful sense of humor. She always cared about other people, and had many close friends over the years. Dorris is survived by her niece Bronwyn C. Meredith (Ricke), nephew Philip Carmichael, great-nephew Wes Neal (Dawn), and great-niece Kristen Graves (Andy).

At the June board meeting, we established a committee (chaired by Diane Trombetta) to develop a plan for the use(s) of this generous gift.

Public Policy Supports CA Legislation

Ashley Dargent, AAUW CA and San Jose Public Policy Committees

The AAUW San Jose Public Policy Committee has been busy contacting California legislators in support of state bills advancing our mission of gender equity. Every year, AAUW California puts forward a list of approximately 30 bills they plan to advocate for because these bills align with our public policy priorities. Every year, AAUW San Jose pitches in to ensure that they get passed. Our team has already taken action on 22 of the 36 bills for this year, 17 of which we were able to send in letters communicating our support to the relevant committees. Three bills have already passed - AB 1071, authorizing middle and high schools to provide teen dating violence prevention education; SB 376, providing survivors of human trafficking with the right to a support person and an advocate in court; and AB 467, which clarifies the ability of the sentencing court in a domestic violence or human trafficking case to modify restraining orders. We will continue to take action as needed and monitor the progress of all of the remaining bills. Please consider joining us next year! It's really as simple as reaching out to California legislators to see how we can help support each of these bills.

Help Get Out the Vote in Virginia! Susan Karlins, Public Policy Committee Co-Chair

Virginia holds off-year elections for all statewide elected offices, so we have the opportunity to help get out the vote for this all-important election. Choice and fair elections are on the ballot this year! AAUW San Jose will be writing postcards to Black voters with the non-partisan, Black-led group Reclaim Our Vote. This year we are supplying stamps as well as postcards to support your Get Out The Vote efforts. We'll be writing from late July to early September to encourage voter registration. Let us know how many you would like to write. Email publicpolicy@aauwsanjose.org to request postcard materials or to ask a question. Thank you!

Building & Properties Needs a Secretary Tynka Dees, Building & Properties Committee

Do you wonder what the Building & Properties Committee is doing? Be one of the first to know and help the Branch. The secretary of the committee takes the minutes, sends them out for approval, and keeps a permanent digital copy. Currently, we are rotating the job of secretary, but we would much prefer to have someone designated for the job. The meetings take place at Headquarters on the 4th Monday of every month at 11 am to noon, or shorter sometimes. We can accommodate you on Zoom if you prefer. If you are interested in the job, contact Buildings@aauwsanjose.org.

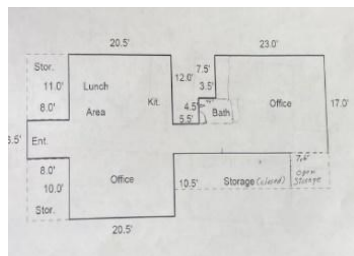
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Signage



Separate Entrance



Local Scholarship Provides Scholarships for Deserving College and University Women – Again!

Cheryl Markman, Local Scholarship Committee

Once again, thanks to the support of AAUW San Jose Branch members, the success of Local Scholarship Committee grant writers, and our annual fundraising campaign, we were able to help support several outstanding university women this year. We were able to award a total of \$126,000 to 22 young women to help them continue their higher education. As we have heard from many of them, this money really helps not only themselves, but their families and their communities as well.

The women who received scholarships this year will be attending 10 different universities, including San Jose State, San Francisco State, Santa Clara University, UC San Diego, UCLA, UC Santa Cruz, UC Berkeley, USF, NYU and George Washington University. Their areas of study are diverse, including biochemistry, biology, the arts, computer science, business administration, corporate accounting and finance, nursing, social work and public health. We have at least one each aspiring doctor, lawyer and veterinarian.

We were able to award the named scholarships - Edie Kerr, Grace O'Leary, Goldberg Family and Brenda Ladewig—to excellent young women. We have a brighter outlook on the future after interviewing these inspiring women. We expect that at least some of them will be at Fall Gathering, where you will have the opportunity to meet them. As you know, the Supreme Court struck down President Biden's plan to forgive some student loans. This decision will affect all college students, but especially young women, women of color and low income women. Our scholarships make such a difference! We hope you will continue to contribute to Local Scholarship so we can continue to influence the world in such a positive way. Thank

Welcome to Our New and Returning Members

Claire Campodonico



SHELLEY POWERS was a member of our Branch about 10 years ago and has now decided to rejoin. She looks forward to joining Branch activities and making new friends. Shelley is a resident of Los Gatos. She attended the University of Denver in Colorado before transferring to the University of Missouri and earning a BS in Elementary Education. After serving as a librarian and teacher for 18 years in K-5 schools, she is now enjoying her retirement.

MARION MEYER received a degree in Architecture from the Universidad Mayor de San Andres in La Paz, Bolivia. She then moved to the San Francisco Bay Area where she was employed from 1989 to 2019 as an Associate Civil Engineer and Facilities and Utility Coordinator. She retired in 2019. She looks forward to making new friends and joining several of our Interest Groups. Marion has a son and a trans-son whose girlfriend informed her about AAUW.

Continued on pages 5 and 7



Gifts for Teens –Always Keepin' Busy

Cheryl Markman, Gifts for Teens



Although the Gifts for Teens (GFT) project culminates each year in December, the efforts that ultimately lead to that end take place all year long. This year we will be providing 660 duffel bags for needy low-income, homeless and foster care teenagers; youth who are often overlooked and may not otherwise receive any gifts during the holiday season.

Your help begins when you include a donation to GFT with your annual Branch dues, for which we are very grateful. Those funds are used throughout the year by committee members to purchase the items that fill the duffel bags. During the summer months, many hours are spent preparing them for inclusion in the bags. T-shirts are rolled and tied into compact bundles, flip flops are banded together, jewelry is put into jewelry bags, etc.

On September 23, we will fill hygiene and school supply kits to include in the duffel bags. All shifts are filled because of eager volunteers from The National Charity League and St. Francis High School. If you are interested in helping us fill the duffel bags, there are morning shifts (9 am to noon) available in October. We will need volunteers to assemble the bags on October 14, 21, 25 or 26 in the parking lot at AAUW Branch Headquarters. Please contact [Barb Purdy](#) to join in the fun!

Welcome to Our New and Returning Members

welcome

GAIL PELLERIN is a State Assemblymember who represents District 28. Morgan Hill is her primary Branch, so she is now, with us, a dual member. We were notified by National that Gail joined our Branch. In March, AAUW was present in Sacramento during lobby week. Perhaps this is when Gail decided to join us. Whatever encouraged her to join our Branch, we are delighted that she has. We commend Gail for her 35 years of experience in public service!

SUEANN SNOW earned a BA in Business from St. Mary's College in Moraga. She then started her career in the semi-conductor industry working as a Sales Engineer and a Technical Purchasing Agent. Sueann is now enjoying her retirement, pursuing her hobbies of working with fiber arts, knitting, crocheting and quilting. She is also an accomplished author of books on the subjects of urban fantasy and romance. Member JoAnn Moritz referred Sueann to our Branch.



UPDATE ON MARITZA CAMPOS

PAST LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Cheryl Markman, Local Scholarship Committee

Maritza Campos received an AAUW Local Scholarship in spring 2022. Both of her parents are from Jalisco, Mexico, and Maritza is the eldest of two daughters. She is a first generation student and a transfer student from De Anza College.

Currently a rising fourth-year student at UCLA, she expects to graduate in the spring of 2024 with a Bachelor's of Science in Biochemistry and a minor in Chicana/o Studies. Maritza's educational interests are health disparities in Latinx communities and immigrant health, and she plans to become a physician. After graduation, she plans to take a gap year to conduct research, take the MCAT medical school entrance exam, and then apply to medical school. She would prefer to attend medical school in California. She is interested in the PRIME medical programs that UC medical schools offer, as they are five-year programs where she can receive both an MD and a Master's degree, while learning about underserved populations. She plans to specialize in primary care to work with immigrant and uninsured communities.

Maritza's extracurricular activities are many. During her first quarter at UCLA, she interned for the Brain Surgical Undergraduate Society, where she had the opportunity to present and write about "Infant and Maternal Mortality Rates and Infant Care Outcomes Between Different Races" in order to obtain a Medical Inclusivity Certification. She is a Board Member of Latinos and Chicanos for Community Medicine (LCCM), and will be Co-President for the upcoming school year. She is also part of the community college planning committee for "La Lucha Sigue: Inspiring the Next Generation of Leaders in Health," a conference the club hosted. She organized a panel of transfer students, including herself, who shared a little about their journeys as pre-health Latinx transfer students, and hosted a Q&A session. Additionally, she is the Risk and Research Director for the Black and Latinx AIDS Project (BLAIDS), which focuses on sexual health awareness and education. She recently received the Dean's Prize for Excellence in Research and Creativity for her research project on the "Medical History of Female and Non-binary Sexual and Reproductive Health." She also helped teach a course, Biochemical Methods I - Introduction to Protein Science, as a Learning Assistant. For the upcoming fall quarter, Maritza will be studying abroad in Oaxaca, Mexico to learn both about public health and traditional health while shadowing physicians.

In addition to all of these extracurricular activities, Maritza works part-time as a pharmacy technician and immunizer at a local pharmacy. She says she has also been fortunate to volunteer at health fairs in medically underserved areas, such as the U.S.-Mexico border and farmworker communities, for the Latino Student Health Project (LSHP) and COMPAS, a UCLA student organization that focuses on health, education, and language disparities with farm-working communities.

It's hard to imagine that she has any free time, but when she does, she likes to visit new beaches, go hiking, and travel.



UPDATE ON KAYA

PAST LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Cheryl Markman, Local Scholarship Committee

Kaya (she just goes by one name) received an AAUW Local Scholarship in spring 2022. She will graduate in the fall of 2023 with a Bachelor's degree in Vocal Performance. Kaya has been a President's Scholar at SJSU for the past three semesters. She was and will continue to be the president of the student AAUW Club. This coming year she plans to organize several events to bring more awareness to the club and encourage more students to join. She was previously the president of the Opera Theater Club on campus. She recently played Rapunzel in the musical "Into the Woods" at SJSU. She is also working with her classmates to start a club to help SJSU students of color who are music majors to navigate the specific challenges of being a person of color with this major.

Kaya was fortunate to be accepted into several young artists programs this summer to continue her studies in opera. Having been invited to sing in Italy, Germany, Utah, and Turkey, Kaya has chosen the prestigious Bel Canto program in Florence, Italy. In this three-week program she will not only study the traditions and technique of Bel Canto, but also improve her instrument, perform an opera, and take Italian language lessons daily. Kaya is also working to complete her 200-hour certification as a yoga instructor, and hopes to merge yoga principles with music to teach children healthy self-regulation tools.

Born and raised in Santa Cruz, California, Kaya loves hiking, playing tennis, dancing Afro Brazilian samba, watercolor painting, bird watching (especially hummingbirds), and most recently, surfing.

Welcome to Our New and Returning Members

welcome

JANICE BAXTER has decided to rejoin us as a dual member. Her main Branch is Los Gatos-Saratoga. Janice has a BA in Psychology from UC Davis. She is now retired from her career as a Claims Analyst. She looks forward to rejoining several of our Interest Groups. Welcome back, Janice!

PATRICIA KUTZMANN received a BS in Architectural Engineering from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. She also earned a BA from UC Berkeley in Sociology. Before her retirement, she owned her own firm, Kutzmann & Associates. She and her team reviewed plans for code compliance. Patricia loves to read and knit. She also enjoys spending time with her three grandchildren. Members Sarah Janigian and Barb Purdy referred her to our Branch.

SANDRA SCANFERIA was referred to our Branch by member Monika Ryser. Sandra has an extensive education resume, of which the following are the most recent: Certification as a Real Estate Appraiser, Certification as a Construction Manager and Certification in Project Management. These were obtained at Baugewerbliche Berufsschule in Zurich. She also has a Business School diploma from Handelsschule in Zurich. Sandra is now employed at a local elementary school as an Office Assistant.



Spotlight on Grace O'Leary

Ruth Dusan and Grace O'Leary

Grace O'Leary is the epitome of her name in light of her gracious nature, her energy, enthusiasm, positive attitude, and personality. She offered to help me with this Spotlight project, without hesitation, and has been a stellar contributor to the successful production of this column. We thank you, Grace, for all that you do for our Branch. You are truly amazing.

How did you discover AAUW San Jose?

I had joined AAUW in Batavia, New York in 1964 and transferred my membership to the Utica, New York branch when we moved there. When GE transferred us to San Jose, I was fortunate enough to meet Enid Barrett at Milpitas High School where I was a new teacher and she was a past president of our San Jose branch. Sunshine and a job opportunity brought us to San Jose in 1970. Enid Barrett brought me to our branch as an active past president.

How long have you been a member of AAUW?

I think about 55 years, but our Association doesn't verify that number. When I tried to check the records, there was no record of my husband's name, and the spouse's name was used to record membership in earlier times. Fortunately, Dick did show up in San Jose and was a willing volunteer for many activities through the years.

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

Our mission and the efforts we make to fulfill the mission are so important. But it is the other members that I enjoy and respect the most. I have learned a lot from my involvement, and I'm grateful for that. Friends are the chips in chocolate-chip cookies, which I discovered from my AAUW friends.

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

I think we have made great progress in the years I have been a member of our branch. Our reach into the community has broadened through Neighbors Helping Neighbors, Gifts for Teens, Local Scholarship, STEM, and Public Policy activities. The Coffee and Conversation format is fantastic for new and long-term members.

What would you like members to know about you?

I have been fortunate in many ways. I was raised on an Iowa farm, the youngest of four children. My parents had married at the beginning of the Great Depression, but managed to raise us as kids who valued education and could read. Being aware and involved in helping the needy was expected. My mother had to leave her teaching job when she married as was required under Iowa law at that time. We've come a long way, but still have far to go. I treasure my AAUW experiences and friends and want to wish our organization well. The young people joining us are inspirational. I admire the women who are busy building their careers and who are becoming members. While a teacher, I was probably the only member of our Branch involved in making 300 plus LINUS Project quilts. This initiative was to help students who needed to earn community service credits. I liked the opportunities, the food, and the fun.

How would you like to be remembered?

I would like to be remembered as a person who could be counted on to meet her commitments, and support the goals and activities of our organization. Thanks for the caring and the fun in our branch.

August 2023

Submitted by Tynka Dees Calendar Editor

Sunroom Renovation is ongoing this entire month. If any member is uncomfortable with unmasked members or simply wishes to remain safe, masks are always welcome. If you are unvaccinated, 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 Aug 1	10-11am	German Conversation ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder)
Wed Aug 2	5:30- 6 pm	AAUW Board Social Hour (Linda Goldberg)
	6- 7:30 pm	AAUW BOARD Meeting (Linda Goldberg)
Thu Aug 3	7-8:30 pm	Public Policy Committee ZOOM (Susan Karlins)
Mon Aug 7	10 am-1 pm	Bridge 1 st Monday (RSVP Bobbie Eckerman)
Tue Aug 8	10-11 am	Conversacion Espanol ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder)
Wed Aug 9	11 am-1 pm	Art Appreciation (RSVP Jan Bartolotta)
Thu Aug 10	1-4 pm	Bridge 2 nd Thursday (RSVP Bobbie Eckerman)
Fri Aug 11	9:30 am-2 pm	Duplicate Bridge (RSVP Lida Kluzek)
Sat Aug 12	6:30-9:30 pm	Couples Dining (RSVP Karen Hook)
Sun Aug 13	11:30 am-1:30 pm	Film Fans (RSVP Linda Snashall)
Mon Aug 14	6:30-9 pm	Light Gourmet (RSVP Cheryl Markman)
Tue Aug 15	10-11 am	French Conversation ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder)
	1-3 pm	Knitting Know How (RSVP Margaret McCartney)
Wed Aug 16	5:30 pm	AAUW San Jose Opening Ceremony & Appreciation Day (RSVP Ruth Dusan programs@aauwsanjose.org .)
Fri Aug 18	10 am-1 pm	Bridge (RSVP Lida Kluzek)
Mon Aug 21	6:30- 8:30 pm	International Gourmet (RSVP Jan Bartolotta)
Tue Aug 22	12-1 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)
Fri Aug 25	1:30- 3:30 pm	Local Scholarship (Tynka Dees)
Sat Aug 26	10 am-12 pm	Prospective Members and Member Meeting Coffee and Conversation Back porch (Membership@aauwsanjose.org)
Mon Aug 28	11am-12:30 pm	Building and Properties Committee (buildings@aauwsanjose.org)



San Jose Branch BONFIRE

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August 2023

AAUW BONFIRE San Jose Branch *Established 1909*

Program Event

Ruth Dusan, Program VP

AAUW San Jose Opening Ceremony and Appreciation Day Wednesday, August 16, 5:30 pm

AAUW Headquarters

Speaker: Sandi Gabe, President, AAUW California

Join us for the first Branch program of the year and learn about the wonderful activities at the state level of AAUW and how we can participate easily.

RSVP and questions: Ruth Dusan programs@aauwsanjose.org.



Empowering Women Since 1881

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