



Keep the Holiday Spirit Alive 365: Ways to Support AAUW SJ Community Action Projects

**Saturday, November 18, 2023
10 am-12 pm Wesley Rm.
United Methodist Church
1420 Newport Ave., San Jose 95125**

Introduction: Why we are here today: Diane Trombetta, Chair, Local Scholarship Fundraising Committee.

How giving to others changes our brains: Tynka Dees, M.D.

Three ways AAUW SJ members choose to give: Linda Goldberg, President, AAUW SJ; Barbara Snyder, member AAUW SJ; Margaret Bard, Chair, Keep in Touch Committee.

SONG: The UKoolLadies sing “Island Style” and “Love Is a Rose”

Three financial vehicles you may not have considered: Virginia Turner, ISPF Treasurer; Aaron Correll, Fidelity Investments; Eva Levine, AAUW SJ member and Financial Planner.

SONG: Songstruck Quartet sings “Are You Having Any Fun?” and “Don't Stop”

We make a difference: How our CAPs change lives: Elaine Benoit, Gifts for Teens; Sarah Foote, Tech Trek; Sofia Vartanian, Local Scholarship; Mary Jane Vitkovich, Neighbors Helping Neighbors.

SONG: Kaya sings “Somewhere” from West Side Story & an aria from the Bel Canto repertoire.

Refreshments and Drawing

RSVP: Scholarships@aauwsanjose.org *Please tell us if you will attend so we can plan refreshments and party favors for all!*

President's Corner

by Linda Goldberg



you

The giving spirit is alive and well in this Branch as we can easily see with the incredible success of each of our CAPs. And the giving extends to all the time each of gives to molding the success of the Branch. As we embrace the spirit of giving this month, I am going to ask you for just a little bit more. The Branch is in need of some archiving work to go through documents and papers that have been collected in the past few years. The heavy lifting (no pun intended!) was done several years ago and we have archives already at the San Jose Historical Society, but the remodel of the Sun Porch has shown it is time to go through things again. This can be done by one person, or several, but please look to see if you can find a few more hours to give to us

this year, and let me know.

I wish each of you a wonderful Thanks - Giving season. Remember to take time to give yourselves a pat on the back and continue to give each other the love, respect and support of your friendship.

Membership News

Leticia Cowan, Membership Committee

We are excited to announce that our membership numbers are steadily increasing. Thank you to all for helping us grow. We have just a few items of interest you might like to know:

Partnership opportunities with Coffee & Convo events. Promote your group to current and prospective members. Dates are available January through April.

Haven't yet renewed your membership? Then expect a call from us (said with a wink and a smile). Renewed members have a guaranteed spot in the Branch directory, and will also receive a hard copy of it. Contact membership@aauwsanjose.org before it's too late.

Our membership with the Willow Glen Business Association gives us publicity for our events that are open to the public via their Facebook, Instagram, and newsletter. Submission deadline is the 15th of every month for the following month. Contact: [Jessica Reinoso](#).





Community Collaborations

Bobbie Baker, Neighbors Helping Neighbors Co-Chair

Neighbors Helping Neighbors collaborates with local agencies to provide hands-on help to the homeless and others in need in our community. We accomplish this in many ways, including providing volunteers to work at these agencies. If you are interested in short-term volunteer opportunities, consider the following agencies.

The Grateful Garment Project, located at 1777 Hamilton Avenue, San Jose, provides new clothing and toiletries to victims of sexual assault and trafficking. Most volunteers help out two to three hours a week, but you can alter the frequency to suit your schedule. Volunteer hours are spent itemizing, tagging, and putting away new clothing and toiletries, or pulling items from inventory to be sent to one of the Sexual Assault Response sites throughout California. To find out more, contact Dakini Perkins at 425-577-3296.

Front Door Community Center serves homeless in the heart of downtown San Jose. Volunteers work for two hours, Monday-Friday, handing out warm lunches and helping women pick out items from a clothes closet. Contact Jeannette Bumagat at 408-600-6654 for more information.

Santa Maria Urban Ministries (SMUM) provides a food pantry and clothes closet for impoverished and homeless individuals and families in downtown San Jose. SMUM volunteers are needed Monday-Friday between 9 am and 11:45 am. Spanish speaking is not a requirement. Please reach out to Alfonso Mendez at 408-292-3314 or alfonso.mendez@santamariasj.org.

Annual Warm Hearts Drive. Every fall, Neighbors Helping Neighbors collects new or gently-used clothing including coats, shirts, jackets, pants, socks and hats for adults and children for Santa Maria Urban Ministries. This year, there will be a parking lot drive on Saturday, November 11, from 10 am to noon at Headquarters.

Toy and Book Collection for Next Door Solutions. For the month of November, bins will continue to be in the entry hall of Headquarters to collect new stuffed toys and new children's books for the holiday boutique held by Next Door Solutions for their clients.





Still Working to Close the STEM Gender Gap

Karelle Cornwell, Tech Trek Co-Chair

In 1998, an AAUW member who could not find a STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) camp for her daughter decided to create one. And thus, Tech Trek was born. Ever since, Tech Trek has given middle school girls the opportunity to attend a one-week camp on a college campus where they participate in hands-on STEM activities, meet professional women in STEM fields, build confidence, and learn leadership skills. The first Tech Trek camp was held at Stanford University, and over the years Tech Trek has spread throughout California as well as the United States.

Why is Tech Trek important? AAUW research shows that girls and women are systematically tracked away from science and math throughout their education, even though women with STEM jobs earn almost 28% more than women in other fields.

Today, women make up only 34% of the STEM workforce. Only 16% of engineers are women. We would like to close the gender STEM gap by providing programs like Tech Trek to give girls the confidence, skills and inspiration to pursue careers in STEM.



Congratulations to our 2023 Local Scholarship Recipients. These young women attended the Fall Gathering.

welcome

Welcome to Our Newest Members

Claire Campodonico

ANNE STEWART was referred by member Margaret Bard. Anne is a dual member with the Los Gatos-Saratoga branch, as is Margaret. Now a resident of Los Gatos, Anne earned her BA in Political Science from UC Berkeley and her MA from SJSU in Education. She had a long career in both teaching and commercial real estate. Now retired, Anne is keeping quite busy owning and managing an apartment complex.

DONNA ERICKSON resides in San Jose, having moved back from Watsonville where she was a member of its branch. She is a graduate of SJSU, earning a Secondary Teaching credential. Donna taught for awhile in Milpitas, but her heart was not in it. She became a residential real estate broker and enjoyed 30 years in that field. Donna loves spending time with her husband, who is a Pastor, and their two daughters; she also enjoys playing golf.

BARBARA HANDLY was referred by member Risë Berry, who is her friend and neighbor. Barbara is now retired from her 37-year career at BAE Systems (formerly known as FMC), a defense contractor. Starting at an entry level position, she moved up to Contract Management and then to Program Manager. She received her BA degree from SJSU. Barbara was raised in Los Gatos and is married to her supportive husband, Kevin.

JOYCE HOLLEMAN is a returning member to the Branch. She received her degree from the School of Nursing and Health Professionals at Trinity College in Washington, DC. She has now retired from her career as a Registered Nurse, and looks forward to becoming active in our Bridge and Book Discussion groups. We're so glad you've returned, Joyce!

LIANE RICE, a resident of Campbell, looks forward to her retirement this December. She will soon have more time to become active in our various Interest Groups. Having studied at UC Davis and Pacific University in Oregon, she flourished in her career as an Optometrist. Liane is also a returning member to the Branch. She was a longtime friend of our late member, Brenda Ladewig.





Giving Generous Holiday Gifts

Elaine Benoit, Gifts for Teens



National Charity League mom and daughter volunteer teams assembling personal care/hygiene packets.

The December Holidays are known for festive giving of presents and loving gatherings! It is a time of good cheer and demonstrating care for others, both family and even strangers who have less or need help. Our Branch's Community Action Project, Gifts for Teens, embodies this spirit of giving and generosity. The group assembles and distributes sports duffel bags full to the brim with fun and useful personal gifts. Bags are given to local extremely low-income teenagers, foster care teens and homeless youth. These bags are often the only gift or holiday celebration that these teens receive.

A foster-care teen told us, *"This is the only holiday gift I have gotten in several years! The bag itself is useful to carry my things and the gifts inside are fun and needed. You brightened my spirits. T.Y.!!"* Another teenager reported, *"Finally, something under the tree just for me. Yippee!!"*

Caring AAUW San Jose members and many generous at-large community members have given holiday gifts annually to needy local teenagers through Gifts for Teens. Warm clothing, hygiene products, cozy blankets, school "kits", cosmetics, games, and \$50 store gift cards are included in each of the 660 gift bags. There are upward of 60 items included in each bag. The needy teens, guys and girls, truly LOVE the festive gift bags and contents. Thank you, AAUW members, for your supportive help.

Over the last 26 years, Gifts for Teens has filled and given approximately 14,250 bountiful holiday duffels and totes to teens who have little to call their own. The aggregate dollar value of these bags tops two and a half million dollars. There is a huge need locally for holiday cheer for poor teens, and Gifts for Teens, with your help and generosity, fills it!





GIVE THE GIFT OF EDUCATION

**AAUW SAN JOSE LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP
ON-LINE HOLIDAY FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN**

DECEMBER 1 - DECEMBER 8, 2023

[Support the 2024 Local Scholarship Project](#)



During the 2022-23 campaign, your tax-deductible gifts helped 21 deserving women further their Education. We provide scholarships to a vast array of amazing young women such as:

- Women who are first in their families to attend college.
- Single moms determined to complete their education.
- Women working two jobs while maintaining top grades.

Donate

How: Visit sanjose-ca.aauw.net/education

Or scan the QR code for more information and for pictures of the raffle prizes



When: Anytime from December 1 - 8

How much: Any amount

Help: Spread the word by telling your family and friends about this important opportunity to improve the lives of deserving young women.

Tax deductible: Your donation is tax deductible!

Raffle

Tickets: Each \$100 donation earns you a chance to win fabulous raffle prizes

Prizes: include items such as

- Santa Cruz 3-night getaway
- Sea Ranch 3-night getaway
- iPad
- Wine basket
- Handcrafted jewelry
- Holiday gift card wreath
- Hand-woven silk scarves
- And more!

Drawing: will take place at the holiday celebration on December 16.

Spotlight on Zee del Fiugo

Ruth Dusan and Grace O'Leary



This interview with Zee Del Fiugo, a 50-plus year member and past President, was conducted in person. We want to thank Zee for being an early participant in this project. We have articles all the way into 2025, so we thank you and everyone for your patience.

How did you discover AAUW San Jose?

I had an aunt who was active in AAUW in Pennsylvania and when I got married, I was moving to San Jose and I knew I was moving right away, so she suggested to me to look up AAUW SJ because all the women would be educated.

How long have you been a member of AAUW?

I joined in September 1964, so it's been 58 years.

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

I like AAUW's focus on women, their education, equality, and the positions they take on political subjects.

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

I thought AAUW gave me a lot of training in leadership going through the roles. I've had several offices and I just think we have to get more YOUNG members. I think recruiting younger members is hard to do.

What would you like members to know about you?

I have five children, three grandchildren, and I was just blessed with a new grandson-in-law. The other things that members don't know is that when I was 40, I ran a marathon, and skydived when I was 75!

How would you like to be remembered?

I think I would like to be remembered as being a caring person, an organized person, and a dependable person.


**Happy
Thanksgiving**

November 2023

Submitted by Tynka Dees Calendar Editor

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. **The most up to date calendar is always on our website.**

Wed Nov 1	5:30– 6 pm	AAUW Board Social Hour (Linda Goldberg)
	6-7:30 pm	AAUW BOARD Meeting (Linda Goldberg)
Mon Nov 6	10 am-1 pm	Bridge 1 st Monday (RSVP Bobbie Eckerman)
	6:30-8 pm	Neighbors Helping Neighbors (Bobbie Baker)
Tue Nov 7	10-11 am	German Conversation ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder)
	PM Time To Be Determined	Film Fans (RSVP Nancy Wheeler)
Wed Nov 8	11 am-1 pm	Art Appreciation (RSVP Jan Bartolotta)
	7-8:30	Wednesday Night Book Group Hybrid (Renee Sommerfeld)
Thu Nov 9	1-4 pm	Bridge 2 nd Thursday (RSVP Bobbie Eckerman)
Fri Nov 10	9:30 am-2 pm	Duplicate Bridge (RSVP Lida Kluzek)
Sat Nov 11	6:30-9:30 pm	Couples Dining (RSVP Karen Hook)
Mon Nov 13	6:30- 9:30 pm	Light Gourmet (RSVP Cheryl Markman)
Tue Nov 14	10-11:30 am	Book Discussion Horse by Geraldine Brooks (Sandy Bonnet)
	10-11 am	Conversacion Espanol ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder)
Wed Nov 15	1:30-2:30 pm	Program Event Planning Zoom (Ruth Dusan)
	7-8:30 pm	Public Policy (Susan Karlins)
Thu Nov 16	10 am-12 pm	Family History Hybrid (Susan Brundage)
	7-8:30 pm	Mystery Lovers ZOOM (Sharon Shephard)
Fri Nov 17	10 am-1 pm	Bridge (RSVP Lida Kluzek)
Sat Nov 18	10 am-12 pm	How to Give 365 Special Program with speakers and entertainment Willow Glen United Methodist Church (corner Minnesota & Newport) (RSVP scholarships@aauwsanjose.org)
Mon Nov 20	9:30-11am	Exploring World Literature Hybrid 3 Famous French Women Writers (Diana Taylor)
	1-4 pm	Interbranch Council (Linda Goldberg)
	6:30-9 pm	International Gourmet (RSVP Jan Bartolotta)
Tue Nov 21	10-11 am	French Conversation ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder)
	1-3 pm	Knitting Know How (RSVP Margaret McCartney)
	6-7:30 pm	Membership Meeting (Membership@aauwsanjose.org)
Mon Nov 27	11 am-12:30 pm	Building and Properties Committee (buildings@aauwsanjose.org)
Tue Nov 28	12-1:30 pm	Lunch Bunch (Diana Taylor)
	1-4 pm	Bridge 4 th Tuesday (RSVP Bobbie Eckerman)

San Jose Branch BONFIRE

Published monthly except for July by AAUW

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San Jose, CA 95125-3324

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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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November 2023

AAUW BONFIRE San Jose Branch *Established 1909*

Save the Date

December Program Event - Holiday Social

Saturday, December 16

11 am to 1 pm at Headquarters

Ruth Dusan, Program Vice President

Join us for fun, refreshments, food, music, education, entertainment, guest speakers, and prize drawings from our Local Scholarship Online Fundraising campaign. To help us plan content, please let us know if you will attend this event by clicking on the following invitation link:

[Holiday Social.](#)



Empowering Women Since 1881

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