



President's Corner by Linda Goldberg

Here we are at the end of another year. It is both a time of reflection on what has been accomplished, and a time to look ahead and plan what we can do to address the many needs that still exist. I am happy to let you know that one of our needs is now being addressed. A Tech Committee has been formed and is meeting regularly to determine our computing and security needs. My thanks to Peg Carlson-Bowen, Renee Summerfeld, Julia Howlett, and Anne Wustrow for sharing their time and expertise in this area.

Our Branch Bylaws have been updated because of mandatory updates that were passed by National. Please find the updated version on our website on the "Members Only" page.

I was recently reminded that AAUW is about to celebrate its 142nd anniversary. In those many years, much has been accomplished, but there is always so much more to do. Gender pay-gaps, efforts to ban books from libraries, the high cost of education, and Title IX inequities still exist. So, our work is not done yet!

I hope that you all have the time over the coming holiday season to take in all the good things that surround you - my best wishes to each of you.



December Program Event - Holiday Social Saturday, December 16, 11 am to 1:30 pm at Headquarters

Ruth Dusan, Program Vice President

Join us for fun, refreshments, food, music, education/learning, entertainment, and prize drawings from our Local Scholarship Online Fundraising campaign. For entertainment, our former AAUW San Jose member, Harriet Wolf, will be leading a flutist trio in a repertoire of Christmas/holiday classics, and a mix of classical and holiday tunes. Barbara Zinicola will be performing with the popular BASC Songstruck, an a cappella quartet intent on helping us with a sing-along of Christmas and holiday songs. We look forward to seeing you and catching up. It should be FUNtastic!!

To help us plan our party, please let us know if you will attend this event by clicking on this invitation link: [Invitation](#). Please contact us at [Programs](#) with any questions.

Help Preserve Our History: Join the New Archive Committee!

Diane Trombetta, Building & Properties Committee

The Building & Properties Committee is looking for "a few good members" to sort through the documents taken out of the Sunroom during the recent remodeling. Some can be discarded, but some should be saved and added to our archived collection at the San Jose History Museum. Starting in January 2024, committee members can determine their own schedule, sort at home or at Headquarters, and take their time. We have excellent archiving guidelines available, thanks to Diana Taylor. Find treasures and revive great memories! Contact Buildings@aauwsanjose.org for more information or to volunteer.

Further News from B&P

Diane Trombetta, Building & Properties Committee

Gifts for Teens bags will be out of the basement by mid-December. Committees who have items stored there from the Sunroom need to sort and move them back into the Sunroom, if needed, for your regular operations. Drawers specifically for file folders and larger drawers for supplies are available. Please do not use more than one of each drawer until we are sure there is enough space for everyone's supplies/files. **Supplies which are left in the basement after March 1, 2024 will be archived or disposed of.** Please use masking tape to label the drawers you use. Eventually, permanent labels will be mounted. Questions? Contact Buildings@aauwsanjose.org. Thank you!

*Fancy a weekend at the beach?
Check out the AAUW San Jose
Holiday Scholarship Campaign
...each \$100 donated gets a chance to win!*

SCAN ME! >>>

AAUW
San Jose (S.J.) Branch

www.aauwsanjose.org



NHN News

Bobbie Baker, Neighbors Helping Neighbors Co-Chair

A BIG thank you to all our generous members who donated to the Spartan Cares food drive. We collected 30 jars of peanut butter, 31 boxes of cereal, 64 cans of soup and various other food items. This will help stock the Spartan Cares food pantry for low-income students. A special note of thanks to Sarah Janigian, who took the lead on this drive!

On November 11, NHN held a very successful Warm Hearts drive for winter clothing for Santa Maria Urban Ministries. Another drive for gently-used winter clothes will be held on January 27, 2024, from 10 am to noon. Thanks to Kim Pugh for heading up these drives.

This December, NHN has budgeted funds to buy holiday gift cards for the clients of Next Door Solutions to Domestic Violence, Sacred Heart Community Service and Santa Maria Urban Ministries. These cards are requested and gratefully accepted by these agencies for distribution.



NHN members
assemble kits for Front
Door Communities

Reminder: Free Mindfulness Class Begins in January

Stress is everywhere in our modern lives. We are overwhelmed by work, family, relationships, and even the television news! Stress leads us to feel anxious and depressed. It contributes to sleeplessness and loss of appetite or overeating. While we cannot control what happens around us, we can control how we respond to stress! Mindfulness is a valuable resource that teaches us techniques for stress management.

Kelly Weisberg, a lawyer and mindfulness instructor, will teach a free online class in Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR), January 2 through February 27, 2024. The class will meet online for 8 weeks for 2.5 hours on Tuesday mornings from 9 am to 11:30 am. This program rests on scientific evidence that supports its beneficial effects on health and well-being. These courses traditionally cost from \$395 - \$725 (depending on the provider). The class will be a fundraiser for AAUW. Participants are asked to make a tax-deductible donation to their local AAUW branches (to any AAUW program they desire).

A Zoom link will be provided to participants. To sign up and for further information, contact Kelly Weisberg at kelly_weisberg@yahoo.com. Or check out Kelly's websites: <https://talkcompassion.com> and <https://exploremindfulpaths.com>

Gifts for Teens – Playing Santa Once Again

Cheryl Markman, Gifts for Teens



After a spring and summer of soliciting and accepting donations from individuals and corporations, and buying and preparing thousands of gift items, this Fall saw 660 bags filled and delivered. Thanks to your generosity in giving and the efforts of AAUW members, community members and area high school students in filling the gift bags, 660 local area homeless, foster care and low-income teens will have a big gift waiting for them for the holidays. Few personal gifts or holiday activities are available for these underserved teens. Presents are bestowed upon younger children, but seldom are available for teens. AAUW's Gifts for Teens project focuses on holiday gifts for these overlooked teenagers.

The recipient agencies were impressed by both the quality and quantity of the black duffels for the boys and the colorful tote bags for the girls. These were the nicest and fullest bags that we have ever assembled. Each gift bag was so stuffed and bursting at the seams that we had trouble zipping them closed! Included in each bag and tote was a treasure trove of fun and practical gifts, including sweatshirts and pants, leggings, t-shirts, cosmetics, hygiene items, school supplies, games, \$50 worth of store and fast food cards, warm scarves, gloves and hats, and much more. With 54 items in total, we estimate the value of each bag this year to be over \$425.

During the last 10 years, Gifts for Teens has provided over 11,050 gifts to San Jose's disadvantaged teens. With the gift bags as incentive, teens frequent social service agencies in December to receive their gift and often take advantage of offered counseling services, health care, job training, and other assistance. As wonderful as the Gifts for Teens gifts are, they are just part of the help these teens need and deserve. Thank you all for your ongoing support of this very worthwhile and necessary gift for teens project.





Sopfia Vartanian for Local Scholarship



Local Scholarship Recipients 2023



Interest Groups Fall Gathering



Virginia Turner ISPF



Elaine Benoit Gifts for Teens



Coffee & Conversation



Neighbors Helping Neighbors



Gifts for Teens Packing Day 10/14/23

AAUW's School Board Project

Susan Karlins and Bonnie Marcus, Public Policy/Advocacy Committee

As many of you know, AAUW's 2023-25 educational policy/advocacy priorities include "support for a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity, diversity, and inclusivity." This goal inspired AAUW CA's School Board Project to protect our local schools from ultra-conservative organizations that seek to remove books they deem "inappropriate" from school libraries, and changing school curricula to remove themes having to do with race, gender, and LGBTQ+ issues. "Moms for Liberty" and other far-right groups use strategies, including electing school board members who support banning materials they disagree with and dominating local school board meetings with these issues. Our State legislature and Governor have helped our AAUW School Board project by passing a new law to protect our schools. Gavin Newsom recently signed AB 1078 which bans "book bans" in schools, prohibits censorship of instructional materials, and strengthens California law requiring schools to provide all students access to textbooks that teach about California's diverse communities. This law won't stop book banning efforts, but it is a tool to help us protect our schools from these attacks. Our project is starting slowly so that we can learn about the issues before taking action. Join us for our next Public Policy meeting on Wednesday, January 17, 2024, to learn more. We'll be meeting on [Zoom from 7 pm to 8:15 pm](#):

Public Policy/Advocacy Accomplishments for 2023

Susan Karlins and Elaine Peterson, Public Policy/Advocacy Co-Chairs

Members advocated for 21 bills in the California legislature, including four meetings with legislators and 21 letters of support written to legislative committees. Eleven of those bills passed and were signed into law, nine became two-year bills or were stalled in the legislative process, and one was vetoed by the Governor. We also lobbied the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors in support of CEDAW, the Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women. CEDAW was passed this summer, the culmination of a 25-year effort by advocates.

Over 50 AAUW members, friends, and family wrote and mailed 2,200 colorful postcards to encourage voter engagement among persons of color. These included:

- 750 postcards for the Wisconsin Supreme Court election
- 345 postcards for the Virginia primary election
- 1,105 for the November statewide Virginia election

Public Policy members have updated the list of Title IX coordinators at local schools and community colleges, and these will be posted to the Branch website for use by the community.



"GIVE THE GIFT OF EDUCATION"

ONLINE SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER

HELP OUR LOCAL WOMEN COMPLETE COLLEGE!

DECEMBER 1 - DECEMBER 8, 2023

Help San Jose-area women* complete their last 2 years of college by funding AAUW scholarships.

*Living in Milpitas, Campbell, Santa Clara and San Jose

December 1 - 8 go to aauwsanjose.org OR scan QR code



Donations of any amount accepted (PayPal or check)

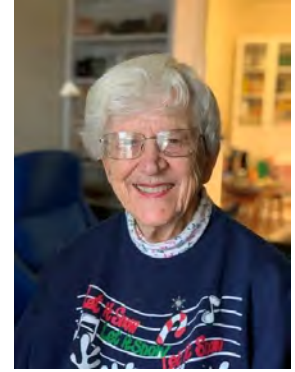
EVERY \$100 DONATION PUTS YOU IN A DRAWING FOR GREAT PRIZES!

Santa Cruz Harbor 3-Night stay, The Sea Ranch 3-Night stay, Joseph George Wines, Hand-woven silk scarves, Fused-glass jewelry, Gift Card Wreaths, iPad.

**Donations accepted until midnight, Friday December 8, 2023
Drawing on Saturday, December 16, 2023**



Spotlight on Barbara Snyder Ruth Dusan and Grace O'Leary



This interview was done on December 9 before Barbara, a world traveler, was headed to Antarctica. Barbara is truly amazing and served as a past president of AAUW San Jose.

How did you discover AAUW San Jose?

In 1967, Don and I returned from four years of living in Germany and I contacted several friends of ours from before we left, and one of them was Nancy Cromwell, and Nancy was happy to talk to us. And the next week Nancy called me up and said: "Hey Barbara, I've signed us up for an AAUW tea." I said: "Wonderful, I'm so excited. Now, can you tell me what any one of those letters mean?" Nancy laughed and said: "Oh yeah, okay. It's American Association of University Women, and they're having a tea, but you don't have to wear a hat and gloves." "Oh good," I replied. So, we go to this tea and the first place we stopped was the Tuesday Club and they were tired of studying. They just wanted to go in on Tuesdays and have fun. The next table was Book Discussion, and Nancy said: "I'll sign us both up but you have to let me review the March book because I know that book very well and I'll be much better." I said, "Okay." One of the groups we joined was French Conversation, but it turned out the French Conversation group was nose-in-the-air snooty and so I didn't like it at all. I liked the people — most of them — but not the snootiness. After two such sessions, I called the President of the Branch (being the shy person that I am) and said how unhappy I was, and was that the norm. She said: "No, put on a pot of coffee — I'll be right over." She came right over and persuaded me to start a new French Conversation group where everybody was welcome. By January, I was on the Board. I've been with AAUW ever since.

How long have you been a member of AAUW?

Since 1967, which is well over 50 years.

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

AAUW is what I do for me. I feel that every gathering I'm in, whether it's French Conversation, Book Discussion, a politically-themed evening where we're listening to the candidates or listening to the issues, I feel I come back enriched and that my mind is still going. Even though I'm beginning to age, I feel that I can still be up-to-date with the modern things — not just dwelling in the past.

Is there anything else we can do to improve membership experience? I think that we need to do a little more of reaching out to members we haven't seen in ages. Because coming out of the pandemic, there are many people who have not started re-emerging to appear for groups and they may not be up-to-date on how to use Zoom technology and things like this. So, we need to personally call and say, "would you like me to come over and help you set up for the Zoom meeting?"

What would you like members to know about you?

I'm a technical person with a wide variety of interests. I'm very interested in the Bible and in my faith community. My husband and I lived and worked on six continents, and right after Christmas, I'm leaving to go visit Antarctica because I've never been there. I'd like people to know, I live and breathe Thomas the Apostle because I lived with my husband for six months in Madras, India, just up the street from where Thomas was murdered — and that's very precious to me.

How would you like to be remembered?

I would like to be remembered as someone who was full of life, loved to be with other people, and to learn from them. I love to be with people who expand my mind so that I can see new ways of looking at the same old things. I'd like to be remembered as someone with a great deal of love in my heart for many, many people and many, many activities. I also love traveling the world to meet new people.

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

Mon Dec 1-Fri Dec 8 LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER ON LINE

(sanjose-ca.aauw.net/education)

Mon Dec 4	10 am-1 pm	Bridge 1 st Monday (RSVP Bobbie Eckerman)
	6:30-8 pm	Neighbors Helping Neighbors (Bobbie Baker)
Tue Dec 5	10-11 am	German Conversation ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder)
	PM Time To Be	Determined Film Fans (RSVP Nancy Wheeler)
Wed Dec 6	5:30– 6 pm	AAUW Board Social Hour (Linda Goldberg)
	6-7:30 pm	AUW BOARD Meeting (Linda Goldberg)
Fri Dec 8	9:30 am-2 pm	Duplicate Bridge (RSVP Lida Kluzek)
Sat Dec 9	6:30-9:30 pm	Couples Dining (RSVP Karen Hook)
Mon Dec 11	6:30- 9:30 pm	Light Gourmet (RSVP Cheryl Markman)
Tue Dec 12	10-11 am	Conversacion Espanol ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder)
	11:30-1 pm	Book exchange/Lunch (RSVP Sandy Bonnet)
Wed Dec 13	11 am-1 pm	Art Appreciation (RSVP Jan Bartolotta)
	1:30-3 pm	Program Event Planning Zoom (RSVP Ruth Dusan)
Thu Dec 14	1-4 pm	Bridge 2 nd Thursday (RSVP Bobbie Eckerman)
Fri Dec 15	10 am-1 pm	Bridge (RSVP Lida Kluzek)
Sat Dec 16	11am-1:30 pm	Holiday Party (RSVP Ruth Dusan)
Mon Dec 18	6:30-9 pm	International Gourmet (RSVP Jan Bartolotta)
Tue Dec 19	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)
Tue Dec 26	1-4 pm	Bridge 4 th Tuesday (RSVP Bobbie Eckerman)



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November 2023

AAUW BONFIRE San Jose Branch *Established 1909*

Save the Date

January Program Event - The League of Women Voters

Saturday, January 20, 2024, 1:30 pm to 3 pm

Willow Glen United Methodist Church - Wesley Room

Ruth Dusan, Program Vice President

"In reality, there is no such thing as not voting: you either vote by voting, or you vote by staying home and tacitly doubling the value of some diehard's vote." Writer, David Foster Wallace, in Rolling Stone, 2000

In our mission to advance gender equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research, we present to you the League of Women Voters for our January program. The League of Women Voters, led by Martha Beattie, will be joining us to introduce and explain what to expect on the March 2024 ballot: the propositions and measures, as well as Voters Edge, a very helpful tool, that will make us more informed about the elections. Mark your calendar, prepare your questions, and we hope to see you there.