



President's Corner

by Linda Goldberg

You should have received an email from National in January asking for comments regarding a proposed bylaw change coming up for a vote in April. National is proposing a change that would allow open membership (i.e., eliminate the degree requirement) for women (and men) going forward. This issue has been brought up before and was narrowly defeated the last time. The Board at National makes a very clear argument to vote for the change. As an organization, we stand for equity and inclusion. The rights we fight for are for all women, so by not including all voices, we hinder our efforts. Along with this effort, National has also added a "Member Rights and Responsibilities" page on their website. Indeed, it is every member's responsibility to vote on this issue. I was surprised to learn that there is about a 25% turnout for their votes. Voting is easy - online, a click of a button - so please make sure you watch for the email and exercise your duty to vote. Voting on this issue will be open April 3 - May 15. For more information, I strongly encourage you to go to aauw.org and search for "open membership." You will find the wording of the bylaws change, as well as an informative toolkit.

In addition, National also created a Civility Policy to be used when discussing this issue, or really any issue coming up in our future. We sadly live in an era of incivility in politics that spills over into many interactions where people may have a difference of opinion. These policies should be put into practice in every meeting you may attend. They include:

- Be empathetic - try to see the other's point of view
- Be an active listener - make eye contact and pay attention
- Be respectful and not condescending
- Be curious and open to learning
- Repeat points back to show understanding
- Find common ground - we all have much more in common than we have differences
- Be patient - reaching common ground needs conversations over time

Good advice for everyone!



Membership Open House

March 14, 5:30-7 pm

The Membership Committee invites you to a pre-St. Patrick's Day Sip and Savor evening on Thursday, March 14, at Headquarters. Bring friends and neighbors who wish to learn about AAUW San Jose, or come to share your own AAUW experience. The Wearing of the Green is entirely optional! Enjoy a fun evening to promote the Branch and savor some St Patrick's Day-themed treats ... you might even have the luck of the Irish and win the See's Chocolate raffle prize!

March Program Event: Stories and Costumes from the Past

Presented by Portraits of the Past, San Jose History Museum

March 16, 1-2 pm

(doors open at 12:30; program starts promptly at 1pm)

Willow Glen United Methodist Church

Kohlstedt Hall - 1420 Newport Avenue

**(please enter through the main church entrance on Newport Ave,
not back entrance on Minnesota)**

Pam Dougherty and Ruth Dusan, Program

We will take you on a journey through California's history, in tales of things that really happened but mostly will never make it into the history books, told in short vignettes--and with a glimpse of an Age of Elegance along the way (costumes).

Invite your friends to this just-for-fun event. Afterwards, coffee and tea at Headquarters, across the street, for those who wish a little conversation and sharing.

Please RSVP here: [Invitation-RSVP](#)

French Conversation Group Meeting Time Change

Barbara Snyder

The French Conversation Group is changing to noon meetings on the third Tuesday of each month on Zoom so that working people can join us on their lunch hours. Do join us if you would like to try speaking French. Bring your French dictionary and a willingness to speak in French. To be placed on the email list to receive the Zoom URL for French Conversation, please contact [Barbara Snyder](#). The other language groups will continue on Tuesdays at 10 am on Zoom.

New Italian Conversation Group

Barbara Snyder

A new Italian Conversation Group is being formed and will meet at 10 am on Zoom on the fourth Tuesday of each month starting on March 26. Do join us if you would like to try to speak Italian. Bring your Italian dictionary and a willingness to speak in Italian. To be placed on the email list to receive the Zoom URL for Italian conversation, please contact [Barbara Snyder](#).



Upcoming Opportunities to Help

Mary Jane Vitkovich, Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Thanks to all who made our January Warm Heart's Drive a great success! A carload of warm clothes was delivered to Santa Maria Urban Ministry. Your continued generosity helps keep our neighbors warm this winter.

There will be two more opportunities to help. On March 9, from 10 am to 12 pm, we will be collecting feminine hygiene items (tampons, pads, adult diapers) for Sacred Heart Community Service. We will also be collecting new and gently-used bath/hand towels for Front Door Communities. If you cannot attend, you may bring donations to the Parlor at Headquarters. Questions, please contact [Mary Jane Vitkovich](#).

welcome

Welcome to Our Newest Member

Claire Campodonico

JOCELYN ERLANDSON was encouraged to join by her mother-in-law and our member, Zee Del Fiugo. Jocelyn received a BA in Liberal Studies from San Francisco State University and is employed as an Alliances Manager by DataEndura. Her daughter is a past recipient of our Local Scholarship Program.

Save the Date - AAUW San Jose Annual Meeting

Linda Goldberg

Please put our Annual Meeting on your calendar Saturday, April 13, 10 am - 12 pm. We will be voting on officers for the 2024-25 fiscal year. Our speaker will be Carolyn Zola, an AAUW Fellowship recipient and Ph.D. candidate in History at Stanford. Her studies concentrate on gender, race and labor in 18th and 19th-century North America.



Local Scholarship Applications Now Available

Cheryl Markman, Local Scholarship Committee

Applications for 2024 scholarships are now available for qualified women as of March 1 at 12:01 am PT. Completed applications must be received online by April 15 at 11:59 pm PT or postmarked by April 15, 2024.

Application requirements include:

- Principal address in Campbell, Milpitas, Santa Clara or San Jose, California
- Completion of two full years of study at an accredited college or university
- Acceptance from a four-year institution as a junior or senior for the Fall 2024 quarter or semester
- Minimum GPA of 3.0
- Qualified finalists will be interviewed by members of the AAUW San Jose Local Scholarship Committee.

Applications are available at [AAUW Local Scholarship Application Information | San Jose \(CA\) Branch](#).

For more information about the application process, please contact Sharon Bouska or Tynka Dees at scholarship@aauwsanjose.org.



AAUW San Jose Past Presidents Gathering

Sonia Wright, Immediate Past President

Past Presidents gathered toward the end of January, despite the cold and rain, for a salad and dessert lunch at Headquarters. Sincere big thanks to Cheryl Markman, our organizer.

Back row: Cheryl Markman, Linda Snashall, Sonia Wright, Diane Trombetta, Peg Carlson-Bowen, Elaine Benoit. **Seated:** Sharon Bouska, Diana Taylor, Bobbie Baker. Taking the picture was Carol Fitting.



Gifts for Teens – Teens Helping Teens

Cheryl Markman, Gifts for Teens

Every year, Gifts for Teens (GFT) relies on the help and support of many of our local organizations to accomplish our goal. One of those organizations is National Charity League (NCL), specifically the local Blossom Valley and Almaden Chapters. NCL is "a national multi-generational philanthropic organization of mothers and daughters" whose mission is to foster "the mother-daughter relationship through an ongoing commitment to philanthropy, culture and leadership."

For the past three years, NCL members have helped GFT package and wrap thousands of donated cosmetics in festive holiday paper. They also help GFT fill the gift totes and duffel bags that we distribute annually to needy San Jose teenagers. In January 2024, over 100 members of these local NCL branches held their annual charity gift drive. They collected 255 sports bras, which they bagged and wrapped with a cheery note to the recipients and donated to GFT. This is a significant donation to GFT since the comfortable-to-wear sport bras are seldom donated throughout the year. It is also a very valuable donation, as GFT usually purchases the bras at a significant cost. GFT is thrilled to receive this generous donation and to partner with NCL!

Public Policy/Advocacy Update

Susan Karlins, Public Policy/Advocacy

AAUW San Jose members participated in the Bay Area Roundtable on Gender-Based Violence and Harassment, sponsored by the Women's Bureau of the US Labor Department and led by our own member Carla Collins. The roundtable also included programs about the AAUW CA School Board Project and the herstory of the AAUW Lobby Corps.

We provided oral and written testimony to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors in support of a resolution "No Child Marriage, No Exceptions." We also attended the Campbell Union High School District Board meeting and engaged with several area groups working to protect the implementation of Education Code Section 51204.5: requiring Social Science instruction to include the role and contributions of both men and women, members of various races/ethnic groups, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Americans, persons with disabilities, and members of other ethnic and cultural groups, to the economic, political, and social development of California and the nation.





Tech Trek Really Needs Your Help!

Cheryl Markman, Tech Trek

Last month we announced that AAUW CA has added two new campuses near San Jose for the 2024 Summer Tech Trek camps. The new camps will be at Santa Clara University (SCU) and Cal State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB). We also noted that AAUW CA is counting on all branches that want to send campers to these new campuses to help staff the camps. If they do not have the volunteers, the camp may be canceled. Even if the camp is not canceled, they may consider allocating space at a camp based upon the branch's ability to supply staff. There is still a great need for volunteers to help staff both camps.

Volunteer positions that still need to be filled at SCU, held July 7-13, are:

Coordinator for women's professional night

Professionals in STEM careers who would give a talk about their careers

Dorm moms – adult counselors responsible for 10 to 12 girls, arrive on campus July 6

Shoppers for camp supplies

SWAG coordinator

IT support

Retrieve items from storage and bring to camp

Return items to storage from camp

Unbox, test and set up computers

Re-box and ship computers

"Sellers" for Mad City Money (a 1/2 day money management workshop)

Volunteer positions that still need to be filled at CSUMB, held July 14-20, are:

Dorm moms – adult counselors responsible for 10 to 12 girls, arrive on campus July 13

Afternoon class monitors

Afternoon class monitors organizer – can work from home

Afternoon workshop scheduler – works from home

Camp director in training

For both camps, the following stipulations apply:

The STEM professional speaker needs to be female but does not need to be an AAUW member.

Volunteers for jobs in which one would be in contact with campers -- for example, dorm moms and class and workshop monitors -- must be a female AAUW member.

Volunteers for jobs where one would not be in contact with campers do not need to be female nor an AAUW member.

Even if you can't assist for one of the camps, perhaps you know someone who is a good fit for one of the camp positions that needs to be filled. Please give some thought to how you might be able to help. We need your help and support to make these camps happen. Anyone interested in helping to fill one of these important positions should contact techtrek@aauwsanjose.org for a job description or more information.

An Update on Stephanie Vu Two-Time Local Scholarship Recipient Cheryl Markman, Local Scholarship Committee



Stephanie Vu received an AAUW Local Scholarship in 2021 and a second one in 2022. With help from the AAUW scholarships, for which she is sincerely appreciative, Stephanie graduated with Honors in December 2022 from California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB), with a Bachelor's in Business Administration. She was proud to be nominated for the 2023 Provost's Award for Exemplary Academic Achievement for students with outstanding achievement in their major and their contribution to the learning community. Her academic accomplishments include her research in artificial intelligence, which was acknowledged by the Dean of the College of Business at the Commencement Ceremony (viewable at <https://www.youtube.com/live/QmDZ8pxKRwQ?feature=share&t=2019>, starting at 33:39).

After graduation, Stephanie took some time off to travel, reconnect with family, and explore different places. Oregon captured her heart with its natural beauty and diverse food truck scene, prompting her to make it her new home in 2023.

Driven by her passion for nonprofits and research, Stephanie is excited to embark on the next chapter of her career at Kaiser Permanente's Center for Health Research. As a Senior Project Assistant, she aims to contribute to innovation that advances our health knowledge.

Beyond her professional pursuits, Stephanie is currently learning Spanish and hopes to be trilingual, in the near future. Besides baking and reading, Stephanie enjoys her new hobby of wandering around Oregon's diverse old bookstores and national parks. When weather permits, she and her husband take their four-paws companions for a hiking journey.

What's Next for Public Policy/Advocacy?

Susan Karlins, Public Policy/Advocacy

Have you considered attending a Public Policy/Advocacy meeting, but are not quite sure what to expect? We next meet on Wednesday, March 20, 7 pm, for an informal orientation. If you want to learn more before the meeting, join us at 6:30 pm. The meeting is on [Zoom](#). For more information, contact Susan or Elaine at publicpolicy@aauwsanjose.org

Election year has begun! Join dozens of other AAUW San Jose members to write colorful postcards to encourage Black residents of Georgia to participate in their May Congressional primary. Research shows that people who vote in the primary are more likely to vote in the November General Election. Postcard packets with stamps, script, addresses and stickers that include voter information are available NOW. If you'd like to participate, contact Susan at publicpolicy@aauwsanjose.org. Postcards to be mailed the first week of May.

Want to learn more about AAUW CA's School Board Project? AAUW CA's pioneering project caught the eye of National AAUW, which presented an excellent webinar explaining the issues and what's at stake. Find the recording of the webinar here: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/webinars/>. Find the link to information about AAUW CA's School Board Project and toolkit here: <https://www.aauw-ca.org/school-board-project-toolkit/>.



Spotlight on Jan Bartolotta

Ruth Dusan and Grace O'Leary

Ruth first met Jan in February 2019 at a Membership Open House and has been totally in awe since then. Jan has a wonderful sense of presence and fills the room with her warm and upbeat personality. Here's how Jan shared her experience with AAUW. Grace remembers Jan as a gourmet cook, and we are both certainly not in Jan's league.

How did you discover AAUW San Jose?

I discovered AAUW at a booth at an art fair ... I honestly can't remember which one.

How long have you been a member of AAUW?

My AAUW membership has been in and out ... began in 1982/83-ish. I brought soup to the February soup sampler and somehow ended up on the Board. Eventually, I became Membership chair in 1986/88. I found trying to participate with an infant (1987) was beyond my skills, only returning to AAUW when Andrea was in high school. Andrea arrived just as the babysitting co-op was waning away, sadly.

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

My favorite part of the AAUW San Jose experience is multi faceted ... the fascinating, strong women who make the message work, the message/mission itself, and the diverse opportunities within the Branch activities ... all are wonderful!!

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

To me, the greatest improvement would be in reaching a wider audience ... those younger with a mission, and those of broader ethnic background. Maybe the reintroduction of the childcare sharing co-op would accomplish both? It is not easy to attract those groups if they cannot see themselves in those recruiting.

What would you like members to know about you?

Wow. Just that I like to make friends, bake, and help where possible.

How would you like to be remembered?

That I loved my family, many friends, music at all hours, being able to travel, and helping others.

March 2024

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.**

Continued on page 9.

Sun Mar 3	9-10:30 am	Weekend Walkers (RSVP Judy Burt)
Mon Mar 4	10 am-1 pm	Bridge 1 st Monday (RSVP Bobbie Eckerman)
	6:30-8 pm	Neighbors Helping Neighbors (Bobbie Baker)
Tue Mar 5	10-11 am	German Conversation ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder)
	1-4 pm	Film Fans Time To Be Determined (RSVP Nancy Wheeler)
	1-3 pm	Mahjong (RSVP Shelley Powers)
Wed Mar 6	5:30- 6 pm	AAUW Board Social Hour (Linda Goldberg)
	6-7:30 pm	AAUW BOARD Meeting (Linda Goldberg)
Thu Mar 7	11 am-1 pm	Art Appreciation (RSVP Jan Bartolotta)
Fri Mar 8	9:30 am-2 pm	Duplicate Bridge (RSVP Lida Kluzek)
Sat Mar 9	10 am-Noon	Neighbors helping Neighbors Donation Drive (MaryJane Vitkovich)
	6:30-9:30 pm	Couples Dining (RSVP Karen Hook)
Sun Mar 10	9-10:30 am	Weekend Walkers (RSVP Judy Burt)
Mon Mar 11	6:30- 9:30 pm	Light Gourmet (RSVP Cheryl Markman)
Tue Mar 12	10-11 am	Conversacion Espanol ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder)
	10-11:30 am	Book Discussion AM A Woman is No Man by Etan Rum (Sandy Bonnet)
	1-3 pm	Mahjong (RSVP Shelley Powers)
Wed Mar 13	7-8:30 pm	Wednesday Night Book Group Hybrid (Renee Sommerfeld)
Thu Mar 14	9:30-11 am	Great Decisions AM Hybrid (Monique Lee)
	1-4 pm	Bridge 2 nd Thursday (RSVP Bobbie Eckerman)
	5:30-7:30 pm	Sip and Savor Prospective members and Member meeting (Membership@aauwsanjose.org)
Fri Mar 15	10 am-1 pm	Bridge (RSVP Lida Kluzek)
Sat Mar 16	1-2 pm	March Program Portraits of the Past 1420 Newport Ave Corner Newport and Minnesota (RSVP Ruth Dusan)
Sun Mar 17	9-10:30 am	Weekend Walkers (RSVP Judy Burt)
Mon Mar 18	9:30-11 am	Exploring World Literature Hybrid (RSVP Diana Taylor)
	1-4 pm	Interbranch Council (Linda Goldberg)
	6:30-9 pm	International Gourmet (RSVP Jan Bartolotta)
Tue Mar 19	Noon-1pm	French Conversation ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder)
	1-3 pm	Mahjong (RSVP Shelley Powers)
	6-7:30 pm	Membership Meeting (Membership@aauwsanjose.org)
Wed Mar 20	1:30-3 pm	Program Event Planning Zoom (RSVP Ruth Dusan)
	7-8:30 pm	Public Policy (Susan Karlins)
Thu Mar 21	10 am-12 pm	Family History Hybrid (Susan Brundage)
	7-8:30 pm	Mystery Lovers ZOOM (Sharon Shephard)
Fri Mar 22	1:30-3 pm	Local Scholarship ZOOM (Tynka Dees)
Sun Mar 24	Morgan Hill Wildflower Run/Walk (RSVP Judy Burt)	
Mon Mar 25	11 am-12:30 pm	Building and Properties Committee (buildings@aauwsanjose.org)
Tue Mar 26	10-11 am	Italian Conversation ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder)
	1-3 pm	Mahjong (RSVP Shelley Powers)
	1-4 pm	Bridge 4 th Tuesday (RSVP Bobbie Eckerman)
	7-8:30 pm	Great Decisions PM ZOOM (Sharon Shephard)
Wed Mar 27	12-1:30 pm	Lunch Bunch (Diana Taylor)
Thu Mar 28	9:30-11 am	Great Decisions AM Hybrid (Monique Lee)
Sun Mar 31	9-10:30 am	Weekend Walkers (RSVP Judy Burt)

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March 2024

AAUW BONFIRE San Jose Branch *Established 1909*



The poster features a teal background with a faint image of a crowd. In the top left is a circular logo for the Women's Leadership & Policy Summit, established in 2018, with the tagline 'WOMEN LEADING CHANGE'. The main title 'WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP & POLICY SUMMIT 2024' is in large, bold, pink and white letters. Below it, a pink-bordered box contains the theme 'UNITY IN DIVERSITY: WOMEN LEADING CHANGE'. The date 'SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2024' is in large pink letters. To the left of the time 'Start at 9am to 4pm' is a clock icon. Below the time, it says 'Registration opens at 8:30AM'. The location 'San Jose State University' is in bold green, with '1 Washington Sq, San Jose, CA 95192' below it, accompanied by a location pin icon. On the right, it says 'SPACE IS LIMITED' and 'PLEASE RSVP BY FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 2024'. Below that, it provides contact information: 'FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT LY VO 408-299-5020 - LY.VO@BOS.SCCGOV.ORG'. At the bottom right are logos for Amazon, Supervisor Cindy Chavez, and the Valley Health Foundation (VHF).

SUPERVISOR CINDY CHAVEZ, VALLEY HEALTH FOUNDATION, AND AMAZON PRESENT:
WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP & POLICY SUMMIT 2024

**UNITY IN DIVERSITY:
WOMEN LEADING CHANGE**

SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2024

Start at 9am to 4pm
Registration opens at 8:30AM

San Jose State University
1 Washington Sq, San Jose, CA 95192

SPACE IS LIMITED
PLEASE RSVP BY FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 2024
FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT LY VO
408-299-5020 - LY.VO@BOS.SCCGOV.ORG

amazon
SUPERVISOR CINDY CHAVEZ
VHF VALLEY HEALTH FOUNDATION

Eventbrite link: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/womens-leadership-and-policy-summit-2024-tickets-784746195997?utm_experiment=test_share_listing&aff=ebdsshios



Empowering Women Since 1881

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