

Three New Scholarships Kick Off Fundraising Efforts
Named Scholarships Honor Special People in Our Lives and Our History

Spring brings us so many ways to celebrate those special people in our lives. Flowers? Chocolate? Instead, why not recognize that special someone with a donation in their honor

Three new named scholarships are kicking off this spring:

1. **Family Ties Scholarship** – in honor of family members, female or male, who have advanced gender equity and the AAUW mission.
2. **Educators Scholarship** – in honor of inspiring female or male teachers we have known, or outstanding teachers educating the next generation of women and girls.
3. **Trailblazers Scholarship** – in honor of the women and men who have paved the way toward greater gender equity, or who have inspired us to support the AAUW mission.

Donors contribute any amount to one (or more) of three scholarship pools. When the dollar amount within one of the named scholarships reaches \$5,000 (our minimum award), it will be awarded to a deserving student. The scholarship's donors and their honorees will be publicized in the BONFIRE.

To donate, write a check to ISPF-AAUW for any amount. Mail to AAUW San Jose, 1165 Minnesota Ave., Ste. 100, San Jose, CA 95125. Write the named scholarship (from the above list) on the Memo line. For more information or answers to questions, contact scholarships@aauwsanjose.org.



Mother's Day is May 12

*Donate to the new **Family Ties Scholarship** to celebrate this day!*

Unlike a bouquet, your donation of any amount will not wilt, but will bloom and grow until it becomes the gift of higher education for a deserving woman completing her education.





President's Corner by Linda Goldberg



I am happy to let you all know that our Branch is strongly supporting our mission by sending three very qualified young women to the National Conference of College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). Our past scholarship recipients Maritza Campos, Bereket Kebede, and Alyssa Espinal will be attending the conference in College Park, MD, May 30 - June 1. I have had the pleasure of getting to know them a bit better during the process of their applications, and I know you would all be proud of them. We look forward to what they will accomplish.

We are making good progress on our task of revamping Branch communications with the help of our consultant Michele Bertolone. This is a multi-prong project that will result in allowing all of our members to communicate their programs/events to members and the public in a way that looks professional and uniform. We are looking forward to having it in place and training done by next fall. To that end, we are asking you to take a short, anonymous survey that will help to determine the way you receive your information and what interests you. Please find a link in this issue. If you would like a paper copy of the survey, we can make that available for you. We are looking for a Communications Liaison for next year who will function as the point person to help planners get their message to the right places. If you would like to help with this position, please let me know!



Finding Ways to Serve You Better

Please complete the short member survey by May 15

Your AAUW San Jose leaders want to be sure YOU have the information you need to get the most out of your membership. To help us do that, please complete our 10-minute *members-only survey* at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AAUWSJ>.

Thank you for your honest and complete answers. We appreciate your time!

Community Engagement Series

Inspiring Women From a Filipino Perspective

Sat., May 18 | 12:45 pm

Willow Glen United Methodist Church



music by **U-Kool-Ladies**



Keynote Speaker **Edna Robison**

Join us in celebrating Asian American and Pacific Heritage (AAPI) Month, focusing on legendary and present-day Filipino women shaping history, by Edna Robison, Past President, AAUW San Jose. Why care? Representation * Inspiration * Cultural Understanding * Empowerment * Global Perspective. Optional: AAPI attire. Bring a friend. Address: 1420 Newport Avenue, San Jose. [Click here to RSVP/Register.](#)



RSVP by 5/4/2024
Use QR code



Or email programs@aauwsanjose.org

Celebrating Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Month: Honoring Filipino Heritage and Culture Currents

May 18 - 12:45-3:00 pm

Willow Glen United Methodist Church

1420 Newport Avenue, San Jose

Edna Robison, Programs

U-Kool-Ladies and Edna Robison, Keynote speaker



In 1978, President Jimmy Carter proclaimed one week in May to commemorate the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants on May 7, 1843 and the May 10 anniversary of the transcontinental railroad built by mostly Chinese workers. The first celebration occurred in May 1979. On May 7, 1992 President George H.W. Bush changed it to one month and added Pacific Islanders. Annually since then, US presidents have proclaimed May as AAPI month.

To promote representation, inspiration, cultural understanding, empowerment and global perspectives, our presentation will showcase legendary Filipino women and trailblazing American women with Filipino ancestry. From the People's Power movement that propelled Corazon Aquino to become the first female President of the Philippines, to the Nobel Prize 2021 Laureate Maria Ressa, we will deep-dive into how these women's pivotal roles helped shape history, champion social justice, break barriers and leave indelible legacies. We will celebrate the Pacific Islanders' experience through Hawaiian songs rendered by the U-Kool-Ladies, using ukuleles as instruments.

Program:

Opening Remarks/Introductions: Ruth Dusan, Program VP and Emcee

Keynote Speech: "Inspiring Women from a Filipino Perspective," Edna Robison, AAUW San Jose Past President, assisted by Nancy Wheeler

Q&A after presentation

Gift Presentation: Cheryl Markman, AAUW San Jose Past President

Closing Remarks: Linda Goldberg, AAUW San Jose President

Whether you're a member of AAUW, a gender equality proponent, or a community member, this event is sure to engage an audience with varied backgrounds. Please RSVP by May 4:

<https://form.jotform.com/232185376417157>.

Wear your best AAPI attire if you like and bring a friend!

AAUW California's 2024 Legislative Agenda

Public Policy/Advocacy Leadership Team

The AAUW CA Public Policy Committee reviewed 67 bills currently before the California legislature, considering their merits, potential costs, and alignment with our public policy priorities.

Our first signature "A" priority bill, "Health Care Coverage for Rape and Sexual Assault Survivors" (AB 2843), was authored by AAUW California. The bill falls under two of our public policy priorities, "Social and Racial Justice for All Members of Society" and "Economic Security for All Women." It would eliminate cost-sharing and deductibles for any rape survivor seeking medical care following a rape. Insurers will be required to cover the cost of medical care with no co-pay.

Our second "A" priority bill, "Title IX Oversight and Compliance Act" (AB 2326), is also sponsored by AAUW California. This bill falls under our public policy priority "Equal Access to Quality Education for All Students" and champions Title IX enforcement. AB 2326 requires all California public colleges and universities to provide and publicly present an annual report of their compliance with Title IX, a move to hold the systems, and their leaders, more publicly accountable.

Our third "A" priority bill, "Protecting Reproductive Health Clinics" (AB 2099), falls under our public policy priority "Social and Racial Justice for All Members of Society." The bill makes it possible for the District Attorney to file a felony charge for sharing personal information or images of individuals, such as reproductive health care providers or patients, with the intent of causing harm or violence against them if the posting and subsequent action results in bodily injury.

To learn about supporting the above bills, email publicpolicy@aauwsanjose.org or come to our May 15 Zoom meeting at 7 pm (come early at 6:30 pm for a brief orientation). [Join us on Zoom here](#).



GFT - Moving Forward

Cheryl Markman, Gifts for Teens

Looking ahead to the 2024 Holiday Season (yes, already!), Gifts for Teens (GFT) plans to fill close to 700 gift bags on weekends in September and October to be given out to under-served teens in December.

Even now the GFT steering committee is hard at work. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 21. As they all are, this will be an important meeting. Major decisions still need to be made regarding bag contents and gift ideas. As always, we are looking for new volunteer leaders to join in our efforts. Please contact [Elaine Benoit](#) for details.



Update on Mary Black **Two-Time AAUW Scholarship Recipient** Cheryl Markman, Local Scholarship

Mary Black received an AAUW Local Scholarship in 2020 and a second one in 2022. She graduated in May 2023 from California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB), with a B.S. in Liberal Studies.

Mary recently started a position at a non-profit rehab facility in the Monterey area. She also plans to be a Special Education substitute aide when she's not working night shifts. Additionally, driven by her love for investing in others as well as herself, Mary attends and serves at a recovery group twice a week. The Christian recovery group functions like an Alcoholics Anonymous group but is open to all addictions and life-controlling issues (co-dependency, alcoholism, food and body image, etc.) She welcomes newcomers and leads the songs there. Once she has finished their program, she will be able to be a sponsor for others, something she is eager to do. As a sponsor, she will likely be leading the open share times, where people talk about how their recovery is progressing. Once she gains sufficient experience, she plans to apply for graduate school, working toward a master's degree in either psychology or counseling. Mary's dream is to have her own practice someday.

Mary notes that she became heavily involved with a local church in Monterey where she leads a college Bible study group. Besides the study, they also plan fun activities such as going to movies and dinners. She also leads worship at the church as one of their singers and recently was featured on a worship cover (a piece of music) produced by her church. She notes that, although she's "not the biggest fan of singing in front of a lot of people," she does enjoy singing.

When not involved in one of her service or church related activities, Mary has delved into her "sourdough journey" learning how to make bread and using the discard to make "really yummy crackers." She's also attempting to start a garden but may move before that can happen.

Mary notes that she is so thankful that AAUW has invested in her future and career goals and wishes us all good health!





Spotlight on Kathy Heihn

Ruth Dusan and Grace O'Leary



How did you discover AAUW San Jose?

After retiring in November 2010, I went looking for a volunteer opportunity. I responded to a request in the San Jose Mercury News, and in December helped assemble bags for Gifts for Teens. I was impressed with the project and the wonderful women running it. I ended up joining their committee.

How long have you been a member of AAUW?

After being encouraged by my friends at Gifts for Teens, I joined in 2015.

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

I like the friendships and opportunities. There are so many opportunities to support the Branch and also to help others. I was Membership Treasurer for several years and enjoyed getting to know other members. It's also a great way to make friends.

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

Encouraging members to recruit friends and coworkers is vital. The Branch works well in reaching out to high school and college students. Having members of varying ages makes the membership experience more interesting.

What would you like members to know about you?

In June 2021, I had a bilateral lung transplant and spent 10 months in the hospital. I'm currently at home working to regain the strength I lost during my hospital stay. It's a marathon!

How would you like to be remembered?

First, that I've been there for my family, and second, that I've helped others. I hope I've made a difference in someone's life. AAUW gives me the opportunity to reach out to others.

May 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.**

Wed May 1	5:30– 6 pm	AAUW Board Social Hour (Linda Goldberg)
	6-7:30 pm	AAUW BOARD Meeting (Linda Goldberg)
Sun May 5	9-10:30 am	Weekend Walkers (RSVP Judy Burt)
Mon May 6	10 am-1 pm	Bridge 1 st Monday (RSVP Bobbie Eckerman)
	6:30-8 pm	Neighbors Helping Neighbors (Bobbie Baker)
Tue May 7	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 May 8	11 am-1 pm	Art Appreciation (RSVP Jan Bartolotta)
	7-8:30 pm	Wednesday Night Book Group Hybrid (Renee Sommerfeld)
Thu May 9	9:30-11 am	Great Decisions AM Hybrid (Monique Lee)
	1-4 pm	Bridge 2 nd Thursday (RSVP Bobbie Eckerman)
Fri May 10	9:30 am-2 pm	Duplicate Bridge (RSVP Lida Kluzek)
Sat May 11	6:30-9:30 pm	Couples Dining (RSVP Karen Hook)
Sun May 12	9-10:30 am	Weekend Walkers (RSVP Judy Burt)
Mon May 13	6:30- 9:30 pm	Light Gourmet (RSVP Cheryl Markman)
Tue May 14	10-11 am	Conversacion Espanol ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder)
	10-11:30 am	Book Discussion AM Council of Dolls by Mona Power (Sandy Bonnet)
	1-3 pm	Mahjong (RSVP Shelley Powers)
Wed May 15	1:30-3 pm	Program Event Planning Zoom (RSVP Ruth Dusan)
	7-8:30 pm	Public Policy (Susan Karlins)
Thu May 16	10 am-12 pm	Family History Hybrid (Susan Brundage)
	7-8:30 pm	Mystery Lovers (Sharon Shephard)
Fri May 17	10 am-1 pm	Bridge (RSVP Lida Kluzek)
Sat May 18	12:45-3 pm	Program Event AAPI Month - Inspiring Women from a Filipino Perspective Willow Glen United Methodist Church (RSVP Ruth Dusan)

May 2024 continued

Sun May 19	9-10:30 am	Weekend Walkers (RSVP Judy Burt)
Mon May 20	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 May 21	Noon-1pm	French Conversation ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder)
	1-3 pm	Mahjong (RSVP Shelley Powers)
	6-7:30 pm	Membership Meeting (Membership@aauwsanjos.org)
Wed May 22	12-1:30 pm	Lunch Bunch (Diana Taylor)
Thu May 23	9:30-11 am	Great Decisions AM Hybrid (Monique Lee)
Fri May 24	1:30-3 pm	Local Scholarship Hybrid (Tynka Dees)
Sun May 26	9-10:30 am	Weekend Walkers (RSVP Judy Burt)
Mon May 27	11 am-12:30 pm	Building and Properties Committee (buildings@aauwsanjos.org)
Tue May 28	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)
Thu-Fri May 30-31		Local Scholarship Interviews (Tynka Dees)

welcome

Welcome to Our Newest Member

Claire Campodonico

BEVERLY LAMBERT was referred by Branch member Karen Hook. Being a native of Texas, Beverly received a BA in Business from Baylor University. Now, being a Californian for over 30 years, she recently retired from a career as a Director of Talent Acquisition for various technology and biotech/pharma industries. Beverly is looking forward to joining several of our Interest Groups, including Art Appreciation.



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May 2024

AAUW BONFIRE

San Jose Branch *Established 1909*



Save the Date Neighbors Helping Neighbors Soiree Monday, June 3 at 6 pm

You are invited to the social event of the year, the Neighbors Helping Neighbors June Soiree! Come and join us on a lovely June evening with food, drink and vibrant conversation. The fun starts at 6 pm with both inside and outside seating. Dress is casual.

At 6:30 pm, Alfonso Mendez from Santa Maria Urban Ministry will be our speaker. The Branch has a long and productive relationship with this non-profit, including our yearly Warm Hearts Drive. We will be collecting a yet-to-be-determined item for Santa Maria, so watch for future announcements. Please contact [Mary Jane Vitkovich](#) if you have questions. Hope to see you there!



Empowering Women Since 1881

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