

President's Corner by Tynka Dees



Boosting Our Communication Efforts

Oprah's quote, "Great communication begins with connection," perfectly reflects a new initiative, led by the Board's ad hoc Communications Team begun this Spring. It will boost the ways we communicate with each other and with the greater community. Here are some highlights so far:

- **Job Descriptions** – The committee revised two communication-related job descriptions: Communications Liaison Board Member and Paid Communications Consultant. Updated job descriptions are posted on the Branch's [Members Only](#) webpage.*
- **Paid Communications Consultant** – Funded by the Dorris Miller Bequest, we have hired a professional communications expert part time. Her name is Michele Bertolone. Learn more about her and her qualifications at <https://www.linkedin.com/in/michelebertolone/>.
- **Member Survey** – Thank YOU to everyone who completed the survey. We had an amazing 55% response rate, which greatly exceeds average response rates. If you would like to review the summary results, access the survey report at the Branch's [Members Only](#) webpage. *
- **Planning and Promoting Our Events** – Michele has met with members who work on our events to document and clarify the event planning process to ensure our outstanding programs get the attention they deserve. Access event planning tools at the Branch's [Members Only](#) webpage.*
- **Upcoming Projects** – This initiative is scheduled to be active for the next 18 months with projects including refining our social media channel strategy/content, redesigning some of our collateral, new membership recruitment/retention planning, and so much more!

Once you look at all the great work completed so far, I'm sure you will be as impressed as I am. To keep everyone informed on upcoming projects, I've asked Michele to provide updates via the BONFIRE at least every other month. Here's to great things to come!

*Need to know how to enter the Members Only page? Email membership@aauwsanjose.org.



Bookmark the website: <https://sanjose-ca.aauw.net/>

Facebook | AAUWSanJose

Instagram | aauwsanjose



Deadline: Oct. 1, 2024

VOLUNTEER SEARCH

Communications Liaison Board Member

MORE INFO

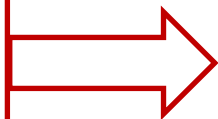
Diane Trombetta
tddtaug@yahoo.com

Duties Include...

Collaborating with extended
Branch communication teams
to improve communications
internally and externally

Communications Liaison Job Description

- Serve as a member of AAUW SJ Board of Directors and of the ad hoc. Communications Team.
- Attend Board meetings and provide regular ad hoc Communications Team updates.
- Act as the liaison between the paid Consultant and individuals responsible for Branch programs and events.
- Work with the Communications Consultant to Provide information and/or tools requested by the Membership Committee, Program Committee, Webmaster, Bonfire Editor, and other groups as needed/requested.
- With the paid Communications Consultant, develop a budget to be submitted to the Finance Committee upon request.
- Keep an accurate record of expenses and submit vouchers to the Branch Treasurer, including vouchers for the Consultant's monthly fee.
- Provide Communication Consultant with information on Branch policies and procedures and Branch administration and organization, as needed.
- With the paid Communications Consultant and other interested parties, develop and implement short- and long-range strategies which increase Branch visibility and which communicate the AAUW mission to Branch leadership, membership, and the public.
- Maintain a database of contacts within local community organizations, including deadlines and procedures for submitting information.
- Seek potential collaborations that promote the AAUW mission.
- Email [Diane Trombetta](mailto:tddtaug@yahoo.com) for more information.



We have lost our treasurer and Headquarters IT person for this year. If anyone is interested, please get in touch with Tynka Dees.



Local Scholarship Once Again Provides Scholarships to Deserving College and University Women

Cheryl Markman, Local Scholarship Committee

Thanks to the support of AAUW San Jose Branch members and our annual fundraising campaign, Local Scholarship was once again able to help support several outstanding university women. This year we were able to award a total of \$152,500 to 19 amazing young women to help them pursue their higher education. Eight of the 19 women selected were second year recipients.

Among the awards were six Named Scholarships, including the Edie Kerr Scholarship for \$11,000. The remaining Named Scholarships were the Grace O'Leary, Goldberg Family, Brenda Ladewig, Trombetta Family and Dorris Miller Scholarships for \$10,000 each. Additional awards ranged from \$3,000 to \$10,000 each, with two of the smaller amounts being for the final semester before graduation.

The women who received scholarships this year will be attending nine different universities, including San Jose State University, UC Berkeley, Santa Clara University, University of San Francisco, UC Davis, UC Santa Barbara, University of Southern California, George Washington University and University of Oregon. Their diverse areas of study include majors in Nursing, Psych, Psych/Pre-Med, BFA Graphic Design, Graphic Design, Studio Arts, Sociology, Public Health, Film and Media, Advertising, International Affairs, Chemistry, Biochemistry, English, Architecture and Business Administration.

We have a bright 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.

Our scholarships do make a difference! Over \$10,000 in new donations came with membership renewals. We hope you will continue to contribute to Local Scholarship so we can continue to influence the world in such a positive way. Thank you again for your support.

welcome

We Welcome a New Member

Claire Campodonico

MADHU GOYAL is a retired geriatric physician. She earned her medical degree from Lady Harding Medical College in New Delhi, India. Madhu immigrated to the United States in 1976 to practice Internal Medicine as well as Geriatrics. Following a 40-year career in New Jersey, she relocated to California, making San Jose her home in 2023. Madhu looks forward to participating in many of our Interest Groups and making new friends. We welcome her!

AAUW San Jose Programs for 2024-2025

Ruth Dusan, Program Vice President

September 11, 2024 - Fraud Prevention for Older Adults, 1-2 pm, doors open 12:45 pm

Venue: Willow Glen United Methodist Church (WGUMC)

Presenter: Russell Chubon, Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office

Event Leader: Ruth Dusan/Program Development Committee (PDC)

October 5, 2024 - Fall Event, 10 am-noon

Venue: WGUMC

Includes 12 Propositions Discussion; Event Leader: Membership Committee

November 16, 2024 - National Association of Mental Illness (NAMI) Presentation, 1-3 pm

Venue: WGUMC

Event Leader: Barb Purdy

December 14, 2024 - Holiday Celebration Brunch with musical entertainment, 12:30-2:30 pm

Venue: WGUMC

Event Leader: Diane Trombetta

January 11, 2025 - Financial Planning, 2 pm to TBD/zoom hybrid

Venue: Headquarters/WGUMC

Presenter: Russell Malley

Event Leader: Ruth Dusan/PDC

February 15, 2025 - Heart Healthy Month/Black History Month, 2-4 pm

Venue: WGUMC

Presenter: Dr. Marco Lee, neurosurgeon; Event Leader: Monique Lee

March 15, 2025 - Life Story of Angela Davis, 2 pm

Tentative venue: WGUMC

Presenter: Michelle Bertolone

Event Leader: Ruth Dusan/PDC

April 2025 - Annual Meeting - date and time TBD

Venue: Headquarters

Event Leader: President Tynka Dees, Ruth Dusan/PDC

May 10, 2025 - "Secret San Jose: A Guide to the Weird, Wonderful and Obscure", 1:30-3:30 pm

Venue: WGUMC

Event Leader: Monique Lee

Book by Cassie Kifer, about the hidden secrets of San Jose

June 2, 2025 - Neighbors Helping Neighbors Soirée, time and speaker TBD

Venue: Headquarters

Event Leaders: NHN co-chairs Bobbie Baker and Mary Jane Vitkovich

The Event Leader is responsible for creating the tasks for the event, and coordinating and executing these tasks with our volunteers to produce a program that aligns with our AAUW mission and empowers women.



Gifts for Teens During the Good Ol' Summertime

Elaine Benoit, Gifts for Teens

There is no summer vacation break for Gifts for Teens ... this is our busy time! While others are enjoying a relaxing beach read, a dozen AAUW women are actively collecting and gift-wrapping new t-shirts, girl's tank tops, San Jose Shark's jerseys, jewelry packets, Thrive and Lush cosmetics, Bombas socks, sports bras and so many more fun items. During June and July, the steering committee women, pictured here, industriously bought, sized, and prepped thousands of fun items for inclusion in festive gift duffels given to extremely low-income local teenagers at holiday time. These summer-prepared gifts will then fill popular, sought-after, teen-appreciated bags.

800 holiday gift bags and backpacks will be given away to area teens this December. There are Extra Special Gifts for 2024! Thanks to the Dorris Miller Bequest, extra funds will allow an additional 110 more teenagers than previously possible to enjoy backpacks filled with newly-designed specialized gifts; different contents not normally included in the larger Gifts for Teens bags!

It is not too early for a Fall commitment. Volunteers can sign up now to help pack bags in September and October - a lively, fun activity. Join us by contacting [Barb Purdy](#), in charge of GFT Volunteer opportunities. Relish your summer hiatus. But keep in mind that help with the Gifts for Teens Community Action Project is always appreciated!

We need volunteers on the following Saturdays: September 14, October 12 and October 19 from 9 am to noon and 1 pm to 4 pm and on Monday, October 21 and Tuesday, October 22 from 9 am to noon. Thanks. Barb Purdy



Gifts for Teens Committee. Back Row (L-R) Lydia Franzese, Karlie Arkin, Elaine Benoit, Leslie Saviage, Sharon Bouska, Beverly Bassett, Barb Purdy, Barbara Handly. **Front Row (L-R)** Carol Paven, Rise Berry, Jan Giroux, and Lois Schultz. Missing: Cheryl Markman, Kathy Heihn, Kay Williams, Paula Seton.

PUBLIC POLICY

Let Us Help You Take Action to Make a Difference!

Susan Karlins, Public Policy Leadership Team

- Write postcards to encourage Black residents of Georgia to participate in the November General Election. We have written over 3,000 postcards already this year! If you'd like to participate, contact Susan at publicpolicy@aauwsanjose.org. You can join us at Headquarters between 4:30 pm and 6:30 pm on Wednesday, August 21, for a sociable postcard writing party. You are welcome to stay for our hybrid meeting starting at 7 pm to find out more about the November California ballot propositions. Or join us via Zoom:[Public Policy/Advocacy Meeting Link](#).
- Visit a local School Board Meeting to lend support for AAUW's commitment to support recent Title IX guidance and bias-free education. Our next visit will be to the Campbell Elementary School District on Thursday, September 26, at 6 pm. To learn more, sign up for the Public Policy/Advocacy email list at publicpolicy@aauwsanjose.org.
- Learn about the November California ballot propositions and help AAUW educate ourselves and the community about them at Fall Event.

Beyond AAUW:

- Help voters to get a form of identification that will allow them to vote in the 34 states that require some form of voter ID by supporting the non-partisan activist group VoteRiders.
- Take action - Check the Americans of Conscience website. Their [checklist](#) of action provides tools that encourage engagement to strengthen American democracy and social justice.
- Know a first-time voter; a young person, new citizen, or someone else who will be voting for the first time? Share the League of Women's Voters' [First-Time Voter Checklist](#) to help make sure they're prepared.
- Be sure to check your own registration at [CA Voter Status](#).
- Learn how our current politics fit within the stream of American history by reading or listening to US Historian Heather Cox Richardson, a professor at Boston College. Find her column "Letters from an American" on Substack - <https://heathercoxrichardson.substack.com/archive> or follow her page on Facebook.



Survey Results Are In!

Linda Goldberg

This Spring we conducted a survey of our entire membership and collected feedback on the Branch's communication channels (BONFIRE, emails, social media), Branch programs, and member satisfaction generally. The response was amazing – over 55%!

Data from the 23-question survey has been carefully examined and analyzed. Here are just a few highlights:

- Most respondents value Branch leadership and dedication; enjoy Branch programs, particularly Interest Group activities and are very content with CAP activities.
- Nearly all respondents value the newsletter, and many are also interested in modifications to make it easier to read/use.
- Most respondents appear to be comfortable with about one Branch email per week.
- Many respondents would like to see an increased presence especially on social media channels of Facebook/Instagram.

Want more? The full 33+ page report is now available on the Branch website in the Members Only section. Need assistance? Email membership@aauwsanjose.org.

“I can promise you that women working together – linked, informed and educated – can bring peace and prosperity to this forsaken planet.”

Isabelle Allende

<https://www.harpersbazaar.com/culture/features/a4056/empowering-female-quotes/>



Spotlight on Linda Goldberg

Ruth Dusan and Grace O'Leary

How did you discover AAUW San Jose?

I've been a member of other AAUW branches for a number of years, so when we moved to this area in 2005, I set out to look for a local branch. I'm not quite sure why I found San Jose versus Los Gatos, which might have been closer, but I think San Jose seemed like it obviously was bigger — and it had more things going on. So I sort of sought it out, I guess.

How long have you been a member of AAUW?

I think I joined in 1987 or 1988, so right around in that timeframe.

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

I think the thing that I like the most is that it reflects my values, things that are important to me as far as education, as far as promoting women's rights — all of those sorts of things. As well as just improving myself, improving my education and things that I know about, just from interacting with other members. I just enjoy the people — pretty much that's the most enjoyable part.

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

Not for me — I just feel I certainly can get out of it whatever I need or want. I'm not active in a lot of the groups but I know they are there, so at anytime when I feel that I have time, I know that they will be there for me. So basically no, there is nothing to do to improve.

What would you like members to know about you?

I guess just that I've been a member for so many years, that I joined originally as a stay-at-home mom — when my three kids were young and it seemed that I wanted to talk about something besides kids. So that was my original impetus for joining. And it has proven to be just a wonderful opportunity to meet and get to know people. I was in New Jersey for 25 years and then we moved to Southern California, and I joined a branch there. Again, knowing that the people that I was surrounding myself with would be people I would like and enjoy being with. And then when we moved up here — just 5 years down there, we moved up here and joined again. I know that I mentioned this to somebody at that first Board meeting — that I was President of the branch in New Jersey and of the branch in Southern California. And served in various other, almost any, office along the way.

How would you like to be remembered?

I would like to be remembered as someone who championed education for women. And someone who wanted to continue to learn on my own as I got older.

Spotlight on Mary Parks Ruth Dusan and Grace O'Leary



We thank Mary Parks for participating in this project, and we also thank Grace for making this interview happen.

How did you discover AAUW San Jose?

A friend of mine who had just joined AAUW Los Gatos suggested I join AAUW, which I did.

How long have you been a member of AAUW?

I joined AAUW San Jose in 1992 - 31 years ago as of this writing.

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

The interesting conversations on a wide variety of topics of shared experiences I have enjoyed with everyone participating, especially Lunch Bunch. Also, the huge variety of activities and official positions used to run our elite organization of much influence in advocating for empowering girls and women, I have relished.

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

To me, equity is important as demonstrated in preparing on Equity Day large 3/4 cookies distributed to many places. As an organization, we need to "toot our horn" louder in the media, in education facilities and libraries.

What would you like members to know about you?

I have been involved in many facets of AAUW over the years in leadership capacities, as in preparing the Directory, managing and tracking membership, being on the Building & Properties Committee in reorganizing, cleaning, supplying, and updating our Headquarters.

I helped make a difference being a participant in Neighbors Helping Neighbors, especially in making quilts for traumatized children, preparing for the holidays with teen duffle bags for our older homeless and sheltered children, cooking and serving 120 lunches for the Family Supportive Center, and sorting and packing food for the homeless. As a wandering photographer, I have captured AAUW's many special projects and award presentations. And finally, I am a member of the "Legacy Circle."

How would you like to be remembered?

I would like to be remembered as a visionary with a gift in organizing places and empowering people to higher levels of confidence and performance.

Fall Gathering

Saturday, October 5, 10 am - noon

Willow Glen United Methodist Church Hall

Corner of Minnesota and Newport

(across from AAUW San Jose)

Each fall, AAUW San Jose kicks off its year of activities with a Fall Gathering, showcasing our Interest Groups, highlighting accomplishments of our Community Action Projects (Gifts for Teens, Local Scholarship, Neighbors Helping Neighbors and Tech Trek), and presenting a current topic of interest.

This year, our Public Policy Committee will present their “Proposition Exposition” -a non-partisan, short-and-sweet review of propositions on the November 5 ballot, including who’s supporting each side, the implications of a “yes” or “no” vote, and who’s funding all the ads! This is always a very informative and useful presentation.

Come to meet new members and reconnect with friends you haven’t seen for a while.

Refreshments will be served on the patio outside and the main event will be in the church hall.

AAUW San Jose Branch Renewal Party



Some of the 2024-25 AAUW San Jose Branch Board Members

August 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.**

Sun Aug 4	9-10:30 am	Weekend Walkers (RSVP Judy Burt)
Mon Aug 5	10 am-1 pm	Bridge 1 st Monday (RSVP Bobbie Eckerman)
Tue Aug 6	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 Aug 7	5:30– 6 pm	AAUW Board Social Hour (Tynka Dees)
	6-7:30 pm	AAUW BOARD Meeting (Tynka Dees)
Thu Aug 8	1-4 pm	Bridge 2 nd Thursday (RSVP Bobbie Eckerman)
Fri Aug 9	9:30 am-1:30 pm	Duplicate Bridge (RSVP Lida Kluzek)
Sat Aug 10	6:30-9:30 pm	Couples Dining (RSVP Karen Hook)
Sun Aug 11	9-10:30 am	Weekend Walkers (RSVP Judy Burt)
Mon Aug 12	6:30- 9:30 pm	Light Gourmet (RSVP Cheryl Markman)
Tue Aug 13	10-11 am	Conversacion Espanol ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder)
	1-3 pm	Mahjong (RSVP Shelley Powers)
Wed Aug 14	11 am-1 pm	Art Appreciation (RSVP Jan Bartolotta)
Thu Aug 15	6:30-8 pm	Mystery Lovers (Sharon Shephard)
Fri Aug 16	10 am-1 pm	Bridge (RSVP Lida Kluzek)
Sun Aug 18	9-10:30 am	Weekend Walkers (RSVP Judy Burt)
Mon Aug 19	6:30-9 pm	International Gourmet (RSVP Jan Bartolotta)
Tue Aug 20	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 Aug 21	11:30 am-2 pm	Program Event Planning Zoom (RSVP Ruth Dusan)
	7-8:30 pm	Public Policy (Susan Karlins)
Fri Aug 23	1:30-3 pm	Local Scholarship (Beth Redmond)
Sun Aug 25	9-10:30 am	Weekend Walkers (RSVP Judy Burt)
Mon Aug 26	11am-1230 pm	Building and Properties Committee (buildings@aauwsanjose.org)
Tue Aug 27	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 Aug 28	12-1:30 pm	Lunch Bunch (Diana Taylor)
Sun Aug 30	9-10:30 am	Weekend Walkers (RSVP Judy Burt)

San Jose Branch BONFIRE

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August 2024

AAUW BONFIRE San Jose Branch *Established 1909*

Community Engagement Series

Fraud Prevention for Older Adults

Free

Wed., Sept. 11 at 1pm
(Doors open at 12:45 pm)
Willow Glen United
Methodist Church

Get expert tips to protect yourself and others from getting tricked by criminals targeting older adults.

Details & RSVP Info Below

AAUW
San Jose

Fraud Prevention for Older Adults Free Community Event Sponsored by AAUW Wednesday, September 11, at 1 pm, doors open at 12:45 pm Willow Glen United Methodist Church

In 2023, more than 100,000 people aged 60+ reported fraud to the FBI, with the average victim losing \$33,915. Get expert tips to protect yourself and others from the costly and embarrassing experience of getting tricked by criminals targeting older adults. Topics include romance, investment, grandchild arrest, online tech support, business email compromise, roof/ driveway sealing repair, and ATM/grocery pickpockets.

Speaker: Russell Chubon, REACT Task Force, Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office Website:
<http://www.reactff.org/reactff/d/index.html?>

Chubon has more than 25 years of experience as a police officer and a detective and joined the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office as a senior detective. He is assigned to the REACT Task Force which specializes in investigating complex technology and internet-based crimes. Chubon holds a master's degree in criminal justice from San Jose State University and is a United States Air Force veteran.

RSVP before August 5, 2024, at <https://form.jotform.com/232760430009144>



Empowering Women Since 1881

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