



This month and next, the Gifts for Teens committee will be working hard to fill 672 duffel bags plus 110 special backpacks to be distributed to needy low-income, homeless and foster care teenagers in December.

In order to accomplish this, we need lots of volunteers to help. Morning and afternoon work shifts are available on September 14, October 12 and October 19, and a morning shift only on September 21. Sign up by contacting [Barb Purdy](#). All assembly work will be done in the parking lot at our Branch Headquarters. Come join in the fun!

Also, it's not too late to make a cash donation to help defray the cost of bag contents. To use a credit or debit card or the PayPal option, go to [www.gifts4teens.org](http://www.gifts4teens.org) and click on the Donate button. If you prefer to pay by cash, send a check, made payable to ISPF – AAUW San Jose, Gifts for Teens, to AAUW – Gifts for Teens at 1165 Minnesota Avenue, San Jose, CA 95125. No amount is ever too small!

Any help you can provide, either by volunteering or donating, will be greatly appreciated.



## Free Community Event Sponsored by AAUW Fraud Prevention for Adults

**Wednesday, September 11 at 1 pm**

**Doors open at 12:45 pm**

**Willow Glen (WG) United Methodist Church**

**1420 Newport Avenue, San Jose**

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 being 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

RSVP at <https://form.jotform.com/232760430009144>

## President's Corner by Tynka Dees



Back to school! It's the beginning of a new Branch year. We have fabulous programs planned for this year! Our first is September 11 on Fraud Prevention and hope to see you there. We hope to also see you at Fall Gathering on October 5. It's a chance to greet old friends and make some new ones, see the tables for Interest Groups, and hear from some of our Local Scholarship recipients and Tech Trekkers. Public Policy will give us information on California propositions.

At least annually the Branch president is tasked with reminding everyone of the Branch "Use of Name" Policies. It is important to remember these when planning a program or event:

1. The policies and programs of AAUW shall be binding on all members engaged in AAUW activities. No member shall use the name of AAUW to oppose such policies or programs.
2. The name and logo of AAUW may be used only by members and affiliates (as defined in the membership section of the bylaws) only according to policies and procedures established by the AAUW Board of Directors. Others may do so only according to written licenses.
3. These bylaws shall not abridge the freedom of speech of any AAUW member to speak an opinion in the member's own name.

See you at our first program on September 11 and at Fall Gathering!



### **A New Year of Helping Our Neighbors Begins** Mary Jane Vitkovich, Neighbors Helping Neighbors

We look forward to another year of helping to support eight local non-profit organizations. Come and join us at Headquarters on Tuesday, September 3 at 6:30 pm, for our annual planning/budget meeting. Contact [Mary Jane](#) if you have any questions.

## Public Policy

### The Election Is Coming Soon!

Public Policy Leadership Team

Don't miss the opportunity to learn about our November California ballot propositions at Fall Gathering on Saturday, October 5. If you are willing to give a three-minute presentation on a proposition that someone else has researched (but will be unable to present that day), join our September Public Policy/Advocacy meeting on Wednesday, September 18, at 7 pm via Zoom: [Public Policy/Advocacy Meeting Link](#).

Here are some other opportunities to participate in the election process:

**Become a poll worker:** [Sign up here](#) to learn about becoming a poll worker.

**Support the non-partisan activist group [VoteRiders](#):** There's still time to help voters get a form of identification that will allow them to vote in the 34 states that require some form of voter ID.

**Share League of Women Voters' First-Time Voter Checklist:** Know a young person, new citizen, or someone else who will be voting for the first time? Share this [checklist](#) with them to help make sure they're prepared.

**Follow US historian Heather Cox Richardson:** Learn how our current politics fit within the stream of American history by reading or listening to Boston College professor Heather Cox Richardson. Find her "Letters from an American" on Substack. <https://heathercoxrichardson.substack.com/archive>. You can also read her daily letters and see current events talks by following her page on [Facebook](#).

**Confirm your voter registration:** Be sure to check your own voter registration at [CA Voter Status](#).

Finally, we encourage you to 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](mailto:publicpolicy@aauwsanjose.org). If you would like to address your own school district board, we have prepared an easy two-minute presentation. Of course you're free to add a few details of your experience in the district. Ten of us have participated to date and it's been a wonderful experience!



## Tech Trek's Camp Hopper a Great Success!

Cheryl Markman, Tech Trek



Karelle Cornwell, co-chair of Tech Trek and intrepid dorm mom at the Tech Trek camp at Santa Clara University, filed this report about Camp Hopper:

I just returned from Camp Hopper at Santa Clara University and it was fabulous! The girls were great. They were well-behaved, polite, inclusive, worked well together and were good about helping each other. They were very engaged in their classes (which were excellent) and activities. And they are very bright.

I asked my dorm group (12 in all) how they liked life with no cell phones or internet allowed. They said it was great. I also asked them how they liked classes and learning without boys. They thought it was wonderful (boys were always goofing off, they didn't have to worry about how they looked or someone making fun of them or calling them a nerd).

I watched my two dorm girls who appeared anxious and apprehensive in the beginning make friends, gain confidence, feel like they belonged and really blossom. It was truly a rewarding experience.

The big event was Build It night, held on the last night of camp. Each dorm group was to build a free-standing structure using only rolled newspaper and tape. Every girl needed to be involved. They needed to decide what they would build, come up with a design and plan, and decide who would do what. They had very little free time during the week to work on this and dorm moms were not supposed to help. The girls could bring only rolled newspapers, unrolled newspapers and a single piece of paper with their plan. They were given two rolls of masking tape, a pair of scissors and 1-1/2 hours to build their structure. The noise level, excitement and adrenaline were off the charts. My dorm girls built a Ferris wheel that could actually spin. I was so, so proud of them.

The next day, when it was time to go home, many girls were in tears because they didn't want camp to end. Yes, camp was that amazing.



## Second Tuesday Morning Book Group

Sandra Bonnet, Chair

We meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 10 am, September through June, at Headquarters. We read nine books a year because we take a break and go out to lunch in December. We have wonderful, lively discussions and read a wide variety of books. Each June the members decide on the books to be read for the following year. The individual who recommends a book is the one to lead the discussion on that book. Since we usually come up with only half the list in June, this allows for new members to help us decide on the rest in September.

So far the group has chosen the following books: Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus; Ordinary Grace by William Kruger; Properties of Thirst by Maryanne Wiggins, and Sweetness of Water by Nathan Harris.

Please feel free to contact me by [email](#) if you have any questions about the books or the group.

## 2024-2025 Program Update Program Development Committee



Before we start our new 2024-2025 season, we would like to acknowledge and thank all our volunteers, leaders and participants for producing the last set of programs. If you have any interest or desire to participate in producing a program, please join us by contacting [Programs](#).

Our first program for the year will be Fraud Prevention for Older Adults to be held at Willow Glen United Methodist Church on September 11 at 1 pm; doors open at 12:45 pm. We responded to your request to limit use of our Headquarters to less than 20 attendees and instead use Headquarters for small group gatherings. In this climate of COVID, it is essential that we accommodate our more than 200 members in a larger venue. With that in mind, we ask that you reply to our requests to RSVP so that we can plan our space requirements to meet your request for group-size limitations.



## **We Welcome New Members**

### **Claire Campodonico**

ROSEANNE DAVIS, a Los Gatos resident, was referred by Barbara Morrissey. Roseanne earned a BS in Science Studies at Regis College in Denver, as well as an MA of Special Studies at the University of Denver. Her career in Aerospace Engineering led her to work with government contractors and a satellite communications company. Now retired, she is particularly interested in championing STEM education for girls.

SARAH L. MIRIC joined via the National website. She earned an AA in Travel and Tourism from Foothill College. She continued at Cal State University in Chico, obtaining a BS in Recreation Administration. She then attended the University of San Diego, earning an MS in Global Business Leadership. Sarah's mother, Brenda Ladewig, was the president of our Branch in 2005-2006. Sarah looks forward to making the world a better place.

KATY LEMON, a native of Cleveland, Ohio, received a BA in Political Science from American University in Washington, D.C. Katy started her career in the banking and communications industries. She eventually found her niche at San Jose's Presentation High School, where she served as their Librarian for more than 27 years. Her friends Jean Meyer, Ann Ponikvar and Barb Purdy, encouraged Katy to join.

JEAN CHRISCO, a resident of Campbell, graduated from San Jose State with a BA in Psychology and an MA in Nursing. She worked primarily in the field of Nursing Administration at Valley Medical Center for 17 years before retiring 5 years ago. Now that she has more free time, Jean looks forward to participating in many of our Interest Groups. She was referred by her neighbor, Susan Karlins.

SIENA SEPS is attending the University of Southern California and is looking forward to graduating in 2026. She would like to bring support to people in need in our community. Since she attends school in Los Angeles, Siena would like to offer any assistance to the Branch, whether it be remotely or when she returns home to visit her family. Siena's skills include social media management and art/graphics.

## Spotlight on Diane Trombetta

Ruth Dusan and Grace O'Leary



Diane Trombetta is the leading force behind our Local Scholarship online fundraising initiative, and has been instrumental in raising the bar on fundraising at AAUW San Jose. Her generosity is legendary, and we thank her for her energy and enthusiasm.

### **How did you discover AAUW San Jose?**

I was invited to a Membership open house by a friend I'd met in an aerobics class. I was hooked immediately. As a college teacher on local campuses, I'd heard about AAUW for years but had never investigated the organization.

### **How long have you been a member of AAUW?**

I've been a member since the early 2000s.

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

What I like most about AAUW would take a book, but I've loved the opportunities AAUW has given me to develop leadership skills; to meet, work and socialize with inspiring, intelligent, friendly, welcoming women; and to advocate effectively for gender equity.

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

My membership experience has been great.

### **What would you like members to know about you?**

I grew up in several different countries and even had to change primary languages a couple of times, so I had a difficult time back in the US (in high school and college) connecting with my peers. Gradually I have felt less like an outsider, but in AAUW groups I've felt especially relaxed, accepted and valued. I've loved working collaboratively on common goals and making friends in the process.

**How would you like to be remembered?** I'd like to be remembered as a member who enjoyed every one of her roles in our Branch and felt especially privileged to be able to contribute to the growth and vitality of AAUW San Jose.

## September 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 Sep 1	9-10:30 am	Weekend Walkers (RSVP <a href="#">Judy Burt</a> )
Mon Sep 2	10 am-1 pm	Bridge 1 <sup>st</sup> Monday (RSVP <a href="#">Bobbie Eckerman</a> )
Tue Sep 3	10-11 am	German Conversation ZOOM (RSVP <a href="#">Barbara Snyder</a> )
	1-4 pm	Film Fans Time to Be Determined (RSVP <a href="#">Nancy Wheeler</a> )
	6:30-8 pm	Neighbors Helping Neighbors ( <a href="#">Bobbie Baker</a> )
Wed Sep 4	5:30– 6 pm	AAUW Board Social Hour ( <a href="#">Tynka Dees</a> )
	6-7:30 pm	AAUW BOARD Meeting ( <a href="#">Tynka Dees</a> )
Sun Sep 8	9-10:30 am	Weekend Walkers (RSVP <a href="#">Judy Burt</a> )
Mon Sep 9	6:30- 9:30 pm	Light Gourmet (RSVP <a href="#">Cheryl Markman</a> )
Tue Sep 10	8 am-1 pm	Packing Gifts for Teens Basement ( <a href="#">Barb Purdy</a> )
	10-11:30 am	Book Discussion AM Lessons in Chemistry ( <a href="#">Sandy Bonnet</a> )
	10-11 am	Conversacion Espanol ZOOM (RSVP <a href="#">Barbara Snyder</a> )
	1-3 pm	Mahjong ( <a href="#">RSVP Shelley Powers</a> )
Wed Sep 11	11 am-1 pm	Art Appreciation (RSVP <a href="#">Jan Bartolotta</a> )
	1-2:30 pm	Program Fraud Prevention Given by SJPD Willow Glen United Methodist Church 1420 Newport Ave. ( <a href="#">RSVP Ruth Dusan</a> )
Thu Sep 12	9:30-11 am	Great Decisions AM Hybrid ( <a href="#">Monique Lee</a> )
	1-4 pm	Bridge 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday (RSVP <a href="#">Bobbie Eckerman</a> )
Fri Sep 13	9:30 am-1:30 pm	Duplicate Bridge (RSVP <a href="#">Lida Kluzek</a> )
Sat Sep 14	7 am-6pm	Parking Lot Packing Gifts for Teens ( <a href="#">Barb Purdy</a> )
	6:30-9:30 pm	Couples Dining (RSVP <a href="#">Karen Hook</a> )
Sun Sep 15	9-10:30 am	Weekend Walkers (RSVP <a href="#">Judy Burt</a> )
Mon Sep 16	9:30-11am	Exploring World Literature Hybrid (RSVP <a href="#">Candace Roney</a> )
	6:30-9 pm	International Gourmet (RSVP <a href="#">Jan Bartolotta</a> )
Tue Sep 17	Noon-1pm	French Conversation ZOOM (RSVP <a href="#">Barbara Snyder</a> )
	1-3 pm	Mahjong ( <a href="#">RSVP Shelley Powers</a> )
	6-7:30 pm	Membership Meeting ( <a href="mailto:Membership@aauwsanjose.org">Membership@aauwsanjose.org</a> )
Wed Sep 18	1:30-3 pm	Program Event Planning Zoom (RSVP <a href="#">Ruth Dusan</a> ) - <b>CANCELED</b>
	7-8:30 pm	Public Policy ( <a href="#">Susan Karlins</a> )
Thu Sep 19	6:30-8 pm	Mystery Lovers ( <a href="#">Sharon Shephard</a> )
Fri Sep 20	10 am-1 pm	Bridge (RSVP <a href="#">Lida Kluzek</a> )
Sat Sep 21	7 am-6pm	Parking Lot Packing Gifts for Teens ( <a href="#">Barb Purdy</a> )



Sun Sep 22	9-10:30 am	Weekend Walkers (RSVP <a href="#">Judy Burt</a> )
Mon Sep 23	11am-12:30 pm	Building and Properties Committee ( <a href="mailto:buildings@aauwsanjose.org">buildings@aauwsanjose.org</a> )
	1-4 pm	Interbranch Council Hybrid ( <a href="#">Linda Goldberg</a> )
Tue Sep 24	10-11 am	Italian Conversation ZOOM (RSVP <a href="#">Barbara Snyder</a> )
	1-3 pm	Mahjong ( <a href="#">RSVP Shelley Powers</a> )
	1-4 pm	Bridge 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday (RSVP <a href="#">Bobbie Eckerman</a> )
	7-8:30 pm	Great Decisions PM ZOOM ( <a href="#">Sharon Shephard</a> )
Wed Sep 25	12-1:30 pm	Lunch Bunch ( <a href="#">Diana Taylor</a> )
Thu Sep 26	9:30-11 am	Great Decisions AM Hybrid ( <a href="#">Monique Lee</a> )
Fri Sep 27	1:30-3 pm	Local Scholarship ( <a href="#">Beth Redmond</a> )
Sun Sep 29	9-10:30 am	Weekend Walkers (RSVP <a href="#">Judy Burt</a> )

## EDUCATION & TRAINING

### CEO Webinar: In Conversation with Tiya Miles, Ph.D.

Join CEO Gloria L. Blackwell on September 5, at 2 p.m. ET for a conversation with AAUW alumna, Dr. Tiya Miles (Community Action Grant Alumna), about her new book “Wild Girls: How the Outdoors Shaped Women Who Challenged a Nation.” Through a historical lens of major trailblazing women, Dr. Miles will discuss her work that puts girls of all races — and the landscapes they loved — at center stage and reveals the impact of the outdoors on women’s independence, resourcefulness, and vision.

[Register now.](#)

**REGISTER!**

# WILD GIRLS:

## How the Outdoors Shaped Women Who Challenged a Nation



**Gloria L. Blackwell**  
AAUW CEO



**Tiya Miles, Ph.D.**  
American Historian



**5 SEPT**  
2PM ET

**AAUW**

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AAUW BONFIRE San Jose Branch *Established 1909*

Enjoy the End of  
Summer



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See the San Jose Branch Website at [www.aauwsanjose.org](http://www.aauwsanjose.org) for more information.