



BONFIRE

San Jose Branch



2024 HOLIDAY ONLINE FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

GIVE THE GIFT OF EDUCATION

Donate between December 1-8 to help outstanding and deserving local women complete their education.

During the 2023 campaign, your generous donations helped 19 women complete their education. This year, let's increase that number!

Make your donation today to help make the last two years of college more than a dream, a reality for more women than ever before!

Local
Scholarship
Community
Action Project



SEE PAGE 2 FOR MORE DETAILS!



Celebrate & share
the gift of AAUW SJ!
Invite a friend, family
member, or colleague

Holiday Celebrations

Kohlstedt Room
Willow Glen United
Methodist Church
1420 Newport Ave
San José 95125

Inspiring Live Music
International Treats
Display of Branch History

**Sat., Dec. 14, 2024
12:30 – 3:00 PM**

RSVP
Requested
Contact
tddtaug@yahoo.com



Songstruck Quartet



Kaya



Flute Salad



Local Scholarship
Community Action Project

2024 HOLIDAY ONLINE FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

GIVE THE GIFT OF EDUCATION BETWEEN DEC. 1-8

Meet our recipients and get more
campaign info at sanjose-ca.aauw.net
and click on "Local Scholarship"

DONATE NOW ONLINE!



How much? Whatever is right
for you! Consider replacing
traditional holiday gifts with a
tax-deductible donation to this
life-changing effort!

(Tax ID# 77-0201841)

DONATE BY CHECK



Payable to "ISPF-AAUW" and write
'Local Scholarship' on the memo line.
Mail to: AAUW San Jose
Attn: Local Scholarship Treasurer
1165 Minnesota Ave, Suite 100
San Jose, CA 95125

THANK YOU DRAWING

see the
great
prizes!



Receive one ticket per \$100
donation to win. Past prizes have
included 3-day Sea Ranch and
Santa Cruz Harbor getaways, a
gift card wreath, artisan wine, &
handmade items. Drawing at the
Holiday Celebration on 12/14.
Winners notified.

Share the Good News: AAUW San Jose is Fabulous!

Diane Trombetta, Event Leader

Our Holiday Celebrations gathering on December 14 is a special opportunity to share AAUW San Jose with friends, colleagues, and family members, and to increase the visibility of our Branch. The holiday giving season is the perfect time to share the benefits of our Branch membership: friendship, fun, and the satisfaction we feel from supporting an inspiring and vital Mission--not to mention the educational programs, community projects, and skill-building opportunities we offer. We hope you will bring a guest to enjoy the live entertainment, international holiday refreshments, and displays of Branch projects and activities. There will also be an exhibit of Branch history in a "History Corner" put together by our brand-new Archives Committee. Please RSVP using the QR code on the flyer in this issue, or directly to [Diane Trombetta](#). See you there!



President's Corner

Tynka Dees



Our AAUW San Jose website is being revamped by AAUW California this month. We also have an infrastructure ad hoc committee that will be working on changes to the website which will hopefully give members good advice on how to do and find things at AAUW San Jose. Many of us end up asking a member who has been in the Branch longer. The idea is to make it easier for you to go directly to our Members Only section and find a road map to what you need.

Our Local Scholarship Fundraising Drive will be December 1-8. You are the reason we have been able to help so many young talented women finish their education.

We do so many good things here at AAUW San Jose: Gifts for Teens have their many backpacks and duffel bags packed and ready for the teens to enjoy, Neighbors Helping Neighbors is busy with drives to collect items for our community, and Tech Trek makes a major difference in the lives of the young women who attend the STEM camps. Plus, our Public Policy team is out there in the midst of many worthy projects. We are able to do so much more when we are working together. Thank you all!

Hope you all have a wonderful holiday season, and I hope to see you at our Holiday Party on December 14!

Some Bad News and Some Good News

Tynka Dees

Paige, our administrative assistant, has resigned. We have interviewed two new potential part-time administrative assistants and plan to hire. One is Maritza Campos, a two-time Local Scholarship recipient, and the other is Mimi Tran. More information to come.

New Zoom and Hybrid News

Tynka Dees

I am going to be on the Branch Zoom account so I will receive the code if needed for your authentication. I am also happy to help you set up a Zoom meeting, if needed. Text or telephone me at 408-464-3524. Peg Carlson-Bowen has donated a Chromebook computer to use for the Branch's hybrid needs, so you will not need to bring your own laptop. If you have difficulties with the internet or Wi-Fi at Headquarters, please contact [Building & Properties](#), or call me on my cell phone.

Our website has been renovated by National AAUW with help from California AAUW and we are working on our Members Only section. Learn how to plan a program or event with our specific video instructions, locate information about creating Zoom or hybrid meetings and events, information about making a motion, or how to get a voucher for your reimbursement for an AAUW expense, and more.

SAVE THE DATE



All are welcome to the next Coffee & Convo on Saturday, January 25, 2025, from 10 am to 12 pm at Headquarters! Come and enjoy coffee, morning treats and lots of conversation. This is a perfect opportunity to meet members and learn about various Interest Groups and Community Action Projects. Bring a friend! Neighbor Helping Neighbors will be collecting warm clothes in the parking lot for Santa Maria at the same time as well.



SJSU Cares Food Pantry Drive a Tremendous Success

Mary Jane Vitkovich, Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Over 500 items, including oatmeal packets, energy bars, peanut butter, tuna, cereal and toothpaste were donated. Donated gifts cards and checks will be used to purchase more needed items. Many of our donations flew off the shelves immediately after delivery. Thank you so much for generously representing our Branch.

Our next Warm Hearts Drive will be for Santa Maria Urban Ministry on Saturday, January 25 from 10 am -12 pm at Headquarters. In the meantime, you can bring any gently-used warm clothing to Headquarters where bins are located.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors wishes you all a very happy holiday season!



The Membership Committee would like to send a special shout out and say a big “thank you” to the Starbucks on Lincoln Avenue in Willow Glen for providing free of charge coffee for the Branch Fall Gathering last month. Talk about a neighbor helping neighbors!



Many Thanks, at That Special Time of Year!

Elaine Benoit, Gifts for Teens

Early on a chilly morning just as the sun is coming up, with the moon still lingering in the dawn sky, 10 AAUW and Gifts for Teens members busily set up a dozen tables in the AAUW San Jose parking lot, rapidly bring hundreds of boxes of small gifts from the AAUW basement, and put shade tents in place. A wide variety of community volunteers arrive at 9 am, with a different group replacing them at 1 pm. Using an assembly line, these enthusiastic helpers fill duffels, totes and backpacks, each with over 40 small gifts. By late afternoon, flattened cardboard boxes are bundled, tables and tents stashed away in the basement and wonderful brimming-full bags with contents sized and marked are ready for giving to kids who appreciate the gifts. This is how 806 Gifts for Teens bags were filled on two October Saturdays.

For many of us, holiday time is special. We may light candles, trim an evergreen tree, wrap a package, marvel at celebratory lights, or decorate our home. But for some teenagers who seldom have a holiday celebration or a gift because of poverty, the Gifts for Teens festive duffel bags are very welcomed and special since it is the only gift they receive! Low-income, foster care and homeless teens love the popular Gifts for Teens bags with their contents of teen-approved items. Cozy sweatshirts, new clothes, \$50 store gift cards, personal care items, cosmetics, sports-team memorabilia and much more, delight these needy youth.

You helped make this all happen with your donations and labors! We are grateful for your help in filling the 806 festive holiday gift bags for poor local teenagers, making their holiday special. Thank you!



Beverly Bassett with volunteers ready to work



Box set-up on the assembly line



Finance Report for Fiscal Year 2022-23

Katherine Oven, Finance Officer

Below are summaries of the financial activity report for the Branch's General Fund (operations) and Building Fund (Headquarters maintenance) for FY2022-23, and the Branch's financial position (balance sheet) at the end of FY 2022-23. The full reports are available upon request.

For the Fiscal Year July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023:

GENERAL FUND

Income: \$344,771 (Dues/Roundup/Directory \$8,363 + Donations \$336,393 + Interest \$15)

Expenses: \$7,978 (Membership \$1,189 + Meetings and Events \$890 + Programs \$3,101 + Publications and Social Media \$608 + Operating Expenses \$2,190)

Excess of income over expenses: \$336,793

(Note: Donations included \$333,333 from the Dorris Miller Bequest; this was added to reserves this year.)

BUILDING FUND

Income: \$46,962 (Rental income \$26,940 + Donations \$20,000 + Interest \$22)

Expenses: \$29,182 (Taxes and Insurance \$4,755 + Utilities \$4,485 + Janitorial and Gardening \$5,610 + Repairs and Maintenance \$14,332)

Excess of income over expenses: \$17,780

FINANCIAL POSITION (as of June 30, 2023):

Assets: \$658,842 (Checking, Savings, and CD's \$526,244 + Receivables \$48 + Real Estate and Fixed Assets \$132,550)

Liabilities and Equity: \$658,842 (Dues Payable to AAUW \$7,615 + Advance Dues \$3,642 + AAUW Funds Payable: \$1,726 + Restricted Donations + \$22,890 + Accruals \$2,013 + Security Deposit \$ 2,245 + Equity \$618,711)

Note: Real Estate and Fixed Assets are at historic cost, not Fair Market Value.



Public Policy/Advocacy Update

Many of us are still processing the election results. Regardless of anyone's political affiliation, the national results from this election cycle are a setback for AAUW policy priorities. There are justified feelings for many of anger and disappointment that the critical issues we support are facing additional hurdles. We all deserve to mourn and grieve this setback to equity for all.

There is more work to be done, and we are well-positioned to do our part to protect the hard-fought gains of the last half century! Join us for "AAUW Priorities in Light of the Election Results" featuring Meghan Kissell, AAUW Senior Director of Policy and Member Advocacy. The talk will focus on social justice priority issues and other priorities that go with or hinge on social justice. The meeting is hosted by AAUW Silicon Valley and will be held on December 4 from 4 to 5 pm. You can register [HERE](#).

Set aside Tuesday evening, January 28, 2025, to visit Franklin McKinley District, led by a former committee member who was a District parent and principal. Consider joining us next year on a visit to a national or state legislator to advocate for AAUW priorities. Stay tuned!

Additional California legislation our Branch contributed to this year and were signed into law: AB 1790 - requires the CSU system to report on the implementation of recommendations provided in the California State Auditor report, to ensure Title IX compliance and protections against sexual harassment. AB 1831 - authored by our local Assemblymember Marc Berman, this expands the law prohibiting the possession and distribution of material depicting minors performing sexual activities to include AI and computer-generated images. AB 1955 –prohibits public schools from notifying parents if their child uses a different name or pronouns or identifies as a different gender than assigned at birth.

But that is not the end of this story!



Kelly Weisberg
Certified Mindfulness
Instructor

Free online class for AAUW members: Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) \$725 Value

ONLINE CLASS: Sundays, Jan. 5, 2025 – Feb. 23, 2025,
from 9:30 am-12 pm on Zoom

27 CE Credits for Therapists, Nurses & Social Workers

For further information and to register, contact Kelly Weisberg at

kelly_weisberg@yahoo.com Her website: <https://explore mindfulpaths.com>



An Update on Caitlyn Richardson Past Local Scholarship Recipient

Cheryl Markman, Local Scholarship

Caitlyn Richardson received an AAUW Local Scholarship in the spring of 2023. She expects to graduate in May of 2025 from the UC Berkeley Haas School of Business with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. She plans to pursue a career in the finance industry.



To that end, Caitlyn is involved in a couple of finance clubs on campus, including the Haas Finance Group and the Women on Wall Street Club. She also works part-time for the Berkeley Haas Center for Responsible Business, a department of the university that focuses on global issues in business, including such issues as sustainability, equity and environmentalism. Additionally, she recently joined Berkeley Women in Business, a club whose mission is to empower female business leaders through leadership development and discourse about gender equity in the workforce.

Since this is her last year at the university, she has been spending a lot more time exploring the area for fun, trying popular restaurants in Berkeley, going to concerts in Oakland, and hiking in the hills near campus.

We Remember Kathy Heihn Elaine Benoit



Kathy Heihn passed away in mid-October from medical complications. She was very active in AAUW until recently. Kathy bravely battled serious health problems for the last three years, including recovering from a complete lung replacement, hip surgery, and most recently an infection after kidney removal. Her husband, Bob, was an amazing and supportive caregiver throughout.

Kathy was the Gifts for Teens Treasurer pre-Covid, AAUW Branch Membership Treasurer, and second in charge of GFT, when she was active. Kathy was known for her dry humor, efficiency, patience, and unflappable quiet personality. Her calm presence, with yet a firm and realistic attitude, was a hallmark. Those who knew her appreciated her insightful thinking, always with a positive spirit and a big smile. Kathy was GFT's most enthusiastic "cheerleader" as she called it, for the last few years when she couldn't join the group or help in person.

We all will certainly miss our dear friend!



Spotlight on Margaret McCartney

Ruth Dusan and Grace O'Leary

Ruth first met Margaret in 2019 at her knitting group. During this group session, Margaret reintroduced Ruth to knitting, which was a wonderful and pleasant addition to her life. Thank you, Margaret McCartney, for recreating the memories.

How did you discover AAUW San Jose?

Margaret McCartney: When I was President of the Los Gatos/Saratoga Branch, 1998-1999, I had many of my Board members leave, position binders were lost. Members of the San Jose Branch came to my rescue. I would not have survived without their help. I recall Zee del Fiugo and Gloria Leonard were instrumental in making my tenure as President a memorable experience.

How long have you been a member of AAUW?

I have been a member 41 years.

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

I like meeting and making lasting friendships with fabulous and intelligent women. The San Jose Branch, in particular, does a wonderful job in working with the community. I have been on the Neighbors Helping Neighbors CAP for many years, knitting items for the Layette Program of Sacred Heart Community Center, and Gifts for Teens. Because people saw me knitting at the NHN meeting, they asked me if I would teach them how to knit. My knitting group started about 13 years ago.

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

I can't think of a thing. I think you should keep up the good work. San Jose Branch has a lot of young women or women who have just retired and are looking for something to do. My personal thought is to go after the ones who are just retiring, because they can be so powerful and have so much information to share with the next generation.

What would you like members to know about you?

I loved my nursing career, knitting, being the mother of two sets of "Irish Twins", and having a wonderful husband of almost 50 years. I've loved AAUW ever since I joined in Wisconsin, before we came back to California, and it's been a highlight of my life.

How would you like to be remembered?

As a friendly, caring, positive thinker and a feminist. And also that I love knitting and I love teaching it to others because it's such a lifelong skill that you can have forever and it's very portable. My mother taught me to knit when I was six years old and I never stopped.



We Welcome New Members

Claire Campodonico

REBECCA FONG lives in Fremont and is studying at San Jose State University. She learned of AAUW from her graduate school email listserv at SJSU's School of Information. She is eager to help our Branch organize and preserve its materials whenever this service is needed. Rebecca heartily supports the Mission Statement of AAUW and is looking forward to being an active member.

MICHELE "SHELLEY" HOGAN is a returning member. Now that she has retired from her longtime position as a Corporate Financial Officer in the technology industry, she has joined our Bridge Group and loves it! Michele earned a BA in Sociology from Santa Clara University and an MBA from San Jose State University. Michele prefers to be referenced by her nickname "Shelley". We welcome her back.

MARA OTLANS is a dual member with the Los Gatos-Saratoga Branch where she holds the position of Secretary. After earning a BA in Psychology from the University of Oregon and an MBA from Pacific Lutheran University in Oregon, Mara worked in the area of finance with home builders until she retired. She relocated to California from Washington state 8 years ago to be closer to her children. Welcome, Mara!

CAROL JEAN ADAMS earned a BA in Psychology with a minor in Art History, as well as a teaching credential from San Jose State University and a MA in Learning Handicaps from UC Berkeley. She is now retired from her career as a Special Education teacher and as a Speech Therapist. Carol was referred by Los Gatos-Saratoga AAUW member Peggy Maibaum with whom she enjoys playing Mahjong.



Interbranch Special Projects Foundation Needs You

After more than 12 years as Treasurer for the Interbranch Special Projects Foundation (ISPF), Virginia Turner will be retiring in July, the close of the 2024-25 fiscal year. She needs someone to take over the job of Treasurer. ISPF is a non-profit charity which means that donations to AAUW programs like Tech Trek and Local Scholarships are tax-deductible. Five AAUW branches within Santa Clara County -- Gilroy, Los Gatos-Saratoga, Morgan Hill, San Jose, and Sunnyvale-Cupertino -- fund projects through ISPF.

What does the Treasurer do? The Treasurer makes deposits, reimburses people for expenses, and writes checks for community grants or scholarship awards to various colleges and universities as requested. Like many financial tasks, attention to detail is essential. A few hours per week is usually all that is needed to keep the records in good order.

If you are comfortable and conscientious with tasks like balancing your checkbook, this could be the job for you! Virginia will provide training and background resources and promises to mentor the new Treasurer as needed. If you think you might be interested, contact Virginia Turner at 408-866-4234 or vturner@sbcglobal.net for more information.

December 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.

Dec 1-8	Local Scholarship Holiday Fundraiser Give the Gift of Education	
Sun Dec 1	9-10:30 am	Weekend Walkers (RSVP Judy Burt)
Mon Dec 2	6:30-8 pm	Neighbors Helping Neighbors (Bobbie Baker)
Tue Dec 3	10-11 am	German Conversation ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder)
	1-4 pm	Film Fans Time to Be Determined (RSVP Nancy Wheeler Linda Snashall)
Wed Dec 4	1230-130 pm	Lunch Bunch (Sueann Snow)
	5:30- 6 pm	AAUW Board Social Hour (Tynka Dees)
	6-7:30 pm	AAUW BOARD Meeting (Tynka Dees)
Sun Dec 8	9-10:30 am	Weekend Walkers (RSVP Judy Burt)
Mon Dec 9	6:30- 9:30 pm	Light Gourmet (RSVP Cheryl Markman)
Tue Dec 10	11:30-1	Luncheon Tuesday AM Book Group (RSVP Sandy Bonnet)
	10-11 am	Conversacion Espanol ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder)
	1-3 pm	Mahjong (RSVP Shelley Powers)
Thu Dec 12	11 am-1 pm	Art Appreciation New Museum Los Gatos (RSVP Jan Bartolotta)
	1:30-3:30 pm	Archive Committee (Diane Trombetta)
	1-4 pm	Bridge 2 nd Thursday (RSVP Bobbie Eckerman)
Fri Dec 13	10 am-1:30 pm	Duplicate Bridge (RSVP Lida Kluzek)
Sat Dec 14	12:30-3 pm	Holiday Celebrations Party and Outreach Willow Glen United Methodist Church 1420 Newport Ave. (RSVP Diane Trombetta)
	6:30-9:30 pm	Couples Dining (RSVP Valerie Merklin)
Sun Dec 15	9-10:30 am	Weekend Walkers (RSVP Judy Burt)
Mon Dec 16	6:30-9 pm	International Gourmet (RSVP Jan Bartolotta)
Tue Dec 17	Noon-1pm	French Conversation ZOOM (RSVP Barbara Snyder)
	1-3 pm	Mahjong (RSVP Shelley Powers)
	3:45-5:15 pm	Membership meeting (Membership@aauwsanjose.org)
Wed Dec 18	130-3 pm	Program Event Planning Zoom (RSVP Ruth Dusan)
Fri Dec 20	10 am-1 pm	Bridge (RSVP Lida Kluzek)
Sun Dec22	9-10:30 am	Weekend Walkers (RSVP Judy Burt)
Tue Dec 24	1-4 pm	Bridge 4 th Tuesday (RSVP Bobbie Eckerman)
	1- 3 pm	Mahjong (RSVP Shelley Powers)
Sun Dec29	9-10:30 am	Weekend Walkers (RSVP Judy Burt)
Tues Dec 31	1-3 pm	Mahjong (RSVP Shelley Powers)

San Jose Branch BONFIRE

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December 2024

AAUW BONFIRE San Jose Branch *Established 1909*

SAVE THE DATE

Financial Management Program

January 11, 2025

Kohlstedt Hall at Willow Glen Methodist Church

1420 Newport Avenue, San Jose

2 pm, doors open at 1:30 pm

Refreshments and snacks will be available.

The program on Financial Management will cover the basics of financial management and how the knowledge and tools needed change as you enter new phases of your life. Emphasis will be given to investing and how your investing habits and needs change over time.

The speaker, Russell Malley, has been an investor for over 40 years and is currently the treasurer of two investment clubs. He has also been a volunteer for BetterInvesting™, a 501c3 educational non-profit dedicated to investor education, for nearly 30 years. He currently is a consultant for ICLUB central which provides accounting and tax software for investment clubs, and is an analyst for the SmallCap Informer, an investment newsletter from ICLUB central. Russell is also an AAUW member.



Empowering Women Since 1881

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