

**BONFIRE**

San Jose Branch



## **Neighbors Helping Neighbors June Soiree**

### **Monday, June 2 at 6 pm**

You are cordially invited to the AAUW social event of the year, the Neighbors Helping Neighbors June Soiree! Come and enjoy a lovely June evening with food, drink and sparkling conversation. The fun starts at Headquarters at 6 pm and dress is casual.

This year we are recognizing two of our non-profits: Family Supportive Housing and Front Door Communities. Genevie Concha, representing Family Supportive Housing, will give a short presentation about this agency. We will be collecting new twin sheet sets and powdered cleansers (e.g., Comet) to hopefully fill Genevie's car when she departs! In addition, Jeanette Bumagat will describe the work of Front Door Communities. We will collect travel size sunscreen, travel tissues and lip balm for her agency. There will be bins in the entryway of Headquarters to place donated items before the Soiree.



2002-03: AAUW San Jose is a Gold Level winner in AAUW National's 21st Century Recognition Program, thanks to the outstanding work of Neighbors Helping Neighbors. NHN is recognized "for the many ways that it fulfills the mission and goals of AAUW." Way to go, NHN!

**President's Corner****Tynka Dees**

It's the end of my first year as your President and I want to thank all the amazing people who helped me through the year: Board members, Past Presidents and multiple members! Thank you all!

I attended our AAUW California Annual Meeting on April 26, "Pivoting for Our Future." Here are the four Pivots which were presented:

**PIVOT #1: *FROM LENS TO MIRROR***

Engage in self-reflective mirror work based on your social change role. Discuss what strengths you bring to AAUW based on your social change role, as well as what support you need from AAUW members who play different social change roles. Begin to see AAUW as a social change ecosystem in which all members and roles need one another to make good trouble.

**PIVOT #2: *FROM TRANSACTIONAL TO TRANSFORMATIVE***

*Volunteers First* shows the way to move from taskmasters to relationship builders through caring and connecting with our members. Volunteer engagement is an affair of the heart! Fulfilling a member's volunteer motivations touches their heart, drives their choices for volunteering, and sustains their passion for serving.

**PIVOT #3: *FROM PROBLEM TO POSSIBILITY***

Sometimes our problems seem so daunting that it is hard to know how to move forward. Having some perspective is necessary to see possibilities, and cultivating a new outlook can help us bring about the change we want to see in the world. Come learn about these concepts through a deep dive into AAUW's resources for equity and inclusion and see how you can create new possibilities in your branch and community.

**PIVOT #4: *FROM HUSTLE TO FLOW***

*Volunteers First* shows the way to support and recognize our volunteers. Leaders of volunteers facilitate needs-fulfillment and joy by offering the opportunity to 'altruize,' socialize, learn, and self-actualize.

Since we have our new tenants at Headquarters, just a reminder to please not park in their reserved spots (labeled with signs).

Remember, if you need help with your Zoom setup with our AAUW Zoom account, I am the contact person – text me at (408) 464-3524.

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### Seeking a Treasurer

We have an opening for Branch Treasurer for fiscal year 2025-2026 as Paul Bowen is unable to fulfill that role. You must be able to use QuickBooks on the computer. Please contact Tynka Dees if you would like to volunteer.

### It's Time to Renew Your Membership

Renee Sommerfeld



Mark your calendars for the June 28 Renewal Party! You may have noticed that membership renewal packets are being mailed a little later than usual this year, due to the impact of the AAUW-CA election that took place in May. You should receive your packet early in June.

Please plan to renew by the end of the month if possible. You can do so by returning the forms in your packet, along with your check, or following the instructions included in the packet to renew by credit card.

A third way to renew, and have some fun as well, is to join us at our Renewal Party at Headquarters from 11 am to 1 pm on Saturday, June 28. Bring your forms and checkbook or credit card and you can renew on the spot. Or renew in advance and just come out and socialize! A light brunch and refreshments will be provided.

Don't hesitate to contact the Membership team at [membership@aauwsanjose.org](mailto:membership@aauwsanjose.org) if you have any questions or concerns.

**Congratulations to Karelle Cornwell**  
**AAUW San Jose Branch Named Gift Honoree for 2024-25**

Mary Jane Vitkovich



As soon as Karelle retired in 2017, she became involved in the Tech Trek project. Her commitment to the project led her to become the Tech Trek chair in 2018. She worked tirelessly over the past years with local middle schools to include their students in the project. One of the hardest parts was choosing which girls to select to attend Tech Trek camps, as she wanted them all to have the opportunity. The rewards were the thank you letters she received from campers who told her it was a life-changing experience being at the camp. As a dorm mom, Karelle watched girls gain self-confidence and discover other girls were also interested in STEM.

Despite the pandemic affecting the project, Karelle worked diligently to ensure students were interviewed, selected and able to attend camps via Zoom. The loss of Stanford as a host camp also posed an additional challenge. Her efforts paid off in improved communications and relationships with local schools and AAUW California.

Karelle previously served as a Chair for Neighbors Helping Neighbors and currently is instrumental in providing Front Door Communities with needed items through NHN. On behalf of our Branch, we thank you, Karelle, for all your accomplishments and representation of our mission in the community.

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**Announcing Funding for New Scholarships**

Diane Trombetta, Local Scholarship

The Local Scholarship Committee is proud to announce the funding of two new scholarships for community college students. Working with the West Valley-Mission Community College Foundation, we solicited applications from students pursuing education in fields underrepresented by women. Our recipients are Elva Larios, a criminal justice major seeking a career in law enforcement, and Sara Wasil, a natural science and math major who is working toward a career in computer science. If you would like to read about the strength, courage and determination these two students have shown along their paths to a college education, contact [scholarships@aauwsanjose.org](mailto:scholarships@aauwsanjose.org) for a copy of their student essays.

## Spotlight on Edna Robison

Ruth Dusan and Grace O'Leary



Edna Robison is a Past President and one of the few members to serve in this role twice. Edna, we thank you for your participation in this project and service to AAUW.

### How did you discover AAUW San Jose?

Through a friend in the 1980s and my neighbor Brenda Ladewig, Past President of our Branch.

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

Eighteen years, since July 6, 2005.

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

Giving back to the community.

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

Pair new and long-term members who have similar interests.

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

My paternal grandmother raised me from age two, when my parents moved and worked in a remote area where education was limited. Other clan members also supported me. They taught me to study and work hard, pay back and pay forward. I am an immigrant from the Philippines, where I met my husband, a Peace Corps Volunteer. This year marks our 45th wedding anniversary. We have three children and five young grandchildren. Straddling two cultures, I have learned to be flexible like a bamboo, useful like a coconut tree and determined like a tamaraw.

### How would you like to be remembered?

I said "yes" when asked to lead AAUW's mission in 2011 and 2016, knowing our experienced members had my back.



## Spotlight on Linda Snashall

Ruth Dusan and Grace O'Leary



### How did you discover AAUW San Jose?

A friend in another organization called “Friendship Force” invited me to an AAUW meeting in Palo Alto in 1991. At the time I was living in Mountain View. I joined immediately. The group was fantastic. So much so I continued driving up to Palo Alto for meetings through 1992 even though I had moved to San Jose. It saddened me to quit but the evening driving became too much with work. I hate to admit I didn’t realize there was a Branch in San Jose within walking distance of my house until 2002. Otherwise, I would have continued in AAUW and joined AAUW San Jose when I moved in 1992. My sister was the one who found AAUW San Jose in 2002, and as a birthday surprise brought me to Fall Event. I must have spoken about AAUW often enough that she called AAUW Palo Alto and discovered there was a branch in San Jose. I had no idea where we were going that Saturday in 2002. All she would tell me was to wear a dress and be prepared to spend a lovely afternoon with a wonderful group of women. She was right. It was such a memorable afternoon and her gift has continued to give me nothing but pleasure for 20 years.

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

I joined at Fall Event in September 2002.

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

Belonging to an organization for 20 years says a lot. Most groups see members lose interest after about three years. AAUW really embodies the phrase “lifelong learning,” which has kept it so relevant and interesting that 20 years have flown by. I have made so many friends in our Branch and been exposed to such a wide variety of Interest Groups, Programs, and offices that I know once I retire, life will never be boring. Most importantly, I believe in the mission, so I am proud to be able to say I belong to such an important and worthwhile organization.

**Is there anything else we can do to improve membership experience?** I have always enjoyed everything I’ve tried at AAUW, so for me at least nothing needs to change. I don’t have any revelations on how to retain members. We know members who are involved from day one are more likely to stay. The Branch has implemented so many tried and true ways to make this happen. For example, “take a new buddy to general meetings” (pairing old with new members) and holding Membership events and meetings for new and prospective members. These activities help develop friendships and a feeling of belonging to the group faster. Membership VPs escorting new and prospective members to Interest Group meetings can break the ice and help new members get involved. I know when I joined, I found all these things very helpful. So much so I jumped right in and never looked back. Regarding younger members, I assume offering more ways to participate online and using technology would appeal to a younger audience, who multitask all day long.

*Spotlight on Linda Snashall continued.*

**What would you like members to know about you?** As a very shy person by nature, I hope I am remembered as someone who tried, despite shyness. I also hope I am remembered kindly and that although I may never move mountains, I hope my actions demonstrate that, even in the smallest ways, we all make a difference.

**How would you like to be remembered?** AAUW is such a fantastic organization. I have met and become friends with so many outstanding women and men. Thank you for all your guidance, kindness and friendship over the years. I hope I have been the same for others. I'm definitely still learning and looking forward to all the adventures that will unfold over the next 20 years.



### **A New Program for Gifts for Teens**

Cheryl Markman, Gifts for Teens

Gifts for Teens Chair Elaine Benoit is excited to announce that we are adding a new program this year - holiday gifts for foster care youth. To help offset a slide into homelessness among youth served by one of our recipients, the Bill Wilson Center, we will fill 288 special holiday bags for foster care youth. These bags are designed to meet the needs of older teens and to help inspire them to responsibly transition out of foster care and into adulthood. Especially geared for young women aged 18 to 22 years, they will contain \$50 store gift cards, sweats, earbuds, leggings, terrific cosmetics and many more exciting items earmarked for the older teen, valued at about \$300 each.

As per our usual program, we will also fill 552 gift bags for younger teens from poor working families served by Sacred Heart Community Service.

Thus, our plan is to fill a total of 840 gift bags. But we need and are asking for your financial help as we buy the items to fill the bags. Please donate to GFT with your renewal dues payment, or mail your check, written to ISPF-AAUW, GFT, to 1165 Minnesota Ave, San Jose, 95125. You can also use the donate button on the website at [gifts4teens.org](https://gifts4teens.org). In-kind teen-friendly articles are also welcome. Contact [Elaine@gifts4teens.org](mailto:Elaine@gifts4teens.org) for more information.

### **Done in a Summer's Day – Volunteers Needed**

Cheryl Markman, Gifts for Teens

Gifts for Teens is looking for volunteers to prepare/roll t-shirts one day in July or August, the date to be determined once the shirts have been received. Contact [Risë Berry](#) if you are interested in helping in an active and fun-filled 3-hour morning shift.



## **Update on Alyssa Espinal, Past Local Scholarship Recipient**

Cheryl Markman, Local Scholarship

After graduation, Alyssa will be participating in a study abroad program at Yonsei University in South Korea, engaging in an independent MedTech biomedical research project. While there she will also take psychology courses through their extension program. She is incredibly excited for this opportunity to broaden her academic and global perspective.

When she returns in August, Alyssa plans to work as a research assistant in a MedTech-related lab, at either UCSF or UC Berkeley, where she will continue her focus on hands-on biomedical research. Alyssa's second gap year will be spent in a one-year master's program in Translational Medicine. These programs are designed to train students in moving discoveries from the lab to real-world patient care, bridging the gap between basic science research and clinical application. Thus, preparing students to bring new medical technologies and treatments to patients more effectively.

Outside of academics, Alyssa will continue to run her mentorship program for Bay Area high school and community college students, helping support their journeys toward higher education. In her free time, she enjoys traveling, exploring new places, and spending quality time with family and friends.

Alyssa offers her thanks to AAUW for our support and for the important role AAUW plays in empowering students like herself.



## **Meet Our New Social Media-Website Coordinator**

Diane Trombetta

The ad hoc Communications Committee is happy to announce the hiring of a new Social Media-Website Coordinator, Jessica Torres. Jessica replaces Mimi Tran and brings advanced skills in website design and engineering, which our Branch requires. She will be advising the Gifts for Teens committee as they upgrade their website, as well as being a critical part of our efforts to update the Branch website in the coming 12 months. She will also pitch in to continue our amazing momentum on social media channels. Look for exciting changes in the coming months!



## Your Actions Are Helping to Protect Democracy!

Susan Karlins, Public Policy/Advocacy



Meeting with Assembly-member Ahren's aide at the Capitol for Lobby Day.

AAUW San Jose has been hard at work promoting AAUW policy priorities. Through August we will be supporting many of the 30 AAUW CA-supported bills in the legislature with phone calls and letters of support. Join one of our Public Policy meetings to learn more!

In April, three of us and an AAUW CA Public Policy Co-Chair and member of our sister Silicon Valley Branch met with an aide to Congressman Liccardo about AAUW policy priorities. Later that weekend, on April 5, a dozen of us rallied in support of our democratic institutions at the Hands Off! protest in St. James Park in San Jose. Six of us participated in AAUW CA Lobby Days promoting AAUW CA's top three priority bills. Karelle Cornwell, Maritza Campos, Peg Carlson-Bowen and Susan Karlins met with Sacramento staff for Assemblymembers Kalra, Ahrens and Caloza.

Elaine Peterson and Candace Roney lobbied Assemblymember Berman's staffer via Zoom.

Meanwhile, 44 of us wrote 1,220 postcards to potential voters of color in Virginia, encouraging them to participate in the upcoming June primary election there. Many thanks to Janice Baxter, Candace Roney Ann Ponikvar, Michele Wexler, Cindy Hansen, Vicki Ratner, Marna Taylor, Catherine Curtin, Sarah Janigian, Kathy Ann Meyers, Kathy Bechly, Michelle Lalljie, Katy Lemon, Shelley Powers, Debbie McCormick, Emily Goodheart, Edna Robison, Beverly Lambert, Elizabeth Guimarin, Catherine Kilkenny, Joann Moritz, Judy Blegen, Tynka Dees, Carol Savoy, Barbara Gilbert, Sueanne Snow, Kristine Cunningham, Karelle Cornwell, Sharon Shephard, Melinda Swanson, Linda Goldberg, Jan Bartolotta, Barb Purdy, Wendy Foote, Cheryl Markman, Diane Trombetta, Claire Campodonico, Ruth Dusan, Elaine Peterson, Jean Meyer, Maritza Campos, Lisa Sucre, Myra Sternlieb, and Paul Bowen. What a team!

AAUW CA has wonderful public policy resources we all can use:

Monthly newsletters are available at <https://www.aauw-ca.org/public-policy-committee-policy-news/>. For quick action on important topics, sign up for regular AAUW CA advocacy alerts at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe4FH5hKWxkcaqRFWWSHlq1fsQLoA5rjKBucDdYobBgImco1w/viewform>.

And remember to add 5 Calls to your smartphone or computer today. Share your views with your elected representatives on weekdays, three times a week, or whatever you can do.

**June/July 2025**

Submitted by Tynka Dees Calendar Editor

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.**

**June 2025**

Sun Jun 1	9-10:30 am	Weekend Walkers (RSVP <a href="#">Judy Burt</a> )
	10 am- 4 pm	Tech Trek Ice Cream Social in parking lot
Mon Jun 2	6-8 pm	Neighbors Helping Neighbors Annual Soiree ( <a href="#">Bobbie Baker</a> )
Tue Jun 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> <a href="#">Linda Snashall</a> )
Wed Jun 4	5:30– 6 pm	AAUW Board Social Time ( <a href="#">Tynka Dees</a> )
	6-7:30 pm	AAUW BOARD Meeting Hybrid( <a href="#">Tynka Dees</a> )
Sun Jun 8	9-10:30 am	Weekend Walkers (RSVP <a href="#">Judy Burt</a> )
Mon Jun 9	6:30- 9:30 pm	Light Gourmet ( <a href="#">Cheryl Markman</a> )
Tue Jun 10	10-11:30 am	Tuesday AM Book Group Heaven and Earth Grocery Store (RSVP <a href="mailto:bookmorning@aauwsanjose.org">bookmorning@aauwsanjose.org</a> )
	10-11 am	Conversacion Espanol ZOOM (RSVP <a href="#">Barbara Snyder</a> )
	1-3 pm	Mahjong ( <a href="#">RSVP Shelley Powers</a> )
Wed Jun 11	11 am-1 pm	Art Appreciation (RSVP <a href="#">Jan Bartolotta</a> )
	7-8:30 pm	Wednesday Night Book White Poverty HYBRID ( <a href="#">Renee Sommerfeld</a> )
Thu Jun 12	1-4 pm	Bridge 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday (RSVP <a href="#">Bobbie Eckerman</a> )
	1:30-3:30 pm	Archive Committee (RSVP <a href="#">Diane Trombetta</a> )
Fri Jun 13	10 am-1 pm	Duplicate Bridge (RSVP <a href="#">Lida Kluzek</a> )
Sat Jun 14	6:30-9:30 pm	Couples Dining (RSVP <a href="#">Valerie Merklin</a> )
Sun Jun 15	9-10:30 am	Weekend Walkers (RSVP <a href="#">Judy Burt</a> )
Mon Jun 16	9:30-11am	Exploring World Literature Hybrid Grand Avenue (RSVP <a href="#">Candace Roney</a> )
	6:30-9 pm	International Gourmet (RSVP <a href="#">Jan Bartolotta</a> )
Tue Jun 17	Noon-1pm	French Conversation ZOOM (RSVP <a href="#">Barbara Snyder</a> )
	1-3 pm	Mahjong ( <a href="#">RSVP Shelley Powers</a> )
	3:45-5:15 pm	Membership meeting ( <a href="mailto:Membership@aauwsanjose.org">Membership@aauwsanjose.org</a> )
Wed Jun 18	11:30-3 pm	Program End of Year Event (RSVP <a href="#">Ruth Dusan</a> )
	7-8:30 pm	Public Policy ZOOM ( <a href="#">Susan Karlins</a> )
Thu Jun 19	6:30-8 pm	Mystery Lovers ( <a href="#">Sharon Shephard</a> )
Fri Jun 20	10 am-1 pm	Bridge (RSVP <a href="#">Lida Kluzek</a> )
Sun Jun 22	9-10:30 am	Weekend Walkers (RSVP <a href="#">Judy Burt</a> )
Mon Jun23	11am-1230 pm	Building and Properties Committee ( <a href="mailto:buildings@aauwsanjose.org">buildings@aauwsanjose.org</a> )

Tue Jun 24	10-11 am	Italian Conversation ZOOM (RSVP <a href="#">Barbara Snyder</a> )
	1-4 pm	Bridge 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday (RSVP <a href="#">Bobbie Eckerman</a> )
	1- 3 pm	Mahjong ( <a href="#">RSVP Shelley Powers</a> )
	7-8:30 pm	Great Decisions PM ZOOM ( <a href="#">Sharon Shephard</a> )
Wed Jun 25	1230-130 pm	Lunch Bunch (RSVP <a href="#">Cheryl Markman Sueann Snow</a> )
Thu Jun 26	1:30-3:30 pm	Archive Committee (RSVP <a href="#">Diane Trombetta</a> )
Fri Jun 27	1:30-3 pm	Local Scholarship ( <a href="#">Beth Redmond</a> )
Sat Jun 28	10 am-12 pm	Renewal Party ( <a href="mailto:Membership@aauwsanjose.org">Membership@aauwsanjose.org</a> )
Sun Jun 29	9-10:30 am	Weekend Walkers (RSVP <a href="#">Judy Burt</a> )

**July 2025**

Tue Jul 1	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 Linda Snashall</a> )
Wed Jul 2	5:30-6 pm	AAUW Board Social Hour To Be Determined ( <a href="#">Tynka Dees</a> )
	6-7:30 pm	AAUW BOARD Meeting To Be Determined ( <a href="#">Tynka Dees</a> )
Sun Jul 6	9-10:30 am	Weekend Walkers (RSVP <a href="#">Judy Burt</a> )
Tue Jul 8	10-11 am	Conversacion Espanol ZOOM (RSVP <a href="#">Barbara Snyder</a> )
	1-3 pm	Mahjong ( <a href="#">RSVP Shelley Powers</a> )
Wed Jul 9	11 am-1 pm	Art Appreciation (RSVP <a href="#">Jan Bartolotta</a> )
Thu Jul 10	1-4 pm	Bridge 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday (RSVP <a href="#">Bobbie Eckerman</a> )
	1:30-3:30 pm	Archive Committee (RSVP <a href="#">Diane Trombetta</a> )
Fri Jul 11	9:30 am-2 pm	Duplicate Bridge (RSVP <a href="#">Lida Kluzek</a> )
Sat Jul 12	6:30-9:30 pm	Couples Dining (RSVP <a href="#">Valerie Merklin</a> )
Sun Jul 13	9-10:30 am	Weekend Walkers (RSVP <a href="#">Judy Burt</a> )
Mon Jul 14	6:30- 8:30 pm	Light Gourmet (RSVP <a href="#">Cheryl Markman</a> )
Tue Jul 15	Noon-1pm	French Conversation ZOOM (RSVP <a href="#">Barbara Snyder</a> )
	1-3 pm	Mahjong ( <a href="#">RSVP Shelley Powers</a> )
	3:45-5:15 pm	Membership meeting ( <a href="mailto:Membership@aauwsanjose.org">Membership@aauwsanjose.org</a> )
Wed Jul 16	1:30-3 pm	Program Event Planning Zoom (RSVP <a href="#">Ruth Dusan</a> )
	7-8:30 pm	Public Policy ZOOM ( <a href="#">Susan Karlins</a> )
Thu Jul 17	7-8:30 pm	Mystery Lovers Potluck Beach Reads ( <a href="#">Sharon Shephard</a> )
Fri Jul 18	10 am-1 pm	Bridge (RSVP <a href="#">Lida Kluzek</a> )
Sun Jul 20	9-10:30 am	Weekend Walkers (RSVP <a href="#">Judy Burt</a> )
Mon Jul 21	1-4 pm	Interbranch Council Hybrid ( <a href="#">Linda Goldberg</a> )
	6:30-9 pm	International Gourmet (RSVP <a href="#">Jan Bartolotta</a> )

Tue Jul 22	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 Jul 23	12-2 pm	Lunch Bunch TBA (RSVP (Cheryl Markman or Sueann Snow at <a href="mailto:lunchbunch@aauwsanjose.org">lunchbunch@aauwsanjose.org</a> )
Thu Jul 24	1:30-3:30 pm	Archive Committee (RSVP <a href="#">Diane Trombetta</a> )
Fri Jul 25	1:30- 3:30 pm	Local Scholarship To Be Determined ( <a href="#">Tynka Dees</a> )
Sat Jul 26	10 am-12 pm	Local Scholarship Reunion with Member & Prospective Members Coffee and Conversation Back Porch ( <a href="mailto:Membership@aauwsanjose.org">Membership@aauwsanjose.org</a> )
Sun Jul 27	9-10:30 am	Weekend Walkers (RSVP <a href="#">Judy Burt</a> )
Mon Jul 28	9:30-11 am	Building and Properties Committee ( <a href="mailto:buildings@aauwsanjose.org">buildings@aauwsanjose.org</a> )
Tue Jul 29	1-3 pm	Mahjong ( <a href="#">RSVP Shelley Powers</a> )

*welcome*

## We Welcome New Members

Claire Campodonico

PAMELA DeMARTINI was referred by her neighbor Sueann Snow. Pamela originally hails from Washington State and relocated to California in the 1970s. She received a BA in Behavioral Science and an MA in Social Sciences from San Jose State University. Now retired from her Founders and Executive Director's position at a non-profit organization which offered drug and alcohol counseling, Pamela is an active practitioner of yoga.

MYRA STERNLIEB earned a BS in Nursing from Ohio State University and an MS in Health Science from San Francisco State University. Continuing her studies, she went on to earn her MS in Nursing from San Jose State University. After a career as a Nurse Educator, Myra is now retired. She is a dual member with the Los Gatos-Saratoga Branch. She decided to join our Branch to further pursue networking and advocacy.

This month's newsletter is jam packed because we do not publish a newsletter in July. To get every article in I needed to add two more pages. If you do not like where you article was placed, I apologize. Please note, I used new fonts to be consistent with other AAUW San Jose Branch publications. For headlines, I used Gill Sans and for copy I used Arial. Please let me know if the newsletter is easier to read. Thanks.

## **With Gratitude and Appreciation**

Ruth Dusan, AAUW San Jose Program Director/Program Development Committee

First, thank our enthusiastic members, who present their ideas for a program. As a team we create a program event to engage or delight our members and guests. I want to express my sincere appreciation for the many volunteers who have helped produce programs for our community. Your support and dedication to our mission are truly inspiring and encouraging. With your continued support, we will power on.

I also want to acknowledge those of you who joined our team and/or provided ideas for past or upcoming events. Thank you to those who contributed and/or support our program planning efforts through your RSVPs and showing up. The May 10 event, organized by Monique Lee, presented Dr. Jill Tarter of SETI, a renowned scholar recommended by Monique's son, Dr. Pascal Lee. On June 2 NHN will have their yearly soirée (details elsewhere in this issue). On June 18 our planning team will gather to reflect on and to celebrate the success of the 2024-2025 programs. And we will begin planning the next year of fun, educational and perhaps astounding programs. The 2025-2026 programs will offer us all a chance to experience continuous learning and to accomplish our AAUW mission and shared goals.

### **Acknowledgements:**

Nell Aiello, Bobbie Baker, Margaret Bard, Mary Barry, Beverly Bassett, Elaine Benoit, Michele Bertolone, Risë Berry, Paul Bowen, Sharon Bouska, Judy Burt, Maritza Campos, Peg Carlson-Bowen, Tynka Dees, Linda Goldberg, Linda Guyer, Barbara Handly, Susan Karlins, Monique Lee, Russell Malley, Cheryl Markman, Barb Purdy, Vicki Ratner, Edna Robison, Barbara Snyder, Renee Sommerfeld, SueAnn Snow, Mimi Tran, Diane Trombetta, Kelly Weisberg, Nancy Wheeler, Sonia Wright, Membership Committee, BONFIRE team, the Communications/PR/Social Media team, every collaborator, and all our members who empower us as we move our mission forward.

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## **A Special Thank You from Local Scholarship Committee**

Diane Trombetta

The Local Scholarship Committee would like to thank Michelle Bertolone, Mimi Tran and Maritza Campos for their efforts regarding our PR, social media and on-the-ground outreach. As a result, we quadrupled the number of scholarship applications we've received. Last year it was just over 20, and this year it was 84!



### San Jose Branch BONFIRE

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June/July 2025

AAUW BONFIRE San Jose Branch *Established 1909*

## Celebrating Our Branch's Achievements

Maritza Campos



2024-25 Branch Highlights Programs Committee

- 5 Community Engagement Events
- Average of 65 attendees in 2024-25 programs (75% greater 2023-24)
- Highest program attendance during February 2025 with 79 attendees
- Over 280 volunteer hours

The graphic also features a collage of event photos and text: 'Community Engagement Series', 'The Cosmos and Quest to Discover Extraterrestrial Life', 'Sat. May 10th at 1:30 PM', 'AAUW', 'Join us for an unforgettable talk as Dr. Jill Tarter reveals her 30-year quest to answer the question: Are we alone?', 'Please register: \$10/individual', 'AAUW', 'Discover how groundbreaking technology is revolutionizing care for dementia, stroke, and brain-injured loved ones. Register & register now!', 'AAUW', 'Details & RSVP Info Below', 'AAUW'.

At our Annual Meeting in April, we were happy to honor our Branch's yearly accomplishments. This past year we have developed programs with increased attendance, been recognized with two awards and expanded our community outreach, boosting the visibility and impact of our Branch. From participation in our wide range of Interest Groups, to the meaningful work of our community service and advocacy committees, we continue to champion our efforts in bringing people together and

making a lasting difference in our community. If you want to see our detailed annual report, please visit: <http://bit.ly/aauw24-25>

This report can also be found under the Members Only tab on our website under member resources, listed under the number 8 as AAUW San Jose 2024-2025 Accomplishments.

### Connect with Us on LinkedIn and Our Socials!

Maritza Campos

Keep up to date on upcoming AAUW San Jose events and ongoing efforts to advance equity for women and girls. Follow us on our new LinkedIn profile and social media found on our Linktree to connect with our team: [linkedin.com/company/aauwsj](https://www.linkedin.com/company/aauwsj) | <https://linktr.ee/aauwsanjose>

