

President's Message

Coronavirus takes its toll on Mid-Pen events

**By Cathy Chowenhill
 Co-President**

We are very disappointed to have felt the necessity to cancel the April 4 Fund Luncheon, in addition to the March 14 meeting featuring Shelley Silbert of the Great Old Broads for Wilderness.

We want to follow the lead of the San Mateo County Health Department and the City of Redwood City. The county has said that non-essential meetings should be canceled, and the city's libraries have canceled many long-planned events.

Although, of course, these cancellations are not mandatory, we want to proceed



Cathy Chowenhill

with caution, as many of our members are in the age range that is most susceptible to a case of coronavirus becoming severe.

In the meantime, we can celebrate our February meeting, which introduced us to Carolyn Hoskins,

the founder of the Domini Hoskins Black

History Museum. We had a great turnout, including many guests; and we learned much about the contributions of black women in our history. (See photos below.)

Her museum will be on display at the San Mateo County Fair this year!

Thanks to Sally Mellinger and her Neighborhood #4 for the delicious snacks!

An outdoors event coming up. This year, Equal Pay Day is on March 31. Contact Wilma Hoffman if you'd like to find out where and when you can join us that day to hand out bookmarks, informing people about Equal Pay Day!

Stay calm and wash your hands, Cathy



Slate of elected, appointed officers for the year 2020-21

Elected Officers

Presidents: Cathy Chowenhill & Carole Farina
 VP-Programs: Kathy Morrow & Kathy Mountain
 VP-Membership: Vicci Mueller
 VP-Membership Treasurer: Mary Spring
 VP-AAUW Funds: Carolyn Miller
 Treasurer: **OPEN**
 Admin/Financial Secty: Mary Spring
 Recording Secty: Marilyn Zack
 Directors-at-Large: Wilma Hoffmann & Ellen Van Creveld

Appointed Officers

Parliamentarian: Nancy Oliver
 General Sections: Lois Monroe
 Public Policy: Yvonne Bergero
 Tech Trek Support, Financial: Kathy Rafael

Communications Team

Triad Editor: Micki Carter
 Events Flyer: Nancy Oliver
 Distribution/Labels: Ellen Van Creveld
 External Communications: Micki Carter
 Internal Communications: Cathy Chowenhill

Website: Angela Mallett

Membership Team:

Possibly Cheryl Sullivan & Dianne McCubbin

Directory

Margot Diltz

Neighborhoods Coordinator

Sally Mellinger

Sunshine Chair

Marge Haruff

Program Team

Victoria Kline & Carolyn Seffens (setup), Carolyn Chambers & Mary Ann Miotto

Event Chairs

September: Sue Schmid & Judy Diashyn

AAUW Funds Event (lunch/dinner):

Carolyn Miller

Installation Lunch/Brunch: Sue Schmid & Ann Fleishman

Book Wrap: Nancy Crampton

Tech Trek

Sherry Booth

Hope House Liaison

Susanne Burrill

Grateful Garments Liaison

Karen Rende

Who? What? When?

Co-Presidents: Cathy Chowenhill (cathychowenhill@comcast.net) and Carole Farina (cfarina@alumni.stanford.edu)

Membership: Vicci Mueller (591-5444) and Cristina Avila-Summer-ville (594-0464)

Distribution: Ellen Van Creveld (591-0814)

Electronic distribution: Cathy Chowenhill

Triad editor: Micki Carter (mickicar-tr@gmail.com)

Sunshine Lady: Marge Haruff is our Sunshine Lady. Please contact Marge at mharuff@aol.com or 592-9900 if you know anyone who would appreciate a card from Mid-Pen Branch.

Know of a prospective member? Please contact Vicci Mueller (viccim@aol.com).

Board Meeting: Tuesday, April 7, at 10:30 a.m. via conference call.

Triad Deadline for May will be April 10. Please send articles in Word format to Micki Carter (mickicartr@gmail.com).

Transform yourself into a two-minute activist for AAUW

Members of AAUW's Action Network receive urgent e-mail notices when their advocacy is needed most.

With AAUW's online tool, it takes just two minutes and an internet connection to make your voice heard on issues impacting women and girls.

The online form registration form lets you indicate your interest area:

Civil Rights, STEM, Economic Security, Education, Title IX, Pay Equity.

Make your voice heard!

Click [here](#).

Proposed branch budget for coming year to be voted upon

The finance committee will submit this proposed budget to the board for consideration. The board will consider it and submit its final decision to the branch for a vote by June.

PROPOSED BRANCH BUDGET FOR 2020-2021

Income:		Expenses:	
Membership dues	2280	Administration	1070
Fund-raising	500	Conferences	2000
Carryover	3000	Promotion	660
		Publications	1550
		General meetings	400
		Contingency	100
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Annual Funds Luncheon has been cancelled

State's law requiring insurers to provide abortion in jeopardy

By Claire Noonan,
AAUW Public Policy Committee

As American women consider action to ensure reproductive health rights in 2020, it is useful to recall that in the 17th and 18th Centuries pregnancy termination was legal under common law before “quickening” (fetal movement) that occurs approximately 16 weeks after conception.

After 1850, the crusade in the U.S. against voluntary pregnancy termination stepped up. According to Lauren McIver Thompson (author of “Battle for Birth Control ...”) physicians, known for irregular practice and lack of training, in order to “establish their place as respected members of society” argued about the “rights of the unborn” – sound familiar? (New York Times, December 15, 2019).

By 1900, in accord with the Comstock Act of 1873, most states had passed laws restricting termination and contraception. As a consequence, by the 1930s one report estimated that 681,000 abortions led to 8,000 to 10,000 maternal deaths.

It took a decision by the Supreme Court in 1973 to change the numbers, but the struggle continues. On Friday, Jan. 24, at the March for Life rally, President Trump threatened to take away California’s federal funding in accord with the Weldon Amend-

ment because of California law that ensures private insurers provide abortion and contraception coverage.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services gave the state 30 days to lift the regulation, saying that the state is not compliant with the amendment. Note that four years ago federal opinion confirmed California’s compliance to not discriminate against a health-care facility.

Yet, Kevin McCarthy (R-Bakersfield) on Feb. 21, emailed support for health care entities that don’t want to supply equal legal health services to all.

After the Feb. 4 State of the Union speech, there is no doubt women must continue to advocate for reproductive health rights – especially for black and Native American women, who have far higher pregnancy-related mortality rates than white women.

Of 15 policies suggested by the National Partnership for Women, the most important is access to all forms of abortion care and contraception regardless of where you live.

Lastly, keep track of the U.S. Senate vote on two bills at the end of February: 1) to institute a 20-week abortion ban and 2) to require medical care be delivered to infants that survive abortions, a misleading bill given that infanticide is already a crime.

April 7 board meeting to be conducted via group conference call

By Carole Farina

What an unusual year this has been! In light of our current health situation, Cathy and I feel it best to not hold our usual Board meeting on April 7.

This is a perfect time to try out a remote meeting via conference call from the comfort of your own home. More details will come as we have them. It will be on the same day and time, Tuesday, April 7, 10:30 a.m.-noon.

Regardless of your participation, we will convey by email afterwards the matters discussed. If all goes well, we may want to have more board discussions this way.

If you have a report or an item that requires discussion, please send it to me so that it will be included. Some topics will include:

- Vote on 2020-2021 budget
- Result of Shirt Sale
- March 31 Equal Pay Day handouts
- Rescheduling of general meetings
- Election of officers in May (Treasurer still open)
- Honored Member Award at June 6 luncheon meeting?
- Convention status
- Options to enable online payment of dues by distribution of personal ID to each member

Cynthia Ford and Ann Fleishman write cover letters to send with voter registration materials to unregistered, under-represented women in Arizona at the Public Policy section meeting Feb 18 at the home of Yvonne Bergero.



Virus concerns puts many sections on hold

Book Bunch: Future meetings are uncertain at this time. Contact June Hennig at 650-593-6541 or at pjhennig1@gmail.com for information.

Great Decisions Foreign Affairs

Group: This discussion group meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month to discuss current foreign policy topics. The discussions are based on articles from the booklet *Great Decisions*, which is published annually by the Foreign Policy Association. This month's article is No. 4 – Human Trafficking. Join us Wednesday, April 22, for the discussion from 1-3 p.m. at Linda Townsend's home, 1824 Bayview Ave., Belmont. Email Linda at townsend2@comcast.net or call (650) 867-7127 with any questions.

Hiking: April 2: Redwood City, Bair Island; April 9: Redwood City, La Honda Creek Open Space Reserve; April 16: Redwood City, Windy Hill Open Space Preserve; April 23: San Carlos, Devonshire Canyon; and April 30: Redwood Shores into Foster City, Bay Trail. For questions, contact Stephanie Katz at stk4@lehigh.edu. The Mid-Pen Hikers recently walked the **Garden Loop in San Francisco.** If you'd like to try it, take public transport to the SF Transit Center and go up to the Salesforce Park. The rooftop park, 5.4 acres surrounded by a half-mile loop trail, is planted with more than 600 trees and 16,000 plants in 13 botanical groupings. This green urban space cools the surrounding environment and filters exhaust. Want to know more? From monkey puzzle trees to palms, redwoods and a bamboo grove, Salesforce Park Garden Guide outlines a self-guided tour. It's available online.

French Conversation: Joanne Payne is our hostess for Tuesday, April 14, at 1:30 p.m. Please come to 850 Webster St., Palo Alto; let Joanne know your plans: 650-324-7481 or jopayne@sbcglobal.net. Or La-

verne at lrainbow24@yahoo.com. Bonne journée!

Spanish Conversation: Meetings of the Spanish Conversation Group have been suspended until after Easter. For information about the group and/or our schedule, contact Teddy Heinrich (teddyhei@aol.com) or Marilyn Zack, (marilynzack10@yahoo.com).

Gamesters: Members will be notified closer to the regular meeting date.

Out to Lunch: Members will be notified closer to the regular meeting date.

Bocce Ball: Hoping to enjoy warm spring weather, we will play our first game of Bocce Ball on Wednesday, April 15. We will meet at the courts at Burton Park in San Carlos at 10 a.m. for some fun, friendly conversation and a little exercise. No experience is necessary, and it is easy to learn to play. Since it is important to have enough players, please RSVP to Lois Monroe (593-1950 or loiswmonroe@gmail.com) if you would like to join us.

Bridge: Interested in playing Bridge? Please call Helene Haughney at 592-2517.

Out to Supper: One of the more popular dining destinations in the past was Creola, located at 344 El Camino Real, San Carlos. It is a New Orleans-inspired venue featuring Cajun-Creole classics including jambalaya and fried chicken. Please join us there on Wednesday, April 15, at 6 p.m. for some good company and a delicious dinner. Please RSVP to Lois Monroe (593-1950 or loiswmonroe@gmail.com) by Monday, April 13.

Historic Preservation: Join us on Friday, April 24, as we visit History San Jose in Kelly Park to enjoy "Her Side of the Story: Tales of California Pioneer Women," with 30 first-person accounts collected from women who traveled by land or sea to settle throughout California prior to January 1, 1854. When women were omitted from the 1900 exhibit

of California's Golden Jubilee, the Association of Pioneer Women of California was formed. They collected and preserved reminiscences (over 800 hand-written stories) of women who arrived in California before 1854 in a single ledger, the basis for this exhibition. These women represent the thousands of pioneers whose stories were never recorded; each one had a story to tell, which would have been lost to time. We may also have time to see some of the other historic buildings in Kelly Park. We'll leave Redwood City at 11 a.m. Call Nancy Oliver (592-5822) by April 22 for carpool location.

Women in Literature: On April 6, we'll discuss *The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd. Meet at 7 p.m. at the home of Mirna Hirschl. Call Nancy Oliver (592-5822) if you're coming. For May 4, we've chosen *Hidden Figures* by Margo Lee Shetterly.

Mystery Books: Members will be notified closer to the regular meeting date.

Public Policy: Public Policy Section is going remote for April! Because of the current health situation the April meeting will be conducted remotely. Members will receive the information needed to write a personal letter to the Speaker of the House and other representatives regarding the Violence Against Women Act, the Equal Rights Amendment and the Paycheck Fairness Act. All three have passed the House of Representatives and now reside in the Senate awaiting action. Additional letter writing ideas are welcomed. Contact Yvonne Bergero (ybergero@mac.com or 650-595-3648). If stationery is needed, supplies can be picked up at 136 Mesa Verde Way, San Carlos, Yvonne's home.

Movie Day: Movie Day is always the fourth Monday of the month, so the April event will take place on Monday, April 27.

Annual Bridge event will feature catered luncheon on May 1

By Ellen Van Creveld

Our annual tournament bridge luncheon this year is still on the calendar.

It will be Friday, May 1, at 11:30 a.m. at the home of Linda Townsend, 1824 Bayview, Belmont

The lunch will be catered with the following choices:

- Asian Chicken salad
- Beef fajita salad
- Caramelized onion quiche

All with garnish, rolls, coffee, iced tea, water and cookies for dessert.

The cost will be \$30, and the event is also open to all outside bridge lovers. Please send your check before April 15 to Ellen Van Creveld, 2304 Coronet Blvd., Belmont, made out to Ellen.

Don't forget to add your menu choice.

There is street parking and very limited parking on the driveway close to the front door (but only after the caterer has finished unloading the car).



Mid-Peninsula Branch was well-represented at a Get Out the Vote meeting with Rep. Jackie Speier early in February. On hand were Karen Rende (left), Wilma Hoffmann, Yvonne Bergero and Kathy Morrow.

Original ruling on the Aileen Rizo case is reinstated

Here's an update on the Aileen Rizo case that Mid-Pen Branch has taken an active interest in:

Aileen Rizo sued the Fresno County Department of Education when she learned in 2012 that a man in the same position was paid at least \$13,000 more because of his previous earnings.

AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund supported Rizo through this case. It was ruled in her favor but the U.S. Supreme Court set the decision aside because the author of the decision died before it was issued.

A Federal Appeals Court reinstated the original ruling at the end of February. The ruling states that employers may not rely on employees' past salaries to pay women less than men. Fresno County may appeal this ruling again to the Supreme Court.



AAUW California convention has been cancelled

Because of our concern for your health and our respect for the recommendations issued by the county, state and federal government to limit large gatherings, the AAUW California Board of Directors has regretfully made the decision to cancel the April 17-19 AAUW California Convention.

All registration fees will be automatically refunded. You do not have to contact the office in order to initiate the process.

The AAUW California Board of Directors is working with the hotel and reviewing options for rescheduling the convention for the fall. Additional details will be communicated in the coming days.

We regret this difficult decision, but these are unprecedented times, and we



must keep our members' welfare and peace of mind uppermost in our plans. We know you will continue to deliver on the AAUW mission in your branches and we thank you for all your efforts.

Let's keep each other in our thoughts

and remain resilient during this trying time. Please stay safe and well.

AAUW California Board of Directors

Give to AAUW in your will and join Legacy Circle

Designate any amount for AAUW Fund in your will or estate plans and you can become a valued member of the Legacy Circle alongside other branch members.

By making a planned gift to AAUW, you affirm your commitment to the future of women and girls. These gifts can be given to AAUW National's general fund or directed to your preferred program.

AAUW seeks to increase its long-term financial resources to help continue and expand our important work in programs and public policy agenda. To learn more or download the brochure, click [here](#). You can also call (877) 357-5587.

You may also request a brochure by emailing Heather Miller, AAUW's director of planned giving, at millerh@aauw.org.

If you would like to join the Legacy Circle and share your intent to include AAUW National in your estate plans, please download the [form](#).

All information is confidential.

Time to renew! Here's how...

Get ready! It's time for membership renewal for 2020/2021, New and renewing members are now invited to re-up! Deadline for renewal is June 15.

Computer

Here are the online steps to pay by credit card.

- Go to AAUW.org website
- See banner "Stand Strong in 2020," click box 2020 membership
- See on the next page the heading "Membership and Already a Member? Renew Today" Click "Renew Today"
- Next page: Fill in name, zip and last 4 of your phone number. (NOTE: Don't click boxes under Type of Membership heading unless you know your member number). After filling in your information, click "search" and then click on you name.
- Next page: See your information and payment boxes. This is also where you can update your demographic and educational history information.
- Proceed to the payment section.

That's it!

Mail-In

As in the previous years those members who prefer to pay by check may continue to do so. Make checks payable to Mid Peninsula AAUW and mail to:

Mary Spring
2707 Monserat Ave
Belmont, CA 94002
sprinfab@comcast.net
650-740-1357

Questions? Please contact me by email or phone. Thank you for your prompt payment.

How did women's issues fare in legislature?

By Kathi Harper and Shannon Smith-Crowley, AAUW California Public Policy Committee Legislative Advocates

January 2019 brought a new governor to California.

While the previous governor, Jerry Brown, was overall supportive of many of AAUW California priorities, it is expected that Gov. Gavin Newsom has an even greater appreciation for our priorities and values. It doesn't hurt that the First Partner, Jennifer Siebel Newsom, a documentary filmmaker, is a huge advocate for our issues and has considerable influence.

The legislature continues to have an interest in questioning the status quo and moving the needle on issues including the gender pay gap, sexual harassment, employment discrimination, Title IX, family leave, childcare, and education.

However, many issues were overshadowed by a few bills that seemed to take the oxygen out of the room and took up considerable time and attention. While unrelated, they still affected the AAUW California agenda because of the focus on them.

There were major fights over legislation to limit medical exemptions for vaccines, regulation of internet privacy, and pharmaceutical price controls. Also notable was a significant battle over the codification of case law to clearly delineate which workers are employees versus independent contractors, a critical issue for the "gig" economy and those who work in it.

With the 2018-19 legislative session finally at an end, members of the AAUW California Public Policy Committee, along with our Legislative Advocate Shannon Smith-Crowley, are proud to report that 12 of our AAUW-supported bills were signed into law.

Some of our bills, including paid family leave and elimination of the sales tax on menstrual products and diapers, have been dealt with by the budget process, rendering the bills unnecessary.

And, of course, while AAUW scored significant wins, there were some losses that will require attention during the next legislative year.

Three of our bills became two-year bills that may be considered in the 2020

legislative year. These included two of our major bills. The first, SB 171, would have required payroll data to be broken down by gender, race, ethnicity, and job category, and reported to state agencies. The reports would enable state agencies to identify patterns of wage disparities, allowing enforcement of California's equal pay laws.

The second bill, SB 493, would have implemented a process for higher education institutions to prevent, respond and investigate sexual harassment claims. In addition to procedural protections, the bill would have required training of employees engaged in the grievance procedures on trauma-informed best practices and training on implicit bias.

A third bill, AB 500, which would have provided maternity leave to California teachers and school employees, was passed, but then vetoed by the governor.

Here is the scorecard:

Enacted by the legislature and signed by the Governor:

AB 9, 51, 59, 170, 218, 381, 543, 749, 809, 922;

SB 24, 142

Two-year bills:

AB 140, 171, 196, 271, 493, 628, 758, 767, 989;

SB 135, 752

Budget:

AB 31, 1593

publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org



Watch this recorded webinar, led by AAUW's CEO Kim Churches. It covers our equity priorities for 2020 and explains how you can help us meet our goals [here](#).

AB 500

All in all, AAUW's advocacy and policy research shaped California's 2019 legislation. However, there is more work to be done around pay equity and maternity leave issues. Your Public Policy team will continue its work in 2020. Stay tuned.

For further information on these bills, visit our legislative [bill tracker](#).

State's diversity committee needs new chairperson

AAUW California is looking for a new chair of the Diversity Committee and additional committee members to keep the progress going.

The Diversity Committee has been one of the most active and important committees of the state organization. It needs people with diversity expertise to take up the torch of the previous committee.

Because of the importance of this committee, AAUW California will not wait until next year to fill the positions.

Please click [HERE](#) to complete the application at your earliest convenience. Please don't miss the opportunity to be part of this dynamic group.

Consider running for board of directors of AAUW California

There is still time to nominate a candidate or run yourself for a director or secretary position on the AAUW California's Board of Directors.

You can still make an impact and use your skills and talents and commitment to moving AAUW California forward. All applications must be in by April 4.

Click [here](#) to check out details regarding the nomination and election process. If you still have questions or need clarification on board responsibilities, give us a call: 323-687-3269 or email us: nominating@aauw-ca.org.

April 2020 at a glance

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 9 a.m. Hiking	3	4
5	6 7 p.m. Women in Literature	7 10:30 a.m. Board Meeting	8 1 p.m. Out to Lunch	9 9 a.m. Hiking	10	11
12	13	14 1:30 p.m. French	15 10 a.m. Bocce Ball 6 p.m. Out to Supper	16 9 a.m. Hiking	17	18
19	20	21	22 1 p.m. Great Decisions	23 9 a.m. Hiking	24 11 a.m. Historic Preservation	25
26	27 Movie Day	28	29	30		

During this coronavirus outbreak, we will most likely all be fine if we take precautions, but if you do need help, please contact your Neighborhood Chair or co-president. We can shop for you and leave it on your doorstep or get help for you. It's a good time to tryout a podcast or ebook. Put your feet up and enjoy being free for the day. — Co-President Carole Farina

Ellen Van Creveld
2304 Coronet Blvd.
Belmont, CA 94002

In principle and practice AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, class or disability. AAUW promotes equity for all women and girls, lifelong education and positive social change.