

Women's rights to be the focus of Nov. 7 speaker

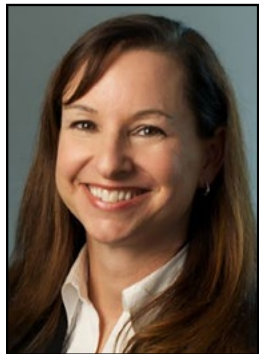
Beth von Emster, an attorney who volunteers with the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California, will give a "Primer on Our Rights as American Women" in a 2 p.m. Zoom presentation on Saturday, Nov. 7.

The Triad invited her to give our readers a preview of her talk. Here in her words:

By Beth von Emster

What are our civil rights, where do they come from, and how are they threatened during these unprecedented times?

What opportunities do we have to protect and expand our civil rights? What can each of us do to educate ourselves, hold elected officials accountable, and defend our rights for ourselves and future generations?



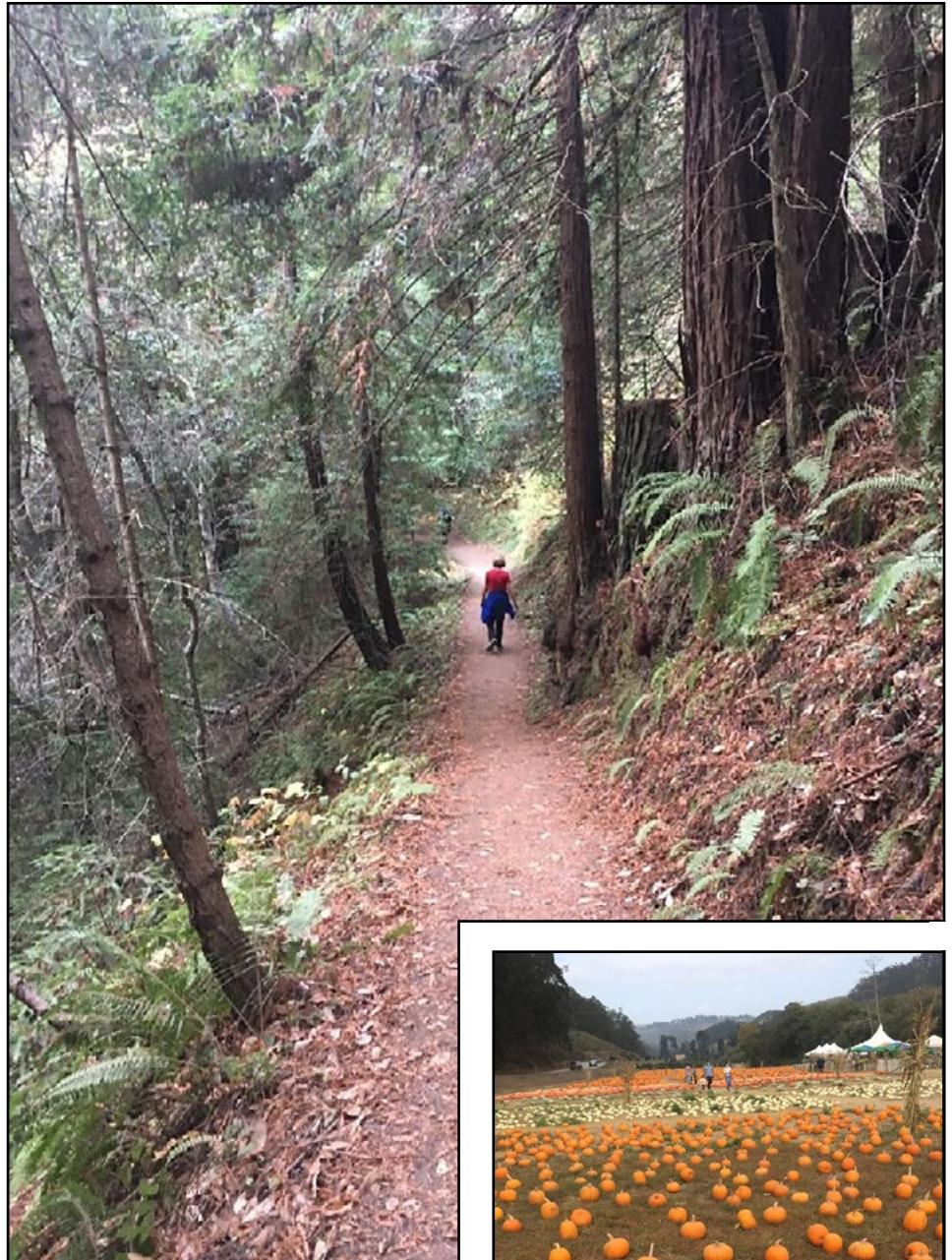
Beth von Emster

These questions and more will be the subject of our conversation

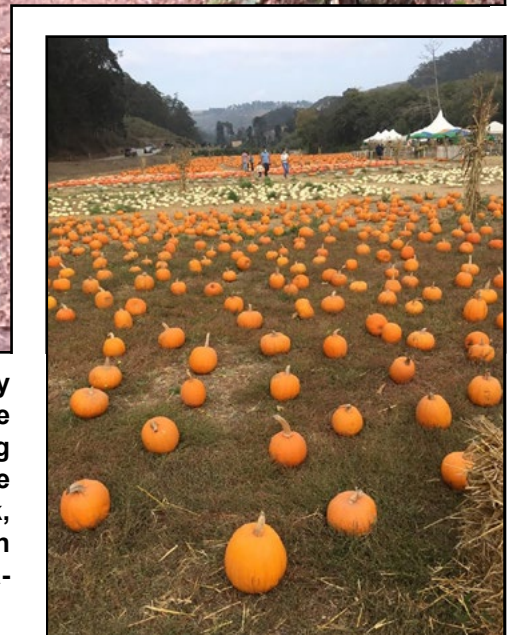
about the national, state and local civil liberties issues facing American women in 2020.

Given how long the United States has operated as a Constitutional democracy, it can be easy to take for granted what an extraordinary achievement the U.S. Constitution was for its time and what remarkable influence it continues to have in our lives to this day.

But the rights we derive from that document do not operate in a vacuum – forces
See RIGHTS, Page 3



Purissima Creek and Half Moon Bay pumpkins were on the agenda for the hikers in October. Those enjoying this magnificent treat were Susanne Burrill, Linda Howard, Marilyn Zack, Carolyn Seffens, Nancy Crampton and Stephanie Katz. Contact Stephanie if you'd like to join them.



From the president: It's time to act

By Carole Farina
Co-President

A round of applause for Yvonne Bergero, Public Policy chair and section leader, for keeping us up-to-date on federal actions and guiding her section members' activities.



Carole Farina

And to the hard working members who speak to local government representatives, send voter registration materials to underrepresented areas, and are bringing attention to climate change.

If ever there were a time to be a good citizen, a good neighbor, an informed and caring person, the time is now.

• Check your facts before you pass them on. See "How to make sure it's true" below in BackTalk.

• Learn about the issues and opposing points of view at VoteSmart.org and League of Women Voters, who shared perspectives at our Oct. 17 meeting.

• Vote early and in person if you can so it shows on Nov. 3.

• Remain civil.

• Contribute to the victims of fire, coronavirus and unemployment.

• Check nonprofits with Charity Navigator or Guidestar, check all with individual organization, IRS or BBB. Some to consider are National — American Red Cross, United Way or California — The California Fire Foundation, Meals of Gratitude, Wildfire Relief Fund (for Latino victims)

• Continue to work on political and cultural problems.

• Go to <https://mid-peninsula-ca.aauw.net/>, for current information and events.

Set aside time to meet the AAUW Fund recipients on Oct. 24. You will be greatly touched and inspired by their stories.

Please send in your comments and suggestions. You are thoughtful women and have valuable ideas that will keep us moving forward together.

BackTalk

Have something you want to put before your Mid-Pen sisters to elicit ideas and opinions?

Have a bone to pick with the world at large or just your AAUW chapter?

Email your thoughts to the editor at mickicartr@gmail.com with BackTalk in the subject line.

Obituary for the land

Many of you know the work of writer and environmental activist Terry Tempest Williams.

If you do, you will love the [obituary](#) she wrote for the land. If you don't, you may find a writer you want to read more of.

Part elegy, part obituary and part inspiration, it is a wakeup call and a statement of love (and sorrow) for all on our blue planet.

I see there is a [video](#) of her reading available to anyone on YouTube.

Sherry Booth

How to make sure it's true

You have seen things that you know are wrong, or right, but not sure how to verify your feeling?

It is so important now with elections and the coronavirus pandemic that what we share is correct. Seventy percent of people over 65 cast ballots. And yet that is the age group with the least experience in deciphering phony sites or messages and are the most often the target.

Digital literacy organizations are beginning to intervene. Here a few.

• [Media Wise for Seniors](#): Media literacy modules and webinars on all sorts of areas. Some modules being jointly prepared with AARP. Some are free.

• The News Literacy Project: The free

Who? What? When?

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Triad editor: Micki Carter (mickicartr@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, Nov. 3, at 11 a.m. via Zoom.

Triad Deadline for November will be Nov. 10. Please send articles in Word format and photos as large-format JPEGs to Micki Carter (mickicartr@gmail.com).

site, [Checkology](#), founded by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Alan Miller, grounds us in how to discern misinformation.

• [The News Literacy Project](#): Tips and Tools uses short activities and quizzes while Get Smart About News features a weekly newsletter to target current rumors, hoaxes and conspiracy theories.

• Claim Buster: Designed by the University of Texas at Arlington, this web-based fact checking tool is live.

• Well-rated: Snopes, PoliFact, Fact-Check.org, ProPublica.

Let's not be part of the problem. Let's restore honesty to our social media.

Carole Farina

Rights

Continued from Page One

are constantly at work that shape how those rights protect us in practice and affect our daily lives. We will explore what dynamics are in play to impact our rights in this current moment.

The most common challenges to our rights come from governmental action, including (and perhaps especially) local measures that impact our lives in very immediate and intimate ways.

The 19th Amendment (granting women the right to vote) and the American Civil Liberties Union came into being in the same year, 1920. The ACLU employed the previously unheard-of tactic of using the court system for redress of civil liberties abuses. The famous Scopes trial (seeking to protect a

teacher from criminal prosecution for teaching evolution in school), Korematsu case (challenging World War II Japanese detention centers), Brown vs. Board of Education (prohibiting “separate but equal” education segregated by race), and Roe vs. Wade represent examples of the ACLU’s profound impact on the protection of civil liberties.

As a new era of unprecedented attacks on civil rights is upon us, the widespread adoption of innovative tactics beyond court challenges is necessary. We will discuss how activism is pivotal to the continuing struggle for the protection of our rights.

Von Emster is an attorney in San Mateo County. A graduate of Notre Dame High School Belmont, UC Berkeley and UC Hastings College of the Law, she spent her career

in business litigation, corporate and nonprofit governance, and venture capital.

Since retiring from corporate life, she volunteers her law degree for advocacy work with the ACLU of Northern California. She co-chairs its local affiliate, the ACLU North Peninsula Chapter, which operates as a community guardian of civil liberties.

Recent work involves access to reproductive health services at local hospitals, the sheriff’s use of force and surveillance practices, and law enforcement cooperation with federal immigration authorities.

Mid-Peninsula members will receive the Zoom link via email a few days before the presentation. However, members of the public are welcome to join the presentation as well.

**WHEN WOMEN VOTE,
WE CHANGE THE CONVERSATION.**

I VOTED!

I VOTED!

I VOTED!

I VOTED!

IT'S MY VOTE
I WILL BE HEARD
AAUW ACTION FUND

bit.ly/its-my-vote
[#itsmyvote](https://twitter.com/itsmyvote)

New interest group on climate change is forming

Climate Change

A brand new, not-quite-a-week old group has been launched! While we are a bit short on specifics at this time, we wanted to let everyone know. We welcome any of our interested Mid-Peninsula colleagues to join us. Our plan is to get better educated on various aspects of climate change, develop local connections with other groups where appropriate, take actions for the environment, and have some fun exploring our natural world. We will be planning our first programs collaboratively over the next few weeks and if you want to be a part of this, email Sherry Booth (boothsherry1@gmail.com). For the nine of us who have come together so far, climate change ranks as one of, if not the, foremost challenge to humanity.

Book Bunch

We meet by Zoom on the second Friday of the month (Oct. 9) at 12:30 p.m. Contact Cheri Sullivan to join (cheryl.sullivan@

Neighborhoods plan on celebrating 2021 with style and good times

Neighborhood 7 will be having a cocktail party sometime during the second week on January. Date has yet to be determined.

Neighborhood 4's Holiday Party will be at 3 p.m. on New Years Day. Details in the next Triad complete with Zoom link. Watch for emails from Wilma; we are planning some fun!

Neighborhood 3 will be having its New Years gathering on Tuesday, Jan. 5, at 5 p.m. The party will be on Zoom this year. It will be a cocktail party so make what you'd like to drink in a pretty glass. We are celebrating 2021, looking forward with happiness and joy. Let's put 2020 behind us and celebrate the New Year. Dress up any way you wish with a New Year's hat, bring something that makes you happy to share such as a poem, recipe, craft project or? Have a few New Years poppers, horns, confetti to bring life to the gathering. Your host will have a surprise for you just before the gathering. More information will be coming through email directly to members as the gathering gets closer. Let's celebrate!

gmail.com or 217-840-6627). The November (Nov. 13) book is *Song of Solomon* by Toni Morrison. In December (Dec. 11) we will be discussing *The Soul of an Octopus* by Sy Montgomery. Please come with book suggestions for upcoming meetings.

Spanish Conversation

From November through April, Spanish Conversation will meet by Zoom on the first Monday of the month. Leonor Urbain will send the link. After April the group will decide if this meet-up plan will change.

French Conversation

Bonjour! Our meeting is set for Tuesday, Nov. 10, at 2 p.m. Mirna Hirschl will be setting up Zoom for us to get together. Please plan on signing on! For more information, contact Laverne Rabinowitz at Lrainbow24@yahoo.com.

Public Policy

Zoom date will be Nov. 24 from 3- 5 p.m. Look for a ZOOM invitation from ybergero@mac.com. The discussion will be about the Nov. 3 election and the effects, fallout, successes as well as defeats, in its outcome. Our push in support of mail-in-ballots as an election action project during this time of Covid will be evaluated. Please

National sets up online link for membership

A customized computer online link has been created for membership recruitment.

This online link allows your new member prospect to join AAUW at 50 percent off National dues (\$59/2 = \$29.50) under National AAUW Shape the Future campaign, plus the regular state and branch dues (\$20 + \$21) for a total of \$70.50.

Send this link to your prospects, thanking them for participating and inviting them to join!

Here's the computer online [link](#) for Mid-Peninsula AAUW branch.

If clicking on this link doesn't work, copy it and paste it into your browser.

The link expires Nov. 1.

If you have any questions, please contact Mary Spring at sprinfab@comcast.net

Thank you for participating in Shape the Future!

contact Yvonne Bergero (ybergero@mac.com or 650 595-3648) with any comments or to be added to our section..

Historic Preservation

News Flash! The San Mateo County Historical Association just announced the opening (on a limited basis) of all its sites: The Museum in downtown Redwood City, Woodside Store, Sanchez Adobe and Folger Stables. Check with SMCHA for more details.

Women in Literature

This section is on hold until further notice.

Hiking

The group continues to meet on Thursday mornings. There's renewed interest in spending time together! Members of the group suggest walks, hikes, routes and the time and place to meet, and then someone leads and does the emails for that week. Stephanie Katz is the contact (stk4@lehigh.edu).

Meet Erika Abbott, new Mid-Peninsula member

Please meet a new member!

Erika Abbott

11 Pyxie Lane, San Carlos. CA 94070
slalaw1@aol.com

BA History, New York University

Erika is originally from New York. She and her husband moved to California 16 years ago. She has two children and six grandchildren, five boys and one girl.

Erika has worked for 25 years with special needs children. She loves to read, do puzzles and especially hike.

Welcome, Erika!

Bring the AAUW fellows into your home Oct. 24

AAUW fellows/grant recipients Are ready to come to your home for lunch

Meet the women who have received fellowships and grants from AAUW this year. Welcome them into your homes on Oct. 24. Click this link for the Oct. 24 [webinar](#) at 1 p.m.,

Thank you to Pat Ivester for Tech Trek magic

By Jean Dehner

Did you know that, in our Mid-Peninsula branch of AAUW, there are members who accomplish amazing things! For many members, we know them as someone in our neighborhood group, or as an officer who reports to the branch regularly or who plans monthly programs.

The “subject” of this article is a member who spends about nine months out of every year serving AAUW as director of Tech Trek Camp Curie at Stanford. That member is Pat Ivester. Pat has been director of Curie since 2013. Before that she taught the math core class at both Curie and Camp Hopper, starting in 2008.

As one of her staff put it, “Ever watch a loosely ensembled orchestra as they start their first practice? Pat reminds me of the conductor who starts to gather that ensemble in November and works with them to produce the symphony that comes together in its crescendo the week of Camp Curie. Like any good conductor, she is the heart and soul of Camp Curie, and the glue that brings it together and keeps it together for the week, still calm while putting out fires throughout the planning and execution.”

Pat’s counterpart director at Camp Hopper said, “Tech Trek at Stanford simply would NOT have happened in the past several years without her tireless efforts. ... Hiring teachers, recruiting volunteer staff, purchasing equipment and supplies, preparing for campers’ medical needs and more.”

For Pat, the first in-person encounter is the meet-and-greet in late May where the girls who have been selected to represent Mid-Peninsula branch meet each other as well as former campers, parents, siblings, dorm moms and others.

On a Saturday in early July, Pat, Kea (the assistant director) and junior counselors, all meet to set up the camp, unpacking all the equipment that has been in storage since the end of camp the previous year. Early Sunday morning the dorm moms arrive, and orientation for everyone begins. At 2:30, the campers, with parents and siblings in tow, arrive, and at 3:30 the group walks en masse to the Opening Ceremonies. Then parents bid their daughters goodbye until the next Saturday, and Pat and her team begin the



Pat Ivester gives her assistant director Kea a Tech Trek hug!

incredible bonding that takes place during the week of camp.

It’s non-stop for Pat and her team from early October until camp ends in July.

Recently we reached out to former campers, counselors, dorm moms and friends of Tech Trek to help us share this amazing leader with you.

In our quest to gather Pat-centered impressions, we received so many that we will assemble them into a scrapbook/album keepsake. Here are a few telling and touching comments.

- “Patient with hyper-energetic teenage girls and anxious camp staff.”
- “Tech Trek helped me realize that I was smart and powerful enough to have a career in STEM, and Pat makes it possible for girls to discover themselves and increase

their confidence.”

- “I observed (Pat) handle challenges with wisdom, experience, and humor.”
- “When she wasn’t leading or observing activities, she was actively participating.”

She earned the title of Jenga champion according to one of the counselors.

The keepsake scrapbook will be presented during this coming fall or spring, by Zoom or better yet at a Mid-Peninsula branch meeting in person. Please watch The Triad for more information. The limitations of space prevent the sharing of every comment and tribute. When you, as branch members, encounter Pat, please reach out and share your good wishes as she moves on to Michigan in fall of 2021.

AAUW wage/hour bill is signed by governor

By Kathi Harper, AAUW California Public Policy Co-Chair

In 2018, AAUW co-sponsored a bill requiring companies with more than 100 employees to collect and report to the Department of Fair Employment and Housing data on:

1. The number of employees by race, ethnicity and sex for 10 job categories;
2. The number of employees by race, ethnicity and sex, whose annual earnings fall within certain pay bands;
3. The total number of hours worked by each employee counted in each pay band during the reporting year.

The purpose of the bill is “to allow for designated state agencies to collect wage data to more efficiently identify wage patterns and allow for targeted enforcement of equal pay or discrimination laws.”

The bill failed in 2019, and was re-introduced last year by the same author, Sen. Hannah-Beth Jackson (D-Santa Barbara), and was signed by Gov. Newsom on Sept. 30 – the last day in the last hour!

Fifteen other AAUW California-supported bills were also signed by the Governor.

Finally, as part of our “white allyship” posture, we are proud to have supported six bills that were enacted to address racial injustice and/or to enhance opportunities for Black women.

You can find additional information on these and all our 2019-20 bills on Capitol Track on our website.

How to find the AAUW California directory

The AAUW California State Directory containing state committee members, AAUW California calendar and webinar schedule is posted on the AAUW California [website](#) in the Communications section of the AAUW CA Business menu which can be found at the top of the page.

The password for the website is [aauwca](#). Check for current webinars [here](#).

State AAUW supports 7 ballot measures

From California AAUW

The AAUW California Public Policy Committee has reviewed the 12 propositions on the November ballot and is making recommendations on seven.

A **Support Recommendation** has been made for these seven that relate to our priorities and mission:

Prop 14 – Stem Cell Research (access to quality health care) Approves a bond for \$5.5 billion to support continued stem cell research

Prop 15 – Property Taxes (funding for education) Large commercial properties over \$3 million will be assessed at current market value.

Prop 16 – Affirmative Action (educational opportunity; social justice) Reinstates race, ethnicity and country of origin as considerations for school admittance and government employment.

Prop 17 – Voting for Parolees (expansion of voting rights) Allows people on parole to vote once their prison sentence has been completed

Prop 18 – Voting at 17 (encourages voting) Allows 17-yr olds to register and vote in primary if they will be 18 by the general election

Prop 21 – Rent Control (affordable housing) Authorizes local governments to place rent control measures on houses older than 15 years

Prop 25 – Cash Bail (social and economic justice) SB10 relies on risk assessment in determining if a suspect will be held in custody instead of cash bail; a “yes” vote keeps SB10

The committee takes **No Position** on the remaining five:

Prop 19 – Property Taxes

Prop 20 – Parole Restrictions

Prop 22 – Gig Workers

Prop 23 – Dialysis Clinics

Prop 24 – Consumer Privacy

More detailed information on each of these propositions, including who sponsored and who supports and opposes each, can be found on the Public Policy page of the AAUW California website.

Resources for understanding our effect on climate change

Here’s a [Climate Action Guide](#) that goes beyond saving birds gives a variety of concrete means of taking action. Faced with 389 bird species on the brink of extinction and 146 of them in California, and over 100 environmental regulations rolled back by federal policies, Audubon developed the Guide to help us fight for action.

It covers ways to reduce your carbon footprint in your garden and in your home, with your transportation and type of fuel as well as how to write a letter to the editor and how to have an impact.

It is not a large guide and is easy to scroll through. The takeaway is to make your story personal. Take a look and get started today. We have no time to lose; your actions count.

Here are some books about our planet’s

history and future:

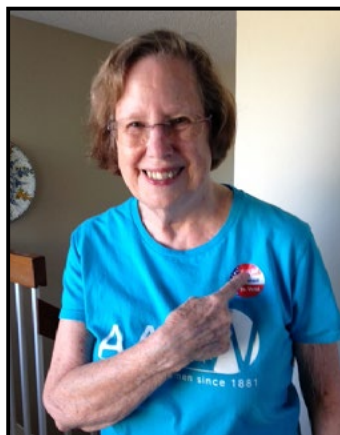
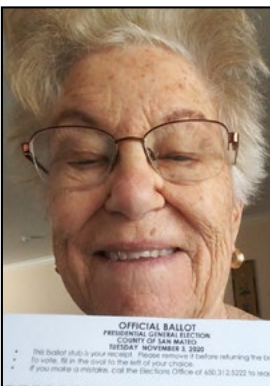
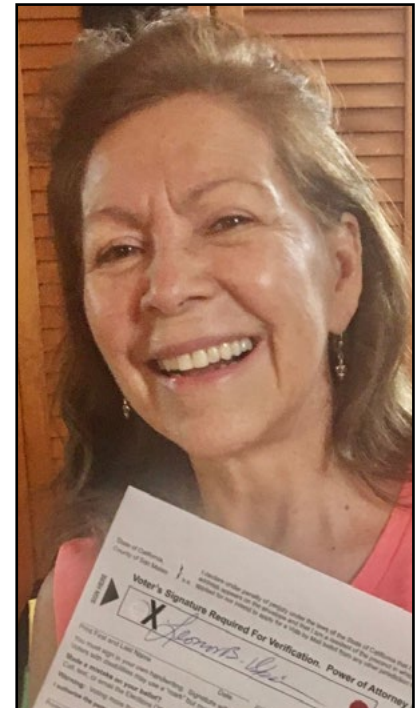
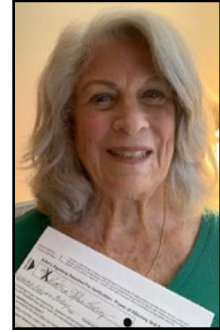
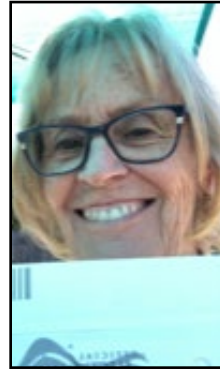
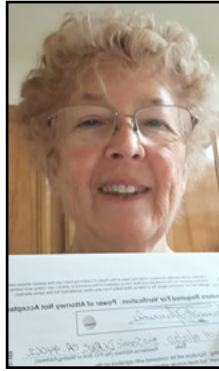
What We Know About Climate Change by Kerry Emanuel, a conservative M.I.T. climatologist, written to give the reader ammunition for changing minds.

The Sixth Extinction by Elizabeth Kolbert, gives a history and “places in context the catastrophes ahead” by looking at regeneration in the distant past.

The Water Will Come by Jeff Goodell, sea-level rise as viewed from vulnerable world cities.

The Story of More by Hope Jahren, a look at how our decisions of what we eat affect the world.

The End of Nature by Bill McKibben, 1989, examines the disregard for nature and how humans harm it.



The 2020 Census in the time of Coronavirus

By Stephanie Katz

Covid-19 almost derailed my plan to be a Census 2020 enumerator. I applied months ago expecting to work in winter. My mid-March appointment (small, cramped office! no hand sanitizer!) for fingerprinting and the I.D. photo was the last step before no further communication until August.

In August, I received emails about in-class training at Cañada College. Very strange to arrive and line up in the courtyard with many other masked applicants. After three hours of classroom training, we were sworn in and issued equipment. The 2020 supplies included rubber gloves, a white cotton mask and hand sanitizer.

Then nine computer hours (to do in four days) and finally a three-hour conference call with two supervisors. The call was very unsatisfying: bad cellphone service at home, much noise on the phone, and one trainer yelling at us and refusing any questions.

Cases (addresses minus names and phone numbers) were assigned and answered on an iPhone. Enumerators chose their available days and hours every night for five days ahead. The workload alternated: no / few / many cases. Accumulating notes from previous enumerators helped.

By 7:30 a.m., my phone showed any



Stephanie Katz

cases for the day. Finding parking spaces could be a challenge! One day's work took me to Redwood City, Belmont, East Palo Alto, La Honda, Pescadero and Half Moon Bay — with some roads blocked by fires.

Respondents could be courteous, busy, annoyed or aggressive; sometimes households had intimidating dogs. My favorite interviews were in Spanish.

My supervisor reported that San Mateo County was the best (most cases finished) in the Western U.S. Although the Census has been extended until the end of October, I handed in my equipment a few weeks ago, having turned down "travel" (from three days to a week) to areas including Fresno, Santa Rosa, Reno, Las Vegas and Arizona.

I also declined three days and an overnight of counting the homeless (in a team). I assume younger people accepted travel assignments.

A Facebook Census enumerator group has been interesting and informative. Comments reflect how disorganized the system is this year. Although my online exit survey requested comments, I wonder how much if any will be used for the 2030 Census.

I found the work intriguing. With little else to do in this pandemic, counting the Census was a positive new experience.

Remember Ruth Bader Ginsburg — and AAUW

By Carolyn Miller

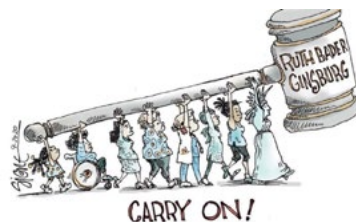
Americans lost one of our most beloved role models in the recent passing of Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

She was a pioneering jurist and iconic feminist who blazed new trails in the lives of countless women that she championed and inspired. AAUW recognized her in 1999 with AAUW Achievement Award.

Her mission and that of AAUW are the same. The Funds Committee thought it might be timely to think of all the money we are not spending on luncheons and meals out, entertainment, shopping, etc., and consider a donation to AAUW Fund in Ruth Bader Ginsburg's memory.

Did you like her quote....

Fight for the things that you care about but do it in a way that will lead others to join you. Consider a \$30 donation for this quote.



When I'm sometimes asked, "When will there be enough women on the Supreme Court? My answer is: 'When there are nine.' People are shocked. But there'd been nine men and nobody's raised a question about that." Consider a \$50 donation for this quote.

Or court cases she argued

At the start of 1996, the Virginia Military Institute was the country's last remaining all-male public undergraduate college or university. By the end of the year, that no longer would be the case, thanks in part to Ginsburg.

The United States filed a suit against the

school, arguing that the gender-exclusive admission policy violated the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment.

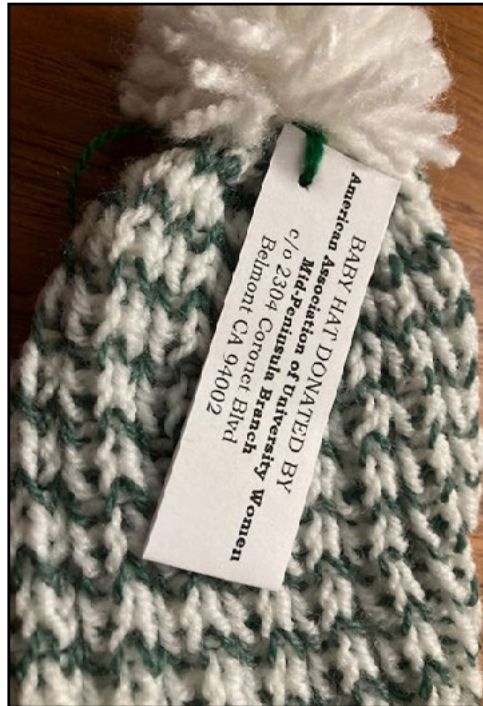
Consider a \$75 donation for this case. Obergefell v. Hodge 2015 granted same-sex couples the right to marry in all 50 states. As a former officiant of the same-sex weddings and an advocate for LGBTQ rights, it is believed that Ginsburg's outspokenness affected public opinion.

Consider a \$100 donation for this case.

Donate online by going [here](#) and then to donate (in red box), put in amount of donation, then your member number which is in the front of your directory, and be sure to add "in memory of Ruth Bader Ginsburg."

Or send donation to me at 4 Goodwin Court, Redwood City CA 94061. Questions; call me at 650 365-0208. Your donation will be recognized in The Triad and by national unless you specify otherwise.

What are you doing during the pandemic?



Send notes and pics of your projects while you're sheltering in place and we'll use them in The Triad. It helps us to stay connected when we see each other's faces (and fingers in these cases).

Ellen Van Creveld is knitting baby caps as she's been doing since 1990. She takes them to Sequoia Hospital where they are handed out to newborn infants. Ellen takes about 100 two or three times a year! Micki Carter has turned her dining room into a mask factory. Her closet full of quilting fabric is finally getting good use. She takes her masks to the S.F. Night Ministry which distributes them to the homeless in San Francisco.

