

Mid-Peninsula leprechauns deliver the goods!



Mid-Peninsula member Victoria Kline (right) had a stroke of genius when she proposed that she enlist her Mid-Pen sisters to deliver St. Patrick's Day gifts of scones, jam and shamrocks to members of The Villages, which she serves as a board member. About 20 branch members answered the call and close to 175 deliveries were made on March 17. Victoria managed the project with military precision! More photos appear on Page 8.

Young filmmaker to talk about support from AAUW



Yvonne Zhang

By Ann Fleishman

Yvonne Zhang will be the speaker at Mid-Pen's Funds general meeting at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 24, via Zoom.

Zhang is an artist and filmmaker based in Los Angeles. Her films focus on the inner lives of women and girls, exploring the ways in which race and migration shape identity, belonging and power. Her goal is to create modern myths and folktales for immigrants, often combining live-action and animation to tread the line between social realism, visual poetry and the surreal.

She is currently a Directing Fellow at the American Film Institute Conservatory, having received funding and support from AAUW, BAFTA Los Angeles, Fulbright, PEO International and AFI.

Yvonne was raised by a fiery single mother in a post-industrial, working-class district of London, made up primarily of immigrant communities. Her first taste of filmmaking came through a free summer youth program, where she was introduced to the basics in camerawork — and as soon as she got access to her own camera, she never parted with it.

Yvonne says she believes that the reason for this lifelong obsession with cameras lies in a tumor in her optic nerve, which left her with one blind eye and an affinity with these machines that similarly see the world through one lens.

Yvonne completed a foundation in fine art video at Central St. Martins, London, **See ZHANG, Page 6**

To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

From the president Mid-Pen Branch plays its role as vital component of AAUW

By Carole Farina

With our monthly lectures, neighborhood gatherings and interest section Zooms, the reason many of us joined, it is easy to forget that we are part of a much larger group of women striving to make a better world. Our branch is a small but vital part of National AAUW. Individually and together, we can make a difference as well as become informed and enjoy each other socially.



Carole Farina

To keep our branch functioning, we need officers and chairs. We are indebted to those members who agree to take their turn at leadership. A big thank you! There comes a time when each of us needs to step up. I hope that you value AAUW and Mid-Peninsula Branch enough to say “yes” the next time you are asked.

Dianne Owens, California State president, advised us that the AAUW California board of directors voted to support the proposed bylaw amendment to delete the degree requirement for membership in AAUW.

Dianne said, “The world around us is changing and so must we. We all want AAUW to remain relevant and continue to move forward as we work toward equity for all.” Voting on the change starts April 7. See Page 7 for further information.

Other news from State is no in-person meetings are sanctioned for now or the foreseeable future. Be patient, take precautions and remain safe.

Our recent Valentine’s Day “Hello” yielded concern about some members who could not be reached. Since many of us are, yes, elderly and live alone, we want to make sure that you are out having fun and not at home praying for help when our calls go unanswered. Your Neighborhood Contact will keep a private, unpublished, list of emergency contacts for your neighborhood. This is voluntary, and it is your decision to give a name and number or not.

BackTalk

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

Speaker requests a clarification to Triad article

The Triad received this letter from Sienna Fontaine who spoke to the Mid-Peninsula Branch last month:

“There was a quote (in the article that appeared in The Triad) that I attributed in the slides to someone, but it’s noted as if I said it myself, and the idea of anti-Blackness is misrepresented. The newsletter says: ‘Anti-Blackness, she said, results from widespread



Sienna Fontaine

stereotypes that show Black men as aggressors and social predators.’ I tried to explain that this is one aspect of a narrative that has contributed to the unwarranted policing of Black people, but not the reason for anti-Blackness. I feel a little uncomfortable with this re-interpretation of what I said.”

The Triad apologizes for the misinterpretation of Fontaine’s message.

Who? What? When?

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

Membership: Vicci Mueller (591-5444)

Distribution: Ellen Van Creveld (591-0814)

Electronic distribution: Cathy Chowenhill

Triad editor: Micki Carter (mickicarter@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 6, at 11 a.m. via Zoom.

Triad Deadline for April will be April 15. Please send articles in Word format and photos (separately, not embedded in Word) as large-format JPEGs to Micki Carter (mickicarter@gmail.com).

Nominating committee submits 2021-'22 slate

Here are the nominations for the board of Mid-Peninsula Branch for July 2021-June 2022:

Co-presidents: Carole Farina
Susanne Burrill

Co-VP Program: Kathy Mountain
Gerhild Klein

VP Membership: Wilma Hoffman
VP Membership Treasurer: Mary Spring

VP AAUW Funds: Carolyn Chambers

Treasurer: Cathy Chowenhill

Admin/Financial Secretary: Mary Spring

Recording Secretary: Margot Diltz

Directors-at-Large: Carolyn Miller
Ellen Van Creveld

The members will vote at the April 24 branch general meeting.



Mary Ann Miotto displays the Redwood City proclamation on Equal Pay,

Redwood City joins San Carlos in issuing Equal Pay Day proclamation for March 24

The City of Redwood City joined the City of San Carlos in issuing a proclamation designating March 24 as Equal Pay Day.

The proclamation recognizes the full value of women's skills and significant contributions to the labor force and further encourages businesses to conduct an internal pay evaluation to ensure women are being paid fairly.

In 2019, median annual earnings in the U.S. for men working full time, year-round were \$57,456, compared to just \$47,299 for women. That means women were paid just 82% of men's earnings — a gap of 18%. The gap has narrowed but progress has stalled in recent years. AAUW believes our federal equal pay laws need an update.

Congress must take action to close the gender pay gap by passing legislation that

will enable all women to take home a fair paycheck.

The [Paycheck Fairness Act](#) would protect workers by updating and strengthening the Equal Pay Act of 1963.

The Pay Equity for All Act would prohibit employers from seeking salary history during the hiring process.

The Fair Pay Act would require employers to provide equal pay for work of equivalent value.

Three [AAUW resource websites](#)

Tom Mellott has died

The husband of Mid-Peninsula member Bernie Mellott, Tom Mellott, died on March 2 in the family home in San Carlos, in the care of Mission Hospice.

Time to renew your membership at all three levels

By Mary Spring

It's time to renew your AAUW membership. You will be paying all your dues (branch, state and national) all at once. It's easy and efficient!

The online process is National AAUW's preferred process, which uses your Visa or MasterCard. It gives you immediate documentation of payment, eliminating process delays and the possibility of a lost check. Dues deadline is June 30.

Here are the 2021-'22 dues: National — \$62 (of which \$59 is tax-deductible); State — \$20; Branch — \$21 (includes \$1 each to Legal Advocacy Fund and Educational Fund). You'll notice a small increase of \$3 in National dues, changing the total dues amount from \$100 to \$103.

Dues breakdown: Members of Branch \$103 (National, State and Branch); Honorary 50-year Life Member, \$21 (Branch); Paid Life Member, \$41 (State and Branch); Dual Branch Member, \$21 (total dues to your primary branch plus branch dues to Mid-Peninsula).

Watch for email dues reminders about the 15th of April, May and June. Those members who prefer to pay by check, or do not have an email, may mail a check to the Membership Treasurer, Mary Spring.

If an expected email reminder doesn't arrive, please provide updated contact information (email, landline phone number and home address) when you mail your membership check to: Mary Spring, Membership Treasurer, 2707 Monserat Ave., Belmont CA 94002; 650-740-1357; sprinfab@comcast.net.

State annual meeting via Zoom on April 17

Plan to attend (via Zoom) the AAUW California Annual Meeting at 9:30 a.m., Saturday, April 17, to hear AAUW Board Chair Julia Brown as she brings all the news from AAUW National and the latest about the proposed bylaws change. Registration is required. Click [here](#) to register



Mid-Peninsula hikers Kathy Mountain, Carolyn Seffens, Susanne Burrill, Erika Abbott, Susan Dunn and Linda Howard enjoy a walk through San Mateo's Laurelwood Canyon Park.

Public Policy will focus on voter suppression

Climate Change

We meet the second Monday of each month at 3:30 p.m. via Zoom — so the next meeting is April 12. At this meeting we will be learning about butterflies and other pollinators from Carole Farina as well as beginning our discussion of Bill Gates's new book, *How to Avoid a Climate Disaster: The Solutions We Have Now and the Breakthroughs We Need*. We plan to do several chapters at meetings over the next few months. If you are interested, please contact Sherry Booth at boothsherry1@gmail.com.

Book Bunch

We meet by Zoom on the fourth Friday of the month at 12:30 p.m. Contact Cheri Sullivan to join (cheryl.sullivan@gmail.com or 217-840-6627). Our book for March 26 is *Plainsong* by Kent Haruth. On April 23 we will be discussing *News of the World* by Paulette Jiles. Everyone is welcome!

French Conversation

We'll meet on Zoom on Tuesday, April 13, at 2 p.m. We plan to read Chapters 8 and 9 in *Le retour du Jeune Prince* (pages 55-70). Questions? Contact Laverne Rabinowitz at lrainbow24@yahoo.com .

Spanish Conversation

From November through April, Spanish Conversation will meet by Zoom on the first Monday of the month from 2:30-4:30 p.m. Leonor Urbain will send the link. After April the group will decide if this meet-up plan will change. If you are interested in further information, contact Leonor at Lurbain@comcast.net.

Public Policy

The Zoom meeting date will be Tuesday, April 27, from 3-5 p.m. The topic for the meeting will be recent voter suppression measures that are being proposed by various

state legislatures and what steps will have to be taken to negate these anti-voting state laws. Look for the Zoom invitation for the meeting from ybergero@mac.com on the morning of April 17. Please contact Yvonne Bergero (ybergero@mac.com) or phone 650- 595-3648 with any comments or to be added to our section. Please join in on the conversation..

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).

Climate Change

Biomimicry: Innovation inspired by nature

By Phyllis Hesik

Sherry Booth introduced us to Biomimicry at the February meeting of the Climate Change section. This concept was developed by Janine Benyus, who wrote *Biomimicry: Innovation Inspired by Nature*.

Biomimicry is resilient design in a climate-impacted world. It is innovation, inspired by nature, to create more sustainable products and policies. It takes ideas and wisdom from the natural world and lets it flow into the design of products.

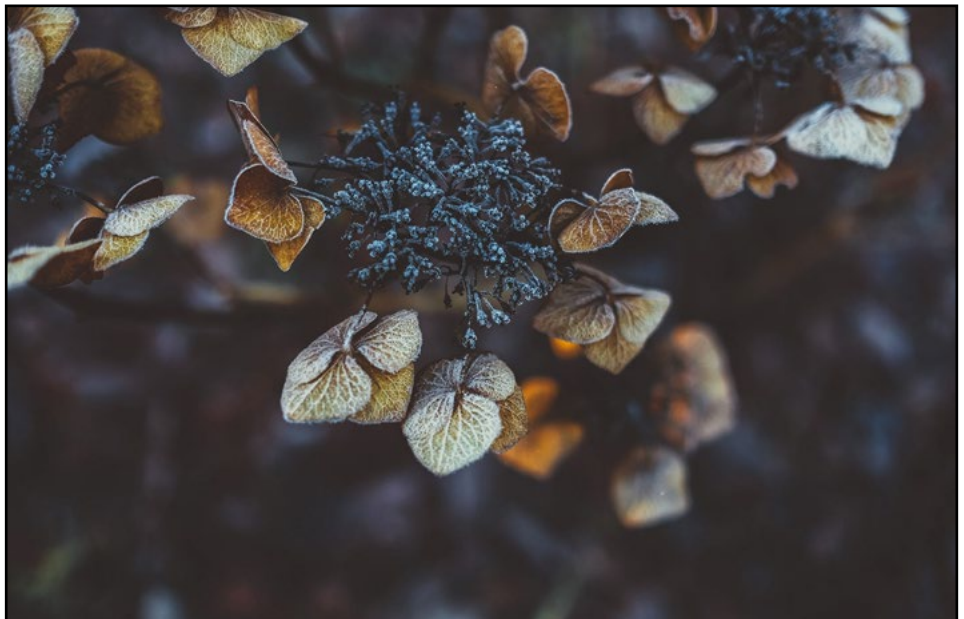
It is the practice of looking to nature for inspiration to solve design problems in a regenerative way. It could allow us to live on the planet more sustainably. Biomimicry could be used to fight the climate crisis.

Today's challenges in public health and social equity put human communities under intense strain. Thankfully, there is much we can learn about sustaining community when we look at the rest of the living world.

Some of the gravest threats we face are the ones that just keep coming back. Fields, forests and animals have developed ways to survive and thrive through relentless adversity. Perhaps they could teach us a thing or two.

Here are just a few of the ideas inspired by biomimicry:

- Kingfishers inspire faster, quieter trains.
- Gecko feet inspire non-toxic adhesives.
- Ant communities inspire better traffic control.
- Lower temperatures of buildings. It suggests attaching three layers on the outside of the walls. It doesn't use electricity. On the first layer, use the cactus design of a wavy surface to create shade to reduce heat. The second layer uses a porous surface to draw air in, and the third layer is water which evaporates to cool down the surface of the wall. It can cool up to 30 degrees.
- Sewage treatment using no energy: It treats wastewater/sewage without power or machines, using bacteria like a digestive system for the wastewater.
- Saving water in a warming world. This uses robotic devices to detect water leaks in systems. They work like a squid, using suction force.
- Carbon Sequestration Reforestation



A more detailed explanation of these and other innovations can be found on the video at the [website](#) The Promise of Nature, from the Biomimicry Institute.

Climate switch in the Atlantic?

Sensors reveal the hidden workings of ocean circulation, which many consider a climate switch. Scroll through the graphic interactive [illustration](#), courtesy of the New York Times.



Climate Reality leaders to outline Climate Change for Mid-Peninsula

By Kathleen Morrow

Mary and Walter Englert, Climate Reality leaders trained through the Climate Reality Project, will co-present An Overview of Climate Change: Contributors, Impacts, and Solutions at Hand, on Saturday, March 27, at 11 a.m. via Zoom.

The Climate Reality Project is a non-profit organization founded by former Vice President Al Gore in 2011. Its primary goal is to train individuals to spread awareness of the climate crisis while inspiring action for climate solutions in communities throughout the world.

The three-day long trainings, given free of charge, educate the volunteer presenters in climate science, the impacts of climate



Walter Englert



Mary Englert

change on daily life for people around the world, solutions to the climate crisis currently at hand, and links between environmental issues and social justice.

Our March 27 presentation will be led by the Englerts, who attended the March 2019 Climate Reality training in Atlanta.

Climate change can seem to be an overwhelming problem that can produce a sense of hopelessness and powerlessness. We are all, via various media sources, exposed to different bits of information about climate change. Mary and Walter hope to connect

many of these dots and encourage you to take action at the individual, community, and legislative level.

Both Mary and Walter, who live in Portland, Ore., were raised in the Bay Area, Mary in San Francisco and Walter in San Carlos. Mary taught biology at Notre Dame High School in Belmont while Walter worked on his Ph.D. in Classics at Stanford in the late 1970s.

She received a MS in evolutionary biology from the University of Michigan, taught at the community college level in Portland then career-shifted to mental health after receiving an MA in counseling psychology at Lewis and Clark College in 1991.

Mary recently retired from her mental health practice and Walter retired from teaching Classics and Humanities at Reed College in Portland for 37 years. In retirement, they are both volunteering for several environmental organizations and devoting their lives to addressing climate change and related environmental issues.

Members will receive the Zoom link a few days before the talk.



Tempe Javitz, the granddaughter of Montana photographer Jessamine Spear Johnson (1886-1978), will discuss her work conserving and cataloging her grandmother's photo collection with the San Mateo Branch at 1 p.m. Wednesday, March 24, via Zoom. Javitz is writing a book on Jessamine's life and photography. Like her grandmother, Tempe has been an avid photographer since her grandmother gave her a camera when she was 8 years old. Her presentation is entitled "Discovering Jessamine Spear Johnson, A Photographic Artist of the Changing West." A Zoom link will be sent out to all members.

Zhang

Continued from Page One

before studying English literature at the University of Edinburgh, where she focused increasingly on how stories reflect and function in a world shaped by migration and globalization. She says she graduated with a fired ambition to draw her video practice together with stories that bring light to the diasporic experience in Britain.

Studying directing at the American Film Institute has been a dream come true. With AAUW's generous support, Yvonne says she is able to complete her studies in the art and craft of professional narrative filmmaking, culminating in the production of a 20-minute thesis film which will be submitted to film festivals all over the world and serve as her calling card in the industry.

As writer and director of the project, she is proud to be collaborating with the only AFI team made up entirely of women, hailing from the UK, Spain, Germany, Australia, and the American South with roots in China, Indonesia and Taiwan.

Thanks to AAUW, her seemingly impossible dreams are now in Yvonne's grasp — and she says she feels empowered to pursue them head-first.

AAUW makes its case for a bylaws change

Open Membership and Inclusion

- **Diversity**
 - AAUW needs to include members with diverse backgrounds and perspectives to meet our mission and address society's needs today.
- **AAUW Vision: Equity for All**
 - Our membership practices should align with our vision and goals.
- **Alternate Pathways to Education**
 - On-the-job training
 - Career Technical Education
 - Life experience

Our mission has never been just about getting a college degree

- Membership in AAUW enables women to continue their intellectual growth, to further the advancement of women and to discharge their special responsibilities to society. (1981)
- AAUW promotes equity for women, education and self-development over the life span, and positive societal change. (1986)
- AAUW promotes equity for all women and girls, lifelong education, and positive societal change. In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to fill participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin or disability. (1998)
- AAUW advances gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy (2018)

The degree requirement also has unintended consequences

Eliminating the degree requirement means we will have more access to funding

will be less vulnerable to the charge of elitism

will be open to a more diverse group

will have eliminated a barrier to participation by women we want to help, as well as those "just as smart," but with no degree

Open Membership: Why Now? Why Again?

Expanding Our Reach—More inclusive and harnessing more power

Expanding Our Focus on Education—Higher Ed and other training

Expanding Our Ability to Work Collaboratively—Increasing impact potential

Expanding Our Ability to Receive External Funding—Increasing our options

Eliminating the requirement is consistent with our Mission, Vision and Values

Mission To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

Vision Equity for all.

Values Nonpartisan. Fact-based. Integrity. Inclusion and Intersectionality.

A college degree is not needed for any of these

Times and perceptions have changed too

- AAUW is perceived as elitist, non diverse, not in tune with cultural change and need for inclusion.
- In order to continue to provide support for those who are excluded or marginalized, we need to stop excluding and marginalizing.

We need to LIVE our mission.

AAUW Today: Areas of Focus

Education & Training: Addressing the barriers and implicit biases that hinder the advancement of women

Economic Security: Ensuring livelihoods for women

Leadership: Closing the gender gap in leadership opportunities

Governance & Sustainability: Ensure the strength, relevance, and viability of AAUW well into the future

What Makes AAUW Unique

HOW we advance equity:

- Research
- Policy and advocacy
- Fellowships and grants
- Programs that directly support women like NCCWSL, Start Smart, and Work Smart
- Grassroots membership efforts

Voting opens April 7 — be heard!



Co-presidents Carole Farina and Cathy Chowenhill load shamrock plants and St. Patrick's Day gift packs for delivery to members of The Villages (right). Mid-Pen branch members expressed their delight in being able to make these deliveries and see the smiles.



Redwood City Library seeking 'Stories From the Community'

By Nancy Oliver

The Redwood City Library has asked if members of our branch would be willing to help with a video story-telling project, a program called Stories From Your Community.

They invite local community groups to record a story time, introducing their organization, and then share picture books. I wondered if the Mid-Peninsula AAUW would be interested in participating in this program.

Here is a [link](#) to the program page so you can see what a Stories From Your Community story time looks like.

The story times work best when there are three to six readers, each reading one book. The library provides books and takes care of publisher permissions. They can be viewed at 11 a.m. on Tuesdays on the library website.

The Youth Services Director at the

library is happy to film at the library. Or if the volunteers are more comfortable, they can film at home and send her the videos. She will provide guidance if they choose to do that. In general, it takes each volunteer 10-30 minutes to record a story.

We already have three board members who have signed up, so we only need three more. Contact Nancy Oliver if you are interested.

Asian Art docent to speak to two branches

A docent from the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco will present *Demons, Creatures and Monsters — Oh, My!* to the San Mateo and Mid-Pen branches at 1 p.m. Wednesday, April 14.

A Zoom link will be sent to all members.

