



Who are those masked women at Directory Pick-up Day at Burton Park? From left are Violet Hover, co-presidents Susanne Burrill and Carole Farina, Cathy Chowenhill and Carolyn Steffens. If you didn't get your directory at Pick-up Day, your Neighborhood chair will get it to you.

Economist to give us a peek at future of jobs

By Kathy Mountain

Are robots coming for our jobs? What are the jobs of the future that we can look forward to?

Discover interesting answers to these questions and more from Georgia Gillan, research manager at Institute for the Future (IFTF), who will discuss "How Jobs Will Change in the Future" with us via Zoom Wednesday, Oct. 13, at 1 p.m. She will offer an overview of the future of work in California.

IFTF coordinated and managed the California Future of Work Commission. Unlike



Georgia Gillan

most conversations around the future of work, the commission explored issues beyond the robot apocalypse. Gillan will discuss the final report's five recommendation areas for a new social compact for work and workers.

IFTF brings people together to learn the tools of foresight in order to make the

future a reality today. IFTF has methods and research that inform new insights which ultimately lead to action. For more than 50 years businesses, governments and social impact organizations have depended on IFTF's global forecasts, custom research and foresight training to navigate complex change by developing successful strategies.

Gillan has worked on several projects on economic inequality and has conducted research on insufficient retirement savings as a driver of economic insecurity. She also is affiliated with Sustainable Development Goals Academy of the United Nations.

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

From the co-president

Take time to dig into Mid-Pen website and all it offers you

By Susanne Burrill

If you were able to attend the directory distribution event in Burton Park Sept. 10, you, too, were probably delighted to see members you have not seen for a long time, and perhaps meet some new ones. The beautiful weather and our energy made it a terrific way to collect our new directories.

Those not picked up will be available through Neighborhood Chairs.

When you have substantial time to visit our web page and really explore it, please do so: <http://mid-peninsula-ca.aauw.net>. There is much to discover! A link category called



Susanne Burrill

Members Suggest lists several upcoming cultural and artistic events, which may interest you. Many of them are free of charge, including the United Nations Association Film Festival.

On the Welcome/About AAUW first page, there is a link to Member Benefits. These include discounts on insurance, travel, car rental, office supplies and printing, and a remarkably large discount for UPS services. There also are very convenient immediate links to the AAUW California and National websites.

The AAUW CA site has a CA Business link which opens to a Tech Tools category which includes descriptions of basic and advanced Zooming, in case anyone could use a refresher or additional knowledge, and Google Tools, which enables sharing such processes as document editing.

Back to the fun features of our Mid-Peninsula site: All our activities, past and present, including webinars, are listed. You will find all the wonderful up-coming events in our calendar and the interest groups that are available, including several new ones. Our site is kept up to date and exists to enlighten and assist you. Please enjoy it.

Susanne

BackTalk

Masks can help kids learn

By Judith Danovitch

Indeed, there is good reason to believe that wearing a mask at school could actually improve certain social and cognitive skills, helping to strengthen abilities like self-control and attention.

This is not to say that masks are preferable to no masks, all things being equal. Masks are inconvenient, uncomfortable and bothersome.

But as long as they are needed, we should take advantage of the fact that they offer distinctive opportunities for learning and growth.

Send your BackTalk letters to the Triad editor, Micki Carter, at mickicartr@gmail.com. The word limit is 250 words.

Who? What? When?

Co-Presidents: Carole Farina (cfarina@alumni.stanford.edu) and Susanne Burrill (susanneburrill@hotmail.com)

Membership: Wilma Hoffmann (wilmahoffmann@icloud.com)

Electronic distribution: Cathy Chowenhill (cathychowenhill@comcast.net)

Triad editor: Micki Carter (mickicartr@gmail.com)

Sunshine Lady: Marge Haruff is our Sunshine Lady. Please contact Marge at mharuff@aol.com or (650) 591-9900 if you know anyone who would appreciate a card from Mid-Pen Branch.

Know of a prospective member? Please contact Wilma Hoffmann (wilmahoffmann@icloud.com)

Board Meeting: Tuesday, Oct. 5, at 11 a.m. via Zoom.

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

State-sponsored webinars

Check out the [webinars](#) offered by AAUW CA that have suggestions for recruiting and communicating.

Looking for your art fix? Lots going on in Palo Alto this fall

Overcoming obstacles while creating diverse forms of art is on display:

The ingenious dynamism of “The Art of Disability Culture,” stream or view live through Dec. 11 at the Palo Alto Art Center. Visit www.cityofpaloalto.org.

“Paper Chase,” more than 100 prints, drawings and photographs dealing with issues of science, nature, identity and social conflict and history opens for free Sept. 29 at the Cantor Arts Center at Stanford University. Visit www.museum.stanford.edu/visit.

World Arts West presents local culture

with the San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival of vibrant dance, spoken word, and music on film from around the globe. Stream or view live in October. Dates and tickets are available at www.worldartswest.org.

The United Nations Association Film Festival’s 60 films explore hot topics like reproductive rights in women’s prisons and triumphs of perseverance. Free at locations in Palo Alto, East Palo Alto, Stanford and San Francisco from Oct. 21 to 31. Details can be found at www.unaff.org.



Mindy Berkowitz

How can we help Afghan refugees resettling here?

By Gerhild Klein

All of us have followed with interest and concern the incredible story of Afghan refugees who have been able to leave their country and settle in the United States.

The Mid-Pen Public Policy/Current Events discussion group has invited Mindy Berkowitz, executive director of Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley, to speak via Zoom Tuesday, Oct. 12, at 10:30 a.m.

JFS is helping to coordinate resettlement services for these refugees in the San Francisco Bay Area. It is working with other local agencies to provide case management and other services which the refugees need in order to successfully establish their new lives here.

This will be our opportunity to find out more about their situation and get involved in helping these refugees to achieve a successful resettlement. Watch for the Monday Memo with the Zoom link.

Some upcoming dates to keep in mind

Oct. 1 — United Nations Association, Western Regions Climate Forum: Feeling the Heat, 1:30-5 p.m. Register [here](#).

Oct. 2 — The International Day of Non-Violence is marked on the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, leader of the Indian independence move-

Dates slated for AAUW Fund events in October, November

By Amy Armstrong, Mid-Pen Fund chair

I am new to the AAUW Fund AND to AAUW! My first year was 2020 during lock down. I look forward to meeting and working together with everyone this year and the coming years.

Lots of exciting initiatives and events are taking place on the national level that could use some help on the local, branch level.

The Greatest Needs Fund addresses the following initiatives:

Education

- o Gender Bias
- o The STEM Gap
- o Sexual Misconduct in Schools
- o Title IX
- o Higher Education and other career pathways
- o Women and Student Debt

Workplace and Economic Equity

- o The Gender Pay Gap
- o The Gendered Workforce
- o Workplace Sexual Harassment
- o The Motherhood Penalty
- o Women and Retirement
- o The Future of Work

Leadership

- o Barriers & Bias
- o Broken Ladders
- o Implicit Bias Test
- o Global Connections

Please take a moment to consider making a donation [here](#). If you'd prefer to mail a check, please let me know and I'll give you my mailing address.

Please mark your calendars for the following AAUW Fund events: We will be

ment.

Oct. 5 — World Teachers' Day — UNESCO proclaimed this day to be World Teachers' Day in 1994

Oct. 11 — International Day of the Girl Child. The slogan is: Girls' Progress equals Goals' Progress: What Counts for Girls.

welcoming this year's California fellows and grant recipients.

We will have three virtual AAUW Fund events for 2021 with 37 recipients.

You may attend any number of events but you must register in advance.

Two Saturday events:

- o Oct. 23, 10 a.m. to noon.
- o Oct. 30, 10 a.m. to noon.

And one Sunday event

- o Nov. 7, 1-3 p.m.

Although the events are free, please consider making a donation to the AAUW Fund to support this fantastic program.

You are especially invited to contribute to the Greatest Need Fund which enables your donation to be prioritized to meet AAUW obligations.

Updated contact info



Gail Langkusch
glangkusch@gmail.com

New member Gail Langkusch's name was misspelled and her email address was incorrect in the September Triad. We apologize for the error.

Judy Lewis sends us an update:

Old email: judymlewis@applied-power-ee.com

New email: judylewis150@gmail.com

Nancy Gilliland would like her Mid-Pen sisters to know to use her cell phone number rather than her landline. It's (650) 445-5884.

Interest Sections

Do you have any interest in interest sections?

All About Food

Let's explore the history, uses and benefits of different food items and share recipes too. We will take turns leading monthly discussions. First meeting is by Zoom on Thursday, Sept. 30, at 4 p.m. Contact Carole Farina at cfarina@alumni.stanford.edu to join.

Book Bunch

We will be meeting on the fourth Friday of the month, Oct. 22, to discuss *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell. Location TBA. New members are most welcome. Please call or write to let Carolyn Miller know if you are coming: mfmiller34@aol.com or 650-365-0208.

Public Policy

Our meeting will take place via Zoom due to the delta variant. The date is Tuesday, Sept. 28 from 3-5 p.m. Watch for an email from Yvonne Bergero (ybergero@mac.com) which will contain the Zoom link to join in on the conversation. Any interested member can contact Yvonne to be included in the email list for the Zoom link. Input for discussion topics will be solicited from

members. Now's your chance to be heard. We'll listen!

Spanish Conversation

This section is in the process of reorganization, Look for new information next month. Contact Teddy Heinrich (teddyhei@aol.com) for details.

French Conversation

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 2, at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Leslie Pasahow in Menlo Park. For more information about our group, please contact Laverne Rabinowitz at Lrainbow24@yahoo.com.

Hiking

The group continues to meet on Thursday mornings. 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

The climate change interest section meets via Zoom on every second Monday

of the month at 3:30 p.m. Our next meeting will be Oct. 11. At that meeting we will discuss climate migrants with a short presentation and some video interviews with experts on the subject. If you would like to join us, please email boothsherry1@gmail.com, to be added to the list.

Historic Preservation

The San Mateo County History Museum's Courthouse Docket virtual presentation of "Duesenbergs and Harleys Setting Records on the Greater San Francisco Speedway, 1921-1922" is scheduled on Saturday, Oct. 23, at 1 p.m. Register for the webinar at historysmc.org. Contact Nancy Oliver for details.

Gamesters

Contact Nancy Oliver at nancy1oliver@earthlink.net.

Women in Literature

A few members are interested in restarting this section, which reads books by or about women. If you would like to be part of us, contact Nancy Oliver at nancy1oliver@earthlink.net.



More pics from Directory Pick-up Day: (Left) Margot Diltz and Sally Mellinger. (Above) Wilma Hoffmann, Eloise Mayo and Micki Carter. Violet Hover and Sandy Fagan drove down from Yountville for the event. Longtime members Mayo and Doris Brown expressed how happy they were to be in person with their Mid-Pen friends.

Climate Change



What an incredible display of fruit and vegetables at a market in Stockholm, Sweden.

Worried about the climate? Eat vegetarian!

By Sherry Booth

I don't know about you, but all too often these days I find the news overwhelming (much of it disheartening if not downright depressing).

One of my passions is learning about and working toward mitigating climate change, but the news on this front isn't particularly cheerful.

I was reading about food and climate change and, in one scientific paper, ran across the idea of efficacy. Efficacy in the context of climate change describes an individual's perception that an issue is addressable — or in other terms, something I do can make a difference in outcomes.

Climate change and the ways to mitigate it require both large-scale and small-scale effort — so while I feel that there is not a great deal I can do large-scale, I can do the simple stuff.

Yes, I have a hybrid car (and will go electric when my Prius finally gives up the ghost); I recycle and use carbon offsets when I fly (which hasn't happened in almost two

years!).

I buy organic, try to save water and energy, but these are things that while they help, don't seem to feel particularly efficacious!

Then I thought about my 30+ years as a vegetarian and what that might mean climate wise. I am one of the 4-5% of Americans who are vegetarian. We are a very small group but welcome all who want to join us, even if only occasionally.

Globally, agriculture and food production account for greater than 25% of aggregate greenhouse emissions. The food we buy, prepare and eat every day accounts for 10-30% of a household's carbon footprint. At the top of the carbon emission chain are beef and lamb, with (sigh) chocolate right up there with them.

At the bottom of the carbon emissions chain are fruits, vegetables, legumes, tofu — and while every bite we put in our mouth has a carbon footprint, some bites leave a bigger print.

I have had all sorts of responses to being a vegetarian: Curiosity (Why? How do

you get protein? What are your favorite recipes?); incredulity (why would anyone do such a thing?); and often a hidden resentment as though my food choice is somehow a criticism of their food choices.

Food is highly personal, and I have learned that the hard way. But lately, more people want to know what to do, what to cook, how to move to a more plant-based diet and be healthy while also helping the planet.

I hereby invite you to join the 4% at least some of the time and feel good that you are reducing your carbon footprint. It makes a difference. You could start slowly, one meal a day. Or go veg for a week or a month. Or whatever works for you.

It is challenging but exciting to cook this way. I have a bookcase full of vegetarian cookbooks that contain wonderful, satisfying recipes and information on nutrition.

But be warned: You chop a lot when you cook vegetarian so get out your best knives and get chopping!

Public Policy

All you need to become a two-minute activist

You too can become a two-minute activist!

Send emails and texts to your legislators to fight for equal pay and family leave, to stop sexual harassment, to promote equality in education and more. Sign up to get regular alerts to be able to take timely action.

You provide the voice. AAUW provides the megaphone.

The Two-Minute Activist includes all the tools you need to call or send messages to your members of Congress, contact your state legislators about pressing issues and more. You might even get a thank-you email from the legislator.

Start [here](https://www.aauw.org/act/) at <https://www.aauw.org/act/>
Remember: You're their boss

As a voter, you hold an incredible amount of power over your elected officials. They have to take your opinions into account. When a whole bunch of constituents focus their voices collectively on an issue, we can really shape the conversation.

That's the power of AAUW's Two-Minute Activist Network. You will be notified when your voice is needed the most. AAUW will help you harness your power to make change.

You can sign up to get timely action alerts through the Two-Minute Activist Network so your voice will be added to the others who support whatever legislation is currently in need of support

Nationally, the Two-Minute Activist pushes for federal policies to advance gender equity.

In California, you can join other AAUW activists who are helping to advance legislation in this state.

On the webpage, you can access toolkits that help amplify your voice by giving you resources to guide you in advocating for women and girls through a variety of tactics and actions. The kit provides everything you need to contact your members of Congress and your state legislators about pressing issues. You can make a difference in just two minutes!

Look over this partial list of legislation that you can easily act on:

- Pass a budget with Paid Leave and Child Care
- Pass the Paycheck Fairness Act



How did AAUW-sponsored bills do in California Legislature last session?

**By Kathi Harper,
State Co-Chair, Public Policy**

Not particularly well, as it turns out!

We started the year off with 39 bills we selected for varying degrees of support. We chose one bill to co-sponsor, AB 92 (establishing a sliding scale for family fees for child care through 2023), with four additional bills for top-priority attention ("A" level), five bills for "important" status ("B" level), 22 bills for low ("C" level) attention, and seven bills to "watch."

Over-all, 28 of our 39 bills have been designated "two-year" bills, which means they are dead for this year but are likely to be taken up again in 2022. Our advocate, Kathy Van Osten, has explained that this is because Senate and Assembly leadership set a limit of just 12 bills that a member could move to the second house, so members had to pick and choose what would they wanted to move forward.

Some of our bills did not make the cut. Four of our five "A" bills, along with our co-sponsored bill, and four of our five "B" bills, did not make it through. These include AB 22, AB 92, AB 737, AB 966, AB 1361 (all promoting varied preschool and transi-

tional kindergarten issues), and SB 245 (no cost-sharing for abortion services).

However, several of them were converted into the Budget and Budget "trailer bills," which will provide funding for child care.

Although we were not entirely successful in getting our top bill AB 92 passed, the state budget includes \$60 million for one year of relief for all families using subsidized childcare, increased reimbursement rates for child-care providers, and funding for 206,000 new child-care slots.

Several bills have passed and been sent to the governor, and we are working hard to secure his signature on these bills: AB 62 (upgrade garment worker wages) and AB 367 (free menstrual products), as well as three of our "C" level bills: AB 123 (paid family leave), AB 1074 (rehire displaced workers), and AB 1461 (health services for non-citizens).

Thanks again to all our members who participated in Lobby Day and/or weighed in at critical junctures on social media. For descriptions of each of these bills and information on their status, visit our AAUW CA Bill Tracker on the website, Public Policy/Legislative Advocacy/Bill Tracking.

- Pass the Family Act
- Raise the Federal Minimum Wage
- End Pregnancy Discrimination
- Pass the BE HEARD ACT
- Support the EMPOWER ACT
- Support the Healthy Family Act
- Share Your Title IX Story
- End the Student Debt Crisis
- Support the Gender Equity in Education Act
- Support the For the People Act
- Support the Voting Rights Advancement Act
- Ratify the Equal Rights Amendment

Author talks about his book on Kamala Harris

By Micki Carter

Dan Morain was the editorial page editor of the Sacramento Bee when Kamala Harris first crossed his path, a path that ultimately led Harris to the vice presidency and Morain, a journalist with 44 years in newspapers, to write *Kamala's Way*, an unauthorized biography of Harris published by Simon and Schuster.

Morain spoke to the Mid-Pen general meeting Sept. 18 via Zoom about his book and his subject.

"I'd written about her in 1994 when Willie Brown appointed her to a state position. . . Then (in 2008) she was the main surrogate for Barack Obama in California and I got to know her a little then. . .

"Almost immediately she announced she was a candidate for attorney general," and Morain began writing about her more regularly. It wasn't a cozy relationship.

"She struck me as very cautious and that's what I wrote," adding that it's never a good idea to get chummy with someone you're covering.

Morain had left the Bee and was freelancing for the Washington Post. He was assigned to prewrite a piece on Biden choosing Harris as his running mate. "My editor had a friend at Simon and Schuster who was looking for someone to write a biography of Harris. I said, 'No thanks.'"

But he changed his mind along the way, and in just two months he churned out more than 60,000 words on the senator from California who would become Vice President of the United States.

In those two months, he talked to a lot of people who knew her, read everything about her he could get his hands on, but he never interviewed her. If he had had the chance, he had great questions, many of them the same ones that Mid-Pen members wanted to ask.

Kathy Mountain commented on Harris' astute ability to focus laser-like questions. (During the 2018 judicial hearings, she asked soon-to-become Justice Brett Kavanaugh if he could recall any law about the male body (although the female body is a constant source of legal parlance — especially on the issue of abortion). Mountain wanted to know what Harris might have thought about then-Sen. Joe Biden's failure to come to the defense of Anita Hill during the Clarence

Thomas hearings.

Sadly Morain never got to ask that question.

Susanne Burrill wanted to know about the relationship between Kamala and her father. Was it a fraught relationship?

Morain said, "Her parents split up when Kamala was 5 and divorced when she was 7. He had joint custody. . . But she has said very little about him, other than, 'He's a good guy but we're not that close.' He wasn't even at the inauguration."



Dan Morain

Margot Diltz asked what went wrong with her presidential campaign.

"Everything started very well," Morain said. "But she didn't have the right message. She stumbled. . . And there was internal strife between her professional staff and her sister Maya, her closest political adviser. Maya Harris has political chops. She thought she knew best, but things fell apart.

"It failed like 20 others who ran in 2020. She learned a lot, and I suspect she'll run again."

Burrill wanted to know what he learned about Harris that surprised him. "I was kind of snarky, a little mean. They were tough columns. I certainly didn't anticipate writing a book on her. She's just not one I was

particularly interested in," Morain said.

"But I came to appreciate her more. I feel that I got to know her more and I ended up liking her more. I realized that her decisions were much more nuanced than I thought earlier."

Why did Biden pick Harris? "He said he was going to pick a woman, and then George Floyd happened and it became clear he needed to pick a black woman. There just aren't that many. His late son Beau was impressed with Harris, and Biden came out to endorse her during her Senate race.



He spoke about the relationship between Beau and her.

"And she brings a big fundraising list. She can be a really good politician. It made a lot of sense."

So is Harris the front-runner to succeed Biden? "I don't have any doubt that she's going to run for president. She's become quite the lightning rod. They call it the Harris/Biden administration. I have little doubt it's sexist — and perhaps racist. . . But she brings to the table stuff he never would have. . . She chaired a roundtable on black maternal health, something I don't think Mike Pence or Al Gore would have ever done.

"She's very much a Californian and very much a reflection of what we are."

Learn how to earn your seat at the table

Interested in getting more involved in your community? Is there a change you would like to see in your community? A board or commission seat is an excellent first step in government leadership!

Join WIRE Oct. 2 from 10-11 a.m. for a moderated panel discussion of appointed offices, what local boards and commissions do, and how to apply.

Panelists:

- Lorraine Kastrop — Redwood City Port Commissioner and former Redwood City School District trustee
- Liz Kniss — former mayor of Palo

Alto and former Santa Clara County supervisor

- Bonnie Mace — executive director of the Santa Clara County School Boards Association and former Evergreen Elementary School Board member
- Diane Papan — Councilmember and former mayor of City of San Mateo

Moderated by Emily Lo, former Mayor of Saratoga.

Register [here](#).