



New member Gail Langkusch and friend Shannon Grissom (far right) joined the Women's March Oct. 2 in San Francisco and brought back these images of the support for women's rights.



Speaker is helping women seek public office

Carol Marshall, founder and president emeritus of WIRE for Women, will speak about the issue of political gender inequity at the national and local level on Saturday, Nov. 6 at 10 a.m. on Zoom.

WIRE for Women was founded to address the gender inequity in American politics. WIRE envisions a world where more women hold appointed and elected public office and believes that better public policy decisions are made when all segments of the community are fully represented in the process.

WIRE's mission is a nonpartisan effort

of Women who Identify, Recruit and Elect (and appoint) women candidates in Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties. To meet this goal, WIRE helps women run more effective campaigns through free workshops and one-on-one mentoring of candidates on subjects such as campaign planning, fundraising, public speaking and social media opportunities. WIRE is an all-volunteer organization and can best be described as Women Helping Women.



Carol Marshall

WIRE volunteers offer a host of women-centered programs designed to build a pipeline of future local leaders, including strategic partnerships with organizations that align with WIRE's non-partisan mission, access to a strong network of current and former women political leaders in local office, and a strong community of members and volunteers available to provide assistance throughout the political process.

See WIRE for Women, Page 5

From the co-president Can we learn to be more open, welcoming and truly inclusive?

By Carole Farina

In the 1970s, a Soviet journalist named Valentin Zorin made a series of documentary films about the United States. At a time when few Russian journalists came to the U.S., Zorin traveled all across the country, and gained access few American journalists had.

The Cold War was a battle of ideas, and Zorin saw himself on the frontlines. He was on a quest to unmask the United States by spreading doubt, conspiracy theories, and a strange cocktail of truth and misinformation.

Listen to *Children of Zorin: The Last Archive* on [Apple Podcast](#).

The other foreigners in our country can range from refugees to scholars to immigrants and can include those who just



Carole Farina

feel they are different, don't fit in, or are not accepted. Two recent Zooms illustrate the first two: the San Mateo Branch interview on Afghan Refugees of Oct 12 and the AAUW webinar of Sept. 16 — "In Conversation with Dr. Rajika Bhandari."

Fellowship alumna Rajika Bhandari, PhD., discussed her book, *America Calling: A Foreign Student in a Country of Possibility*, both a deeply personal story of Bhandari's search for place and voice, and an incisive analysis of America's relationship with the rest of the world through the tool of education.

Perhaps it's time to consider what we — as a branch and as individuals — do to dispel the spreading of misinformation, to see the humanity in others, to be more welcoming?

Who? What? When?

Co-Presidents: Carole Farina (cfarina@alumni.stanford.edu) and Susanne Burrill (saburrill123@gmail.com)

Membership: Wilma Hoffmann (wilmahoffmann@icloud.com)

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

Triad editor: Micki Carter (mickicarter@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, Nov. 2, at 11 a.m. via Zoom.

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

BackTalk: How did I miss artist Judy Chicago?

By Wilma Hoffmann

In 1971, artist Judy Chicago first exhibited *The Dinner Party* at the San Francisco Modern Art Museum.

Part of the awakening of that period was the realization that the art world had been dominated by men for centuries. They were the museum and gallery owners or directors, the critics, the artists, the jurors for exhibitions. In short, they held the power.

One quote from her, and I paraphrase, was that if men gave birth, there would be all sorts of art, painting and sculpture of the crowning of the baby's head. My reaction was, "Right on!"

Judy had set out to work from the woman's point of view, starting in the '60s. Not surprisingly, while *The Dinner Party* was met with enthusiasm in San Francisco, all the planned exhibitions around the country were canceled. Apparently, men were not interested in seeing her impression of 39 powerful

women in history, as depicted in gorgeous porcelain plates set on beautiful runners on a huge triangular table! Admittedly, vulva and butterfly motifs were a theme.

The Dinner Party is now on permanent display at the Brooklyn Museum of Art.

Through Jan. 9, a retrospective of her work is at the De Young, showing some pieces from each of her series, including a few videos of her smoke performance art.

The archive of all her performance art is now housed at the Nevada Museum of Art in Reno. Judy worked in so many different media, combining them with amazing skill and technical expertise, often using teams of volunteers.

There have been one of two reactions as Judy Chicago came up in conversation with Mid-Pen women: "I never heard of her" and some form of "I was blown away when I saw *The Dinner Party* way back when."

No matter in which category you belong,

you must see this incredible exhibit showcasing both the life of Judy Chicago and her groundbreaking work.

'...Eat vegetarian!'

By Carole Farina

We may have to do more than say goodbye to Big Macs and BLTs with real beef and bacon.

Eighty percent of the world eats insects, on purpose. Usually they are readily available, high in protein and reduce infestations without chemicals.

Buying packaged meat does away with my reluctance to eat the animal; will that be the case when unrecognizable insect-based packages appear at the grocery?

Send your BackTalk letters to the Triad editor, Micki Carter, at mickicarter@gmail.com.

Two recent retirees join Mid-Peninsula branch

Barbara (Barb) Finnegan
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Marycrest College — BSN 1975
University of Iowa — MA (Nursing) 1989

Barb is a brand-new retiree (July) and is looking to plan her retirement activities after working 60 hours a week her entire life. Small wonder that travel is high on her list of priorities!

She wants to meet new people and explore new opportunities. Expect to see her as she samples our sections, especially Climate Change, Hiking, Movies, Out-to-Lunch/Dinner and Public Policy.

Originally from outside Chicago, she went to college in Davenport, Iowa, for a BS in nursing, and worked in Iowa until 1991, doing her MA at the same time.

Stanford brought her and her family to Saratoga so she could work in a managerial role. She then transferred to San Jose Medical Group in 1997 to set up a satellite endoscopy unit and finally moved to Kaiser in 2002.

During her 46-year nursing career she has done it all, direct nursing care followed by 22 years in management, the last 15 in quality programs and risk management.

Passionate about nursing from the age of 4, Barb still cares about the health care scene. She now has the time and energy to go to the Y to swim and work out for her own health maintenance.

With two adult children, Barb adores her three grandsons (6, 4 and 2), loves to read and attend live music, especially blues, rock and roll and jazz, but is open to exploring other genres.

Welcoming her when you see her is going to be easy. A wonderful, warm, outgoing addition to our branch!

Changes to the directory

Jean Dehner: Delete home phone; use only cell phone:
 (650) 455-2005

Joyce Innoye: New address and phone: 1355 El Camino Real, Unit 401, Redwood City 94063
 (650) 868-2643



Barbara Finnegan



Elizabeth Swanson

Susanne Burrill: New email address:
 saburrill123@gmail.com

Elizabeth (Beth) Swanson
469 Fairfax Ave.
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University of Wisconsin/Madison — BA
Poli Sci and International Relations
1982
North Central College — MBA 1997

For Beth, as for many of the rest of us, COVID and lockdowns changed her perspective and made her realize the relative importance of family, compared to an all-consuming, 60+ hour-a-week international marketing job for a manufacturing company, albeit one that involved travel in Asia and Europe and was interesting, challenging and rewarding.

So, when her daughter decided to go to law school, she retired early this summer and volunteered to come to San Mateo as a live-in grandma. She expected to find it to be easy-going and slow-paced, but now describes looking after a 3-year-old and a 21-month-old as living with two Category 8 hurricanes!

Beth hopes her newly graduated nurse daughter working in Dallas will also move here, bringing the whole family together. Right now, she wants to meet people and explore new possibilities. Since her mother and aunt were longtime AAUW members, Beth went online to find a branch here.

Raised in Wisconsin and living in Chicago for the last 30 years, she loves sailing – her father was a boat builder. Others are reading, travel, cooking and Ted talks. She was part of the operations team on the Chicago-area Tedx for many years.

Beth considers herself a lifelong learner so many of our sections appeal to her including All About Food, Art Appreciation, Book Bunch, Climate Change, Hiking, Historic Preservation, Movies and Out to Lunch/Dinner.

You will love welcoming this fascinating woman to Mid-Pen. Ask Beth about “50 Cups of Coffee That Will Change Your Life” – something she has been speaking about for the last 15 years — especially if you are feeling stuck or trying to change direction in your life!

Interest Sections

Find something of interest in interest sections

All About Food

The Food Section will meet at 4 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 28, at Elvira Monroe's home to sample vegetarian dishes. Contact Carole Farina at cfarina@alumni.stanford.edu to join.

Book Bunch

Book Bunch will meet Oct. 22 at 1 p.m. on Zoom to discuss *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell. Sue Schmid will be our leader.

Note this permanent change: Starting in November we will be meeting on the third Friday of the month at 10 a.m.. On Nov. 19 we will discuss *Lost Girls of Paris* by Pam Jenoff, with Mikki Coffino as our leader. On Dec. 17 we will discuss *Gentleman From Moscow* by Amor Towles, with Ruthie Wilkins as our leader. Our group always welcomes new and old members to join us. Please contact Carolyn Miller (mfmiller34@aol.com).

Public Policy

Public Policy Group will hear a discussion Nov. 9 about the controversial new state laws affecting single-family housing in California. Usually we stick to non-controversial subjects, but couldn't resist the opportunity to get a speaker on the subject of SB9 and other recent new laws affecting the future of single-family housing. The legislation, which goes into effect in January, will open up most single-family neighborhoods to duplexes and in some cases small multi-family buildings — something which is bound to create a great deal of controversy in our traditional neighborhoods.

Our speaker, Michael Lane, state policy director of SPUR, is reported to be very knowledgeable about the technicalities of

Photos of the west to be featured at Zoom event

Palo Alto AAUW invites you to "The Photographic Legacy of Jessamine Spear Johnson" via Zoom on Oct. 27 at noon.

If you missed the San Mateo program featuring photos of the west, you have another opportunity.

Tempe Javitz, Palo Alto branch member,



Members of the Hiking section walked the campus at Electronic Arts and surrounding neighborhoods in Redwood Shores this week. Hikers included Gerhild Klein, Gail Langkusch, Julie Hitchcock, Carolyn Seffens, Marty Moga, Erika Abbott, Marilyn Zack and Kathy Mountain (the photographer.)

these new laws. His talk will be presented on Tuesday, Nov. 9, at 10:30 a.m. on Zoom.

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).

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, Nov. 9, at 1:30 p.m. at Leslie Pasahow's home in Menlo Park. For more information about our group, please contact Laverne Rabinowitz at Lrainbow24@yahoo.com.

Climate Change

The climate change interest group meets the second Monday of each month at 3:30 on Zoom. In October, we discussed the impact of climate change on environmental migration. Our next meeting will be Monday, Nov. 8, at 3:30 p.m. The topic will be desalinization, led by Marilyn Zack. If you are interested in joining us, please email Sherry Booth at boothsherry1@gmail.com.

Historic Preservation

A variety of events at the San Mateo County History Museum:

Nov. 2-7: Festival of Altars for the Day of the Dead Celebration, made by community members to remember someone important to them. Then watch Casa Circulo's cultural performances on Courthouse Square on Nov. 7. Free.

Nov. 4, 10 a.m.: A walk to Sweeney Ridge, led by SMCHA President Mitch Postel, to see the the discovery site of San Francisco Bay by Gaspar de Portola. Check [here](#) for details.

Nov. 18, 4 p.m.: Courthouse Docket, virtual presentation by Katherine Malone-France, chief preservation officer of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, discussing the organization's efforts to preserve inclusive history. Register at [here](#). Free.

Public Policy

Pressure legislators to enact abortion justice

By Kathi Harper,
Co-Chair, AAUW CA
Public Policy Committee

Although the constitutionally guaranteed right to an abortion has been systematically under attack for decades, it is currently in danger of disappearing altogether.

As AAUW National recently noted, "Every person should have the ability to make their own informed decisions regarding their reproductive life. It is beyond time for abortion to be secured legally, funded fully and equitably available for all who need it, when they need it, without shame or stigma."

With the recent refusal of the U.S. Supreme Court to intervene in the onerous Texas case, it is clear that we can no longer count on the courts to protect this critical right. Congress must pass the Women's Health Protection Act.

Watch for Action Alerts from National, use them to keep pressure on your representatives, and sign-up now for the Two-Minute Activist if you haven't already done so by clicking [here](#).

Be sure to let us know if members from your branch participated in the Rally for Abortion Justice on Oct. 2, along with Beach Cities, Palos Verdes, San Fernando Valley, Pasadena, Alameda, Carlsbad-Oceanside-Vista, Los Altos-Mt. View, San Jose and Morgan Hill, and send pictures if you have them to publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org.

Legislative updates

Our last five priority bills that were awaiting the governor's signature have been

acted on, here are the results:

SB 62 (requires fair pay, instead of "by the piece" payment, for garment workers) SIGNED

AB 367 (free menstrual products must be provided in girls/women's bathrooms in schools) SIGNED

AB 887 (allows domestic violence restraining orders to be filed electronically) SIGNED

AB 123 (increases paid family leave benefits to 65%-75% of regular pay) VETOED

AB 1074 (requires hotel and janitorial workers who have lost their jobs due the pandemic to be prioritized for hiring as businesses re-open) VETOED

Action in Washington, D.C.

The AAUW Action Fund is highly focused on telling Congress the final budget must include permanent, universal, paid family and medical leave — and we need your help!

Unlike most developed countries, the United States does not guarantee this fundamental protection to its workers. No one should have to choose between their job and their health or the needs of their family.

While the House Ways and Means Committee included paid leave in the reconciliation package, discussions are ongoing and changes are likely. We are at a precarious moment when key members of Congress could turn their backs on workers by abandoning paid leave. It's up to you to ensure

that doesn't happen.

Keep the pressure on Congress by contacting your elected officials regularly. The closer we get to a final vote, the more crucial it is to reach out.

While the timing continues to change, the importance of your advocacy doesn't: Your Representative and Senators must hear from you every day until the bill is passed. We have a once-in-a-generation chance to change the future for all workers. This is the time to make history. Act now!

Go [here](#) to email a letter to your Senator or Congressperson.

Americans need access to good jobs, affordable health care, high quality child care, and educational opportunities that prepare them for tomorrow's jobs. To make policy promises a reality, we must remain vigilant in advocating for these priorities with our members of Congress.

Economic equity

Oct. 21 is Latina Equal Pay Day, the day Latina women, who are paid just 57 cents to every white male's dollar, finally catch up from the previous year. To help raise awareness, our coalition partner Stronger California is hosting a Latina Equal Pay Day and Essential Women Workers Virtual Summit.

If you are interested in joining to learn more and hear from iconic civil rights leader Dolores Huerta as well as California's First Partner Jennifer Newsom, click [here](#) to register.

WIRE for Women

Continued from Page One

In 2020, WIRE proactively identified and engaged with 244 candidates. 60+ candidates received individual mentorship, and many more attended WIRE workshops. 65% of the women who ran for local non-partisan offices in 2020 in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties WON their races.

Marshall began her political career when she was 12, volunteering for a U.S. Senate race. Later in college, she was a Congressional Intern on Capitol Hill. She has served as a legislative assistant to three

congressmen and two senators. She was the first woman congressional relations director in any government agency and the first woman elected to the board of directors of the Opportunity Funding Corp. She was appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate as the first female director of VISTA (the Domestic Peace Corps). In 1989, she was appointed the first woman director of the San Francisco Mint.

Marshall has run her own consulting business, practiced law and been active in commercial real estate development. She has run for the California State Senate and has served on many local community and politi-

cal boards, always chairing committees and taking active roles. She is a skilled fundraiser for both political and community organizations. She founded a Salon of women, now in its 15th year, which meets to discuss and debate issues of national and international importance. She serves on the board of the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics, is the chair emeritus of the local NARAL Leadership Council, has served on the national NARAL board and on both the local and state boards of Planned Parenthood. She lives in Menlo Park.

Climate Change

What's today's buzz about climate change?

- ▲ 416 ppm CO₂ level as of Aug.2021
- ▲ 1.18 °C global temp. increase since 1880
- ▼ 13.0% decline per decade in Arctic ice, lowest record
- ▼ 428 billion metric tons decline in polar ice sheets
- ▲ 3.4 mm sea level rise per year. means near 100 years
- ▲ 326 ocean heat increase in zettajoules since 1955

for more info. go to <https://climate.nasa.gov>



Courtesy of the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

Aerial view of icebergs near Kulusuk Island, Greenland, exhibiting an accelerated rate of ice loss.

By Theoni Pappas

These latest numbers posted on the Global NASA [website](#) continue to show climate change indicators rising and accelerating in the 21st Century. They correlate with such extreme weather and catastrophic climate events as:

- killer heat waves and droughts resulting in devastating fires
- increase in category 4 and 5 hurricanes
- spread of insect borne diseases
- the hottest years ever recorded
- unprecedented thawing of permafrost
- loss in biodiversity, ecosystems, and endangered species
- rising sea surface temperatures leading to more frequent events of El Niño and

La Niña

• decrease in oceans' ability to absorb more heat

• increase in ocean acidification

And the list goes on and on.

Now, recent studies concerning bees and pollination point to yet another impending climate event which potentially could impact our food supply.

Imagine a glitch in the growth cycles of plants and bees caused by global warming. Imagine that when plants and flowers come up in the spring, there are no bees to pollinate them.

Or, on the other hand, imagine when bees are especially active in springtime after emerging from their depleted winter hives in search of nectar, there are no plants on which to nectar.

How does this happen?

Climate change may be influencing plants' and honeybees' seasonal cycles so that their cycles stop being in sync with one another. (For details and a video go [here](#).)

It is bad enough that bee populations have declined globally from Colony Collapse Disease (CDD); now global warming



Honeybee's hind legs laden with pollen.

(Photo by Theoni Pappas)

BEES.....

- live and operate in close quarters.
- work in perfect synchronization with others.
- can fly up to 5 miles.
- visit at least 100 flowers on each trip out
- work without breaks, and help hive collect up to 5 pounds of nectar daily.
- in addition, can clean cells and incubation units, feed older and younger larvae, make wax and build hexagonal cells.

may be further impacting bee populations. Remember our food supply and its diversity depend on bees.

Yes, the climate indicator numbers paint a daunting future, but bear in mind it is not insurmountable. We have an ultimatum — the approaching tipping point — but we are not there yet. Time is ticking, and action is imperative.

Add to these climate indicators how the rising greenhouse gases affect the Earth's temperature and how the oceans' global circulation impacts the Earth's natural air-conditioning system. Consider the effects of the shrinking of ice sheets, glacial retreats, decrease in the snowcaps, rising sea levels, declining Arctic ice, permafrost, and snowpack. Like the news about the honeybees and pollination, science continues to uncover more data and negative events on Earth caused by climate change.

What can we do?

With the tipping point approaching, we need sincere and realistic commitments, not just from individuals, but from all governments, countries and companies.

Individuals know what steps are necessary. We know what measures we can take to slow, stem and hopefully reverse the progression of our carbon footprint. We know about atmospheric pollutants, especially those to which humans have contributed.

We know which pollutants affect the Earth's ozone layer. We know about acid rain and smog. We know that global warming is not science fiction.

Unless we take immediate steps directed by scientific findings, we will reach a point where the ongoing devastating cycles cannot be stemmed, let alone reversed.

Mathematical models point to a global warming tipping point. Each individual can do something toward decarbonization by modifying their use of energy from such actions as changing the type of light bulb, carpooling, driving less and more slowly to using green energy/alternative renewable energies.

Do the research, stay informed, and use products that are planet-friendly. Work with environmentally friendly banks and businesses. Urge/demand your local, state and federal governments involvement. It can be done. It will make a difference.

Companies must put commitment to decarbonization before profit. Some compa-



On Oct. 9, Gov. Gavin Newsom signed nine environmental bills aimed at recycling and reducing litter, plastic waste in the ocean, “greenwashing” and toxic chemicals. For details, click [here](#).

nies have stepped forward to the challenge. Show your support to them.

Bear in mind that carbon neutrality is a step in the right direction, but it still allows carbon emissions. We must aim for net-zero carbon where no carbon is emitted, and at some point becoming carbon negative.

Governments and countries must not only sign and ratify the Paris Agreement, but strengthen it by making actual commitments. Just saying that we will do “our best” is not enough.

Every action that is taken must consider carbon emissions. Cooperation, communication, and understanding one another are essential to making progress on decarbonizing the planet.

Are there stop-gap methods?

Yes. Some are looking to geoengineering (aka climate engineering or climate intervention) to discover feasible and safe technologies to slow global warming.

Among the methods being considered are

- capturing and removing carbon dioxide from the air, as in the use of lithium hydroxide,
- designing such things as marine cloud brightening or huge space shades or solar

radiation reflectors to divert and manage solar radiation

- creating stratospheric aerosol injections
- managing carbon dioxide levels by using carbon sequestration,
- lowering global temperature by spreading eco-friendly materials in targeted Arctic places as proposed by Ice911 that would reflect heat and protect the ice under it.

All forms of geoengineering require thorough study to be certain what we do will not cause additional problems. But geoengineering is not a permanent fix. It only buys time for permanently decarbonizing the planet.

In addition, geoengineering comes with its own risks. Experiments should be overseen by governments with mechanisms in place for oversight, transparency and public participation in decision making. It would be ideal if international governance and guidelines covering experiments and implementation were in place.

We can't trash the Earth any longer. We must be committed to decarbonizing the Earth. Are we up to it? Or do we continue to stick our heads in the sand and hope for the best?

I think we're up to it.