



Neighborhood 3 had a fun-filled gathering of nine members at The Office Restaurant in San Carlos on Dec. 8. What fun to meet in person sharing good stories, talking about our favorite decorations and generally laughing and enjoying each other. We had two new members join as well which made for a festive celebration. Photos from Neighborhood 4 appear on Page 5.

Taking a close-up look at women in Russia

Journalist, author and Mid-Pen member Michelle Carter will discuss *Women in Russia: It's Complicated* at 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 12, via Zoom.

The Ashland, Oregon, AAUW branch invited Carter to present *Women in Russia* in 2019 as part of their Focus on Women speaker series. She has updated the presentation to reflect current conditions in the largest country in the world.

Carter is the author of an award-winning memoir, *From Under the Russian Snow* (Bedazzled Ink Publishers), which recounts the year she served in Russia as the United States Information Agency's Journalist in Residence in 1995. She has been traveling in and writing about the former Soviet Union since 1988 and has made more than 20 trips there.

Her first book, *Children of Chernobyl: Raising Hope From the Ashes* (Augsburg



Publishers), focused on efforts to help the children who were affected by the 1986 explosion and meltdown at the Chernobyl Nuclear Reactor in Ukraine.

Before she accepted the USIA post in Russia, Carter was the managing editor of *The San Mateo Times*. She worked as a reporter and editor at *The Times* for 28 years. An alumna of the University of Missouri School of Journalism, the oldest and perhaps most respected journalism school in the country, she started her professional career at the *Kansas City Star* and then *Hearst's San Francisco Examiner*.

For Mid-Pen, she serves as the editor of *The Triad*. She lives in Belmont and is the wife of Mike Venturino, mother of Robyn and David Carter, and grandmother of Ezra, 20, and Kira, 7.

The Zoom presentation will be recorded if anyone cannot attend the Feb. 12 presentation. The Zoom link will be sent out several days before. Feel free to share the link with friends who might be interested. Ample time will be saved for Q&A.

From the co-president: Stay connected, informed

By Carole Farina, co-president

This extended period of “Covid-time” brings added meaning to being in good health, having a comfortable home, and engaging with family and friends. To have thoughtful, respectful, intelligent conversations with other women, whether about serious topics or lighthearted, adds immensely to my life. AAUW and our branch are the source of many of my friendships. They can be for you too if you engage with our neighborhoods, interest sections and activities.

Along with your 2021-2022 Directory, you received a yellow sheet explaining the Interest Sections (they and each leader are listed at the front of the directory and on our website). Details about each are updated in the Triad. It is not too late to join one or to suggest a new section.

The orange 2021-22 Calendar has been updated with changes of date or time and many additions. Do keep the file or print it out for handy reference. We will send additions as they become available. Watch for



Carole Farina

all-branch activities that will add some fun to this year. One is the Valentine’s Day phone call you make to another member, someone you know well or not at all.

We owe a big thank you to the officers and chairs and their committees for their dedication to keeping us vital. Having a co-chair or a committee makes any job easier. Please consider choosing an area of interest to you and then volunteer to work on it.

National’s support of equity is a central value for us. I had not realized the importance of Title IX in this effort. It was signed into law by President Nixon in 1972. The law forbade discrimination based on sex in any educational field receiving federal funding.

Later Christine Grant helped write guidelines that applied the law to education and sports. Grant, who loved participating in sports, died Dec. 31 at 85. She maintained that the 19th Amendment guaranteeing women the right to vote and Title IX are the most important legislation passed for women in the 20th century. Thanks, Christine!

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 (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, Feb. 1, at 11 a.m. via Zoom.

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

BackTalk: Monarch story prompts a visit

I enjoyed reading Carole and Elvira’s informative article about the Pacific Grove Monarch Sanctuary in the Triad.

Finding ourselves with an unexpected free day recently, my husband and I visited there for the first time (we’ve only lived here for 48 years!). Everyone we encountered in the Sanctuary was smiling and happy.

Most of the butterflies were high in the trees, but this beautiful bush was right by the trail. Thank you again for the article. Much appreciated. — *Chris Panero*

Gloria L. Blackwell’s extensive conversation with Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, director-general of the World Trade Organization and awardee of 2021 AAUW Alumnae Recognition, was both impressive for Dr. Ngozi’s accomplishments and hopeful for the future. She is one of Time Magazine’s most influential people of 2021.

This portion of the 140th Anniversary [Webinar](#) starts about 10 minutes in.

Carole Farina



Gift-wrapping brings in \$602 for Tech Trek



Mid-Pen member Micki Carter wraps a book for a customer at Kepler's in Menlo Park as a fundraiser for AAUW. The wrapping was very successful this year. We wrapped the last weekend before Christmas. We had nine different shifts over the three days of the fundraiser and made \$602 for Tech Trek in tips. The wrapping setup was different this year. The wrapping table was partly indoors and partly outdoors to protect the wrappers and the shoppers. The following Mid-Pen members eagerly gave their time and effort to the wrapping task! Thanks to Nancy Crampton, Amy Armstrong, Angela Mogin, Barbara Finnegan, Carolyn Miller, Jean Dehner, Judi Kerfoot, Linda Howard, Margot Diltz, Marilyn Zack, Micki Carter, Nancy Oliver, Susan Hall, Susanne Burrill, Teddy Heinrich, Vicci Mueller and Wilma Hoffman.

Diversity, inclusion, equity: What it means to Mid-Pen

By Phyllis Hesik

Our National Association is promoting Diversity, Inclusion and Equity and asking branches to learn about these concepts and promote them in their membership. To this end Barb Finnegan and I have been asked to serve on the DEI committee and report to the board and the branch.

We thought we would start with some basic definitions from the national website which you will note are now listed on our web page. In future Triads we will expand on how the branch can put them into practice.

Diversity

The inclusion of different types of people (such as people of different races or cultures) in a group or organization; it means variety and refers to characteristics that make each of us unique.

Inclusion

The act or practice of including and accommodating people who have historically been excluded (as because of their race, gender, sexuality, or ability); it entails behaviors and actions of others that make us feel welcomed or not.

Equity

Justice according to natural law or right, specifically, freedom from bias or favoritism; everyone having equal access, not equal amount, to the resources needed to be successful.

Diversity can be divided into primary and secondary dimensions. Primary dimension describes characteristics that can't be changed, i.e., we are born with, for example, race, ethnicity, and age. But diversity goes beyond race and ethnicity. Secondary dimension describes characteristics which

can be changed, for example, education, and occupation.

We are most comfortable with those who look, think, and act like we do and so we may have overt or even unconscious bias against those who are different.

So why is diversity important? We seek to recruit and retain new members. The AAUW explains that to achieve this we need to respect and celebrate the diversity of our members, and those differences form the backbone of our organization. These resources are one way to show others how to bring together differences for positive change through inclusive practices.

Refer to the National AAUW DEI Tool Kit for more information.

If you have suggestions on how these concepts can be put into practice, please contact Barb or me. Let us know if you would like to work with us on this project. We are meeting on Zoom, about once a month.

Climate Change

Is desalination the answer to our water woes?

By Marilyn Zack

Desalination is the removal of salt and other chemicals from something, ie. seawater or soil. It is the removal of salt from seawater to make it drinkable.

Some Caribbean islands get almost all their drinking water through desalination plants. Saudi Arabia gets 70 percent of its fresh water via the process.

The quantity of water in oceans is so vast, it is virtually inexhaustible, so desalination is a completely drought-proof source of water.

Water can be cleaned chemically or naturally. For drinking, bathing and washing, it is treated at a water treatment plant.

Chemically cleaning water is a four-step process called reverse osmosis.

1. Screening — Water flows through a screen to remove larger objects
2. Clarification — Chemicals are added to separate smaller particles
3. Filtration — Water passes through fine sand which traps the remains of the chemicals in Step 2
4. Chlorination — Chlorine is added to water to protect it from bacteria and other pollutants

At each stage, water is tested to assess effectiveness.

Natural cleaning happens as water moves from the ground, lakes, oceans and plants and transforms into clouds. As water travels through the ground, it gets filtered like the sand process. Water is also naturally purified as it flows through some ecosystems, especially wetlands.

Ground water gets polluted in various ways. The most common culprits are leaking underground storage tanks, landfills, hazardous waste sites and waste water not properly treated at plants.

Pre-treatment and cleaning chemicals that are added to the water have a limited time of effectiveness and when they have lost their ability to clean the water, they are dumped and create a brine which is the water left over and is super saturated with salt. The purified water goes on to be processed for human use.



In Japan, the hand-wash sink is attached to the toilet so that you can wash your hands and re-use the water for the next flush. This saves Japan millions of litres of water every year.

Pros of desalination

- Reverse osmosis was invented in the U.S in 1950 and 70 percent of desalinated water is achieved using this method. It is reliable and well understood. If properly designed, reverse osmosis can consistently deliver high quality water.
- It generally meets or exceeds standards for water quality
- It can reduce pressure on freshwater supplies that come from areas needing protection
- Treating ocean water rather than taking it from sources that may be habitats for endangered species, protects those species

Cons of desalination

- Potential increase in fossil fuel dependence and greenhouse gas emissions can exacerbate climate change if renewable energy sources are not used for freshwater production. Desalination plants require huge

amounts of electricity currently generated by fossil fuels. One-third to one-half of production costs are for this energy-hungry process.

- Plants can be expensive to build. Depending on location, a plant can cost \$300 million to \$2.9 billion.
- It is a huge threat to marine life. Most desalination plants pump brine back into the ocean. Ocean species are not equipped for the change in salinity. Supersaturated salt water decreases oxygen levels in the water causing plants and animals to suffocate. Organisms most commonly affected by brine are plankton and phyto plankton which are the base of the food chain for all marine life.
- While sucking ocean water for desalination, animals, plants and eggs are trapped and killed, many of which are endangered species.

Local efforts

Not all desalination plants treat seawater. A brackish facility has been operating in Newark, Calif., since 2003. Brackish water is a mixture of fresh water and saltwater. It is groundwater contaminated with bay water. As it is less salty than ocean water, it requires less energy to treat. Newark produces 12 million gallons a day or 25 percent of the overall water supply for southern Alameda County.

Any unused energy is sent back to the system. Cost is the lowest of all water treatment plants operating in the district. As brackish water is less salty, its brine is less salty and it's discharged at a location where salt levels match the receiving water. Construction is under way for a brackish facility in Antioch.

Marin is considering pre-packaged facilities from an Australian company to provide almost one-third of its drinking water needs. Forecasts are that Marin could run out of water by the summer if the drought doesn't improve.

We will continue this discussion in the March edition of The Triad.



Neighborhood 4 gathered for a holiday party at the home of Barbara Haas. They shared food-related gifts. Many other neighborhoods had to reschedule parties due to Covid.

Encourage your friends to join Mid-Peninsula

**By Wilma Hoffmann
VP Membership**

For our branch to flourish, we need all our members to encourage their friends, and friends' daughters, to join us. Let your hairdresser know what we do, your manicurist (if you have one) and everyone with whom you come in contact.

It may not be that person, but it could be that they have been looking for a group for a mother, aunt or recently retired friend to join. You know that we have a lot to offer;

Make a Valentine's Day call to a directory-mate

What could be better than chatting with one of the other Mid-Pen members?

Last year, we called the person below us in the directory, and the reports came back of how appreciative people were of the contact. Others reported chatting with someone that they had never met, but felt they had a new friend. Now, well into this pandemic, people are going to be even more appreciative.

So call the person above you in the directory on Valentine's Day (or around that time if you are busy) to give both yourself and your guest a chance to talk and laugh. Socializing is good for you.

Happy Valentines Day!

otherwise, you wouldn't be a member!

Maybe your granddaughters are interested in joining the online branch so they can be involved in an organization that for over 125 years has pushed for the rights of women and children, from the right to vote to equal pay for equal work.

AAUW is still fighting the battles that came from those early fights, everything from Title IX to STEM opportunities for women and positions on corporate boards.

How can the US be so far behind other developed nations on things like maternity and paternity leave, facilities for lactating mothers in the work place, or even simple

things like special parking spots for pregnant women in the work force or stay-at-home moms or dads with little ones or strollers at the supermarkets?

At some point we will have enough women legislators to make these things a reality. Until then, we need every able-bodied woman with us!

Go spread the word! Just forward a name and email address or phone number to me, and I can take it from there with encouraging words and introductions to other interesting women.

Your enthusiasm is the key ingredient here.

Tracing AAUW's proud history of helping women get college degrees

AAUW has a proud heritage of helping women pursue higher education, tracing back to a time when few women had that opportunity.

It started after the U.S. Civil War. With a growing middle class and more women looking to go to university, AAUW founder Marion Talbot gave the call to support a fund for women's graduate education.

She and Fellowships chair Christine Ladd Franklin asked all members to con-

tribute \$1 per year. The goal was "to enable gifted women to use their intellectual powers for the good of humanity."

As a result, in 1888, the very first fellowship went to Ida Street, a pioneer in the field of early American Indian history, in the amount of \$350.

"It was the beginning of AAUW's history of funding women in education," says Gloria Blackwell, AAUW's chief executive officer.

Interest Sections

Do you have an interest you'd like to develop?

All About Food

The Food Section will meet Thursday, Jan. 27, at 4 p.m. to explore less common plant foods and the impact of growing, processing and shipping common foods. The following meeting will be Feb. 24 at 4 p.m. Contact Carole Farina at cfarina@alumni.stanford.edu if you would like to join.

Book Bunch

New and old members are always welcome to join the Book Bunch on the third Friday of the month at 10 a.m. Contact Wilma Hoffmann (wilmahoffmann@icloud.com) for details. Some meetings are Zoom only; others in-person with a Zoom option available for those who prefer it. Vaccination is required for all in-person attendees. If you do not have the link, email Wilma.

Feb. 18: A discussion of *Braiding Sweetgrass – Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teaching of Plants* by Robin Wall Kimmerer will be led by Wilma in her home, 909 Crestview Drive, San Carlos. RSVP to Wilma.

French Conversation

Contact Laverne Rabinowitz (Lrainbow24@yahoo.com) for information on our plans for the meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 8!

Public Policy

The Zoom meeting date will be Tuesday, Jan. 25, from 3-5 p.m. Look for a Zoom invitation link the day of the meeting from ybergero@mac.com. We will revisit the assault on the U.S Capitol building on Jan. 6 of last year, the responsibility for it and efforts to bring those responsible to account. Question; Will the Select Committee be successful in revealing what led up to the insurrection? We will also go over the recent email request asking members to help explain the purpose of the Public Policy section as it applies to our Mid-Peninsula members.

Please contact Yvonne (ybergero@mac.com) with any comments about the discussion or to be added to our section. Please join in on the conversation. February's Public Policy meeting will be on Tuesday, Feb. 22, from 3-5 p.m. Topic to be determined at



January's meeting.

Climate Change

The Climate Change interest group meets the second Monday of each month at 3:30 p.m. via Zoom. Our goal is to become better informed, challenged and inspired to act in our personal lives and beyond — the tried and true “local as well as global.” We are in the process of developing our individual climate resolutions which you will hear more about soon.

The next meeting will be Monday, Feb. 7, at 3:30 p.m. via Zoom. Topic: Temperature Rise, a video on what 3 degrees C temperature rise looks like (produced by *The Economist*).

Our March meeting will be Monday, March 7, 3:30 p.m. via Zoom. Topic: Political action and climate change. If you would like to join us, email Sherry Booth (boothsherry1@gmail.com) and you will be added to the list.

Walk/Talk & Gawk

The group continues to meet on Thursday mornings. Members of the group sug-

The All About Food Section researched the origins, properties, growing techniques and package symbols for coffee and cocoa products. To sample coffee and hot chocolate, they visited Pampachay Peruvian Coffee in San Carlos whose owner imports beans from his farm in Peru. From left are Carole Farina, Elvira Monroe, Theoni Pappas and Victoria Kline.

gest 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.

Mid-Pen Personals

The Triad regrets to report that **Bobbi Petrov**, died of a heart attack on Jan. 7. This was unexpected. The family will be having a service at a future date.

June and Paul Hennig are now living in the San Carlos Elms. June's email and phone number are unchanged, as is her mailing address. All her mail is still going to her home, where her granddaughter is now living.

New member **Beth Swanson** would like to correct her email in Mid-Peninsula branch files. Her email is bethswanson31@gmail.com.

Public Policy

Confused about the filibuster? Well, listen up

Traditionally, the Senate filibuster was reserved for only the most controversial issues, but its use has escalated in recent years, often slowing business in the chamber to a halt.

Some lawmakers acknowledge that the filibuster, which has effectively set a 60-vote supermajority requirement for passing legislation in the Senate, could doom many proposals

As advocates push for pro-democracy legislation, calls for eliminating the filibuster have grown louder. Some note that certain types of legislation are already exempt from the filibuster's supermajority requirement and argue that a similar exemption should be made for voting rights.

Whether through elimination or reform, the filibuster cannot be allowed to impede the expansion of American democracy or the rights of all eligible voters.

What is a filibuster?

In the Senate, a filibuster is an attempt to delay or block a vote on a piece of legislation or a confirmation. Once a bill gets to a vote on the Senate floor, it requires a simple majority of 51 votes to pass after debate has ended.

But there's a catch: Before it can get to a vote, it actually takes 60 votes to cut off debate, which is why a 60-vote supermajority is now considered the de facto minimum for passing legislation in the Senate.

What's the history of the filibuster and its supermajority requirement?

Under original Senate rules, cutting off

debate required a motion that passed with a simple majority. But in 1806, after Vice President Aaron Burr argued that the rule was redundant, the Senate stopped using the motion.

This change inadvertently gave senators the right to unlimited debate, meaning that they could indefinitely delay a bill without supermajority support from ever getting to a vote. This tactic is what we now know as a filibuster. To break a filibuster it takes 60 votes (Rule XXII) known as the cloture rule which allows the minority to hold the majority's bills at a standstill, effectively killing a bill.

There are, however, exceptions to the filibuster rule.

"The nuclear option." Changes invoked previously for executive branch and non-Supreme Court judicial appointments (D), and Supreme Court confirmations. (R) Other exceptions apply to military matters, trade agreements and specifically Congress's annual budget reconciliation process that requires only a simple majority vote and cannot be filibustered. In total, 161 exceptions to the filibuster's supermajority requirement have been created between 1969 and 2014.

How has the filibuster changed over time?

The use of the filibuster, once reserved for only the most controversial issues, has increased dramatically in recent years causing growing polarization in Washington. Since 1917 there have been 2000 filibusters and 1000 of them have happened during the last 12 years. What has been the impact of increasing filibuster use?

Critics of the modern filibuster have argued that the maneuver undermines the Senate as a governing body and its reputation as a consensus-building chamber. The mere threat of a filibuster silences debate and removes incentives to work toward compromise.

The filibuster magnifies problems of representation because it gives a smaller state the same power as a large state since each state is represented by two senators. Population disparity is magnified. Today, the 26 least populous states are home to just 17 percent of the U.S population. This means that a group of senators representing a small

minority of the country can use the filibuster to prevent the passage of bills even though there is broad public support.

Filibuster abuse also threatens checks and balances between the branches of government. The relative stagnancy of Congress — which is in large part due to the filibuster — has pushed presidents to increase their use of executive power, which in turn often goes unchecked because of Congress's inability to act.

Some legal scholars argue that the filibuster may not even be constitutional, citing Article I, Section 5, which states that "a majority of each House shall constitute a quorum to do business."

What options are available for filibuster reform?

As Senate gridlock persists, calls for eliminating the filibuster altogether have grown louder. Changing the Senate rules — particularly, Rule XXII — would be the most straightforward way to eliminate the filibuster, although such a change would require a two-thirds supermajority. The nuclear option is another way to eliminate the filibuster. Under this method, the Senate majority leader would use a nondebatable motion to bring a bill for a vote and then raise a point of order that cloture can be invoked with a simple majority.

Some advocates argue that voting rights legislation, For The People Act and John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act warrants an exemption from the filibuster.

Excerpts taken from this [site](#).

Co-president reviews film on racism in U.S.

Who We Are: A Chronicle of Racism in America is a film featuring a talk and travels with Jeffery Robinson, lawyer and former legal director for the ACLU.

It's a nuanced presentation of flash point topics like unconscious bias, reparations for slavery, and slaveholding founding fathers. Resoundingly endorsed by movie critics, the two-hour film is being shown at selected cities.

You might want to look for it.

— Carole Farina

Jan. 30 deadline to enter national AAUW art contest

To give women artists the attention they deserve, National AAUW sponsors a yearly art contest.

Entries for the 2022 art contest are accepted Jan. 5-30. Voting will be open from Feb.2-16. The six winning entries will be featured in a collection of notecards mailed to AAUW members in the spring!

Contest entry rules and guidelines are available [here](#).

Is Mid-Pen interested in offering Speech Trek?

By Barbara Finnegan

Speech Trek is another opportunity to promote understanding and communication of gender equity issues among male and female high school students through their research, preparation, and presentation of a high-quality 5-6-minute speech for competition at branch and state level.

Not only do students learn the value of public speaking as a life and leadership skill, but there are also prizes for branch finalists as well as the top five state finalists, with first place receiving \$1,500.

Under the jurisdiction of the AAUW CA board of directors, the state Speech Trek committee chooses the annual topic, obtains funds for the state competition, and develops a branch and student tool kit. Refer [here](#) for more information.

Each participating branch has a contact person/committee to coordinate aspects of the local Speech Trek competition and to upload the winner's unedited video to YouTube for consideration as a state finalist. The branch process of recruiting high school students begins in the



AAUW California Speech Trek

fall with notification to AAUW-CA of intent to participate by Nov. 1.

Branch competition should occur in early winter with the first-place finalist de-

ecided by March 1 so she can compete in the state semifinals. The top three state semifinalists will move on to participate in the Annual AAUW CA convention/annual meeting in April (in person or virtual).

The speech contest for this year addresses the timely topic of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, which is being explored at all levels of AAUW: Has the United States lived up to its pledge of "liberty and justice for all"? Would requiring the study of diversity, equity and inclusion in a high school setting help ensure liberty and justice for all?

Speech Trek not only promotes membership, but also introduces AAUW to the next generation by increasing our branch visibility, showcasing our mission, and encouraging community involvement by recruiting community members as judges for the branch competition.

It is too late to participate this year, but we would like to determine branch interest for Speech Trek competition next year. Please contact me at bafinnegan@comcast.net for more information or to express interest.

Reproductive rights are jeopardized in U.S.

By Claire Noonan,
AAUW CA Public Policy

By Jan. 22, the 49th anniversary of the Roe v Wade decision, SCOTUS (the Supreme Court of the United States) will have heard arguments on Texas SB 8 legislation banning pregnancy termination after six weeks and Mississippi's legislation (Whole Women's Health Organization v Dobbs) to ban abortion after 15 weeks.

What are the issues? For Texas, it isn't about the constitutionality of the legislation, i.e. the fundamental right decided by Roe v Wade. Instead, a decision will be made on the tactics used by the Texas legislature — delegating their enforcement duties to citizens — to preclude lawsuits against the State.

The decision on the Mississippi legislation will be straightforward. One, SCOTUS could overturn Roe v Wade.

Two, the court could limit legal standing to challenges on state law, e.g. doctors wouldn't be able to challenge on behalf of patients.

Three, new legal standards for the evaluation of abortion regulations may be created so states aren't required to show that the benefits of an abortion ban outweigh the undue burden to patients — reversing Planned Parenthood v Casey. (Women's Health Policy, 11/21/2021)

One hundred six state laws were passed to restrict abortion in 2021. Activists, like AAUW, are bringing lawsuits before the Supreme Court. AAUW has submitted an amicus brief for Whole Women's Health v Dobbs as to the constitutionality of the Mississippi law.

In addition, the ACLU and others have brought lawsuits against other Mississippi abortion-related legislation like regulations

for informed consent, a waiting period before the procedure, and ban on telemedicine visits.

Surveys show that 60-70 percent of Americans approve of abortion in all or most circumstances. Only 20 percent think abortion should be illegal in all circumstances. (New York Times, Upshot (5/19/2021).

AAUW and AAUW California stand with the majority, and the time to act is now. We must pressure the Senate to pass the Women's Health Protection Act. The legislation must become law in this session. Unfair changes in representation have occurred with redistricting.

Votes in the 2022 mid-term elections that would elect representatives who would vote for this bill could be suppressed.

Detailed information on the current position for women's reproductive health is available from the [Gutmacher Institute](#).

Step Up for Pro-Choice!



Saturday, January 22, 2022

2:45 to 4:15PM

A Virtual Event

Marking the 49th Anniversary of Roe v. Wade

Join **Los Altos-Mountain View AAUW**
and the **Santa Clara County Pro-Choice Community**



Leslie J. Reagan, professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, As part of the Department of Gender and Women's Studies, her expertise is in twentieth-century U.S. history of medicine, public health, and women. She will address AAUW's mission to sharpen awareness of the latest checks to reproductive health rights in the United States.



NARAL Counsel & Associate Director of Policy, Christina Krysiniski has worked in the Office of the General Counsel for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services before joining NARAL. She will address what California can do to upgrade its number of clinics in poor and rural areas and to provide support to the distressed from other states.

Hear from State Senator Josh Becker about a California option for distressed women to find reproductive help. Watch a You Tube scene from "ROE," a play by Lisa Locmer, performed by LA Stage Company, playing at the Bus Barn Theater Jan. 27-Feb. 20, 2022.

Contact c.noonan@yahoo.com and provide name and email for link to the event.

Take ACTION. It's time to step up and stop the rollback of reproductive rights.