



The Climate and All About Food sections of Mid-Pen Branch enjoyed a summer visit to the Pie Ranch in Pescadero to learn about its unique approach to working the land. The story and another photo appear on Page 7.



## League of Women Voters rep to explain ballot propositions

By Beth Swanson

A representative of the League of Women Voters of North and Central San Mateo County will provide a non-partisan analysis of the California November 2022 ballot propositions for the October General Meeting of the Mid-Peninsula Branch.

A joint presentation of the Mid-Pen and San Mateo branches, it will take place at 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 8, via Zoom. The link will be emailed to members that week.

Gayle Hardt, former San Mateo Branch president and former board member of the San Mateo County League of Women Voters of North and Central San Mateo County, will be the speaker.



Hardt is a graduate of University of Iowa and has a law degree from American University. She was the legal counsel for Workers' Compensation for the United Association of Flight Attendants Union. She has also served on the San Mateo Grand Jury.

Have your sample ballot on hand or review the propositions [here](#) so you are ready to hear both sides of each proposition.

Make your vote count on Nov. 8!

## President's Message

# Branch meetings IN PERSON may be in Mid-Pen's future

By Chris Panero, co-president

More than 50 members started our year with a terrific September Event, in beautiful weather, with several potential new members in attendance.

Thank you to all who made it happen by coordinating setup and activities: Beth Swanson and Gail Langkusch (Program chairs), Barb Finnegan and Wilma Hoffmann (Membership chairs), and Victoria Kline and Nancy Cantisano (Hospitality chairs). Barbara Haas (Neighborhood chair), Cathy Chowenhill (Communications), and the Neighborhood leads publicized the event.

The board supported the effort with Nancy's famous pear tart and other tasty snacks, and an early arrival to make sure we had tables and space as needed.

Our kickoff September Event in the past has centered on our Tech Trek girls, but timing and (sigh...) Covid made it more prudent to have a weekday event outdoors. Thank you to all who attended for your companionship and your support of AAUW. If you were not able to attend, your directory will be provided to you by your Neighborhood chair.

Next month, we've got a busy slate of programs, all conveniently virtual:

On Oct. 8 at 2 p.m., we'll join our co-hosts, AAUW-San Mateo, for a speaker from the League of Women Voters on the "Pros and Cons of November 2022 Ballot Measures."

Later in October, we'll be able to hear, via Zoom, brief presentations from more than 30 remarkable AAUW Fund recipients, in four sessions. One of the Fund recipients will speak to our branch in April.

Watch for a Zoom invitation.

Over the next program year, we're aiming for one or two Branch meetings in person. If we can't make that work (Covid...), then thank goodness for virtual meetings.

## Board Description Project

One of my projects this year is to collect informal descriptions of each board position. Although we have formal descriptions of all the positions, the formality can make them seem a little daunting.

Let's start with the vital Membership Chair, from Wilma Hoffmann's point of view.

This job is so important that its title is actually "Vice-President of Membership." Wilma and Barb Finnegan are co-chairs this year.

Wilma tells me that this job is a fun, rewarding position where you meet and work with many amazing people.

Essentially, the job of Membership chair is to

encourage people to join and keep them in the branch.

She and Barb follow up immediately when they hear of a prospective member. They provide the application forms, interview them (often over coffee), introduce them in The Triad, and generally make sure the new member feels welcome.

Wilma contacts the Neighborhood Coordinator to fit the new person into a Neighborhood, the Sections Chair to let Sections know of the new members' interests, and gets their name to the editor of the Directory and the Communications team.

She also checks in with the new members regularly to ensure they are getting branch emails and The Triad, invites them to join her at a branch meeting, and introduces them to people as the opportunity arises.



Chris Panero

## Who? What? When?

**Co-Presidents:** Carole Farina and Chris Panero

**Membership:** Wilma Hoffmann and Barb Finnegan

**Electronic distribution:** Cathy Chowenhill

**Triad editor:** Micki Carter

**Sunshine Lady:** Marge Haruff. Please contact Marge if you know anyone who would appreciate a card from Mid-Pen Branch.

**Know of a prospective member?**

Please contact Wilma Hoffmann or Barb Finnegan

**Board Meeting:** Tuesday, Oct. 4, at 10 a.m. via Zoom.

**Triad Deadline for November** will be Oct. 15. Please send articles in Word, Pages or Google.doc and photos (separately, not embedded) as large-format JPEGs to Micki Carter.

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How does that work in practice? I've had Wilma flag me down to meet someone on Laurel Street in San Carlos!

There is some paperwork, simplified this year by the new on-line process. The Membership Treasurer keeps track of membership dues. The Membership chairs attend monthly board meetings and keep track of the name badges that we use at meetings.

They also plan a Park Meet-up or other drop-in event for all branch members so we have the opportunity to socialize with those of all neighborhoods.

## Chat with Anne Peterson

Anne Peterson and I had a lovely conversation at the September Event about her experiences growing up in Minneapolis and her music.

I promised Anne that I would tell you that she has four harpsichords! She still plays them now and then.

In the past, she made numerous recordings and has even played the harpsichords at the famous Raymond Russell Collection of Early Keyboard Instruments in Edinburgh, Scotland.



# Pat Holvick is a founding mother of Mid-Pen

By Carolyn Miller

Pat Holvick is a charming and delightful founding member of Mid-Peninsula Branch who will be 101 this year!

In 1950, Pat and a few others started the Menlo-Atherton Branch of the AAUW. Her strong belief and support of women's rights was her guiding principle for creating a local branch of the AAUW organization that she had heard so much about from other women in the Bay Area. In 2017, members of that branch joined the San Carlos Branch, to become the Mid-Peninsula Branch.

Pat had held nearly every position in the Menlo-Atherton Branch including president at least twice. Her main interest has always been fellowships. In 1950, when the branch was started, National believed in scholarships. However, Pat was strong advocate for our local funds being used for fellowships, not scholarships. Soon after that, National cut out scholarships. She is also a member of the AAUW Legacy Circle.

In 1995 Pat and her daughter, Valerie, attended the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China, called "Voices of Women" focused on



Pat Holvick

women moving forward with dignity and wholeness. She said she will never forget the wise words delivered by Helvi Sipila, the first female assistant secretary general of the U.N.: "What is difficult can be done at once; what is impossible takes a bit more time."

Pat said she loved this thinking and felt like the world was finally accepting the role of women and coming into balance. "I could feel how much needed to be done to inform and motivate everyone to further women's rights," she said.

In her youth Pat was very physically active in skiing, boating, horseback riding and swimming, and she was a pilot. She graduated from the University of Washington and worked in the Army Corps of Engineers in Washington, D.C., in their art department, drawing strategic maps for the invasion of Normandy during World War II. She and her husband, Carl Holvick, married in Seattle, settled on the Peninsula and raised three daughters. In 1959 her family moved into a home in Atherton. She lives there today with her daughter Valerie.

In 2021 Pat entered the AAUW's art competition with two entries, Orchids in a Vase and Jeanette Isabelle's Doggie. Pat still swims half an hour every day, practices piano half an hour every day and paints regularly.

We are extremely grateful for Pat's dedication to AAUW and our branch. We appreciate her continuing to share her many talents with us and are inspired by her long-term commitment to women's rights.

## Tech Trek leaders remember Betty Torrez with fondness

By Marie Wolbach

Founder, Tech Trek STEM Camps

Tech Trek leaders were sad to learn that Betty Torrez died last summer. They remember her fondly.

Few know that Betty's generosity was responsible for adding an important aspect to the camps. Junior Counselors were added in the second year of Tech Trek after Betty heard the camp director speak at the fall meeting of the Mid-Peninsula branch.

She heard that the need for young helpers was identified during 1998, the first year, of Tech Trek, and the director's hope was to add former Trekkers to assist the staff.

However, there was a budget consideration to that plan.

Betty privately asked if a donation would facilitate implementing the program. She immediately wrote a very generous check, enough that Junior Counselors were added to the 1999 camp.

All Tech Trek directors through the years confirm that those returning Trekkers are invaluable at camps. Even more important is the testimony of the young women chosen to return.

They uniformly say that working as a Junior Counselor was an even more exciting learning experience than being a camper.

Betty was thanked several times but, as we mourn her, members of her branch should also know another wonderful legacy she left.

## So where did all those emails, addresses and phone numbers go?

By Micki Carter, Triad editor

You may notice a significant change in the articles in this month's Triad.

The board has decided to institute a trial run of eliminating personal information, such as email addresses and phone numbers in The Triad. You will now have to refer to your Mid-Pen Directory to find individual contact information.

Why the change? The Triads are now going to be posted in a public area on our website, and we don't want to share personal information in a public setting.

Let us know if this is a problem for you. We may need to find another solution if it doesn't work for you..





## Kicking off new year of service

Mid-Peninsula Branch of AAUW gathered by the bocce ball courts at Burton Park in San Carlos to regroup after the summer holidays (and two years of Covid!) to meet new members, greet old friends and plan for 2022-2023.



More photos on Page 5.









## Interest Sections

# Want to try your hand at American Mah-Jongg?

## Team Mah-Jongg

A lively group of members play and continue to learn Mah-Jongg. It is a fun game and we are a friendly group

We have eight players and, thanks to Marilyn Zack, more are learning and wanting to play. We meet Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to noon at the San Carlos Senior Center.

Usually four to six players are able to attend and we look forward to more joining the group. For further information, contact Kathy Morrow.

## Climate Change

The climate change interest group will meet on Zoom the second Monday in October (Oct. 10) at 3:30 p.m. All are welcome as we will examine a climate map that shows future temperatures and livability across the U.S. and watch a short video on the effects of climate change on one at-risk community in California (*Unlivable Oasis: A Family's Housing Crisis on the Front Lines of the Climate Crisis*, from ProPublica). If you would like to join this group, please contact Sherry Booth.

## Book Bunch

Welcome to all book lovers, new and old: We meet on the third Friday of each month at 10:30 a.m. On Oct. 21 we will be discussing Kristin Hannah's *The Four Winds*, and on Nov. 18, we will take on Bernice Scharlach's *Big Alma*. Please call Carolyn Miller for questions and to RSVP as she will be hosting the first meeting at her home in Redwood City.

## Walk/Talk & Gawk

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.

## Hilly Hikers

The new section Hilly Hikers, which will be meeting monthly on the fourth Friday, was scheduled to start on Sept. 23 at the mosaic tiled stairway in San Francisco.



Coyote Point was the destination for Walk/Talk & Gawk in August.

Several members who want to do this hike will be out of town on that day so we are moving that hike to Oct. 28 and will do Pulgas Ridge in San Carlos on Sept. 23. Please let Marilyn Zack know if you will be joining us for one or both of these hikes.

## All About Food

Join us as we explore the history, uses and benefits of foods and how to grow or prepare them. Take a turn leading monthly discussions or suggest a tasting or excursion. Meetings are at 4 p.m. on the fourth Thursday by Zoom or in person. Contact Carole Farina.

## Current Issues

This is the old Public Policy discussion group with a new name. Our first meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 27, at 3 p.m. If most attendees are comfortable with an indoor meeting of fully vaccinated women, we will meet at my house. The format will be as before; each member of the group will present on a subject of her choice, and we will take turns hosting. The first meeting will be a planning session where everyone will choose a topic and a month

for her presentation as well as a month to host. I have a list of possible topics, and I encourage you to bring ideas of your own. Please exclude subjects related to climate change as we already have a section devoted to that. We can also discuss the time and date of future meetings if the fourth Tuesday at 3 p.m. doesn't work for most. Please send Marilyn Zack your thoughts and whether you will be joining us.

## French Conversation

Come join us on Tuesday, Oct. 11, at 1:30 p.m. for some conversation *en français* with a friendly group of francophones. We'll meet at Chris Panero's home in San Carlos. RSVP to Chris Panero. For questions, contact Laverne Rabinowitz.

## Calling all visual artists

Do you paint, draw or photograph? Do you make art books, practice calligraphy or make collages? Let's start a section to talk, see and practice art. We can share techniques, visit galleries and find places to inspire us. If this intrigues you, whether a beginner or an expert, contact Carole Farina.

# Pie Ranch offers so much more than just pies

By Victoria Kline Cosley

During the summer, AAUW members from the Climate and Food section visited the Pie Ranch in Pescadero. The name “Pie Ranch” was chosen, not because they sell delicious homemade pies (which they do), but as seen from an aerial view, all 400-plus acres of land form the shape of a pie!

Our Mid-Pen sections wanted to learn how the Pie Ranch, through love and respect of the environment, “grounds its work of the soil, plants and community.” Our guide, Program Coordinator Annabelle Lee, described the weaving regenerative agriculture techniques together with traditional ecological knowledge in partnership with the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band.

Both partners believe, according to Annabelle, that cultivating healthy, resilient and informed communities leads to a healthy land, which in turn raises a healthy crop for all forms of life to enjoy.

For the last 18 years Pie Ranch has been teaching regenerative farming, educating the world’s future food justice leaders and educating youth through cross-curricular



programs that include field trips that connect back to the classrooms.

Also, we learned that Pie Ranch offers hands-on farming apprentices and farming interns, who live on the grounds for one year. When the apprenticeships are completed, many of the participants have gone on to farm their own land. Additionally, regional partnerships offer local farmers the

opportunity to rent small, affordable plots at Pie Ranch. In turn, the vegetable and fruits raised on these small plots of land are sold.

On our visit, we took a close look at the beautiful native garden on the grounds which seeks to preserve the tribe’s traditional culture, identity and language, as well as to maintain the tribe’s overall vision to connect ancestral lands to heal and build communities.

Situated near the gardens was a circle made out of tree stumps. We were told that volunteers and guests often use the circle to embrace ceremonial ways of respecting and giving thanks for the rich gifts received from the land.

Pie Ranch lost its residence for interns to the Santa Cruz Complex wildfire three years ago, but it has been able, through perseverance and resilience to begin rebuilding and to reinvent itself as a food aggregation and distribution center.

Finally, our visit wouldn’t have been complete without visiting their luscious vegetable stand and stocking up on fresh produce vegetables and fruits and of course, their delicious pies!

## Here’s a list of all the sections for 2022-2023

**All About Food** — Contact: Carole Farina. Exploring history, uses and benefits of different foods and how to grow or prepare them. Meets at 4 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of the month. Zoom or in person.

**American Mah-Jongg** — Contact: Kathleen Morrow, A tile-based game for four that is an offshoot of the traditional Chinese game of Mah-Jongg. Meets at 10 a.m. to noon on Tuesdays at the San Carlos Adult Community Center.

**Book Bunch** — Contact: Carolyn Miller. Members meet to discuss newer fiction and non-fiction on the third Friday at 1 p.m., Location TBA

**Climate Change** — Contact: Sherry Booth and after November, Victoria Kline. Members meet on the second Monday to discuss the effects of climate change. Location TBA

**Current Issues** — Contact: Marilyn Zack. A topic of current interest will be selected monthly and discussed. Meets at 3 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of the month, in

person or Zoom.

**Film Viewing** — Contact: Susanne Burrill. The movie group meets late afternoon the third Tuesday of the month to see a current film followed by dinner in a nearby restaurant.

**French Conversation** — Contact: Laverne Rabinowitz. A friendly group who love speaking and reading French and enjoying all things French. Meets at 1:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month, in person if possible.

**Gamesters** — Contact: Barbara Barth or Nancy Oliver. This section meets to chat, nibble and play a variety of games. Meeting TBA.

**Historic Preservation** — Contact: Nancy Oliver. Information about and visits to places around the Bay Area that preserve historic items and buildings.

**Spanish Conversation** — Contact: Teresa (Teddy) Heinrich. This section meets on the second Tuesday at 2:30 p.m. in person or on Zoom. It offers

unstructured conversation in Spanish among intermediate and fluent speakers.

**Gentle Walkers** — Contact: Victoria Kline. This section walks at a comfortable pace on the padded track at Crestview Park. Meets at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesdays.

**Hilly Walkers** — Contact: Wilma Hoffman. This section offers more challenging hikes for members who are ready for it. Meets on fourth Friday of the month. Location TBA

**Walk/Talk & Gawk** — Contact: Stephanie Katz. This group meets around 9 a.m. on Thursdays. Walks are flat or hilly, last about two hours and may include lunch.

Below are past sections that members might want to reactivate. If you are interested in getting it going again please contact Lois Monroe.

Bridge, Bocce Ball, Great Decisions, Mystery Books, Out to Lunch, Out to Supper, Play Reading, Tennis, and Women in Literature.





In preparation for the new Mid-Peninsula Branch year, the Neighborhood Leads gathered in August. If you weren't able to pick up your directory at the September event at Burton Park, you should expect to receive one from your Neighborhood Lead. She will be the person corraling the members of your neighborhood for activities all year.

## Any questions about giving to AAUW? Here are the answers

By Jeanne George

AAUW members — present, past or future — and friends of Mid-Peninsula branch of AAUW can contribute at any time and any amount to the California and National organization's AAUW Fund. This fund is to be used to further the work of California and National organizations.

The Greatest Needs designation allows them to be flexible and to respond quickly to new and emerging challenges facing women and girls and to the needs of the many special programs of AAUW. All donations are tax

deductible.

If you would like to learn about one of the areas AAUW supports with your dollars, you can Zoom over to this year's AAUW Fund Event on three Saturdays and one Sunday: Saturday, Oct. 15, Oct. 22, and Nov. 12, 10 a.m.-noon; and Sunday, Oct. 23, 1-3 p.m.

Registration is required. Click [here](#) to register for one or more events.

If you have questions at this time, you can get in touch with Jeanne George, the new Mid-Pen AAUW Fund Coordinator.

## Interested in theater? Perhaps SM Branch has just the group for you

If you enjoy attending the theater then, perhaps you'd be interested in participating in the Drama Reading Group of the San Mateo Branch.

They read plays aloud during the morning on the second Wednesday of the month from October through June. The meetings are held either by Zoom or in-person.

To be a regular participant, it's necessary to have dual membership in the San Mateo Branch and Mid-Pen. It's also possible to volunteer as a substitute to try out the activity. Contact Gerhild Klein for further information.



Did you know that a **constitutional amendment** to protect **reproductive freedom** will be on the ballot?

## WHY YOU NEED TO ACT

Prop 1 will amend the state constitution to ensure the state can never deny or interfere with an individual's right to make their own reproductive choices.

Learn More And  
Take Action



**GOTV**  
Get Out The Vote

## TAKE ACTION!

Learn more about Proposition 1 by scanning the QR code.



**California Proposition 1, the Right to Reproductive Freedom Amendment, is on the Nov. 8 ballot in California as a legislatively referred constitutional amendment.**

**A “yes” vote supports amending the state constitution to prohibit the state from interfering with or denying an individual’s reproductive freedom, which is defined to include a right to an abortion and a right to contraceptives.**

**A “no” vote opposes this amendment providing a right to reproductive freedom in the state constitution.**