



Just in case you're in any doubt, Mid-Pen Branch of AAUW has a strong November message for you — Vote!

Homelessness to be topic of first in-person meeting in ages

By Beth Swanson

For the first time in more than two years, Mid-Pen Branch will gather in person for a General Meeting!

Teri Chin, Human Services Manager for the city of Redwood City, will speak on “Homelessness in San Mateo County: How Redwood City is Working to Meet This Crisis” at 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 12, in the Community Room of the Redwood Shores Library.



Teri Chin

The meeting will be co-hosted by AAUW Mid-Peninsula and San Mateo branches.

According to a countywide one-day

count in February 2022, homelessness rose by 21% in San Mateo County (from the last count undertaken in 2019). Redwood City currently has the highest percentage of homeless individuals in the county.

While the pandemic has certainly contributed to this situation, Chin said, the county continues to work on implementing a wide range of systems and solutions to provide shelter and work for those experiencing homelessness.

She will talk about this crisis and how the cities of San Mateo County, and the county itself, **See HOMELESSNESS, Page 2**



If you missed the League of Women Voters presentation on the 2022 ballot measures earlier in October, [click here](#) to watch a recording of the talk.

President's Message

Want to effect change in the world around you? Then vote

By Chris Panero
Co-president

A family member is an earth scientist at a large Midwestern public university. Her students often ask her for advice on the most effective thing they can do about climate change.

When she asks them for their thoughts, she hears things like, "Stop eating almonds," and "Ride your bike."

Her answer every time is: VOTE.

The VOTE message works for all sorts of problems including, this year especially, issues of reproductive freedom.

I know that YOU vote, but please talk it up to your contacts both in and out of state.

To see background and platforms for state, county, and local issues, poke around the [website](#) for the Palo Alto Daily Post (no paywall).

We're fortunate to live in California, where it's pretty easy to vote and to get good information. But the last step is still up to you.

Short Takes

SC nixes plastic takeout items

San Carlos has adopted a model ordinance from San Mateo County. The ordinance requires food facilities to use compostable alternatives to plastic utensils and containers. I'm proud of San Carlos and San Mateo County for taking this on. [Here](#) are the details.

Treks times three

In addition to Tech Trek, the long running in-person and virtual science camp for middle school girls, we now have Gov Trek and Speech Trek, both AAUW-California projects. Gov Trek is a new four-session initiative to encourage middle- and high-school girls to consider careers in public service. Speech Trek is a branch-level project. The hosting branch gives a speech competition on a topic selected by AAUW-CA. Our neighbor branch, Half Moon Bay, has a robust program.

As with all branch and AAUW-National projects, they need a person to head it up and people to help. If you'd like to learn more, contact Carole or me, and we'll point you to more information.

Carole and I hope to see you all soon!



Chris Panero

Homelessness Continued from Page One

are working to create sustainable solutions to reach "functional zero" homelessness.

Chin has served as the Redwood City Human Services Manager for more than 20 years. She oversees the Fair Oaks Community Center, a multi-service center which brings together public and non-profit agencies to provide a variety of services ranging from food programs, legal services, and homelessness assistance to a fully operating senior center and childcare program.

Additionally, she serves as the city's liaison with public and private non-profit human services partners.

In 2019, she stepped into the additional role of Homeless Services Manager on special assignment with the city manager's

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, Nov. 1, at 10 a.m. via Zoom.

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

Want your own soft copy of Mid-Pen directory?

Misplaced your Mid-Pen Branch directory?

Want to have it easy to access on your computer?

A PDF file can be downloaded from the Member side of our [website](#).

office. In this capacity, she leads the city's inter-departmental and inter-agency homelessness initiatives including the Downtown Streets Team Pilot, the Temporary RV Safe Parking Program, and the Redwood City Coordinated Homeless Outreach Strategy.

Chin has devoted her adult life to community service internationally and locally in the areas of peace, social justice and service to low-income, underrepresented communities. Bilingual in English and Spanish, she said she uses her skills and multicultural experience to unite others around common issues and to develop effective partnerships in addressing critical community concerns. She is a graduate of UC Berkeley.

The public is invited to this meeting. Light refreshments will be served after the presentation.

Book banning: It could happen here if we're not alert to the possibility

By Susan Hall

In the middle of one of modern Berlin's huge plazas is a memorial to the May 10, 1933, book burning by Hitler's Nazis. A flat plexiglass or similar clear material rests in a huge stone plaza.

Standing at the edge, the visitor can see into a large underground room—a library—with floor to ceiling shelves and not a book or document in sight. Yes, people who burned books on that date went on — as the famous saying goes — to burn people.

Today across America, libraries and schools are under assault by those who wish to ban books for a variety of reasons, some of them spurious. If someone looks hard enough and has deeply held prejudices, he or she can find a word or paragraph or story that is deemed offensive. "Off with the book!" we hear.

School boards, city library staff and state education departments are faced with groups demanding that this or that book be removed, some lists exceeding 200 titles, many of which are timeless classics taught for years and others new books that don't follow one group or another's religious, political, ethnic or social tenets.

A tactic now being used is for groups to get their own followers elected to school boards or appointed to library boards, a way of removing reading materials out of others' hands. Printed materials are deemed dangerous if they present ideas contrary to a reader's strongly held personal views.

The danger to our citizenry is staggering, as the Berlin monument shows. Ban books and wipe out more than just one author's views: book banning wipes out history, that from which we are to learn in order not to repeat it.

Our Peninsula is not immune. During my years as English teacher and English coordinator for the San Mateo Union High School District, I encountered rare occasional objections to a particular book.

Please welcome new member Katherine Linnemann to Mid-Pen

By Barbara Finnegan

Welcome our new member, Katherine Linnemann, who is in Neighborhood 5. She originally joined the San Jose AAUW branch in 2016, as friends encouraged her after she retired from the County of Santa Clara.

Katherine was born and raised in the Seattle area and has two sisters. Upon graduating from University of Washington in Seattle with a BA in sociology, she attended Southern Methodist in Dallas for two years.

Upon graduation from UW, she relocated to San Francisco. She started in retail management and was the first woman assistant buyer of mattresses and hide-a-beds at the Emporium in San Francisco. She has a long history of promoting women's equity and was part of a lawsuit demanding equal pay for women at the Emporium.

Katherine has had a 40-year career in Workers' Compensation claims management and spent the last 20 years as a Worker's Compensation Program Manager for Santa Clara County.

She has one daughter who attended Cal Poly for Finance and who now lives and works in San Francisco, not far from where Katherine first lived and worked.

Katherine moved to San Carlos not long ago and is eager to meet new people and try new activities. She is an avid reader and has volunteered to help the San Carlos Library with book sales.

She has season tickets for TheatreWorks in Palo Alto. She also enjoys classical mu-



Katherine Linnemann

sic and has season tickets to the San Jose Symphony.

She is interested in joining our Book Bunch and the Walk, Talk, & Gawk group. Please welcome Katherine to our branch.

Katherine's contact information will be sent in the next Monday Memo.

The district had a process in place, and in the one major incident that went to the board on the objections of a parent, the process was followed. The book — one of the great classics of American literature — remained in the curriculum.

Now book banners across the country want to remove books that have been mainstays of school curricula, removed not just from the classrooms, but removed from libraries and bookstores.

Once this process begins, the end result is tragically visible in places like Berlin

and now in countries ruled by authoritarian leaders who not only ban books but ban education for half the citizens.

Our communities need volunteers, Friends of the Library groups, and a citizenry that is willing to stand up to book banners.

Some communities now have volunteers who protest book banning by gathering in a park or other local spot to sit and silently read one of the books on the "banned list."

In the future will they be hauled away by the "book police"?

It can happen here!

Doris Brown began as missionary child in China

Linda Howard had the pleasure of interviewing Doris Todd Brown this summer, for an incredible glimpse into Doris's life, her time with AAUW and her secret to living a long happy life.

By Linda Howard

Imagine a childhood where one could see strings of Bactrian camels walking down the street, rickshaws instead of cars, and exotic locales advertising marble boats. At the same time the child observed abject poverty and mothers struggling to feed their children.

These were some of the childhood memories of Doris Todd Brown, who has been an AAUW member since 1957.

Doris's parents met in China in the 1920s. Her father worked as a civil engineer in the area of water management, advising the government on flood control to prevent further famine. Her mother was a medical doctor and missionary.

While her father traveled a great deal, consulting on water projects on the Yellow River, Doris stayed home with her mother, often observing her as she practiced medicine. When her father returned home after business trips, the family hiked and visited exotic sites in the Far East.

In her early years, Doris attended Peking American School. She became fluent in Mandarin and moved easily between English and Mandarin. But in 1938, the world was changing, and the family knew it was time to leave China for their safety.

Doris's parents relocated to Palo Alto where she graduated from Palo Alto High School.

The importance of education was in Doris's family DNA. Like her mother, aunt and sister, Doris studied medicine. She earned her undergraduate degree from Smith College.

She returned to California to apply to medical school, but soon learned that women seeking a medical degree in the 1950s met with challenges and discrimination.

In her first interview, she was asked how she could possibly go into the profession of medicine AND have children. Needless to say, that school didn't work out.

She applied to Stanford University and was accepted. She earned her medical



Doris Todd Brown

degree, married AND raised six children!

After medical school, Doris worked part-time as she raised children. One of her jobs was performing routine physicals at Chope Community Hospital in San Mateo. Eventually, she became a physician at Kaiser Medical Center in Santa Clara where she worked for 20 years, mostly in the ambulatory section of the emergency room.

Doris joined AAUW in 1957. She was a young mother living in a small central valley community. Another doctor's wife invited her to join. Doris thought this would be a

good way to meet people and make friends.

When she and her family moved to San Carlos, she joined a babysitting co-op through AAUW. She found the friendship and support she received to be invaluable. At that time, AAUW was mostly younger women who had completed college but became homemakers after marriage.

In retirement, Doris continued to serve the public by volunteering in the National Alliance for Mental Illness. She also served on the San Mateo County Mental Health Board advocating for older adults.

She's been a member of the Congregational Church of Belmont for nearly 50 years and has sung alto in the CCB choir almost as long.

These days Doris turns her energies toward gardening and, before Covid, she volunteered at the San Mateo Garden Center. Anyone who visits her house will be amazed at the variety of succulents she nurtures. She happily shares starter sprouts and advice on care.

When concluding an interview with someone with lots of life experience, the final question is usually along the line of, "What is your advice on how to live a productive, happy life?" In Doris's case the answer is obvious — be curious, care about others, acquire an education and set a good example.

Mid-Pen invited to join San Mateo Branch to hear Jackie Speier

The San Mateo Branch of AAUW has invited Mid-Pen Branch to join their meeting on Election Day, Nov. 8, at 10:30 a.m., at the San Mateo Senior Center, 2645 Alameda de las Pulgas, San Mateo, where Rep. Jackie Speier (D-San Mateo) will be the speaker. Seats are limited so if you are interested respond to Marilyn Zack.



Climate Change launches monthly column

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world: indeed, it is the only thing that ever has. — Margaret Mead

New • New • New

The Climate Change Section is launching a monthly column reflecting its commitment to combat climate change.

Will you join us?

Individually you can have an impact. Together we can make an even greater one.

As AAUW members let us commit to:

Making A Difference.

— M. A. D. —

This monthly column will help us explore things we can do. Some will be things you are already doing. Some new, some maybe you let slide.

Plastics

Reduce/eliminate

Plastic is a petroleum product. It cannot be recycled. It does not break down in the landfill or water. Think strangled birds, oil spills, dying coral reefs.

Plastic bottles — switch to stainless steel bottles

Plastic wrap — avoid. In heating foods the chemicals in plastic wrap interact with heat and moisture.

Plastic utensils and straws — get stainless steel utensils and straws.

Styrofoam cups and containers. Styrofoam takes up to

1,000 years to fully break down. Avoid in any form. Bring your own cup or mug.

Plastic bags—bring your own cloth bags when you shop. Decline plastic bags. Explain your reason.

Hurray!

The City of San Carlos has adopted the Disposable Foodware Ordinance, requiring restaurants and other food facilities to eliminate disposable plastic foodware and replace it with compostable alternatives.

The Rs help save the planet.

- Reduce • Recycle • Reuse • Renew
- Repurpose • Restore • Repair

Please share your ideas.

This is everyone's column.

Contact us with your input, suggestions, and ideas.

Elvira Monroe and Theoni Pappas



Our first contributor:

Ann Fleishman

“Eliminate food waste by shopping for what you need, eating leftovers, composting scraps, donating excess food to food banks.”

Thank you, Ann!

Walk with some speed and save your health

Can you pick up your pace?

Just a brisk pace of 30 minutes a day, even in short bursts throughout the day, can lead to 35% lower risk of dying, a 25% lower chance of developing heart disease or cancer and a 30% lower risk of dementia compared to those with an average lower pace.

A new study published in JAMA International Medicine and JAMA Neurology looked at activity trackers for seven days and nights of 78,500 people with an average age of 61.

Besides pace, every 2,000 additional steps up to 10,000 lowered premature death, heart disease and cancer. Only 3,800 steps lessened risk of dementia by 25%. It's time to get out those tennies and get moving.

A look at the widening gender divide

By Carole Farina

By high school, two-thirds of the top 10 percent in GPA are girls.

At the 16 best rated American law schools in 2020, all editors-in-chief were women.

In the workplace, women's lifetime earnings have risen 33% since 1983. Most family's income gain is due to women.

However, men, especially those aged 25-34, have higher unemployment and earn on average 10% less than the generation before.

Middle-aged women survived COVID almost twice as often as same-aged men.

David Brooks, a conservative political and cultural commentator who writes for The New York Times, reveals these statistics

in his NYT article, *The Crisis of Men and Boys*. The article is largely based on Richard V. Reeve's new book, *Of Boys and Men*, a comprehensive look at the male crisis, its cause and possible solutions.

Brooks goes on to say, “Girls in poor neighborhoods and unstable families are better able to climb their way out.”

Women succeed more often with programs designed to promote social mobility than men do, he notes.

Women's future looks bright while an increasing number of men report being lonely, demoralized and in search of a modern masculinity role.

How is that going to affect our future?

Interest Sections

Hilly Hikers to explore SF's mosaic staircases

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

Climate Change monthly meeting will take place on Monday, Nov. 14, at a local restaurant for lunch at noon. The topic to be presented will be educational programs and resources available for classrooms. Location and speaker TBA soon. If you would like to join this group, please contact Sherry Booth.

Book Bunch

Book Bunch will meet at Carolyn Miller's home at 10 a.m. Nov. 18 to discuss the book, *Big Alma* by Bernice Scharlach. This is an interesting book as its background is San Francisco. Please let Carolyn know if you will be attending.

Walk/Talk & Gaw

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 mosaic-tiled stairway walk in San Francisco will be Friday, Oct. 28. Details about time and carpooling into San Francisco will become available when we know how many of us are going. Please respond to Marilyn Zack..

All About Food

The second Thursday at 3:30 p.m. is our new time except for November when we will try Indian foods at a local restaurant. To join us on Wednesday, Nov. 9, for lunch or other meetings, contact Carole Farina.



Walk/Talk & Gaw hikers stopped recently during their walk around Redwood Shores to pose with a seasonal guest!

Current Issues

This discussion group will meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month. The October meeting will be Oct. 25 at 3 p.m. at the home of Marilyn Zack. Let her know if you are planning to attend.

French Conversation

The French Conversation group will be meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 8, at 1:30 p.m. We regularly meet on the second Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. 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.

Historic Preservation

Interesting programs at the San Mateo County Historical Museum's Courthouse Docket presentations, held in Courtroom A. Contact Nancy Oliver for more information or to carpool.

1. Saturday, Oct. 29, at 1 p.m. — "Striking for Change: The College Readiness Program and Its Legacies." This is in conjunction with the current exhibit of the history of the College of San Mateo.

2. Saturday, Nov. 5, at 1 p.m. — "Historic True Crimes of San Mateo County in Pulse" with Doug MacGowan.

Public Policy priorities laid out by State chair

AAUW California Public Policy Director Kathi Harper laid out the State's objectives for the year at a meeting for branch Public Policy chairs. The next virtual meeting is Nov. 2 at 2 p.m. for those interested in attending.

She started with a tour of the CA Public Policy [webpage](#) and highlighted the PP Chair Resource Manual from National and a list of past PP webinars.

Kathi shared the PP Committee Success Plan for 2022-23:

- Developing a new bill — The Committee plans to write a new bill around better Title IX enforcement.

- The Voter Education campaign — She emphasized that the committee will be depending on chairs to make sure our social media messages get posted to their branch FaceBook pages and to encourage their members to post on their individual pages. For good election information check out [Secretary of State website](#).

- Public Policy Priorities for 2023-25 — It is time to update them again, and the State Committee is depending on branch chairs to either respond to the survey, which will be coming out in November, or to ensure that at least one member of their branch does so. The goal is 100% participation from

branches.

- Legislative Agenda for 2023-24
- Lobby Days 2023 — The event will take place over two days next year, March 21 and 22.

Activities by branches centered on voting: sharing our information, proposition education, candidate forums, voter registration drives, partnerships with other branches and League of Women Voters, supporting election booths, webinars on various topics.

If you would like to know more about promoting AAUW's public policy goals on a local level, contact Carole Farina.

What's on tap for AAUW National leadership?

AAUW leaders outlined where we are as an organization and what is in the Sept. 29 webinar, "AAUW Fall Member Gathering." Check the AAUW webinar listings to watch a recording.

The 2021-22 year closed under budget due to a focus on long-term sustainability announced Chief Executive Officer Gloria Blackwell. She continued by emphasizing how present and respected AAUW is with U.S. and international leaders.

During AAUW's reorganization, new women joined the leadership team. Tiffany Sanchez heads Programs and Fellowships.

She reported that last year 320 women received \$6 million dollars in grants and fellowships! Also STEMed for K-12 served 700 girls and caregivers. A grant for the program in 2023 is being pursued. NCCWSL, the college leaders conference, is to be in person at the University of Maryland next May, and Coca-Cola continues to fund work

and educational programs like Start Smart.

Policy Officer Robin Lucas promoted [2-Minute Activist](#) and the [Election Guide](#) with AAUW's top seven issues.

Katrina Sun Breese, who handles philanthropic and dues revenue-generating programs, extended the renewal date of Nov. 30 to aid collection. She said a streamlined version of 5 Star, FY 23, will be implemented, and the Art '23 Contest is coming in January.

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 3:30 p.m. on the second 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: Wilma Hoffmann. 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 at 3:30 p.m. 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 Hikers — 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.

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.