



Early in March four members of the Hilly Hikers group walked the Golden Gate Heights neighborhood of San Francisco, enjoying 11 tiled staircases. The prettiest are the Moraga Tiled Stairway and the Hidden Garden Steps pictured here. About 4 miles and 31 floors of elevation change later, the group deservedly lunched at a Vietnamese restaurant on Noriega Avenue.

## AAUW fellow to speak at Mid-Pen Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 13

By Micki Carter

Ahu Sumbas, an AAUW International Fellow at UCLA, will be the AAUW Fund speaker at the Mid-Peninsula Branch Annual Meeting at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 13, via Zoom.

Sumbas, who earned a doctorate in political science from Hacettepe University in Turkey in 2012, is a Visiting Associate Researcher who is studying the American health-care system.



**Ahu Sumbas**

A native of Turkey, she is an associate professor of political science and gender studies at Hacettepe University in Turkey.

She also serves as an advisory board member of UN Women Türkiye as a specialist on women's political participation. Most recently, she has been researching the impact of gender disparities in health.

She has taught at several universities in Eastern Europe and the U.S. Her special interests are gender politics and equality, health care and health law, local politics, and comparative politics.

The Annual Meeting will include the election of officers and announcement of the Mid-Pen's Named Gift Honorees of the year.

The Zoom link for the meeting is [here](#).

## President's Message

# AAUW is evolving, reshaping to meet the challenges of today

By Chris Panero

It's spring! Well, "spring-ish," in amongst the scattered showers. I hope you're enjoying the flowers, the mostly sunny days, and the green vistas. We do live in a beautiful place.

A very important vote is coming up that addresses the future of AAUW and the inclusion and diversity that we value. AAUW has a long history of updating membership requirements to suit current conditions and to encourage new members. Now we've reached another milestone, where many people can see the need and necessity to advocate for women in all our endeavors.

Marilyn Richardson, Pacifica branch president, summarizes the history nicely:

"Our membership requirement has changed many times in our history in search of the realization of our mission to support equity for everyone!

"At first, only women receiving a few select Masters or higher degrees from select American universities were eligible. We raised money for Marie Curie's lab but could not have had her as a member because her international university was not on our approved list. Eleanor Roosevelt had to be made an honorary member because she never attended college.

"We helped fund 150 women to flee Europe during World War II, working with Albert Einstein, who could not be a member! Before 1949, branches could exclude people of color and Jews. That year, we changed our bylaws to outlaw racial and religious discrimination.

"In 1961 those with a bachelor's degree were now allowed to join, and in 1963 historically black colleges were added to our approved list of colleges allowing membership (HBCU's). In 1987 men were allowed to join.

"In 2005, we dropped the requirement for a four-year degree, allowing those with

a two-year associate degree to join. We worked with Lily Ledbetter on the Fair Pay Act, signed into law in 2009, but she couldn't join because she had no degree!

"In short, we have amended our membership steadily over the decades to open up to more and more people. In 2021, 63% of our members voted yes to drop the degree requirement but 67.7% were needed. Maybe this year will be the change necessary to finally promote Equity for all!"



Chris Panero

## Important dates:

**April 3** — Voting opens.

Online voting is best. If you log in and your password is not recognized, reset your password and proceed from there.

**May 15** — Voting ends at midnight ET, and results will be announced online.

## Five things I did in March

1. Met with multiple members about finding a president for next year. What's the best way to communicate the idea that the president's job is mostly the administration of tasks that anyone who's had a job, managed a family, or been to college can handle? It's true!
2. Collected agenda items and created the agenda for this month's board meeting.
3. Approved several Monday Memos and proofread The Triad.
4. With Bernie Mellott, worked out some

## Who? What? When?

**President:** Chris Panero

**Membership:** Stephanie Katz 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 Stephanie Katz or Barb Finnegan

**Board Meeting:** Tuesday, April 2, at 10 a.m.; Redwood City Community Activities Building, 1400 Roosevelt, Redwood City.

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

details of our April 25 Park Day get together.

5. Signed up to volunteer at Tech Trek Hopper.

## Three other things

Three things from the March 5 board meeting:

1. Reviewed upcoming general meetings and related hospitality and set up needs. The April 13 meeting (with the AAUW Fund speaker) will be virtual.
2. Received a report from Jane Fernald about Tech Trek, student interviews, and branch volunteer needs.
3. Bernie Mellott reported that the Nominating Committee is making progress on finding candidates for next year's officers and is now confirming who will accept the non-elected branch positions.

# Brown bag birthday lunch

Please join us to celebrate Spring and the 70th Anniversary of Mid-Peninsula Branch!

Bring your lunch to Burton Park in San Carlos on Thursday, April 25, 12:30-2 p.m. Birthday cake, decaf coffee, and excellent company will be provided. Bench space is limited so you might want to bring a folding chair.

## Climate Change

# Tour of Recology transfer station opens eyes

By Carole Farina

A tour of the Rethink Waste Transfer Station in San Carlos amazed the Climate Change section with the amount of waste we do create.

Victoria Kline arranged the tour for Theo Pappas, Wilma Hoffmann, Barb Finnigan, Carole Farina and Phyllis Hesik.

They learned:

### Recycle:

- Clear, not black, plastic #1-7, only 2 inches or larger, keep caps on bottles.
- Take shredded paper to your city event or location.
- Tape end of batteries and place on TOP of black bin in clear plastic bag. (One lithium-ion battery spark caused \$8 million damage and four months closure.)

### Compost:

- Keep discards pure as it is used to grow our food

### Landfill

- Reduce, reuse. About 740,000 pounds of waste handled per day.
- Waste creates harmful methane gas right away.
- Only 18-20 year capacity at Half Moon Bay site before we pay to haul to Southern California.
- A pilot project for the future is to turn your green barrel contents into fuel and high-grade compost.



Five of the women from the Climate Change section got down to basics at the Rethink Waste transfer station in San Carlos. Pictured here are Theo Pappas, Wilma Hoffmann, Barb Finnegan, Carole Farina and Phyllis Hesik.

## Dangers of Batteries

- In September 2016, a lithium-ion battery sparked a 4-alarm fire inside our MRF machines
- The fire cost **\$8.5 million in damages** and shut down the facility for **three months**
- For that reason, batteries should **NEVER** be placed in any of the three carts/bins. Instead, dispose of them safely and properly:
  - **Apartments/condos-** drop-off used batteries in the **orange bucket** usually located in a common area of your complex
  - **Single-family home-** put batteries in a **clear zip-lock bag** and **place it on top of your black landfill cart/bin** on collection day. Recology will know what to do with them!



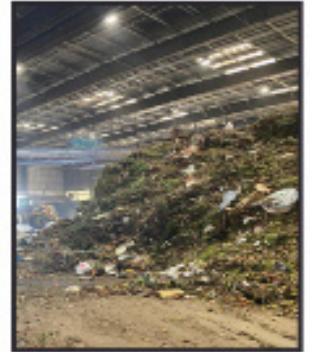
Dispose batteries in a clear sealed bag

## Climate Change

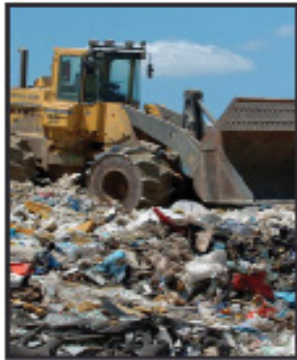
# Rethink Waste Info Snapshot from Recology

### Compost

- **Accepted Items:** Food Scraps, Food & Beverage-Soiled Paper, Yard Trimmings
- **740,000 lbs** of organic material received per day at the **Transfer Station**
- Material sent to **Blossom Valley Organics North** near Tracy and **Newby Island** near San Jose
- Takes about **60-120 days** to process material into finished compost, which is a great soil amendment and provides vitamins for plants!
- **No-cost compost pick-up** offered at the Shoreway Environmental Center for service-area residents!



Compost pile inside the Transfer Station



Ox Mountain Landfill

### Landfill

- **Accepted Items:** Small Plastics, Soft Plastics, Black Plastics, Mixed Material Items, Pet Waste/Diapers, Broken Ceramics, Mirrors, Toys
- **1.5 million lbs** of landfill waste received per day at the **Transfer Station**
  - Landfill material is then sent to **Ox Mountain Sanitary Landfill** in **Half Moon Bay**
- No one sorts through the landfill materials. Your hand is the last to touch it before it's sent to the landfill to be buried forever!
- Ox Mountain Landfill is projected to close in **2039**
- Every day, **about 50 truckloads** full of landfill material are sent to the landfill

### What are the 4Rs?

The 4 R's should be practiced from the top down.

1. **Reduce**- consume less to generate less waste
2. **Reuse**- use an item again or repurpose items to create something new
3. **Recycle**- place accepted items into the recycling cart/bin
4. **Rot**- place accepted compost item into the green cart/ bin

Sending items to the landfill is the last option.



Hierarchical model of the 4 Rs in the waste stream

You can see the complete version of this recycling snapshot at <https://bit.ly/3A2ew2V>.



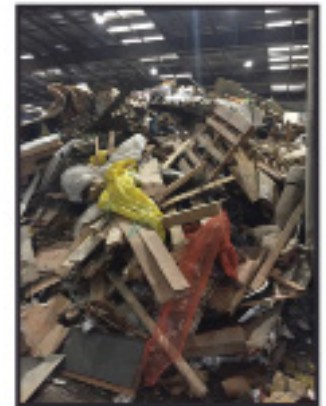
Public Recycling Center drive-through

## Public Recycling Center (PRC)

- **Accepted Items:** E-waste, cell phones, batteries, oversized cardboard, fluorescent lights, cooking oil, scrap metal, medical sharps, paint
- Located at **333 Shoreway Road** in **San Carlos**
- Open Monday - Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- **No-cost** for residential use

## Construction & Demolition Debris

- **380,000 lbs** of construction and demolition (C&D) waste received per day at the **Transfer Station**
  - Self-hauled construction, demolition, and remodel material
- C&D material is sent to **Zanker Recycling** in San Jose
- Between **70 – 80%** of the C&D material sent to Zanker is recycled back into usable building materials



C&D pile inside the Transfer Station



Examples of tricky items

## Common Mistakes & Tricky Items

- **Pizza boxes** are food-soiled paper products and belong in the green **compost cart/bin**
- **Animal waste** and **sanitation wipes** are not accepted at industrial composting facilities and belong in the black **landfill cart/bin**
- Only **BPI certified bags** are accepted in the green **compost cart/bin**
  - **Hard BPI plastics** belong in the black **landfill cart/ bin**
- **Coffee cups lined with plastic** belong in the black **landfill cart/ bin**

**Earth day will be celebrated on April 23!**

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## Climate Change

# Discovering Climate Change everywhere

M.A.D.

## Make a difference

“This is not a partisan debate; it is a human one. Clean air and water, and a livable climate are inalienable human rights. And solving this crisis is not a question of politics. It is our moral obligation.”

— Leonardo DiCaprio

## Book-of-the-Month

*How to Prepare For Climate Change. A Practical Guide To Surviving The Chaos* by David Pogue.

We are currently living through the beginnings of climate chaos. Science and technology correspondent David Pogue presents practical and comprehensive information for surviving the greatest disaster of our time.

## TheatreWorks takes on environmental issues

*Queen* by Madhuri Shekar, at TheatreWorks through March 31 at Lucie Stern Theater, Palo Alto. It’s a play that confronts today’s global crisis of the collapse of bee colonies. Scientists seek reasons and solutions and have their ethics and values challenged. Well-written, well-acted, entertaining and informative. Don’t miss it.

## Climate Change in films

*Don’t Look Up* with Leonardo DiCaprio, Meryl Streep, Jennifer Lawrence, Cate Blanchett.

Documentary film, *Eating Our Way To Extinction*, narrated by Kate Winslet. Watch free [here](#).

Documentary film: *David Attenborough: A Life On Our Planet*. Follow this [link](#)

## **ACTION ALERT**

### HELP MONARCHS SURVIVE

Plant milkweed seeds and plants.  
Plant pollinator plants for nectaring  
and to attract butterflies.

Recognize stores and places to eat who are making changes: straws, wooden spoons, cups at Starbucks, Baskin Robbins, Gelateria



Pastoruri Glacier

(Photo courtesy of [Edubucher, CC BY-SA 3.0](#))

to watch the trailer and film free.

*15 Biggest Environmental Problems of 2024* by Deena Robinson. Look at this [website](#) and discover why these are the 15 environmental problems of 2024 that we must work on. (1) Global warming from fossil fuels. (2) Poor governance. (3) Food Waste (4) Biodiversity loss. (5) Plastic pollution. (6) Deforestation. (7) Air pollution. (8) Melting ice caps and sea level rise. (9) Ocean acidification. (10) Agriculture. (11) Food and water insecurity. (12) Fast fashion and textile waste. (13) Overfishing. (14) Cobalt mining. (15) Soil degradation.

## Climate Change grabs newspaper headlines

143 mph winds in Sierra Nevada — *San Francisco Chronicle*

Yosemite closed due to blizzard conditions. — *San Jose Mercury News*

Scientists are freaking out about ocean temperatures — *New York Times*

California’s war on plastic bags use seems to have backfired. Lawmakers are trying again. — *Los Angeles Times*

Powerful California blizzards shut down roads to Tahoe. 190 mph winds reported.

— *Los Angeles Times*

Massive Texas wildfire’s impact could last for years. — *Washington Post*

## Some natural wonders at risk of disappearing

Half of the world’s glaciers will have melted by the end of the century.

Mer de glace, the largest glacier in the French Alps is melting rapidly. It is located on the northern slopes of Mont Blanc. Featured there is the Glaciorium, an exhibit about climate change.

Pastoruri Glacier is located in the Andes mountain range in Peru. “The shrinking is irreversible. It is just loss, loss, loss now.” Selwyn Valverde, Huascayan National Park.

A trek to the glaciers has been renamed La Ruta del Cambio Climático (Route of Climate Change) in recognition of the glacier melt there.

Time running out. The impact on our ecosystem is grim!

Please continue to share your ideas. This is everyone’s column.

E-mail either of us with your input and suggestions.

Elvira Monroe and Theoni Pappas

## Interest Sections

# French a little rusty? Some conversation will help

### Movie Group

The Movie Group meets on the third Tuesday of each month in the mid- or late afternoon, depending upon the selected film. This is the bargain cost day in local theaters. We attend a movie, usually in Redwood City, occasionally in San Mateo, and then go to a nearby restaurant for dinner. Call or email Susanne Burrill.

### French Conversation

This month we'll finish our story about *L'Homme qui plantait des arbres* and start talking about how we want to move forward. The meeting will be hosted by Mirna Hirschl on Tuesday, April 9, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Mark your calendars and come for our discussions!

### Team Mah-Jongg

A lively group of members plays and continues to learn American Mah-Jongg. We meet Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to noon at the San Carlos Adult Community Center at 601 Chestnut, San Carlos. Usually, four to six players are able to attend, and we look forward to more joining the group. Periodically, classes are offered for those who are new to the game. For further information, contact Kathy Morrow.

### Climate Change

The Climate Change section meets once a month on the fourth Monday from 3:30 -5 p.m. Contact Victoria Kline for meeting details and to RSVP.

### Book Bunch

The Book Bunch meets on the third Friday of each month at 10 a.m. The next two books to be discussed are *The House of Lincoln* by Nancy Horan (hosted by Wilma Hoffman on Friday, April 19) and *True Notebooks: A Writer's Year at Juvenile Hall* by Mark Salzman (hosted by Carolyn Miller on Friday, May 17). If you have questions, please contact Carol Orton.

### Hilly Hikers

If you are interested in hilly hikes, make sure Wilma Hoffmann has your contact info. Days and dates will vary depending on weather and the travel plans of members.



They look a bit chilly and maybe a little damp but the Walk/Talk & Gawk hikers thoroughly enjoyed an outing to Coyote Point on the shore of the bay.

### 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 3:30 p.m. on the second Thursday. Contact Carole Farina.

### 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.



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# About AAUW's Greatest Needs

*We are tenacious and trailblazing - advocating for women and girls since 1881 and into the future!*



## The Impact of Your Support

AAUW benefits from diversified revenue sources which include contributions, a generously supported endowment, and dues revenue. However - **dues revenue does not cover the full cost of supporting our membership** - over 10,000 of our members (and growing) are Honorary Lifetime members (non-dues paying). Our endowed Fellowships and Grants funding will sustain these restricted programs in perpetuity - however **only 5% of our Net Assets are unrestricted.**

**Supporting the sustainability and effective operations of the National organization directly benefits our Members, Fellowships and Grants Alumnae, Advocates and the communities we serve.**

## Our Focus



### Advocacy

Our members, supporters and staff work on local, state and federal levels to support laws and policies that enable women's success.



### Education

We champion equal opportunities in education. Though more than 60% of college graduates are women, they face barriers and biases throughout their schooling.



### Economic Security

We've been working to narrow the gender pay gap, which greets women as soon as they enter the workforce and widens throughout their working lives.

## How are donations to Greatest Needs Used?

### Research & Policy

Updates to and dissemination of our widely-cited signature research reports: and advocating for AAUW's values - our Research and Policy budgets are supported almost entirely by Greatest Needs

### Programs

Staff time and other direct expenses for NCCWSL, Salary Negotiation, Financial Literacy and Leadership Programs

### Membership

Supporting our members with resources and opportunities to engage. Dues do not cover the full cost of our membership support

### Communications

Keeping AAUW at the forefront of a National dialogue about Women's Equity, growing our media exposure and maintaining our prominent seat at the table



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[www.aauw.org/give](http://www.aauw.org/give)



## Public Policy

# How one branch launched a school board project

By Laurinda Ochoa,  
Member AAUW California Public Policy School Board Project Committee

Last year the AAUW Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek branch said “Yes” to the AAUW California School Board Project (SBP) call to action.

In August our branch members started to attend monthly local school board meetings and witnessed attacks by local religious and political extremists on books, curriculum, teachers, librarians and district staff.

Based on social media statements by people who want to “return schools to local control of concerned parents,” we believe our school district and adjacent districts are being targeted by groups intent on changing public education in California.

As AAUW members we support our state and national public policy priorities of providing honest, equitable, and inclusive, quality public education for all students.

To implement the SBP and work toward these public policy goals, our branch has taken a three-step approach:

**Educate** our members and the public about the issues facing public education by hosting Issue Programs and, later, Candidate Forums;

**Advocate** for our public education priorities by speaking up at local Board of Education meetings to support board decisions that are consistent with AAUW policies and values;

**Collaborate** by forming coalitions with local groups to educate the public about the importance of supporting public education and those candidates that believe in equitable quality education for all.



## Education

We encourage all branches to host an SBP program by inviting local experts to speak about what is happening in your

## Installation lunch set for May 18 at King Chuan in SC

The luncheon to install Mid-Peninsula Branch officers, *Our Gems Really Sparkle!*, is scheduled for Saturday, May 18, at noon, at King Chuan Restaurant, 1188 San Carlos Ave., (corner of Laurel Street), San Carlos.

Our Named Gift Honoree will also be announced then.

The luncheon menu will include beef with asparagus and black bean sauce, chicken with broccoli, steamed fillet of sole with ginger and scallions; fresh vegetables with tofu, vegetable fried rice and foods for vegan, vegetarian and gluten-free diets. There’s no need to choose a specific item, as food is served family style.

Reservations are due by May 8. Send your check for \$30, made payable to AAUW-Mid-Peninsula Branch, to Cathy Chowenhill.

districts. Often, accurate information is not available from local media and we need to hear from people actually engaged in public education to understand the local issues. PTA, Board of Education members, district superintendents, librarians, teachers and informed parents can provide valuable insights.

## Advocacy

We hope all branches attend Board of Education meetings and have one speaker advocating AAUW values. Board members and school staff have voiced appreciation to AAUW members for speaking up in support of public education.

Often AAUW is one of the few voices of reason and civility at these meetings. Our voices can change the tone of the public discussion.

## Collaboration

We’ve learned our Education and Advocacy efforts naturally lead to other people and groups being interested in working together with AAUW to protect public education. We’re now working with others in a two-county area to “Lift Up Public Education” by educating the public, advocating for public education, and demonstrating community support for our local school districts.

For more information on how we organized our coalition and distributed the workload, visit our website [here](#).



**Margot Diltz, Kathy Rafael and Nancy Oliver went to visit long-time branch member Eloise Mayo, who is now in a care home in Berkeley. Eloise remembered the Jane Austen Book Club and the book-wrapping, both of which she started. And everyone enjoyed reminiscing about watching basketball together. If you remember Eloise, write to her (see address in our directory); she’d love to hear from you!**

# Supporting community college women

By Maureen Buchner

Our March 9 general meeting was a stirring presentation about the Women's Leadership and Mentoring Academy (WMLA) at Skyline College. Professor Danielle Powell related the many ways that this group is helping the members to come together and bond, connect with professional women, find success in college, prepare for interviews and jobs, apply for scholarships, and so much more.

This group has formed a partnership with San Mateo branch, and fits our mission as an organization to a T. We are constantly aware of promoting diversity, equity and inclusion in our organization. At the WMLA, all are welcome. A leadership development goal fits right in with our AAUW-National NCCWSL program (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders).

Unfortunately, we are very far from Washington and going there is quite expensive. The San Mateo branch board voted to fund the flights and the conference fees many years ago because it was obvious that the cost was prohibitive for San Mateo Community College students.

In our dealings with the Interbranch Council and our state information, it does not appear that any other branch in the area has offered this kind of support.

Would the Mid-Peninsula branch be willing to support a NCCWSL scholarship by designating contributions or scholarship funds for the meeting this May?

## Partial testimonials

**Atara Ruderman:** "Leaving NCCWSL, I carried valuable tools gathered from experts in fields such as investing, gender inequality, consulting, leadership development, and international relations, among many others. I still keep in contact with many of the young women I met during my time at NCCWSL."

"Not only was this experience fun to explore with my WMLA sisters, but it was a taste of the professional world that I had not yet experienced. Truthfully, I had never even dressed in business professional attire that many days in a row or attended so many meetings."

"As a current Interdisciplinary Studies major at UC Berkeley, I have found that many of the competitive clubs such as TAMID were very impressed by the skills and abilities I learned during NCCWSL as a leader in training."

**Erica Cornejo:** "As a first-generation college student traveling from a community college, I have never witnessed a University of that magnitude. Arriving at the University of Maryland was mind blowing, to see historical buildings and the abundance of nature surrounding the well-kept campus."

"As a student mother, I was exposed to what it may be like for my son to follow a traditional path of college. A favorite workshop: "Maintaining Creativity While Battling Burnout."

**Priscilla Tso:** "Making connections with other students and professionals during the conference helped me understand the possibilities in life. I was really grateful to meet students from other colleges, engage in meaningful conversations, and learn about academic journeys over meals. (The food provided was amazing!) We shared our goals, discussed challenges in supporting peers, and learned how to navigate college as women leaders."





# Gathering for the March 9 general meeting

