



Saturday, May 18, began early for some Mid-Pen members as they gathered to walk in San Carlos' Hometown Days Parade (right in front of the Carmont High School cheerleaders!). Next year, they will bring pom-poms!

## Busy Saturday for Mid-Peninsula Branch members

What a busy Saturday May 18 was for the members and leadership of Mid-Pen branch!

First Katherine Linneman organized a group to walk in the San Carlos Hometown Days Parade. The walkers had to gather at 8:30 a.m. and found themselves marching right in front of the Carmont High School cheerleaders!

Then, still in their turquoise AAUW T-shirts, they joined other members at King Chuan's Chinese Restaurant in San Carlos for Mid-Pen's installation luncheon.

Nancy Oliver prepared a special essay for each officer on the theme of gemstones, and Margot Diltz introduced the Named Gift Honoree with this presentation:

"When AAUW moved to a hybrid model of collecting dues, the job of Membership Treasurer became a juggling act.



Officers for 2024-2025 were installed at a luncheon in San Carlos.

"Someone had to track the dues payments of over 100 members who could pay directly by a check that went through the mails or could pay virtually by an online transaction that goes on between the member and the national organization.

"Not only does the dues payment support three separate bodies (the branch, the state, and the national AAUW) but regular members, life members, honorary life members, and dual members are all assessed different  
**See INSTALLATION, Page 8**

To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.



A bit of spring from Chris Panero's garden.

## 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, June 4, at 10 a.m.; Redwood City Community Activities Building, 1400 Roosevelt, Redwood City.

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

## President's Message

# Chris Panero offers her long list of thank yous!

By Chris Panero

As we approach the end of our year, I want to thank you all who value our mission, participate in branch activities, and especially to those who do the work, often behind the scenes, to make everything happen.

Thank you to those branch members who are staying on, to those who are retiring, and those who step up as needed to provide insight and continuity for next year.

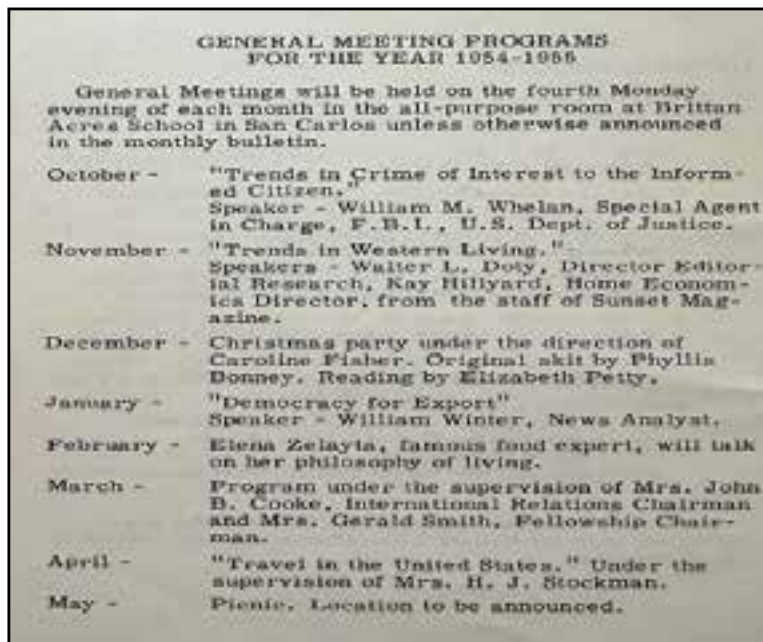
Our board members embody many of the traits needed to finish the job with everyone in one piece: We take care of each other, are kind, stay focused, and finish the job — which is often harder than it looks.

Thank you to our sturdy and reliable public libraries, community buildings, and parks, where we can meet safely and comfortably pretty much any time we want.

And finally, thank you to all the branch members who wrote articles for our Triad.

## Short takes:

• On May 15, Jane Fernald and her committee and helpers met with this year's Tech Trek campers and their families, who



You never know what you will find when you start digging into old files. Chris Panero came across this list of branch General Meeting programs from 70 years ago.

are excited and a little nervous about the upcoming camp session (July 7-13 at Camp Hopper, Santa Clara University).

• It's time to renew your membership. Mary Spring, branch Membership Treasurer,

recently sent her yearly useful "how-to" email to all branch members. Your personalized renewal email came from AAUW-National.

# Mid-Pen (and Nancy) celebrate a 70th birthday!



March may come in like a lion, but April was doing its best lion imitation on the day of our AAUW 70th birthday party at Burton Park. Despite the brisk temperatures, it didn't rain, lots of members came to celebrate, and we had a good time. We actually celebrated two 70th birthdays: it was Nancy Cantisano's 70th as well, and we did a good job with the rendition of the traditional song. Lots of people made the party happen: Bernie Mellott organized a lovely lemon cake with birthday wishes written on top, Chris Panero found some tasty and beautiful strawberries, Nancy C. made sure we had coffee and utensils, Barb Finnegan had our name tags, and lots of people helped to set up and clean up. Cathy Chowenhill took checks for the Installation luncheon, and Katherine Linnemann recruited marchers for the San Carlos Home-town Days parade.



## Climate Change

# Atherton Earth Day offers help for the planet

By Carole Farina

A 3-year old topped by a fireman's hat, tote bag over arm and carrying her newly potted plant, happily had made the rounds of Atherton's Earth Day Celebration with dad.

No doubt they had seen the live Sheepmowers, the rooster advertising chicken coops, and the fireman teaching when to yell "FIRE!" Dad would have picked up tips on sustainability and where to dump oil.

Wilma Hoffmann and I joined the throng and discovered new ways to contribute to a healthy earth. The first was FabMo, fabric and more, rescuing designer materials for creative re-use.

Based in Sunnyvale, the organization of volunteers prevents 70 tons of materials from going to landfill each year. They collect, sell or donate yarn, ribbons, notions, textiles, wallpaper, carpet samples and more. Contact: [info@FabMo.org](mailto:info@FabMo.org)

Next was a charming Stanford tech student who started a branch of Threads of Change. She collects donations of gently used women's wear, vintage and contemporary, for resale to raise funds for underprivileged communities across India to buy groceries, school supplies and water.

The EPA reports that 84% of our clothing ends in landfill or incinerators.

If weight were a measure of carbon footprint, veggie burgers would be quite light while one would struggle to lift a single beef burger.

Beef from factory farms pollutes water and yields 100 times as much waste as from humans, according to Isabelle Cnuddle, founder of Clorofil, which promotes awareness of the plight of farmed animals and the impact of animal agriculture on our planet.

She has her own backyard sanctuary for retired hens that would have gone to landfill and gives presentations, [info@ffacoalition.org](mailto:info@ffacoalition.org). Visit the [website](#) for information and its newsletter.

Byrd's Filling Station, The Peninsula's Refillery & Grocery Store, offers sustainable bulk and fresh produce for your own containers. It's at 219 S. San Mateo Drive,

San Mateo, [byrdsfillingstation.com](http://byrdsfillingstation.com).

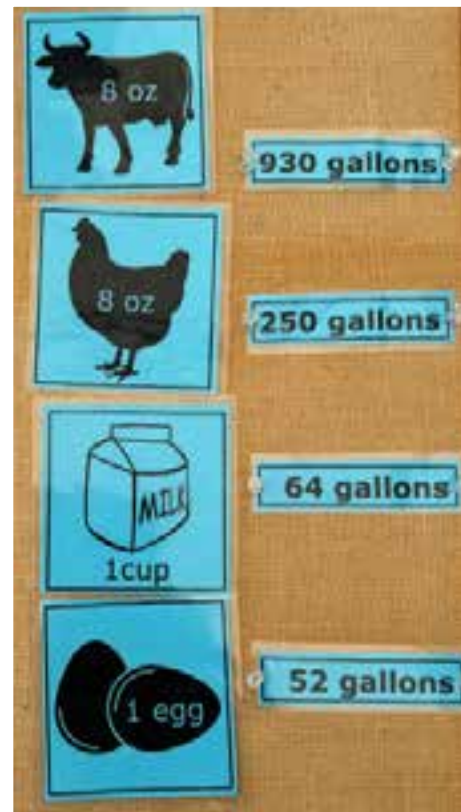
What is hazardous waste? San Mateo County Environmental Health Services gives information about collections. Contact [smchealth.org/hhw](http://smchealth.org/hhw) or call 650-372-6200.

Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle Guide, listing who takes what, is available from [San Mateo County Sustainability Department](http://SanMateoCountySustainabilityDepartment). Call 888-442-2666.

After visiting more exhibits, we called it a day, but we were so impressed that we are having a drive to DECLUTTER OUR CLOSETS to benefit FabMo (small items of notions, yardage, yarn, etc.) and Threads of Change (good women's clothes). Keep the two donations separate and take them to Wilma Hoffmann or Carole Farina from May 25-June 9.

*Thanks to Carole Farina and Wilma Hoffmann for contributing this special column. 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**



What takes the most water?



Wilma Hoffmann with Isabelle Cnuddle, founder of Clorofil.



## Just how crafty a person are you?

By Carole Farina and Wilma Hoffmann

Declutter and repurpose via FabMo! Left-over yarn, fabrics, patterns, notions, Christmas paper, construction paper, pencils, crayons, office supplies ... you name it! FabMo takes it all, sells some in their stores, and gives a whole heap of stuff to teachers for free. Teachers can tell you just how much school projects cost them. Do you need any scrapbooking supplies, from demo carpet squares to wallpaper samples (often donated by big companies)? You can buy it at their Sunnyvale store for your own use. Drop your offering on the front porch at Wilma Hoffmann's or Carole Farina's between Saturday, May 25, and Sunday, June 9. Please keep items for FabMo separate from those for Threads of Change.

## We aren't vintage but perhaps our clothes are now

By Carole Farina and Wilma Hoffmann

Does that dress that you loved still fit and look stylish?

Here's a great opportunity to find new owners for our gorgeous fancy clothes that we no longer can use or for your 40-60 year-old children's baby clothes that you could not bear to give to Goodwill.



Swati Batra

The local Chapter of Threads of Change takes gently worn, good quality (contemporary or vintage) women's clothing, sells it online and uses the proceeds to help 250 underprivileged families in India, with plans to increase to 1,000 families.

Label "Threads" and drop your treasures on the front porch at Wilma Hoffmann's or Carole Farina's house, between May 25 and June 9.



Byrd's Filling Station, a San Mateo store featuring organic and bulk grocery supplies, was discovered at an Earth Day event in Atherton and visited by the Foods Section on Thursday, May 9. Happy shoppers were Nancy Canistano, Margot Diltz, Susanne Burrill, Cynthia Ford, Jane Fernald and Carole Farina.

## Interest Sections

# If you're ready for movies again, so are we!

### 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

To keep in touch for our plans for June, July and August (second Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m.), please call or email Laverne Rabinowitz.

### 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 three books to be discussed are *Searching for Savanna: The Murder of One Native American Woman and the Violence Against the Many* by Mona Gable (hosted by Katherine Linneman on Friday, June 21); *Celine* by Peter Heller (hosted by Carol Orton on Friday, July 19); and *Prophet Song* by Paul Lynch (hosted by Carole Farina on Friday, Aug. 16). 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.

### 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.



Members of Walk/Talk & Gawk made a springtime visit to Filoli to ogle the tulips and other seasonal blossoms.

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# Public Policy News

A monthly dispatch from the AAUW California Public Policy Team

## NEW TITLE IX RULES

### Biden Admin. Releases Long-Awaited Guidance

**HOT OFF THE PRESSES!** On Friday, April 19, 2024, the Biden Administration released long-awaited guidance on the application and administration of Title IX. The rule changes (1) rework Trump Administration guidance on the handling of campus sexual assault, providing expanded protections for survivors; and (2) expand Title IX protections against sex/gender-based harassment and discrimination to protect members of the LGBTQ+ community. Expansion of rights to the LGBTQ+ community via Title IX aligns this federal law with current interpretation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, which prohibits workplace discrimination on the basis of sex/gender. **AAUW national serves in a gender equity coalition supporting these changes.**

**Stay Tuned!** It will be a busy summer. We are anticipating needing your help to push back on challenges to this new guidance. The June PP News will include an article that expands on all of this information, and provides updates on impending legal challenges. Thank you in advance!

## ACTION ALERTS!

### Test Out Resistbot by Clicking Below

If you've signed up for action alerts, thank you! **You should get ready for a busy summer and fall.** Thankfully, a lot of our priority legislation is moving along smoothly, so we have not yet reached out to you to act. However, **we do invite you to test out one arm of our alert system: Resistbot.** Click on **THIS LINK** and "sign" the petition in support of SB 554. When you "sign," Resistbot will prompt you, through your preferred text message system, to send a letter with the petition text to your CA State Senator. Be sure to check it out!



## TGGP Mission & Outreach

### TGGP Core Values

**Integrity** - Acting with moral soundness as good stewards of the resources trusted to us.

**Service** - Humbly provide the highest level and be of the greatest use to our clients.

**Dedication** - Strive to continually provide to the needs of our clients and beyond.

**Dignity** - With absolute resolve we maintain dignity is essential to all human life

Everyone at The Grateful Garment Project is so appreciative of the generous donations that are made to our organization. It is because of your generous help when you partner with us that we are able to continue the important work in restoring dignity to victims of sexual violence

<http://gratefulgarment.org>  
[info@gratefulgarment.org](mailto:info@gratefulgarment.org)  
Phone Number: (408) 674-6744

Mid-Peninsula Branch of AAUW has supported the Grateful Garment Project over the years.



# Installation luncheon at King Chuan's in SC

Continued from Page One

amounts.

“The Membership Secretary is the magician who understands all these complexities and keeps the accurate records for us. Each spring she reminds us to pay and explains patiently how the system works.

“By June of each year she reports on the success of the dues campaign and then spends the summer communicating with members when payments have gone astray and plying an open line she has established to the AAUW treasurers at the state level and in Washington to make sure our data records match.



**Mary Spring**

“The magician who has handled these duties graciously and thoroughly for years for the Mid-Peninsula Branch is our own Mary Spring.

“Mary has been a member for 13 years and for the last five years has struggled mightily with an imperfect online system and a sometimes unresponsive national office.

“Mary, a retired nurse and part-time resident of Arnold, Calif., is our Named Gift Recipient in recognition of her tireless service to our branch and her many headaches in maintaining our dues collection.”

## Mid-Peninsula Branch Leadership for 2024-2025

**Co-Presidents:** Chris Panero and Cathy Chowenhill

**VP Programs:** Carol Orton and Katherine Linnemann

**VP Membership:** Stephanie Katz and Barb Finnegan

**Administrative Finance:** Mary Spring  
**Treasurer:** Amy Armstrong

**Treasurer/Membership:** Joyce Inouye  
**Recording Secretary:** Margo Diltz

**AAUW Fund:** Jeanne George and Sally Mellinger

**AAUW Public Policy:** Open  
**Archivist:** Nancy Oliver

**Parliamentarian:** Nancy Oliver  
**Scholarships:** Katherine Linnemann,

Carole Farina, Margo Diltz and Gail Langkusch

**DEI:** Barb Finnegan

**Neighborhoods:** Carolyn Seffens

**Tech Trek:** Sheri Simmons and Jane Fernald

**Triad, Facebook:** Micki Carter

**Website editor:** Amy Armstrong

**Branch email:** Barb Finnegan

**Virtual meetings:** Barb Finnegan

**Event Graphics:** Nancy Oliver

**Directory:** Margot Diltz

**Sunshine:** Marge Haruff

**Hospitality:** Katherine Linnemann, Nancy Kucharik, Nancy Cantisano and Gail Langkusch

**Book wrapping:** Margot Diltz and Barbara Haas

**Outreach:** Yvonne Bergero

**Nominating Committee:** To be appointed in August 2024

