



LWV speaker explains issues on the '24 ballot

By Micki Carter

Gayle Hardt, a representative of San Mateo County League of Women Voters and a former president of the San Mateo Branch of AAUW, led the Mid-Pen and San Mateo Branches through the propositions on the California November ballot on Oct. 5 at the Veterans Memorial Center in Redwood City.

She also did her best to create clarity on some of the propositions that, it seems, were put on the ballot to muddle rather than elucidate. And she was staunchly non-partisan as she encouraged people to ask questions but avoid making speeches or personal statements.

The crowd, which filled every seat and sent others scurrying for more chairs, was a testament to the complexity of this year's ballot. Hardt brought along a list of websites offering insights into who was paying for which measures so voters can follow the money trail. That list appears on Page 5 along with the recommendations of AAUW-CA on some of the ballot measures.

Getting out the vote on Nov. 5 is the goal of a major AAUW effort so be sure to vote — and bring a friend!



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

Co-President's Message

Wondering where Chris went?

She's hiking around the mountains in Italy after a family stop in Ohio!



Those are tired feet after climbing around Alpi di Suisi, Italy!



Brandywine Falls in Ohio and then a cold day to hike in Oberbozen, Italy.



But voting is still top of mind!



By Chris Panero
The same thing is on all our minds these days: **VOTE!** I'm so grateful to all those who work to create an infrastructure so that we can vote, work at the polls, work to get out the vote, write postcards encouraging those in swing states to vote, and especially to those who talk up democracy. These sturdy and ubiquitous ballot drop boxes always make me smile; this one is on San Carlos Avenue.

Who? What? When?

Co-Presidents: Chris Panero and Cathy Chowenhill

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, Nov. 5, at 10 a.m. at the Community Activities Building, 1400 Roosevelt, Redwood City

Triad Deadline for December/January issue will be Nov. 10. Please send articles in Word, Pages or Google.doc and photos (separately, not embedded) as large-format JPEGs to Micki Carter.

Two-Minute Activist — Sign up [here](#) to receive regular alerts on AAUW public policy priorities, including how to send drafted letters to your legislators.

AAUW Email — Enroll [here](#). Don't miss any news!

Learn how Project 2025 could affect AAUW-CA public policy priorities

The California Online Branch is inviting all members of AAUW California to a webinar Tuesday, Oct. 22, at 7 p.m.

It is presented by the Public Policy Committee and titled "Project 2025 and How it Would Impact AAUW Public Policy Priorities."

Amy Hom, co-chair of AAUW California Public Policy, will address specific parts of the project that would impact AAUW Public Policy Priorities, such as education, Title IX, reproductive health, and gender equity.

Please click [here](#) to register for this interesting webinar.

The webinar will be recorded.



Diane Goldman



Hilary Hausman



MaryAnn McKay

A trifecta of new members for Mid-Peninsula

By Stephanie Katz

Enthusiasm! This is Diane Goldman's outlook on life, from meeting new people to directing activities. A native San Franciscan, Diane grew up in the Sunset District, attending public schools culminating in San Francisco State University. In 1971 she earned her elementary teaching credential and has taught grades 3 through 8 in various schools. 4th graders are her favorite age because "they still like you". Diane cultivates friendships from her kindergarten class through high school.

In 1986 Diane moved to Redwood City and became involved in a variety of activities and classes. She takes Tai Chi and attends the "Jazz From the Hill Live" course at College of San Mateo. At Cañada College she works out at the gym and with a personal trainer. In this her fifth try at learning acoustic guitar, she's determined to succeed! She also delights in watching her grandchildren ice skate in Santa Rosa.

Diane met our branch member Victoria Kline through Villages of San Mateo; she labels Victoria a "mover and shaker" in that organization. Diane not only joined but has taken charge of special events there.

Victoria prompted Diane to join our branch. Diane is eager to meet branch members try out activities such as Walk / Talk / & Gawk, Climate Change, Healthy Cities Tutoring and the Movie Group.

Read about new members Valerie Heimark and Mary Petrosky on Page 8.

By Stephanie Katz

I'm happy to introduce to our branch my younger sister Hilary Hausman.

A native of San Francisco, her college experience started at U.C. Davis with a Pre-Med major; however, that changed after the first chemistry exam.

Hilary ended up transferring to U.C. Berkeley (go, Bears!) where she majored in journalism. Her career spanned 25+ years in advertising at various Bay Area agencies; her accounts included Cher's perfume, the State of Alaska and the California Raisins.

Hilary considers among her strengths her sense of humor and listening skills. I know my sister is a very loyal friend. Many of her close friendships began in nursery school and her "Concert Moms" group remains very active.

Various friends have accompanied her to international destinations including Africa and Europe; this winter she looks forward to touring Southeast Asia. Her favorite local destinations include Filoli, Kepler's, Half Moon Bay and the Tony Foster Museum in Palo Alto.

During Covid, Hilary started studying painting; she currently prefers oils. As a doting grandmother of two young boys, she's included them among her subjects.

In our branch Hilary participates in Mah Jongg, hiking and the movie group.

By Barb Finnegan

Welcome MaryAnn McKay to the Mid-Peninsula branch. She has been a member of the San Mateo branch since 2016. Her mother was the first to recommend AAUW. MaryAnn decided to become a dual member as she has friends from our branch including those in Tech Trek and book clubs.

MaryAnn grew up in the New York suburban area and has a brother who now lives in Marin. She earned a BA in English at Skidmore College in New York, then moved to San Diego where she worked primarily in publishing and obtained a paralegal certificate from University of San Diego.

Next, she moved to San Francisco and was a legal assistant for a law firm and later for a series of Bay Area companies. Before retiring a few years ago, she was a senior contract negotiator in the marketing department of a Silicon Valley corporation.

She has two sons and three stepchildren (two daughters and a son). MaryAnn also knows members from our branch as she volunteers for the Villages. She is very active, enjoying lap swimming, Zumba and Pilates.

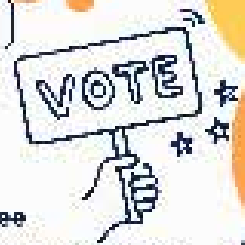
MaryAnn would like to facilitate cooperation and shared interests between the two branches. She leads the Movie Group in San Mateo and is interested in the two branches getting together.

She would also like to see if there is interest in a shared Public Policy group. Please welcome MaryAnn to Neighborhood 7.

Public Policy

ARTICLE FOR YOUR OCTOBER BRANCH NEWSLETTERS

2024 BALLOT PROPOSITIONS: SUPPORT AAUW CA PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES



By Amy Horn & Missy Maceyko, Co-Chairs, AAUW California Public Policy Committee

This November, California voters will decide the fate of 10 statewide ballot propositions. While we encourage members to support additional propositions that may capture the spirit of AAUW California's Public Policy Priorities (PPPs), four of the propositions on the ballot in 2024 deserve a YES vote from our members for their close alignment with our PPPs.

Proposition 2, Public Education Facilities Bond Measure (2024), proposes issuing \$10 billion in bonds to fund construction and modernization of California's public education facilities. \$6.5 billion would be allocated to K-12 schools and \$1.5 billion would support improvements at community colleges. Many school facilities are over 50 years old and require significant upgrades to meet current technological and education needs. Research shows that modernized school facilities correlate with better test scores, higher attendance, and improved teacher retention rates. The last time districts received state funding for infrastructure improvements was in 2016, when Prop 51 authorized \$9 billion in bonds. That money has now run out, and Prop 2 would help fund school projects totaling \$3.5 billion that has been approved and is awaiting funding.

AAUW California supports "Adequate and equitable funding at all educational levels, including pre-school and post-secondary", and we support a YES vote on Proposition 2.

Proposition 3, Constitutional Right to Marriage, would amend the California Constitution to recognize the fundamental right to marry, and would remove the language banning same-sex marriage, passed by voters in 2008, from the state constitution. In practice, the ban has been nullified since a Supreme Court ruling in 2013 which allowed same-sex marriages to resume in California. Proposition 3 will enshrine the fundamental right to marry and protect against any potential future changes to federal marriage protections.

AAUW California supports "Guarantee of civil and constitutional rights for all, including all forms of gender identity and expression, and all family structures", and we support a YES vote on Proposition 3.

Proposition 4, Parks, Environment, Energy, and Water Bond Measure, would allocate the state to issue \$10 billion in bonds to fund various environmental, energy, and water projects. While there are a range of projects that ballot measure would fund that would benefit all Californians who are confronted with the impacts of sea-level rise, extreme heat, wildfire dangers, and air/water pollution, proposition 4 would also require that 40% of the bond revenue be used to fund activities that benefit communities with lower incomes or that are affected by environmental changes or disasters. Also, as AAUW California's Public Policy Committee has pointed out in the past, addressing climate issues and advancing gender equity is directly related to environmental sustainability, and vice versa.

AAUW California supports "Social and racial justice for all members of society, including equal access to quality affordable healthcare, housing and a healthy environment," and we support a YES vote on Proposition 4.

Proposition 32, Raises Minimum Wage, would raise California's current minimum wage of \$16 per hour. Employers with 76 or more employees would pay \$18 per hour beginning in 2025. Employers with 25 or fewer employees would pay \$17 per hour in 2025 and \$18 per hour in 2026. California has a high cost of living and our current \$16 minimum wage is well below the estimated living wage needed to support a household's basic needs. Women and communities of color bear the burden of low-wage jobs. The California Civil Rights Department (CCRD) released data showing that in 2021, roughly half of all Latino, Black, and Native American workers earned \$32,329 or less - \$10,000 less than the state's per capita income. 54 percent of all workers in California earning \$32,339 or less were women.

A minimum wage of \$18 will reduce income inequality and improve the standard of living for millions of California workers, especially women and people of color.

AAUW California supports "Economic Security for All Women", and we support a YES vote on Proposition 32.

For guidance on additional ballot measures that are adjacent to, but not directly within, the scope of AAUW California's PPPs, please see this excellent guide provided by the League of Women Voters of California.



Mid-Pen and San Mateo Branch members filled the conference room at the Veterans Memorial Center in Redwood City to hear Gayle Hardt of the League of Women Voters explain the pros and cons of the '24 ballot measures.

Where to find help in deciphering the ballot measures this November

[State Voter Guide](#)

[Campaign Money](#) trail Map

[League of Women Voters](#) voting info — LWV explanation of California propositions

[Legislative Analyst's Office](#), the California Legislatures non-partisan and fiscal advisor

[CalMatters](#), a nonpartisan and nonprofit news organization

[Ballotpedia](#)



Make sure your college-age children and grandchildren are registered to vote!

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Interest Sections



Jane Fernald hosted the All About Food interest group at her Belmont home for a fall-appropriate apple tasting.

Movie Interest Group has made a few changes

Movie Group

Gail Langkusch is now the coordinator for the Movie Group, so those who are interested should contact her. We will continue to meet on the third Tuesday of the month. However, the group will attend either an early- or mid-afternoon showing of selected movies and will make dining choices based on the times of the movies selected.

Team Mah-Jongg

A lively group of members play and continue 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 Carolyn Seffens.

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. On November 15, we will discuss *Deacon King Kong* by James McBride (hosted by Katherine Linnemann). If you have questions, please contact Carol Orton.

French Conversation

We've taken off in *Vol de Nuit* and will continue on to Chapter V on page 16 for our meeting on Nov. 12. Leslie Pasahow will be our hostess, starting at 1:30 p.m. Bring your books and be ready for some friendly conversation. Questions? Contact Laverne Rabinowitz.

Hilly Hikers

Hilly Hikers will continue to meet on the fourth Friday of the month. New members wanting to join should contact Wilma Hoffmann.

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.

If you'd like a digital copy of the Mid-Peninsula Directory, email Margot Diltz.

Banned books and Grateful Garment on agenda for Nov. 2

By Carol Orton

Our next general meeting on Nov. 2 offers opportunities to support women who have been the victims of sexual crimes and to learn about the rise in efforts to ban books at our libraries in California and around the country.

The meeting will begin at 1:30 p.m. (name tags and social time), and the presentations will begin at 2 p.m. The location is the Redwood Shores Library, 399 Marine Parkway, Redwood Shores.

The meeting will kick off with a short presentation from Grateful Garment, a San Jose nonprofit whose mission is to ensure that every victim of a sexual crime who crosses the threshold of a Sexual Assault Response Team facility (or who seeks medical attention and/or law enforcement involvement) is provided with whatever new clothing, toiletries, snacks and other miscellaneous items that they need.

If you wish to support Grateful Garment's mission, there will be an opportunity at the meeting to donate gift cards, checks, cash or other items on the organization's wish list.

The remainder of the meeting will focus on the disturbing upward trend of efforts to censor books, both from schools and public libraries. We will present a Zoom talk by Dr. Jennifer Wolf, a senior lecturer in the Graduate School of Education at Stanford University, about the movement to ban books.

After this presentation, the Redwood City Library Interim Library Director, Sarah La Torra, will speak about the policies adopted by the Redwood City Library system to deal with efforts to ban books.

These resources are recommended for those who wish to delve more deeply into this subject:

- No Compromise, NPR documentary podcast, Pulitzer 2021;

- Judy Blume Forever, Amazon Original documentary;

- New York Times "The Fight to Ban Books" by Amelia Nierenberg;

- The ABCs of Book Banning, MTV documentary 2024;

- PEN America ([pen.org](https://www.pen.org));

- American Library Association (www.ala.org/tools/ethics);

- Freedom to Read Foundation ([FTRE.org](https://www.ftre.org));

- Zinn Education Project (#Teachtruth);

- Book Riot (bookriot.com) on Texas book ban history;

And read banned books!

Learn about Red Zone for college students

From the Grateful Garment website:

The Red Zone is the period that begins when the fall semester starts through Thanksgiving. Upon familiarizing themselves with the campus, students should learn how to contact campus police and the schools health center. If you are the victim of an assault report it and get medical attention.

Fast Facts about the Red Zone

1. During the Red Zone more than 50% of all sexual assaults occur.

2. More than 25% of undergraduate women will be sexually victimized while in college.

3. Freshmen, especially females, are especially vulnerable during this time as they navigate an unfamiliar campus, parties and college social scene for the first time.

4. College women are twice as likely to be sexually assaulted than robbed.

5. Many assaults that occur during the Red Zone go unreported due to fear, shame, or a lack of trust in the system.

Some Keys to Staying Safe

1. Be aware of your surroundings. If a

Climate Change/Public Policy adds Public Policy to its Mid-Pen brief

By Theoni Pappas

When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe.

—John Muir

The Climate Change group is expanding its focus, and is now Public Policy/Climate Change.

Public Policy/Climate Change encompasses a broader range of topics, including

- Equal pay
- Passage of the ERA
- Health care rights
- Education equality
- Civil rights

- and, of course, the biggest issue of our society, climate change.

Public Policy/Climate Change is this and much more.

- Do you want to be more involved and have more impact? Do you care?

- Consider joining the AAUW Public Policy/Climate Change group.

- If you don't want to be an activist, you can still come to be informed, learn, and contribute.

If interested and/or have questions, please contact Victoria Kline either by phone or email.

situation doesn't feel right, leave.

2. Develop a buddy system. Go with friends and leave with friends.

3. Don't drink and drive. Have a trusted designated driver.

4. Don't accept drinks from strangers and never leave any beverage unattended.

5. First dates should be group dates or in a public places. On subsequent dates make sure someone you trust knows where you will be and have a check in plan.

Note an early deadline for The Triad for the December/January edition — Nov. 10!

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Two more local women join Mid-Pen Branch

Valerie Heimark

By Stephanie Katz

Please welcome new member Valerie Heimark. She has joined AAUW to socialize and make new friends.

She grew up in San Carlos and Belmont and graduated from Carlmont High School. She was an only child but had a cousin who lived in Tucson.

Valerie received a BA in English from San Francisco State University, followed by a secondary teaching credential and special education credential. Valerie then earned a M.A. in Special Education from SFSU followed by a teaching credential for community college and an education specialist certificate. She also earned an Authorization in Autism Spectrum from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.

At the University of Oslo, she participated in a group with the United Nations trying to address problems of people with special needs.

During her career, Valerie taught or consulted those with special needs from nursery school through college age.

Valerie's first job was teaching adults with special needs at the City College of San Francisco. She and her husband then moved to Eugene, Ore., where she was director of client services for the Pearl Buck Center which managed the rehabilitation of individuals with special needs.

They then moved back to Palo Alto. Valerie, a new mother to their daughter, advised



Valerie Heimark

the Parents Nursery School in Palo Alto. In the last 12 years of her career, Valerie was a resource specialist in the Redwood City School District, helping children in K-8 with special needs.

Valerie has two adult children, a daughter who lives in San Diego and a son in Chico.

She has a diverse interest in activities and wishes to join the Mid-Peninsula Book Bunch, Movie Group, Climate Change, hiking, and French conversation groups. She is also interested in learning American Mah Jongg. Please welcome Valerie to neighborhood 7.

Mary Petrosky

By Stephanie Katz

Please welcome our new member Mary Petrosky!

A new dual member, Mary is a published poet, avid photographer and enthusiastic traveler. Her poems, written since childhood, concentrate on what's happening around her plus abstract themes.

Her focus in photography ranges from natural to industrial landscapes.

Future travels in various countries will include hiking, art history, birding and French language study.

In 2007 she traveled to St. Petersburg, Russia, for a writing program and in 2008 was a chaperone for a trip to China by the Peninsula Youth Orchestra, of which her daughter was a member for many years.

Mary earned her B.A. in mass communications from Rutgers U. and an MFA in creative writing from Antioch U. in Los Angeles. She's known about AAUW for decades but only recently learned about our branches.

She's a retired writer and spent her career writing about technology as a reporter, editor, analyst and contract writer.

Mary has two children and has lived in San Mateo for 31 years. Her interests in the Mid-Peninsula Branch include French conversation, the two hiking groups and Climate Change.

AAUW-CA puts Gov Trek on hold until next year

By Charmen Goehring

AAUW California State President

I want to give you an important update about our state program, Gov Trek.

Despite two successful years of this new program serving young high school women, it will sadly be on hiatus for the current 2024-2025 AAUW California year. We were unable to find a member willing to take on chair or co-chair duties.

I had hoped to be able to announce a chair and committee at the end of the sum-

mer, but it didn't work out as planned. I am hopeful that we will be able to encourage someone to step up in the next few months to continue on for next year.

Gov Trek gives young women a unique introduction to political campaigns and public service careers.

In a world where women's voices are needed more than ever, Gov Trek serves as a way to highlight young women's voices and show them ways they can be involved in changing the world around them.

I know many will be disappointed by this news and I hope you will encourage those in your branch to consider helping to guide this program next year.

Former chair, Shauna Ruyle, left the tools and roadmap; we just need someone to take the lead and move it forward.

Please feel free to contact me at state-president@aauw-ca.org if you have any questions about Gov Trek and its status.

Want to see yourself in The Triad? Take photos of events and send large-format pics to Micki Carter, Triad editor!

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