



## Check out that number — We will turn 70 this year!

Mid-Peninsula Branch of AAUW will be celebrating a big birthday this year, and you can expect us to be shouting it from the rooftops from time to time in 2024-2025.

The Triad will observe this auspicious occasion with a dip into the archives (thanks to a nudge from Chris Panero, who keeps track of these things).

We will shed some light on the issues that interested our founders in 1954, who were (more often than not) young, college-educated women stretching the boundaries of what role women were to play in the post-war world.

The first look-back appears on Page 9. Hope you will come along for the ride!

## Arts outdoors for Mid-Pen'ers



This summer, members of Neighborhood 5 enjoyed Jazz in the Park at Twin Pines in Belmont, and then a production of *The Tempest* at Shakespeare in the Park drew Mid-Pen members to Red Morton in Redwood City.

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

# Co-President's Message Mid-Pen Branch already off and running after a busy summer

By Chris Panero

Welcome back! Cathy Chowenhill and I are Co-Presidents this year, and we and your board are looking forward to a number of exciting and meaningful programs and activities in the months to come, and to working with the dedicated and knowledgeable women on the board and in our branch.

We have had a good start: Some branch activities, neighborhood meetings and interest groups continued during summer, and your board has already met to plan for the year.

## Elections

As you know, a very important election is coming up in November. Elections of course require voters — but they also require short-term (“seasonal”) paid and volunteer staff to work with San Mateo County to make it all happen. Click [here](#) to see how you can help.

## Three things from the August board meeting:

- We verified the fees paid for our Tech Trekkers.
- The Membership VPs and Membership Treasurer rustled up the last few late renewals. We are 102 members strong!
- We're planning for the September Event, where we'll hear from the Tech Trekkers sponsored by Mid-Peninsula and San Mateo branches and also distribute Directories.

## Three things Cathy and Chris did this month:

- Figured out how to handle donations to the Special Projects Fund (SPF) and passed the information on to a potential donor. The SPF holds the tax-deductible donations made by our branch for Tech Trek camper fees. See elsewhere in this issue for details.

## 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, Sept. 3, at 10 a.m. at the Community Activities Building, 1400 Roosevelt, Redwood City

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

---

- Updated the email list for notifications for the new board.

- Joined the Programs team (Carol Orton and Katherine Linnemann) at Burton Park to hear ideas for the exciting General Meetings that will take place this year.

## Can you help Mid-Pen by serving on this year's Nominating Committee?

By Cathy Chowenhill

The Nominating Committee is crucial in seeking out members who are willing to take on positions in Mid-Peninsula Branch, and we are seeking to fill it now.

This committee identifies members to serve on the 2025-2026 board and to fill positions such as hospitality, public policy and branch emails.

These positions are all necessary to keep our branch happy and running!

Being on the Nominating Committee involves making some phone calls to your fellow members.

If you would be willing to help out on this important task, please contact Cathy Chowenhill or Chris Panero.

Thank you!!



Chris Panero and husband Tony admired this all-original 1960 Thunderbird on Laurel Street in San Carlos and the owner let them take a photo!

## Lend a hand to get Mid-Pen Five-Star status within AAUW

By Barb Finnegan

Every year AAUW's Five-Star National Recognition Program rewards branches for aligning their work with the AAUW strategic plan and initiatives that foster the mission of advancing gender equity for women and girls.

In FY20-22 Mid-Peninsula Branch received Five-Star recognition and in FY23 a Two-Star. This year FY25 which spans July 1, 2024 June 30, 2025, we will again strive for five stars.

Why do we want to do this? Having specific goals help us focus the great work that we already do. And it's also pretty cool to have a Five-Star banner for our website! Although not easy, it is a worthwhile achievement that will require the efforts of all our members.

There are five areas of focus, and we need to achieve specified criteria in each one to qualify. The areas include advancement, public policy and advocacy, governance and sustainability, programming and communications and external relations.

Some of the programs at our general meetings will address education, civil rights and DEI to meet these criteria.

What can you do to help? Please consider these activities:

**Advancement** – Continue your branch membership, recruit new members and donate to the [Greatest Needs Fund](#).

**Public Policy and Advocacy** – Volunteer to be a Public Policy Chair, participate in State Lobby Day in April, and sign-up for the [Two-Minute Activist](#) which involves sending a pre-written letter or phone call to your legislator.

**Communications and External Relations** – Volunteer to be a communications point person to follow AAAUW national accounts on Instagram, Facebook and/or X (formerly Twitter). Repost some of these onto the Mid-Peninsula Facebook page.

**Governance and Sustainability** — Learn more about branch board positions and consider a future position. Help plan a DEI (diversity, equity, inclusion) activity.

Your participation and feedback enable our branch to be successful.

## Longtime Mid-Pen member Etty Korengold died June 24

Longtime member Etty Korengold passed away peacefully, surrounded by family, on June 24. The funeral was June 27 at Congregation Beth Jacob and burial at Hills of Eternity Cemetery in Colma.

In 2023, Phyllis Hesik interviewed Etty for The Triad. Here is her story:

Etty Korengold is a longtime member of our branch and has served us well in many positions.

She worked on the Fellowship Dinner Committee. (Remember when it was called that?) Over the years, she has been chair of her neighborhood (hosting many lunches at her San Carlos home), September event, housing, sections, French Conversation, gourmet and nominating committees.

Etty led the branch's Tech Trek program for a number of years and was instrumental in keeping it going. She also served on Nominating Committee.

Etty was born in the Bronx and moved to Los Angeles with her mom and sister when she was about 6 years old. She grew up in L.A., skipped two grades and was the first in her family to go to university, UCLA, where she graduated and met her husband.

She taught for many years in the Redwood City School District. After she retired, she became head of the union representing teachers.

When her daughter Jill was teaching in the same district, Etty became a popular assistant, planning and conducting special activities to commemorate special holidays and traditions. The students fondly remem-



**Etty Korengold**

ber her introducing them to potato pancakes, dreidels and other Hanukkah activities.

As a longtime schoolteacher, she found her calling in our branch when the Tech Trek program was first introduced. She was instrumental in contacting teachers to nominate students for the camp and getting members together to select the girls who were to participate.

She hosted them at her home before the camp so the girls could meet and learn about the camp they were about to attend.

She would have been thrilled to read about this year's Camp Hopper as well.

## Eloise Mayo passes away

Longtime member Eloise Mayo died Aug. 16, just before this edition of The Triad wrapped up. She was 91. Margot Diltz, a close friend, said that the family expects to have a service celebrating her life in September. When we have firm information, we will send it out via a Monday Memo. Just last spring, Margot, Kathy Rafael and Nancy Oliver visited Eloise at the care home in Berkeley where she was living. They had a delightful time reminiscing about Mid-Pen times.



# Come hear from the Tech Trek girls on Sept. 14

By Jane Fernald

Mid-Peninsula Branch sponsored another wonderful, enthusiastic group of seventh grade girls for Tech Trek 2024 at Camp Hopper at Santa Clara University.

Don't miss the opportunity to hear the girls from Mid-Pen and the San Mateo Branch at our September general meeting on Saturday, Sept. 14, 1:30-3:30 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Senior Center, 1455 Madison St., Redwood City.

This will be a great chance to hear the girls talk and to meet them and their families.

## To donate to Tech Trek

Make checks out to Mid-Pen AAUW. On the memo line, write Tech Trek and mail to our branch treasurer, Amy Armstrong, 2178 47th Ave., San Francisco, CA 94116, or give it to her at the meeting with the Tech Trek girls on Sept. 14. This is not tax deductible.

If you need the tax deduction, make checks out to AAUW CA SPF. On the memo line, write Tech Trek Camp Hopper, Mid-Peninsula Branch, and mail to Amy Armstrong.

To donate online (which is also tax-deductible), go to the [website](#) for the Special Projects Fund and scroll down to AAUW CA Projects (Tech Trek) and click on "Donate with PayPal." (You don't need to have a PayPal account.)

Under "Use this donation for," choose "Tech Trek— Santa Clara Hopper" and add the name of our branch on the next page.



Mid-Peninsula Branch Tech Trek girls above and below.





Mid-Peninsula Branch Tech Trek girls with Vicci Mueller, a dorm mom.



Vicci Mueller and Pat Ivester

## A Day in the Life of a Tech Trek Dorm Mom

By Vicci Mueller

6 a.m. — Time to get up, shower, dress, get coffee and check the day's schedule.

7 a.m. — Go down the hall and knock on all six doors to make sure all girls are up.

7:40 a.m. — Head to breakfast in the dining hall. Check to make sure all girls have their lanyards as we leave the dorm.

8:45 a.m. — After breakfast make sure all girls are headed to their classes. Walk some groups to class.

9 a.m. — Morning meeting with all dorm moms and leaders to go over the day's schedule. After meeting free time or go to a class to help out.

11:45 a.m. — Collect girls for lunch and head to dining hall.

1 p.m. — Send girls to their afternoon classes and go with them to help in classes.

5 p.m. — Check to make sure all girls have returned and are working on the Friday Build-It night. Make sure all girls are feeling well!

5:15 p.m. — Collect girls for dinner and head to dining hall.

7 p.m. — Walk with girls to nighttime activity and return for group meeting.

10 p.m. — Lights out! Whew!

As you can see, it was a very busy week with the most capable and delightful girls. They make me proud and secure in the knowledge that our future is in good hands!



## Interest Sections

# Can't find anything to do? Start a new group!

### 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.

### 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 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. On Sept. 20, we will discuss Pulitzer Prize-winner *Trust* by Hernan Diaz (hosted by Wilma Hoffmann). If you have questions, please contact Carol Orton.

### 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 sug-



The Tony Foster Museum in Palo Alto drew the members of the Walk/Talk & Gawk section earlier this summer. Apparently the members of the group were in "gawk" mode for this outing.

gest 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.

### French Conversation

We'll be starting our new book *Vol de*

*luit* this fall. Please come to get acquainted and have good times en français. We will be meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 10, 1:30 p.m., at the home of Mirna Hirschl. Please let her or Laverne know if you're able to attend. We hope to see some new folks!

# Climate Change Are you aware of all the ways you impact today's climate reality?

## From Environment America:

- FedEx goes solar on all their warehouses and parking lots.
- EPA set stronger standards against soot pollution, a major contributor to respiratory illnesses, heart issues and cancer.
- California and New York pass laws against use of seeds coated with pesticides! More than 150 million U.S. acres are planted with seeds treated with bee-killing neonics.
- Seventy-six percent of old growth and mature forests managed by Forest Service and BLM remain unprotected from logging.

## Edited from Hiroko Tabuchi, NYT:


Can that plastic spoon return to nature? Only with industrial composting, a rarity. Most curbside recycling ends at landfill, streams and rivers.

According to the United Nations, 430 million metric tons of plastic is produced each year, more than the weight of humans.

Ask yourself: Am I part of the problem? Is there a non-plastic, reusable alternative that fits the need?

## Avoid ingesting microplastics

- Use steel or glass water bottles instead of plastic.
- Attach a NSF-certified filter for tap water.
- Do not store or heat food in a plastic container.
- Use glass or ceramic for microwaving.
- Use a wood cutting board and not plastic.
- Reduce dust in your home with a



**The Climate Reality Project**  
MIDPENINSULA CHAPTER

### Summary Table of IHA Incentives per Upgrade Item

— THIS IS A PRICE LISTING OF IHA INCENTIVES AVAILABLE FOR EACH UPGRADE ITEM (E.G., HEAT PUMP, COOKTOP, EV, ETC.).

Buying	Upfront discount, low-income	Upfront discount, moderate-income	Tax credit	State & Local Incentives
Clean electricity				Check <a href="https://switchis.on.org">Switch is On.org</a> to find additional state and local incentives
Electrical wiring (pre-wire outlets warty)	100% up to \$2,500 (Rebate)	50% up to \$2,500 (Rebate)		
Electrical panel (if under 100-amps)	100% up to \$4,000 (Rebate)	50% up to \$4,000 (Rebate)	30% up to \$800 (CR) or 30% uncapped (CR), depending on the corresponding upgrade?	
Weatherization	50% up to \$1,500 (Rebate)	50% up to \$1,500 (Rebate)	50% up to \$1,500 (CR)	
Heat pump	100% up to \$5,000 (Rebate)	50% up to \$5,000 (Rebate)	30% up to \$2,000 (CR)	
Heat pump water heater	\$100% up to \$1,750 (Rebate)	50% up to \$1,750 (Rebate)	50% up to \$2,000 (CR)	
Electric/Induction stove	100% up to \$840 (Rebate)	50% up to \$840 (Rebate)		
Heat pump clothes dryer	100% up to \$540 (Rebate)	50% up to \$540 (Rebate)		
New EV		\$7,500 (CR)		
Used EV		30% up to \$4,000 (CR)		
EV Charger		50% up to \$1,000 for some census tracts (CR)		
Rooftop solar		50% (CR)		
Geothermal heat pump		50% (CR)		
Battery storage		50% (CR)		

— The incentives can be stacked, i.e., you can get both the tax credit AND the rebates.

— Federal tax credits already available, but IHA rebates and 'up front' discounts (administered by the state) may not be ready until late 2024. Non-IRA state-sponsored rebates don't have this.

— Tax credits are grouped into categories (programs), with an annual cap per program. See other doc in CR code above for more info. Program 23C has cap of \$3,200/household/yr. A multi-year plan may help.


— Typically, gas burning cars & natural gas heating (space heating and hot water) are the biggest sources of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions for individuals. Electrifying these items will have the highest impact.

— [Consult: EPA Carbon.com](https://www.epa.gov/ghgcalculator) for free guidance. [Consult: Switch is On.org](https://www.switchisone.org) for complete listing of incentives (for CA).

— Low income — ~\$15K (2-person household (HHE)), or ~\$19K (4-person HHE) for Santa Clara County (2023).

— Moderate income = \$19K-23K (2-person HH), or \$19K-27K (4-person HH) for Santa Clara County (2023).

— The first line (BUYING: Clean electricity) is mostly no issue for Bay Area (chart made for national audience). Bay Area electricity is very clean (>80% GHG free), so electrifying really helps. Only exception is City of Santa Clara (CVT) at ~45% GHG-free (2022), but electrifying still helps reduce emissions.



186 270 9807 0005

HEPA vacuum and wipe surfaces with a damp cloth.

## From Nature Conservancy newsletter

Proposition 4 will be on California's November ballot! This bond directs \$10 billion to programs that will prepare our state for the impacts of climate change.

Produce solar energy alongside food, flowers and herbs. This innovative family-owned farm shows the ecological, economic and community benefits of the practice, known as agrivoltaics. See [the Power of Farming the Sun](https://www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/press-releases/2023/09/12-agrivoltaics).

# The Climate Reality Project Resource List

## Electrification Resources

- [Free Electrification Support](#)
- [Federal rebates and tax credits](#)
- [California local, state and federal incentives list](#)
- [Choice electricity provider](#) (PCE, Peninsula Clean Energy, San Mateo County)



**Wilma Hoffmann poses with the donated women's clothing that she collected for Threads of Change. At the left, Swati Batra of the organization comes to pick up the donations. Carole Farina and Wilma also gathered yardage, notions and yarn that Mid-Pen members donated to FabMo, which provides re-use for those items.**

## Climate Reality Project offers clean energy ideas

By Victoria Cosley

Mid-Peninsula members from the Climate Change section met at Marilyn Zack's home May 20 to hear Catherine Shinnors and Elaine Lee from the Climate Reality Project, Silicon Valley Chapter.

The CRP is a non-profit national organization founded by former Vice President Al Gore in 2011. The speakers briefed us on climate change and federal, state and local programs to help us better understand the efforts to transition to a clean energy economy and how individual households can take advantage of home energy updates and electric vehicle rebates.

They explained the overall structure of federal programs that are being rolled out because of the Inflation Reduction Act, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill and state and local programs in California.

Q & A centered on

- Recycling and disposal of large batteries;

- Will the gas and electric companies be able to meet the increase in the use of electricity by 2030;



- Will these incentives remain should there be a change in government leadership

- after the November presidential election and more.





Marie Wolbach (left) and Joyce Inouye were photographed at the 50th anniversary celebration for the branch on Sept. 24, 2004. Among the other members who gathered at Ralston Hall on the campus of Notre Dame de Namur University in Belmont for the gala dinner were Doris Brown, Helene Haughney, Phyllis Hesik, Pat Holvick, Nancy Oliver and Laverne Rabinowitz, who are still members today.

## Glancing back 70 years at the branch we are now

*This year the Mid-Peninsula Branch will celebrate 70 years of service. Over the next few months, The Triad will review highlights of our history, starting this month, with a paper Ann Barnes wrote for the branch's 50th anniversary in 2004.*

### By Ann Barnes Branch President, 1988-1990

The San Carlos Branch of AAUW was chartered in the summer of 1954, and by the time the Charter Dinner was held on Sept. 27, it already had 275 members.

Although only San Carlos was chosen for its name, the area which the branch serves has always included Belmont and Redwood City. (The name was changed to Mid-Peninsula Branch in 2017.)

The branch was barely a year old when members embarked on a major study of the higher education needs of San Mateo County. They determined that a four-year state college was the answer and then produced a brochure advocating for a state college in the county for the California legislators.

In 1959, a Senate committee recommended that San Mateo County be given priority as a site for a state college. In the end, our county placed third in the final decision.

Another major undertaking was a jail

study in the early '70s. It began when a group of members started looking into the deplorable conditions in the women's section of the county jail. It was later expanded to include all detention facilities in the county.

As a direct result of this study, a county committee was formed to deal with long-term facility planning with special emphasis on the needs of female prisoners.

Not all our activities were so serious in the early years. In 1956, artists in the branch designed a Gay Nineties drop curtain which they presented to Central School in San Carlos for use in the Chickens Balls.

In 1958, and for five consecutive years, the branch sponsored a Children's Art Exhibit. Originally open only to San Carlos elementary school children, it was later expanded to include children from Belmont and Redwood City. In the final year, there were 563 participants.

In the 1970s, one of the most successful projects was History in Stitchery. Artists in the branch make sketches of historic buildings in the county. They were then interpreted into needlepoint and crewel designs, printed on canvas or linen and made into kits which were sold all over the country.

In 1973, the San Mateo County exhibit

at the State Capitol featured seven of the completed needlework pictures, all worked by branch members. Some of the sketches also were used to illustrate the Historic Sites of San Mateo County calendars.

In 1978, volunteers from the branch began a docent program at historic Ralston Hall on the campus the College of Notre Dame in Belmont. (The docent group welcomed members outside AAUW and continued to provide docents for Ralston Hall until it was closed for seismic retrofitting.)

In October 1980 at Hometown Days in San Carlos, branch members arranged tours of historic parts of the city for more than 400 people.

Then in 1983, members researched and produced a teaching unit on the history of Belmont and San Carlos. Kits for use in classrooms were donated to schools in the two cities.

Five years later, members compiled for sale Pointers to the Past, a directory of historic places in San Mateo County.

And in 1990 and 1991, members participated in the preparations of inventories of historical buildings in San Carlos and Belmont.

**More highlights to come in future editions of The Triad.**