



The labyrinth at Electronic Arts in Foster City attracted members of Walk/Talk & Gawk on a sunny weekday morning.

Two Mid-Pen members take part in Lobby Days

By Barb Finnegan

Cathy Chowenhill and I from the Mid-Peninsula Branch joined Alicia Chu from the North Peninsula Branch to take part in AAUW Lobby Days on April 2.

We attended the preparatory Zoom session in which we were provided the “talking points” and then spoke with Sen. Josh Becker and his aide, Amaya Childe, assisted by Kathy Van Osten, AAUW-CA lobbyist.

We shared some of the community activities of our branches and then discussed three bills sponsored by AAUW-CA that we asked the senator to support:

• **AB 2326 – Public post-secondary Education: Sex Discrimination Policies**

– This bill requires the chancellors of the Community Colleges, the State Universities, and the president of the University of California to provide an annual report to their respective Board of Governors or Board of Regents in ensuring that district programs and activities are free from discrimination and therefore in compliance with Title IX. This extends beyond discrimination in sports.

• **AB 2843- Health Care Coverage for Rape and Sexual Assault Survivors** — Only 20% of rape survivors seek medical care after a rape. Out of every 1,000 rapes, there are only 50 arrests of which there are only 28 convictions. Only 25 rapists serve time.

Cost considerations contribute to the underreporting. Rape kits and forensics exams are provided free of charge under the federal Violence Against Women Act. However, ER visits are only covered for those who are on MediCal or Medicare (with sufficient coverage).

Other rape survivors pay an average of \$350 to \$500 for diagnostics, lab testing, emergency contraception, drug testing and medical treatment for physical trauma and follow-up care subject to cost sharing.

This bill would eliminate all the cost-sharing for rape survivors and for those that need care following a traumatic sexual attack.

See LOBBY DAYS, Page 5

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

President's Message

Everyone likes a birthday party so join us April 25 to celebrate

By Chris Panero

Two terrific things happened in 1954: KQED Radio was born and so was the San Carlos Branch of AAUW. Phyllis Bonney, Dorothy Kuehn, Jerri Dougherty led our branch in the first three years (1954-57) and our Articles of Incorporation with the State of California were signed on June 28, 1960, by Naomi Moraes, president, and Ruth Klingner, secretary.

Rosemary Bishop was listed with Naomi and Ruth as a director. (Naomi was later honored by an AAUW endowment fund in her name. The obituary for her husband, Edward Moraes, notes that he "was so supportive of Naomi's" work that "he was made an honorary member of AAUW.")

The Articles state that our purpose is "... to unite college alumni for the collection and publication of statistical and other information concerning education, and in general for the maintenance of high standards of education, to...increase their influence in the community for the solution of social and civic problems..." as well as to support the mission and programs of AAUW.

The Articles also say that we can purchase real estate!

On Nov. 7, 2017, the San Carlos branch and Menlo Park branch joined together, and Wilma Hoffmann and Vicci Mueller signed a Certificate of Amendment to change our branch name to Mid-Peninsula.

We're still here and doing very well, so come celebrate our 70th year with birthday cake and strawberries by the bocce ball courts at Burton Park in San Carlos from 12:30-2 p.m. on Thursday, April 25!

Tidbits

• Take a look at the members-only section of our branch website to see the long list of branch presidents over the years. You'll recognize many names.



Chris Panero

• Can you store our archives? Kathy Raphael can no longer keep our seven boxes of paper archives. Please let Nancy Oliver know if you can take them on.

When I was talking to various people about the obstacles to taking on branch leadership roles, it was suggested that members might be more willing to step up if they knew more about the ordinary tasks of the board and the president. Here's my monthly effort to inform.

Three things from the April board meeting

1. Voted to contribute \$650 to support attendance by a local student to AAUW's National Conference for College Women Student Leaders.
2. Voted to fund a seventh Tech Trekker at Camp Hopper at Santa Clara University.
3. Ironed out details for our April 25 branch birthday party.

Three things your president did this month

1. Opened our online Annual Meeting/AAUW Fund meeting, with coaching

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, May 7, at 10 a.m.; Redwood City Community Activities Building, 1400 Roosevelt, Redwood City.

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

and technical management from Cathy Chowenhill and Carole Farina.

2. Met with Cathy and Amy Armstrong as they worked out the details of the ongoing tasks of keeping our website up-to-date.

3. In response to an email from Sandi Gabe, AAUW-CA president, verified the emails of three members so they could vote in the AAUW-National election.



Cathy Chowenhill and Amy Armstrong work on the branch website.



Laura Miller

Greet Laura Miller, dentist who loves idea of Tech Trek

By Barb Finnegan

Please welcome Laura Miller, a delightful, energetic, semi-retired dentist using this year to figure out which of the many things available to the newly retired can be pursued without becoming overloaded.

Laura grew up in New Jersey, moved to California to attend UC Berkeley where she received a BA in Genetics and followed it with dentistry at UCSF and a professional practice.

Once the children were born, she took 14 years off and had to be re-assured and encouraged by friends to re-enter dentistry when she was hesitant to go back. She now has reduced her workload to one morning a week in her Foster City practice.

The biggest part of her life is her family which includes a daughter who lives in Berkeley and twin sons, one in Phoenix and the other in New York City, and her grandchildren.

Even before her daughter entered kindergarten, she started going to meetings of the PTA and the San Carlos Educational Foundation. At the first SCEF meeting she

Meet Nancy Giere from Illinois, who's Mid-Pen's latest member

By Gail Langkusch

A warm welcome to one of our newest members, Nancy Giere.

Nancy originally joined AAUW while living in Illinois. She joined in order to connect with people and find activities in which to participate. She is joining the Mid-Peninsula Branch for the same reasons.

Nancy grew up in Lake Forest, Ill. She has three older sisters; one still lives in Lake Forest, one in Orlando, Fla., and one in Switzerland. She has one daughter who lives in Redwood City and is expecting Nancy's first grandchild in September.

Nancy earned a BS in Business Administration from Carroll College in 1979. She later earned an MS from Boise State University in 1996.

Nancy has had a varied career in business. When she lived in Milwaukee, she began her career in retail and then moved on to banking. Eventually, her career focus was (and still is) in learning and development. She worked for Applied Learning while living in Illinois.

She eventually was working for Metrix when she was laid off and started her own business as a consultant in 1998.

She moved to San Carlos in 2016 and still works full-time remotely for her own business. She was hired by Apple when it decided to develop driverless cars. Apple recently decided to forego the development of this new car and promptly laid off all the people it had hired. Nancy laughs that she worked for Apple for two hours!

Nancy's varied interests include

attended, she was asked to be treasurer, so she signed on. During that first year, the foundation raised more than \$260,000, compared to the \$40,000 in the prior years, an achievement of which she is justly proud.

Of course she continued to be very active in her children's schools. Laura is still very interested in education and, when she learned about Tech Trek and the opportunity to be a dorm mom, Laura was immediately checking her calendar to see if she would be here!

Field trips with her children were



Nancy Giere

education, learning and storytelling, which includes film and visual storytelling. Other interests are comedy, reading and knitting and weaving, as well as swimming and aquatic aerobics.

She is interested in possibly joining the branch Climate Change group, book group, and walking group. She has also discussed getting together with other members to play pickleball and bocce ball.

With her many diverse and varied interests, it is a pleasure to welcome Nancy to the AAUW Mid-Peninsula Branch, Neighborhood No. 5.

something she enjoyed, and she would love to get involved in mentoring teens and working with children in general.

Her other interests include anything outdoors including hiking hilly terrain, gardening, baking, travel and following politics, though her children are recommending that she stops watching the news! Sound familiar?

Our interest sections that pique her interest are All About Food, Climate, and of course Tech Trek.

Climate Change

Are you keeping up with Climate Change?

M.A.D. Make A Difference

“The environment is where we all meet; where all of us have a mutual interest; it is the one thing all of us share.”— Lady Bird Johnson

First international ruling on Climate Change

On April 12, the European Court for Human Rights ruled that countries must protect their people from consequences of Climate Change. The court found that Switzerland “had failed to comply with its duties” by not combatting Climate Change and meeting emissions targets. This ruling opens pathways for legal challenges in the 27 EU nations plus Britain and Turkey.

Senior Women for Climate Protection argued that older women were at higher risk to extreme heat. They explained the court’s ruling by noting, “The court recognized our fundamental right to a healthy climate and to have our country do what it failed to do until now, that is taking ambitious measures to protect our health and protect the future of all,” said Anne Mahrer, a member of the group.

Joie Chowdhury, senior attorney with the Center for International Environmental Law, points out, “The first ruling by an international human rights court on the inadequacy of states’ climate action leaves no doubt, the climate crisis is a human rights crisis.”

In 2023 the Earth surpassed global annual heat records. Follow this [link](#) and this [link](#) for online details of the court ruling and overheating planet conditions.

Climate Quiz

Adapted from the expanded version of Nutrition Action April 2024 edition. Online version is [here](#).

1. Which nuts use the most fresh water to produce a serving?

- (a) almonds (b) cashews (c) peanuts (d) pistachios (e) walnuts



2. Which produce the most nitrogen pollution?

- (a) black beans (b) chicken (c) ground beef (d) pork (e) yogurt

3. Which container is most often accepted by curbside recycling programs?

- (a) disposable coffee cups (b) milk cartons (c) plastic bags (d) straws

4. Which of these is most likely to be recycled into a new product?

- (a) water bottles (#1) (b) squeeze bottles (#4) (c) yogurt container (#5) (d) take out containers (#6) (e) disposable utensils (#7)

5. Which create the least greenhouse gases in their production?

- (a) farmed clams or scallops (b) lobster (c) shrimp (d) wild clams or scallops

6. Which uses most freshwater in producing?

- (a) bananas (b) blueberries (c) oranges (d) strawberries (e) watermelon

7. What amount of water does a typical U.S. resident use at home each day?

- (a) 20 gals (b) 40 gals (c) 60 gals (d) 80 gals

8. Which has more microplastics in it?

- (a) bottled water (b) tap water

9. Which uses the most freshwater to produce a serving?

- (a) almonds (b) black beans (c) chickens (d) ground beef (e) pork

10. Which home improvement does not get federal tax credits?

- (a) exterior doors (b) heat pump water heater (c) insulation (d) windows or skylights (e) aesthetic home remodels (f)

energy efficient furnace (g) biomass stove (h) central air conditioner

How did you do? Answers: 1-d; 2-c; 3-b; 4-a; 5-a; 6-b; 7-d; 8-a; 9-d; 10-c

Ocean temps heating up

The Ocean Decade three-day conference ended April 12 with dire expectations and fears concerning the sharp rise in ocean temperatures.

About 1,500 scientists and representatives of governments and environmental organizations gathered in Barcelona, Spain. According to Vidar Helgesen, the executive secretary of UNESCO’s intergovernmental oceanographic commission, “The changes are happening so fast that we are not able to keep pace with the impact...calling for a much stronger effort to observe and research in real time and a much closer collaboration between science and policy making tackling ocean warming a burning issue.”

As of March this year the average sea surface temperatures had set a new record high of just over 69.8 degrees F! Warmer oceans lead to more atmospheric moisture which mean more erratic weather, fierce winds, more severe downpours, more hurricanes, threatened marine ecosystems.

For further details of factors that impacted rising ocean temperatures follow this [link](#).

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

Watching the moon hide the sun!



Mid-Peninsula Branch President Chris Panero and family traveled across the continent to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, April 8 to view the once-in-her-lifetime total eclipse. She reports, "It was glorious!" Lots of Mid-Pen members used special eclipse glasses to watch the partial eclipse here on the Peninsula where they saw the moon cut a "Cheshire Cat smile" on the sun with about 33 percent coverage.

Mid-Pen will send seven campers to Camp Hopper! Can you lend a hand?

Another spot has opened up at Tech Trek's Camp Hopper, so Mid-Peninsula will have seven in-person campers this year!

To volunteer at Camp Hopper at Santa Clara University July 7-13, click [here](#).

Note a job that you would like to do (dorm mom, back-up dorm mom, counselor, etc.), then email your choice to the camp director, Cynthia Miller, at cynthiamiller.aauw@gmail.com.

If she does not answer within a few days, send your email again.

Lobby Days

Continued from Page One

• **AB2099- Protecting Reproductive Health Clinics** —There has been a significant increase in extreme anti-choice attacks against abortion clinics since the overturning of *Roe v Wade*.

Between 2021 and 2022 there was a 100% increase in arson at clinics and, during the same time period, death threats and threats of harm against care providers increased by 20%.

Protesters have started using the internet to target providers, patients and volunteers, posting photos, names and locations. The threats and online harassment are not only intimidating but also pose serious personal risks.

Under current California law this activity is a misdemeanor, but AB 2099 makes it possible for the D.A. to file a violation of these provisions as a felony if the posting and subsequent action by another person results in bodily injury.

Lobby Days is a worthwhile activity that we encourage all members to participate in next year. If we had an interested group, we might choose to visit Sacramento rather than conduct the meetings on Zoom.



Neighborhood 4 chose April 6 for their spring afternoon tea, having no idea it was (above) Barbara Regello's 93rd birthday. Jean Dehner graciously offered her home, and Barb Haas baked a wonderful Almond Cafe (with amaretto in the cream!) with just one candle; 93 would have brought the firefighters!

Neighborhoods salute arrival of Spring



Neighborhood 3 invited all members to attend a lunch at Kabul Restaurant in San Carlos on March 21. Seven members gathered to catch up with each other. Stay tuned for another activity in early June.

Interest Sections

All About Food does more than shop, cook and eat

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

Please join us at our meeting on May 14, 1:30 -3:30 p.m., chez Leslie Pasahow in Menlo Park. We will be making plans for how we want to move forward in the coming months. Bring your ideas and suggestions and even some examples! Questions? Contact 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 book to be discussed is *True Notebooks: A Writer's Year at Juvenile Hall* by Mark Salman (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.



In feast or famine. . .

Food as story, symbol and sustenance was the topic of works in diverse mediums at the Palo Alto Art Center visited by members of our All About Food section. Our relationship with food was explored in the context of identity and community; history and memory; food equity, agriculture and environment. One work that attracted our attention was the composite depiction of children of different countries or status surrounded by what they ate.

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.

Public Policy

AAUW-California sets its 2024 legislative agenda

By Amy Hom and Missy Maceyko
Co-chairs AAUW California Public Policy Committee

The Public Policy Committee met virtually over a weekend in early March to set AAUW California's 2024 Legislative Agenda.

Through a day and a half of discussions, we reviewed 67 bills, considering their merits and potential costs as well as their alignment with our public policy priorities. Then, we went through a voting/ranking process to select the top bills that we will advance as our Legislative Agenda.

Our legislative agenda consists of three "A" priority bills, four "B" priority bills, 29 "C" priority bills, and 12 spot bills that we are watching.

Seven of the bills on our legislative agenda are 2-year bills that carried over from last year. All the bills on our agenda fall under at least one of our four Public Policy Priority pillars; one bill - AB 2349 - falls under three pillars.

Excitingly, our signature "A" priority bill AB 2843 "Health Care Coverage for Rape and Sexual Assault Survivors" was authored by AAUW California. The bill falls under two of our Public Policy Priorities, "Social and Racial Justice for All Members of Society" and "Economic Security for All Women."

The bill eliminates cost-sharing, including deductibles, from being imposed on any rape survivor seeking medical care following a rape. Insurers will be required to cover the cost of medical care with no copay.

AB 2843 ensures that those individuals who wish to report a rape and file charges will have the benefit of a rape kit test and forensic exam to provide evidence to secure more convictions for acts of sexual violence. In addition, they can receive the care they need following a traumatic sexual attack.

Our second "A" priority bill, AB 2326 "Title IX Oversight and Compliance Act" is also sponsored by AAUW California. This bill falls under our Public Policy Priorities pillar "Equal Access to Quality Education for All Students" and champions something that AAUW California has long supported: Title IX enforcement. AB 2326 requires the



Chancellors of the Community Colleges and State Universities and the president of the University of California to provide an annual report of their compliance with Title IX, with the report to be presented publicly and orally to the Senate and Assembly Budget Subcommittees on Higher Education Finance, a move to hold the systems, and their leaders, more publicly accountable.

While we are listing AB 2326 as an "A" priority bill, a large number of Title IX related bills were introduced this year, likely prompted by the 2023 State Auditor's report Report 2022-109 (ca.gov) which concluded

Mid-Pen will install newly elected officers at luncheon on May 18 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.

We will install:
Co -Presidents: Cathy Chowenhill, Chris Panero
VP Programs: Katherine Linneman, Carol Orton
VP Membership: Barb Finnegan, Stephanie Katz
Admin Finance: Mary Spring
Treasurer: Amy Armstrong
Membership Treasurer: Joyce Inouye

that the CSU system's handling of Title IX-related complaints has not adequately addressed allegations of inequity, harassment, and sexual harassment.

While a great deal of the introduced Title IX legislation has not yet fully taken shape, we are watching them, as they will potentially become priority bills. In addition, one of the more fully formed bills, AB 1790, is listed as a "B" priority bill on our agenda.

Our third "A" priority bill is AB 2099, "Protecting Reproductive Health Clinics." This bill falls under our Public Policy Priorities pillar "Social and Racial Justice for All Members of Society."

The bill makes it possible for the D.A. to file a felony charge for sharing personal information or images of individuals such as reproductive health care providers or patients, with the intent of causing harm or violence against them, if the posting and subsequent action results in bodily injury.

With violence against abortion providers continuing to rise following the reversal of Roe, the protection of providers and patients is now more important than ever.

To see our full 2024 Legislative Agenda, please go to our Bill Tracking Report. This report will continue to be updated as the bills move through the legislative process, so you will always be able to see the latest status.

Recording Secretary: Margot Diltz

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.