



Lisa Blanchard

Care for victims of sexual violence and book banning in public libraries were the dual topics at the Nov. 2 General Meeting at the Redwood Shores Library. Speakers included Lisa Blanchard, founder and executive director of The Grateful Garment Project, and Sarah LaTorra, interim director of the Redwood City Public Library. A video talk by Dr. Jennifer Wolf of Stanford University focused on book censorship. See more on Pages 3 and 7.

Sister librarians — Sarah LaTorra, Redwood City Library Interim Library Director, and Stephanie Meyer of Mid-Peninsula Branch — pose together.

Child gun safety will be discussed on Jan. 11

By Carol Orton

The BeSmart program, which was launched in 2015 to promote responsible gun ownership in an effort to reduce child gun deaths, will be the topic of the January General Meeting on Saturday, Jan. 11, at the Veterans Memorial Senior Center, 1455 Madison Avenue, Redwood City.

Members and friends will gather at 1:30 p.m. for our usual “meet and greet” with refreshments followed by the talk begin-

ning at 2 p.m.

It is a sad fact that firearms are the leading cause of death for American children and teens. A representative from BeSmart-ForKids.org will help us understand that secure gun storage — storing guns unloaded, locked and separate from ammunition — can save children’s lives.

BeSmart emphasizes that it is an adult’s responsibility to keep kids from accessing guns, and that every adult can play a role in

keeping kids and communities safer.

Our speaker will guide us through simple conversations that can help keep children, grandchildren and others out of harm’s way.

You may be surprised to learn that many unintentional shootings happen in the homes of relatives, friends or caregivers. It’s very possible that some of your family members or close friends have unsecured guns in their home.

Please join this important conversation.

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

Co-President's Message

Think about AAUW's Greatest Needs Fund at end of the year

By Chris Panero

As we move to the end this off-kilter year and you undertake your end-of-year giving, please include a gift to the Greatest Needs Fund of AAUW.

Gifts to the Greatest Needs Fund allow AAUW to move quickly to meet goals that require immediate attention, empowering AAUW to achieve its mission as well as sustaining AAUW over the long term.

Go to the AAUW.org web page, click the big red "Donate" button, and log in with your user name and password.

Three things from the November board meeting

- We discussed new guidelines from AAUW to meet current Title IX regulations.
- End-of-year neighborhood holiday meetings are coming up; you'll be hearing from your neighborhood coordinator soon.
- Our branch book-wrapping fundraiser at Kepler's is coming up soon. Signups are available December 13-22; coordinators Margot Diltz and Barbara Haas will be contacting you. (Story on Page 5)

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: Tuesdays, Dec. 3 and Jan. 7, at 10 a.m. at the Community Activities Building, 1400 Roosevelt, Redwood City

Triad Deadline for February issue will be Jan. 15. 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!

If you too are wondering what do we do next after the election, Zoom this!

These days after the general election we are all wondering "what's next?"

You are invited to a Zoom meeting "AAUW Priorities in Light of the Election Results," featuring Meghan Kissell, AAUW senior director of policy and member advocacy.

The talk will focus on social justice issues and other priorities that go with or hinge on social justice.

The meeting will be hosted by AAUW Silicon Valley from 4-5 p.m. Dec. 4. You can register [here](#).



Marilyn Zack, who moved to Roseville earlier this year, so misses walking with Mid-Pen members that when Wilma Hoffmann visited recently, the gentle two-mile or so walk around the wetlands preserve abutting the back of her cottage in Rocklin late the first afternoon, was followed the next morning by a three-mile adventure, exploring the Ravine Canyon Trail in Roseville. The latter has six bridges made from beams and concrete from the Golden Gate Bridge, some still showing evidence of the distinctive orange paint. Quite an experience to walk on the Golden Gate in Roseville!



Who gets to decide what books children read?

By Carol Orton

Mid-Pen members and friends at the Nov. 2 General Meeting learned how to support women and girls who have been the victims of sexual crimes and examined the efforts to ban books at our libraries in California and around the country.

Our first speaker was Lisa Blanchard, the founder and executive director of Grateful Garment Project, 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.

Yvonne Bergero will tell you more about

that in an article on Page 7.

The remainder of the meeting focused on the disturbing upward trend of efforts to censor books, both from schools and public libraries.

A recorded Zoom talk by Dr. Jennifer Wolf, a senior lecturer in the Graduate School of Education at Stanford University, explained the history of movements to ban books.

Then Redwood City Library Interim Library Director Sarah La Torra provided a local perspective on recent changes in California law and offered her insights on how the Redwood City Library system has responded to requests to limit or remove certain books from circulation.

If you would like to watch Dr. Wolf's Zoom presentation, it's available [here](#).

Also, AAUW-CA has urged members to attend meetings of their local school boards and be alert to local efforts to ban books or limit their availability.

This [link](#) will take you to information about that program.

When a member of the nominating committee calls, please say 'Yes!'

By Nancy Oliver

It's time for the Nominating Committee to find the officers for the 2025-26 year.

We're all college graduates and are very capable of taking a turn at being a branch officer.

And remember, you will not be alone—many of our past presidents and other members are glad to help!

You may opt to serve alone or else share the office with another member. Job descriptions are available.

When someone from the committee calls you, please say "Yes."

AAUW California Public Policy Priorities support our mission and provide the basis for action and advocacy. To make sure that our PPPs are both current and representative of the will of our membership, please complete [this survey](#) by Nov. 22.

Mid-Peninsula-CA.AAUW.net • AAUW-Mid-Pen@Earthlink.net

Public Policy



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Public Policy News

A monthly dispatch from the AAUW California Public Policy Team

PROJECT 2025 WEBINAR

Project 2025 and AAUW CA's PPPs

On October 22, 2024, Amy Hom & Missy Maceyko delivered a webinar on the ways in which the Project 2025 agenda would, if implemented, be extremely detrimental to the California and National Public Policy Priorities (PPPs). The webinar specifically focused on potential negative impacts on things that have long been important to us as an organization, such as Title IX, sex-based discrimination, reproductive freedom. Link to Project 2025 Webinar is [HERE](#).

PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES

Feedback & Reflection-State And National PPPs

As you might have noticed in our Get Out the Vote and Voter Education efforts, our national and state Public Policy Priorities (PPPs) are extremely important for shaping what we are able to say and do as a nonpartisan organization.

Your voice is critical for continuing to shape our PPPs! This year, we will conduct our biannual survey on the content of the [California PPPs](#). Please check your inboxes for the survey in November and take a few minutes to give us feedback.

On the National PPP front, you are invited to a Zoom meeting "AAUW Priorities in Light of the Election Results" featuring Meghan Kissell, AAUW Senior Director of Policy and Member Advocacy. The meeting is hosted by AAUW Silicon Valley and will be held on December 4, 2024 4:00-5:00pm Pacific. You can register [HERE](#).

WHERE IS THAT?

Find All Things Public Policy

Key links to your public policy resources:

- [Google Workspace](#)
- [AAUW Policy Leaders Manual from National](#)
- [Branch liaisons](#)
- Contact us at publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org
- Tell us about your branch public policy events by filling out this [form](#).
- Sign up for CA Legislative Action Alerts [HERE!](#)

NEXT MEETING FOR BRANCH PUBLIC POLICY CHAIRS

Thursday December 5, 2024 at 3:00pm Pacific

ZOOM LINK [HERE](#)

Click [HERE](#) for meeting information.

Unless they fall on a holiday, bimonthly Peer Group Meetings will be held on the first Thursday at 3:00pm Pacific in Dec, Feb, Apr, Jun

SIGN UP FOR ACTION ALERTS [HERE.](#)

click here!

[2024 Bill Tracker](#)

Sign up now to giftwrap at Keplers Dec. 13-22

By Margot Diltz

Our branch will once again be wrapping books at Kepler’s Book Store in Menlo Park as our annual fund raiser.

We depend on our members to volunteer to spend two hours at Kepler’s helping their patrons with the books they have purchased

in exchange for tips for our branch.

We will be wrapping from Dec. 13 -22 from noon- 6 p.m. Two volunteers will each work a two-hour shift.

This activity allows our branch to raise funds, promote AAUW to the public, and get to know other branch members.

We are taking sign-ups now. Contact Margot Diltz or Barb Haas and let us know when you would like to wrap. We would welcome those who can take more than one shift.

Proposed budget for FYE 24/25

INCOME	Actual FYE 23/24	Proposed Budget 24/25
Branch Dues (fye 2024)	2,016.00	2,100.00
Gift Wrapping Revenue	2,571.41	500.00
Carryover checking Income (prior year)	12,024.72	13,600.00
Misc Income	157.32	250.00
	16,769.45	16,450.00
EXPENSES		
Administration		
Liability Insurance	467.00	500.00
Annual Funds Assessment	65.00	65.00
Cal Attorney General (RRF-1/CT-TR-1)	25.00	25.00
Supplies/Misc Admin Costs	176.96	500.00
Total Administration	733.96	1,090.00
Conference, Convention, Meeting	0.00	2,000.00
Scholarship funding	2,000.00	2,000.00
Tech Trek funding - 7 girls	9,600.00	9,050.00
Misc. Philanthropy	0.00	0.00
Promotion		
Redwood City ISCCC	0.00	10.00
Publicity	0.00	0.00
Website Services	0.00	0.00
Total · Promotion	0.00	10.00
General meeting		
Zoom	166.30	200.00
Housing	0.00	500.00
Hospitality	0.00	300.00
Speaker	150.00	400.00
Total · General meeting expenses	316.30	1,400.00
Publications		
Directory: Labels & Printing	379.51	400.00
Triad Printing	n/a	50.00
Triad postage	n/a	50.00
Total · Publications	379.51	500.00
Total - Membership	0.00	150.00
Contingency (e.g. in memoriam donations)	150.00	250.00
Totals	13,828.81	16,450.00



Remember Hope House as you plan holiday gift giving

By Yvonne Bergero

As we enter the busy holiday season, we remember family and friends and think of their essential needs. We also think of those who are needy and go without.

Please keep in mind those women with children who are supported by Hope House and can use some items that will help with their comfort.

Mid-Peninsula Outreach supports Hope House which for the past 30 years has been offering comprehensive treatment for those women who are pregnant or with an infant and in need of services for Substance Use Disorder and/or mental health support.

This assistance is provided in a residential setting that is sensitive to differing backgrounds, cultures and gender orientation. Hope House is a part of the family services offered by The Service League of San Mateo County.

We support Hope House by reaching out to our membership to gather needed items for their clients and residential homes.

New items needed are women’s socks, underwear and pajamas, sizes medium through plus. New or gently used items: towels, twin sheets, bathroom rugs and flatware. Please call and deliver items to Yvonne Bergero.

Interest Sections



A mighty group of four from the Walk/Talk & Gawk section set out to walk the Foster City levee in November.

Book Bunch planning to read *The First Ladies*

Movie Group

Gail Langkusch is now the coordinator for the Movie Group, so those who are interested should contact her. They 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 Dec. 20, we will have a Holiday Book Exchange at 10 a.m. at the Paris Baguette, 622 Laurel St., San Carlos. On Jan. 17, Gail Langkusch will host a discussion of *The First Ladies* by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray. If you have questions about either meeting, please contact Carol Orton.

French Conversation

Meetings are being planned for Tuesdays, Dec. 10 and Jan. 14. For December, stand by to learn what we decide in November for a holiday celebration. Keep in touch

with 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.

What happens?
Where does it happen?
When are dangerous times?

Sexual assault or human trafficking
Everywhere! Bay Area is a hot zone (see map)
During freshman year on college campuses
During large sporting events

Who are the victims?

1 in 3 females/children in California; 1 in 6 in the US
1 in 4 males/children in California; 1 in 10 in US

Restoring dignity to victims of sexual violence

By Yvonne Bergero

Lisa Blanchard of The Grateful Garment Project spoke to the joint meeting of the Mid-Peninsula and San Mateo AAUW chapters on Nov. 2.

She explained that victims of sexual violence and human trafficking have to surrender their clothing for forensic testing and are thus left with a hospital gown as their only option when leaving the hospital.

With their dignity already shattered, leaving with only a hospital gown to cover themselves with is just another humiliation to endure. The Grateful Garment Project provides clothing so that these survivors need not go through this affront unaided. Every piece of clothing given to them comes with the phrase, "To you from somebody who cares."

Lisa, while raising three children, created The Grateful Garment Project as a capstone project for her undergraduate degree at Notre Dame de Namur University in Belmont.

She told us that during a retreat, she learned that sexual assault victims had to surrender their clothing as evidence.

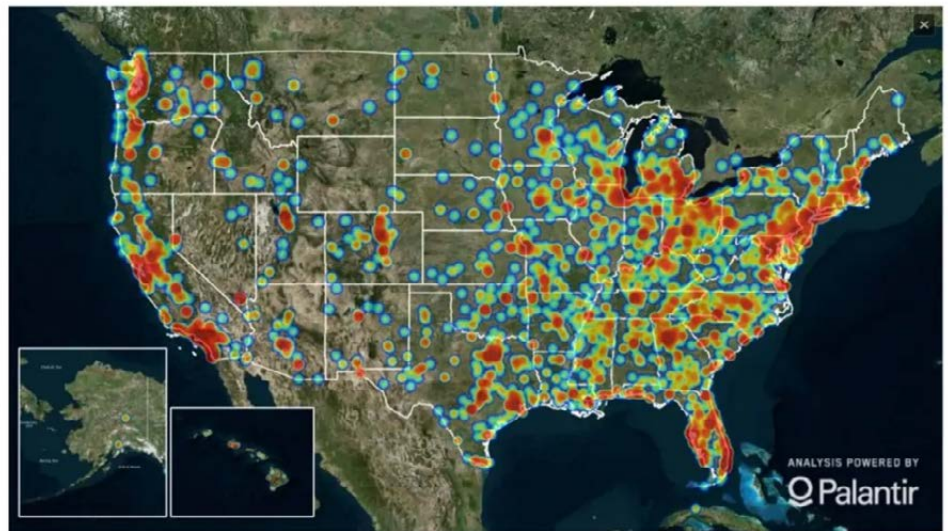
Unfortunately, I learned this appalling fact, too, when I was called by a hospital nurse to bring clothing to my friend who had survived a kidnapping and sexual assault. This was reported in the April 2023 Triad.

The Grateful Garment Project works with 115 hospitals, shelters, law enforcement agencies, etc. to provide clothing and personal needs to 35-45 survivors daily. However, the pandemic affected TGGP's finances dramatically. In-kind donations dropped 50 percent, and matching funds were impacted. Yet TGGP was still able to serve 41,000 victims.

Please donate using the links below. Scan the QR codes to use Amazon or Walmart to donate clothing or personal items.

The Grateful Garment Project is in urgent need of the following gift cards: Dollar Tree Gift Cards, \$20; Kohl's/Target Gift Cards, \$25+; and Amazon Gift Cards \$10 +.

The Grateful Garment Project



2019 Human Trafficking Heat Map (Map Source: Polaris)

Please Donate Now



Amazon Wishlist



TGGP



Walmart Wishlist

The Grateful Garment Project is a
501(c)3 nonprofit 80-0725390

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