



Jill Eisenberg with some of the multicultural books of Lee and Low.



Sydney Reynolds (left) and Janice Matre with Hope House donations. See the story on Page 5 as well as photos from the March meeting.

Multicultural books take center stage at Lee & Low publishing house

By Micki Carter

In an era when diversity is getting a seriously bad rap from Washington, Mid-Peninsula's March speaker brought a very different message.

Jill Eisenberg, the daughter of Mid-Pen member Karen Large, is the vice president of curriculum and literacy strategy and business development for Lee and Low Books, a children's book publisher that is wholly minority-owned — and multiculturally focused.

"We want to center people of color in our books," she said.

"Our books get time to find their space," she added, pointing out that most books get two years to find a continuing audience or then they're out of print.

Eisenberg showcased a book titled *Baseball Saved Us* as the first-ever picture book about the World War II internment of Japanese Americans. "Publishing that book defined us as a risk-taker."

She noted that many of the Lee and Low books are in Spanish and a few are bi-lingual.

Eisenberg also touched on the subject of book banning, pointing out that most of the challenges that seek to remove books from schools and libraries originate in Iowa or Florida. Activists in those states have done the heavy lifting by seeking out titles that discuss LGBTQ issues, diverse kinds of families and dozens of other materials that they find objectionable.

Then they depend on social media to connect with activists in other states to use their material to challenge books in their communities.

Co-President's Message

What is an AAUW legacy gift?

By Chris Panero

A Legacy Gift is a planned gift of any amount to AAUW National in your estate plan. You can customize your gift by using bequests, life insurance, charitable gift annuities, real estate, and more.

Among the varied benefits to you are reducing estate or capital gains tax, providing income for life, or providing a gift after your lifetime. Your legacy gift will support the future of women and girls.

For more information or to download a brochure, click [here](#).

Are you joining the AAUW Legacy Circle this year? If so, please let us know by contacting [Barb Finnegan](#).

Just another scam!

Heads up!

Have you received a text message saying that your FasTrack account is about to expire, or otherwise needs your attention?

It's a scam! Ignore it! Delete it! Do not respond or click on any links! Learn more at [ABC7](#).

FaceTiming Tech Trek's

Pat Ivester in Michigan

Mid-Pen Branch member **Pat Ivester** has worked for years at Tech Trek as camp director and math teacher. Last summer, she took on a new role at camp, and I asked her for an update. Here's what she had to say:

"What do I do? I hire the teaching staff for the 20-hour core classes, oversee their curriculum and lessons, help with their purchases and materials for their core class and afternoon workshops, and help the staff set up their core class room with necessary equipment each day. I collect all of the teachers' vouchers before and after camp for payment.

"At camp, I spend the week at camp and live in the dorm, so I'm available to substitute for the directors, teachers, counselors and dorm mothers. I also attend and help out with the afternoon activities when needed.

"In short, I oversee the teaching staff and answer the call for help when an extra adult is needed."



Pat Ivester via FaceTime

Pat and I visit frequently via FaceTime. Why not in person? Because she moved to Michigan in 2020!

We're happy that she's stuck with Mid-Pen and returns to Tech Trek despite her move.

About names and emails in The Triad

By Micki Carter
Triad Editor

A longtime member of Mid-Peninsula Branch had a simple request: Couldn't we identify the people in the photos in The Triad? It would make it easier to learn the names of new people (and remember the names of the not-so-new.)

And why don't we put the email addresses for people we are asked to contact in The Triad articles?

We quit putting names in the captions and sharing email addresses when The Triad began to be posted on the Mid-Peninsula website to protect privacy.

But maybe we were trading privacy for familiarity within our branch. Maybe we were shutting out new people who didn't know all the other members.

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, April 1, at 10 a.m. at the Community Activities Building, 1400 Roosevelt, Redwood City

Triad Deadline for May issue will be April 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!



Essence Lynn Wilson

Mid-Pen Annual Meeting will be April 5 via Zoom

Essence Lynn Wilson will be this year's AAUW Fund Speaker at the Mid-Peninsula Branch Annual Meeting at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 5, via Zoom. The Zoom link will be sent out by email.

The branch's Named Gift recipients will be announced, and next year's slate of officers will be elected.

Wilson is a doctoral candidate at USC focusing on health communication. A major fan of animation, her passions involve using animation to promote mental wellness for youth.

Her recent project, *Black Jasmine*, is a short animated film she produced with Black youth to combat stigma in their mental health climate.

In the meantime she is a part-time professor at her alma mater, USC Northridge, having received both her bachelor's and master's degrees in psychology there.

She is immensely grateful for the support AAUW has provided, amazed by everything the organization does and hopes to give back in the future.

Here are the nominations for officers and appointed leadership for 2025-2026:

Elected officers

President: Barb Finnegan
VP Programs: Karen Large,



The board of the Mid-Peninsula Branch meets at 10 a.m. on the first Tuesday of each month at the Redwood City Community Activities Building, 1400 Roosevelt, Redwood City. Pictured here are (from left) Nancy Oliver, Margot Diltz, Cathy Chowenhill, Chris Panero, Micki Carter, Bob Finnegan and Nancy Cantisano. You are welcome to attend any meeting to observe the business session of the branch although only elected officers vote on issues.

Learn to unpack the secrets of Social Security

Join AAUW for this important webinar.

What Every Woman Should Know About Social Security from 4-5 p.m. PDT on March 25.

Understanding Social Security is key for women planning their financial future. Join Trisha Mentzer from the Social Security

Administration (SSA) to learn about retirement, disability, spousal, and survivor benefits. This session covers eligibility, the application process, and how these programs support women at different life stages, helping you make informed financial decisions.

Pat McCarty
VP Membership: Stephanie Katz,
Gail Langkusch
Admin Finance: Mary Spring
Treasurer: Nancy Kucharik
Membership Treasurer: Wilma
Hoffmann
Recording Secretary: Margot Diltz

Appointed Positions:

Archivist: Nancy Oliver
DEI: OPEN
Neighborhoods: Carolyn Seffens
Parliamentarian: Nancy Oliver
AAUW Fund: Sally Mellinger
AAUW Public Policy: OPEN
Tech Trek: Sheri Simmons,
Laura Miller, Jane Fernald

Scholarships: Gail Langkusch (Chair)
Carole Farina, Katherine Linneman,
Nancy Oliver

Electronic Communications:
Triad Editor: Micki Carter
Website Editor: OPEN
External/Social Media: OPEN
Internal (Monday Memo) Cathy
Chowenhill

Zoom Meetings: Cathy Chowenhill
Event Graphics: Nancy Oliver
Directory: Margot Diltz
Sunshine: Marge Haruff
Hospitality: Nancy Cantisano
Book Wrapping: Margot Diltz,
Stephanie Meyer, Barbara Haas
Outreach: Grateful Garment, Hope
House — Yvonne Bergero

Expect a slight increase in AAUW National dues

By Shannon Wolfe
Managing Director and Chief of Staff

I wanted to let you know that the AAUW Board approved a modest dues adjustment — \$2 per year over the next two years.

New national dues: \$74 starting April 1, 2025, and \$76 starting April 1, 2026.

Why it matters: Member dues are an important funding source for AAUW. While costs for member support increase annually, dues have not kept pace. During the feedback process, we heard from more than 750 members.

The Board's decision to increase dues by \$2 reflects an adjustment to the original proposal to lessen the burden of a dues increase on members while keeping pace with inflation.

Your member dues help fund member services such as:

- Administrative Support: Assist with dues processing, Community Hub management, 990N filings, branding materials, and toolkits (e.g., DEI Toolkit, College/University Member Toolkit).

- Website Support: Update and manage ~500 branch and state websites and provide ongoing Site Resources support.

- Real-Time Support: Connect Team provides daily assistance and semi-weekly "Office Hours" for member leaders.

- And more!

The bottom line: We heard you.

Mid-Pen'ers will march in SC Hometown Parade

Time to get out and strut your stuff.

Saturday, May 17, is the annual San Carlos Hometown Parade. Join other Mid-Peninsula members as we proudly march shoulder-to-shoulder and let the town see who we are.

We even have a real banner this year.

The walk is under a mile, and it's actually a stroll. Let's have fun and get a little sun at San Carlos's premiere event.

Watch for more details in the May Triad and upcoming Monday Memos.



Jane Bradley and Judy Steele share some refreshments before the March General Meeting March 8 at the Skyway Center in San Carlos.

Why AAUW's still relevant today

Have you stopped to review all that AAUW accomplishes even in present-day circumstances?

Here are some highlights from first national, then state and local:

- 6.3 million dollars went to 285 AAUW Fellows and Community Organizations

- 6157 women received Work Smart, Money Smart, and Start Smart training

- 500 college women went to NCCWSL

- 47,000 messages were sent to our elected officials via the 2-minute activist

Learn more from the 2024 Annual Report:

- Speech Trek – working with high school students to deliver a speech on a

selected timely topic

- Tech Trek has sent more than 15,000 girls, entering 8th grade, to STEM camps throughout California since 1998. Virtual camps were added during the pandemic and now both options are offered! Be inspired at their [website](#).

- Branches provide thousands of local scholarships for women pursuing their first four-year degree.

- A focus on DEI makes the world a better, more welcoming place.

- Too many local programs to list here; check out Branch Brag on the AAUW California website

So, keep strong and carry on!

Hope House staff members work to prevent relapsing

By Micki Carter

Sydney Reynolds and Janice Matre of Hope House stopped by the March 8 General Meeting at Skyway Center in San Carlos to give Mid-Peninsula AAUW members a reminder on the work that Hope House in Redwood City does with women emerging from addiction.

Janice Matre, program manager at Hope House, described a disciplined system that provides residential and transitional treatment focused on how to prevent relapsing. The women are offered 90 days room-and-board within a structured community.

She said Hope House takes women, often directly from the justice system and often suffering from co-occurring addictions, and seeks to move them toward reunification with their children and family members and away from a using environment.

“We do the best we can,” Matre said, describing their efforts at providing a “warm hand-off” when their residential period ends. She added that those who relapse are able to return for another 90-day period twice in a year.

Sydney Reynolds is a graduate of Hope House who has just received her drug counseling certification and been hired as transitional case manager.

“I was completely broken when I arrived at Hope House at 18,” she said. “I had been using drugs and alcohol for six years at that point. . . . I was struggling to learn the difference between sobriety and recovery. I was learning to wake up every day and love myself.”

From the residential program, she graduated into the transitional program where she learned how to go to work and how to manage money, among other basics. After a year and a half as a counselor, she was hired to the Hope House staff.

“We plant seeds,” Matre said. “That’s what we do.”

The two women needed several trips to carry away all the blankets, towels, socks and underwear that Mid-Pen members donated to the program. For more information, contact [Yvonne Bergero](mailto:Yvonne.Bergero).



Five visitors joined Mid-Pen members at the March General Meeting. Above, are Jo Volkert, Cathy Rettbers and Liz Hack-Davie. Below are Kaye Crawford and Miriam Teeter.



Interest Sections

Book Bunch to read 'An Unfinished Love Story'

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 plays and continues to learn American Mah-Jongg. We meet Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to noon and Fridays from 12:45-2:45 p.m. 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 3-4:30 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 April 18, Barb Finnegan will host a discussion of *An Unfinished Love Story: A Personal History of the 1960s* by Doris Kearns Goodwin. On May 16, Karen Large will host a discussion of *Orbital* by Samantha Harvey (2024 Booker Prize winner). If you have questions, please contact [Carol Orton](#).

French Conversation

We'll meet at chez Leslie Pasahow in Menlo Park on Tuesday, April 8, at 1:30 p.m. Bring your books and we'll read Chapters VII, VIII and IX (as well as the last page of VI)! Plan on conversation, fun and treats

too! RSVP to [Leslie](#) or [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.



A group of Mid-Pen'ers celebrated the Year of the Snake with a dinner at Chef Chu's in Los Altos. Here are (from left) Gail Langkusch, Katherine Linnemann, Nancy Batten, the chef, Victoria Kline, Christine Co, Barb Finnegan and Nancy Cantisano. The get-together sprouted from a Neighborhood 5 gathering — and grew!

Public Policy

Our core values are under attack! Take action!

By Amy Hom and Missy Maceyko
Co-directors of Public Policy

As we outlined in a [webinar](#) in October 2024, the objectives of Project 2025 directly counter the Public Policy Priorities of AAUW California.

With federal policy pronouncements and changes continuing to take place at a head-spinning pace, it is clear that changes are under way to make Project 2025 become reality.

To respond to the attack on the people and issues we care about and to fulfill the mission of our organization, “to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research,” we will continue to compile resources to help you take action to fight back.

This is a critical moment, as the changes that are being implemented may have long-lasting impacts, locally and globally.

Even as we are asking you to act, we want to remind you that your well-being is important. With an uptick in policies and enforcement actions that run counter to our core values, you may be feeling overwhelmed, exhausted, fearful or anxious.

Introduce yourself to these new members of Mid-Peninsula Branch

By Barb Finnegan and Stephanie Katz, Co-VPs, Membership

We are fortunate to have new members this past year. Some have been featured in a TRIAD newsletter, while others have preferred to not do so.

Please introduce yourself, get to know them, and include them in your activities.

Neighborhood 1: Linda Montgomery, Gail McAllister, and Judy Hyrne

Neighborhood 2: Paula Wood

Neighborhood 3: Pat McCarty

Neighborhood 5: Diane Goldman

Neighborhood 7: Valerie Heimark, MaryAnn McKay, Mary Petrosky

Neighborhood 8: Donna Daulton

Neighborhood 10: Rebecca Carter and Hilary Hausman

Action is important, but self care is also a political act. Be gentle with yourself and acknowledge your efforts.

We also encourage you to [check out this guide](#) on how to read the news more strategically to still be able to follow events while preventing burnout and protecting your mental health.

You should also consider staying connected with AAUW members and with those outside of AAUW who are engaged in efforts to push back. To this end, here are some examples of individuals, groups and organizations that are pushing back in different ways:

- Direct refusal to comply via mass resignation.
- Showing up in person not only to protest but also to support, including showing love for beleaguered federal workers at USAID.
- Initiating and sustaining legal challenges

AAUW California is building out our own action-items database, which is being released to the California Leadership Team to review in March and which will go live for you in April. Regardless, we will continue to provide a short list of targeted resources each month.

We ask you to take action by choosing one self-focused, one other-focused, and one political-focused item from the list below.

Empower change: Support Greatest Needs Fund!

By Barb Finnegan

The Greatest Needs Fund is the backbone of AAUW’s ability to adapt and respond to the ever-changing challenges facing women and girls. When you contribute to this fund, you’re not just donating—you’re empowering AAUW to amplify its efforts in ways that truly matter.

Your support ensures that AAUW can continue to lead groundbreaking initiatives like economic empowerment programs, voter engagement campaigns, and policy advocacy that fight for gender equity. With your generosity, AAUW can sustain core operations, expand its reach, and remain agile in tackling both new and emerging

This month the topic area is:

Sexual Assault Violence Prevention

Self-Focused: Education

- Learn more about [the organizations country-wide](#) that are on the front lines of dealing with sexual assault violence
- Read through the resources provided by the [Domestic Violence Awareness Project](#) and [the CDC](#).

Other-Focused: Connection

- Whatever you take away from your homework in self-education, be sure to tell one friend about what you learned. You can do this over lunch.
- Work with others to [organize an event](#) to raise awareness and dispel myths around gender-based and sexual assault violence in your community.

Politically Focused: Outreach

- Use [5-calls](#) to reach out to federal legislators to oppose the abolition of the Department of Education, which will impact enforcement of existing sexual and gender-based violence protections under Title IX.
- Text **SIGN PNNWWO to 50409** to contact legislators, urging them to back efforts to get money flowing to relevant organizations and programs to raise awareness

opportunities.

Every contribution to the Greatest Needs Fund is an investment in a brighter future. Your donation directly strengthens our ability to drive meaningful, lasting change for women and girls everywhere. These funds are carefully managed to maximize impact, ensuring every dollar works tirelessly toward AAUW’s mission.

Consider making a meaningful impact by using your Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs). All donations, including RMDs are tax-deductible donation.

Join us in the fight for gender equity. Donate today and be part of the change: [Donate now.](#)