



Carole Farina, Wilma Hoffmann and Pat McCarty in Redwood City.



Gail Langkusch in San Francisco.

Mid-Pen well-represented at Hands Off rallies



Barb Finnegan in Redwood City



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

Co-President's Message

Demand that our senators vote 'NO' on voter suppression bill

By Chris Panero

As I write this, the House has just passed the abominable SAVE act, ostensibly designed to prevent non-citizens from voting but really aimed at voter suppression. It's going to the Senate next; call our California senators and tell them to vote No!

Congressman Mullin says, "Both Trump's executive order and the SAVE Act are clear voter suppression tactics that would undermine free and fair democratic pro-

cesses and are particularly harmful to the 69 million married American women who took their spouse's last name, military members, and the estimated 140 million American citizens who don't have a passport.

"To be clear, its already illegal for non-U.S. citizens to vote in federal elections, there is no evidence of widespread fraud, and Republicans should be focused on combating the well-known election interferences from foreign adversaries overseas."



Marilyn Zack, who moved to the Sierra foothills last year, was back on the Peninsula for a visit when a group of friends gathered at The Plantation Coffee Shop on Laurel in San Carlos for an impromptu get-together. On hand for the reunion were Gail Langkusch (left), Bernie Mellott, Marilyn, Chris Panero, Wilma Hoffmann and Jean Dehner

Look for your AAUW-CA voting link

The AAUW California voting period will soon be upon us.

The voting period runs April 26-May 16, and every member will have the opportunity to vote electronically.

For the few members for whom we do not have an email address, we are sending a ballot via postal mail with information on how to vote.

On April 26, each member will receive

an email message containing a personal invitation to vote. There will be a link to click that will take you to the ballot. No password or code needs to be entered. You must submit your electronic ballot by May 16.

You are being asked to vote to:

- Approve the Public Policy Priorities (PPP).
- Approve a dues increase.
- Elect the Board of Directors.

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, May 6, at 10 a.m. at the Community Activities Building, 1400 Roosevelt, Redwood City

Triad Deadline for June issue will be May 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!

AAUW-National voting has already opened via email

AAUW National voting opened at noon on April 14.

Members should have received an electronic ballot with their unique voting credentials from vote@simplyvoting.com, AAUW's third-party voting service.

If you didn't received your ballot, add AAUW National's email address to your safe sender list to ensure your ballot reaches you.

Members without an email address on file will receive a paper ballot.

Eligible voters are those who were members as of March 14.

Say thank you to 2025's Named Gift Honorees



Barb Finnegan

By Wilma Hoffmann

Each year Mid-Pen is allowed a number of Named Gift Honorees depending on our collective donations to AAUW Funds.

I am delighted to announce the two Named Gift Honorees for this year. I have attempted to list what they did, and I can guarantee that it is a lot of work and requires enthusiasm and perseverance.

These two women have brought us more than 20 new members in the last two years. One of them brought us more earlier, in her first year as co-vice president of membership, while the other started earlier unofficially as a result of her enthusiasm for AAUW in general and walking and Mahjongg in particular.

Let's be clear – This is while other affiliates are shrinking or disbanding. Nothing short of astonishing.

They are deserving of our heartfelt thanks for a job well done.

This year, the Named Gift Honorees are Barb Finnegan and Stephanie Katz. Congratulations, ladies and thank you so much for all your efforts to increase membership.



Stephanie Katz

AAUW-CA Annual Event will be presented on Zoom Saturday, April 26

We invite you to join us on Saturday, April 26, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m., for our AAUW California 2025 Annual Event on Zoom, entitled *Pivoting 4 Our Future*.

Building off the concepts in *The Four Pivots: Reimagining Justice, Reimagining Ourselves* by Dr. Shawn Ginwright, we will explore how the pivots tie into the Volunteers First program that our own Branch Development committee created.

Two exciting speakers who will join us will be AAUW Board Chair Cherie Sorokin, with an AAUW update, and strategist Deepa Iyer, who will speak to us about the importance of our strengths, as well as connection and collaboration for our organization's viability.

We will have four breakout rooms for you to choose from based on the Four Pivots: From Lens to Mirror, From Transactional to Transformative, From Problem to Possibil-

Installation luncheon will be May 17 at King Chuan Restaurant in San Carlos

The luncheon to install Mid-Peninsula Branch officers is set for Saturday, May 17, at noon, at King Chuan Restaurant, 1188 San Carlos Ave., (corner of Laurel Street), San Carlos.

Reservations are due by May 7. Send your check for \$32, made payable to AAUW-Mid-Peninsula Branch, to Nancy Oliver.

The theme will be Alice in Wonderland!

We will install:

President: Barb Finnegan,

VP Programs: Karen Large,

Pat McCarty

VP Membership: Stephanie Katz,

Gail Langkusch

Admin Finance: Mary Spring

Treasurer: Nancy Kucharik

Membership Treasurer: Wilma Hoffmann

Recording Secretary: Margot Diltz

There's no need to choose a specific item, as food is served family-style.

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 and vegetable fried rice. The menu includes foods for vegan, vegetarian and gluten-free diets.

ity, and From Hustle to Flow.

Lots of connections, inspiration, and joy will be found!

For more information, including the

agenda, a description of the breakout rooms, and links to speaker bios, read our website [here](#). To register now, click [here](#).

We hope to see you on April 26 at 9 a.m.!

Mid-Pen empowers change on Equal Pay Day

Branch members offer bookmarks to make their point

By Barb Finnegan

This year, several passionate members from our branch sparked change by raising awareness on an important issue: the pay gap between men and women. Did you know that women had to work until March 25 this year to earn what men made by Dec. 31 last year? It's a staggering reality — and we took action!

To mark this milestone, our branch created powerful bookmarks to highlight the disparity, and our efforts went viral! Here's how we made an impact:

- **Carole Farina** sent bookmarks directly to our Representatives and Senators, ensuring they couldn't ignore the issue.

- **Margo Diltz** mailed bookmarks to the San Mateo City Council, pushing them to take a stand for equality.

- **Nancy Oliver** attended the San Carlos City Council and passionately called for the passing of a resolution in support of the Paycheck Fairness Bill.

- **Nancy Cantisano** and I hit the streets, distributing bookmarks at the Redwood City Council and the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors meeting, igniting conversations about closing the wage gap.

But we didn't stop there — our efforts extended beyond government halls and into our community:

- **Wilma Hoffmann** distributed bookmarks at Hillsdale Caltrain station while **Gail Langkusch** and **Katherine Linnemann** spread the message at San Carlos Caltrain.

- **Nancy Cantisano, Sheri Simmons**, and I made our voices heard at Redwood City Caltrain, sparking dialogue on the urgent need for pay equity.


Together, we're making waves and demanding fair pay for all. The journey to equal pay is far from over — but with each bookmark handed out and each conversation ignited, we're one step closer to turning this issue into a thing of the past. Let's keep pushing for fairness!



Sheri Simmons and Barb Finnegan



Nancy Cantisano



EQUAL PAY WITHOUT DELAY


Tell Congress: Take action to close the pay gap

Equal Pay Day!

Most women in the U.S. had to work all last year and right up to March 25 of this year to be paid as much as the typical man took home by Dec. 31, 2024.

U.S. women working full-time make 83 cents for every dollar paid to a non-Hispanic white man, which would amount to \$500 billion per year.

What can you do? Urge your elected officials to approve the Paycheck Fairness Act. Learn how to advocate for your own salary at www.aauw.org/resources/programs/salary-negotiation/




Barb Finnegan

Public Policy/Climate Change

New section combines policy and climate topics

By Victoria Kline

At the end of 2024 the Climate Change section for Mid-Peninsula branch decided to expand its focus by adding Public Policy to its brief.

We are now the Public Policy/Climate Change (PP/CC) section that will encompass a broader range of topics including equal pay, passage of the ERA, healthcare rights, education, civil rights and, of course, the biggest issue of our society, climate change.

Each month one of the PP/CC members will present a topic to the group.

In January 2025, Cynthia Ford chose a video developed by the Columbia University Business School on “Climate Change Impact on Business.”

What followed was a candid discussion on important issues that would likely be impacted with the upcoming inauguration of the new President.

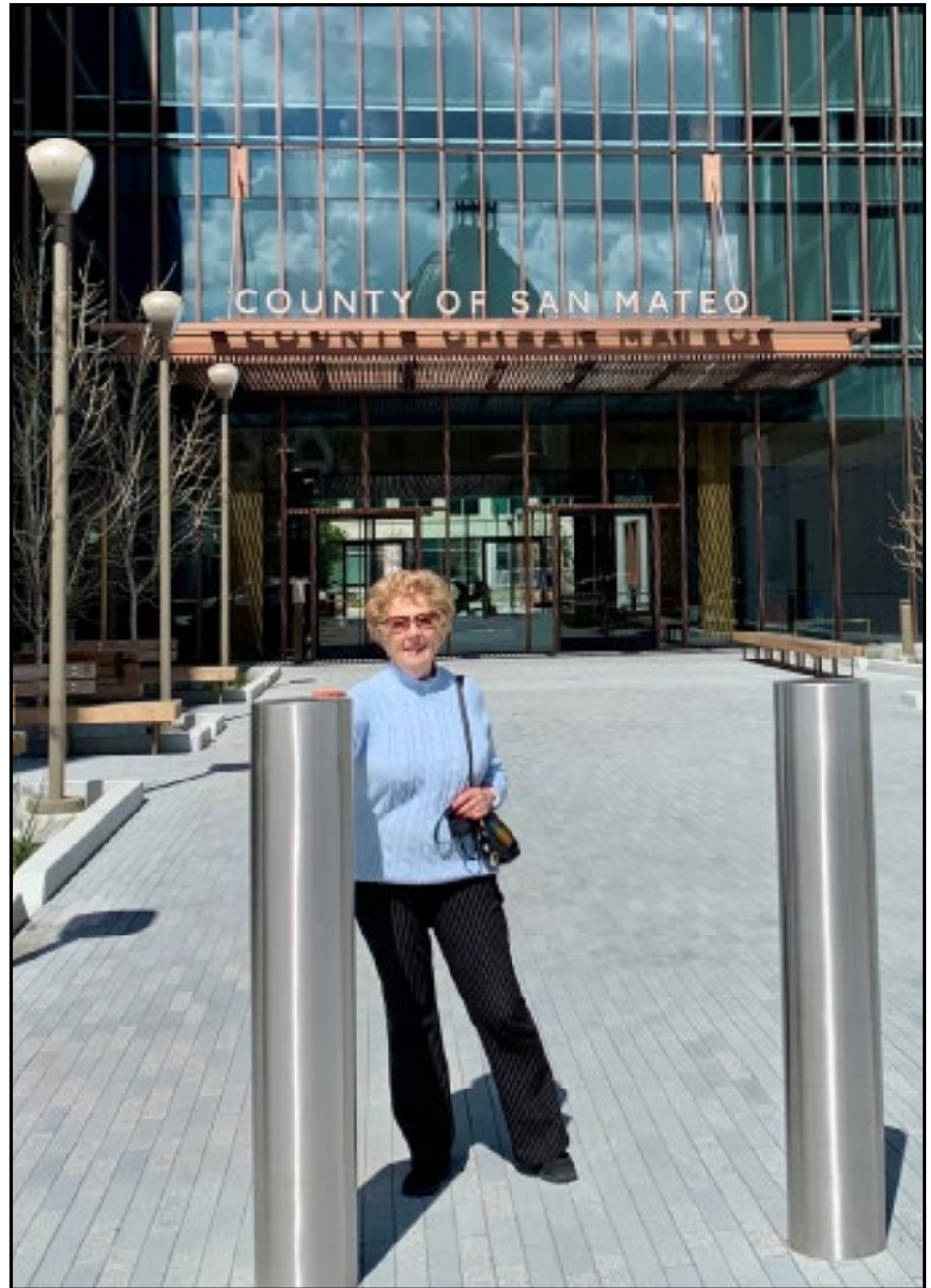
Some of the questions that were addressed were: What will our lives look like? Will we be a society of “have” and “have-nots”? What impact will Artificial Intelligence (AI) have on jobs, education and our lives?

February’s PP/CC meeting was hosted by Wilma Hoffmann who gave a quick overview (if that is at all possible under the circumstances) of what we know and have done with regard to the U.N. Global Plastic Treaty countries.

In addition, she provided highlights from current recycling options and their problems and possibilities. The three current approaches to recycling plastic Wilma explored with the group were landfilling (waste-to-landfill), waste-to-energy through incineration, and recycling plastic waste into new products.

In March, Phyllis Hesik arranged for us to tour the new San Mateo County Office Building 3 in Redwood City. This state-of-the-art building is the nation’s first civic building made of mass laminated timber and net-zero energy.

Our tour guide told us how the county leaders approached the building as a means to engage with the public, provide efficient and transparent governance and be uniquely sustainable and energy-efficient.



Teddy Heinrich poses in front of the new San Mateo County Building 3.

Later in the day we met up with Supervisor Raymond Mueller who was very transparent with our members during the Q&A period. He shared his many concerns about the county’s future budget and said he is working closely with other supervisors to find ways to retain the numerous programs serving the county.

What turned out to be the highlight of

our visit with Mueller was when he shared his story about how serving others became a way of life for him starting as a youngster.

The section is open to all Mid-Pen members. You don’t need to be an activist; you can still come to be informed, to learn and to contribute! We meet on the fourth Monday of every month. If you’re interested in joining, contact [Victoria Kline](mailto:Victoria.Kline@earthlink.net).

Interest Sections

Filoli gardens draw Walk/Talk & Gawk strollers

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](#).

Public Policy/ 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 May 16, Karen Large will host a discussion of *Orbital* by Samantha Harvey (2024 Booker Prize winner). On June 20, Carol Orton will host a discussion of *Anita de Monte Laughs Last* by Xochitl Gonzalez. If you have questions, please contact [Carol Orton](#).

French Conversation

We will meet Tuesday, May 13, at 1:30 p.m., at Mirna Hirschl's home in Belmont. Plan on conversation, fun and treats too! RSVP to [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](#).



The gardens of Filoli in all their Spring finery delighted Nancy Cantisano, Barb Finnegan and Gail Langkusch during a Walk/Talk & Gawk tour.

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.

Ensure the future of Tech Trek with a gift

By Barb Finnegan

Mid-Peninsula AAUW branch needs passionate individuals to brainstorm creative ideas to fundraise in support of the Tech Trek program and fill the empty coffers for next year. No experience is necessary --- just enthusiasm and a desire to make a difference!

Since 1998, we have sent girls every summer to STEM camps at local universities (and to virtual camps during the height of the Covid pandemic), which empowers them with knowledge, skills and friendships.

This year, we are sending eight girls at a cost of \$1,200 each. At the end of camp this year, the scholarship funds that have supported this incredible opportunity will

be depleted. We need your help to keep this life-changing program alive and accessible to future generations of girl students who are engaged in STEM at their schools.

What to know about Tech Trek:

The girls are nominated by their teachers based on their interests and skills in STEM subjects and projects.

The girls undergo an interview process to determine which of them will attend the exciting week-long camp.

When the girls return from the camp, they share their experiences with us at our September branch meeting. The girls are always eager to tell us about the new skills they have learned, the lasting friendships they have made, and the inspirations they

have gained.

The program is a cherished tradition, and your support is needed to ensure it continues to thrive for many more years.

If you are ready to make a difference, contact [me](#) and get involved. Let's work together to create opportunities for the next generation of STEM leaders!

In addition, you can send a tax-deductible online donation to [Tech Trek](#). Scroll down to DONATE. Select "Tech Trek – Santa Clara Hopper 5043" on the memo line, and add the name of our branch (CA-0095 Mid-Peninsula) to the NOTES field.

Please look for a letter in the mail to find out more as we launch our campaign to raise \$8,000!



The Walk, Talk and Gawk section found a new place to hike – Kite Hill in Woodside. The wild flowers were spectacular!

Share your best ideas for Mid-Pen programs on June 13

By Karen Large

We want you – and your ideas for Mid Peninsula's monthly programs at a planning meeting at 10 a.m. Friday, June 13, at Burton Park in San Carlos.

We have some ideas percolating for the

2025-2026 year, but welcome input from the full membership. Incoming president Barb Finnegan, program chairs Pat McCarty and Karen Large, membership chairs Stephanie Katz and Gail Langkusch plus incoming San Mateo branch president Maureen Buchner

will be on hand.

Bring your second cup of coffee and your thoughts, and we will provide a few mid-morning breakfast treats.

Meet us at the picnic tables near the bocce courts.

Time to renew your AAUW dues for the coming year

Don't ignore that renewal notice from AAUW. Just follow the link and use your credit card! Questions?

Ask [Wilma Hoffmann](#), your new Treasurer-Membership. More details in the June Triad.