



Despite a gusty breeze, a contingent of Mid-Pen members turned out to carry the flag for AAUW at the San Carlos Hometown Days Parade May 17. Helping to spread the word were Margot Diltz (left), Gail Langkusch, Katherine Linnemann, Wilma Hoffmann and Mary Spring.

Come share your ideas for expanding Mid-Pen's programming on June 13

By Karen Large

We want you – and your ideas — for Mid Peninsula's annual Programs and 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 and incoming San Mateo 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 at Burton Park..

**Donate to AAUW's
Greatest Needs Fund
by June 30 and help
Mid-Pen reach
Five-Star status!
(We're only \$404 short!
Details on Page 5.)**

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

Co-President's Message

Chris and Cathy congratulate new officers and relax a bit



Chris Panero received a gift card from The Plantation Coffee Roastery, the perfect gift for the Mid-Pen Co-president who practically uses the shop as an office since she's there so often.

By Chris Panero

Welcome to the 2025-2026 board!

As Cathy and I each finish up our third year as co-presidents, we are thrilled to know that the next year is in good hands.

Thank you to all outgoing board members, and a big welcome to the new ones that we installed at the luncheon Saturday, May 17, at King Chuan Restaurant in San Carlos:

President — Barb Finnegan

Vice-presidents/Program — Karen Large and Pat McCarty

Vice-presidents/Membership — Gail Langkusch and Stephanie Katz

Treasurer — Nancy Kucharik

Membership treasurer — Wilma Hoffmann

Recording secretary — Margot Diltz

Admin/Financial Secretary — Mary Spring

Special thanks to Nancy Oliver for the program that featured the characters from Alice in Wonderland paired with the incoming officers. Barb Finnegan was the White Rabbit who "can push and prod when things need to get done."

Enjoy your adventure, Barb!



On the left is Nancy Oliver who served as Mistress of Ceremonies at the Installation Lunch. On the right are the incoming board members: (Upper row) Pat McCarty, Wilma Hoffmann, Margot Diltz, Karen Large and (bottom row) Barb Finnegan and Gail Langkusch.



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, June 3, at 11:30 a.m., a potluck lunch for incoming and outgoing board members at the Community Activities Building, 1400 Roosevelt, Redwood City

Triad Deadline for September issue will be Aug. 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!

Local college women get Mid-Pen scholarships



Posing with Sofia Kitchen (second from right) are Katherine Linnemann, Barb Finnegan and Gail Langkusch.



Presenting the Betty Torrez scholarship to Makari Pina (center) are Nancy Oliver, Gail Langkusch, Katherine Linnemann and Barb Finnegan.

It's graduation season, and Mid-Pen branch handed out scholarships to two highly deserving young women.

Skyline College student Sofia Kitchen of South San Francisco was awarded a \$600 scholarship to attend the National College Conference for Women Student Leaders in Washington, D.C. this month.

She has just completed her first year at Skyline College and is working towards an Associate Degree in Diagnostic Medical Sonography/Sonographer and Ultrasound Technician in 2026.

She told us "I am currently finishing up my first year at Skyline College while working on campus as a student assistant and peer mentor for the Women's Mentoring and Leadership Academy (WMLA).

"Off campus, I am a swimming instructor where I teach people of all ages from 2 months to 50 years old.

"Thank you for giving me the opportunity to attend the NCCWSL conference. I am extremely grateful to have been chosen to be the recipient of this scholarship."

She was selected by Professor Danielle Powell, founding director of the WMLA.

Makari Pina of San Carlos is the 2025 Mid-Peninsula AAUW Betty Torrez Scholarship recipient.

A graduate of Sequoia High School, she has completed her AA at Canada College in two years while working part-time. She plans to attend San Jose State this fall and will work towards a BA in Social work.

"On Friday, May 16, four members of the Mid-Pen Scholarship Committee attended the Student Recognition and Achievement Ceremony at Canada," Katherine Linnemann said.

"We got a chance to meet Makari and cheered her on as she walked the stage to receive her certificate.

"Later she told us of how appreciative she was to be awarded the Betty Torrez scholarship as it would help her achieve her goal to work with children.

"Makari is the perfect example of AAUW's commitment to empowering young women to achieve their goals. Betty Torrez would be happy with this choice."

Gearing up for Tech Trek's Camp Hopper 2025

By Sheri Simmons

Our team of Tech Trek Mid-Pen Branch Coordinators hosted our Meet and Greet on May 12 for the selected girls from our branch to meet each other and learn more about Camp Hopper at Santa Clara University.

It's also an opportunity for their parents to ask questions and learn more about AAUW and our commitment to sponsoring Tech Trek so that girls will continue pursuing their interests in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) and possibly see a future for themselves in it.

Our branch coordinators are Jane Fernald, Laura Miller and Sheri Simmons, who is leading the team this year. Also in attendance were AAUW members Barb Haas and current president, Chris Panero. Both are Tech Trek veterans, having volunteered at camp over the years.

Incoming President Barb Finnegan also attended and is leading a fundraising effort for next year's Tech Trek (see her article in May 2025 TRIAD). We are grateful for the many members who have supported Tech Trek over the years, both financially and with their precious time.

We were pleased to have eight of our nine selected girls in attendance, plus an alumna from Camp Hopper 2024 who shared her experiences with the incoming girls. We heard from AAUW members Barb Haas and Vicci Mueller about life at camp. Vicci shared her perspective as a volunteer dorm monitor at the camp and emphasized the fun and the opportunity for the girls to make friends who share their interests.

Are you interested in learning more about how Tech Trek Camp can enhance middle school girls' exploration of STEM subjects? Our local Camp Hopper at Santa Clara University needs volunteers to help out with the activities or support roles this summer.

Camp is held from July 6-12, and there are volunteer options throughout the week. Some tasks are simply procuring and delivering needed items. Everyone who receives a hard copy newspaper can start saving those now. Newsprint is needed for a special hands-on building project for the girls.

Please use this [link](#) to peruse the volunteer options, dates and times, and then email Camp Hopper Director Cynthia Miller



Above are Jane Fernald, Laura Miller and Sheri Simmons, the Mid-Pen Tech Trek coordinators, at the Tech Trek 2025 Meet & Greet on May 12. At the left are new Trekker Mahi Koppula and Sanya Gupta, a 2024 alum of Camp Hopper.

to request a volunteer spot. Her email is cynthiamiller.aauw@gmail.com and is also included at the bottom on the Google

sheets list.

Thank you for considering volunteering at Camp Hopper.

Acting to protect diversity, equity, inclusion

By Barb Finnegan

Should we omit the values represented by DEI? Should we change the name to make it more acceptable?

I have received comments and questions on whether we need to eliminate focus on DEI or change the name of our DEI committee as President Trump in an executive order said that DEI is illegal.

The short answer is “no!” The national AAUW, AAUW-CA and Mid-Pen Branch will continue to promote these values. It is suggested that we use the words “diversity, equity, and inclusion” as the concepts will be more meaningful, instead of using the acronym DEI, which can have a bad connotation.

AAUW’s CEO Gloria Blackwell has

expressed in several webinars the need to continue diversity, equity, and inclusion. One of these webinars, [AAUW: Standing Strong Against Attacks on Equity in Education](#), presented on March 29 is available on YouTube.

An executive order affects the policy in federal agencies and programs; it doesn’t affect nonprofits such as AAUW. Therefore, we have the opportunity to stand up for those whose rights are being threatened.

AAUW was started by women who refused to accept exclusion in higher education. Blackwell asks that we stay true to our mission and vision:

- Equity and fairness: equal access to opportunity is our core.

- Educational excellence: inclusive environments improve learning outcomes.

- Innovation: diverse perspectives drive better solutions.

Here are some suggested actions we can take to advocate for the values of diversity, equity and inclusion: Speak up, organize locally, raise awareness and build relationships.

Speak up by contacting your elected officials. Join [Two-Minute Activist](#), and you will receive crafted letters to email or revise as you wish.

Organize locally by building relationships with like-minded organizations. Indivisible is a national organization promoting non-violent protests. It is a grassroots movement of thousands of local Indivisible groups with a mission to elect progressive leaders, rebuild our democracy, and defeat the Trump agenda. [Mid-Peninsula Indivisible](#) is the local Redwood City/San Carlos branch.

While some in the group protest against individuals, it is possible to maintain our non-partisan mission and just protest against issues.

Raise awareness by writing letters to editors about equity issues or sharing equity positions on social media. Please comment on our branch Facebook page, as well as AAUW and AAUW-CA.

Building relationships by connecting with local education leaders and relaying AAUW’s resources. Our branch does this by providing Tech Trek scholarships to local seventh grade girls, a \$2,000 scholarship to a Canada college graduate to continue her education in a bachelor’s program, and \$600 tuition for a Skyline student to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders in Washington, D.C. (See Page 3.)

Please refer to the newly released [DEI statement](#) from AAUW-CA which includes information on the equity and inclusion AAUW [tool kit](#).

Want to learn more? Join the Inclusion and Equity Committee Town Hall on Wednesday, May 28, at 4 p.m. PDT. Register [here](#).

Here’s how to put the power of your pocketbook to work for great things

Mid-Pen Branch must donate \$1730 to the Greatest Needs Fund by June 30 to secure our Five Star status. We only need to raise \$404 more to make it.

Why donate?

- It’s the last criteria our branch needs to meet the goals of the Five Star program

- Your donation will assist National AAUW to fight the Trump administration’s full-scale attack on civil rights and higher education, targeting women, students of color, LGBTQ+ students, and students with disabilities, according AAUW CEO Gloria Blackwell.

Donate to Tech Trek...

... with a tax-deductible donation through the Special Projects Fund. Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) are accepted. Many companies will match employee donations.

To [donate online](#), 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.

To donate by check: Make your check payable to AAUW-CA-SPF. Specify: Tech Trek — Camp Hopper and the name of our branch (CA-0095-Mid-Peninsula) on the memo line. Mail your donation to our treasurer, Nancy Kucharik, 1025 Lafayette St., San Mateo 94403.

Donate to the Torrez Fund

Make your check payable to Mid-Peninsula AAUW. Specify: Torrez Scholarship Fund on the memo line and mail it to our treasurer, Nancy Kucharik, at the address above. At the moment, donations to the Torrez Scholarship Fund are not tax deductible. We’re working to change that; stay tuned!

Donate to NCCWSL fund

This is the branch scholarship for tuition to the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders conference.

Make your check payable to Mid-Pen AAUW and mail to Nancy. This is not tax deductible

Your September Triad will be the next edition. Enjoy the summer!

Neighborhoods



Members of Neighborhood 5 gathered at Molly O's for a pre-St. Pat's get-together. Around the table were Vicci Mueller, Gail Langkusch, Angela Mallett, Sandy McVey, Nancy Batten, Katherine Linnemann, Stephanie Meyer, Carolyn Seffens, Nancy Cantisano and Barb Finnegan.

Interest Sections

Some Mid-Pen sections will meet over summer

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 June 20, Carol Orton will host a discussion of *Anita de Monte Laughs Last* by Xochitl Gonzalez. On July 18 Katherine Linnemann will host a discussion of *James* by Percival Everett, and Carole Farina will host a discussion of *North Woods* by Daniel Mason on Aug. 15. If you have questions, please contact Carol Orton..

French Conversation

Keep in touch with Laverne Rabinowitz for information about the summer plans for our second Tuesday afternoon meetings of French!

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.

Five new members elected to national board of AAUW

By Shannon Wolfe
Managing Director/Chief of Staff

On behalf of the AAUW National Board of Directors, I am pleased to share the results of our 2025 national election. Thank you to all who voted and played a role in shaping the future of our organization. The full voting results can be found [here](#).

I am delighted to welcome our newly elected board members:

- Hope Bennett
- Aaliyah El-Amin
- Dr. Monique Taylor
- Dr. Mayida Zaal

We are also honored to welcome Dr. Hope Ricciotti as a newly appointed board member.

Each of these outstanding women brings invaluable experience and commitment to advancing equity for women and girls. We look forward to their leadership and contributions in the years ahead.

In addition to our board elections, I'm pleased to report that both the proposed changes to the AAUW bylaws and the Public Policy Principles and Priorities were approved by an overwhelming majority of our voting members.

Take the equity pledge

AAUW's strength is our collective voice. We're asking everyone in our community to take the [pledge for gender equity](#).

I pledge to:

- Speak up in my community when I see attacks on equity.
- Engage in events, like town halls, school board meetings, or public demonstrations.
- Contact my elected officials when legislation threatens access and equity in education.
- Support AAUW and other organizations working to protect our rights.
- Seek the facts — beyond the headlines — of how policy impacts women and girls and share with five people I know.

I pledge to be part of a continuing movement rooted in shared purpose and community.



On what turned out to be a drizzly, decidedly chilly April morning, the Walk/Talk & Gawk hikers donned parkas, hiking boots and gloves and headed to Edgewood Park to take in the wildflowers which are indigenous to this spectacular mid-San Mateo County park. If you would like to join the Walk/Talk & Gawkers on a future expedition, let Wilma Hoffmann know so she can add you to the list who get the alerts for these Thursday excursions.