



VOLUME 52 ISSUE 6

Pleasant Hill Branch N.E.W.S.

Now/Events/Women/Success

Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research

FEBRUARY 2010

ROLES WOMEN PLAYED IN CONTRA COSTA HISTORY

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2010
LAFAYETTE LIBRARY
3491 MT. DIABLO BLVD.
LAFAYETTE
2 - 4 PM

Join members of other AAUW branches to hear about the fascinating women pioneers of Contra Costa County. What risks did they take? How did they meet the challenges? The CCC Interbranch Council of AAUW is hosting this free presentation in cooperation with the CCC League of Women Voters and the CCC Commission on Women.

Walnut Creek women, including the Penniman family, will be discussed by Catherine Accardi. Karen Terhune and Traci Parent will tell us about women who lived in the Black Diamond Mine area and San Ramon Valley women will be covered by Beverly Lane.

These four contributors to Arcadia Publishing's *Images of America* series will have their books for sale after their talks. Refreshments will be provided.

The new Lafayette library has plenty of underground parking. A docent tour of the new library/learning center will be given at the end of the program.



This photograph is of Mary Penniman, seated in the center, with Bessie on the left, Helen Hall, on the right, and Carrie Penniman on the steps.

The Penniman Family was instrumental in the early days of Walnut Creek and were the owners of what is now the Shadelands Ranch Museum home in Walnut Creek.



Presidential Team Report

We are 31 members stronger! We sincerely welcome the dual memberships with the AAUW Martinez Branch. Our hopes are that all of us will get to know each other, support each other, and together support the mission of AAUW.

And, speaking of the mission of AAUW! Remember, we are advancing the equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research. Sometimes it seems we are continually asking for money from our members to fulfill our part in the mission statement. Please, please don't think you have to contribute to every plea for money. YOU can choose which part of the mission statement your donations are credited to.

If you feel strongly about helping women achieve advanced degrees in various fields, or in helping women who have been stymied in their chosen fields due to their gender, then contribute to AAUW Funds. If you want to further the education of local graduating high school seniors or community college grads going on to a 4-year school, then contribute to our Local Scholarship fund. If you really want to see younger girls become interested in science and math, then contribute to the Tech Trek program for rising 8th grade girls. You can also contribute your TIME to Fair Oaks Elementary in our SAM (Study, Art, Music) program.

So, pick YOUR passion and promote it, be an advocate for it; and help us educate others about the AAUW mission.

The Team

BOARD MEETING – Feb. 10 – 7pm – Rolling Green Clubhouse

Looking Ahead:

March 27 – EF Silent Auction

April 30 – May 2

AAUW-CA Convention

SAN RAMON MARRIOTT

The nominating committee recommends the following slate of officers for 2010-2011:

Co-Presidents: *Marlene Maksel and Jean Hambleton*

Membership V.P.s: *Suzanne Salter, Marty Martin, and Kathy Theath*

Program V.P.s: *Jeannette Holmes and Ginny Hargrave*

Education Fund: *open*

L A F V.P.: *Kathy Searles*

Secretary: *Gayle Garrison*

Treasurer: *Marilyn Tubbs*

Elections will be held at our March meeting. Nominations may also be made from the floor. Prior consent of the proposed nominee is required. We need an EF VP!!

The branch is grateful to the hard-working Nominating Committee: Margi Alkire, Eileen Bordenave, Victoria Maat, Judy Onopchenko, and alternates Gayle Garrison (Chair) and Shelley Jacobson.

Public Policy

Marlene Maksel, Chair

While AAUW celebrates the fact that women have made remarkable strides in education and the labor force during the past four decades, these gains have yet to translate into full equity in pay ~ even for college-educated women who work full time. In these tough economic times, when more and more families are counting on a woman's salary to make ends meet, fair pay is even more critical, not simply to family economic security but also to the nations' economic recovery. Urge your senators to take the next critical step in the fight for pay equity by quickly passing the **Paycheck Fairness Act (S. 182)**.

Reproductive rights supporters and opponents marked the 37th anniversary of the U. S. Supreme Court's landmark *Roe vs. Wade* decision on Friday with marches and rallies across the nation. AAUW supports the right of every woman to safe, accessible, affordable, and comprehensive family planning and trusts that every woman has the ability to make her own informed choices regarding her reproductive life within the dictates of her own moral and religious beliefs. URGE your members of Congress to protect women's reproductive rights as the health care debate continues.

FOCUS\$ ON FUNDRAIS\$ING

Each year Pleasant Hill AAUW presents thousands of dollars to national and local funds supporting women and girls in education. It may seem like a lot of fun – parties, auctions, 49er games, book fairs, and a tea party that we don't even attend. But we all know the work and dedication that goes on behind the scene. It is a tribute to our branch that every member contributes "above and beyond" in time, effort and money.

TICKETS MAY STILL BE AVAILABLE:

"ON THE RAZZLE" FOR TECH TREK

Friday, Feb. 5 - \$25/person - 6:30pm

An evening of fun and hilarity, with dessert to sweeten your taste buds before the show. Begin at Judi Hamberg or Sandy Wolfe's home for dessert, drive to DVC for a rollicking play and join the cast after for a "Talk Back" session. Call Sandy now for those last minute tickets: 228-2633

EF SILENT AUCTION AND DINNER

Saturday, March 27 – 5:30pm

Brookview Clubhouse, 1201 Monument Blvd., Concord

\$25/person

An evening of festivity, fine food, and all for EF. Reservations are limited to 80 people so send your check today to: Alana MacDonald, 233 Western Hills Dr., Pleasant Hill. Spouses and friends are welcome to this event.

Still seeking donations for the auction. If you have any new or used items (in good condition, including something handmade or homemade, please call to donate. A service, such as meal preparation, a cooking class, or a stitchery lesson, would all make good donations. Call Susanne (945-0347) or Lynn (935-2109

LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP

Each of you should have received your invitation to the non-tea by now. Just sit back, relax and write that check 😊

In the meantime, the Local Scholarship Committee is looking for members to help choose the recipients of these scholarships. Several people are needed to read the applications and determine the best applicants. Timing will be late March or early April. If you are interested, please call Dana Matthews (930-6043) or Ish Mendonsa (680-2749) for more information.

INTEREST GROUP MEETINGS



WALKING - Anyone interested in exploring the walkways, stairways and byways of ever fascinating San Francisco? It is fun, informative and a wonderful way to get a little exercise, though the purpose is to smell the roses. We will take our time and enjoy. "The City" has many fascinating neighborhoods and areas, and I have a book that gives blow by blow directions for walks as well as descriptions of the history, architecture, local lore, etc. Call **Gretel Holit (939-6436)** or email ggholit@comcast.net if you are interested in a little change of pace and adventure.



GENEALOGY Welcome to our new members and all of the Martinez members who recently have become joint members. The Genealogy Interest Section does not have regular monthly meetings. Most of our activities are field trips and the dates vary from month to month. We are a casual group and most of us do our own independent research. We share information and help each other when one of us have ran into that "brick wall." Sometimes we do not know about an activity until it is too late to be in the newsletter. If you are interested in genealogy, let me know and I will add you to our email list. **Kay Ernst 925-937-0526**



BRIDGE
Monday Night - we will be playing Feb. 1, 2010 @ 7P the home of Eileen Bordenave.
Elizabeth Di Pietro always calls the "regulars" ahead of time to arrange tables. If you would like to be put on her list, call **210-0281**.

The Grand Slammers  will play bridge on February 8, second Monday, at 12:30 at the home of **Elizabeth Di Pietro**. Please call her (**210-0281**) if you would like to play bridge. It is a fun group and welcomes players of all levels. Each player contributes \$3 for local scholarships.



MORNING BOOKS will meet on Wednesday, 3 February, 10 am, at Sharon Lind's. Our discussion will be on *The Pearl Diver* by Jeff Talango. This book explores the ramifications of leprosy in 1948's Japan. It has been described as "luminous and transformative." In March we will be reading *Sarah's Key* by Tatiana de Rosnay. Please join us!



IN INDELIBLE INK will meet on Wednesday, February 10th, 9:30 am at Margi Alkire's. Because our January topic, "Memories of Houses in Which I've Lived," was so interesting, we've decided to take a field trip and look at a couple of those houses. If you want to go with Ill, you might have to drive ~ we'll carpool, of course. So, it is imperative that you let **Marlene (689-5439)** know before FEBRUARY 5th if you're planning to go. The trip will include lunch in Larkspur.



NIMBLE FINGERS will meet on February 11 at 10 am at the home of Nancy Hobert, 1040 Vaca Creek Road, Martinez. Please RSVP to Nancy at nhobert@aol.com or 228-7271. All types of handwork are welcome so join us for a fun morning.



EVENING BOOKS will meet on Monday, 22 February, 7 pm, at Marge Munger's, 1201 Monument, #17 in Concord. We will be discussing *The Double Bind* by Chris Bohjalian. This is described as the best-written psychological mystery story, ever. Sound intriguing?? Come for the discussion and give your opinion.



MATINEE IDLE will go to the movies on Thursday, 25 February. Call **Marlene (689.5439)** if you are planning to attend, or if you have any good suggestions for a movie. We always discuss the movie after over coffee or other liquid refreshment.

@AWW-CA

Legacy Circle Project

Find out more about the benefits to you and your family Contact:

Liz Bathgate

lbbathgate@worldnet.att.net

Jeanette Miller

JENAMILLER@aol.com

Ardene Russell-Quinn

arquinn@pacbell.net

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Margi Alkire & Suzanne Salter

Pleasant Hill Branch welcomes **31 new members** with this February, 2010 N.E.W.S. issue!

The new members are from AAUW Martinez – 25 DUAL and six MBHL (honorary life members). Kathy Heath, of the Martinez Branch explained that facing the retirement of its 62-year-old charter this coming June, Martinez decided to ease its members continuation with AAUW by opting to pay for 25 DUAL memberships in our Pleasant Hill Branch (remember that MBHL members do not pay Association, State or Branch dues).

This is an exciting adventure for all of us! Pleasant Hill already has three women who were DUAL members with Martinez and now we have 34 members (including one gentleman) who are members of both branches.

We know that Pleasant Hill members will warmly welcome the Martinez group. After all, as one of our members noted, "For years one-third of our branch has had a Martinez address." So really, we already are one community.

Enclosed with this issue is a list of our newest Martinez members – so be sure to staple it in your red 2009-2010 AAUW Pleasant Hill Membership Directory. And stay tuned for a "new and expanded" roster in 2010-2011!



Welcome 32 times! To 31 Martinez dual members and welcome back, to one of our former members:

Maria Fletcher (Tom) 228-4874
190 Elderwood Drive
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
Fletcher.t@comcast.net

And the Martinez president has also joined us. So glad to have you, Reba!

Reba Siero 228-8211
836 Westview Court
Martinez, CA 94553
rebasiero@yahoo.com

UCB (BA Biophysics)

Remember: \$46 of your national dues (\$49) which you paid in 2009 is TAX DEDUCTIBLE! Don't forget.

COMMUNITY

Jill Anderson

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training

Three classes starting February 4th.

For more information, contact Lieutenant Dan Connelly at the Pleasant Hill Police Department at 288-4630.

<http://ca-pleasanthill.civicplus.com/index.aspx?NID=572>

Chamber of Commerce Mixer

Wednesday, February 17th

5:30 PM to 7:30 PM

Join PH Chamber, Barry & his staff @ Outback Steakhouse

<http://www.pleasanthillchamber.com>

Pleasant Hill Recreation and Park District

Board of Directors

Dennis Donaghu passed the gavel to Sherry Sterrett, who will assume her fourth term as Chair of the Board of Directors of Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District.

<http://www.pleasanthillrec.com>

Pleasant Hill Instructional Garden

PHIG Background: [Volunteers](#) can make a difference, and a former scrap of wasteland can become a haven for plants, animals and the community, with the good will and work of many people. Students of the Gardening Program of Mt. Diablo Adult Education, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Contra Costa Master Gardeners, DVC's adaptive horticulture class, and other interested volunteers and neighbors teamed up with the City of Pleasant Hill and the Contra Costa Central Sanitary District to begin the initial phase of creating a beautiful and water-conserving garden at the Pleasant Hill Education Center on Santa Barbara Road. The budding young garden is located behind the Pleasant Hill Library and across from the Pleasant Hill Middle School. It was used as a parking lot; it's becoming a lovely demonstration garden and a learning opportunity using healthy garden practices (no pesticides), water conservation and recycling methods, and drought-tolerant and native plantings.



<http://phig.webs.com>

Community (con.)

Thursday, February 11
6pm

Concord Hilton, Golden Gate Ballroom
Guest Speaker: State Attorney General Jerry Brown



Please join us for the Monument Crisis Center's Heartfelt Gala 2010. Put a spotlight on poverty in our community while we honor Melinda and Peter Darbee (CEO of PG&E), volunteers, donors and champions of our center.

EDUCATION

Mary McGhee & Kit Hein

Students in Art and Music

Our second SAM Program of the year debuts at Fair Oaks Elementary during February.

Mary McGhee, producer and teacher, is planning an art and music program of Navajo Indian Weaving and Johann Strauss II beginning the second week of February.

The student art with yarn. process of signing times and days:



project will be weaving Teachers are in the up during the following

Feb 9, 10, 11, 12: Feb 16,17,18,19: Feb 23,24,25,26. Usually 10am-11am & 1:00 or 1:30 - 2:30 pm. (NO MONDAY Classes, No Wednesday afternoon classes.)

Please plan to save some time during these days for volunteering in our local school. Contact Mary McGhee @ 284-4974 or Marilyn Tubbs @ 939-6220 to let us know when you will be available. Fair Oaks students & teachers thank you for your interest and help.

P.S. Please check your leftover yarn supply. We are still needing yarn donations for the Navajo Indian weaving project. Cotton or heavier yarn is advisable. Contact Marilyn Tubs (939-6220 or marclin@comcast.net) for information. Thanks.

Save the Date
March 25, 7-9pm
"Women Breaking Barriers In Business, Sports and the Public Sector"
Presented by Concord AAUW's Speakers Series

Scholarships from San Francisco AAUW
Candidates who live or are attending a university or college within a 100-mile radius of San Francisco are eligible for scholarships of \$2000 to complete their final year of upper division or graduate studies. Completed applications are due March 1. For more information contact Barbara Spencer bcspencer@comcast.net or visit the website www.aauwsf.org and check the Silver Jubilee Fund.

Dine Out for Education

Several local restaurants have generously joined with two different educational organizations to offer you a chance to enjoy fine meals and benefit our local schools at the same time. Please read the list of restaurants below and mark your calendar for the date and place where you will **Dine Out for Education**.



For the *Foundation for Pleasant Hill Education*: www.fphe.org (all in Pleasant Hill)

- Jan 26 – Burger Rd. or Bangkok Restaurant
- Feb. 2 – Tahoe Joe's
- Feb. 9 – Monsoon Masala
- Feb. 16 – Back Forty Texas BBQ or Pasta Pomodoro
- Feb. 23 – Kinder's Deli or Panda Express
- Mar. 2 – Chevy's Fresh Mex



Mt Diablo Music Education Foundation
mdmusicfoundation.org

Wednesday, February 3, 2010

Pick your favorite restaurant

and support the music program of MDUSD.

Mary's Pizza Shack, Chevy's, Tahoe Joe's, Rubio's, Claim Jumper, Spaghetti Factory, California Pizza Kitchen, Rocco's Pizza, Skipolini's Pizza (Concord), or Yogurt Station.

Now is the time that everyone who lives or works within the Mt. Diablo Unified School District boundaries must come together in many different ways to help build a unified community to support our schools.

From AAUW



AAUW announces the 2010 AAUW art contest, a showcase of the artistic talents of AAUW members. The contest is open exclusively to AAUW members, who may submit their original artwork beginning January 8, 2010. The winning entries will be displayed in the 2010–11 AAUW calendar, with a unique work of art presented each month.

AAUW members will select the designs that appear in the calendar by voting online once a week for their favorites. All members will receive the new AAUW 2010–11 calendar featuring the winning entries.*

Enter soon and encourage your friends to do so too. Then make sure to visit the AAUW design gallery to see all the terrific submissions and to vote for your favorites.

Help us ensure that the calendars we mail to AAUW members this year are uniquely AAUW!

Important Dates:

- January 8–February 10 : Submit your designs through the art contest website .
- February 11–March 11: Visit the website once a week to vote for your favorite designs.

*The calendar as well as note cards featuring the winning designs will also be available for purchase at ShopAAUW .



April 30 - May 2

San Ramon Marriott Hotel

Nearby Branches

AAUW Livermore-Pleasanton-Dublin presents:

IRON-JAWED ANGELS on Wed., Feb. 10 at 7 pm at the Vine Cinema, 1722 First St., Livermore. Hear about the struggle of women in the US to win the right to vote (the History of the 19th Amendment). The movie stars Hilary Swank, Anjelica Huston, and Patrick Dempsey. Doors open at 6:30 pm. Admission \$5. Door prizes. Co-sponsored by AAUW LPD and LWV. Questions: Pat Kohnen 925 828-3623 pmko@aol.com

Mystery Writers Return to the Benicia Library

The Sisters in Crime of Northern California is providing four mystery writers to speak at **Benicia-Vallejo Branch's** February program. The program will be held in the Dona Benicia Room of the Benicia Public Library on Wednesday, Feb. 10, from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Our guest panel will be composed of the following writers:

Claire M Johnson, a former pastry chef, who has recently published her second food-related mystery. www.rouxmorgue.com.

Camille Minichino is a retired physicist who keeps very busy with writing and teaching. She has two mystery series-the Dollhouse Mysteries and the Periodic Table Mysteries. Her main website is www.minichino.com.

Ann Parker writes a historic series set in a Colorado mining town in the late 1800s. You can check out her latest book on her website: www.annparker.net.

Penny Warner writes mysteries for adults and adolescents as well as a variety of lifestyle books. Her website is www.pennywarner.com.



February 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Bridge – 7P	2 Dine Out	3 Books 10A Dine Out	4	5	6 “Razzle Dazzle” for Tech Trek
7	8 Grand Slammers 12:30P	9 SAM Dine Out	10 SAM In Indelible Ink 9:30A Board 7P	11 SAM Nimble Fingers 10A Crisis Center Gala 6P	12 SAM	13
14 	15	16 SAM Dine Out	17 SAM Chamber Mixer	18 SAM	19 SAM	20
21 *Roles Women Played in CCC* 2-4P	22 Books 7P	23 SAM Dine Out	24 SAM	25 SAM Matinee Idle	26 SAM	27
28						

SAVE THE DATE: [March 27 – EF Dinner & Silent Auction](#) [April 30-May 2 AAUW-CA Convention – San Ramon Marriott](#)



Pleasant Hill Branch
533 Roanoke Dr.
Martinez 94553

Membership – AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research. AAUW is open to all graduates of two year accredited colleges with AA degrees and/or accredited four year colleges or universities. In principle and practice AAUW values and supports diversity. There shall be no barriers to full participation in the organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class.