



Pleasant Hill Branch N.E.W.S.

Now/Events/Women/Success

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

VOLUME 52 ISSUE 10

JULY/AUGUST 2010

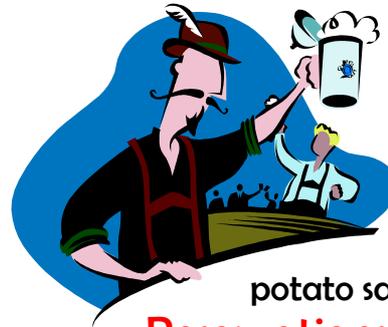
KEEP IN TOUCH THIS SUMMER

An Early October Fest ~ in August!



Saturday, August 21
6pm

Susanne and Herb Rheingruber's
14 Pillon Real, PH
\$12.50 per person



Join PHAAUW members, friends and family as
October Fest just a little bit early. We will be
barbequed sausages of various kinds, sauerkraut,
more.

emailing (marlene@maksiel.us) or

phoning Marlene at 689-5439 ~ **BEFORE August 16th.**

we celebrate
featuring
potato salad, beer and
Reservations can be made by

SAVE THE DATE
September 25
PHAAUW Fall Kick Off
Meeting

Save the Date
Saturday, October 9
Festa Italiana



Presidential Duo Report

(Continuing presidents Marlene Maksel and Jean Hambleton [The Duo] with Ginny Hargrave, ½ of the new VP Program Team)

Since you will be receiving this sort of in the middle of “summer,” we hope you are having a good one ~ traveling, enjoying a “staycation,” entertaining family and guests, and getting in lots of relaxing.

We will all have an opportunity to see one another at the Summer Social on Saturday, August 21st. Details are on the front of this issue of N.E.W.S., so we hope you will put the date on your calendars.

For all of you who love the movies, Matinee Idle will be continuing through the summer ~ always on the fourth Thursday. Plan to join us!

If anyone would like to read AAUW’s latest research study *Why So Few?*, there are several copies available. All attendees at the State Convention in San Ramon in April/May received a copy ~ I would be happy to lend out my copy. In the Foreword, it is explained that the study tackles the puzzling question of why there are so few women and girls in scientific areas of study. It focuses on practical ways that families, schools, and communities can create an environment of encouragement to disrupt negative stereotypes about women’s capacity in these demanding fields. The Letitia Corum Memorial Fund was largely responsible for getting this report/study published.

This research report would make good summer reading! Our two Book Interest Sections have chosen their September books, also. Morning Books will be reading *Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese and Evening Books has chosen *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* by Stieg Larsson.

Enjoy!!
The Duo

2010– 2011 Leadership Team

Presidents:

Jean Hambleton 798-2344
Marlene Maksel 689-5439

Vice Presidents Program:

Ginny Hargrave 798-2370
Jeannette Holmes 942-0801

Vice Presidents – EF:

Waiting for a volunteer

Vice President’s Membership:

Suzanne Salter 935-0861
Marti Martin 229-3574

Vice President – LAF:

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Secretary:

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Treasurer:

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May/June & July/August are combined issues.

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Copy deadline for September N.E.W.S. is Aug. 15th.

Please send copy to Kit Hein
533 Roanoke Dr., Martinez
kjhein@comcast.net

NEW FEATURE ON
www.aauw.org

Be sure to explore
“The AAUW Experience”
A virtual tour of
everything AAUW.

RECAPPING EVENTS FROM MAY AND JUNE

Everyone enjoyed the Ice Cream Social in May, especially having a chance to meet the Tech Trek and Local Scholarship winners.

Tables were set for maximum enjoyment.



LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



Tech Trek winners with "The Scoopers"



Past and present Tech Trek winners.



COMMUNITY REPORT – Jill Anderson

4th of July in Pleasant Hill - Firecracker 5K Run - Parade - Fun & Games in the Park – Fireworks For information or to volunteer, visit www.phjuly4.com - Jim Bonato-925-938-5433

Sunset By the Lake - Free summer concerts – every other Sunday 6:00 PM – City Hall Lawn

<http://www.pleasanthillconcerts.com/>

Sunday Matinee - Relax with an afternoon of live theater presented by the Vagabond Players.

July 18 - Lend Me A Tenor August 22 - A Bench in the Sun Senior Ctr.: 233 Gregory Lane
Curtain: 2 pm Tickets Presale: \$6 At the door: \$8 - call Sharon Redman 925-689-3368

Pleasant Hill Blues & Brews Festival – Saturday, July 24th 11am-6pm – Pleasant Hill Park, Gregory Lane -

Enjoy a day of live blues music and draft brew tasting. Live performances FREE - Brew Tasting Tickets: \$40 (Unlimited tasting 1–5:30 pm)

Martinez Peddlers Faire – Saturday, August 7th - 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

<http://mainstreetmartinez.org/php/peddlersfaire.php>

INTEREST GROUP MEETINGS

Because this edition of the N.E.W.S. is for July and August, several interest sections are on hiatus. Catch up with everyone at the Summer Social and look for announcements in the September N.E.W.S.



BOOK EXCHANGE – 2nd CALL

This is your annual opportunity to join the BOOK EXCHANGE! Read up to 12 hardbacks published in 2010 for the cost of only one! You buy one book; then each month you receive a new selection from another member of the Exchange.

Please call Mary Hanlon @ 934-3528 with your selected title and author PRIOR to purchasing your book.

We have 2 Exchange lists started and are working on a third. Don't miss out! (You can purchase 2 or 3 books to join all the Exchanges and double or triple your reading pleasure!)

Reserve your Titles - and your places in the Exchanges - now. We should begin exchanging books by October 1st.



MATINEE IDLE will go to the

movies in both July and August. In July, the date will be Thursday the 22nd. In August, the date will be Thursday the 26th. In both months, the movie will be selected at the beginning of that week. Please contact Marlene Maksel (689-5439) if you are interested, or if you have a movie you would like to see. Emails will be sent out the Monday prior to the Thursday viewing.

Which Interest Section would you like to join? Do you play bridge, love to discuss the books you are reading, need help on your latest needlepoint or knitting project (or want to help others), enjoy the company of others when you attend movies, want to explore your genealogy or even have an idea for a new section that you think others would like? Be sure to attend the Sept. 25th Kick-Off meeting to hear more and sign up.

EDUCATION REPORT

Kit Hein

Thanks in part to the generous support of many PHAAUW members, Measure C, the facilities bond measure for Mt Diablo Unified School District, passed. Now the real work begins. An important piece of the measure is the setting up of a Citizens' Oversight Committee to "actively review and report on uses of the bond proceeds..." (CA Ed Code – Prop 39). You or a neighbor or friend might be interested in serving on this committee. If so, go to

<http://www.mdusd.org/Community/Pages/meascinfo.aspx> or call the district office (925-682-8000) for an application. All of us should be sure to watch the newspapers and online reports of what is happening with these funds. It is in all of our interests, and a major part of AAUW policy, to watch over our education community.

SAM Report Marilyn Tubbs

Mary McGhee has completed her third presentation of the year in the SAM program (Studying Art & Music) at Fair Oaks Elementary with the assistance of her AAUW volunteers. She would like to thank all the AAUW volunteers who have helped her present this worthwhile program at the school this year. Second grade teachers used the class to promote letter writing. Below is a sample of one of the letters addressed to Mrs. McGhee and Friends.

March 10, 2010

Dear Mrs. McGhee and Friends,

Thank you for teaching us art and music.

Thank you for teaching me how to do the God's Eye.

That was the most amazing thing I have made in my life. Can we do it again. I would love to. I know that.

You're the best. I like Mrs. Richards and Mrs. Jacobs but you amaze me and I love what you do for us. I really do.

Sincerely, Haley

Membership Matters

Suzanne Salter and Marti Martin

We wish to express condolences to long time member and past president Marie Smithousen on the death of her mother. Marie was a devoted caretaker for her mother, always putting family above herself.

WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Rachel Braver (925) 980-7938
401 Ryan Drive Apt 46
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
rbraver@comcast.net

Jane Williams (925) 228-7072
614 Fig Tree Lane
Martinez, CA 94553

Joy Barden (925) 935-7118
86 Cottage Lane
Walnut Creek, CA 94595
joy_barden@yahoo.com

REMEMBER IT IS PAST TIME to renew your membership in PHAAUW. Our membership vice presidents must get the correct addresses, etc., in to national by July 1st. PLUS – you risk not having your name in the 2010-2011 PHAAUW Directory!

\$83.00 from July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011
\$49 National ---\$46 is tax deductible
\$16 AAUW-CA
\$18 Pleasant Hill Branch

- ✓ You may pay by check (made out to PH AAUW)

Mail to: Suzanne Salter,
275 Appalachian Dr.
PH 94523
or

- ✓ Credit card at:
AAUW.org - Member Center
log in with your membership number, go to renew...etc.
Note: If you pay on-line, let Suzanne know
(seabear2@msn.com)

DO THIS NOW!!

(To make sure our records are correct, please fill in this form and mail it with your check.)



Name _____

Address _____

Home phone _____

Do you want included:

Cellphone _____

Email address _____

Spouse's name _____

Any changes to your educational information? _____



YOUR MEMBERSHIP GOES BEYOND PHAAUW

CCC IBC – As a member of PHAAUW you are also a member of the Contra Costa County Interbranch Council. This is the organization that sponsored the wonderful program last year at the Lafayette Library on Women's History in CCC. Several branches working together can put on programs like this that benefit our members as well as the community. **BUT YOUR HELP IS NEEDED.** Send your suggestions in now for a program to be held in March of 2011. Volunteer to help. Let your presidents know that you are interested.

EAST BAY DISTRICT AAUW – The CCC IBC and Alameda County IBC are known together as the East Bay District. State officers and committee members who live in these counties work together to provide you with information, expertise and knowledge of all things AAUW. A very important piece of this is the taking place this year in our own backyard. **This is not just for officers. All members are welcome.** Call Marlene now to let her know you want to participate: 689-5439 or

marlene@maksiel.us

Leadership Training Workshops
Saturday, July 31
10am – 2 pm
Stratford at Countrywood
1545 Pleasant Hill Rd., Lafayette

Public Policy, LAF, and more

copied from First Saturday Morning Newsletter,
AAUW CA co-presidents, and aauw.org Mission&Action

- ❖ Thanks to a grant from CCRF (California Coalition for Reproductive Freedom), we now have an additional communication tool available for member use. The new Action Alert system can inform AAUW members that bills on which AAUW CA has taken a position are coming up for a vote and enable sending messages to our legislators. If you are already registered for the AAUW Washington Action Alert you are automatically registered for the AAUW CA program. Not signed up? You can also register for Action Alert at the state website, www.aauw-ca.org

Because legislators prefer to hear only from their constituents, the people who can potentially vote them out of office, the system is set up to provide a direct communication with your Assembly Member and Senator. Your zip code, entered when you register, identifies your legislator. You can use information provided on the Alert to help you write an email message expressing your position on a pending bill, and send it directly to your legislator. It will be especially important for AAUW members to act when a bill is in a Senate or Assembly committee for a vote, since only constituents of the committee members can use this system for direct email contact with their legislators. (Non-constituents can send letters via fax or make phone calls).

Register for Action Alert, stay informed, and take part in AAUW's Advocacy efforts!

- ❖ AAUW celebrated Mother's Day by joining with coalition partners to bring you a funny Mother of the Decade award video that also stressed the importance of fair pay for all women. For Father's Day, the men of AAUW spread the message about the importance of pay equity for women in their lives and for our country in general. You can keep the momentum going by urging your senators to continue the fight against wage discrimination by acting swiftly on the Paycheck Fairness Act and by adding AAUW's Pass the Paycheck Fairness Act web stickers to your website, blog, or social networking profiles.

- ❖ AAUW signed an amicus brief for **Christian Legal Society v. Martinez**, and the case was argued before the U. S. Supreme Court on April 19. The court will decide whether or not the University of California Hastings College of Law may deny school funding to a religious student organization because the group requires its officers and voting members to agree with its religious viewpoints. Gay and lesbian students were specifically barred from the group. AAUW joins other amicus signers in supporting the school, the separation of church and state, and religious liberty. A ruling is due by the end of June.
- ❖ **Surfing AAUW.org** As this issue of N.E.W.S. goes to "press", leaders of world nations (mostly male) are gathered together in Toronto, Canada, for the Group of 20 — or G20 — summit. They will focus on economic recovery and financial reforms, issues similar to, but not quite the same as, those covered last week at the **G(IRLS) 20 SUMMIT**, which focused on issues most relevant to the 3.3 billion women and girls in the world. Organizers called the summit "the start of a global conversation about the economic prowess of girls and women." For two days the 21 G(IRLS)20 delegates (one teenage girl from each of the G20 countries and one girl from the African Union) participated in several discussions about the topics of education, child and maternal health, and economic opportunity, which are focus areas of the UN's Millennium Development Goals. Then the girls created tangible solutions to these challenges that face women and girls around the world. Now the delegates have taken the recommendations they created as a group back to their own countries for implementation as voices for positive change. For more information log on to: <http://blog-aauw.org/>



Convention Wrap-Up



Although May 2 seems like a long time ago, there has been no issue of the N.E.W.S. since the AAUW-CA convention in San Ramon ended. Thanks in part to the generous financial support of

the branch, several of our members attended convention; volunteering, attending workshops, learning more about AAUW and educating themselves on leadership skills, issues affecting women and girls, and modern technology. The following “musings” are an attempt to show a small piece of our experience to those of you who were unable to attend. In order to give you the full “flavor” of each member’s memories, there has been no editing.

From Marilyn Tubbs

I was fortunate to attend the convention on Saturday. Four hours of the day were spent standing at the door as a greeter guiding members in whichever direction they were seeking. Actually, toward the end of that duty people began asking me if I was ever able to meet up with the people I was apparently waiting for. Hm!!

I enjoyed the information about the AAUW-CA Special Project Fund. Hopefully our branch can work on including our Local Scholarship program in the SPF next year to make our donations tax deductible.

The workshop on Bullying and Cyberbullying chaired by a member of the Napa AAUW was extremely enlightening. I gained a great deal of insight on the subject of cyberbullying, what it was and what to do about it. We were introduced to web sites to access information, tips & statistics. I'll gladly share the information with anyone interested.

I'd like to thank the PHAAUW for honoring our working convention discount which allowed me to attend the convention.

From Marlene Maksel

The Presidents' Brunch on Friday morning featured Kate C. Farrar, Director of the AAUW Leadership Programs. She presented a brief look at leadership ideas that National is formulating. After our meeting, she conducted the Women's Leadership Training Institute. She stressed 3 kinds of leadership: traditional, creative and mentoring. She left us with a quote from E. B. White ~ "I arise in the morning torn between a desire to improve the world and a desire to enjoy the world. That makes it hard to plan the day."

From Kit Hein

I created this assignment and told the others to pick one event – workshop, meal/speaker/, assignment or whatever to report on. Now I find it difficult to choose among the many – from the enticing vendor booths (don't ask how much I spent on bottles of superb balsamic vinegar and lime flavored olive oil) through the wide variety of workshops and on to the well organized and executed business sessions. The women, however, are the highlight of any AAUW event and this convention was no exception. California Assembly members, LAF plaintiffs, experts in social media and cyberbullying, and, of course, our own members and Speech Trek winners came together for a weekend of Significance-Outreach-Advocacy-Reinvention.

But, Kit, choose one you must. That finally comes down to AAUW-CA Public Policy Advocate Charlotte Newhart. I have listened to Charlotte at various times over the past 6 or 7 years and always come away refreshed and ready for action. Her wry sense of humor in what can be a very dry (and, these days, depressing) subject inspires us to make our voices heard in the state legislative process. She gives sound advice on current legislation and follows that with specific ways for us to follow through. For example, we “must make sure to let them (legislators) know you are a constituent and a voter.” We must “help on campaigns” for the people who work for our issues. We can even hold meetings to brainstorm ideas of how we would solve the budget crisis. “People of values must stand up for those values.” Thank you, PHAAUW, for making this event possible for me.

MARK THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDARS
For more information consult the N.E.W.S. articles

\$ JULY 1 - AAUW DUES ARE PAST DUE

JULY 4 - Pleasant Hill 4th of July Parade, etc.

JULY 18 - Vagabond Players

© JULY 22 - Matinee Idle

JULY 24 - Blues and Brews

✍ JULY 31 - AAUW Leadership Training

AUG 7 – Martinez Peddlers’ Faire

🍷 AUG 21 – Summer Social – October in August

AUG 22 – Vagabond Players

©AUG 24 – Matinee Idle

**PLEASE NOTE: THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST EDITION OF N.E.W.S.
UNLESS YOUR 2010-2011 DUES HAVE BEEN PAID**



Pleasant Hill Branch
533 Roanoke Dr.
Martinez 94553

Membership – AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, 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.