



Pleasant Hill-Martinez Branch N.E.W.S.

Now/Events/Women/Success

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

VOLUME 54 ISSUE 3

NOVEMBER 2011

MEET YOUR MUSLIM NEIGHBOR

Tamim Ansary in his book Destiny Disrupted: A History of the World Through Islamic Eyes says, "Here are two enormous worlds side by side; what's remarkable is how little notice they have taken of each other."



In the ten years since 9/11 we have all come to realize that Americans generally know very little about Islam. And equally important, most Americans know little about Muslim Americans. just as concerning to us in particular, many American women are strangers to their Muslim women neighbors.

Here is the opportunity for you to get to know two lovely Islamic women from our own Bay Area, and to find out how their faith affects their daily lives. They will share their background then be open to any questions in an informal discussion as we sit together in a circle and share.

Most of us have many things that we would like to know about Muslims and the Muslim community, so come and make use of this special opportunity to learn and grow in understanding and friendship.

This will not be a scholarly Koran; but, rather, an insight experience".



explanation or discussion of Islam and the into the Muslim American woman's "room of Harriett Burt will be our moderator.

Wednesday, November 16

7:00 pm

Brookview Clubhouse

1201 Monument Blvd.



Join us and enrich your life through personal communication!

*Several members wanted more information following the amazing program in October. Please go to www.crmvet.org to learn more about our two speakers as well as many others as the people who lived the Southern Freedom Movement of the 1960's tell their stories.



Il Messaggero

Autumn has arrived!! We have had a terrific month. First, our Festa Italiana was an event not to be missed. Kudos to Alana and her team for a magnificent evening. The setting and weather were perfect. Elena and Margi provided an incredible hors d'oeuvre table. The "homecooked" lasagna, salad and biscotti were plentiful and delicious. I think our group could commercialize their biscotti recipes and we would have no future financial problems. Along with all this, the "sold out" crowd was very jovial. Topping all that off ~ John and Paula Viano kept the wine flowing. It was a great gathering!!

Thank you Margi Alkire for arranging our fieldtrip to the CCC Museum to observe the Women's Suffragist exhibit with Harriett Burt as our very informative guide. The following evening our Program VPs (Gretel & Sally) provided us with two activists who had actually participated in the Civil Rights Movement as our speakers. This past week Margi graciously offered to host 2 evenings at her lovely home for potential and new members to get together.

All of the above, plus all of our interests sections, are providing us with many activities to keep everyone involved. If, by chance, any of you think of another activity that you would like included, let me know. Our AAUW is really growing and we want to have everyone involved. This will keep us as vibrant as we are!!

I will be absent for the November board and general meeting but our very able VP Reba Siero will take good care of things. I will be on a cruise through Australia and New Zealand returning in time for Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is a special time to reflect on all of our blessings. We hope that you have a fulfilling one!!

Ciao and Amore,
Kathy and Marilyn

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Pleasant Hill AAUW N.E.W.S. is published ten times a year by and for the American Association of University Women. May/June & July/August are combined issues.

Copy deadline for December N.E.W.S. is Nov. 15th.

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Membership Matters

Marti Martin and Reba Siero

Fall has been a great season for Pleasant Hill-Martinez AAUW. We would like to welcome the following new members to our branch. Please add their information to your directories. You may have had the chance to meet them at the September brunch. If not, we hope you all get to meet them soon at an interest section, general meeting, or activity.



Vicki Anderle
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Vicki holds a BA from UCLA. She likes hiking, tennis, reading, travel, and art appreciation.

Marci Longchamps
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marcmae125@yahoo.com

Marci holds a BA from UC Davis and a Teaching Credential from St. Mary's. Her interests are reading, walking, travel and art appreciation.

Carol Caroompas
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Carol holds a BA in Psychology from Cal State East Bay with a minor in Business Administration. She is interested in community service, music and walking/hiking.

بي حرت

WELCOME Vicki, Marci, and Carol.

Your Correct Contact Info is Very Important

One Member One Vote will go into effect next April, handled for us by a company called VoteNow. They will contact every member by mail, and by email when possible. We will get the list of addresses and email addresses from national's records. Go to the Member Services Database on the AAUW website to check your information

THE VALUE OF MEMBERSHIP IN AAUW

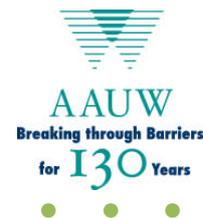
Have you thought about the value of belonging to AAUW? In the Fall issue of AAUW California Perspective, Co-Presidents Gloria Taylor and Judy Pfeil reflected on the value of belonging to AAUW. They wrote about how our membership gives us numerous tangible and intangible benefits towards ensuring equity for ourselves, our daughters and generations of daughters to come.

AAUW's 100,000-member voice makes a difference on critical women's and civil rights issues, providing opportunities for individual action through the AAUW Capitol Hill Lobby Corps, Action Alerts and the Two-Minute Activist, both nationally and in California, giving us the opportunity to support and learn about ground-breaking research on women, girls, and education.

Your membership helps provide a vibrant community of friends and professional contacts, wherever you may go. Your membership also helps to provide a trusted source of timely and important information on issues that affect women and girls and provides many educational and professional development opportunities to improve personal and leadership skills as well as resources for fellowships, grants, and exclusive member discounts on numerous things from subscriptions to insurance.

Your membership in AAUW helps move the vision forward that united together behind the common goal of breaking through education and economic barriers for women and girls, we can make a difference.

That was some of their ideas about the value of AAUW Membership. What are your ideas? What does your membership in AAUW mean to you? If you have some ideas you would like to share, we would love to hear from you.



IN MEMORIUM

Inez Richards passed away on September 11, 2011, at the age of 87. Inez loved Pleasant Hill AAUW and believed strongly in the AAUW purpose of supporting women and girls. She was a Branch member in the 1970's, 80's, and 90's.

When her husband Steve passed away in 1978, Inez went back to school and got her Master's degree from JFKU in grief counseling and was a leader in that field. What is very interesting for Pleasant Hill AAUW is that she applied and received an Association Project & Research Grant for her schooling. Inez enjoyed her career, and also loved and enjoyed the arts and traveling.

More recently Inez moved to Rossmoor and then later to the Chateau at Poets' Corner. Inez is survived by daughter Lori, son Terry, daughter-in-law Susan, and three grandchildren.

SUBMITTED BY Margi Alkire

Please add Susan Randall's email to your directory:

sagedrive@aol.com

Coming Soon -- New AAUW Research Report*

Crossing the Line: Sexual Harassment at School will be released in November. Based on findings from a national survey conducted this spring, the report presents the most comprehensive research to date on sexual harassment in grades 7-12 and reveals some sobering statistics about the prevalence of sexual harassment and the negative effects it has on students' education.

RANDOM NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

Kit Hein

- ✚ If you are submitting an article for the Newsletter, the best policy to follow is to include all pertinent information:
 - ✓ Date
 - ✓ Time
 - ✓ Place
 - ✓ Location – include address
 - ✓ Who to call, section leader, etc.
- ✚ Time sensitive mid-month announcements will be sent to email recipients. These might include:
 - ✓ reminders of branch events
 - ✓ AAUW-CA Webteam announcements
 - ✓ AAUW Mission & Action
 - ✓ AAUW Action Network
 - ✓ Washington Update

The information will be summarized and forwarded but you, as an active AAUW member, can find/join/subscribe to each of the last 3 items by going to the website aauw.org

AAUW Mission & Action is a monthly bulletin that brings AAUW news and updates directly to your e-mail box.

The AAUW Two-Minute Activist is where you can make your voice heard in Congress!

Washington Update is internal communication for public policy leaders and members of the American Association of University Women.

INTEREST GROUP MEETINGS



** **MORNING BOOKS** will meet on Wednesday, November 2nd, 10 am, at Ginny Hargrave's. We will be discussing Rebecca Skloot's *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*. This is non-fiction story about a woman's cells, which were taken without her permission, or knowledge, and launched a medical revolution. In December, we will be reading *Ella Minnow Pea* (say it very fast!) by Mark Dunn. Please join us for great discussions!



** **MATINEE IDLE** will go to the movies on Thursday, **DECEMBER 1st**. Since our regular date falls on Thanksgiving Day, and December will be too close to Christmas, we will combine 2 months into one. We usually attend a matinee at a local theatre. 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.



** **EVENING BOOKS** will meet on Monday, November 28th, 7 pm, at Eileen Bordenave's. We will be reading a modern classic, *Men to Match My Mountains* by Irving Stone. This is a fascinating story about the winning of the far American West. Come for a very interesting discussion.



** **BRIDGE**
Evening Bridge will meet at 7pm on Monday, Nov. 7 at Suzanne Mesetz' house. Call Elizabeth DiPietro (210-0281) for car pools or questions.

The Grand Slammers



Grand Slammers will play Nov. 14. Details had not been worked out by press time so call Gayle Garrison 798-7528 or e-mail tarheel61@yahoo.com



NIMBLE FINGERS is meeting at 10 AM on November 10th at Margi Alkire's home, 51 Rolling Green Circle, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523. Please RSVP, 827-2940. This year the Layette Party will be on Friday, December 9th (a change of the usual date). Please reserve the date. Details will be covered in the December News letter.



** **IN INDELIBLE INK** will meet on WEDNESDAY, November 9th, 10 am, at Margi Alkire's. Since this is Thanksgiving month, we will be writing about a Thanksgiving memory ~ or, a family tradition that you would like to pass on to other family members. We like hearing oral versions, too! We don't critique your writings, but we love to listen to your stories. Please come!

Many members have asked "What exactly do you write at In Indelible Ink?" Be sure to look elsewhere in the N.E.W.S. for an example of one of our member's writing.

THANKS TO ALL from Alana MacDonald

Well, do we know how to throw a party! We fed 96 people (we sold 102 tickets) and netted \$2,760 for our various Funds. I was so proud of us- the Pleasant Hill/Martinez AAUW women rock! So many of you contributed so much that I don't have enough space here to list you all, but you know who you are.... You worked on publicity, sold tickets, procured Safeway cards, bought beverages, bread, lasagnas, salad, appetizers. You baked lasagnas and biscotti. You served food to all those people (I can tell you, no one went away hungry from this event!). You came early to set up and stayed late to clean up. Thanks also to the terrific spouses who helped, both before and during the evening. A special thank you to Elena Noble and Elizabeth DiPrieto for that awesome, authentic Italian appetizer spread and to Marilyn Thelen for sharing her experiences growing up at the winery. With all this support, how could we not be successful? Many thanks to you all! Alana

EDUCATION and more

Marilyn Tubbs

The Mary Walters Memorial Fund, established with the Pleasant Hill Community Foundation program by her husband Ken when she passed away in January, 2003, was recently advised by Ken to use that Memorial Fund to provide annual funding for the Fair Oaks Elementary School SAM Program. Last year the program received a grant from the Foundation for  \$500.00. It will most certainly be used for student art and music supplies. The program is produced several times a year by Mary McGhee and AAUW volunteers.



Mary Walters was a very active and beloved member of the Pleasant Hill AAUW branch. In addition, she was involved in many Pleasant Hill community activities for many years. I'm sure she would be most honored to provide this assistance to elementary students.

S.A.M.

Speaking of the Fair Oaks Elementary Student Art & Music Program, our first presentation this year will take place between November 1st and



November 18th. Students will be working with clay in a hands on project along with being introduced to a noted musician.

Contact Mary McGhee at mary@mcgheemail.com or Marilyn Tubbs at marclin@comcast.net.

COMMUNITY

Marlene Maksel and Harriett Burt

(in chronological order as much as possible)

"The Ladies Have Something To Say" an exhibit on the successful 1911 campaign to give women the right to vote in California, **ongoing through November 23, 2011** at the Contra Costa County Historical Society History Center, 610 Main Street (corner of Castro). Open Tuesdays through Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday, November 19, 2011 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

COMMUNITY READ

ALL of Pleasant Hill will be reading *James and the Giant Peach* by Roald Dahl during **November**. This book is also celebrating its 50th anniversary, as well as the City of P. H. and the library!

COMMUNITY (con.)

CENTENNIAL OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE IN CALIFORNIA

Lecture Series put on by Contra Costa and Martinez Historical Societies (all begin at 7 p.m. at the Martinez Veterans Memorial Building, 930 Ward Street (corner of Court St.). Admission free – suggested donation of \$5 appreciated.

- **November 3, 2011:** "In Their League: California Suffrage through Vintage Postcards" an entertaining discussion by collector Darlene Thorne of the use of postcards to carry the message of the equal suffrage campaign in 1911. A sample of such a postcard is currently on display in the County History Center's exhibit on the campaign.
- **November 10, 2011:** Elaine Ellinson and Stan Yogi, authors of "Wherever There's A Fight: How Runaway Slaves, Suffragists, Immigrants, Strikers, and Poets Shaped Civil Liberties in California", will talk about Woman Suffrage as a civil liberty issue in 1911 and beyond.

SPELLING BEE

November 6th, Sunday, noon to 5 pm, P. H. City Hall. FPHE is sponsoring a Spelling Bee for Grades K through 5. Spectators are welcome!

PLEASANT HILL CELEBRATES 50 YEARS AS A CITY



1. **November 12** ~ 6 pm to midnight, Dinner Dance at Contra Costa Country Club. Tickets @ \$95/ea. available at City Hall.
2. **November 13** ~ Open House at City Hall. Displays, exhibits, music, food, etc. Free.

EAST BAY HOSPICE TREE OF LIGHTS

November 19 from 5 to 7 p.m. Martinez Hospice Tree of Lights Ceremony on Morello Avenue just two blocks north of Arnold Drive. For more information contact:

Kathy Kavanagh, Community Liaison of Hospice Foundation's staff 925-887-5678

kkavanagh@hospiceeastbay.org

TECH TREK

Katrinka March



Stand and Deliver at the DVC Theatre **Friday, December 2nd, 8pm** Cost: \$30

(Buying senior tickets will allow a greater percentage to go to the fundraiser; can we buy a senior ticket for you??)

Stand and Deliver is a gritty and intensely emotional classroom drama that explores the hearts of teachers and students. The play explores the issues surrounding subcultures and class systems, current educational and cultural structures and the pursuit of the "American Dream." Stand and Deliver highlights East Los Angeles, California, in 1982, in an environment that values a quick fix over education and learning. The play's hero, Jaime Escalante is a math teacher at Garfield High School, determined to change the system and challenge the students to a higher level of achievement.



Please RSVP by November 15th so we can get the group rate!! Mail checks payable to Pleasant Hill AAUW to Trinkka March 650 Linden Lane, Martinez, CA 94553

Questions?? DrTrinks@sbcglobal.net or 372-8420

If you cannot attend, but want to support Tech Trek, we will happily take donations!



PLEASE NOTE: We are currently looking for a home in which we might all meet before the play for wine and hors d'oeuvres. If one or more of you would like to host this affair please call Katrinka NOW! Thanks so much.

NEWS AND NOTES FROM AAUW, AAUW-CA, AND OTHER BRANCHES

International Advocacy

Women, War & Peace (executive director Abigail Disney) is a bold new five-part PBS television series starting Oct. 11, that challenges the conventional wisdom that war and peace are men's domains. The International Advocacy team urges you to watch it, to encourage others to watch it, and to be part of this important dialogue. (Ed. Note: you can go directly to the website and watch all previous episodes) <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/women-war-and-peace/>

Public Policy Study

Branches are encouraged to undertake a Study of the California Initiative Process. Initiatives result in changes to the California Constitution. Use of the Initiative process has been more frequent in recent years, usually focusing on single issues. You can find out more on the AAUW CA website under Public Policy.

November is National AAUW Month

AAUW Celebrates 130 Years on November 28
November is National AAUW Month! In honor of our anniversary, we invite all branches to host a Cocktails and Convos happy hour event on Tuesday, November 8 -- approximately one year before the 2012 presidential elections. The focus of the evening will be the AAUW Action Fund's new My Vote campaign and registering young women to vote.

BENICIA BRANCH

**Centennial Celebration of
California Women's Suffrage
Saturday, November 19 at 10 a.m.**

Benicia Public Library
150 East L Street

**Featuring the national award-winning
Solano Community College Debate Team**

DANVILLE-ALAMO-WALNUT CREEK BRANCH

Seneca Falls - Celebrating Women's Suffrage
Lunch, movie screening and presentation by writer/director/producer Louise Vance.

Saturday, November 5, 2011 at 11 a.m.

Crow Canyon Country Club **See Sept. NEWS for details.**

A SPECIAL TREAT FROM IN INDELIBLE INK

The following story was written by **Marti Martin** for our October In Indelible Ink Interest Section. The theme was to write a story about the Civil War. The Section thought all members would enjoy reading some of our efforts in writing ~ and maybe it would entice you to join us because you might have a story to tell, too! Enjoy! (The illustrations are the editor's additions, without permission.)

William Benjamin Marshall, usually known as "Will", was born in the town of Wickfield in Wallisford County, Scotland in the year 1840. His father was a carpenter and from an early age, he loved working with wood.

When he wasn't in school, Will could be found in his father's shop, trying the tools, making things like a sled or a birdhouse, while he improved his skills with hammer, nails, saws, files, etc. He dreamed of one day having his own carpenter's shop and building furniture that people would be proud to own.



Unfortunately, Will's dream was not to be. His mom had died of a fever when he was six years old and when he was twelve, his dad fell off the roof that he was repairing and died. Will's only relatives were his father's three maiden aunts and so he was sent across the sea to live with them in Nova Scotia. The three aunts were delighted to have Will join their household - so delighted that they smothered him with attention and treated him like the little child they never had. Four years in their home was all he could take and he ran away to sea when he was sixteen.



At first, his inexperience in the ways of sailing caused him to often be ill as the ship roiled in the sea and he did the menial chores of a lowly deck hand. However, the shipwright (an especially trained carpenter who is skilled in ship construction and repair) was a kind man and soon discovered Will's talent for working with wood. He took him on as an apprentice and Will quickly became his assistant and a valuable member of the ship's crew.

With the eruption of the American Civil War, the ship's captain saw an opportunity to make a profit by selling the ship's services to the Confederates for running supplies. It was dangerous but profitable and the captain shared the profits with his men. It was exciting for Will, now a man in his twenties who had taken over the position of shipwright. Unfortunately, the Union army captured the ship and the entire crew found themselves in a union prison for the duration of the war. It was a miserable time for Will and he vowed never to take a chance like that again, no matter what the profit.



When the Civil War ended, the prisoners were released. Will found a position on another ship that was returning to England to pick up passengers and deporting "criminals" to take to Australia. Among these passengers was a beautiful young woman named Anastasia (known as Anna) Doyle who was traveling to Australia to become a housekeeper to a wealthy family in Sydney. Will, now 34, fell in love and when the ship docked in Christchurch, New Zealand, they were married in the Catholic Church there.



They continued on to Australia where Will and Anna left the ship and travelled north. They settled in the coastal town of Newcastle where Will built a home and found work as a carpenter. They had six children, the youngest being Augustus Joseph Marshall, a very tall redhead, who eventually travelled away to California, where he became my grandfather.

Marti Martin

November 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 SAM begins 	2 Morning Books 10a 	3 "CA Suffrage Lecture 7p"	4	5 "Seneca Falls" luncheon 11a
6 Spelling B 12 noon	7 Evening Bridge 7pm 	8	9 In Indelible Ink 10a 	10 Nimble Fingers 10a CA Suffrage Lecture 7p	11	12 PH Anniversary Dinner and Dance 6p
13 PH City Hall Open House	14	15 *Deadline for <u>Stand and Deliver</u> tickets*	16 Muslim American Women 7p	17	18 SAM ends 	19 Mtz Hospice Tree of Lights
20	21	22	23 Suffrage Exhibit ends	24 	25	26
27	28 Evening books 7p	29	30	DEC 1 Matinee Idle	DEC 2 <u>Stand & Deliver</u> 8p	

Save the Date: Dec. 1 – Matinee Idle; Dec. 2 – Stand and Deliver; Dec. 9 – Layette Party



Pleasant Hill – Martinez 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.