



## 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 2

OCTOBER 2011

### FIFTY YEARS AGO – THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

*"Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, we shall overcome some day."* Words and Music by Zilphia Hart., Frank Hamilton, Guy Carawan and Pete Seeger

What were you doing in the 60's? Remember the marches, the jailings, and the violence as our country sought to bring a real equality to all its citizens? This is your chance to hear the first hand experiences of two activists in the Southern Civil Rights movement. Each of the two speakers had strong convictions of right and wrong, and felt a personal responsibility to participate in changing the segregation of the South. If you have seen the film The Help (or read the book), it will give you an added dimension to the 60's, and perhaps bring back memories of the past as well as reminders of how far we have come.

Join us at Brookview Club House for a stimulating look back in history.

Wednesday, October 19, 2011

7:00PM Social time

7:15PM Meeting and Speakers



Brookview Club House

1201 Monument Blvd., Concord

(Turning onto Monument Blvd. from CC Blvd., it is the first left after crossing the canal before the signal light.)



Source: Andrew Cayton, et al., *America: Pathways to the Present*, Prentice Hall, 1995 (adapted)



## Il Messaggero

Our first General Meeting was a Brunch held Saturday, September 17th. The theme for this year's brunch was "Soaring with AAUW" which suggested a lift-off. The fuel for this lift-off was very apparent ~~ enthusiasm and energy; along with delicious food, interesting & stimulating conversation and incredibly nice weather. It was a great event with 54 ladies in attendance. The planning committee included Marti & Reba with membership (renewing and signing up new members) and Sally & Gretel, our Program Chairs. Joy, Reba and Gretel made delicious stratas, Marti brought fresh fruit & juice and Margi shared her delectable coffee cake. Nancy finished it off by taking over for hospitality and bringing Starbucks Coffee. Marti introduced the various interest sections. A couple of new interest sections were suggested. Marlene D. offered to take on a Beginning Bridge Group and at least 16 ladies signed up. I have to say she is brave!!

Muriel Fry gave excellent report on the AAUW convention that she attended. I'm sure it stimulated some of our new members to get involved.

Harriett gave a wonderful introduction to the Women's Suffragists Exhibit at the Contra Costa County Museum in Martinez. Look for Margi Alkire's article. She's planning on gathering a group of us together for a special trip to the Museum in October.

We did have one extremely important business transaction to deal with at the Brunch. Marlene Maksel made a motion to change our name to Pleasant Hill - Martinez AAUW. Harriett Burt seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Everyone in attendance seemed very pleased about this accomplishment.

Our October program will be on the "Civil Rights Movement". Our Program Chairs, Gretel & Sally, have information on their program in this newsletter. Our October general meeting will be at Brookview Clubhouse on Monument Boulevard. Please try to carpool as parking is limited.

Don't forget ~~ find a section that interests you, call the person in charge and get involved. You don't want to miss out on the action. Why?? Because that's where the action is!!

Kathy and I are looking forward to seeing all of you at Festa Italiana.

Ciao,  
Kathy & Marilyn

## 2011- 2012 Leadership Team

### Presidents:

Kathy Searles 228-5700  
[searles3@comcast.net](mailto:searles3@comcast.net)

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**Copy deadline for November N.E.W.S. is Oct. 15th.**

Please send copy to Kit Hein  
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### AAUW Help Line: 800/326-AAUW

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#### AAUW Contra Costa County Inter-branch Council (CCC-IBC) Chairs:

Marie Bonilla [edmarie.bonilla@comcast.net](mailto:edmarie.bonilla@comcast.net)  
Tena Gallegher [Tena@aol.com](mailto:Tena@aol.com)

## Membership Matters

Marti Martin and Reba Siero

Good news – as of September 15, we had 92 paid members with 3 more renewals on the way. This includes two new members who joined during the summer – Georgette Armstrong and Lynda Smith. Welcome, Georgette & Lynda!



We hope that you had a chance to meet some of the potential new members who attended the wonderful brunch at Marilyn Thelen's lovely home in September. It was a beautiful day and the energy flow was terrific! Four of these ladies are now members of our branch. Please add their information to your new directory. The directories were available at the brunch and will be available again at the October general meeting. Here are our newest members, bringing our membership to 96:

Claudia Bass  
1706 Endriss Drive  
Martinez, CA 94553  
925-372-8679  
cell: 925-348-1958  
e-mail: [cbasslancer29@aol.com](mailto:cbasslancer29@aol.com)

Sherrie Moore  
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925-229-4177  
[sherriemoore@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sherriemoore@sbcglobal.net)

Susan Randall  
827 Sage Drive  
Martinez, CA 94553  
925-374-7778

Donna DiBetta  
4803 Tahoe Circle  
Martinez, CA 94553  
925-228-5606  
cell: 925-408-8050  
[ddibetta@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ddibetta@sbcglobal.net)



We hope you will get a chance to welcome these new members at a general meeting or an interest section. A big welcome to all of you – Claudia, Sherrie, Susan & Donna!

Welcome back to renewing member, Sabiha Gokcen, and add her name to your directory:

Sabiha Gokcen  
2047 Olympic Drive  
Martinez, CA 94553  
925-229-5705  
e-mail: [sands@tpl.net](mailto:sands@tpl.net)



## SHARE PH-MTZ AAUW BRING IN PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

If you have a neighbor, friend, family member or colleague who you think would be a great member of our group and she was not able to attend the September brunch, Margi Alkire has generously offered to host two get-togethers for **potential and new members** of AAUW.



If you know anyone who you think would like to learn more about Pleasant Hill-Martinez AAUW, give us their telephone number or e-mail address so we can personally invite them to come to one of these evenings. We will have two—**Tuesday, October 25 & Friday, October 28 from 5:30 – 6:30** at Margi Alkire's home at 51 Rolling Green Circle, Pleasant Hill.

If they have an AA, BA or higher degree and support our mission of advocacy and education for girls and women, they may find that our branch would be a good fit. You can reach Marti at 229-3574 or [richmar1016@sbcglobal.net](mailto:richmar1016@sbcglobal.net) or Reba at 228-8211 or [rebasiero@yahoo.com](mailto:rebasiero@yahoo.com). We look forward to hearing from you.



Congratulations to Margi Alkire on receiving this past year's Barbara Newcheck Memorial Award. Given in Barbara's honor to a member who, like her, has made significant contributions to the mission of AAUW and outstanding service to the branch, the honor is well deserved.

*From Margi: Thanks to the Pleasant Hill-Martinez Branch for presenting me with the Barbara Newcheck award! How kind of you! I am very flattered!*



### NOTES FROM AAUW-CA

**Be prepared to vote:** One member, one vote coming this spring. Online or snail mail. Voting **AFTER** (not during) Convention. Every member will have a personal voice in the future of AAUW-CA and the right to vote for candidates, resolutions, and the Public Policy Program.

**Error in mailing:** The latest edition of Perspective suffered "mail merge disease". Names and addresses were mixed up. However, permanent records are still intact. The state newsletter will be mailed to correct addresses but may have incorrect names. If you don't get yours, check online at <http://www.aauw-ca.org/>

## INTEREST GROUP MEETINGS



**\*\* MORNING BOOKS** will meet on Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 10 am, at Margi Alkire's. We will be discussing Helen Simonson's *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand*.

This is a great human-interest story and it also gives a little insight into the racial biases in Great Britain. In November we will be reading *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot. Please join us for great discussions!



**\*\* IN INDELIBLE INK** will meet on TUESDAY, October 11<sup>th</sup>, 10 am, at Marlene Maksel's. The meeting in September had to be cancelled due to vacations and such, so our assignment is still to write a story in remembrance of the Civil War's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. If you had an ancestor who served in the Civil War, or if you have a Civil War story, please come and share. We like hearing oral versions, too!



### **\*\* BRIDGE**

#### **The Grand Slammers**



Grand Slammers will play Oct 17 at Suzanne Mesetz's Rossmoor home 12:30pm. Call Gayle Garrison 798-7528 or e-mail [tarheel61@yahoo.com](mailto:tarheel61@yahoo.com)  
Note change of date due to Columbus Day.



**\*\* MATINEE IDLE** will go to the movies on Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup>. 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, October 24<sup>th</sup>, at Marlene Maksel's. We will be discussing *Rooftops of Iran* by Mahbod Seraji. A poignant look at Iran in the 70's under the Shah's rule ~ a teenage boy likes to hang out on his rooftop terrace dreaming of life, love and what his future holds. Come for this very interesting discussion.



**FRUGAL FOODIES** is starting up again. Sunday, October 30 at Rossmoor at 5pm. Pizza and salad. Stay for Mexican train if you wish. Couples and singles welcome. Please email or call me if you wish to attend. Suzanne Mesetz: [gmasm39@yahoo.com](mailto:gmasm39@yahoo.com) or 285-3050.



**NIMBLE FINGERS** will meet at 10am, Thursday, Oct. 13, at the home of Nancy Schwemberger – 1280 Panorama Dr., Lafayette. This is the traditional day for this section to meet but Nancy is open to suggestions for a new day and/or time. If you have always wanted to join a group that knits, sews, needlepoints, etc., even if you are just interested or interested in learning, call Nancy. (284-7097) Be sure to RSVP for this meeting and carpooling is recommended.



**MONEY MOVERS** MoneyMovers Investment Group has disbanded! In May, 2011, after 31 years, the group decided to call it a day!

MoneyMovers was founded in 1980 as a section of Pleasant Hill AAUW. But Association decided that investment groups were not in keeping with its goals (someone lost money and sued Association!) and MoneyMovers had to go its way independently.

We used to have 20 members and a waiting list. But recently we had dwindled to nine loyal members: Jean DeGregory, Diane Gartner, Ginny Hargrave, Ish Mendonsa, Nancy Silvey, Marilyn Tubbs, Alvera Welsh, Sally Whitsett, and Margi Alkire.

Our latest President was Ish, and she explains that some members were losing interest and the market was not doing well. Through the years we had celebrations and parties, but mainly meetings and reports. Our final stocks were Adobe Systems, Archer Daniels Midland, Clorox, Canadian National Railway, Canadian Natural Resources, Walt Disney, Honeywell, Johnson & Johnson, Oracle, Pepsico, Target, Walgreens, Winstream, and Waste Management.

The amazing thing is Ginny was a charter member and has been attending Monday night meetings all this time! What a trooper!



## CALIFORNIA WOMEN SUFFRAGE CENTENNIAL



### AT HOME

One hundred years ago this year (October 10, 2011) brave, hardworking, savvy, and determined women suffragists called for a vote in the State of California giving the right to vote to women! What a victory!

But we point out that it lost in Martinez -- as it did in San Francisco and in Alameda (what were those men thinking?) but passed in Contra Costa County and the rest of the State. But not by much!

This was eight years before the national 19th Amendment in 1920 gave all of the women in the country the right to vote! Go California women!

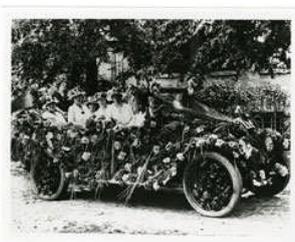
Let's find out more! Let's go to the Suffragist Exhibit "The Ladies Have Something To Say"

Tuesday, October 18 10 a.m.

Contra Costa County Museum  
610 Main Street, Martinez  
in the former Hilson's Department Store  
(remember that great store?)

And we'll go out to lunch in downtown Martinez afterward! There are four good choices within a block of the exhibit. Of course, friends and husbands and hangers-on are welcome too!

Just show up---or to car pool, call Margi Alkire: 827-2940.



### Alhambra High School Homecoming Parade

Nancy Hobert is organizing a float for the homecoming parade at Alhambra High School celebrating the anniversary of women getting the vote in California. The parade will be on Oct. 28. If you are interested in joining her, call 228-7271. This is an excellent way to get PH-MTZ out into the community. Thank you, Nancy.

### IN SACRAMENTO

Gloria Taylor, AAUW-CA Co-President, is acting as our representative and leader on the committee that has organized these events. If you really want to experience the whole California event, this is the place to be!

**Monday, October 10, 2011 –  
experience the victory!**

(Voters registration all day at the California Museum and 12-3 pm outside Capitol)

- 9:30 am Gather at the California Museum
- 10:30 am Celebration Stroll
- 11:00 am Capitol Steps program –
- 12 Noon All Activities inside the Capitol must enter “L” Street security doors
- 12:15, 1:15, 2:15 Intermittent Living History Presenters
- 12:15 & 2:15 “The Girl from Colorado or the Conversion of Aunty Suffridge,” a short play.
- 1 pm Suffrage Singers – Ground Floor Rotunda
- 1-3 pm Have your photo taken if dressed in period clothes or suffrage colors
- 1:30 & 2:15 Dramatic Reading of Proposition 4 – (for and against permitting women to vote)
- 2:30 – 6 p.m. Meet the Authors & Book signing
- 4-5 p.m. Presentations – “The Sixth Star Suffragists” with actors in earlier roles and Valerie Purnell as Naomi Talbert Anderson and Jim Holmes as Senator A. Sargent
- 4 - 6:30 pm Reception and Closing Ceremony with Secretary of State Debra Bowen. Sponsored by AAUW-CA and AARP. Official half-hour program starting at 5:30 pm include remarks from Secretary of State Bowen and elected officials reading of SCA 4 pro and con. Program concludes with passing of banner to the next state.

## COMMUNITY

Marlene Maksel



### PLEASANT HILL CELEBRATES 50 YEARS AS A CITY

1. Dinner Dance at the Contra Costa Country Club on Saturday, November 12, 6 pm to midnight. This will be a Black Tie affair and tickets @ \$95/ea can be obtained at City Hall.
2. 50-Year Historical Booklet ~ written mainly by Margi Alkire will be available in November.
3. Open House at City Hall on Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup>. Lots of displays, exhibits, music, food, etc.

In addition, ALL of Pleasant Hill will be reading *James and the Giant Peach* by Roald Dahl. This book is also celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, so it is appropriate and a fun read besides! The library is planning several "Peach" events ~ check them out!



### ANNUAL ART, JAZZ & WINE FESTIVAL

The P. H. Chamber of Commerce is again sponsoring this Festival in downtown P. H. ~ on Crescent Drive ~ on Saturday and Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. Great art, creative crafts, beer/wine, music and entertainment for kids.

### INSTRUCTIONAL GARDEN

Open House will be held on from 3 to 5 pm. The located next to PH Middle from Pleasant Oaks Park. See what can be done to restore a neglected wasteland into an area with plants, benches, a grape arbor, a bog area, weather station and more.



October 30<sup>th</sup> garden is School, across

## TECH TREK

Katrinka March

### SAVE THE DATE

Tech Trek Fundraiser:

"Stand and Deliver" at the DVC Theatre

December 2nd, Friday, 8pm

Cost: \$30

More information will follow in the November N.E.W.S.

OR: RSVP NOW so we can be sure to get the group rate!! Mail checks payable to Pleasant Hill-Martinez AAUW to Trinkka March 650 Linden Lane,

Martinez, CA 94553

Questions? [DrTrinks@sbcglobal.net](mailto:DrTrinks@sbcglobal.net) or 372-8420.

## PUBLIC POLICY

Nancy Hobert



### Legislature Sends Bills to Governor Brown

After a flurry of late-evening activity, the California Legislature concluded its 2011 session on September 9.

Of the 49 bills being supported or followed by AAUW CA, 16 have been passed by the Legislature and sent to the Governor. Key among these:

**SB 14 (Wolk) State Budget** - Requires performance based budgeting by state agencies after 2013.

**SB 15 (DeSaulnier) State Budget** - Requires multi-year budgeting.

**SB 222 (Evans) Maternity coverage:** requires every individual health insurance policy to provide coverage for maternity services.

**AB 9 (Ammiano) Bullying** - local educational agencies must adopt policies to prohibit discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying, receive and investigate complaints, and require school personnel who witness such acts to take immediate steps to intervene, investigate and resolve complaints.

**AB 90 (Swanson) Human trafficking** – current law, the California Control of Profits of Organized Crime Act, provides the procedure for the forfeiture of property and proceeds acquired through a pattern of criminal profiteering activity. This bill includes within the definition any crime in which the perpetrator induces, encourages, or persuades, or causes through force, fear, coercion, or violence, a person under 18 to engage in a commercial sex act.

**AB 499 (Atkins) Minors Medical Care** – For minors 12 and older, adds to current law the right to consent to medical care related to the prevention of a sexually transmitted disease.

**AB 568 (Skinner)** Requires law enforcement personnel to use the least restrictive restraints on pregnant inmates.

Governor Brown has until October 9 to sign or veto bills.

Go to the Public Policy section of our website to look for updates. Our new lobbyist, Shannon Smith-Crowley is keeping current our legislative summary on the website, posting on Facebook and preparing our Action Alerts. Great work, Shannon!

# October 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 <u>Festa Italiana</u>
2	3	4	5 10a Morning books	6	7	8 PH Art, Jazz, & Wine
9 PH Art, Jazz, & Wine	10 <u>Women Suffrage Sacramento</u>	11 10a In Indelible Ink	12	13 10a Nimble Fingers	14	15
16	17 12:30 Grand Slammers	18 10a CCC Museum – Women Suffrage	19 7p Civil Rights Speakers	20	21	22
23	24 7p Evening Books	25 5:30-6:30 Prospective Members	26	27 Matinee Idle	28 5:30-6:30 Prospective Members	29
30 5p Frugal Foodies	31					

**SAVE THE DATE:** Friday, Dec. 2 - Tech Trek Night at the Theatre



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.