



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 8

April 2012



Wednesday, April 18
7 pm
Brookview Clubhouse
 1201 Monument Blvd

Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano

Everyone should be concerned about food and nutrition issues. Some can have anything they want but others need help to survive.

The Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano has been vital to many for the past 36 years. They have provided food for 132,000 hungry people in need every month through various programs and charitable agencies. 1 in 6 people living in Contra Costa and Solano counties struggle with hunger. The work is done with support from many generous financial donors and the help of thousands of volunteers.

Our speaker will be touching on several interesting and vital issues in our community today.

Please bring nonperishable food items to donate.



Once Upon a Mattress

a musical retelling of the fairytale "The Princess and the Pea" presented by the drama club of Alhambra High School

April 27
7 pm

Alhambra HS Performing Arts Center

\$30/person for the evening



Wine & Cheese
before the show

5:30 – 6:30

Home of Trinko and George March
650 Linden Lane, Martinez

Reservation deadline: April 20
Mail to Patricia Harris:

10 Kim Ct., Mtz 94553 or call 228-6263

A fictional medieval kingdom is ruled by the devious Queen Aggravain and the mute King Sextimus the Silent. King Sextimus suffers from a curse that can only be reversed "when the mouse devours the hawk." The Minstrel sings of the Princess and the Pea, though he knows the true tale because he was there when it happened. The princess in the story wasn't the first girl tested to see if she was worthy of marrying Prince Dauntless the Drab—she was one of 13 girls. The day the Minstrel arrives, the Queen is testing Princess #12 with an unfair quiz. To the Queen's delight, the princess misses the last question: "What was the middle name of the daughter-in-law of the best friend of the blacksmith who forged the sword that killed [the Beast](#)?" The populace of the castle complains about an unjust law levied by Queen Aggravain: "Throughout the land no one may wed, 'till Dauntless shares his wedding bed." However, every petitioning princess is sent away after failing an unfair test devised by the Queen. It seems that no one is good enough to marry Prince Dauntless...



Il Messaggero

Spring has sprung!!

It's been another busy month for Pleasant Hill-Martinez AAUW!! We have so many things going on that it's apparent that our organization has an activity for everyone. Just take a look at our calendar and you will find something that interests you.

Our March program with Assessor Gus Kramer was very informative along with being very entertaining. He answered many questions and gave suggestions on how we could save taxes. He acquainted many of us with Proposition 60, which provides for the transfer of property tax base for senior citizens. Thank you Sally & Gretel for arranging this program.

Our EF games day was this past Thursday, March 29th. Pat Harris already had a sign-up list exceeding last year!! It was a fun event for everyone plus raising money for our Education Foundation Program.

Another important program not to miss is the "Suffrage Film Fest" with their last, and I've been told best, film (Iron-Jawed Angels with Hilary Swank) this Monday, April 2nd at 7:00 p.m. at the Martinez Veterans Hall (across the street from the Martinez Library).

I hope to see some of you at California AAUW Convention in April, even if it's just for a day!!

We hope you have a wonderful Easter celebrating with family and friends!!

Ciao and Amore, Kathy and Marilyn

NEXT N.E.W.S. is 2 Months

Please remember that the next issue of our N.E.W.S. is for May and June. If you have any activities or announcements for June you must submit them by April 15. And if you are one who waits anxiously for each issue, you will have to wait through the month of June before you get the next one ☺

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Copy deadline for May-June N.E.W.S. is April 15th.

Please send copy to Kit Hein

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INTEREST GROUP MEETINGS



**BRIDGE

Evening Bridge – Monday, April 2. Contact Elizabeth DiPietro (210-0281) for location. This is the regular 1st Mon of the month night bridge.



Grand Slammers will play bridge on April 9 at 12:30. If you would like to play, please call Gayle Garrison 798-7528 or e-mail.....each player contributes \$3.00 for Local Scholarships.



MORNING BOOKS will meet on Wednesday, April 4th, 10 am, at Gayle Garrison's. Parking is limited at Gayle's due to DVC parking, so please CARPOOL! We will be discussing *The Girl Who Fell from the Sky* by Heidi Durrow. This is the author's debut novel and reflects urban life in multicultural America with Rachel as a young mixed race woman. In May we will be reading *Secret Daughter* by Shilpi Somaya Gowda. Please join us for great discussions!



IN INDELIBLE INK will meet on Wednesday, April 11th, 10 am, at Ginny Hargrave's. We had to cancel the March meeting due to vacations, so our theme for April is: "If I were running for president, my platform would be . . . " We would love to hear your story and we like hearing oral versions, too! We don't critique your writings, so there is no pressure. Please come!



NIMBLE FINGERS will meet at 10 AM April 12th at the home of Jean DeGregory, 2448 Heather Leaf Lane, Martinez, CA. Please let Jean know if you are coming, knittyj@comcast.net or phone 229-1407.



EVENING BOOKS will meet on Monday, April 23rd, 7 pm, at Marlene Maksel's. We will be reading *The Paris Wife* by Paula McLain ~ just out in paperback. This is Paris with an early Hemingway and all of his pals ~ and gals. Please join us for a very interesting discussion.



MATINEE IDLE will go to the movies on Thursday, April 26th. 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.



** GENEALOGY

Sonoma County Genealogical Society

Sat., April 21 0 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 pm (Registration at 8:00 a.m)

Featuring: Connie Lenzen, Board Certified Genealogist and Recipient of the National Genealogical Society's 2010 President's Citation for "Outstanding and Continuing Contributions to the society."

Topics will include:

Vital records on the Web, The do's and don'ts of genealogical research on line, Location-location-location, and Proving a maternal line.

Wells Fargo Center for the Arts

Henry A. Merlo Theater

HWY 101 at River Road, Santa Rosa

Pre-registration - non members \$30; at the door \$35
Box Lunch \$12 - I recommend this because there are no nearby places for lunch.

For more details to to SCGS web site at

<http://www.scgs.org>

Sat., April 21

Sacramento German Genealogy Society's Annual spring seminar presents Warren Bittner, "Tracking Down Our German Ancestors,"

For more information go to

<http://www.SacGerGenSoc.org>

May 9-12, 2012 National Genealogical Society Conference in Cincinnati


For more information go to

http://www.ngsgenealogy.oor/cs/video_conference

Membership Matters

Reba Siero (925) 228-8211 rebasiero@yahoo.com
Marti Martin (925) 229-3574 richmar1016@sbcglobal.net

This month we would like to salute our very best advertisement for Pleasant Hill-Martinez AAUW : YOU!

When you let people know about the branch activities, sections, general meetings, events, etc., and the fun you are having while advocating for equity and educational opportunities for women and  girls, you are sending the best possible message about our organization. A number of our new members have come to us because one of you told them about AAUW. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK and let folks you know learn about us.

Don't forget -- if you know anyone who is thinking of joining the branch that springtime is a good time to join. If they join after March 15, they can get up to 15 months for the regular 12 month dues of \$83 (their membership would expire on June 30, 2013.) Why not invite a friend to join you at your next AAUW activity or give their contact information to Reba or Marti? If they have an AA or higher degree, they are eligible to join us. We will be happy to contact them.

We have a new member this month:

Marguerite (Marge) Munger
1201 Monument Blvd., #17
Concord, CA 94520
(925) 687-9773
margueritemunger@comcast.net

Marge is returning to AAUW and has a BA in Library Science from Texas Woman's University. Her interests include books, genealogy and bridge.

In Memoriam

Sharilynn Russo died as a result of a car accident in Martinez last week. Sharilynn was a faithful member of our AAUW for many years. She retired last June after 38 years as a Speech & Language Teacher with the Contra Costa County Office of Education. Her husband preceded her in death of a massive heart attack last fall. She leaves her mother, Florine Gardella of Concord. A card has been sent in the branch's name. Also, as per our branch policy sheet, a donation of \$25 has been sent in her memory to AAUW Funds.


THANK YOU

I would like to thank everyone in the branch for their cards, prayers, loving words, food, telephone calls, visits, attendance at the Memorial Service (and, even bringing food for the reception), poems, books ~ and all the ways you've helped me through this difficult time. I appreciate each and every one of you and I don't really have the words to express how much you have all meant to me. Thank you so much.

With love, Marlene



LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP

ADOPT-A-POLL

The Contra Costa County Elections Department is preparing for the June 3 Primary Election and will be accepting applications for the Adopt-A-Poll program.

With the Adopt-A-Poll program, an organization “Adopts” a precinct and is responsible for staffing the polling place on election day. This program gives the organization the flexibility of AM or PM shifts. The stipend for all participating members is combined in one check made payable to the organization.

Requirements for Poll workers are:

*be a registered voter,

*be a member of the service group, and

*complete all required training.

If you are interested in participating in this program and having the stipend help local scholarships, please contact Ish Mendonsa or Elva Valli. It’s a fun and easy way to help.



REGISTER NOW FOR THE LAST “ANNUAL”* AAUW - CA STATE CONVENTION APRIL 13 – 15 SANTA CLARA MARRIOTT HOTEL

Money is **STILL** available in the branch Conference & Convention budget to assist any member who wishes to attend convention. This is an excellent opportunity to get to know your organization better as well as educate yourself on issues of gender equity, school bullying, the Equal Pay Initiative, and much more. We already have members who will be carpooling for Friday only and Saturday only. Don’t miss out. Read your *California Perspective* for full details. Call Marilyn Thelen (228-2600) if you’re interested in car pooling and for more information on branch assistance.

*State conventions will now alternate with Association convention and be held every 2 years.

AAUW – CA

* Subscribe to Our AAUW CA Blog

Did you know you can be notified each time something new is posted to our AAUW CA blog? Just go to our website, click on AAUW CA blog (or click [HERE](#)), scroll to the bottom and enter your email address to subscribe. There, now you’ll never miss a new post!

Harriet Tower , Communications Director

* Elections 2012 - Can’t make it to convention?

YOU CAN STILL VOTE!!!

Have you visited the Elections & Nominations page on the AAUW CA website? If you haven’t, do it soon. It is important for all members to be familiar with the valuable information there. You can find out about the candidates running for office, read their bios and in some cases, even see a video campaign message.

Remember: we will not vote at Convention this year, although we still may nominate candidates from the floor and submit resolutions.

In early May, **every member** will receive an email from AAUW CA with an access code and a link to vote. Members who do not have email or whose email “bounces” will receive a postcard with this information. **Every member will have the opportunity to vote**, either online or by submitting a paper ballot. Go to www.aauw-ca.org to see a PowerPoint presentation on the elections page. We are hoping to have it in video format, as well -- watch the page.

ALL VOTING WILL END ON JUNE 1 AT 9:00 P.M . The results of the election will be available on our website within a day or so.

We need your help to make this process go smoothly:


1. Check the member services database at www.aauw.org to be sure your contact information is accurate.
2. Download the “How to Vote” PowerPoint presentation and learn how to vote. Find out about the candidates.
3. Ask your branch officers for help if you are not sure what to do. If you have questions about this process, please contact Shelley Mitchell , Elections Committee Chair.


Community


Harriett Burt

SPRING IN MARTINEZ

April 2 - 7 to 9 pm: third and final film in the Suffrage Film Fest series – “The Iron-Jawed Angels” HBO’s dramatization of the final years of the fight for women’s suffrage featuring Hilary Swank as Alice Paul who took the issue to the streets of Washington. The series has been very successful with 40 or more attending each evening at the Martinez Veterans Memorial Hall, 930 Ward Street, across from the post office and the library.

April 18 – Martinez Lioness Club Spring Salad Bar Luncheon; 11:30 a.m. at the Shell Club House, 1635 Pacheco Blvd.  Martinez. Fundraiser for the club’s scholarships and the Hospital Equipment Lending Program. Tickets are \$30. Contact Marilyn Thelen or Harriett Burt for more information or for tickets which sell out quickly.

April 21 --- Friends of the Martinez Library book sale. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fill a grocery bag with a selection of gently-used books, audio books or DVDs at \$8 a bag (two for \$15). While you are there, tour the restored, refurbished, renovated Martinez  Library. The 72-year-old building’s restoration was recently completed with funds from a local bond measure supported by city voters in the midst of the 2008 crash. 740 Court Street.

April 21 --- John Muir Earth Day/Birthday celebration from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the John Muir National Historic Site, 4202 Alhambra Avenue. Visit the recently renovated Visitor’s Center where Martinez AAUW charter member Faire Sax is commemorated for helping to save the mansion from destruction, the mansion which  exhibits booths has recently installed new on the life of John Muir, of many community organizations and agencies which work to preserve a healthy environment. Food and beverages available for purchase. Free entertainment and commemorative remarks.



April 28 and May 12 --- 2-3 p.m. eReader mini workshop offered by Martinez Library for those who would like one on one help with Nook, Android or other eReader devices including how to download library eBooks. Bring questions, manuals and your USB cords. Registration is recommended although drop-ins are welcome.

Public Policy

Don't let them Slash the Women's Bureau

Take Action! Visit this page:

<http://capwiz.com/aauw/utr/1/LJCIRNJNOK/MLEARNKWVC/8078842726>] (you will have to copy and paste this address into your browser)

The economic outlook is improving, but there's no denying that many American women and families are still struggling to make ends meet. The Department of Labor's Women's Bureau has stood with women  workers since 1920 to help women and depressions,  weather recessions and they're standing with us today.

Tell your senators: Oppose the heavy proposed cuts to the Women's Bureau budget and staff!

Since its founding almost 100 years ago, the Women's Bureau has helped represent and protect the needs of women in the workforce. In recent years, the Women's Bureau has worked to help women in economic transition obtain employment in high-growth and nontraditional occupations and improve their families' security and well-being. Yet the Obama administration's proposed fiscal year 2013 budget slashes funding for the Bureau by one-fifth and its full time employees by almost 40 percent.

Help lead the charge for women in the workforce: Tell your senators the vital programs of the Women's Bureau should not be abandoned or undermined while women still face substantial and systemic inequalities at work. Ask her or him to oppose these steep cuts to the Bureau!

To send a message asking your senators to oppose cuts to the Women's Bureau, visit AAUW Two-Minute Activist or click on the "Take Action" link in the upper right hand corner of this email.

Voter Turnout Training

(This is a condensed form of an email you received earlier this week. If you are receiving snail mail it may be the first time you've seen it. Call Nancy Hobert [228-7271] for more information)

You're invited to attend an intensive voter education, registration, and turnout campaign training seminar hosted by AAUW of California.

California's training will be April 12, 2012, 12 to 5 P.M., at the Marriott Hotel in Santa Clara, California.

At the training, which is free of charge, you'll learn about building a voter turnout plan, targeting potential voters, the AAUW Action Fund campaign's special focus on women of the Millennial generation (aged 18-30), and using social media and traditional media for public relations. We'll talk about building relationships with key voting groups and connect you with your state's coalition.

Please attend if you can, and visit us at www.AAUWAction.org to learn more about how you can get involved in the AAUW Action Fund "It's My Vote: I Will Be Heard" voter turnout campaign!



SAVE THE DATE(S)

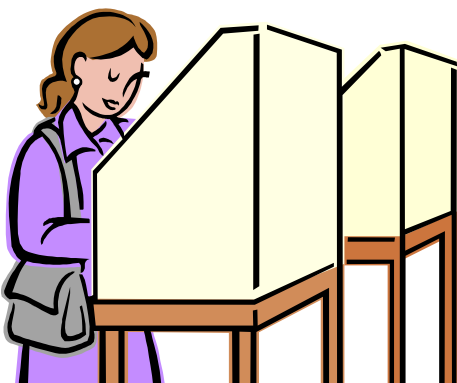
The next two issues of the PH-MTZ N.E.W.S. will be dual month issues – May-June. Since many dates have already been set into the next several months the board wants you to be able to plan ahead by putting these on your calendar now. Details will come in the appropriate N.E.W.S. Make time for AAUW☺

June 2 – Brunch at Brookview – this will be our last official meeting for the year. Tech Trek and Scholarship winners will be our guests and the Barbara Newacheck award winner will be announced.


July 21 – Summer Social – after a year's hiatus the branch once again will have an event to come together in the summer.

Sept. 15 – September Membership Brunch

Sept. 29 – Festa Italiana – earlier this year and, so far, not conflicting with any other organization's schedule☺



April 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2  Evening Bridge	3	4 Morning  Books	5	6	7
8	9  Grand Slammers	10	11 In Indelible Ink 	12 Nimble Fingers 	13 	14 AAUW-CA CONVENTION
15 AAUW-CA CONVENTION	16	17	18 Food Bank Meeting 	19	20	21 FoML Book Sale Earth Day
22	23  Evening Books	24	25	26 Matinee Idle 	27 Once Upon a Mattress 	28
29	30					

SAVE THE DATES: June 2 - Brunch; July 21 - Summer Social



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.