



## 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 6

FEBRUARY 2012

### PROGRAMS

REMINDERS AND A FEW CORRECTIONS/ADDITIONS



### HUMAN TRAFFICKING

When: **Sunday January 29, 2-4 pm**

Where: **Lafayette Library and Learning Center**

Sponsored by: AAUW Contra Costa Interbranch Council and  
Contra Costa County Commission for Women.

Come and hear three government and non-profit sector experts from our area discuss the scope of the problem (nationally and locally), suggest ways to combat human trafficking, and inform attendees of non-profit and government resources. More complete information on the flier at the end of this newsletter.

### Educational Fellowship Dinner

When: **Tuesday, Feb. 7, 5:30 pm**

Where: **Scott's Seafood Restaurant, Walnut Creek**

Presented as a partnership of the  
Pleasant Hill-Martinez AAUW, Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek AAUW,  
and Delta Kappa Gamma-ZetaZeta key women teachers

Inspired by her own single mother who worked her way through college, Alexa Koenig earned multiple awards in law and graduate level work at top California universities and was selected as a 2011-2012 AAUW American Fellowship recipient. Ms Koenig will discuss her inspiration and doctoral dissertation on "Cruelty in Institutions, Guantanamo and Kenya," and what is being done about these human rights practices.

Reservations are due January 31 and should be mailed to:

DKG Reservations  
PO Box 551  
Alamo, CA 94507

Include check for \$34 and choice of Grilled Salmon or Chicken Parmesan

(Ms. Koenig replaces the previously announced speaker who has had a recurrence of health problems.)



## Il Messaggero

I thought soup lines were mainly a thing of the past. However, soup lines were back in full culinary splendor the other night. We shared many fine “Soups of the Day” as we were treated to the fine cooking of our members. Our attendance was at 70 with 18 pots of delicious homemade soups plus many desserts. We then were treated to a very interesting program with our speaker Dr. Tom Scovel sharing his experience of living and teaching Linguistics in China. His parents were doctors and teachers in China. It was a most enjoyable evening. Kit DeGear did an excellent job lining up the chefs and with the Chinese New Year decorations. Kudos to Gretel Holit for providing a very interesting China experience.

We have several special events coming up that we should all make an attempt to attend. The first event is Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, the topic being “Human Trafficking”. Our AAUW-CCC Interbranch Council will be sharing the sponsorship this program. An Article appears elsewhere in this newsletter.

We are co-sponsoring our February general meeting with Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek AAUW and Delta Kappa Gamma-Zeta Zeta key women teachers. It will be a dinner at Scotts with Ms. K. Alexa Koenig, a University of California, Berkeley School of Law graduate and a 2011-2012, AAUW American Fellowship recipient as our speaker. Please try to join us on February 7 for this special evening. Please check elsewhere to find how to make your reservations ASAP as the deadline is coming close.

Start thinking about attending our AAUW 2012 California State Convention in Santa Clara on April 13-15. It’s a wonderful way to learn more about AAUW and I assure you will come away very energized and inspired. More information will follow in the March newsletter.

We are having a very good time at these events and really want you to join us. COME ON OUT!!

Ciao and Amore,  
Kathy and Marilyn

## 2011– 2012 Leadership Team

### Presidents:

Kathy Searles 228-5700  
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Marilyn Thelen 228-2600  
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### Vice Presidents – Education Fund:

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Alana MacDonald 933-4427  
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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 March N.E.W.S. is Feb. 15th.**

Please send copy to Kit Hein

[kjhein@comcast.net](mailto:kjhein@comcast.net)

### AAUW Help Line: 800/326-AAUWCA AAUW Office

Administrative Assistant: Susan Crabtree

Email: [Office@aauw-ca.org](mailto:Office@aauw-ca.org)

Web Page: [aauw-ca.org](http://aauw-ca.org)

### 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)

## INTEREST GROUP MEETINGS



\*\* **MORNING BOOKS** will meet on Wednesday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 10 am, at Brookview Clubhouse ~ Ish Mendonsa is hostess. The Clubhouse is the fifth driveway upon entering the park at 1201 Monument in Concord. We will be discussing our classic for the year ~ F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*. In March the book chosen is *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* by Jamie Ford. Please join us for great discussions!



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

On Feb 6th, we will have 1st Monday of the month night bridge at Gayle Garrison, 7 PM.

### **The Grand Slammers**



Grand Slammers bridge group will play on Feb. 13.... at 12:30.....it is open to anyone who would like to play. Call Gayle Garrison 798-7528 or e-mail [tarheel61@yahoo.com](mailto:tarheel61@yahoo.com)



\*\* **IN INDELIBLE INK** will meet on Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 10 am, at Kay Ernst's. Our theme will be to write about an inanimate object. Did you have a favorite toy as a child, or do you have a favorite belonging now ~ or do you have a fictional story about, maybe, a creepy stuffed animal??? We'd 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! This month, our meeting will be followed by lunch at Mr. Lucky's ~ an added bonus!



\*\* **NIMBLE FINGERS** does not have a host for the February meeting, which is the second Thursday of the month (Feb. 9). If someone is willing to host the meeting, please let me know so we can send out an email. If we do not have a meeting place there will be no meeting. It would probably be a good idea to line up hosts for March, April and May. Are there any volunteers? Call Nancy at 284-7097 or email [schwemm@juno.com](mailto:schwemm@juno.com)



\*\* **MATINEE IDLE** will go to the movies on Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</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, February 27th, 7 pm, at Sally Whitsett's. We will be reading *Wife of the Gods* by Dr. Kwei Quartey. This a new mystery and takes place in West Africa with a conflict between science and superstition. Please join us for a very interesting discussion.

## COMMUNITY

Marlene Maksel – Pleasant Hill

### **Thursday, 9 February ~ Mayor's Breakfast**

The breakfast will feature

Mayor John Hanecak, who will



speaking on the State of the City. The Rec & Park District will also report on building projects of the Senior, Teen and Community Centers. The event is from 7:30 to 9 am at Back Forty restaurant. Tickets are \$25/ea and may be reserved by calling 687-0700. Or you can order on line at

[www.pleasanthillchamber.com](http://www.pleasanthillchamber.com)

**E-Waste** is collected on the **1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of every month** at the DVC overflow parking lot from 9 am until 1 pm. Only electronic waste is collected, but there is no charge.



**The DVC Garden** is open the last Wednesday of each month from 10 am until noon. The garden is located at the far end of parking lot #9 ~ next to the tennis courts. Occasionally plants are for sale, but it is always worth a trip to see what the students are growing.



## Membership Matters

Marti Martin and Reba Siero

This has been a great year for Pleasant Hill-Martinez AAUW. We have had 14 new members join our branch so far this year. We have heard from several of the new members that they have felt very welcome and have gotten involved in many ways – already serving on committees and enjoying the general meetings and various interest sections. Our existing members have made these women feel comfortable and valued as members of the branch. Many thanks to all of you. It is like the old Girl Scout song, “Make new friends, but keep the old. One is silver, and the other, gold.” “Old” members and “New” members are the Gold and Silver of our branch.



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 before March 15, there is a 50% discount on the dues for a total of \$41.50 for membership through June 30, 2011. Or, if they join after March 15, they can get up to 15 months for the regular 12 month dues of \$83 (their membership would then expire on June 30, 2013). Think about it and invite someone to join you at your next AAUW activity or give their contact information to Reba or Marti. We will be happy to contact them.

Our newest member is Sandra Bonato. Welcome, Sandra!

Sandra Bonato  
767 West Boyd Rd  
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523  
(925) 938-5433 home  
(925) 838-2090 work  
[sbonato@berding-weil.com](mailto:sbonato@berding-weil.com)  
Spouse: Jim

Sandra holds a BA in English from University of San Francisco and a JD from John F Kennedy University School of Law. She is a Partner/Attorney with Berding-Weil in Alamo

Members enjoy soup and contribute to the layette



## HEALTH CARE FOR ALL???

DATE: Saturday, February 25

TIME: 9:30 am

PLACE: Kit Hein's home

This is not a general meeting but an opportunity to become more informed. Join in a lively discussion of this very important issue.

(RSVP's to Kit are a **MUST** at 228-7503)

### *Did you know...*

- The World Health Organization ranks the US health care system as 37th in the world?
- US life expectancy is 49th in the world.
- In 2009 1/4 of California women were uninsured.
- Premiums for a family policy have increased 153% since 2002.
- The proportion of CA employers offering coverage has declined to 63% in the last two years from 73%
- 7 million Californians are uninsured.
- 1/3 of the CA state budget is health related.
- The 5 largest for-profit health insurers netted \$11.7 billion in profits in 2010.



These are somewhat overwhelming statistics! Conservative and Liberal, Republican, Democrat, and Independent, ...we have problems!

Come explore one possible approach with Pat Snyder who holds a doctorate in Nursing, has been a nurse administrator for several hospitals, and has also been an adjunct faculty member of USF. Ms. Snyder is Chair of Health Care for All - Contra Costa, a member of the Health Care Committee of the League of Women Voters of CA, and chairs the League's Health Care Committee of Diablo Valley. She is also on the steering committee of the Campaign for a Healthy California, a state wide coalition of organizations supporting single payer health care.

### **BITS & PIECES**

The Fair Oaks clothes closet is low on supplies for the younger students. These are used when students have accidents at school.

Here is what is needed:

new (and washed) or gently used: long pants for girls and boys, kindergarten and first graders; underpants for girls and boys, kindergarten and first graders; socks for girls and boys, kindergarten and first graders.

You may drop off your donation to:

**Marilyn Tubbs {18 Monivea Place, Pleasant Hill} or Muriel Fry {1235 Barott Road, Lafayette}**. We will see that the donations get to Fair Oaks School. Thanks very much for you support.



## PLANNING AHEAD FOR LAF

**JOIN US IN A BRIDGE AND GAME AFTERNOON!**  
Pleasant Hill-Martinez AAUW is hosting an afternoon of Bridge  
and Mexican Train for domino players



on  
Thursday, March 29, 2012  
from 12:30-4:00

at the Brookview Clubhouse.

**\$10 will be collected to benefit the AAUW FUNDS (LAF)**  
**Not a game player?**

You are welcome to come socialize and have *dessert!*

**Call or e-mail Pat Harris to reserve you spot!**

**228-6263 or [patriciaharris4@mac.com](mailto:patriciaharris4@mac.com)**

**Open to members and non-members alike.**

### ***AAUW Action Network***

\*This week, dozens of organizations, including AAUW, and tens of thousands of reproductive rights supporters and advocates are joining together in a virtual march on Washington!

\*Take part! Join the march now and help send a message in support of women's health and reproductive rights.

2011 was a banner year for rollbacks on reproductive rights, with 80 anti-choice restrictions enacted in state legislatures. The U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation which would limit comprehensive coverage of women's reproductive health care and allow doctors to refuse even lifesaving abortion care.

\*This year must be better. We must be vigilant in 2012 and help ensure that women's agency over their own bodies is expanded, not lessened, and that women have adequate access to necessary health care.

\*As advocates, we can start by celebrating the 39 th anniversary of Roe vs. Wade with the online march for women's reproductive rights. Sign the petition and send a message to Congress: trust women! Copy and paste this URL into your address box: <http://capwiz.com/aauw/utr/1/CKUJRGJKLD/JECORGJKLX/7831637896>

Remember: You can always help strengthen AAUW's efforts to protect reproductive rights by making a tax-deductible donation to AAUW's Public Policy Fund!

[On January 8, 2012, I saw in the Contra Costa Times an article "the Globalist Quiz---Africa by 2100" about Africa's population problem. This article supports AAUW's belief in the importance of education:

"Africa will likely not quadruple to surpass Asia's current population level (4.2 billion) during this century. High population growth, in Africa and elsewhere, is not just a function of lack of access to family planning, but even more so a consequence of taking girls out of school prematurely. The best restraint on uncontrolled population growth actually is to ensure young women's access to education."

Contributed by Margi Alkire



January 3, 2012

Marilyn Thelen  
Pleasant Hill-Martinez (CA) Branch President  
5318 Stonehurst Drive  
Martinez, CA 94553-9721

Dear Ms. Thelen:

I am pleased to inform you that the request to change your branch name from Pleasant Hill Branch to Pleasant Hill-Martinez Branch (CA0083) has been approved by the AAUW Governance Committee. Our records have been changed to reflect the new branch name, in our internal records and on the website. As you know for over 130 years AAUW has set the pace for advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research. AAUW is delighted that the members of the Pleasant Hill-Martinez Branch continue to be a part of a community of more than 1,000 AAUW branches affecting change across America.

It appears that the timely notification of your branch name change request, slipped through the cracks, do a recent change in the procedure. I regret any inconvenience this may have caused. Please let me know if I can be of further help.

Thank you so much for your leadership and membership with AAUW.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Claudia Richards".

Claudia Richards  
Senior Field Relations Manager

Electronic cc: Marti Martin, Branch Co-Membership Vice President  
Reba Siero, Branch Co-Membership Vice President  
Judith Pfeil, AAUW California State Co-President  
Gloria Taylor, AAUW California State Co-President  
Virginia Hatfield, State Membership Vice President



## **HUMAN TRAFFICKING:**

# **What Is It? How Can You Make a Difference?**

**Sunday January 29, 2-4 pm Free**

**Lafayette Library and Learning Center**

**3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette, CA 94549**

**Sponsored by AAUW Contra Costa County Interbranch Council, Contra Costa County Commission for Women and Soroptimist International of El Cerrito**

These three dynamic speakers will discuss various aspects of HUMAN TRAFFICKING:

**Jennifer Alderete**, Special Agent for Homeland Security Investigations, is currently assigned to the Human Trafficking and Smuggling Group where she investigates sex and labor trafficking cases. She will talk about the criminal laws involved and how law enforcement and other non-government agencies work together.

**Cindy Liou** is a staff attorney with Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach (API Legal Outreach) and coordinates the Human Trafficking Project at the agency. Since 2000, API Legal Outreach continues to engage in legislative and policy advocacy on behalf of trafficking survivors from over 22 countries (Asia, Mexico, Central and South America, Africa, and Europe), as well as provide comprehensive and holistic direct legal and social services to men, women, transgendered, and children survivors of human trafficking. She will discuss how to work with survivors of human trafficking, and social and legal services needed by trafficking survivors.








**Caritas Foster** is with Holy Family Sisters and has dedicated her ministry to educating the public on trafficking. She is a member of Cross Bay Collaborative which was recently funded by the Office of Refugee Resettlement of the Federal Department of Health and Human Services. She will suggest some practical ways for the general public to help victims of the trafficking.

A state Department report states that 14,000 cases of Human Trafficking were reported in the US in 2009.

California is one of the largest destination states with 43% of international trafficking taking place here.

***To report suspicious behavior, call the National Human Trafficking Resource Center 1-888-3737-888.***

# February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
JAN 29 2-4 PM HUMAN TRAFFICKING			1 Morning Books 	2	3	4 E-Waste at DVC
5	6  Bridge 7PM	7 5:30PM EF Dinner	8  In Indelible Ink	9 Nimble Fingers ???	10	11
12	13  Grand Slammers	14 	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23  Matinee Idle	24	25 Health Care discussion
26	27  Evening Books	28	29 DVC Garden			

SAVE THE DATE: March 29 (Bridges and Mexican Train for LAF); April 13-15 (State Convention);



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.