



Volume 55 Issue 2

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

**Now/Events/Women/Success**

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

October 2012

# Sustainable Holiday Cooking

Wednesday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm

Brookview Clubhouse, 1201 Monument Blvd.

**Win a door prize!!!**



Meet **Lesley Stiles**, a sustainable caterer. You may have seen her column in the Community Focus Magazine.

She will give us a cooking demonstration of a Thanksgiving side dish, and lead a discussion of simple, healthy and delicious cooking using locally grown, seasonal produce.

## JOIN US FOR BUNCO

Monday, October 29, 2012



**1:00-4:00**

**Brookview Clubhouse**

Join us for a fun filled afternoon with the entertaining game of Bunco. It is easy to learn.

(Bunco is very similar to the dice game Yahtzee).

**\$10 will be collected to benefit the AAUW FUNDS (LAF)**

Cash prizes will be awarded and dessert will be served during the break.

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

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



## Il Messaggero

Co-Presidents Marilyn Thelen & Janice Walker

Wow! Were you there? Last month we had a fabulous kick-off brunch amid the serene setting of Marilyn's backyard! Over 70 members and guests attended including our four tech trek girls and their families. Elena Noble and Reba Siero, our Membership VPs, did an outstanding job organizing and orchestrating the event along with Shelley Jacobson and Sherrie Moore, our Program VPs. A wealth of information regarding our branch's many activities was shared along with many delectable dishes. Gratitude is extended to Marilyn for the use of her lovely yard and to all those who contributed to this great beginning!

Members at the bunch received this year's directory. Once again Marlene Maksel did a wonderful job compiling all our information and in such a timely manner! This year's cover is pink, picked by Marlene to promote cancer awareness, which is fitting, as too many of our members and loved ones have been touched by this horrible affliction.

In case you missed the September showings of the documentary, *Miss Representation*, you can still attend a viewing Oct. 20 at the CSU East Bay Campus, put on by the Concord Branch. This film produced by Jennifer Siebel Newsom illustrates how women are misrepresented in the media. It also discusses women's lack of positions of power in our country. If you read your recent issue of our AAUW magazine, OUTLOOK, you're aware of why it so critical for women to go to the polls this November. Jennifer Newsom's film demonstrates that need for now and for the future.

If you have been reading the "It's My Vote: I Will Be Heard" emails you know about AAUW's national campaign to get out the vote. Here in our own community Muriel Fry and Kit Hein recently registered voters at Fair Oaks' Back to School night. There's still time for you to help the cause! Be sure anyone you know 18 or older is registered to vote and does! Absentee ballots make it easy for everyone!

Looking for something new to serve during the upcoming holiday season? Shelley and Sherrie have arranged for food columnist, Lesley Stiles, to share a recipe during her presentation at our general meeting on October 17<sup>th</sup>. Hope to see you there!

## Upcoming events



\* **Wed. November 28<sup>th</sup>** at 7:00 pm in the Pleasant Hill Council Chambers  
**(3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month because of Thanksgiving)**

Meet with **John Hanecak**, the current mayor of Pleasant Hill, and **Rob Schroder** the mayor of Martinez. Forward any questions to us that you have about our community.



\* **Holiday Party on Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup>**. Details will follow.

Check out all of the programs on our AAUW website at <http://www.aauw-pleasanthill-martinez.org>.

Sherrie Moore and Shellev Jacobson



### **Pleasant Hill - Martinez AAUW Website**



Our website includes all of the information you need to know about our branch. Check out the pictures from the September Brunch at Marilyn Thelen's home. Look ahead to the Programs for the upcoming month and year. We have member information and photos. See all of the interest groups you can join. Find copies of our previous newsletters on the website.

Just go to <http://www.aauw-pleasanthill-martinez.org> for all of this and more. Forward any questions or comments that you may have to the webmaster, located on the About Us page.

Marilyn Tubbs/ Sherrie Moore



Just a reminder that there will be a **Board Meeting Wed., Oct. 10, at Rolling Green Clubhouse, starting at 7:00 PM.** Please let Marilyn or Janice know if you can't make it. This year's board meetings have been scheduled for the second Wednesdays of each month at the same location and time. Please mark your calendars.

## INTEREST GROUP MEETINGS



### \*\*BRIDGE

**Evening Bridge** – Monday night evening bridge **October 1st**, we play at Gayle Garrison's, 7P. Please call or e-mail if you would like to play. Call Gayle (not Elizabeth) 798-7528.

**November 5th**, we play at my house (Elizabeth DiPietro) 7P



**Grand Slammers** - will not play in October, due to Columbus Day.



### **Middle of the Road Bridge**

We are not beginners anymore! We meet the **second Friday of each month at 12:30pm** at various members' homes. If you are not an expert or beginner bridge player this group is for you. Contact Joy Barden at [joy\\_barden@yahoo.com](mailto:joy_barden@yahoo.com) or 935-7118 if you are interested.



### \*\* **MORNING BOOKS** will meet on

**Wednesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10 am**, at Ilene Linssen's. We will be discussing *Caleb's Crossing* by Geraldine Brooks. The story is about the early settling of America and a young Native American, Caleb, who is sent to Harvard. The book is an interesting look into our early history. In November, we will be reading *In the Garden of Beasts* by Eric Larson. Please join us for a great discussion!

## **GENEOLOGY**



\*\* **WALKING WOMEN** will walk on **Tuesdays, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>**. Right now it is every two weeks, but we might switch to every week, if there is enough interest. On **October 2<sup>nd</sup>** we will again meet at Hillcrest Center on Morello Avenue. This time we will walk north on the Canal Trail. Please call, or email, Marlene Maksel, if you are planning to be there on the 2<sup>nd</sup>!!!



\*\* **LUNCHIN' LADIES** debuts this month with lunch on **Tuesday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, 1 pm** at *The Peasant and the Pear* in Danville. If you are planning to go, please call, or email, Marlene Maksel, so reservations and carpooling can be arranged. We will decide at that time on future dates and places.



\*\* **CULTURAL CONNECTION** will go to MOMA in the City on **Monday, October 15<sup>th</sup>**. The museum opens at 11 am (tickets are \$9/Senior and \$13/Reg) so we will plan to meet outside at that time. There is no specific exhibit, but all of the galleries are showing a variety of art. If you are interested in going to MOMA, please call Marlene Maksel (689-5439), or email [marlene@maksel.us](mailto:marlene@maksel.us). We will probably go by BART, but don't necessarily have to get on the same train. The meeting time is 11 am at MOMA.



\*\* **IN INDELIBLE INK** will meet on **Wednesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 10 am**, at Marlene Maksel's. Our topic is "Senior Discounts." Are they good, or bad? Have you had an interesting experience being a Senior?? 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!



\*\* **EVENING BOOKS** will meet on **Monday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 7 pm**, at Marlene Maksel's. We will be discussing Barbara Kingsolver's *The Lacuna*. This novel takes place partly in Mexico with Frida Kahlo, Diego Rivera and Lev Trotsky as larger-than-life characters. Please join us for a great discussion.



\*\* **MATINEE IDLE** will go to the movies on **Thursday, October 25<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 suggestions for a movie. We always discuss the movie after over coffee or other liquid refreshment.

## Membership Matters

Reba Siero and  
Elena Noble, Membership  
VP's



Our September 15<sup>th</sup> Welcome Brunch was a huge success. We had more than 75 people join in the festivities, including over 50 members, several guests and our 4 Tech Trek girls and their families. Once again many thanks to Marilyn and Jim Thelen for hosting the event at their lovely home, and to a multitude of cooks and event planners who made it possible for us to brunch on Egg Frittatas, fresh fruit, coffee cake and croissants. A thank you goes to Reba for redesigning our branch nametags. We can now read each other's names without wearing our glasses or punching holes in our favorite blouses. To view the event in living color, check out our Website. Sherrie Moore took a lot of wonderful pictures. At this time we have 107 members as we welcome our newest member, Shauna Hawes:

Shauna Hawes  
2407 Saybrook Place  
Martinez, CA 94553-6710  
Spouse: Jaeson  
Home: (925) 370-1598  
Work: (925) 682-8000 x5033  
Cell: (925) 998-0650  
E-mail: shauna.hawes@gmail.com  
University of Washington (BA English)  
CSU East Bay (BS Counseling)  
Chapman University (Multiple Subject Teaching  
Credential)

Shauna is a long time Martinez resident and is a Technology teacher at Valley View Middle School in Pleasant Hill.

Gayle Garrison is "Sunshine"....card person. Please let her know when a member should receive a card.

[Tarheel61@yahoo.com](mailto:Tarheel61@yahoo.com) or 798-7528



## WE REMEMBER SUSI WEIGHT

Our own Susi Weight, famed member of Pleasant Hill (and then Pleasant Hill-Martinez) AAUW, passed away on Saturday, September 1, 2012.

Susi was a leader, a firebrand, an instigator, an example, an innovator, a speaker (pick any or all of the above) in the Branch.

She joined the Branch in the 1960's. In 1971, she became President. She held other offices throughout the years, resuming the mantle of President again in 2004 and in 2005 with co-Presidents Charlotte Anderson and Eileen Bordenave. Several times she was a Named Gift Honoree.

One of Susi's memorable contributions to the Branch was the founding of Local Scholarships. Susi felt that the Branch raised a great deal of money for Educational Fellowships--graduate studies for women, national and international. She felt we needed to offer scholarships to our girls at home---hence came the plan of offering local scholarships, originally \$500 each and recently raised to \$1000 each.

Susi loved bridge, and played many years in the bridge marathon. She always attended the Soup Supper (her granddaughter being a speaker recently). She came to Books, Movies, and Past Presidents.

Susi and her husband Lowell raised three children, Penny, Larry, and James, in Pleasant Hill. After her divorce, she returned to teaching and taught many years in Antioch. During those years she was respected and loved by many students and their parents who remained friends for many years after her retirement. Susi was very close to her nine beloved grandchildren.

Susi loved entertaining friends in her home for as long as she was able to do so. Just over a year ago, Susi moved to Atria Valley View on Rossmoor Parkway. When she was asked if she intended to maintain her long-standing membership in Pleasant Hill-Martinez AAUW, she responded, "Of course!" She loved our Branch and the many friends she made there.

The address of Susi's very supportive daughter is:  
Penny Davis, 203 Wembly Drive, Danville, CA 94526  
743-3889 [PennyD5@yahoo.com](mailto:PennyD5@yahoo.com)

## Friends of Marilyn Tubbs

Current member Marilyn Tubbs, who has been instrumental in establishing our website and an active supporter of the Fair Oaks SAM program as well as past-president, has recently been diagnosed with cancer. Marilyn is listed on CaringBridge and would appreciate her friends accessing the website:

[www.caringbridge.org](http://www.caringbridge.org)

for information and updates.

# COMMUNITY

## Martinez

Harriett Burt



**Sept. 29:** PH-Mtz AAUW Festa is our priority event this evening but if you have friends who love martinis, the Martinez Chamber's 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Martinis on the Plaza takes place this evening from 6:30 to 10 at the Don Ignacio Plaza in front of City Hall. Send them to [www.martinfestival.eventbrite.com](http://www.martinfestival.eventbrite.com) for all the details.



**October 7:** Annual Martinez Education Foundation Run for Education is being held on Sunday this year to avoid conflict with soccer and other team sports. What could be better than a 5K or 10K run for a great cause on (hopefully) a beautiful autumn Sunday morning? In its 10<sup>th</sup> year, the run is a popular community event of the MEF with major sponsorship by Shell Martinez. Many other businesses and service clubs are also involved. Participants and their support groups can enjoy a carb load up the night before at a spaghetti feed from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Martinez Senior Center (\$15 per person; children under 6 free) For more information on both events call the race hotline at (915) 313-5562. Funds raised benefit educational programs in the Martinez Unified School District.



**Oct. 13:** Mark your calendars for the seventh annual Martinez Historical Society Home Tour. Eight homes are featured this year at the tour which begins at the Shell Club House with its intact Arts & Craft interior and the adjacent Shell Oil Museum both located at 1635 Pacheco Boulevard at Arreba Street. The 1890 Borland Home (location of the Martinez Museum), the 1882 Italianate Victorian and the 1849 Martinez Adobe. Tickets can be purchased at Char's Flowers, Rumains Jewelry or Bagel Street Café at Nob Hill center, UPS Store at the Lucky Shopping Center or online at the [www.MartinezHomeTour.com](http://www.MartinezHomeTour.com) website for \$25 tax deductible donation.



**October 14:** Friends of the Martinez Library wine tasting at the Alhambra Valley home of AAUW's own Nancy Hobert from 4-6 p.m. For more information about tickets, contact Nancy, [nhobert@aol.com](mailto:nhobert@aol.com) or 228-7271.



AAUW's SAM program needs a few more volunteers to help children at Fair Oaks Elementary with art projects in November. It takes 1 to 2 hours, a willingness to get your hands messy and absolutely no art talent. Mary Mc Ghee leads the classes and explains what they are going to do and the volunteers hand out supplies, help keep the kids on task and gather up supplies etc as the class finishes. No dates yet, but sign-ups will be in October and YOU are needed. Give Mary McGhee or Ish Mendonsa a call if you want more information or think this is something you would enjoy helping with.

## Pleasant Hill

Marlene Maksel

### 10<sup>th</sup> Annual "Art, Jazz & Wine Festival":

Saturday, October 6th from 10 am to 6pm and Sunday, October 7<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 5pm in downtown Pleasant Hill on Crescent Drive. There will be music, crafts, art, fun for children and wine/beer.

### "Grapes of Wrath":



DVC is presenting this classic every Friday, Saturday and Sunday (matinee) beginning October 19 and continuing through November 11<sup>th</sup>.

Call 687-4445 for ticket information.

### *Diablo International Resource Center and the Acalanes Adult Education Center Presents:*

*Tuesday, Oct. 2*

*Creating Jobs*

*Speaker: Jose Corona*

*Tuesday, Oct. 9*

*Nuclear & Other energy Sources*

*Speaker: Karen Schwind*

*Tuesday, Oct. 16*

*Expanding Women's Rights On the Globe*

*Speaker: Martha C. Johnson*

*\$8/lecture*

*7:30pm – Rossmoor's Las Trampas Room*

*925-280-3980 xt. 8001*

**2012 Ballot Propositions: Our Positions**

The AAUW CA Public Policy Committee has reviewed the ballot measures that have qualified for the November 2012 ballot, in the context of the approved Public Policy Priorities. The committee determined that four Initiatives and one Referendum are relevant to AAUW Priorities.

**Proposition 30 – Temporary Taxes to Fund Education. Guaranteed Local Public Safety Funding.**



a **Yes** positions equitable

AAUW CA recommends a **vote**, consistent with its supporting adequate and funding for quality public education as well as safe communities

**Proposition 31 – State Budget Process**

AAUW CA recommends a **No vote** on Proposition 31.

**Proposition 35 – Human Trafficking**

AAUW CA opposes human trafficking and supports bringing offenders to justice. This proposition, however, has major flaws, and is contradictory in some elements. **Members should study this carefully.**

**Proposition 38 – Tax for Education and Early Childhood Programs**



While AAUW CA favors increased revenues for improving education in the state, this ballot measure raises concerns. AAUW CA takes a **Neutral position** on Proposition 38.

**Proposition 40 – Referendum on the Citizens Redistricting Commission Senate District Boundaries.**



AAUW CA urges a **Yes vote** on this referendum to keep the boundaries as drawn, believing that the Citizens Commission is the fairest, most equitable mechanism for revising district boundaries, and its results should remain in effect.



Your Contra Costa \$tart \$mart Team made a contact with St. Mary’s College in hopes of presenting classes to graduating students. We also have plans to meet with Cal State East Bay, Concord, and the Maritime Academy in Benicia. In addition we have potential contacts with DVC and Chabot College. The WAGE Project is organizing across the country with the appointment of regional managers who will talk and share ideas once a month on how to keep the momentum and recruitment of new schools going. We will keep you informed of our progress as the year goes by.

**Remember, WAGE means**

**Women ARE Getting Even.**

**Equal Pay for Equal Work is a right, not a gift.**



**AAUW FUNDS**

Marlene DeLaurenti, Pat Harris, Alana MacDonald

**“The check’s in the**



**mail”**

By the time this goes to press, each of our members should have received your letter regarding our AAUW Funds donations. Most of you picked them up at the September Brunch. The rest would have been mailed. If you still haven’t received yours, please call or email one of us and we will be happy to send it along.

Marlene - [mdl@astound.net](mailto:mdl@astound.net) or 934-4171

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

Alana - [alanam88@gmail.com](mailto:alanam88@gmail.com) or 933-4427

This letter used to be accompanied by a tea bag for you to enjoy as you write your check, no “event” to attend. However, the USPS is now charging too much for the tea bag to be included so we hope you will take it upon yourself to sit back, put your feet up, and write that check. All donations are fully tax deductible. Be sure to read the letter for more about where your money can be directed and the correct way to fill out the check.

## What's Happening in the Neighborhood (or at least in our neighboring branches)

### Benicia Poet Laureate



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2012

Benicia Poet Laureate, Lois Requist, will have a reading at the Benicia Public Library at 3 p.m. The event is cosponsored by the Benicia-Vallejo Branch of American Association of University Women and the Benicia League of Women Voters. Lois will read from her works of poetry and prose and will share her journey as a writer. This promises to be an enjoyable afternoon of literary works, light refreshments, and inspiring stories. Come and meet Lois and her family.



### Voter Forums

\*Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek Branch

Thursday, October 11, 2012

Pros and Cons of this fall's CA State Ballot Measures  
Shadow Hills Cabana 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.  
1001 El Capitan, Danville, CA

\*Benicia-Vallejo Branch

October 13, 9:30 AM

Benicia City Council Chambers  
205 East L ST



### Miss Representation -

documentary film by Jennifer Siebel Newsom. - In case you have not seen it yet.

### Concord Branch -Saturday, October 20, 2012

\*Oak Room, CSU East Bay Concord Campus

Presented by Associated Students Cal State East Bay and Concord Branch

Doors open at 12:00p.m. - Program starts at 12:30 p.m.  
No RSVP/ticket required \$5 donation requested at door  
Parking \$5 on campus lots

### Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette Branch -

\*Thursday, October 25, 2012

Rheem Theatre in Moraga

7:00 p.m. \$10.00 each

## 2012- 2013 Leadership Team

### Presidents:

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

Marilyn Thelen 228-2600  
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**Copy deadline for November N.E.W.S. is October 15th.**

Please send copy to

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**AAUW Contra Costa County Inter-branch Council**

**(CCC-IBC) Chair:**

Jean Simutis

[jeansimutus@csueastbay.edu](mailto:jeansimutus@csueastbay.edu)

The "In Indelible Ink" interest section wrote a serial over the summer. Each of us wrote a scene and passed it along to the next person. It actually turned out pretty well and we would like to share it with the members. (Maybe it will encourage some new people to join us.) We'll send one scene each month to keep you interested© (There are 7 scenes altogether.)

## **A SMILE SAID IT ALL (Summer, 2012)**

Serial written by the members of  
Pleasant Hill-Martinez AAUW  
In Indelible Ink Interest Section

(Scene 1 -- Ginny Hargrave)



The elevator was empty when it arrived at the fourth floor and made him wish they still had elevator operators. Operators were always willing to detect your feelings and somehow managed to make one feel better at the end of the ride. He pushed his hat back at a slight rakish angle and hummed a familiar tune when swish -- there was the main floor. An older building that had been revived in later years, it still shone in Italian marble and reflected the high glow of the amazing crystalline chandeliers that held majestically over the scene. As he passed the Directory Board, he acknowledged the name Morris, Wm APA, and sailed as he entered W 44th Street and headed east toward the Theater District. As he crossed 9th Ave., he could smell the Yum Yum Bangkok Restaurant -- uhm-ah, but no time now. Smiling again, he sauntered now into the heart of the Great White Way. Here he felt at home, even if remotely, passing the Belasco Theater and then the New Amsterdam -- featuring "MARY POPPINS."

People in New York do not verily recognize others on the street, but here was a fellow of some age, pin striped suit, white shirt, folded tie of high design, shoes that shone like the sun, and a rakish hat upon his head that said, "Look at me!" He quietly doffed his hat at the Old tune and headed for Rockefeller Center and dashed across entrance to St. Patrick's Cathedral and once again doffing his hat in inside, he whipped around the corner and there, yes, there it was -- weeks run. Once again he smiled a challenging grin and rapped on SMILE AND COME ON IN.



Schubert Theater, whistled a Madison Avenue, past the reverence to the sacrament his home for at least a six the glassed door that reads:

Here was a large room with a fair sized platform and a dais on one side; some chairs scattered about, a bit of lighting overlooking a wall of book shelves. On a side wall framed "celebrity pictures" signed and dated, they were hung in no particular order but ranged from Leopold Schakowsky, to Balishnikov, to Lady Gaga to Dee Dee Woods, to a football star in dance position. Even more incredible were the people gathered there -- young, middle, working class, and retirees (they were more relaxed and easier to spot). As he continued to observe his surroundings, a young man with a concerned look came up and extended his hand in salutation, drawing him immediately into the waiting group of awed and smiling faces.....

### **THANK YOU TO THE N.E.W.S. SPONSORS:**

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	<b>Experienced, Reasonable</b>	
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# October 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1  <u>Evening Bridge</u>	2  <u>Walking Women</u>	3  <u>Morning books</u>	4	5	6  <b>PH Art, Jazz and Wine</b>
7  <b>Mtz. Run for Education</b>	8 AAUW Funds Luncheon Deadline (see Sept. NEWS)	9  <u>Lunchin' Ladies</u>	10 <u>In Indelible Ink Board Meeting</u>	11  <b>D-A-WC Voter Forum</b>	12  <u>Middle of the Road Bridge</u>	13  <b>Mtz. Historical Home Tour</b>
14  <b>Mtz. FOL Wine Tasting</b>	15  <u>Cultural Connection</u>	16  <u>Walking Women</u>	17  <u>Sustainable Holiday Cooking</u>	18	19  <b>DVC "Grapes of Wrath" begins</b>	20 <b>"Miss Representation" Concord Branch</b>
21 AAUW Funds Luncheon – Napa (see Sept. NEWS)	22	23  <u>Evening Books</u>	24	25  <u>Matinee Idle</u>	26	27
28	29  <u>BUNCO for LAF</u>	30  <u>Walking Women</u>	31			

**SAVE THE DATE: Nov. 5 "Evening Bridge"; Nov. 28 "Meet the Mayors"; Dec. 14 "Holiday Gathering"**