



Pleasant Hill-Martinez (CA) Branch

N.E.W.S.

Now/Events/Women/Success

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

Volume 57 Issue 6

February 2015



*The Tech Trek Committee requests
the pleasure of your company at*

High Tea



*Please join our guest speaker, Susan Leech
Taking Tea in the English Manner*

*Saturday March 7th at Noon
At the Brookview Clubhouse*

Tickets \$25



Limited seating and parking, please car pool Hats and gloves optional

*A Benefit for AAUW Pleasant Hill-Martinez
Providing Scholarships for Tech Trek girls*

*To purchase tickets contact:
Janice Walker at 925 827-3374
or Sandy Wolfe at 925 228-2633
Please reserve before March 4th*





Presidential Postings

Co-Presidents Katrinka March & Gayle Miner

How many of us have gotten a call from the nominating committee? Taking on a year-long office works fine for many of us, not so fine for others. This organization is full of women who know how to say yes and know how to get things done. Please don't be shy about either one. Many hands make light work! Nothing proves that more than the amazing job done by Marilyn Thelen, Elva Valli, Harriett Burt and SarahJoy Haynes and everyone who pitched in to make yet another soup supper a grand success! Bravo!

We are encouraged to support the AAUW missions that suit our passions. We are inspired by the incredible stories of the women and girls whose lives will forever be changed by our amazing programs.

One such program is Tech Trek. You know we encourage seventh grade girls to stay interested in STEM fields by sending them to camp. Not everyone knows what it takes to make that happen. Each girl is nominated by their science or math teacher. Each girl then writes an essay about her interests in science, technology, engineering and or math. Those essays are reviewed by the Tech Trek committee, a handful of those girls are then interviewed by the committee. This is happening all around the state in order to fill 10 camps on 8 different campuses.

Tech Trek runs for one week on the campuses of Sonoma State (where our girls go to camp), Fresno State, UC Davis, UC Irvine, San Diego, Santa Barbara, Whittier and Stanford. Middle school science teachers are hired to teach core classes at each campus. The remainder of the classes in math and science are again handled by volunteers- just like us, striving to show these young minds how cool math and science and engineering can

be on a daily basis. We have state coordinators, but we also have amazing volunteers who direct the camps, and coordinate junior and senior counselors at each camp. The junior and senior counselors are former Tech Trekkers who return a second and sometimes third year to camp to help out the first timers, to help the teachers, to help the dorm moms. Dorm moms are just that: moms who volunteer a solid week of their time to be live-in moms for our campers. Making sure everyone is up in the morning, eating well, getting to class, going on their field trips, drinking enough for the hikes across campus. And each camp has a nurse, a treasurer, a director and co-director. Volunteers, all of them. Doesn't that just make you proud to be an AAUW member?

And how do we make this all happen? By stepping up and saying "I can do this!" I can make the difference in the life of just one girl that will make this world a better place. And did you hear that you can even have fun while making all these great things happen? Yes your very own Tech Trek committee is holding a tea to raise some of the funds to send the next group of amazing girls to camp. Won't you join us at tea?? March 7th- make sure it is on your calendar!

Trinka and Gayle

FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING:

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2015

7 PM

Home of Trinka March

Copy deadline for the March 2015 N.E.W.S. is:

February 20th

Please email copy to:

Reba Siero rebasiero@yahoo.com

TECH TREK TIDINGS

Janice Walker

Preparations are underway for our "High Tea" fundraising event on March 7 at Brookview. Susan Leech will share her wealth of information regarding tea and we'll enjoy tea sandwiches, scones and desserts along with our tea! More information is on the front page of this publication. Many hands are working hard to make this a lovely event. We do hope you will join us! By doing so you'll be entertained as well as contributing to our goal of sending four girls to Tech Trek camp in June at Sonoma State University.

Our Tech Trek program was fortunate to receive a \$500 grant from the Pleasant Hill Rotary through the efforts of Shelley Jacobson. Much gratitude is extended to her and to everyone who is helping us in our efforts. With everyone's support we'll make our goal!

By the way, you may receive in the mail a request from National for Tech Trek. This request is for the Tech Trek programs that National is trying to promote in other states. Donations given as a result of this request will not apply to our camper-ships, but instead will help defray costs in other states.

Regarding the tea we are still in need of some items. Please consult the list printed on this page and if you can provide any of the items please contact me at 827-3374 or email: sandjwalk@comcast.net. As always your support and assistance will be greatly appreciated!

WAYS AND MEANS

Gayle Garrison and Ish Mendonsa

Ways and Means Meeting
Friday, March 13, 10 am
Ish Mendonsa's house



****MAH JONGG** Friday, February 20th, 1:00 at the Brookview Clubhouse. \$2.00 per person. Bring your set, if you have one, and remember your card. Snack are welcome. Please order your new card by March Contact **Sherrie Moore** if you would like to play. 229-4177. moresherrrie@comcast.net

If you can provide **any** of the following items for our "High Tea" on March 7, please contact Janice Walker at: 827-3374 or sandjwalk@comcast.net.

4 china place settings salad including
salad or luncheon plate
cup and saucer
stemmed water glass
knife, spoon and fork

small plate and two small serving dishes
with 1 fork and 2 spoons
sugar and creamer
to match above dishes

4 stemmed water glasses

Tablecloth and 4 cloth napkins

3 tiered plate holder

Card table and 4 chairs

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Alana Macdonald and Claudia Bass
Membership VPs

Tech Trek's High Tea on March 7 is a great opportunity to introduce friends, especially potential new members, to AAUW.

We would like to heartily welcome our newest member, Linda Thurman. Please add her information to your directory.

Linda Thurman
714 Blue Ridge Drive
Martinez, CA 94553
Telephone number: 228-8333
e-mail: herbnlin@yahoo.com
UCSF (BS Nursing)
UCSF (MSN Community Health)

Unfortunately, we have also lost a member. Sandra Andre, who joined us in September, passed away December 28th. We will be sending a \$25 dollar contribution to AAUW Funds in her memory.

Contact Alana (alanam88@gmail.com) or Claudia (cbasslancer29@aol.com) if you know of any interested new members.

INTEREST GROUP MEETINGS



****MORNING BOOKS** will meet on Wednesday, February 4th, 10 am, at Susanne Rheingruber's. PLEASE let your hostess know you are going! We will be discussing our classic for the year, *Alice in Wonderland*, by Lewis Carroll. If you haven't read it since you were a child, maybe you will have some new insight to all of the strange happenings. In March, we will be reading and discussing Isabel Allende's, *Ripper*, which is set in S.F. Please join us for great discussions!



****IN INDELIBLE INK** will meet on Wednesday, February 11th, 10 am, at Susan Lawson's. The topic assignment will be "Do You Remember When . . . "? Remember when we listened to radio dramas; remember when we dialed a telephone; remember when . . .; etc. We welcome oral versions as well as written and we do NOT critique your writings.



****LUNCHIN' LADIES** will have lunch on Tuesday, February 17th, at (approximately) 1 pm, at a restaurant on Fourth Street in Berkeley. The selection will be made later after we "shop" along this "famous" street. We will need drivers, also. Please let Marlene (689-5439) know of your interest before February 14th. If you have a restaurant you would like to try, please let Marlene know ~ we need some unique suggestions.



****CULTURAL CONNECTION** will not meet in February ~ unless you consider the Berkeley trip a CC!



****EVENING BOOKS** will meet on Monday, February 23rd, 7 pm, at Sally Whitsett's. We will be discussing *The Garden of the Evening Mists* by Tan Twan Eng. This novel is about a woman finding solace in the gardens of Malaysia after enduring brutal incarceration in a Japanese wartime camp. It is an inspiring story. Please join us for the discussion.



****NIMBLE FINGERS** is on hiatus for at least 6 months. Contact **Suzanne** for more information at 283-3050 or gmasm39@yahoo.com



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



AAUW FUNDS

Laurel Gaiser and Marlene Maksel
AAUW Funds Co-Chairs

Facts: In 2014, AAUW awarded \$3.7 million in fellowships and grants to 245 scholars, researchers, and community-based programs for girls and women.

In 2014, three Campus Outreach Grants made it possible for AAUW branches to work with colleges to educate students about Title IX, discrimination in the workplace, and sexual assault on campus.

In 2014, a panel at the 58th session of the U. N. Commission on the Status of Women featured AAUW's *Women in Community Colleges: Access to Success* ~ a product of the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund.

These are just a few of the accomplishments of AAUW Funds during the calendar year 2014.

What achievements will AAUW reach in 2015? We are an organization which continually works for the education and human rights of women and girls. Thanks for your continued support!



Pleasant Hill - Martinez AAUW Website



Our website will show you everything you need to know about our Pleasant Hill - Martinez branch. See photos from our **January Layette Shower** when you go to the **Community Action Page**. Check out the pictures from the **Soup Supper** on the **Photos Page**. Are you interested in becoming a Board Member? Go to the **About Us Page**, and click on the **Officers Button** to see the positions.



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**.

Sherrie Moore, webmaster

PH-M AAUW N.E.W.S. SPONSORS

Montecito Animal Clinic



5280 Pacheco Boulevard
Pacheco, CA 94553
925/686-0683
FAX 925/686-4754



Katrinka March D.V.M.
Karen Shore B.V.M.S.
Cindy Pieper D.V.M.



Sierra Wheeler
Hair Design
631 Main Street
Martinez, CA 94553
www.citrus-salon.com
925-228-2010

In Memoriam - Sandra Andre

Our sympathy goes to the family of member Sandi Andre who passed away on Sunday, December 28, 2014 after a years' long battle with many illnesses. She was born on February 4, 1937 in Spencer, Iowa. She attended the University of Iowa, graduating with a BA in Education. After moving to Concord, Sandi taught at El Dorado Middle School and retired from the Mt. Diablo School District as Librarian for Concord High School. Sandi was a 58 year member of PEO and a newer member of Pleasant Hill - Martinez AAUW. Sandi and her husband Larry divided their time between Concord and Spirit Lake, Iowa. Sandi was a very good bridge player, and those of us who played bridge with her will really miss her. At Sandi's request, there will be no services. Any donations should be given to the charity of your choice. A donation of \$25 has been made to AAUW FUNDS in her memory.

MARTINEZ COMMUNITY Nancy Hobert

February 3, 10, 17, 24 - Martinez Memories Film Series

– 6 p.m. Martinez Historical Society will be showing a series of four films based on the town of Martinez. A member will be on hand to answer questions and curate this film series experience. Martinez Public Library, 740 Court Street.

February 7th – Downtown Wine and Chocolate Stroll

Main Street Martinez, 2 – 5:30 p.m.

February 7th - 10th Annual Crab Feed

Martinez Senior Center at 818 Green Street is sponsoring this event. Doors open at 5:45 p.m. Tickets are \$50 and can be reserved by calling 370-8770.

Sign up by February 16th for the March 2nd - 1st Jenna Betti Memorial Golf Tournament

All proceeds will be donated to #HERSMILE, the nonprofit started in Jenna Betti's honor. Last year Jenna was hit by a train in Martinez. \$85 per player. info at <https://jbmemorialgolftournament.eventbrite.com>

February 17th - State of Martinez Breakfast

Sponsored by Martinez Chamber of Commerce. Creekside Church, 444 Fig Tree Lane, Martinez; 8:00 a.m.; \$25 per person includes gourmet breakfast. Call 228-2345 for reservations by February 12th.

February 19th – Citizen of the Year letters

due by 5:00 p.m. For further details check out martinezchamber.com

PLEASANT HILL COMMUNITY Janet Sullivan

Vagabond Players present "Bull in a China Shop" a live theater group performance

- Friday February 6th 1:30 at the PH Senior Center Chateau Room
- pre-sale \$10, Day of \$15

DVC "The Taming of the Shrew" a delightful Shakespearean play

- Sundays February 8th and 15th at 2:30 pm
- for tickets call 969-2358

Plastic Bag Ban takes effect on February 4th

- stores will no longer provide single-use carryout plastic bags.
- bring your own reusable bags or pay \$10 cents for a paper bag

Support group for those suffering from dementia or Alzheimer's disease

- 3rd Wednesday of the month, 4:30 to 6:00pm
- call 925-284-7942 for more information or visit the
- Website: www.alz.org/norcal/index.asp

Sunday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Farmers' Market – every Sunday, marketplace full of fresh California-grown fruits and vegetables.

Martinez Museum Re-opens

Tuesdays and Thursdays – 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. First four Sundays of each month – 1p.m. – 4p.m. 1005 Escobar Street

PUBLIC POLICY

Kit Hein

Those of you who watched the State of the Union address, and maybe played BINGO with AAUW Issues, probably agree with Lisa Maatz, AAUW's Vice President of Government Relations, when she wrote "... the president urged Congress to support reforms that will provide concrete economic benefits to women and their families — working toward equal pay, expanding (health) care tax credits, establishing paid sick days and paid family leave, making college more accessible and affordable, improving retirement savings, raising the minimum wage, and making investments in education." Not all of the squares on my BINGO card were filled in, but he covered many of them.

Now it is our job to see that the president and Congress keep our issues on the front burner. Working for women's issues is truly working for the whole nation. And you don't have to travel to Washington, D.C. Make sure you know who your congress person is. Get on their email list. Follow them on Facebook. Better yet, follow AAUW on Facebook, or Twitter.

The best move for you to make right now would be to sign up to attend the AAUW-CA Annual Meeting, April 18 in Mahattan Beach. I will be going specifically to hear David Kirkwood, AAUW Director and Shannon Smith-Crowley, AAUW-CA Lobbyist, speak about the impact that AAUW can (and does) make in working for equity for all women and girls.

Then put April 22 on your calendar for a special presentation by former AAUW-CA President Alicia Hetman on Title IX, the federal civil rights law that prohibits sex discrimination in education. If you have any nieces, daughters, granddaughters or teenage neighbors, this will be the meeting to introduce them to AAUW. More information will be coming.



Elena Noble Start Smart Facilitator

It has taken us over a year, but we now have some exciting news to share with you concerning the **Start Smart Program**.

For our new members, Start Smart is a program presented to graduating college students enlightening them on the **Gender Wage Gap** and **Salary Negotiation** for the purpose of receiving **Equal Pay for Equal Work**. Since 2005, AAUW has coordinated with The *WAGE Project* to present classes to students in all 50 states. Last year, **Start Smart** became a division of AAUW.

Within our **Contra Costa Inter-Branch Council**, six AAUW members have received facilitator training to present the workshops to local colleges. To date workshops have been presented to twenty-one college campuses in California.

Last year, with the help of **Chancellor, Dr. Helen Benjamin**, from **Contra Costa Community College District**, we proposed co-partnering with all three **CCCCD** campuses to bring **Start Smart** to our local Community Colleges. In November, eight of the nine members in the **AAUW CCC Inter-Branch Council** voted to share the cost of a three year license. To fully fund and realize the proposal, our own **Muriel Fry** offered to make up the difference for the descending vote.

Next week we meet with Katherine Franco, Career Councilor at DVC, to coordinate and begin offering workshops. We hope to offer the first class sometime this spring.

AAUW's Co-partnership with University Campuses across the country has opened doors and lent support to thousands of young women. What we hear over and over again, is appreciation for our organization and the knowledge that as they begin their careers, we have their back.

Thank you so much to **The CCC Inter-Branch Council** and of course **Muriel Fry** for having faith in the vision.

Stay tuned for updates as they develop.

We are always looking for more facilitators; please contact me if you are interested.

Elena Noble enoble4@astound.net
925-787-2410

Happy New Year!

AAUW-CA: Election Information

There have been some changes since the publication of the Winter 2015 issue of California Perspective. This information supersedes that which was published in the newsletter.

The current candidates for office are as follows:

President Elect

Donna Mertens

Chief Financial Officer

- 1) Pat Ferrer
- 2) Helene Carr

Secretary

Deanna Arthur

Director (3 seats to fill)

- 1) Ainsley Nies
- 2) Nancy Mahr
- 3) Charmen Goehring
- 4) Lynne Batchelor

Additional nominations may be made, with the nominee's permission, until April 4 by following the instructions on the website.

Members can read about the candidates by going to the state website, Elections & Nominations section. You will find their photos and statements of their goals as well as links to information pages with their vitae and personal contact information so you can ask them questions and learn more about them.

We will also vote on our public policy priorities and a bylaws amendment that clarifies the way vacancies are filled on the state board of directors. This information was published in the newsletter.

On April 18 an email broadcast will go out to all AAUW CA members' email addresses (make sure your current one is in the AAUW national membership records!) The email message will contain personal voting codes and links to the election site. Those members who do not have email addresses or the message bounces, will be sent postcards with the voting information and instructions how to receive paper ballots to mail.

The voting period is April 18 through May 8 at 5:00pm.

Results of the election will be available and posted on the AAUW California website within 24 hours of the close of voting. The newly elected people will join the continuing board on July 1, 2015.

If there are questions about voting procedures, please contact me at nominating@aauw-ca.org.

Harriet Tower

Chair, Nominations & Elections Committee

EDUCATION

Ilene Linssen

Performing Arts Charter School (Cont.)

The previous newsletter discussed a proposal to institute a performing arts charter school. The proposal was presented to the Contra Costa Board of Education which was to review the proposal and vote on it at its January 16, meeting. The meeting was held, the vote was taken and the proposal was rejected on the grounds that, "the petition did not meet state requirements for approval". End of story? No.

Board President Daniel Gomes treated the attendees to a "long and rambling monologue" saying that it might be a waste of money and time to pursue the performing arts charter school. He said it would be better to pursue a countywide charter focused on robotics or environmental science. He further stated that its good that arts are part of our society, but they are not a vital part. When the crowd responded with gasps of disbelief, Mr. Gomes said that people who disagreed with him could vote against him in the next election.

As the meeting continued there was a discussion of how poorly the arts are treated in budgetary and planning decisions, in part because of No Child Left Behind. Given the tenor (no pun intended) of the discussion and the comments of Mr. Gomes, it appears that the role of the arts in education will continue to be discussed.

SAVE THESE DATES

- Feb 19** Appointments Training (see added flyer)
- Mar 7** Tech Trek Fundraiser Tea
- Mar 13** Ways and Means meeting
- Mar 21** Leadership Development Day
- Apr 18** AAUW CA Annual Meeting
- Apr 18 - May 8** AAUW CA Election
- May 9** Art/Wine/Beer Walk - Concord AAUW
- Jun 18-21** AAUW National Convention - San Diego
Registration open!

2014–2015 LEADERSHIP TEAM

Presidents:

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Alana Macdonald 933-4427 alanam88@gmail.com

Vice Presidents - AAUW Funds

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December 22nd Please email copy to: **Reba Siero**
rebasiero@yahoo.com

Webmaster

Sherrie Moore 229-4177

www.aauw-pleasanthill-martinez.org

AAUW C C C Inter-branch Council Chair:

Position currently vacant

California State office of AAUW:

1331 Garden Highway, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95833

Email: office@aauw-ca.org

Website: <http://aauw-ca.org/>

February 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	10 am Morning Books 4	5	6	7
8	9	10	10 am In Indelible Ink 7 pm Board Meeting 11	12	13	14
15	16	1 pm Lunchin' Ladies 17	18	19	1 pm Mah Jongg 20	21
22	7 pm Evening Books 23	24	25	Matinee Idle 26	27	28

March 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	10 am Morning Books 4	5	6	Noon High Tea Tech Trek 7
8	9	10	10 am In Indelible Ink 7 pm Board Meeting 11	12	10 am Ways and Means 13	14
15	16	1 pm Lunchin' Ladies 17	Leadership Development Day 18	19	1 pm Mah Jongg 20	21
22	7 pm Evening Books 23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Save the Dates: March 7 – Tech Trek HighTea; March 13 – Ways and Means; March 21 – Leadership Development Day; April 18 – AAUW CA Annual Meeting and Election begins