



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 5

January 2015

ANNUAL SOUP SUPPER

Our speaker, Dianna Vanni Matthias, grew up in Martinez, attended UC Berkeley, later getting her MA and PhD in zoology. In the 60s she took a job with the National Marine Fisheries Service. She was assigned to the Soviet Joint Venture Fishing Fleet in Alaska's Bering Sea, monitoring tons of fish they caught. The stories she shares are hilarious. You will find her a delightful and amazing woman, so do not miss this meeting!

Date: Thursday, January 15, 2015
Time: 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Place: Hillcrest Congregational Church
404 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill



Spouses, significant others and friends are invited.

Please bring your own soup bowl and spoon!

Bread, butter, tea and coffee will be provided

IMPORTANT: Each attending MEMBER can choose one of the following:

PROVIDE A POT OF SOUP TO FEED 8-10 OR

PROVIDE A DESSERT TO SERVE 8-10 OR

PAY \$10.00

NOTE: ALL GUESTS PAY \$10.00 EACH

Please RSVP by January 10, 2015 to:

Marilyn Thelen, jlmthelen@comcast.net 228-2600 or

Elva Valli, wevalli@sbcglobal.net 228-8056

And let them know if you plan to attend, bring guests, and what you are bringing: soup, dessert or \$10.



Two Russian fishing vessels similar to ones Dianna Vanni Matthias lived on for 10 years,



Presidential Postings

Co-Presidents Katrinka March & Gayle Miner

WOW, 2015 already! We would like to wish all of our AAUW members a very Happy and Healthy New Year. We are halfway through our AAUW year, which begins July 1 and ends on June 30 of the following calendar year. Looking back, we have enjoyed many events, meetings, and fund raisers so far. Our most recent was Winter Wonderland held at Brookview Clubhouse. The Winter Wonderland committee worked very hard to give us a lovely holiday party and we want to extend our thanks to them for their time and efforts made for our enjoyment and entertainment.

There are more events, meetings, and fund raisers being planned for the second half of our year. January 9 is the Layette Shower sponsored by In Indelible Ink. Baby items are donated to Hillcrest Congregational Church for their work in providing layettes to Contra Costa County's needy mothers. Next on our calendar is the January 15th Soup Supper. It is always a crowd pleaser, with delicious soups, good company, and a great speaker. Get your reservation in by January 10. March 7 is our Tech Trek Fundraiser Tea which promises to be an elegant affair. There will also be another Game Day and Tahoe Joe's Fundraiser for AAUW Funds. For all of these local events, please check your monthly newsletter for details. To find out what is happening in PHM AAUW check out our website at <http://www.aauw-pleasanthill-martinez.org>.

In California AAUW there are some upcoming events you may be interested in. Leadership Development Day for Northern California will be on March 21, 2015. If you are interested in a leadership role in AAUW, don't miss this leadership skills training. AAUWCA Annual meeting will be April 18, 2015 at the Manhattan

Beach Marriott. These events can be checked out on the AAUWCA website. Also, AAUW National Convention in San Diego is June 18-21. Registration is now open, check the AAUW National website if you are interested in going.

As always, we urge you to attend and support these fundraisers and events. AAUW does tremendous work on a state and national level to support, educate and empower women through legislation and scholarships.

Trinka and Gayle

JANUARY BOARD MEETING:
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2015
7 PM
Home of Trinka March
Copy deadline for the February 2015 N.E.W.S. is:
January 16th
 Please email copy to:
 Reba Siero rebasiero@yahoo.com

SAVE THESE DATES

Jan 9	Layette Shower
Jan 15	Soup Supper, reservations by Jan 10
Jan 24	Bunco Night - Benicia-Vallejo AAUW
Mar 6	Ways and Means meeting
Mar 7	Tech Trek Fundraiser Tea
Mar 21	Leadership Development Day
Apr 18	AAUW CA Annual Meeting
May 9	Art/Wine/Beer Walk - Concord AAUW
Jun 18-21	AAUW National Convention - San Diego Registration now open!

INTEREST GROUP MEETINGS



****MORNING BOOKS** will meet on Wednesday, January 7th, 10 am, at Judi Hamberg's. PLEASE let your hostess know you are going! We will be discussing *I am Livia* by Phyllis T. Smith. This is a historical novel about Roman times; Julius Caesar, Mark Antony, Cleopatra, and more ~ an interesting read. In February we will be reading our classic for the year, *Alice in Wonderland*, by Lewis Carroll. Please join us for great discussions!



****EVENING BOOKS** will on Monday, January 26th, 7 pm, at Georgette Armstrong's. We will be discussing *Orphan Train* by Christina Baker Kline. This novel is about abandoned children who were shipped from the east to the Midwest between the late 1800's and 1929 ~ and what befell them. Please join us for the discussion.



****IN INDELIBLE INK** will meet on Wednesday, January 14th, 10 am, at Beverly Diefenbacher's. The assignment will be to write about some of your life's symbols, or interests ~ perhaps you have a talisman that helped you with some hurdle in your life. We welcome oral versions as well as written and we do NOT critique your writings. We will also be hosting the **Layette Shower** on Friday, January 9th, 10 am at Margi Alkire's.



****NIMBLE FINGERS** is a revived interest group – Bring your sewing, knitting, mending or any craft. If you like, bring a bag lunch. Everyone is welcome. Contact **Suzanne** for more information at 283-3050 or gmasm39@yahoo.com

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

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.



****MATINEE IDLE** will go to the movies on Thursday, January 22nd ~ we're back to our regular 4th Thursday. 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.



****CULTURAL CONNECTION** will not meet in January.



****LUNCHIN' LADIES** will have lunch on Tuesday, January 20th, 1 pm, at The Fat Lady in Oakland. We will be carpooling, so it is essential that you call Marlene before the 17th. We will need drivers, also. The Fat Lady is a unique restaurant that was established in 1970 ~ Victorian in décor, it features a large picture of the traditional reclining nude fat lady. If you have a restaurant you would like to try, please let Marlene know ~ we need some unique suggestions.

Remember the LAYETTE SHOWER All are welcome

Friday, January 9, 10 a.m.
at the home of Margi Alkire
51 Rolling Green Circle, PH

Just bring an unwrapped baby item, something new or gently used. These will go to the Hillcrest Church layette project which works with the CCC social services.

We will admire the gifts and hear a little bit about how the layettes are put together and who receives them.

This event is sponsored by the In Indelible Ink interest group.

TECH TREK TIDINGS

Janice Walker

Happy New Year! The next few months will be busy ones for the Tech Trek committee as we go through the process of selecting our 2015 7th grade candidates for June's Tech Trek camp at Sonoma State College.

We'll also be busy planning our fundraising tea, for members and friends, taking place at Brookview on Saturday, March 7th. Our tea will feature Susan Leech, who is a very entertaining speaker and seems to know everything there is to know about English tea. Details regarding this event will be in next month's newsletter. So mark the date on your new calendar and plan to attend! With your support we'll be able to continue our goal of guiding young women toward careers in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) areas.

Regarding the tea, the committee is looking for members who will provide a card table or two, along with tablecloths, napkins and china place settings. We are also looking for tiered plate holders. If you can provide any of these items please contact me at 827-3374 or email: sandjwalk@comcast.net. Your support and assistance will be greatly appreciated!

WAYS AND MEANS

Gayle Garrison and Ish Mendonsa

Save the date
Friday, March 6
Ways and Means Meeting

Date subject to change if necessary.
We will notify via e-mail those who should attend.
Any changes will be in February NEWS.



****MAH JONGG** Friday, January 16th, 1:00 at the Brookview Clubhouse. \$2.00 per person. Bring your set, if you have one, and remember your card. Snacks are welcome. Contact **Sherrie Moore** if you would like to play. 229-4177. moresherrie@comcast.net

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Alana Macdonald and Claudia Bass
Membership VPs

We are now settling down after the holiday season and starting a new year. The dues structure for new members will change until March 15. National dues will be reduced by 50% which would be \$24.50 making the dues to join \$58.50. This will cover the fiscal year 2014-2015 and renewal will be due June 30th. The Shape of the Future Campaign for on the spot joiners will also be in effect if a new member joins when attending a public event. What this means is that the national dues will be further reduced by 75% to \$12.25 and total dues would be \$46.25. For savings, this is the perfect time to recruit and invite new members to our branch functions. The Soup Supper on January 15 would be perfect and any other meeting including the upcoming March tea for potential members to attend. Let Alana (alanam88@gmail.com) or Claudia (cbasslancer29@aol.com) know if you know of any interested new members.

AAUW FUNDS

Laurel Gaiser and Marlene Maksel
AAUW Funds Co-Chairs

Thank you to all who contributed to AAUW Funds during 2014. Our September letter brought in \$2,665 ~ an astonishing amount! Please remember that your donation, made payable to AAUW Funds, is totally tax deductible. You gave to all of the entities of AAUW Funds: LAF, Eleanor Roosevelt Fund, Public Policy, Leadership Programs and Educational Opportunities. Congratulations ~ and thank you for your generosity!

The U. S. Supreme Court recently heard arguments in **Young vs. UPS** ~ a case AAUW has been following closely. Peggy Young, a UPS driver, requested temporary light-duty work as a result of pregnancy complications. UPS refused, even though light-duty work to other drivers with similar restrictions had been provided. The court's decision won't be made until 2015, but AAUW and allies have led a rally in support of workplace protections. Watch for the court's decision.

Benicia-Vallejo AAUW

American Association of University Women

presents...



BUNCO NIGHT



"As it is played today, Bunco is a social dice game involving 100% luck and no skill."

No experience necessary to enjoy this fun game of chance!

Saturday, January 24, 2015

Doors open @ 6:15 - BUNCO starts PROMPTLY @ 7 PM

Benicia Senior Center - 187 East L Street

REFRESHMENTS...PRIZES

**Advance Tickets \$15
(\$20 at the door)**

For advance tickets, see an AAUW member or mail a check to

Benicia-Vallejo AAUW, PO Box 1876, Benicia, CA 94510

Make check payable to "Benicia-Vallejo AAUW"

For more information,

contact Mary at: 707-745-0808

A fundraiser for AAUW's Tech Trek scholarships,
educational programs, and community projects.

Local Scholarship Coffee Klatch



Local Scholarships invites you to your own, personal Coffee Klatch. Instead of a silent tea, we've changed the theme this year. Look for your letter at the Soup Supper to help us fund local high school girls with college scholarships. We appreciate your generosity.

Local Scholarship co-chairs Shelley Jacobson and Joy Barden



Pleasant Hill - Martinez AAUW Website



Our website will show you everything you need to know about our Pleasant Hill - Martinez branch. See photos from the December Winter Wonderland Holiday Party when you go to the **Photos Page**. Need to see any information about our members? Check out the **Members Page**.



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

EDUCATION

Ilene Linssen

Performing Arts School Proposed for Contra Costa County

The County Board of Education recently received a petition for the establishment of a Contra Costa School for the Performing Arts. The school, which would be patterned after the successful Oakland School for the Arts, would be a charter school open to students from all over Contra Costa County. The petition was brought by Neil McChesney who is the founder and CEO of the Charthouse Public Schools organization. McChesney was instrumental in the formation of the Clayton Valley Charter High School and is an administrator there.

The proposed performing arts school would serve about 1,000 students in grades 6-12 and would offer "pre-professional" training to students who are interested in dance, drama, vocal and instrumental music, as well as stage arts. In addition there would be a rigorous integrated academic curriculum. It is presumed that the school would be located at the Concord Pavilion and its proponents look forward to its opening in the Fall of 2015.

There were a number of interested parents and other individuals who spoke before the Board regarding the proposal. A number of questions and concerns were voiced as to the impact on other schools, how students would be selected to attend, etc.. In addition, a concern was voiced that the number of charter schools may be expanding before adequate oversight has been established for them. These questions and concerns will be addressed at a future meeting.

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



2014-2015 LEADERSHIP TEAM

Presidents:

Trinka March 372-8420 drtrinks@sbcglobal.net

Gayle Miner 349-6795 gayle.miner@yahoo.com

Vice Presidents - Program:

Harriett Burt 372-8038 hjburt1940@comcast.net

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Vice Presidents - Membership:

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Alana Macdonald 933-4427 alanam88@gmail.com

Vice Presidents - AAUW Funds

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Copy deadline for January 2015 N.E.W.S. is

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/>

Jean Hambleton Memorial Bench

The Pleasant Hill Community Foundation would like to honor long-time community member Jean Hambleton by raising funds for a memorial bench. Jean and her husband Walt were active members in the Pleasant Hill Community. Jean passed away in September of 2014 and Walt died in 2002. Jean was a member of the Pleasant Hill Community Foundation Board, Friends Abroad, AAUW, Friends of the Library, Pleasant Hill Garden Study Club, Pleasant Hill Historical Society and also active at Hillcrest Congregational Church. People remember Jean as a person that served others. She definitely had a servants heart.

The Pleasant Hill Community Foundation would like to honor Jean by placing a bench at Pleasant Hill Park, 147 Gregory Lane adjacent to a tree that was donated by the Hambleton family in honor of Walt Hambleton. Donations can be made to the Pleasant Hill Community Foundation and sent to:

Pleasant Hill Community Foundation
 Jean Hambleton Bench
 PO Box 23673
 Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

From Suzanne Salter
 PH-M AAUW member and Pleasant Hill Community Foundation - Emeritus Director

January 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 10 am Morning Books 7 pm Board Meeting	8	9 10 am Layette Shower	10
11	12	13	14 10 am In Indelible Ink	15 5:30 pm Soup Supper	16 1 pm Mah Jongg	17
18	19	20 1 pm Lunchin' Ladies	21	22 Matinee Idle	23	24 7 pm Bunco Night Benicia-Vallejo
25	26 7 pm Evening Books	27	28	29	30	31

Save the Dates: March 6 – Ways and Means; March 7 – Tech Trek Fundraiser Tea; March 21 – Leadership Development Day; April 18 – AAUW CA Annual Meeting