



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 7

March 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*

SOLD OUT



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

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





PRESIDENTIAL POSTINGS

Co-Presidents Katrinka March & Gayle Miner

Legislative Priorities

The following are excerpts from AAUW Quick Facts: Federal Legislative Priorities for Women and Families in the 114th Congress, researched and written by Erin Prangley. These are some of the issues that AAUW will be focusing on during the 114th Congress. We thought it would be of interest to you.

Economic Security: “AAUW tracks wage gap data in all states and congressional districts and also supports legislation to close the wage gap. AAUW supports federal policies to update the Family and Medical Leave Act to further ensure paid leave and paid sick days. Many provisions of the Affordable Care Act benefited women. It included better access to preventive care, expanded Medicaid and access to reproductive health care. AAUW supports legislation to keep these hard-fought gains for women’s health.”

Education: “AAUW supports a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity, and diversity. AAUW remains committed to ensuring strong academic principles and bias-free public education that closes the achievement gap for all children. AAUW maintains that all schools, including charter schools, should be held accountable for compliance with all civil rights laws, including Title IX. AAUW supports promoting and strengthening science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education, especially for girls and other underrepresented groups.”

“AAUW works to increase access to post-secondary education for all students and to ease student loan burdens. “

“Educational equity requires fair, responsive, fully developed campus sexual assault policies, knowledgeable administrators, and ultimately, an end to sexual violence on campuses. AAUW supports vigorous enforcement of the Clery Act and Title IX.”

AAUW is always working to promote the goal of advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research. Please support them in their endeavors with the 114th Congress.

Trinka and Gayle

FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING:
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2015
7 PM
Home of Trinka March
Copy deadline for the April 2015 N.E.W.S. is:
March 20th
Please email copy to:
Reba Siero rebasiero@yahoo.com

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

This year’s nominating committee presents the following candidates for the:

PH-MTZ AAUW SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2015-2016:

Co-Presidents: Trinka March and Gayle Miner

VP Programs: Susan Lawson and Priscilla Tudor

VP Membership: Claudia Bass and Alana Macdonald

VP AAUW Funds: Harriett Burt and Helen Pereira

Secretary: Jennifer Apkarian

Treasurer: Open

The election will be held at the April General meeting. Nominations may be made from the floor with the prior approval of the nominee.

Nominating Committee Chairperson: Joy Barden

PROGRAM UPDATE

Harriett Burt and SarahJoy Haynes
Program VPs

Susan Leech, the popular "Tea Lady" who will be our featured speaker at the March 7 "High Tea in the English Manner" event at Brookview Clubhouse, will tell us many fascinating things we didn't know about English 'tea' customs. One of them is that the term "High Tea" doesn't refer to a fancier menu or dress up clothes as we all think it does. Instead, it refers to tea being served on a 'high table' such as the round ones we will be using. The food accompaniment could be as plain as soda crackers or as fancy as our good cooks will be preparing. We'll start at noon with Susan's talk followed by a lovely selection of sandwiches and tea desserts. You may want to have a late breakfast at home to tide you over if you usually eat a meal at "high noon". Tech Trek is the beneficiary of the sold-out ticket sales and all of us are the beneficiary of a delightful and informative presentation.

Note that our April program meeting will be on the fourth Wednesday, April 22, to accommodate the busy schedule of Past California AAUW Alicia Hetman who will talk to us about Title IX and the wide-ranging issues of gender equality and opportunity it covers. Alicia is currently running for national AAUW vice president while maintaining a full schedule of speaking engagements on this issue. We'll learn a lot from her. We are publicizing this event widely to attract not only those in the community who are interested but also young people who have or might face discriminatory practices in education and the work place. The meeting will be held at the Pleasant Hill Senior Center. More information will appear in the next NEWS.

GAME DAY for LAF

Monday, March 30th 12:30 pm – 4:00 pm
Brookview Clubhouse, 1201 Monument Blvd, Concord

Bridge (contact Pat ahead of time to allow tables to be formed), Mexican Train and Mah Jongg (if you bring your own set) will be played.

\$10 donation to LAF is requested

Dessert and refreshments provided.

Pat Harris (925) 228-6263 patriciaharris4@mac.com

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Alana Macdonald and Claudia Bass
Membership VPs

During mid- March you will be receiving your renewal notice for the year of 2015-2016.

Last April (2014) California AAUW members voted to raise the state dues to \$20.00, an increase of \$4.00, which is not much more than a specialty drink from Starbucks. It has been a very long time since California AAUW has raised the dues and with costs going up, it was time. Reflecting the state increase, our branch dues are going up \$4.00 which will make it \$87.00. This will be in effect March 16th. More details will be provided on your renewal notice.

Half price dues are still in effect and this would be a great time to encourage someone to join. Just be sure to contact:

Alana Macdonald, alanam88@gmail.com or

Claudia Bass, cbasslancer29@aol.com

Also, on March 23rd, we will be hosting another Happy Hour for new members who have joined us between March 2013 and the present. Wine and appetizers will be served at the home of Alana Macdonald. Come and enjoy! Call or e-mail Alana to RSVP.

TECH TREK TIDINGS

Janice Walker

Not much to report at this time as we are just days away from our Tech Trek Tea Fundraiser.

We are fortunate to have a group of committed members working together to make our event the best it can be. A detailed report will be in next month's newsletter.

WAYS AND MEANS

Gayle Garrison and Ish Mendonsa

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

INTEREST GROUP MEETINGS



****MORNING BOOKS** will meet on Wednesday, March 4th, 10 am, at Janet Sullivan's. PLEASE let your hostess know you are going! We will be discussing Isabel Allende's, *Ripper*, which is set in S.F. This thriller/mystery is a departure in genre for Allende, so should raise a lot of comments ~ good and bad. In April we will be discussing *The Circle* by Dave Eggers. Please join us for great discussions!



****IN INDELIBLE INK** will meet on Wednesday, March 11th, 10 am, at Marlene Maksel's. The topic assignment will be "If You Were in High School Today, Which Sport Would You Participate In". We welcome oral versions as well as written and we do NOT critique your writings.



****LUNCHIN' LADIES** will not meet in March. The month already seems very busy! If you have a restaurant you would like to try, please let Marlene know ~ we need some unique suggestions.



****EVENING BOOKS** will meet on Monday, March 23rd, 7 pm, at Jeanne McGinnis'. We will be discussing our classic, *Kim*, by Rudyard Kipling. Set in India in 1881, Kim is an orphan in the streets of Lahore. It is an interesting look at India then, and the religions of India. Please join us for the discussion.



****MATINEE IDLE** will go to the movies on Thursday, March 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.



****MAH JONGG** Friday, March 20th, 1:00 at the Brookview Clubhouse. \$2.00 per person. Bring your set, if you have one, and remember your card. Snacks are welcome. Please order your new card this month. We will play with the new card in April. Contact **Sherrie Moore** if you would like to play. 229-4177. mooresherrie@comcast.net

WANTED

Judges for the

Contra Costa County Science Fair

Friday, March 27

7:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Judges are needed to ensure the 300+ science fair projects submitted by students have an opportunity to be reviewed by the community. Judges will be welcomed with breakfast and an orientation at 7:00 and the day will conclude around 3:00. The day will include a morning review of projects and afternoon interviews with students. A complimentary lunch will also be provided. If interested please contact Linda Mayo: mayolk@aol.com or 925-937-0804.

AAUW FUNDS

Laurel Gaiser and Marlene Maksel
AAUW Funds Co-Chairs

Your AAUW Funds committee is in the process of considering the applications of three (3) women from DVC for The National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL).

We will choose one woman and send her to the conference at the University of Maryland at the end of May 2015. We are looking for a candidate who has exhibited leadership abilities on her campus and in other areas of her life.

The process is new to us, so we will keep you informed as it goes forward. Hopefully, you will all get a chance to meet our candidate and hear what she learned at the conference.



Well Wishes to Carole Larson

A Meal Train has been established for our friend and master decorator Carole Larson who is experiencing health problems. Please send her your good wishes or join in providing a dinner.

Contact Elena Noble enoble4@astound.net

or

Log on to <http://mealtrain.com/499805>

Miss Representation-Benicia Library-March 9

The Benicia Public Library's young adult librarian has arranged a screening of the documentary "Miss Representation" followed by a panel discussion — and the panel includes award-winning YA author Jacqueline Woodson!

When: Monday, March 9, 6:30 p.m.

Where: Benicia Public Library

Cost: Free — open to the public

Although many of us are familiar with the film from our branch's screening and panel discussion program a few years ago, it's exciting to have this opportunity to share it with others, especially with teenagers who haven't yet seen it.

AAUW Benicia-Vallejo

International Women's Day AAUW Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek

AAUW Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek will celebrate International Women's day on March 7th by showcasing four cultures and recent grassroots movements in India, Chile, Africa and the Middle East. Please join us for an informative and entertaining morning.

Light refreshments will be provided. Address: 1001 El Capitan Drive, Danville CA from 9:30am to 12pm. Please RSVP to ashakiran@gmail.com. If you have any questions about the program: contact Asha at (925) 899-9396.

International Women's Day will be celebrated worldwide on March 8 in honor of working women and women's struggles everywhere. It should be a real source of pride and inspiration to American women that this special day originated in honor of two all-women strikes in the U.S.

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

MARTINEZ COMMUNITY

Nancy Hobert

March 6 & 13 – AARP Driver Safety Training Program

10 am to 2:30 pm – for motorists over 50 to refine existing skills & develop safe, defensive driving techniques. Martinez Senior Center. \$20 for members. Call 370-8770

March 7 – Bag of Books Sale

\$5 to fill a grocery stack with books, DVDs, & videos at the Friends of the Martinez Library book sale. 740 Court St. from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

March 21 – Cleanup Day 8 am to 1 pm

Volunteers to help downtown sparkle! Donuts, coffee & lunch! Call 408-1338 or email director@mainstreetmartinez.org

March 21 – Community Paper Shredding

Sponsored by Martinez Rotary, 10 am to 1 pm in Alhambra High parking lot. Cost is \$5 per box, six box maximum.

March 28 - Timothy James, Illusionist

Campbell Theater, 636 Ward Street, Martinez. 2 p.m. . . \$10 . . . Ages 5-98
Call 350-9770 for tickets.

Sundays – Martinez Farmers' Market

11 – 2 Main Street and Estudillo

PLEASANT HILL COMMUNITY Janet Sullivan

20th Annual East Bay International Jewish Film Festival

March 7th - 15th at the Century 16 Theatres in downtown P.H.

Advance tickets \$9 to \$12 order by phone.
510.809.4919

See films such as *Shall not be Silent* about a New Jersey rabbi whose early life in Nazi Germany led him to be a civil rights leader and the brilliant German saga *Generation War* which emphasizes the need to see beyond stereotypes and battle bigotry.

Off the Grid Wednesdays in March

Enjoy food vendors on the lawn at City Hall from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Trelany Road.

- Nine food trucks offering a rotating variety of cuisines -- including savory dishes and sweets -- drawn from the more than 175 vendors who work with Off the Grid. Lots of family fun, live music, and good old camaraderie.

Sustainable Living Workshops

March 19th from 10 to 12 pm at Rodgers Ranch Heritage Center 315 Cortsen Rd. Pleasant Hill
Fees/Admission \$20 per workshop

Learn and have fun. Are you ready to start a veggie garden, try backyard chickens or make your own includes materials, tea/coffee and pastries! natural house cleaning products?



HELP!!! CAN YOU HELP PHMAAUW?

We are looking for a TREASURER for our branch. Right now, we have no candidate for this position and need to fill it soon. Please consider becoming our Treasurer and volunteer for the upcoming year. We need one or two people for the upcoming year 2015-16.

CONTACT TRINKA MARCH (925) 372-8420 OR GAYLE MINER (925) 349-6795

FOR MORE INFORMATION.

WE WOULD LOVE TO TALK TO YOU.



**Women's History is AAUW History
is Women's History**

Although studying Women's History should be a year-round activity, March is the month that is designated as such. Recalling this country's history it is easy to see how AAUW has been a leading force in research and legislation affecting the lives of its women:

1777 - The original 13 states pass laws that prohibit women from voting. Abigail Smith Adams writes that women "will not hold ourselves bound by any laws which we have no voice."

1869 - Susan Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton form the National Woman Suffrage Association with the primary goal to achieve voting rights for women through a Congressional amendment to the US Constitution.

1881 - Since our founding in 1881, AAUW members have **examined and taken positions** on the fundamental issues of the day — educational, social, economic, and political.

1905 - AAUW supports the **first federal pay equity legislation**.

1920 - **19th Amendment to the US Constitution** is ratified, granting women the right to vote.

1971 - At the 1971 convention, AAUW members pass resolutions **supporting the legalization of abortion and the Equal Rights Amendment**.

1975 - The AAUW **Action Fund Capitol Hill Lobby Corps** is formed to monitor congressional hearings and lobby for bills that match AAUW's legislative program.

1993 - Through the hard work of the AAUW Lobby Corps, the **Family Medical Leave Act** passes.

2009 - President Barack Obama signs the **Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act**

AAUW members and supporters worked tirelessly on this bill, calling, e-mailing, and meeting with their representatives and senators; writing letters to the editor; and spreading the word to their friends and family, and **AAUW was in the room with Ledbetter when President Obama signed the bill into law.**

\$tart \$mart

Elena Noble, Facilitator

The news is very good for those interested in helping women learn about the **Wage Gap, and Equal Pay for Equal Work**. Thanks to our nine member IBC Council, we will be presenting our first **\$tart \$mart** Class at Diablo Valley College.

The class will be presented in the **Business and Foreign Language Community Conference Room Thursday, April 23rd from 1:00-4:00pm.**

Catherine Franco, Career Counselor at DVC has been instrumental in helping us bring this workshop to The Contra Costa Community College District.

AAUW has also been invited to attend **The Woman's History Event**, on **MARCH 18TH** also at **DVC, in the Diablo Room at 12:30 pm**. The event will highlight **New York University Professor Linda Gordon, author of Dorothea Lange: A Life beyond the Limits. This book won the Prestigious Bancroft Prize in 2010.**

Becoming a community partner with our local schools and universities has been the corner stone of AAUW involvement in education.

Many thanks to all the branch members who made this possible, we hope to see some of you at these events.

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

Special Event at DVC

Co-sponsored by CCC IBC AAUW, DVC History Department is presenting a talk by Professor Linda Gordon (NYU), author of *Dorothea Lange: a Life Beyond Limits*.

Wednesday, March 18, 12:30pm

Diablo Room, Pleasant Hill Campus

For more information and parking passes,

contact Kit Hein – kjhein@comcast.net

YOUR VOTE MATTERS

The elections for AAUW (National) will take place April 15 – May 26 and AAUW CA (State) elections will happen April 18 – May 8. These are separate elections with separate voting codes. Make sure your contact information is correct in the National Membership files so you can vote in both elections. Just go on the national web site and find the National Data Base to check.

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

COMMUNITY COLLEGES TO OFFER FOUR YEAR DEGREES

Fifteen Community Colleges will now be able to offer four-year degree programs which will allow students to earn Bachelor Degrees.

This change in California law came as a result of Senate Bill 850, which loosens a long standing restriction on community colleges.

However, if you are planning to return to school to get another bachelors degree or if you are excited for a family member to earn a degree in this way, you had better read the small print.

The only degrees that can be offered at community colleges are those that are not offered at traditional four year colleges , specifically the California State Colleges and the U.C. System. Those to be offered are mostly vocational programs such as dental hygienist, respiratory therapist, sustainable facilities management, etc..

I guess this would be a case of good news/bad news.

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

SaraJoy Haynes 372-9211 plumleather@aol.com

Vice Presidents - Membership:

Claudia Bass 372-8679 cbasslancer29@aol.com

Alana Macdonald 933-4427 alanam88@gmail.com

Vice Presidents - AAUW Funds

Laurel Gaiser 322-8676 lagaiser@comcast.net

Marlene Maksel 689-5439 marlene@maksel.us

Secretary:

Helen Pereira 685-0757 helenmp45@aol.com

Treasurers:

Jennifer Apkarian 228-2027 apkarian1@att.net

Kathy Heath 228-1976 Kmamh1894@gmail.com

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

March 20th 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/>

SAVE THESE DATES

Mar 7 Tech Trek Fundraiser "High Tea"

Mar 13 Ways and Means meeting

Mar 21 Leadership Development Day

Mar 30 LAF Game Day

Apr 15 - May 26 AAUW National Election

Apr 18 AAUW CA Annual Meeting

Apr 18 - May 8 AAUW CA Election

Apr 22 PH-M AAUW General Meeting

Alicia Hetman, Title IX (date change)

May 9 Art/Wine/Beer Walk - Concord AAUW

Jun 18-21 AAUW National Convention - San Diego
Registration open!

March 2015

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

April 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			10 am 1 Morning Books	2	3	4
5	6	7	10 am 8 In Indelible Ink 7 pm Board Meeting	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 AAUW National Election begins	16	1 pm 17 Mah Jongg	18 AAUW CA Annual Meeting and Election begins
19	20	1 pm 21 Lunchin' Ladies	7 pm 22 General Meeting Alicia Hetman Title IX (date change)	23	24	25
26	7 pm 27 Evening Books	28	29	30		

Save the Dates: March 7 – Tech Trek High Tea; March 13 – Ways and Means; March 30 – LAF Game Day; April 18 – AAUW National Election begins; April 18 – AAUW CA Annual Meeting and Election begins; April 22 – Branch meeting date change - Title IX with Alicia Hetman