



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 58 Issue 1

September 2015



Pleasant Hill-Martinez AAUW

SEPTEMBER

WELCOME BRUNCH

**Saturday, September 19th, 2015
10:00 AM to 12 Noon**

**Marilyn Thelen's Home
5318 Stonehurst Drive
Martinez, CA
925-228-2600**

PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS WELCOME

- ◇ Listen to Tech Trekkers talk about camp
- ◇ Make new friends and greet the old
- ◇ Check out the Interest Section offerings
- ◇ Pick up your 2015-2016 Directory
- ◇ Bring a friend/prospective member

RSVP to:

Claudia Bass cbasslancer29@aol.com or (925) 372-8679
Alana Macdonald alanam88@gmail.com or (925) 933-4427

RSVP ASAP, preferably by:

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11th

Bring a sunhat.



Directions to Marilyn's home:

From Highway 4: Take Alhambra Ave exit and go **SOUTH** on Alhambra Ave. Turn **RIGHT** onto Alhambra Valley Rd and go 1.3 miles. Turn **RIGHT** to stay on Alhambra Valley Rd and go 0.8 miles. Turn **RIGHT** onto Vaca Creek Rd and go 100 yds. Turn **LEFT** onto Stonehurst Dr and go 0.2 miles. 5318 is the first house on the **RIGHT**.

From Gregory Ln/Grayson Rd: Take Grayson Rd up to the cemetery. Turn **RIGHT** onto Reliez Valley Rd and go 2.2 miles. Continue straight ahead onto Alhambra Valley Rd and go 0.8 miles. Turn **RIGHT** onto Vaca Creek Rd and go 100 yds. Turn **LEFT** onto Stonehurst Dr and go 0.2 miles. 5318 is the first house on the **RIGHT**.



PRESIDENTIAL POSTINGS

Co-Presidents Katrinka March & Gayle Miner

A huge Thank You to Shelley Jacobson for chairing our Summer Social on Aug. 2 at the lovely Contra Costa Country Club. Everyone had a great time.

Welcome Back! Summer is coming to an end and we are off to a great start of the 2015-16 AAUW year. Our first event is the annual Welcome Brunch, which will be held on September 19 at Marilyn Thelen's home from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon. Please come to hear our Tech Trek girls give us a rundown of their camp experience, hear DVC graduate Brenda Ruiz tell of her experiences at the University of Maryland, funded by AAUW Funds and of course, learn about the various interest sections available for people to join. Don't forget to wear a sunhat, as we will eat outside. The Brunch Committee is hard at work to ensure that everything is planned and carried out. You will also receive the new AAUW Directory that morning. Come and meet new people and socialize. Reservations are a must, so see the flyer in this newsletter for details. FESTA Tickets will also be on sale.

Your board and various committees were busy meeting over the summer to plan some of our future events and to set the budget for 2015-16. Copies of the proposed budget will be available at the September Brunch for you to look at before voting that morning during the business part of our meeting. We want to thank those who gave up some of their summer time to serve on committees to get the ball rolling on upcoming AAUW events. If you want to help with the Welcome Brunch, Festa, Tech Trek, LAF, Local Scholarships,

Soup Supper or any other committee during the year, just call or email a board member (numbers are listed in the Directory) and we will be happy to help you contact the correct person to volunteer. Everyone is welcome to help with any event during the year. We want and need your help!

HELP WANTED: Tech Trek Co-Chair and Communications Chair. See or call Trinka March or Gayle Miner if you are interested in these positions.

Trinka and Gayle

SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING:
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2015
7 PM
Home of Trinka March

Copy deadline for the October 2015 N.E.W.S. is:
September 24th

Please email copy to:
 Reba Siero rebasiero@yahoo.com

REQUEST FROM THE TREASURER

Joan Foster

Please download the deposits/disbursements form from the web when you are sending me cash, checks or requesting a reimbursement. It is imperative I have that form. Thanks for your cooperation.

Fair Oaks Elementary School

2400 Lisa Lane
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

Book Fair

Come to Fair Oaks to shop for your "book gift needs" and to raise money for the school

Opens: Friday, Sept 11, 2015 at the school library
Monday (9-14 -15) through Friday, (9-18)
during school hours

Open also Tuesday evening (9-15-15) for
Back to School Night – 6 p.m.

Festa Italiana 2015

Saturday, October 10th

3:30-6:30

Viano Winery

150 Morello Avenue, Martinez

Wine Tasting & Appetizers 3:30-4:45

Italian Dinner and Raffle 4:45-6:30

Ticket Donation \$40.00



A Benefit for AAUW Pleasant Hill-Martinez

Providing Scholarships for Women

For Tickets Call:

Gayle Miner 925-349-6795

Marlene Maksel 925-689-5439

Joy Barden 925-935-7118

Marilyn Thelen 925-228-2600

Co-Chairs: Elena Noble and Marlene DeLaurenti

Festa Italiana 2015

Oct. 10th Viano Winery

Co-Chairs Elena Noble & Marlene DeLaurenti

We are still in need of helpers for set-up and clean-up. We are also in need of shade canopies and people to cook and deliver Lasagna, and Biscotti.

Contact Co-Chairs if you can help:

Lasagna: Suzanne Salter 925-935-0861 seabear2@msn.com

Biscotti: Marlene Maksel 925-689-5439 marlene@maksel.us

Give it a try!

This year we are looking for **Gift Certificates** from local merchants. It is surprising how generous business owners are when approached by regular customers like **YOU**. We have a tax exempt letter thanking them for their contribution.

Contact Co-Chairs:

Penny Harris 925-229-1493 pennyharris820@gmail.com

Claudia Bass 925-372-8679 cbasslancer29@aol.com



INTEREST GROUP MEETINGS



****MORNING BOOKS** will meet on Wednesday, September 2nd, 10 am, at Sandy Wolfe's. PLEASE let your hostess know if you are going! We will be discussing Anthony Doerr's *All the Light We Cannot See*. The protagonist is a young blind girl living during WWII on the coast of France. Her perceptions, and the people who inhabit her world, make a compelling story. In October the book will be *Clara and Mr. Tiffany* by Susan Vreeland. Please plan to join us for a great discussion!



****EVENING BOOKS** will meet on Monday, September 28th, 7 pm at Linda Robbins (2442 Lariat Lane, WC). PLEASE inform your hostess that you are attending! We will be discussing *You Before Me* by Jojo Moyes. You must read this book and form your own synopsis! Please plan to join us for the discussion.



****MATINEE IDLE** will go to the movies on Thursday, September 24th. 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** We're starting again! Friday, September 18th, 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



****IN INDELIBLE INK** will meet on Wednesday, September 9th, 10 am, at Ginny Hargrave's. The topic assignment will be "Do You Remember When . . ." We welcome oral versions as well as written and we do NOT critique your writings. Please come and try out this Interest Section.



****LUNCHIN' LADIES** will have lunch at on Tuesday, September 15th at Havana in WC at 1516 Bonanza. Please let Marlene know by September 12th if you are planning to go so reservations can be made. If you have a restaurant you would like to try, please let Marlene know ~ we need some unique suggestions.

****MARATHON BRIDGE** is looking for more players to join their group. If you are interested please call or email Elizabeth DiPietro, Chairperson at (925) 451-0188 (cell) or (925) 210-0281 (home) or email at bokeyd1106@gmail.com

SAVE THESE DATES

Sep 29 Inter Branch Council meeting, 7 pm, The Atria Senior Center on Pleasant Hill Road. All meetings are open to any member wishing to attend, come and join us. The dates for the remainder of the year are Nov 17, Jan 26, Mar 22 and May 24.

Oct 10 Festa Italiana, Viano Winery, Martinez 3:30 to 6:30 pm

Oct 25 Annual Northern California Funds Luncheon, noon to 3 pm, Crow Canyon Country Club, Danville

Nov 15 Tech Trek/AAUW Funds joint fundraiser, Tahoe Joe's, lunch or dinner

PLEASANT HILL COMMUNITY

Janet Sullivan

PLEASANT HILL-MARTINEZ AAUW 2015-2016

PROPOSED BUDGET - July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016

Receipts	
Member dues	\$ 1,836.00
Ads	\$ 100.00
Program donation	\$ 90.00
Total Receipts	\$ 2,026.00
Expenditures	
Directory	\$ 175.00
Hospitality	\$ 30.00
IBC dues	\$ 50.00
Insurance	\$ 390.00
Membership	\$ 50.00
Newsletter	\$ 200.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 16.00
Program	\$ 1,025.00
Website	\$ 90.00
Total Expenditures	\$ 2,026.00

This is the Proposed Budget for this program year as approved at the August 12, 2015 board meeting for vote by branch members at the September 19, 2015 general meeting.

Off the Grid food trucks with entertainment and good food by City Hall on Wednesdays. 5 to 9 pm.

Pleasant Hill Summer Concert Series

- Free, live music, wine at the plaza

- September 17th, 6 to 8:30 pm

-In the plaza next to Jack's Restaurant & Bar

Pleasant Hill Farmer's Market continues on Saturdays in September and through November. 9 am to 1 pm

Pleasant Hill Community Foundation Golf Classic on September 28th. Get a foursome or support sponsorship opportunities. Contact Bob Berggren at PH Rec for information. 682-0896.

And looking ahead to **OCTOBER**

Art Jazz and Wine Fest

October 3rd, 10 am to 6 pm and October 4th from 11 am to 5 pm. Downtown Pleasant Hill.



Pleasant Hill - Martinez AAUW Website

Our website will show you everything you need to know about our Pleasant Hill- Martinez branch. See pictures from our Summer Social on the **Photos Page**. Check out all of our activities on the **Interest Group Page**.



Find photos of all of our members on the **Members Page**. Need to look up information about our branch for the past seven years? Go to the **Newsletter 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

PUBLIC POLICY

Marlene Maksel

Did you remember that August 6, 2015 was the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act? It was intended to protect millions of Americans from discriminatory voting restrictions.

But, here we are 50 years later and we continue to see voting practices that affect women, minorities, young voters and the elderly from accessing the ballot box.

Take action and urge your congressional representative to support the Voting Rights Advancement Act (S.1659/H.R.2867). Don't delay ~ send an email or letter to your representative TODAY.

AAUW FUNDS

Harriett Burt and Helen Pereira
AAUW Funds VPs

Brenda Ruiz, NCCWSL attendee thanks to Funds

Brenda Ruiz, the Branch's first participant in AAUW's National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL), will be our guest at the Fall Brunch on September 19. Brenda, an outstanding graduate of DVC, is currently a junior at UC Berkeley fulfilling a dream she never thought she could realize. She will give a brief talk about her experience. We know you will enjoy meeting her. Funds Committee decided unanimously at its first meeting to support another student for next year's conference. By the way, the easily remembered version of the cumbersome conference name inside AAUW is "Nick Whistle".



EDUCATION

Ilene Linssen

POLITICS IN EDUCATION? CAN'T BE!

It's amazing what happens in Sacramento when we're not watching. It appears that the State passed SB 858 last year, which requires local school districts to cap their financial reserves at 6% of their general funds. That amount is so limiting that it would only cover about two weeks of salary payments in case of an emergency. It leaves no money for capital improvements, emergency repairs, technology, etc.. The reason behind the cap on reserves has been attributed to labor unions who allege that districts are hoarding money. They want more money spent on salary and benefit increases and less money held in cash reserves.

But all is not lost. A bipartisan group of legislators has proposed SB 799 that would raise the cap on reserves from 6% to 17%. This increase in reserves would help districts operate even in the case of future funding cuts. It would also allow districts to accept funds resulting from an improving economy and save those funds for meaningful improvement projects.



BOOK EXCHANGE - LAST CALL

This is your annual opportunity to join the BOOK EXCHANGE! Read up to 12 hardbacks published in 2015 for the cost of only one! You buy one book; then each month you receive a new selection from another member of the Exchange.

Please contact Mary Hanlon @ 934-3528 or mkhbibliophile@aol.com with your selected title and author **PRIOR** to purchasing your book.

There have been 2 to 3 Exchange Groups for the past few years. Don't miss out! (You can purchase 2 or 3 books to join all the Exchanges and double or triple your reading pleasure or reading choices!) Reserve your Titles - and your places in the Exchanges - now. We should begin exchanging books by October 1st.

Deadline for joining is

Wednesday September 23, 2015

TECH TREK TIDINGS

Janice Walker

Our four girls attended camp the third week of June and from the thank you notes they sent to all of us, it is evident they had an outstanding experience! I have their notes and will happily share them with you. But here are some things they said: Anja: "Tech Trek has forever changed my life in a multiple of ways. One, seeing people who I aspire to be. Two, being able to actually believe in my dreams and future career in the STEM fields." Emma: "I will never forget this week of learning and friendship. I have been so inspired." Samantha: "I've discovered many new interests here. ... Overall, Tech Trek has been a fascinating academic experience." Sierra: "Before I had no clue what I wanted to do with my life, but now I definitely have a better understanding of who I am and what I enjoy." The girls will join us at the Fall Brunch on Sept 19. Do plan to be with us to hear more specific details about their Tech Trek experience.

This year Tech Trek and Funds are joining together to have another fundraiser dinner at Tahoe Joe's on Sunday, Nov 15. Tickets are \$20 for your choice of a steak, grilled chicken breast or ribs dinner. This is always a fun, no-cooking event! Harriett Burt, Helen Pereira and I have tickets we will be glad to sell you. Hope you can make it!

In June Tech Trek received \$500 donations from the Rotary Club of Martinez and the Kiwanis Club of Martinez along with some additional donations from members and friends of Tech Trek. Any money given to Tech Trek goes solely to Tech Trek. The money cannot be used for anything else. As the statements above indicate, the money we raise makes a difference!

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.
E. Carl Foster D.V.M.
Karen Shore B.V.M.S.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Alana Macdonald and Claudia Bass
Membership VPs

Hope everyone had a nice summer even though it flew by fast. September is upon us quickly and another active year for our branch. Thank you to all who have renewed their membership and most paid in a timely manner. Our membership is down due to three members passing away and some did not renew for various reasons.

I am sure you have received the flyer for the September brunch by now and are planning on coming. The sooner you RSVP the easier it is to plan so let Claudia Bass; cbasslancer29@aol.com or 372-8679 or Alana MacDonald; alanam88@gmail.com or 933-4427 know as soon as possible. Thanks to those that have already responded. One of the highlights of the brunch is the food which is prepared by you the members. If anyone is able to help out with preparing something it would be greatly appreciated. We need muffins, egg casseroles, coffee cakes, fruit and juice. Let Claudia or Alana know if you can bring some food.

The September Brunch is a way to get to reconnect with fellow members, learn about AAUW, what our branch has to offer and all the things we do, which is impressive. It is also a great time to invite guests that can include family, friends and perspective members. So guests are welcome and if they join at the brunch they will get a discount on their membership which would be \$62.50 vs \$87.00. If you are bringing a guest please let Claudia or Alana know so we can have a name tag waiting for them.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new member Cheryl Stewart. She joined national then looked on our website and joined our branch. She has recently retired from teaching Women Studies at Diablo Valley College and San Joaquin College. Here is her contact information:

Cheryl Stewart

47 Escher Circle

Oakley, CA 94561-2010

Phone: 925-768-7928

Email: cheryllstewart@hotmail.com

Education: M.A. in Women Studies at San Diego State University, B.A. in History at CSU San Marcos

Looking forward to seeing you at the September BRUNCH!!!!

Alana Macdonald, alanam88@gmail.com

Claudia Bass, cbasslancer29@aol.com

Diablo Valley College Emeritus Program

Debby Muskar, Executive Director
(925) 969-4313

www.dvc.edu/emergitus

Emeritus College, the adult community education program based at Diablo Valley College, has released the fall, 2015 schedule of classes. The catalog includes many new classes which have never been offered before.

Red Soul/Blue Soul: Philosophy and Psychology of the American Political Divide, Fridays from September 25-October 30 from 1:30pm to 3:30pm. American culture is divided between what seems to be tribes – the Red Tribe and the Blue Tribe. This course will focus on hopeful strategies for cooperation among groups who often sharply disagree. Diablo Valley College, Humanities Building, Room 107. \$70 (\$65 EC member.) Instructor, Bill Garrett, PhD.

Psychology of Older Adults, Wednesdays from November 4-December 9, from 10:00am to noon. This course will specifically look at topics such as mental illness, grief, family management and stress from the perspective of older adults. JFK University, Pleasant Hill. \$70 (\$65 EC member.) Instructor, Reeta Hernes, PsyD.

Fundraiser: A Conversation with Bach, December 12, from 2:00 to 3:30 pm. Award winning pianist, Dr. Lino Rivera engages his audience by telling a story through various pieces of music. Diablo Valley College, Music Building, Room 101. \$25.

We encourage early registration for our popular classes. For further information, and to become an Emeritus College member, view the catalog online at www.dvc.edu/emergitus or call (925) 969-4316 to request a hard copy.

2015–2016 LEADERSHIP TEAM

Presidents:

Trinka March 372-8420 drtrinks@sbcglobal.net

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

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Susan Lawson 285-4430 susanelawson@comcast.net

Priscilla Tudor 790-4095 ptudorlcsw@sbcglobal.net

Vice Presidents - Membership:

Claudia Bass 372-8679 cbasslancer29@aol.com

Alana Macdonald 933-4427 alanam88@gmail.com

Vice Presidents - AAUW Funds

Harriett Burt 372-8038 hjburt1940@comcast.net

Helen Pereira 685-0757 helenmp45@aol.com

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Pleasant Hill – Martinez AAUW N.E.W.S. is published 10 times a year by and for AAUW. May/June & July/August are combined issues.

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

September 24th. 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/>

AAUW-OML teaches local college women to negotiate starting salaries with \$tart \$mart workshops.

AAUW's newest goals include teaching college women salary negotiation through their \$tart \$mart workshop. College women entering the job market need the confidence, knowledge, and skills required to negotiate their starting salaries and benefits. \$tart \$mart teaches them to do just that.

AAUW's September Showcase, which is open to the public, will be held September 15, 2015, at the Holy Trinity Serbian Cultural Center, 1700 School Street, Moraga. Coffee will be served at 9:30; the program begins at 10:00 a.m.

September 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	10 am 9 In Indelible Ink Ginny Hargraves' 7 pm Board Meeting Trinka March's	10	11 RSVP for Welcome Brunch	12
13	14	15 Lunchin' Ladies Havana, WC	16	17	1 pm 18 Mah Jongg Brookview	10 am 19 Welcome Brunch Marilyn Thelen's
20	21	22	23	24 Matinee Idle	25	26
27	7 pm 28 Evening Books Linda Robbins'	7 pm 29 IBC Meeting Atria in PH	30			

October 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	3:30 pm 10 Festa Italiana Viano Winery
11	12	13	10 am 9 In Indelible Ink 7 pm Board Meeting Trinka March's	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Noon 25 Nor Cal Funds Luncheon, Crow Canyon CC, Danville	26	27	28	29	30	31

Save the Dates: November 15 – Tahoe Joe's TT/Funds fundraiser; November 17 – IBC Meeting