



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 59 Issue 4

December 2016



AAUW PH-MTZ RAZZLE DAZZLE HOLIDAY PARTY



Friday, December 9th, 2016 6-9 pm

Crowne Plaza
45 John Glenn Drive, Concord

Sit down dinner (no-host bar in the room) and entertainment

Choose **turkey, asparagus, potatoes and stuffing** OR **king salmon, broccolini and risotto** dinner
Meal includes a glass of wine, water, ice tea, salad, rolls and butter, and dessert and coffee
Vegetarian meal available upon request

\$54 per person, checks to AAUW Pleasant Hill-Martinez Branch

By December 5th (no exceptions), RSVP and send your check to:

Marlene Maksel
1201 Monument Blvd. #12
Concord, CA 94520

Reserve early

Bring your spouse and/or friends, plenty of parking



Entertainment by guitarist Glenn Staller





PRESIDENTIAL POSTINGS

“How did it get so late so soon? It’s night before it’s afternoon. December is here before it’s June. My goodness how the time has flown. How did it get so late so soon?” – Dr. Seuss

The year has flown by quickly and the holiday season is in full swing. It is a time of sharing and caring, a time to celebrate with those we hold dear, a time to reflect on the past year and a time to look to the future. It is also a time to think about ways to provide service to others, whether it is helping out in a soup kitchen, distributing food to the hungry, providing a toy to a child in need, or furthering AAUW’s cause to advance equity for women and girls.

On Sunday, November 6, Tech Trek held a fundraiser which was also a “funraiser”, and gathered together members and friends to see “Hairspray” at DVC Theatre. What a group of amazing talents we have at DVC! They created a stellar production.

On Wednesday, November 16, John Trtek from the Richmond Museum Association, spoke to us at our General Meeting about the WWII Red Oak Victory Ship. He shared details of its history, restoration and dedicated volunteers who work diligently to maintain it for future generations. John generously provided each meeting attendee with a mug and information pamphlets to take home. Hopefully, this presentation will inspire a visit to this important monument of WWII history in our very own backyard.

Our November meeting also afforded us the opportunity to celebrate milestones and accomplishments. A number of longtime members received pins for 5, 10, 20 and 40 year memberships. We thank these members for their dedication to AAUW and its mission. In the Fall AAUW Outlook, our branch was nationally ranked as the 22nd highest top contributor (out of 50 branches) to the AAUW Fund

in Fiscal Year 2016. We should be proud of our generous members who made this honor possible.

With respect to succession planning, our branch elected Nominating Committee members who will recruit prospective officers to the 2017-2018 Executive Board. Committee members are as follows: **Joan Foster, Reba Siero** and **Gayle Miner** (alternate) from the board; **Joy Barden, Janice Walker, Margie Pruitt** and **Shelley Jacobson** (alternate) from the general membership. Please contact any of those listed above with suggestions for next year’s officers. Remember, self-recruiting is entirely acceptable!

Don’t forget --- our annual Holiday Party will be held at the Crowne Plaza in Concord on December 9. Plan to attend and catch up with friends over a lovely sit-down dinner accompanied by guitarist Glenn Staller. Tickets may be purchased from Marlene Maksel by December 5. Additional party details are in this newsletter.

On January 18, 2017, our branch will enjoy our ever-popular Soup Supper. Don’t miss out on these hearty and delicious homemade soups, prepared and introduced by our members. Sign up by contacting co-chairs SarahJoy Haynes or Marge Munger - to bring soup, bread, dessert, or to help in other ways. For those interested in participating in activities held by other branches in our area, please visit the AAUW Contra Costa County Interbranch Council website at <http://ccc-ibc-ca.aauw.net/>.

Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season surrounded by loved ones and filled with peace and joy!

Jennifer and Claudia

NO BOARD MEETING IN DECEMBER

JANUARY BOARD MEETING

JANUARY 11, 2017

7 PM

TBA

Copy deadline for the January 2017 N.E.W.S. is:

December 27th

Please email copy to:

Reba Siero

rebasiero@yahoo.com

AAUW FUND

Harriett Burt and Helen Pereira, AAUW Fund VPs

Two nice and unexpected things happened to the Fund Committee in the last month.

First, I attended the Sunnyvale-Cupertino AAUW Fall Festival which raises money for Fund. I have gone for several years since the immediate past president is a close friend of mine. Judi (Foster) Pogue is known to many Martinez members as she was a member of our Branch in the late 1970s when she was principal of Martinez Junior High. I had told her that Fund Committee had decided to donate \$1500 to a Fellowship endowed by her Branch some years ago. To my surprise, the donation was announced at the luncheon to a round of applause. Several members came up and thanked me personally which I pass on along with the applause to all of you. We may well have helped them complete the fellowship.

The second thing was possibly even more special. At the Northern California AAUW Fund Luncheon on October 29, one of the American Fellowship awardees, Cloe-Mai LeGall-Scoville, is completing her doctorate in Language and Literature at UC Davis with a grant in part funded by the Martinez 50th Anniversary Fellowship created in 1998. The grant means she can concentrate on finishing her thesis on the impact of race, gender and empire on 19th century literature without having to work. Cloe-Mai, who is a French-Vietnamese American, was happy to meet us. Although the luncheon is always very gratifying because the scholars are so touched that people who don't know them will help fund their dreams, it was particularly meaningful to actually meet a Fellow helped by us directly.

Thanks to all of you who contributed to Fund this fall. So far, \$2,585 has been sent to Helen for recording and thence to AAUW headquarters for processing. To qualify for a tax deduction, please get your contribution to Helen soon so she can forward it on to National by the end of the year.

We'll see you at the Holiday Party or at the upcoming Soup Supper.

2016-17 AAUW Fund American Fellowship scholar Cloe-Mai Le Gall-Scoville, center, stands with Pleasant Hill-Martinez AAUW members who help fund her AAUW American Fellowship to complete her Ph.D. in Language and Literature at UC Davis. Congratulating her at the recent Northern California Fund Luncheon are Branch



members, from left:

Gayle Duncan, Harriett Burt, Branch co-president Claudia Bass and immediate past co-president Gayle Miner. The scholar thanked the Branch for supporting her dream. It may be the first time members of the Branch have actually met a scholar studying with the help of money raised by its members. About 10 Branch members attended the luncheon.

Photo contributed by
Elena Noble



SAVE THE DATE

ANNUAL SOUP SUPPER

January 18, 2017

Dianna Matthias will speak on
Plastic Pollution at Midway

HOSPITALITY Patricia Harris

As hospitality chair, I want to thank Nancy Hobert, Elva Valli, Ish Mendonsa and Charlotte Liniger for providing the delicious treats this fall. Marge Munger almost has me trained to make coffee without having to haul a coffee pot back and forth. Love the modern kitchen.



Pleasant Hill - Martinez AAUW Website



Our website will show you everything you need to know about our Pleasant Hill - Martinez branch. Enjoy photos from our October and November Programs on the **Photo Page**.

If you need to find something in a previous Newsletter, go to the **Newsletter Page** where we have 10 years available for you.

Just go to <http://www.aauw-pleasanthill-martinez.org> for all of this and more. Remember to press F5 to get the most current version of each page. Forward any questions or comments that you may have to the webmaster, located on the **About Us Page**.

Sherrie Moore, webmaster

INTEREST SECTIONS MEETINGS



****MORNING BOOKS** will meet on Wednesday, December 7, 10 am, at Marie Cattalini's. We will be discussing Sonia Sotomayor's *My Beloved World*. As our first Hispanic Supreme Court Justice, Sotomayor recounts her life from the Bronx housing project to the federal bench. In January, we will be discussing *My Name is Lucy Barton* by Elizabeth Strout. Please join us for great discussions.



****IN INDELIBLE INK** will meet in December, but for the date and location, you should call Marlene Maksel (689-5439). Our topic will be to write about an old adage (i.e. A fool and his money are soon parted; Absence makes the heart grow fonder; Actions speak louder than words). We welcome oral versions as well as written. Come and try us out!



****LUNCHIN' LADIES** will not meet in December. Please tell Marlene if you are interested in this section, ~ and if you have an idea for a great restaurant it would be fun for us to try.



****EVENING BOOKS** will not meet in December. The next meeting will be Monday, January 23, 7 pm, at Georgette Armstrong's. We will be discussing *The Japanese Lover* by Isabel Allende. Plan to join us!



****MATINEE IDLE** has combined November and December, due to the holidays in both months on our regular 4th Thursday date. So, we'll go on Thursday, December 1 (movie and time will be sent by email). Call Marlene (689-5439), if you have any suggestions for a movie. We always discuss the film after over coffee, other liquid refreshment, or frozen yogurt.



OTHER GROUPS



****GRAND SLAMMERS** bridge will not play in December. We are going to lunch on Tuesday, December 13, at 11:30, at Serendipity, a restaurant run by ROP programs. It is on East Street, across from John Muir Mt. Diablo Hospital. It is on the campus of Mt. Diablo High School. The training the students experience gives them the ability to get jobs in the food service industry. Bakery items are available for purchase - delicious and the prices are reasonable. Everyone is invited.

Contact Gayle Garrison at 798-7528 or tarheel61@yahoo.com OR Marlene DeLaurenti at 934-4171 or mdl@astound.net if you would like to attend.



****MAH JONGG**

COME PLAY MAH JONGG!

Mah Jongg meets at 12:30 PM on December 16th, at Brookview Clubhouse.

There is a \$2.00 per person charge for the clubhouse rental. If you don't know how to play Mah Jongg, but would like to learn, we will be happy to teach you.

Reservations are a must each month, so contact Suzanne Salter at (925) 935-0861, email: seabear2@msn.com OR Gayle Miner at (925) 349-6795, email: gayle.miner@yahoo.com

We play on the 3rd Friday of the month We would love to have you join our group.



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Bea Ball and Elva Valli
Membership VPs

As the season changes and the foliage takes on beautiful new colors we are heading into the social whirl of the holidays. Bea and I want to wish each and every one of you a blessed and healthy Christmas season. It is most definitely a time for celebrating. We continue to learn more and more about Membership and why it matters. Thanks to you we have added to our numbers by one more and have hopes of another two joining us in January.

To celebrate our new members we are planning a New Member Happy Hour for December 6th. Margi Alkire has graciously offered to open up her home and host this event. Refreshments always add a festive touch to any get together. This will be the perfect opportunity to welcome our newest members, and for them to learn more about our AAUW Branch by asking those questions which can more easily be answered in a small group.

Please enter the following new member information into your directory:

Judith (Judy) A. Flores (Spouse - Edgardo)

115 Shoreline Circle #335

San Ramon, CA 94582

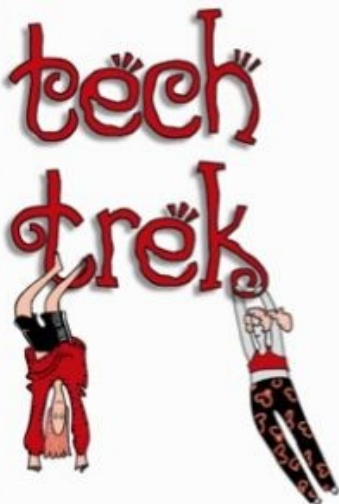
Cell: 925 323-3416

Email: judydoranfiores@gmail.com

Judith attended CSU East Bay and earned a BA in Human Development, an MS in Communication Disorders and a teaching credential in Rehabilitative Services (Speech-Language Services).

Welcome to our newest Board Member

We are pleased to announce that we have a new Board Member, Janet Andronis, who will be our Communications Chair. Janet worked for 24 years for Wells Fargo in Human Resources, Communications, and Training, retiring as a VP in 2004. Since then, she volunteered for the County Animal Services and wrote a 9 chapter Volunteer Procedures Manual for them. She was also the Secretary for the Martinez Sportsmen's Club. Janet is looking for a new challenge and feels that AAUW is a good fit for her. Please join us in welcoming her to PH-M AAUW.



WANTED: Enthusiastic members who are interested in putting together a Bocce Ball Fundraiser to be held in Spring 2017.

Proceeds will benefit the AAUW Fund and Tech Trek programs! Will take experienced players as well as anyone interested in making this a fun event!

Please contact any of the following:

Helen Pereira, Harriett Burt, Trinkia March or Diane Coventry

PUBLIC POLICY

Lita Gloor-Little

This has been a contentious election with surprising and confusing results. Some people are extremely happy about the results, some people are depressed about the results. Where ever you stand, you are not alone in that. I want to report on a conference call in which I participated.

AAUW National Office held a telephone conference call to illuminate AAUW's stance on all the election results. We were reminded that AAUW is a non-partisan organization and that the stances AAUW takes on various positions and candidates must be aligned with the AAUW Mission: *"Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. The American Association of University Women (AAUW) is the nation's leading voice promoting equity and education for women and girls. Since our founding in 1881, AAUW members have examined and taken positions on the fundamental issues of the day — educational, social, economic, and political."*

In that vein, the conference call focused on a lot of topics. All under the umbrella of—approaching everyone with our mission in mind and utilizing advocacy will be critical, they will be a fierce critic, and lobbyist, of anything that does not fulfill our mission. Lisa Maatz said "we are mouthy women, but we will be mouthy strategically".

Lisa talked about how President-Elect Trump's actions speak much louder than words: that personal decisions are policy decisions and AAUW is watching all his positions. They are encouraging him to make appointments that reflect the make-up of American: not pale, white and male. AAUW will speak truth to power.

AAUW is watching all appointments and nominations, those that are unacceptable to AAUW will be addressed. For the Supreme Court he will need 60 votes in the Senate to pass his nominees, for lower Court vacancies he only needs 51 votes. There is room for negotiation and compromise for the Supreme Court nominees. The Filibuster will be kept and it will be used. Chuck Grassle is the Chair of the Judicial Committee and he will keep the process courteous. Lots of Democrats can obstruct the nominees and AAUW will be following through on that.

The House lost 7 seats to Democrats. Also the Right Wing of the Republican Party will be giving Paul Ryan a hard time as well as the Freedom Caucus.

As for the Senate: there are 51 Republicans, 41 Democrats, 2 Independents (who caucus with the Democrats) and 1 seat still undecided.

Obamacare is seriously under attack. Millions of women now have health insurance including preventative care and birth control at no cost to them, substandard insurance plans can no longer be sold. 200 Million people will lose their Obamacare Health Insurance. Reproductive rights are in danger: birth control and abortion is being threatened and the President-Elect wants to defund Planned Parenthood (which is the primary medical care provider for millions of women).

AAUW has good relationships with both sides of the House and Senate, as they are non-partisan, they are going to think creatively and strategically about how to use Congress's parliamentary procedures for our benefit: to stay true to our mission and to work with the government utilizing the checks and balances built into our Constitution.

AAUW believes strongly in public education. President-Elect Trump believes in the voucher system and charter schools. He has stated he wants to shut down, or severely curtail, the Department of Education. AAUW also believes in Civil Rights; there were more than 10,000 complaints of civil rights violations in the schools in the past year. The NAACP called for a moratorium on the expansions of charter schools. This new administration will be pro-charter and pro-vouchers.

There have been attacks on Title IX and AAUW is ready for the challenge. Hate crimes are on the rise. There

(from page 7)

are laws to protect us, but there is a long way to go.

There is good news on the local fronts for the AAUW mission. There are 12 new Governors, Kate Brown of Oregon is the LGBT's first Governor. There are 5 women Governors: the partisan breakdown is 32 Republican Governors, 16 Democratic Governors and 1 Independent Governor. 80% of legislative seats were up for re-election: 44 states held elections. Women will drop to 1500 seats held in state houses, a drop of 100. Republicans control 32 state legislatures, Democrats 16. For AAUW members who ran for public office; they had a 90% success rate of re-election.

As for how AAUW approaches policy work. There are a lot of things the new president can't change. We still have the filibuster, regulation changes have to go through a lot of processes and we still have a voice there. We have more women in the Senate than ever before.

There are some bright spots in this election: 4 states raised the minimum pay, paid sick leave was expanded to many states. In Alaska, Alaskans voted to have automatic voter registration forms issued with their oil company checks.

Lisa Maatz reported that this is a good time to recruit new members. A question was asked about our membership requirements and if a trade school education will qualify someone to become a member and we were told that a 2 year degree qualifies someone for membership in AAUW.

Lita Gloor-Little
lgloorlittle@gmail.com

Such a Deal!!!

Being a member of AAUW has many benefits. As a member you can print a discount card for 80% off selected products at Office Depot/ OfficeMax. This would be good for on-line and in store purchases.

To obtain your card go to the AAUW website www.aauw.org; click on membership and then member benefits. Click on Office Depot/OfficeMax. Or you can go directly to www.officediscounts.org/aauw.html. Then print out your card.



2016–2017 LEADERSHIP TEAM

December 2016 and beyond

- Dec 1** Matinee Idle (date change)
Marlene Maksel
- Dec 3** AAUW Hayward-Castro Valley Branch
75th Anniversary Luncheon, 12:30 pm,
Redwood Canyon Golf Club, Castro Valley
- Dec 5** AAUW Fund committee, 2:30 pm
Ginny Hargrave's
- Dec 5** Razzle Dazzle Holiday Party reservations
due to Marlene Maksel
- Dec 7** Morning Books, 10 am, Marie Cattalini's
- Dec 9** Razzle Dazzle Holiday Party, 6 - 9 pm,
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Concord
- Dec 13** Grand Slammers Bridge group will meet for
lunch at Serendipity, 11:30 am
- Dec 16** Mah Jongg, 12:30 pm
Brookview Clubhouse
- Dec 27** January 2017 N.E.W.S. deadline to Reba
- Jan 11** Board meeting, 7 pm, TBA
- Jan 18** Annual Soup Supper, Dianna Matthias to
speak



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

Montecito Animal Clinic



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



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

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