



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 6

February 2016



Graciela Tiscareño-Sato

7:00 pm

Wednesday, February 17, 2016

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

1601 Mary Drive, Pleasant Hill

Graciela Tiscareño-Sato, a highly-decorated military veteran, bilingual STEM Consultant to K-12 school districts and a sought-after speaker on environmental entrepreneurship, leadership, innovation and the Latino educational crisis and solutions, will be the speaker at the February general meeting. She is the author of 5-time award-winning ***Latinnovating: Green American Jobs and the Latinos Creating Them***, the first book showcasing Latino-led innovation and entrepreneurship in the green economy.

Ms Tiscareño-Sato will share her remarkable journey from her early years growing up in a large family, the daughter of Mexican immigrants, through her graduation from the UC Berkeley School of Environmental Design, her career in the Air Force, her Master's Degree from the School of Global Commerce at Whitworth University in Spokane with the help of an AAUW Career Development Grant, the creation of her own company, Gracefully Global, and, if that weren't enough, her writing, speaking, and mentoring.

Don't miss this inspiring presentation on February 17th at 7:00 at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Pleasant Hill.



PRESIDENTIAL POSTINGS

Have you gotten a call from the nominating committee? This organization is full of women who are willing to help out, know how to say yes and know how to get things done, but have to be asked. Please don't be shy. Many hands make light work! Nothing proves that more than the amazing job done by Gayle Garrison and Sarah Joy Haynes and everyone who pitched in to make yet another soup supper a grand success! The speaker was entertaining and informative, but our members were not to be intimidated by historical facts! You all know your stuff!

We are encouraged to support the AAUW missions that suit our passions. We are consistently giving of our time and money to the programs that speak to us. Please think about answering the call for support for our scholarship program that was handed out at the soup supper.

We are in the process of updating our bylaws. The AAUW Bylaws contain governance history, policies and procedures for managing the organization, and information to conduct AAUW's affairs. Do your eyes glaze over when we even say "bylaws"? Many do, but some do not and it is those few who are so good at the legal details that spurred us on to update the very document that we use to tell us how we best do the business of keeping our branch going. We were in the process of doing the mandatory minor changes, to keep our bylaws in line with the state and national bylaws when Sandy Kirkpatrick, IBC chair and bylaws liason, noticed it had been a while since we had done a complete update. She asked questions and made us think

about how we do things as a branch and how things have changed since our last bylaws overhaul. We have made a few changes to our current bylaws, they have been reviewed by the executive board, now it is your turn! This important document is to be voted on by the members as a whole at our next General Meeting on February 17th.

Trinka and Gayle

FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING:
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2016
7 PM
Home of Trinka March

Copy deadline for the March 2016 N.E.W.S. is:
February 21st

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

For those members who do not drive and would like to come to the meetings or events, the following is a list of volunteer drivers. Please contact them if you need a ride. If you would like to volunteer to be a driver please let Claudia or Alana know.

Helen Pereira: 925-685-0757; 925-285-1766,
Martinez

Trinka March: 925-372-8420, Martinez

Suzanne Salter: 925-988-0322, Pleasant Hill

Muriel Fry: 925-937-4709, Lafayette

Priscilla Tudor: 925-798-4095, Martinez

Claudia Bass: 925-372-8679, Martinez

Thank you to those who have volunteered to be drivers.



INTEREST SECTIONS MEETINGS



****MORNING BOOKS** will meet on Wednesday, February 3rd, 10 am, at Susanne Rheingruber's. PLEASE let your hostess know if you are going! We will be discussing our classic for the year, *The Octopus*, by Frank Norris. This is a wonderful story of the farmer vs. the railroad in the San Joaquin Valley in the late 1800's. In March, we will be discussing *The Hare with Amber Eyes* by Edmund de Waal. Please plan to join us for great discussions!



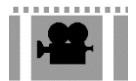
****IN INDELIBLE INK** will meet on Wednesday, February 10th, 10 am, at Susan Lawson's. Our topic assignment is "A Musical Memory." We welcome oral versions as well as written and we do NOT critique your writings. Please come and try out this Interest Section.



****LUNCHIN' LADIES** will not meet in February. There has been a significant lack of interest in this section. Please let Marlene know if another day of the week is better for you, if you are even interested in having lunch out, or if you know of a restaurant that would be fun for us to try.



****EVENING BOOKS** will meet on Monday, February 22nd, 7 pm, at Georgette Armstrong's. We will be discussing our classic, *Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain. This is a story familiar to everyone, but have you really read the entire story before? Please plan to join us for the discussion.



****MATINEE IDLE** will go to the movies on Thursday, February 25th. 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.

OTHER SMALL GROUP GATHERINGS



****MAH JONGG** Friday, February 19th, 1:00 at the Brookview Clubhouse. \$2.00 per person. Order your new card for 2016. They mail them out the beginning of April. Bring your set, if you have one, and remember your card. Snacks are welcome.

Contact **Sherrie Moore** if you would like to play.
925-229-4177 mooresherrie@comcast.net

Winter 2016 California Perspective

The Winter 2016 issue of
California Perspective
is available electronically.

You can save it on your computer
so it doesn't get lost.

Just copy and paste this link into
your browser:

[www.aauw-ca.org/Assets/resources/AAUW-CA Perspective 2016 Winter Web 160118.pdf](http://www.aauw-ca.org/Assets/resources/AAUW-CA%20Perspective%202016%20Winter%20Web%20160118.pdf)

REQUEST FROM THE TREASURER

Joan Foster

If you need a check, it must have all of the information before I issue the reimbursement or pay the vendor's bill. Also, I will not process any receipt or disbursement without the required form from our web site. That form **MUST** be filled out completely. If you need a check quickly, I am usually in Martinez every Thursday in the late afternoon. If you are sending me money, please email me that you have sent it and I will acknowledge it when I receive it. Thanks.

Soup Supper Thank You

Thanks to all the members who made the delicious soups for our annual soup supper. Also, to those who made desserts, it was hard to choose because all were so delicious. A special thanks to co-chair SarahJoy Haynes, who was so helpful, and to her husband, Gordon, who provided tech support to our speaker. Pat Harris our hospitality chair, who provided our drinks. Other members too numerous to name, helped with set up and clean up, and many thanks to you. There were 90 members and guests who attended. Several people came only for program. Marty Bruenstein presented a very interesting and moving program. Later he told me that we were one of his most informed and attentive groups.....I think we could pass the WWII history test.

Several members have asked for recipes for soups. Go to our web site where Sherrie Moore will post under the photo section, the names of the members and the name of the soup. You can e-mail or call and get the recipe or if you do not use a computer, call Gayle Garrison at (925) 798-7528.

Lost and Found

Is this yours? Someone left their white or beige Corelle bowl and spoon on a table at the Soup Supper. They can contact Gayle Miner at (925) 349-6795 to retrieve it.

TECH TREK TIDINGS

Janice Walker

The Tech Trek selection process is underway as information, nomination forms and applications have been delivered to the seventh grade math and science teachers of our four middle schools. The application deadline is near the end of this month. Once applications are received the Tech Trek committee will review them and set up interviews with the finalist.

We are fortunate that enough direct tax deductible donations made by members and friends have already been submitted to our Sonoma State University camp treasurer to cover the cost of one camper for this year. Many of these donations were made in memory of the deceased and their families were notified of these contributions. If you are ever considering such a memorial, please remember Tech Trek.



Pleasant Hill - Martinez AAUW Website



Our website will show you everything you need to know about our Pleasant Hill - Martinez branch. Did you get a chance to talk to Barbara Newacheck's daughter and husband at the Soup Supper? What an interesting speaker and great soup. See more pictures on the **Photo Page**.

Check out our upcoming programs and activities on the **Program Page**. We have 9 years of our Newsletters on the **Newsletter Page** if you need to check a back issue.

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

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Alana Macdonald and Claudia Bass
Membership VPs

Currently we now have 121 members. This includes our five new members who joined at the Soup Supper.

This is a reminder that dues have been decreased to \$52.50 until March 16, 2016 for new members to join.

It is February now but May and June will be coming upon us fast and that means graduation time. As a member of AAUW you can gift a college graduate a one year membership for free. You can give the gift within two years of graduation. There are no limits to how many memberships you can give. The official name of the program is **Give-A-Grad-A-Gift**.

If you would like to give a graduate a gift of membership just log on to the national web site; www.aauw.org. When you are on the home page type in the search bar **give a gift to a grad** and enter. You should get on that page and click on the one for giving the gift. It will have a picture of a graduate and then fill in the information. You may be asked for your I.D. number which is on your membership card.

No graduate but you know of current college students then they can join as a **student affiliate**. This can also be done on the AAUW website. Just need to click on membership. It is free for undergraduate students attending an AAUW college/university partner. (This can be found on the AAUW website.) For a non-partner school the dues are \$17.00 a year. Membership is at the national level only.

For graduate students dues are \$18.81 for the first year and \$49.00 a year after. Graduate students are also eligible for branch membership; state and branch dues are applicable.

So if you know any upcoming graduates or college students here is a great way to hook them up to AAUW and enjoy the benefits of membership.

We welcome our five new members who joined us "on the spot" at the Soup Supper. Please add their information to your directory:

Jeanne Jones

1314 Highland Ave.
Martinez, CA 94553
(H)890-1816 (C)335-5850
joneswilson@gmail.com

Louisiana State Univ. M.S. Educ.

Leslie Kurywchak

302 Durham Ct.
Benicia, CA 94510
(H)707-319-7062
lesgiskk@att.net

CSU Sacramento B.A. Hist.

Barbara Minneman

301 Lava Ct.
Martinez, CA 94553
(H)229-1827
blminneman@comcast.net

Calif. College of Art B.F.A.

Maren Stanizak

1865 N. 5th St.
Concord, CA 94519
(C)408-5930
marenstanizak@excite.com

Whitworth College, Washington M.S. Educ.

Sharon Wilson

450 Mountain View Dr.
Martinez, CA 94553
(H)372-5800
sharonbwilson@yahoo.com

Univ. of Montana AA Bus. Adm.

Alana Macdonald, alanam88@gmail.com

Claudia Bass, cbasslancer29@aol.com



Equal Pay/Start Smart/ 2016 Politics

Elena Noble, Facilitator

AAUW continues to promote **Equal Pay** and **Gender Equity** in the Workplace by offering Wage Negotiation Workshops across the country.

After attaining the rights to **Start Smart and Work Smart** classes from the former **WAGE Project** last year, classes are now being offered to more align with the goals of **AAUW**. Members are being recruited to promote and facilitate workshops at their local houses of higher education. Trainings are now offered FREE, through online webinars to members and college partners of AAUW.

Here in **Contra Costa County**, twelve members have expressed interest in delivering the workshops locally. Last year **CCC Inter-Branch Council** purchases a three year license for the Contra Costa Community College District. A successful workshop was presented at **DVC** last April, and a spring workshop on

March 10th is now being planned. During a meeting last week, members expressed a need to expand the program to Cal State East Bay/ Concord, St. Mary's, and possibly JFK Universities.

For the first time in American History, two women are running for President of the United States. The topic of Equal Pay and Gender Equity could not be timelier. AAUW proudly stands with all women to support them in attaining a Fair and Equitable working Environment.

If you are interested in joining the **Start Smart Team**, or want to attend a workshop, you can contact me at enoble4@astound.net.

Remember **WAGE** stands for:

Women Are Getting Even!

AAUW FUNDS Harriett Burt and Helen Pereira AAUW Funds VPs

Funds Committee will be busy this month hopefully reviewing the applications for the 2016 National Conference of Women Student Leaders. Applications were due at DVC's grant office on February 1. (This was written on Jan. 29)

Four of the beautiful silk scarves our Muriel, Reba and Laurel created were sold at the Soup Supper. Originally created in 2013 to sell at the 2014 State Convention in San Diego, we have since sold them to members at various events including Festa, meetings and finally the Soup Supper. There are six blue and four green remaining from the original 75 which we plan to use for gifts to speakers or to add to gift baskets on appropriate occasions. At \$25 each, Funds has netted \$1625 out of a possible \$1875 thus far thanks to our creative artisans and the support of all AAUW members around the state and in our own Branch. By the way, they will still be available for purchase as long as any are left. We're just not going to 'flog 'em' (as the Australians say) at every branch meeting and event going forward.

Watch for a new neat and useful item to appear soon that will fulfill a need you won't know you had until you see it. It will help Funds Committee "Nickwhistle" its way to the bank.

Congratulations to the Soup Supper Committee for an outstanding event and a very interesting speaker. The courage of the people of that small Dutch town under dreadful circumstances was remarkable and inspiring. None of us has been tested in that way but we can continue to do all we can to support international understanding and education, particularly for girls and women. Among the many funds programs in our history: in 1945 an international grants division of the fellowships program made its debut. Before the World War II ended, AAUW launches a drive to raise funds to bring women from liberated countries to the United States to study. Today grant winners come from more than 130 countries.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THE MODERN ERA

By Michele St.Clair

Public Policy Director, Healdsburg branch Board of Directors

Public Policy Committee of AAUW-CA

Human trafficking doesn't affect us, right? So why should we care about something so remote and a problem we can't do anything to stop anyway?

Well, human trafficking is not remote. It's right here in California, in our own neighborhoods. And there *are* things we can do to help curb it.

Based on statistics kept by various organizations, California has a disproportionately large share of this extreme violation of human rights, in spite of a series of laws that the California legislature has passed to try to reduce its incidence.

As globalization erases the borders between countries, the challenges of stopping the flood of human exploitation continue to multiply. Human trafficking has grown to be one of the largest organized criminal activities in the world, second only to drug trafficking. Social scientists estimate that 27 million women, men, and children are victims at any given time. AAUW reports that human trafficking has also emerged in the past decade as one of the fastest-growing criminal activities in the world. And the consequent human suffering is immense.

Traffickers use violence, debt bondage, and other forms of coercion to manipulate victims into engaging in commercial sex acts or labor services against their will. "Human trafficking is a violation of human rights where an individual is forced or tricked into work and unable to leave for any number of reasons," says Tiffany Williams, advocacy director at the Institute for Policy Studies' Break the Chain Campaign (www.ips-dc.org). It's important to note that this definition rests on force and coercion, not movement across borders. Indeed, much of human trafficking is done for the purpose of extracting labor services.

Labor-trafficked victims are coerced, but instead of being sexually exploited, victims are abused in a variety of labor settings including domestic work, small businesses, large farms, and factories.

This form of modern-day slavery uses trickery, force, and coercion, and it can be found in our very own neighborhoods. Surprisingly, in bedroom communities some unscrupulous couples keep housekeepers and nannies in modern bondage. Teachers are brought from overseas and forced to sign over 10 percent of their salaries. Undocumented agricultural workers are often taken advantage of by "coyotes" and agribusiness to work long hours for little or no pay. Underage boys and girls are tricked into sex slavery. (In fact, due to their extreme vulnerability, all sex workers under the age of 18 are considered to be trafficking victims.)

Though the epidemic of human trafficking affects people from all backgrounds, social classes, and cultures, it disproportionately affects women and girls who account for 55 percent of forced labor and 75 percent of all trafficked victims around the world.

This is why AAUW has made human trafficking one of the issues it officially works to eliminate.

We as individual AAUW members can help in a number of ways. Inform your friends and family, and your neighbors about the widespread incidence of human trafficking. Be alert to possible instances of labor-trafficking in your community. When meeting with elected officials, inform them about the facts and your concerns. Sign up for AAUW Action Alerts and follow up when AAUW emails them to you.

Should you become aware of suspicious activity that suggests human trafficking, it's important to report it. To do so, call one of these hotline numbers:

The National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline

1-888-373-7888 or

The U.S. Department of Justice Hotline

1-888-428-7581

2015–2016 LEADERSHIP TEAM

Presidents:

Trinka March 372-8420 drtrinks@sbcglobal.net

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

Vice Presidents - Program:

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

Secretary:

Jennifer Apkarian 228-2027 apkarian1@att.net

Treasurer:

Joan Foster 254-5232 joanfoster2002@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor:

Reba Siero 228-8211 rebasiero@yahoo.com

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 the March 2016 N.E.W.S. is February 21st. 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

Sandy Kirkpatrick (707) 745-2484

sandykirkpat@earthlink.net

CCC IBC website

<http://ccc-ibc-ca.aauw.net/>

California State office of AAUW

1331 Garden Highway, Suite 100

Sacramento, CA 95833

office@aauw-ca.org

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

AAUW National

<http://www.aauw.org/>

February/March 2016

- Feb 3** Morning Books, 10 am, Susanne Rheingruber
- Feb 10** In Indelible Ink, 10 am, Susan Lawson
- Feb 10** Board meeting, 7 pm, Trinka March
- Feb 17** Graciela Tiscareño-Sato, 7 pm
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Pleasant Hill
Vote on branch bylaws amendments
- Feb 19** Mah Jongg, 1 pm, Brookview Clubhouse
- Feb 21** N.E.W.S. deadline, Reba Siero
- Feb 22** Evening Books, 7 pm, Georgette Armstrong
- Feb 25** Matinee Idle, Marlene Maksel
- Mar 8** Ways and Means, 1 pm, Gayle Garrison
- Mar 9** Board meeting, 7 pm, Trinka March
- Mar 16** Presentation on Rise Up, Women, 7 pm
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Pleasant Hill

Ways and Means

The Ways and Means committee will meet Tuesday, March 8th, at 1:00 pm, at home of Gayle Garrison.

798-7528

tarheel61@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.