



# N.E.W.S.

**Now/Events/Women/Success**

Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy,  
education, philanthropy and research

**Volume 59 Issue 7**

**March 2017**



## **Tim Farley**

Wednesday, March 15, 2017 at 7:00 PM

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

1601 Mary Drive, Pleasant Hill

Martinez resident Tim Farley has been fascinated with government and politics since childhood. A graduate of Alhambra High School, Diablo Valley College and UC Davis, he started helping on local political campaigns even before he studied the Constitution and the history of the United States in eighth grade at Martinez Junior High School. Tim will speak to our branch in March.

Not only has he studied our history and become an expert on Presidential facts and trivia, but he has been a two-time Presidential elector in California and a two term member of the Martinez City Council. He is now a member of the Board of Trustees of the Contra Costa County Community College District representing parts of Martinez and Pleasant Hill. Professionally he has worked on the official staff of former Assemblyman Bob Campbell and current County Supervisor Federal Glover where he served as Chief of Staff.

Currently, he is Director of Government and Community Affairs at Saint Mary's College and a co-instructor in the college's January Term program. As such he accompanied 15 SMC students to Washington DC for the Presidential Inauguration and the Women's March. He also organized the 2010 Gubernatorial Debate held at Saint Mary's College and led the formation of an impressive but unsuccessful application to host one of the Presidential Debates in 2012.



## PRESIDENTIAL POSTINGS

Well here we are in the month of March and we'll start to see the first signs of spring. This is the time of year when nature is starting to burst forward with new growth. Our branch is continuing with its activities and starting to plan ahead for a new year.

The deadline for the newsletter is before our February meeting which will surely be a success. What a great format of having a baked potato luncheon bar as well as celebrating Black History Month with a program about Black artists and spirituals. Thank you Suzanne Mesetz and Gayle Garrison for presenting the program.

This month on March 15<sup>th</sup>, Tim Farley will be our speaker. He is currently on the Board of Trustees for the Community College District and was a former Martinez City Council member. Tim was also selected to serve on the California Electoral College this past election. He will be speaking about his experience and the ins and outs of this process. With so much talk about the Electoral College recently this should be a very interesting and informative topic as well as timely. Hope to see everyone there.

Elena has been very busy with Start Smart and there will be two workshops this month. The first will be March 7<sup>th</sup> at DVC and then March 15<sup>th</sup> at DVC, San Ramon campus. Elena encourages our branch members to attend or help out. If you are interested contact Elena Noble. Considering possible changes in labor and government policies, this workshop is essential to promote equal pay for equal work. So if you can support Elena in her endeavors and fulfill one of AAUW's missions then please do so.

The Bocce Ball committee met with Jerry who is an expert on organizing bocce ball tournaments. There is a lot to do and because of the logistics we decided we did not have enough time to pull it off by April 29<sup>th</sup>. We are looking at

having it later in the year. Our next meeting will be March 30<sup>th</sup> at Helen Pereira's house at 7:00. Since this is a big endeavor those who are interested are more than welcome.

It is exciting to report that we will have three members from our branch who will attend The AAUW National convention in Washington D.C. in June. They are Harriett Burt, Joan Foster and Elena Noble. It being in Washington, there will be several lobbying and advocacy events to promote girls' and women's issues which is greatly needed now. The three of them will represent our branch very well and we are anxious to hear about their experience.

Earlier it was mentioned that our branch is planning ahead. We have a new slate of officers for the 2017-2018 term. Their names will appear in this newsletter and will be officially voted in at our April meeting. After the board is voted in, the appointed positions will need to be filled which are listed in the directory. Consider taking on a position. It is a great way to be involved and get to know other members. Usually they are shared which makes it easier.

The nominating committee did a phenomenal job of filling all of the positions and we appreciate those who said yes. Thank you to those who served on the nominating committee. They are, from the board Joan Foster, Reba Siero and Gayle Miner, alternate. From the general membership they are Joy Barden, Janice Walker, Margie Pruitt and Shelley Jacobson, alternate. And can't forget Marilyn Thelen our parliamentarian who organized the committee.

As part of the planning process for the leadership team, on April 1<sup>st</sup> AAUW California will be sponsoring a leadership workshop. This is a great way to meet other leaders from local branches, learn how we fit in with state and national and a chance to network with others. We encourage attendance and from past experience it is worthwhile. Find out more about it on the AAUW California website [www.aauw-ca.org](http://www.aauw-ca.org).

Also looking ahead the branch needs to start thinking about our Fall Fundraiser which benefits Local Scholarships, Tech Trek and AAUW Fund. We need a committee to get this going so if you are interested in being part of this let Jennifer and Claudia know. The committee can decide what they want to do. As always many help out and as a result it is a huge success.

Happy March as we "march" ahead.

Jennifer and Claudia

## AAUW FUND

Harriett Burt and Helen Pereira, AAUW Fund VPs

Fund Committee is getting ready to select a DVC student to participate in the National Conference of College Women Student Leaders, better known to us all as Nickwhistle.

Meanwhile, Muriel Fry received a letter from our first attendee, 2015's Brenda Ruiz, who will complete her work on a B. A. in Public Health & Global Poverty and Practice from UC Berkeley this June. After a personal greeting to Muriel, Brenda continued as follows:

*"I'm starting off my semester well although it's already getting really busy! I went to Peru last summer to do a medical brigade with students from my school and I had the most amazing time! I remember you told me to always keep money in different places (suitcase, purse, wallet etc.) so I took your advice! I went on many adventures including water rafting, zip-lining and of course hiking up the famous Machu Picchu! I hope you are doing well. Thank you for all you and the other women in AAUW have done for me! Hope I hear back from you soon so I can fill you in on other things I've been up to."*

This is why we spend the time we do raising money which brings us to the plan for a Bocce Tournament to support Fund and Tech Trek. A great committee met last week at Helen Pereira's to learn from Jerry Telles of Martinez Rotary just what is involved in setting up Bocce Tournament this spring. After Jerry's very complete and frank talk, we decided that we want to do it but would need more time to plan and execute. Consequently we are looking at November at the indoor courts at Martinez Waterfront Park. Mor to kum as they say at a newspaper's copy desk.

We also got a great idea from Nancy Hobert for a possible replacement to the Tahoe Joe's fundraiser. Different but potentially very effective. Mor to kum on that also.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

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

**PH-MTZ BRANCH of AAUW**

**SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2017-2018**

**Co-Presidents: Jennifer Apkarian and Claudia Bass**

**VP Programs: Bambi Barker and Sally Figueiredo**

**VP Membership: Bea Ball and Elva Valli**

**VP AAUW Funds: Barbara Chambers**

**and Marlene Maksel**

**Secretary: Gayle Miner**

**Treasurer: Trinkia March**

The election will be held on April 19th at the April General meeting. Nominations may be made from the floor with the prior approval of the nominee. Many thanks to each member of the committee for your help in developing this most capable slate. And our thanks to these candidates for accepting the challenge to lead our branch.

Reba Siero, Nominating Committee Spokesperson

## COMMUNITY - PLEASANT HILL

"Off the Grid" food trucks are still on Trelany Road by City Hall from 5 – 9 pm on Wednesdays.

i heart art is a new art studio for kids at 15A Vivian Drive in PH. Get more information by looking at their website ~ [info@iheartartstudio.co](mailto:info@iheartartstudio.co)

The Organic Coup is a new restaurant in PH on Crescent Drive. Features all organic and natural foods.

The PH Library serves over 1,200 people each day. After the passage of Measure K, a new library is being planned. Check out the City of PH website, or the library, for exciting ideas and proposals for the new facility.

The American Red Cross will be conducting a blood drive at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church on Saturday, March 25 from 9 am to 3 pm. Walk-ins are welcome. If you want to make a reservation, go to [www.standrews-pcusa.org/](http://www.standrews-pcusa.org/) and scroll down to Blood Drive.

Recently, the Mt. Diablo School Board unanimously passed a formal declaration stating that they oppose the creation of a Northgate school district. The school board will oppose the Northgate CAPS organization's petition, which has collected more than 6,000 signatures, in favor of a new district. The Northgate Unified School District would encompass the northeastern boundary of Walnut Creek. The school board has authorized its superintendent to inform district staff members to take "appropriate action" to oppose the petition by informing the public, and speaking out, in future administrative hearings. Board member, Debra Mason, feels that "The bottom line is what is best for the students we serve, and I think staying together is what is best for them." Board Vice President, Cheryl Hansen, feels that it is important for the board to present a unified front, in favor of keeping the district together. The Northgate group wants to remove five schools from Mt. Diablo Unified School District. The district has 32,000 students, and 56 schools, which makes it the largest district in Contra Costa County. The district encompasses Concord, Clayton, most of Pleasant Hill, and portions of Walnut Creek, Lafayette, Martinez, Pittsburg, Bay Point, Clyde, and Pacheco. The new Northgate Unified District would include Bancroft, Valle Verde, and Walnut Acres elementary schools, Foothill Middle School, and Northgate High School. Approximately 4,200 students would be served. The students that attend these schools come from higher-income areas. Another area of concern is the movement of specialized education classes to other schools in Mt. Diablo, should a split occur. Northgate CAPS supporters don't agree with the district's claim that a split would result in decreased diversity. Jim Mills, CAPS founder, stated, "A major focus of our proposal is preserving the current attendance patterns and therefore maintaining the diversity of the five schools in Northgate." Northgate High is 44% nonwhite. Last year, the Mt. Diablo district allowed students from Pine Hollow Middle and Diablo View Middle to attend Northgate High. Mills feels that the students from those two middle schools are not as diverse as the students that transfer to Northgate from all over the district. The transfer students would be pushed out and Northgate would lose its diversity. Board member Brian Lawrence, who lives in the Northgate area, stated. "Even though we've improved, there are still areas of improvement for us." Lawrence thinks it is important for the district to hear the concerns of the Northgate community.



### **Pleasant Hill - Martinez AAUW Website**

Our website will show you everything you need to know about our Pleasant Hill - Martinez branch. The **Photo Page** has pictures of our various activities throughout the year.

Are you interested in becoming more involved in our branch? There are many positions available for the coming year. Go to the **About Us Page**, and click on **Officers 2016-2017**. You can also become a member of one of our community service committees.

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, March 1, 10 am, at Brookview Clubhouse. We will be discussing *The Elephant Whisperer* by Lawrence Anthony. This is a heartwarming story about a man who accepted wild elephants to his Zululand reserve, and how he bonds with them. NOTE: This is a last minute change in location, so PLEASE let Marlene know if you are planning to attend; we will have to pay \$2/each for use of Clubhouse. In April we will be discussing *Songs of Willow Frost* by Jamie Ford. Please join us for great discussions.



**\*\*IN INDELIBLE INK** will meet on Wednesday, March 8, 10 am, at Ginny Hargrave's. Our topic will be "Something Irish." Have you traveled to Ireland and have a special memory of the trip; did you have a memorable St. Patty's Day celebration; or do you have a family connection to the Irish. Fiction or fact ~ both okay! We welcome oral versions as well as written. Come and try us out!



**\*\*LUNCHIN' LADIES** will not meet in March. 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 meet on Monday, March 27, 7 pm, at Sally Whitsett's. We will be discussing our classic by Willa Cather, *Death Comes for the Archbishop*, a memorable story about the area around Santa Fe and Father Jean Marie Latour, who becomes the Vicar of New Mexico. In April we will be discussing *Dead Wake* by Erik Larsen. Plan to join us!



**\*\*MATINEE IDLE** will go to the movies on Thursday, March 23 on our regular 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday. 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.

### **MARCH BOARD MEETING**

**MARCH 8, 2017**

**7 PM**

**Rolling Green Clubhouse**

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

**March 24<sup>th</sup>**

Please email copy to:

Reba Siero

[rebasiero@yahoo.com](mailto:rebasiero@yahoo.com)

## OTHER GROUPS



**\*\*GRAND SLAMMERS** will play bridge on Monday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 at Brookview Club House. Each player pays \$5, with \$3 for Local Scholarship Fund and \$2 for room rental. All levels of players are welcome, members and non-members.

Contact Marlene DeLaurenti at (925) 934-4171 or [mdl@astound.net](mailto:mdl@astound.net) if you would like to play.



### **\*\*MAH JONGG**

**COME PLAY MAH JONGG!**

Mah Jongg meets at 12:30 PM on March 17<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:seabear2@msn.com) OR Gayle Miner at (925) 349-6795, email: [gayle.miner@yahoo.com](mailto:gayle.miner@yahoo.com)

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

## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Bea Ball and Elva Valli, Membership VPs

Valentine's Day has come and gone, St. Patrick's Day is right around the corner and the year 2017 is moving along much too quickly.

We have only until March 15<sup>th</sup> to recruit members during this campaign which allows them to take advantage of the reduced dues. We appreciate all the past help you have given us in promoting the importance of AAUW memberships and hope your help continues. On March 16<sup>th</sup> the dues for new members will be \$87.00 and will be good through June 30, 2018.

Our roster currently lists 118 members and includes those who have joined our branch since September 6, 2016. We are planning another gathering to welcome our newest members at a Saturday Morning Coffee Hour. On March 18, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. we will gather for this Social which will also offer informational opportunities to those who were not able to join us at the December Happy Hour at Margi Alkire's. This gathering on March 18<sup>th</sup> will be held at Elva Valli's. Please call Elva or Bea if you plan to attend. We look forward to helping our new members get acquainted with each other.



Elena Noble, Start Smart Facilitator

[Enoble4@astound.net](mailto:Enoble4@astound.net)

AAUW's CCC Inter-Branch Council, partnering with Diablo Valley College, is offering two Wage Negotiation Workshops. The popular **Start Smart** Classes, whose aim is to close The Gender Pay Gap, instruct graduating students the value of negotiation when applying for a job.

These are exciting workshops, and your Start Smart Team Invites AAUW Members to sit in and watch the interaction between our diverse Career Team and the students.

Dates and times are as follows:

**March 7, 11:30-1:30**

DVC BLF Conference Room

321 Golf Club Rd, Pleasant Hill, CA

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**March 15, 12:30-2:30**

DVC-Ext. W-204

1690 Watermill Rd, San Ramon, CA

Fill free to contact me for questions and updates on time and place.



## CHARLOTTE ANDERSON

September 6, 1922 to December 15, 2016

### Memorial

A memorial for Charlotte Anderson will be held  
on

March 25, 2017

3:00 pm

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

1601 Mary Drive

Pleasant Hill

If you would like to contribute finger sandwiches or fruit for the reception, please call or email:

Gayle Garrison

798-7528 or [tarheel61@excite.com](mailto:tarheel61@excite.com)

## **PUBLIC POLICY**

Lita Gloor-Little [lgloorlittle@gmail.com](mailto:lgloorlittle@gmail.com)

As your Public Policy Chair I have the privilege of reading a lot of AAUW's public policy publications and opinions. I have been pulling out the ones that I feel apply to our chapter. At both the State and National level, AAUW continues to state "we will speak truth to power". It appears right now that there is a lot of power grabs that we have to notice and speak truth to. Below are some of them.

### **"AAUW and Federal Officials Call on DeVos to Enforce Civil Rights Laws**

AAUW and other civil rights groups organized a "call-in day" on Wednesday to pressure Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos to commit to supporting Title IX enforcement. The U.S. Department of Education's **phone lines were flooded** for the entire day, and callers were eventually directed to full voice mailboxes or asked to send messages via email. Secretary DeVos has raised serious red flags for AAUW due to her lack of commitment to upholding critical Title IX guidance, in addition to recent statements that indicated she is looking for "**unnecessary**" programs to cut. Members of Congress also expressed similar concerns. When the website for Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) resources became inaccessible the day after DeVos was sworn in, two Democratic U.S. Senators requested the restoration of the website and assurance that it will not be stripped down under her watch. Chair of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, Catherine Lhamon, claimed that she was "dismayed" that DeVos has not explicitly stated a position on the department's enforcement role in campus sexual assault." I called and spoke to Diego, one of her staff who told me that they had already received a lot of calls. I told him to expect more calls. This is an important issue for AAUW. I also asked about why they had taken down their resources for disabled students and he informed me that they were working on that part of the web site and it will be back up soon, I told Diego that I would call back in 1 month to learn the progress of this. Betsy DeVos has never attended a public school, has no teaching or education experience and that is a concern to every teacher I know.

### **AAUW Cheer of the Week**

**The University of Connecticut's women's basketball team reached a 100-game winning streak this week, the longest winning streak in all of women's and men's college basketball teams in history.** This achievement demonstrates the impact that Title IX has had on the unprecedented participation and success for girls and women in sports. Title IX will celebrate its 45th anniversary this June – what is your state or branch doing to celebrate? And this is why I called the Department of Education. Title IX enabled this women to get scholarships and for women's sports to be funded.

The U.S. House of Representatives **voted on Thursday** to overturn a rule that protects funding for Title X, the national family planning program. More than four million Americans rely on Title X for birth control and other reproductive health services."

From Lisa Maatz came this letter.

This week, Andrew Puzder withdrew his nomination to the position of U.S. Secretary of Labor amid doubts that he'd have enough votes to be confirmed. AAUW raised concerns about Mr. Puzder's record of disregard for women's and low-wage workers' rights and, because of your advocacy, senators took a hard look at his nomination and qualifications.

AAUW believes the U.S. Senate has few constitutional duties more significant than providing advice and consent for cabinet level positions. That's why thousands of AAUW members and supporters shared concerns with their senators about those nominees who stand to exert great influence over the lives of women and

*(continued on page 8)*

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families.

The president's personnel decisions are really policy decisions, and they matter to women and girls. Any nominee must be a fair-minded individual committed to equal opportunity and justice under the law for *all* Americans. We look forward to working together to encourage a full vetting and close examination of nominee Andrew Acosta's fitness for the job.

Lisa M. Maatz

Vice President of Government Affairs and Advocacy

Yours in AAUW

## And on the State level

### Should I Work on a Bill that Won't Pass?

The majority of states are dominated by one political party. If you are not a member of that party, it can feel futile to push your legislative priorities. But even if you know your bill will not pass, there are still important reasons to try:

- Educate legislators about an existing problem and your proposed solutions; perhaps find common ground.
- Get media coverage to cost-effectively communicate with the public.
- Frame the issue in your terms and make the opposition play defense.
- Force policymakers to take a position and reveal their stance on an issue (then use it in your state legislative voting record).
- Build grassroots support by giving advocates a task and target.
- Compel lawmakers to show voters what they actually believe.

It often takes a long time to put the pieces into place, and it can take years to pass a bill, but laying the ground-work improves your chances of success later.

### UDPATE: Panel of Judges in North Carolina Stops Legislative Power Grab

In our last issue of AAUW in the Statehouse, we discussed the unprecedented attempt by the North Carolina legislature to curb then Governor-elect Roy Cooper's (D) executive powers. The Republican controlled legislature called a special session to strip the new governor of many powers that his Republican predecessor had enjoyed. Last week, a three-judge panel in the North Carolina Superior Court ruled that the legislature went too far, and placed a temporary restraining order on the legislation. The governor can now proceed with selecting his cabinet without interference.





## 2016–2017 LEADERSHIP TEAM

### March 2017 and beyond

- Mar 1** Morning Books, 10 am,  
Brookview Clubhouse
- Mar 7** Start Smart Equal Pay Workshop,  
11:30 am, DVC Pleasant Hill campus
- Mar 8** In Indelible Ink, 10 am,  
Ginny Hargrave's
- Mar 8** Board meeting, 7 pm,  
Rolling Green Clubhouse
- Mar 13** Grand Slammers Bridge, 12:30 pm,  
Brookview Clubhouse
- Mar 15** Start Smart Equal Pay Workshop,  
12:30 pm, DVC San Ramon campus
- Mar 15** General Meeting, 7 pm, Tim Farley speaks  
St Andrew's Presbyterian Church
- Mar 17** Mah Jongg, 12:30 pm  
Brookview Clubhouse
- Mar 18** New Member Open House, Elva Valli's
- Mar 23** Matinee Idle, Marlene Maksel
- Mar 24** April 2017 N.E.W.S. deadline to Reba
- Mar 25** Charlotte Anderson Memorial, 3 pm,  
St Andrew's Presbyterian Church
- Mar 27** Evening Books, 7 pm, Sally Whitsett's
- Apr 19** April Annual Meeting of the Branch  
Election

#### Presidents

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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 the April 2017 N.E.W.S. is**

**March 24<sup>th</sup>.** Please email copy to: **Reba Siero**

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