



N.E.W.S.

Now/Events/Women/Success

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

Volume 60 Issue 3

November 2017

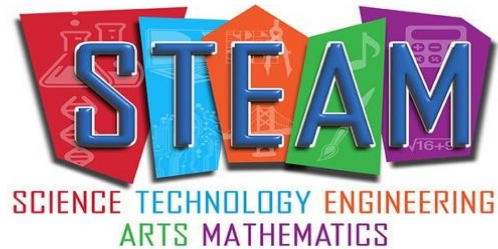
AAUW NOVEMBER PROGRAM

WHAT: Back to School—Visit to a STEAM LAB

WHEN: Wednesday, November 15

TIME: 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

WHERE: Las Juntas Elementary School
4105 Pacheco Boulevard/Martinez



Our November program will be a fun filled adventure you won't soon forget.

AAUW members will have the opportunity to visit the S.T.E.A.M. (Science-Technology-Engineering-Arts-Math) lab at Las Juntas School in Martinez. After an introduction by Crystal Castaneda, Principal, you will meet Shell engineers, Katie Clasen and Jackie Brew, who helped set up the lab and are active participants.

Then! You will have hands on experience in the Lab – robots, electrical circuits, lego challenge cards, engineering projects and so much more. You will see how teachers are working to integrate S.T.E.A.M. into the school experience. Come prepared to be amazed!



Directions to Las Juntas Elementary School—Easy Peasy

Exit Highway 680 at the Pacheco Boulevard /Martinez Exit (Exit 54). Continue straight for approximately 350 feet to Las Juntas Elementary School (on your right). There is a large lighted sign. Turn right into the parking area. The all-purpose room is in front of the parking lots and the doors will be open.

The LAB has space for about 25 people, so please RSVP to reserve yours!

Bambi Barker, Program co-VP

fanciphree@comcast.net

(925) 229-1720



PRESIDENTIAL POSTINGS

As we write this column we have been thinking of all of those that have been affected by the fires especially in Napa and Sonoma counties and have discovered that many in our local community are connected in some way. We would like to extend positive thoughts to any of our members who have family or friends that have been affected by this devastating fire. Hopefully by the time you read this newsletter it will be over and everyone is moving on as best as they can. The LEAD program that was sponsored by AAUW Interbranch Council was cancelled due to the fires as Assemblywoman Catherine Baker serves on the legislative emergency committee. Hopefully it will be rescheduled next spring.

The October program was well attended and enjoyed by many. Sally was an engaging and witty speaker. Her life story was interesting starting in Hollywood to Wild Thyme catering business to teaching culinary arts with Loaves and Fishes. Thank you to our Program VPs, Bambi Barker and Sally Figueiredo for providing us with a great program.

We finished the month of October with the AAUW Fund Luncheon which was held on Sunday October 29th. Several of our members attended and were inspired at what the Fund recipients are doing with their grants. It brings into perspective how important it is to raise funds for AAUW Fund.

Thanks to everyone who bought Kinders sandwich tickets to support AAUW Fund. Many tickets were sold and thanks to those that were sellers. Appreciation is extended to Harriett Burt and Gayle Miner for coordinating the sale. We have up to January to enjoy our sandwich so Bon Appetit.

We hope everyone is signed up and ready to bowl on November 4th and have invited friends to participate also. It looks like it will be a fun activity and will benefit both AAUW Fund and Teck Trek.

We have a unique program scheduled for our November 15 meeting. The location will be at Las Juntas Elementary School in Martinez and will be about their STEAM program which is

sponsored by Shell and facilitated by two women engineers from Shell. We will have a chance to look at the lab and possibly experience hands on activities. It should be a fun and rewarding evening which supports our AAUW mission of promoting science, technology, engineering, math AND arts for women and girls. Space will be limited because of the confines of the lab so RSVP as soon as you can. We will also be voting for the nominating committee to select next year's officers at this meeting.

We encourage many of you to get your creative juices going by signing up for Painting With A Twist which will benefit Tech Trek. There are still openings even though the number is limited to 30 so invite your friends. Remember half of each ticket goes towards Tech Trek.

We are very excited to announce that the SAM program at Fair Oaks Elementary School is returning. Thank you to Suzanne Metz for organizing the program which will be November 7-17. Volunteers will need to be finger printed and tested for TB as district policy which is common in many districts. At Fair Oaks there is a student store where students earn points for good behavior and accomplishments and as a result get coupons. The students then redeem their coupons for an item from the store which has been very positive for them. Currently the principal is running the store and Suzanne is looking for someone to coordinate the store and twice a month have a volunteer to hand out the items. If you are interested you can contact Suzanne, Claudia or Jennifer. Donations for the store are also welcome but not stuffed toys.

Thank you to Susan Rheingruber for stepping up to the plate and putting together the Layette Shower on November 29. Members bring items that young mothers can use with their newborns. According to Suzanne the mothers do need these items to give a good start for their baby. So let's get together and help needy young mothers.

The holiday season is just around the corner and it was suggested that it would be nice to have a holiday party at St. Andrew's or elsewhere. Please contact Claudia or Jennifer if you are interested in organizing and helping with the party. In the past it has always been a fun time to spread holiday cheer with fellow members and guests.

As you can see we have a full plate in November and many will finish the month with a Thanksgiving plate of food. So on that note, we wish everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving and give many thanks to all the members of our branch who put in their time, effort and donations which provide a variety of opportunities possible for so many lives and makes a meaningful impression on the recipients.

Jennifer and Claudia

INTEREST SECTIONS MEETINGS



****MORNING BOOKS** will meet on Wednesday, November 1, 10 am, at Gayle Garrison's. PLEASE let your hostess know you will be attending. Gayle will give you suggestions for parking. We will be discussing *Glory Over Everything* by Kathleen Grissom. This is a sort of sequel to *The Kitchen House*, but stands alone as a story of survival and love. In December, we will be reading *Vinegar Girl* by Anne Tyler. Plan to join us for all of the discussions.



****IN INDELIBLE INK** will meet on Wednesday, November 8, 10 am, at Ginny Hargrave's. We will be writing Limericks. There is no special theme ~ you can go online to see examples of a limerick. Please join us! We would welcome some new writers! We like oral versions, too.



****LUNCHIN' LADIES** will meet on Tuesday, November 21, 1 pm, at DeVino's restaurant in Pleasant Hill. Please let Marlene know by the 20th if you are interested in lunching then. Also, 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, November 27, 7 pm, at Diane Peterson's. Please let your hostess know if you will be attending. We will be discussing *The Muralist* by B. A. Shapiro. Described as a spellbinding mystery, set at a historic moment of creation and annihilation in the 1940's. In January we will read *Our Souls at Night* by Kent Haruf. Please join us!



****MATINEE IDLE** will go to the movies on Thursday, **DECEMBER 7th** ~ a change from our regular 4th Thursday due to Thanksgiving and Christmas. 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 ~ sometimes, lunch! .

ANNUAL LAYETTE SHOWER

Benefiting new mothers and babies
in need in Contra Costa County

We are meeting at

Susan Rheingruber's home

14 Pillon Real

Pleasant Hill

November 29, 2017

10 AM

Bring lightly used or new baby needs as gifts
(do not wrap) and have some fun with your
friends.

Please call if you plan to come
Susan Rheingruber 925-945-0347

OTHER GROUPS



****MAH JONGG**

COME PLAY MAH JONGG!

Mah Jongg meets at 12:30 PM on Friday, November 17th, 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. Contact:
Suzanne Salter at 925-935-0861, seabear2@msn.com
Gayle Miner at 925-349-6795, gayle.miner@yahoo.com
We play on the 3rd Friday of the month We would love to have you join our group.



****GRAND SLAMMERS**

, a social bridge group, plays on the second Monday of each month at 12:30 at the Brookview Club House. This month we meet on Monday, November 13th.

Each player pays \$5, which covers \$3 for our Local Scholarship Fund and \$2 for facility use. All player levels are welcome, members and non-members.

Contact Marlene DeLaurenti at mdl@astound.net or 925-934-4171 if you are interested in playing.

TECH TREK TIDINGS

Diane Coventry

To register for the **Painting with a Purpose** (See the flyer on page 5) fundraiser click on this link:

<http://www.paintingwithatwist.com/events/viewEvent.aspx?eventID=1099618>

using this passcode: **TECH TREK ROCKS**

and follow the directions. If you have any questions contact Diane Coventry.

diane.coventry@yahoo.com or 925-293-4699

*NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2017
7 PM
Rolling Green Clubhouse*

**Copy deadline for the
December 2017 N.E.W.S. is:
Wednesday, November 22nd**

Please email copy to:
Reba Siero rebasiero@yahoo.com
925-228-8211



Nominating Committee for 2017-2018

The Nominating Committee for 2017-2018 will be elected at the general meeting on November 15th. Nominations from the floor are accepted with the permission of the nominee.

There are three nominees from the Board:

Marlene Maksel
Elva Valli
Diane Coventry, alternate

And four nominees from the general membership:

Marlene De Laurenti
Janice Walker
Sandy Wolfe
Harriett Burt, alternate
Marilyn Thelen, Parliamentarian
925-228-2600 ilmthelen@comcast.net

“SOUP’S ON”

Just a reminder that our annual Soup Supper is Wednesday, January 24, 2019. Your homemade soups are the best!! so please be thinking of one you’d like to share.

Thank you,
Margie Pruitt and Carol Walsh

SUNSHINE Gayle Garrison

When a member needs a get well card, sympathy card, or just a thinking of you, please let me know.

Gayle Garrison
tarheel61@yahoo.com or 925-798-7528

Please, write any checks to the branch:
AAUW Pleasant Hill-Martinez Branch



Pleasant Hill-Martinez AAUW Tech Trek Fundraiser

*Painting with a Purpose for Tech Trek
2 hour class costs \$35- arrive 15-20 minutes early*

Saturday, November 18th 3:00 - 5:00 pm

*Painting with a Twist of Pleasant Hill
548 Contra Costa Blvd. Suite E/F
Pleasant Hill, Ca. 94523*

*Studio holds only 30 guests - in the Bar Room, you can order beer and wine
Appetizers and endless lemonade or ice tea*

*Step-by-step instruction with an experienced and enthusiastic local artist.
You will leave with a one-of-a-kind creation and a new found talent.*

Starry Night over the Golden Gate



Sign up online at:

<https://www.paintingwithatwist.com/events/viewevent.aspx?eventId=1099618>

*This event requires this passcode to register - **TECH TREK ROCKS***

Space is limited





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 October Program on the **Photos Page**. Check out all of the upcoming Programs, Fund Raisers, and Events on the **Program Page**.

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

EDUCATION

Gayle Duncan

High rates of truancy continue to be a problem in Contra Costa County. Truancy has social and economic consequences which greatly affect our community. It is important that students graduate from high school with the skills they need to become successful in pursuing a college degree, or finding a job. By becoming successful, these students can make positive contributions to society. There are specific courts and an agency that have been created to assist parents trying to combat truancy with their children. Thus, parents of children in grades K-7, can go to Parent Court. This court was created to provide parents with strategies that stress the importance of getting their children to school, and how to achieve that goal. Counseling Options and Parent Education (C.O.P.E.), a local nonprofit, offers free services to parents to help them manage challenging children. The Teen Truancy Court works with parents, students, and school staff to assist students in improving and maintaining their attendance. On Friday, November 3rd, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 4500 John Glenn Drive, Concord, C.O.P.E., Superior Court, the District Attorney's Office, the Contra Costa County Office of Education, and probation departments, will host "Kids: Investing in Our Future." Tickets are \$75.00. There will be a no-host bar, sit-down dinner, dessert auction, and raffle prizes. You can call 925-689-5811, or go to www.copefamilysupport.com, for more information. Michael Pritchard, who is a retired probation officer, will be the keynote speaker. He will be sharing his experiences working with young people. Juvenile Court judges, the district attorney, a probation officer, the Contra Costa Superintendent, and school district representatives will join Pritchard to discuss solutions to the problem of truancy. C.O.P.E offers programs in English and Spanish for families of teens, children to age 17, special needs children, co-parenting and partner support, anger management, and much more. Classes are available at 228 Diamond Blvd., Concord, their headquarters, and at locations in Pittsburg, Bay Point, and Richmond. C.O.P.E.'s mission is to "prevent child abuse, strengthen family relationships through support services that empower parents, encourage healthy relationships, and cultivate nurturing families."

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Bea Ball and Elva Valli, Membership VPs

Once again we thank you for sending in your dues renewals in such a timely manner. It is now time to review our membership roster in order to make certain it is up to date. With membership for the first quarter of the 2018 fiscal year now processed we are being asked to verify the accuracy of our membership records. AAUW branch members whose national dues have been received in the national office as of September 30th should now reflect an expiration date of June 30, 2018 on our member roster. We anticipate that they will.

Your Membership VPs thought there would be a lull in their duties following the rush of the Welcome Brunch. Not so! The interest in joining our AAUW branch continues with gusto. Thanks to you and your referrals we are still receiving requests for application forms. We have two new members this month and several more requests for forms.

Last month we welcomed Donna DiBetta, Pam Schmitz, Karen Sandri, and Sabiha Gokcen.

This month, please welcome:

Marylee Taylor

1270 Escobar St

Martinez, CA 94553

mct@psu.edu

(510) 910-3155

Kathleen Woulfe

2154 Deerwood Dr

Martinez, CA 94553

kathleendwoulfe@aol.com

UC Berkeley '64, Cornell '66, Harvard '76

Ph.D. Social Psychology

Santa Clara University

Social Science, Teaching Credential

Bea Ball at (925) 890-0202 and Elva Valli at (925) 228-8056

AAUW FUND

Marlene Maksel and Barbara Chambers, AAUW Fund VPs

FUND FACTS

THANK YOU to all of the generous members and supporters of AAUW Fund. As of this writing, you have donated a whopping \$2,240 to the various entities of AAUW Fund.

All of your checks have been sent to the Association office in Washington, DC and are fully tax deductible.

One of the popular entities of AAUW Fund is the Leadership Programs. Under one of these programs, donations support the National Conference for College Student Women Leaders (NCCSWL). For the past 3 years, thanks to your generosity, we have been able to send a student from DVC to the University of Maryland for participation in the conference ~ all expenses provided. You have heard inspiring reports from Zuhail Rahmani and Shia Stennis about the conference at our annual September Brunch.

So, thank you again for your giving spirit and your dedication to advancing equity for women and girls!



**Advancing equity for women and girls
through advocacy, education, philan-
thropy and research**





A Salute to Spring
Saturday, May 19, 2018 3:00-6:00 pm

Several members attended the October 24th organizational meeting for our *Salute to Spring* fundraiser and preparations continue to progress. Thank you to all who attended and to all who already have contributed items to our silent auction and/or have offered to assist us with appetizers and desserts.

We are still seeking baskets, full or empty, and items to fill them. If you are able to donate a gift card or any other basket item, or wish to help in any way, do contact one of us!

All donations and assistance will be greatly appreciated!

Co-Chairs:

Marlene DeLaurenti mdl@astound.net
Janice Walker sandjwalk@comcast.net



I have cut and pasted some articles that pertain to Public Policy from both our State and National Offices. Please note how Secretary DeVos is working to get rid of Policy IX and how that actions will hurt women in so many ways.

California Works to Bolster Title IX Protections for Students

Earlier this month, Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos [announced](#) that the Department of Education would be reviewing [Title IX](#) regulations and guidance, including rescinding a 2011 Dear Colleague Letter on Title IX and sexual violence that aims to prevent and end discrimination in our schools. California State Sen. Hannah-Beth Jackson (D), backed by AAUW of California members, is [championing a bill](#) that would enshrine protections similar to those laid out in the 2011 Dear Colleague Letter into law. The bill passed both chambers of the California legislature and awaits Gov. Jerry Brown's (D) signature. Other states looking to [stand with survivors](#) and vigorously enforce Title IX should consider advocating for similar legislation in their own statehouses.

From the National AAUW Don't let Congress defund the equal pay data collection. Call your Representative at 1-855-973-0824 now!

The latest numbers are out and they confirm what we already know – the gender pay gap is persistent and it's pernicious. According to [new data](#) released today, U.S. women make on average only 80 cents for every dollar men are paid.

To add insult to injury, Congress is now moving to defund a crucial data collection tool that helps employers and enforcers identify pay discrimination.

Let's be clear: voting to defund the equal pay data collection is a vote against equal pay.

This week, the House of Representatives will vote on the FY 2018 Commerce, Justice, Science appropriations bill, which includes language that would defund the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's collection of summary pay data by gender, race, and ethnicity through the Employer Information Report, known as the EEO-1. **This information is invaluable to the fight for fair pay.** That's why Representatives DeLauro, Frankel, and Scott have offered an amendment that would restore funding for the EEO-1 pay data collection.

Lita, we can't let this issue go down without a fight.

Call 1-855-973-0824 now to urge your representative to vote YES on the DeLauro/Frankel/Scott amendment to the FY18 Commerce, Justice, Science appropriations bill to restore funding for the equal pay data collection. When you use our phone line, you'll hear a brief script before being connected to the appropriate office. The vote could happen as soon as tonight, so don't wait to make your voice heard.

At our current rate of progress, the gender pay gap won't close for more than a century, but there are actions our lawmakers can take to make pay equity a reality.

Call 1-855-973-0824 now or [send an email](#) to your member of Congress and let them know you won't keep waiting.

This is particularly disturbing as it pertains to rape victims and Secretary's DeVos' apparent belief that most rape charges are false charges.

This week, AAUW helped to deliver over 100,000 letters from advocates who urged the Department of Education to protect and preserve the Title IX guidance that keeps students safe.

But yesterday, Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos announced that she is taking the [first step](#) towards dismantling protections for survivors of campus sexual assault, claiming that existing guidelines have "failed." According to this logic, the Secretary sees evidence that schools are failing to adequately protect students as a reason to weaken Title IX protections – not enforce them.

AAUW stands with survivors and [remains committed to protecting and defending Title IX](#). It's time for schools to step up and demonstrate that they will do the right thing for their students even in the midst of potential rollbacks from the Department of Education. That's why we're calling on you to take strategic action now.

Here's what you can do to stand up to this attack on civil rights:

Schedule a visit to your local school's Title IX Coordinator to address the Department of Education's announcement about the future of Title IX enforcement. Use our [lookup tool](#) to find their contact information and [log your meeting plans here](#) so that we can send you materials.

At the meeting, explain that AAUW opposes any intent to roll back this guidance. AAUW urges schools to leave in place their current, strong policies. You can bring [AAUW's statement](#) to share.

Urge your local Title IX Coordinator to speak out about the importance of upholding Title IX protections at their school.

This sample [letter to editor](#) can be customized and co-signed by meeting attendees, your branch members, other allies, and local Title IX Coordinators. [Submit](#) it to a local paper or campus publication.

Ask what support your local Title IX Coordinator needs from the community. Hundreds of AAUW members have [delivered resources](#) to Title IX Coordinators to help these individuals better understand and perform their important jobs of ensuring that learning environments are free from sex discrimination. Find out how you can continue to support these efforts through ongoing conversation, community events, and more.

As a committed AAUW activist and Title IX advocate, you've helped move the needle toward preventing and ending discrimination in our schools.

With this progress under attack, now more than ever we need to make our voices heard.

Lita Gloor-Little

lgloorlittle@gmail.com

2017–2018 LEADERSHIP TEAM

November 2017 and beyond

- Nov 1** Morning Books, 10 am, Gayle Garrison's
- Nov 4** Tech Trek/AAUW Fund Fundraiser
Bowling Tournament, 12:30 - 4:30 pm
Paddock Bowl, Martinez
- Nov 8** In Indelible Ink, 10 am, Ginny Hargrave's
- Nov 8** Board meeting, 7 pm,
Rolling Green Clubhouse
- Nov 13** Grand Slammers Bridge, 12:30 ppm
Brookview Clubhouse
- Nov 15** October program, 7 pm,
Las Juntas Elementary School STEAM Lab
- Nov 17** Mah Jongg, 12:30 pm
Brookview Clubhouse
- Nov 18** Painting for a Purpose for Tech Trek, 3 pm,
Painting with a Twist, Pleasant Hill
- Nov 21** Lunchin' Ladies, 1 pm, Marlene by the 20th
DeVino's, Pleasant Hill
- Nov 22** October 2017 N.E.W.S. deadline to Reba
- Nov 27** Evening Books, 7 pm, Diane Peterson's
- Nov 29** Layette Shower, 10 am, Susan Rheingruber's
- Dec 7** Matinee Idle, Marlene Maksel
- Jan 24, 2018** Soup Supper
- May 19, 2018** A Salute to Spring, 3 - 6 pm,
Cheryl Buscaglia's home

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November 22nd. Please email copy to:

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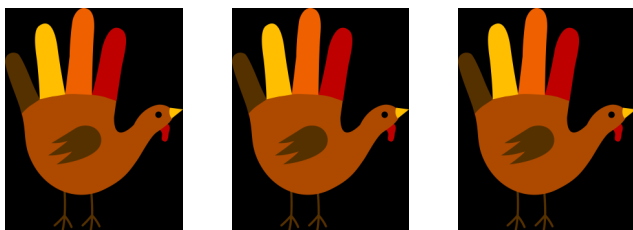
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PH-M AAUW N.E.W.S. SPONSOR

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