



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 60 Issue 6

February 2018

Ann Notarangelo

“From Here to There: TV News and Beyond”



Wednesday, February 21, 2018, 7 pm

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

1601 Mary Drive, Pleasant Hill, CA

Ann Notarangelo is the External Relations Manager at Shell Martinez Refinery and a former award winning Bay Area journalist. A lifelong resident of Contra Costa County, she is best known for her Emmy award winning broadcast career and 14-year tenure at KPIX (CBS-San Francisco). These days, Ann manages Shell Martinez Refinery's internal and external communications department, community outreach and social investment programs. Ann is very involved in the community and helps with various non-profits, emceeding events throughout the East Bay. She volunteers her time for many organizations including SHELTER, Inc. and The Contra Costa Women's Commission. Ann graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from UCLA. She and her husband (a reporter at KPIX 5) live in Contra Costa County with their two daughters



PRESIDENTIAL POSTINGS

On Wednesday, January 24, our branch held its annual Soup Supper, with a tremendous variety of outstanding soups and scrumptious desserts to partake in. Retired Congressman **George Miller** was our speaker for the evening. He was kind enough to step in at the last minute when our original speaker **Lara Delaney** had to cancel her presentation due to an important meeting of the Martinez City Council. Congressman Miller spoke about the state of affairs in this country at this moment in time, comparing it to his own experiences in Congress over his 50 year career. We also found out about some of the issues he has been involved in since retiring from Congress. He then engaged the audience in a spirited Q & A. We express our appreciation to event organizers **Margie Pruitt** and **Carol Walsh**, along with Program VPs **Bambi Barker** and **Sally Figueiredo** for making this evening a success. In addition, we thank **Patricia Harris** and **Marge Munger** for providing coffee and tea. And finally, we are grateful to all those who prepared delicious soups and desserts. This event was a success because of the collective efforts of our branch membership.

During the evening, Local Scholarship Co-Chairs **Marie Cattalini** and **Carol Walsh** passed out invitations to "A Coffee Klatch". While sitting down for a cup of coffee in the morning, we should think about this year's graduates from Alhambra and College Park High Schools who will be going on to attend four year colleges or universities. Our branch will be giving out \$1000 scholarships to four deserving young women - two from each high school. Please consider contributing to the education of these young women. Any amount you can donate is very much appreciated. In addition, Local Scholarships will hold a fundraiser at BJ's Restaurant's Sun Valley Mall location in Concord on Thursday, February 15. In your Koffee Klatch envelope is a flyer which must be presented at the event in order for BJ's to donate 20% of the proceeds from food and soft beverage sales to our branch. So, go out and enjoy a great meal, knowing that you are helping our local high school graduates receive a scholarship towards their college educations.

Our Nominating Committee is hard at work recruiting mem-

bers to join our Executive Committee as 2017-2018 Officers. Members are encouraged to join this group of hard working women to help further the mission of advancing equity for women and girls. If you are interested in accepting an office, whether it be on the executive committee or as an appointed officer, please contact Parliamentarian **Marilyn Thelen** or committee members: **Marlene Maksel, Elva Valli, Diane Coventry, Marlene De Laurenti, Janice Walker, Sandy Wolfe** or **Harriett Burt**. Your participation is welcome and encouraged.

Registration is now open for AAUW California's 2018 State Convention in Irvine beginning Friday, April 27th and ending Sunday, April 29th. You can register at <http://www.aauw-ca.org/2017-convention/>. If interested in attending, please contact Co-Presidents **Jennifer Apkarian** or **Claudia Bass**.

The SAM program at Fair Oaks in Pleasant Hill will be back and running at the beginning of February and is being organized by Suzanne Mesetz. She is planning on doing cave art and drawings and certainly could use help. Finger printing and TB testing are no longer necessary to volunteer at the school, just more helping hands. If you are interested in volunteering contact Suzanne.

Planning is continuing for our major fundraiser "A Salute to Spring" to be held on May 19. The next planning meeting will be on March 27th at 11:00 at Cheryl Buscaglia's house. We encourage you to come and help with the planning as a way to get involved with the branch. If you can help in any way contact Janice Walker or Marlene De Laurenti.

As of January 22nd, the state AAUW election to return AAUW California to a Public Benefit Corporation did not pass because of four no votes even though 99% voted yes. In order to change a status of a corporation according to California state law there has to be a unanimous vote or in other words a 100% yes vote. AAUW is extending the opportunity for anyone who voted "no" to change their vote to "yes" by February 10, 2018. It is imperative to get the 100% yes vote, so if anyone voted "no", please change your vote to "yes". Otherwise, AAUW California will move into a complex and costly appeal process with the state. For more information you can go to the state website at www.aauw-ca.org.

We hope to see everyone at our next meeting on Wednesday, February 21, when Ann Notarangelo will speak to us about "*From Here to There: TV News and Beyond*". Ann was an Emmy winning broadcaster for 14 years at KPIX-5 and is now External Relations Manager at Shell, overseeing outreach programs, advocacy and community partnerships. It promises to be a very interesting presentations. More information is included in this newsletter.

Happy Valentine's Day!

Jennifer and Claudia

INTEREST SECTIONS MEETINGS



****MORNING BOOKS** will meet on Wednesday, February 7, 10 am, at Beverly Diefenbacher's. PLEASE let your hostess know you will be attending. We will be discussing our classic, 1984, by George Orwell. Because many of our members are former schoolteachers and like to attend the Retired Teachers Assn. luncheon, we will try to start our discussion earlier and save social time for later. In March, we will be reading *The Other Einstein* by Marie Benedict. Plan to join us for all of the discussions.



****IN INDELIBLE INK** will meet on Wednesday, February 14, 10 am, at Ginny Hargrave's. Our topic will be, appropriately, "Valentine's Day." You can write about any aspect of the day ~ history, memories, etc. Please join us! We would welcome some new writers! We like oral versions, too.



****LUNCHIN' LADIES** will meet for lunch on Tuesday, February 20, 1 pm, at Lokanta Mediterranean Grill & Bar at 1520 Locust St. in WC. Please let Marlene know before the 19th, so reservations can be made. Also, please give Marlene any suggestions for a great restaurant it would be fun for us to try.



****EVENING BOOKS** will meet on Monday, February 26, 7 pm, at Marge Munger's. We will be discussing our *The Chilbury Ladies' Choir* by Jennifer Ryan. Can women carry the choir by themselves while the men are at war? In March we will read *The Last Castle* by Denise Kiernan. Please join us!



****MATINEE IDLE** will go to the movies on Thursday, February 22nd. 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!

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

OTHER GROUPS



****MAH JONGG**

COME PLAY MAH JONGG!

Mah Jongg meets at 12:30 PM on Friday, February 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. 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, February 12th.

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.

FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2018

7 PM

Rolling Green Clubhouse

Copy deadline for the

March 2018 N.E.W.S. is:

Sunday, February 25th

Please email copy to:

Reba Siero rebasiero@yahoo.com

925-228-8211

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

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Bea Ball and Elva Valli, Membership VPs

During these first two months of each year Membership Co-Chairs optimistically hope for a renewed interest by women wanting to join AAUW. With your continued help we hope to accept applications between now and March 15th. As always dues are decreased between January 1st, and March 15th, for new members.

You will be receiving your dues reminder letters in early March. Dues are payable between March 16th and June 30th. We would like to set a due date earlier than the end of June in order to process all renewals in a timely manner to facilitate the printing of our directory and not exclude anyone because of tardy dues.

For any of you who may have Grads on the horizon we'd like to remind you of AAUW's Give-a-Grad-a-Gift. Any member of AAUW can gift a college graduate a one year membership for free. You can give this gift within 2 years of graduation. There are no limits to how many memberships you can gift. If you would like to gift a graduate just log on to the National web site, www.aauw.org, and follow the links to Give a Grad a Gift.

Joan Foster has a new email address: joanfoster2002@hotmail.com

Again, thank you for continuing to help your membership VPs.

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

EDUCATION

Gayle Duncan

The Mt. Diablo Unified School District has partnered with Classroom Champions to bring Olympians and Paralympians to be mentors at eight elementary and middle schools. Classroom Champions is an international education nonprofit organization that targets classrooms in underserved communities. It is hoped that in addition to the mentoring, students will be rooting for Team USA, during the winter Olympics, with their "insider knowledge" learned from the athlete mentors. Mt. Diablo is the first district, in the country, to be a Champion District. There are 24 teachers and classrooms participating in the program. The organization was co-founded, in 2009, by Olympic Gold Medal bobsledder, Steve Mesler and Dr. Leigh Mesler Parise. The program is available for K-8 classrooms in publicly funded schools. American and Canadian athletes interact with students through live and recorded video chats. Teacher training is provided to coordinate the monthly video messages with classroom curriculum. Topics include lessons on goal setting, perseverance, courage, fair play, and leadership, to name a few. Students share photographs and monthly summaries with athletes and other participants, through an internal online network. Students react positively when the athletes are announced at the beginning of the school year. They especially get excited when they see the athletes' medals. A digital relationship is formed as the students follow the athletes who are constantly encouraging them. The sixth-grade program coordinates with the curriculum that includes: Greece, math, and health, among other subjects. Especially important are the life skills that are taught. Many students have siblings with disabilities and the program helps them to express their struggles at home. Diversity is another important topic. Students learn how to set goals that will help them achieve their dreams. They learn to appreciate diversity and value their communities and the world around them. Students with a physical disability have learned the meaning of "Paralympic," the Paralympian symbol, and "disability." The students can connect with para Alpine skier Tyler Carter and learn that, despite his right leg being amputated below the knee, he can ski. The athletes also provide positive role models for female and male students, who otherwise may have only negative influences in their lives. The program also encourages students that it is ok to make mistakes, and be wrong, but if they "persevere" as the athletes have done, they can be successful. For more information about Classroom Champions at <https://www.classroomchampions.org/> and for the Mt. Diablo program at www.mdusd.org.



A Salute to Spring

Saturday, May 19, 2018 3:00-6:00 pm

The *Salute to Spring* committee met on January 23 to discuss progress and ongoing plans for the next four months leading up to our big event on May 19. Hope you have marked the date on your calendar!

We continue to accrue items: gift cards, baskets, and basket items. Thank you to all who have already assisted us in these efforts. However, we are still in need of some additional things that would help to complete some baskets, such as a bottle of tequila, any kitchen item, or items that would complete an Italian themed basket. These and any items you wish to donate, as well as any gift cards you might be able to solicit for us, would be most helpful. All the little things will add up to profits for our Funds, Scholarship and Tech Trek programs.

Tickets for our event will go on sale starting next month, so check March's newsletter for ticket information.

Our next *Salute to Spring* committee meeting will be Tuesday, March 27, at 11:00, at Cheryl Buscaglia's home.

Co-Chairs:

Marlene De Laurenti mdl@astound.net

Janice Walker sandjwalk@comcast.net



Local Scholarships Fundraiser at BJs

Come join us for a great meal with a 20% donation to AAUW Local Scholarships on Thursday, February 15th. Bring your coupon, printed from the attachment, if you don't already have one, and bring your friends and family. It's good from 11AM to 10PM, but you MUST have a coupon for us to get the profit.

Marie and I will be there from 11:30-1 if you'd like to join us. Or get a group together for lunch or dinner.

Carol Walsh and Marie Cattalini
Local Scholarships co-chairs

Soup Supper Strays

These two items may already have found their homes, but just in case:

A dark green charger plate that came with cupcakes on it. If it is yours you can contact me and I can arrange with you to return it.

Claudia Bass, 372-8679 or cbasslancer29@aol.com

An Oneida soup ladle. Please contact Jennifer to return it to her.

Jennifer Apkarian, apkarian1@att.net



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 January Soup Supper on the **Photos 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

SOUP SUPPER FINALE

two, four, six, eight Who do we appreciate?

YOU!

For all your wonderful soups, corn bread, garlic bread, specialty bread and all your work in preparations. Gosh, everything was delicious!

For your fabulous help in the kitchen keeping things clean, overseeing coffee, tea, and water. It went so well!

For all of you who pitched in with setup, (including the microphone, the cords and power strips), with clean up, and with all that goes between. How wonderful you were!

For all who endured the rain, the umbrellas, and came to support the evening with your financial contributions. How great that is!

Thank you all so very much. It was a fun evening!

Margie Pruitt and Carol Walsh

TECH TREK TIDINGS

Diane Coventry

Thank you to all for your generous donations and support towards Tech Trek this past year. We had several fabulous, successful fundraisers, Bowling Blast and Painting with a Twist, to name a couple. Both of which we will consider doing again. We have been fortunate to direct tax-deducted payments directly to our Sonoma State University Camp. The cost of camp is \$1000 and we are slated with slots for 5 campers. Since our budget is very much in the green, our committee has decided to slow down on fundraising specifically for Tech Trek this year. You, of course, may continue make contributions.

The Tech Trek camper selection process is well underway. Information brochures, nomination forms, and applications have been sent to our four middle schools, due back February 20. The committee will review them and set up interviews with the top finalists on March 31st. One of our campers from 2016, Isabella Martinez, is applying this year to be a Junior Counselor. Let's keep our fingers crossed that she gets accepted.

On a statewide level, the State Project Coordinator of AAUW Tech Trek, Linda Stinebaugh, has informed us that the 2018 California Convention in April, held in Irvine, is going to feature a Tech Trek reunion along with a special luncheon featuring the Trekkers. More details about this will come in the Perspective. In the meantime, Trink and I are busy updating the spreadsheet from the TT data base of campers. Our first camp was in 1998 at Stanford University. We send 3 girls, Jackie DeGear, Ashley Danford, and Suzanne Barber. How many of you remember them? I was proud to note that my daughter Erinn attended the Stanford camp in 1999 and in 2000 Dorathea Siero was a camper. As I look through the list I see other familiar names and wonder how many of the girls have careers in STEM and have moved out of the area. Standing Proud to be a Woman!

AAUW FUND FACTS

Marlene Maksel and Barbara Chambers, AAUW Fund VPs

One of the most pleasurable "duties" of the AAUW Fund Committee is to pick a candidate for the annual National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). This will be our 4th year to send a woman student leader from DVC to the conference at the University of Maryland in College Park, Maryland.

This year we had 5 applications from which to choose. While all applicants were deserving of attending the conference, our committee chose Erika Ramos from Bay Point.

Erika had outstanding recommendations from DVC personnel in her work with the Puente Project and as a Student Ambassador. She plans to earn a BS in Psychology and an MA in Education. She is very interested in giving back to her community and has already exhibited skills in that area. Hopefully, you will all meet Erika in September.

NCCWSL starts on the evening of May 30 and runs through noon on June 2. While there, the attendees will learn leadership skills through extensive workshop curricula. There will also be a Graduate School and Career Fair; inspiring keynote speakers and role models; plus a visit to our nation's capital.

Thank you all for making this possible through your generous donations.



As your Public Policy Chair, I have tried to be as non-partisan as possible, while making sure everyone gets the highlights of the various publications that are sent to me. The 2018 Women's Marches across the Country focused on getting women to vote. If anyone is interested in helping to register voters, I would be happy to get the information and organize a registration drive amongst our AAUW group and in a public location.

Please email me if you're interested in participating: lgloorlittle@gmail.com.

From National AAUW:

This year marks the 45th anniversary of the landmark U.S. Supreme Court case *Roe v. Wade*, which legalized abortion in the United States. Research has shown that access to safe and legal reproductive health care, including abortion, fosters self-sufficiency, promotes preventive health care, and protects individuals and their families from the spread of sexually transmitted infections.

But control over one's reproductive life is also part and parcel to achieving economic autonomy; without reproductive choice, women cannot attain equal pay or opportunity in the workforce. The existing pay gap already hurts women, their families, and the economy. Limiting reproductive choices and access only compounds these issues.

On the anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, we celebrate our freedoms and look to a future in which increased access to critical health care leads to greater economic security and parity for women. But that future is not secure—just this week, the House of Representatives passed a bill that would undermine access to abortion. In addition, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services ramped up efforts to expand providers' ability to refuse access to abortion services, birth control, and other health care; and rescinded guidance explaining that state efforts to block patients' access to care at Planned Parenthood health centers violate federal law. AAUW will continue to advocate for women's access to reproductive health care, and oppose efforts to restrict it.

On January 12th I received this email from National:

Bits and Pieces

- A federal court on Tuesday ruled that North Carolina's congressional districts had been unconstitutionally drawn to give Republicans a political advantage. The ruling ordered the state legislature to redraw the districts by January 24.
- On Thursday, the Trump administration announced that states will now be allowed to impose work requirements for Medicaid programs. This decision disproportionately impacts women, who make up 62 percent of those who could lose coverage.
- The Senate this week announced an updated list of committee assignments for the second session of the 115th Congress. New Sens. Doug Jones (D-AL) and Tina Smith (D-MN) are both assigned to the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee, while Sens. Kamala Harris (D-CA) and Cory Booker (D-NJ) made history as the second black woman and first black man appointed to the Committee on the Judiciary.

At the State Level:

The Winter edition of the *California Perspective* provides an insight into important and interesting AAUW state and local branch news.

In this edition, you'll discover

- How to register for and volunteer at the AAUW California Convention.
- How you can take an active role in setting the direction of AAUW California by joining the AAUW California Leadership Team.
- Who the candidates are for the Secretary and five director positions that will be voted on from April 22 - May 12th.
- Exciting victories in Pay Equity.

...and much, much more.

Go to the web site www.AAUW-CA.org

(Public Policy continues on page 9)

(Public Policy continues from page 8)

Happy New Year and welcome to the 2018 legislative session! As of today, legislatures are meeting in 38 states. We're looking forward to working together to pass legislation that will positively impact women and families across the country.

We made a lot of progress last year, with several equal pay victories, advancements in paid sick and family leave programs, momentum on passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, and increased awareness of issues surrounding workplace sexual harassment and assault. We expect these trends to continue and plan on notching many more wins.

We know the successes will continue because women are making it happen. A poll of individuals in the Millennial generation found that women were more likely than men to have reported engaging in political activity during the past year. This trend is apparent across different categories of activism, from engaging online to volunteering to attending public events. This is likely correlated with the finding that there is rising discontent with the position of women in U.S. society; compared to a poll 10 years ago, there is an 11 percentage point increase in that sentiment among all Americans.

Women are fired up and they are increasingly doing something about it. We're excited to work together to harness that momentum and bring about real change in 2018 at the state and local levels.

Kate Nielson
State Policy Manager

Paid Leave Laws and Minimum Wage Hikes Go into Effect on January 1

Many state laws successfully passed in previous legislative sessions are going into effect now that the calendar has turned to 2018. Paid family leave protections—new to New York and expanded in California—began on January 1, while Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington residents now earn paid sick days. With last week's vote to override Gov. Larry Hogan's (R-MD) veto of a paid sick days bill, Maryland workers will also see changes in the coming months. And on April 1, pregnant workers in Massachusetts will have greater access to on-the-job accommodations. Additionally, 18 states instituted minimum wage hikes to start the new year. Many of these increases are incremental bumps toward even higher wages that are gradually taking effect and are much needed in light of a new report from Bloomberg finding that the gap between the earnings of U.S. CEOs and those of average U.S. workers is the widest worldwide.

States Offer Legislative Solutions to the Student Debt Crisis

Approximately 44 million borrowers in the United States hold about \$1.3 trillion in outstanding student loans, and women hold nearly two-thirds of that debt load. Women take on larger student loans than men do, and because of the gender pay gap, they have less disposable income with which to repay their loans after graduation. Many state policymakers are realizing the urgent need to enact reforms and tackle the student debt crisis. Higher Ed Not Debt created a map to track legislative efforts across the country. It focuses on five policy areas: borrower's rights, for-profit college accountability, immigration and higher education, refunding higher education, and student loan refinancing.

Lita Gloor-Little
lgloorlittle@gmail.com

KINDER'S COUPONS RETURN FOR SPRING

The Kinder's coupon is back just in time for treats for children and grandchildren after baseball and soccer or for adults to skip having to make dinner or lunch or a picnic basket. \$10 each with our cut going to Fund. They will be good from March 20 to July 20 although we have to turn in money and any unsold tickets in early to mid May. We ordered 300. We'll have them ready to sell at the March meeting. By the way, besides soda pop they offer lemonade or iced tea for the beverage. We will have news about which location(s) they may be used at soon. Cross fingers.

Harriett Burt

2017–2018 LEADERSHIP TEAM

February 2018 and beyond

- Feb 7** Morning Books, 10 am,
Beverly Diefenbacher
- Feb 12** Grand Slammers Bridge, 12:30 pm,
Brookview Clubhouse
- Feb 14** In Indelible Ink, 10 am, Ginny Hargrave
- Feb 14** Board meeting, 7 pm,
Rolling Green Clubhouse
- Feb 15** Local Scholarship Fundraiser at BJ's in Sun
Valley Mall (see attached flyer)
- Feb 16** Mah Jongg, 12:30 pm,
Brookview Clubhouse
- Feb 20** Lunchin' Ladies, 1 pm, Lokanta, W.C.
RSVP to Marlene Maksel by February 19
- Feb 21** Ann Notarangelo
"From Here to There: TV News and Beyond"
- Feb 22** Matinee Idle, Marlene Maksel
- Feb 25** March 2018 N.E.W.S. deadline to Reba
- Feb 26** Evening Books, 7 pm, Marge Munger
- Mar 21** Cathy Foxhoven
Leader on Loan: AAUW Program
- Mar 27** A Salute to Spring committee, 11 am,
Cheryl Buscaglia
- Apr 18** Prof. Mary Volmer
"Women and the California Gold Rush"
- Apr 27-29** AAUW CA Convention, Irvine
- May 19** A Salute to Spring, 3 - 6 pm,
Cheryl Buscaglia's home
- Jun 2** End of Year Brunch, Scholarship & Tech Trek
Awards, Installation of Officers

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