



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 9

May/June 2018



A Salute to Spring

A benefit for Pleasant Hill – Martinez AAUW

Providing Scholarships for Tech Trek, Local Scholarships, AAUW Fund

Saturday, May 19, 2018

3:00 pm - 6 pm

Appetizers, Desserts and Wine from local vineyards

Silent Auction (Checks or Cash Only)

50/50 Raffle Live Music Door Prizes

Home of Cheryl and Dick Buscaglia

132 Stonehurst Court, Martinez

\$40 per person

For reservations, complete and mail the form below along with your check.



Cut Here

Names of Attendees _____

of Reservations _____ **at \$40 each. Total enclosed \$** _____

Checks payable to: AAUW Pleasant Hill – Martinez Branch

Send to: Janice Walker, 524 Monti Circle, Pleasant Hill 94523



PRESIDENTIAL POSTINGS

As one sits outside and listens to the birds chirp their chorus and the bees busily buzz it indicates that spring is here in all of its glory. Our major fundraiser is coming up which is appropriately titled "A Salute to Spring". It should be a wonderful day complete with wine, food, many beautiful silent auction baskets and items. Most important it is a time for members and friends to connect and raise money for AAUW Fund, Tech Trek and local scholarships which are worthy projects. So looking forward to seeing you Saturday May 19th. Contact Janice Walker to place your reservation. In advance a heartfelt thanks goes to Marlene De Laurenti and Janice Walker for chairing the event and the many committee members for all their help and support. Appreciation is extended to Cheryl Buscaglia and her husband for opening up their lovely home and hosting this event.

Upon reflection, our branch has been very busy this past year fulfilling AAUW's mission of education and equity for girls and women. We have had a variety of fundraisers and many of them were fun in the process. This branch has been very generous with donations and many thanks to the members. As a result we will be sending five seventh grade girls to Tech Trek science camp, a student from DVC will be going to Maryland for NCCWSL, scholarships will be given to four high school girls from Alhambra and College Park and funds will be sent to AAUW at the national level. This would not have been possible without the hard work many members have done to contribute to our successes. We could fill pages of names but know your efforts are greatly appreciated.

This year we had some very interesting programs and April was as well. Mary Volmer talked about the roles of women during the California Gold Rush and throughout the west as our nation was expanding. Women were greatly outnumbered and it was interesting to find out how they survived in various roles, thrived and became successful. She also spoke about her writing process and her two fictional books of women characters in the Wild West and her research that went into the books. Mary was a very engaging speaker and generated many questions. Many of us are looking

forward to reading her books. Thank you to Bambi Barker and Sally Figueiredo for putting together such interesting programs.

The location for our programs have worked out very well at St. Andrew's Church and appreciation needs to be extended to the secretary Diana Nevares and custodian, Darrell Fowler who have been most helpful. Also thank you to Marge Munger for helping to coordinate the church staff.

Congratulations to our newly elected officers for 2018-2019. For president we were creative and will have four hard working women leading quarterly in that role. Kudos to Marilyn Thelen and the nominating committee for their diligent and hard work filling the leadership positions which was not an easy task. Now the appointed offices and positions need to be filled. Consider becoming involved and filling one of these positions. It is a great way to get to know some of our members and be a part of contributing to our branch successes. Just remember you will have a supportive board and most positions are shared. Consider saying yes or volunteering. If you are interested contact Marilyn Thelen.

On Saturday June 2nd we will celebrate our branch successes at the End of the Year brunch. You will get to meet the Tech Trek girls and scholarship recipients along with their families. It is always rewarding and makes the hard work we do well worth it. Also at the brunch we will be installing our officers and honoring some of our members. We hope to have a great turn out.

You may have received an email from national AAUW on voting for three changes to the by-laws. One will be the degree requirement for joining, two is making the terms of the board stagger rather than replacing an entire board and third allowing some non AAUW members to serve in certain positions on the board. Voting started April 29th and will continue through June 9th. More information about these proposals is available on the AAUW Website.

We hope to see everyone May 19th at "The Salute to Spring" event and June 2nd at the End of the Year Brunch. Put September 15th on your calendar for our annual kick off brunch for the 2018-2019 year.

Two years have gone by very quickly and it has been an honor and a rewarding experience to be your co-presidents for the past two years. We couldn't have done it without so much help from you the members and appreciation is extended to you all. Also many thanks and appreciation goes to our board which consisted of elected and appointed officers and all those who served in appointed positions. We are so grateful for their support and enthusiasm for getting things done. We could always count on them for advice. Our leadership team was incredible. It is bittersweet to say goodbye to our co-president office but looking forward to staying active and being a part of an awesome group of women as AAUW Pleasant Hill-Martinez Branch.

Jennifer and Claudia



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

Wear your hat, bring your check book or cash, and indulge in one of our silent auction items! Here's a sampling of what's to come!



Champagne brunch for six

Lovely original art works and handmade craft items

A Night on the Town in Pleasant Hill and Martinez featuring local restaurants and tickets to movies and events

Must have designer perfumes Wonderful spa items

Golf and sports baskets including local gift certificates

Fine wines with local restaurant gift certificates

Patio and garden items for spring

Kitchen and grilling baskets containing fun items and appropriate gift certificates



Plus much more! So join us on May 19!



INTEREST SECTIONS MEETINGS



****MORNING BOOKS** will meet on Wednesday, May 2, 10 am, at Sherrie Moore's. PLEASE let your hostess know you will be attending. We will be discussing *The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane* by Lisa See. The story centers around a little-known region and its people in China and celebrates the bonds of family. Plan to join us!

In **JUNE**, we will meet for our annual potluck luncheon at the Brookview Clubhouse with Marlene Maksel and Ish Mendonsa as co-hostesses. We will not be discussing a book, but we will most probably have a quiz. Sign-ups for food will be at the May meeting.



****IN INDELIBLE INK** will meet on Wednesday, May 9, 10 am, at Ginny Hargrave's. Our topic will be "Changes in Fashions." Remember the first mini skirts? Bellbottoms? Please join us! We would welcome some new writers! We like oral versions, too.

In **JUNE**, In Indelible Ink will not meet.



****LUNCHIN' LADIES** will meet for lunch on Tuesday, May 15, 1 pm, at Fatty Maddie's in downtown PH. This restaurant seems to feature "comfort" food ~ and a lot of salads. Please let Marlene know before the 15th so reservations can be made. Also, please give Marlene any suggestions for a great restaurant it would be fun for us to try.

In **JUNE**, Lunchin' Ladies will not meet.



****EVENING BOOKS** will meet on Monday, June 4, 6 pm, at Jack's Restaurant in PH. The change in date is due to Memorial Day weekend. We will not be discussing a book, but will be planning for the 2018-19 year. Please let Marlene know if you plan to attend.



****MATINEE IDLE** will go to the movies on Thursday, May 24th. 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!

In **JUNE**, Matinee Idle will go to the movies on Thursday, June 28th.

OTHER GROUPS



****MAH JONGG**

COME PLAY MAH JONGG!

Mah Jongg meets at 12:30 PM on Friday, May 18th, at Brookview Clubhouse. New 2018 cards will be used.

In **JUNE**, Mah Jongg meets at 12:30 PM on Friday, June 15th, 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, May 14th.

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.

MAY BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 2018
7 PM

Rolling Green Clubhouse

Copy deadline for the
July/August 2018 N.E.W.S. is:

Monday, June 25th

THIS NEWSLETTER COVERS 2 MONTHS!

Please email copy to:

Reba Siero rebasiero@yahoo.com

925-228-8211

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

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Bea Ball and Elva Valli, Membership VPs

Another AAUW year coming to an end! With the end of it comes the busy business of closing one fiscal year and the even busier business of preparing for a new one.

Closing an AAUW year means welcoming the new Board and also the important renewal of dues. Bea and I greatly appreciate the response from all of you who have renewed your memberships, approximately 80 of you have done so already. If you have not yet sent in your renewal, remember that National dues increased by \$10.00 this year and the total is now \$97.00. We eagerly await your information forms and checks so that we can complete the National and Branch rosters for the 2018-2019 year. Dues must be paid by June 1, 2018.

At the April 18th general meeting a member's name was drawn and awarded free National dues. The lucky person was Beth Madruga. Congratulations!

We would like to thank the members for all the help and support we have received these past two years. We appreciate all of your help raising awareness about AAUW. As you introduce women to this organization, remember that new members will continue to need your encouragement so as to become involved, and to stay involved in this organization.

The incoming Membership VPs, Claudia Bass and Sarah Joy Haynes, will certainly appreciate receiving the same cooperation and support which you gave us. You will hear from them soon as they prepare for the September Welcome Brunch. That is one event which requires a great deal of cooperation from the entire branch.

Please extend a warm welcome to our two new members:

Nancy Pulpaneck

96 Rolling Green Circle

Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

650-345-0279

Npulpy750@att.net

Lewis & Clark College - BA History

San Jose State Univ. - MS Occupational Therapy

Diane Starkey

910 Cortina Court

Walnut Creek, CA 94598

925-947-1310

starkeyjk@yahoo.com

Loyola University, Chicago - BS Education

And we have a change of email address for Marie Smithousen: 43queens@gmail.com

Your Membership VPs,

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

Our sympathy to
Ish Mendonsa and family on
the passing of George;
husband, father, grandfather.
George was always supportive
of AAUW.

SUNSHINE

Gayle Garrison

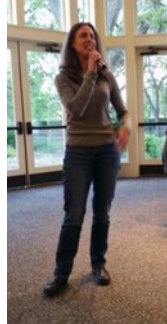
When a member needs a get well card, sympathy card, or just a thinking of you, please let me know.

Gayle Garrison

tarheel61@yahoo.com or 925-798-7528



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 April Program 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

AAUW FUND KINDER'S FUNDRAISER

A huge thank you to all of our members that purchased and sold Kinder's Coupons for AAUW Fund's recent fundraiser. It was very successful thanks to member and public generosity. We raised \$1,315.00 for our various projects. Thank you all so very, very much. Enjoy those sandwiches!

Sincerely,
Harriett Burt and Gayle Miner
AAUW Fund

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, June 2nd

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

St. Andrew's

Presbyterian Church

1601 Mary Drive, Pleasant Hill

Installation of Officers

Meet our Local Scholarship
Recipients

and

Tech Trek Campers

Barbara Newacheck Recipient
will be named

Names Gift Honorees will be
announced

This came out the week of April 23rd, but I thought it was important to spread the news of AAUW's work with the Work Smart Program.

On Tuesday, April 10, we will once again read reports about the gender pay gap and how, according to the Institute of Women's Policy Research, women only earn 80.5 cents to every dollar earned by men.

It will be Equal Pay Day, a symbolic marker that women have to work, on average, more than 15 months to make what men make in 12 months. We will be reminded of the sad truth that there is greater inequity among Latinas (54 cents to the dollar) and black women (63 cents to the dollar). We will discuss how pay gaps exist in every sector -- from hourly retail workers to partner-tracked lawyers. And we will lament that it will not close for more than 100 years on its current course.

Kimberly Churches

But that's only if we do nothing. Lawmakers, employers and workers all have a role in the fight for fair pay. And there are tangible, practical solutions all can take to achieve pay equity.

The reality is the pay gap is math, not myth. It matters every time women receive their paychecks and have less money to cover their bills, support their families or save for a home or retirement. It matters to our daughters and granddaughters, who grow up with less opportunity. It matters to spouses and partners who have to work more to help compensate for the difference. It matters to communities across the country, as women have less to contribute in spending power and taxes. It matters to employers, since closing the pay gap benefits businesses and organizations, creating a better workplace where everyone can thrive.

And it matters to the economy. Projections from the Institute for Women's Policy Research show the US economy would produce additional income of more than \$512 billion if women received equal pay. A recent McKinsey study showed that \$12 trillion could be added to the global GDP by 2025 with stronger workplace gender equity practices.

The pay gap matters to everyone -- and should be a top priority in every community across the country. I say it's time we work together to end it.

Equal pay movement has these lessons to learn

At the American Association of University Women (AAUW), our 170,000 members and supporters throughout the 50 states and US territories have a goal: Close the pay gap now.

And we have a plan. No single act will do it -- we need to bring the pieces together for change.

First, we need strong federal and state pay equity laws. It's been more than 50 years since the Equal Pay Act of 1963, prohibiting workplace wage discrimination on the basis of sex and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, barring all employment discrimination on the basis of race, religion and national origin, as well as sex. While these laws helped to make advances, they are in need of 21st century updates.

In short, times have changed, and laws must too. And many states are now taking action. In 2017, 42 states introduced laws to address the wage gap. Their strategies ranged from banning salary histories to ensuring employees have vital access to salary information in order to identify if they are being paid unfairly. Five states and Puerto Rico succeeded in passing their laws. This year, per AAUW's internal monitoring, 38 states have pay equity legislation under consideration, with a new law passing in Washington state just last month.

Everyone should have a shot at paid family leave

Second, we must change employer practices and break down barriers for women. Growing numbers of employ-

ers recognize fair pay and good benefits are not just good for employees, they are good for business and bottom lines. Businesses and organizations like [Salesforce](#), [Delta](#), [LUNA](#) and [Starbucks](#) are taking actions -- conducting pay audits and banning the use of prior salary histories, which perpetuates cycles of underpay.

Third, we must support women in advocating for themselves. At AAUW, we are launching a new commitment to train 10 million women to negotiate their financial futures by 2022. Through [AAUW's Work Smart program](#), we will give women the skills they need to effectively understand their market worth -- based on experience and accomplishments -- and the tools and confidence to negotiate for it.

In workshops around the country, we have seen that when women negotiate for higher pay, it can result in more income for themselves and their families. While you can't negotiate around discrimination, this effort will help accelerate change for women and the broader movement for equal pay.

Follow CNN Opinion

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We are calling on mayors and governors around the country to join us. Thanks to leadership in [Boston](#), [Washington, D.C.](#), [Tempe](#), [San Francisco](#), [Long Beach](#) and the [Commonwealth of Massachusetts](#), we are off to a good start. Beginning with Mayor Marty Walsh in Boston, all are partnering with AAUW to provide salary negotiation workshops that are helping women at every level of their career. Take [Maryanne](#), a 40-year-old mother of two and nonprofit media company employee who negotiated for a \$22,000 raise once she became aware she was paid less than her less-experienced male counterparts for equal work.

City by city and state by state, together we can change the paradigm by passing strong pay equity laws and engaging employers and individual employees in the [fight for equal pay](#).

And at the State level:

Another Equal Pay Day is in the books! On April 10, 2018, we marked the extra time the average woman working year-round, full time has to work to catch up to what the average man brought home in 2017 alone. While our annual observation of this "holiday" is getting old, AAUW members did an incredible job of marking the occasion.

AAUW activists made over 250 calls to state senators in 31 states and Washington, D.C., urging them to [enact strong pay equity protections](#). And while we're still collecting examples of your great work, we know that at least two dozen letters to the editor and op-eds were placed, 18 articles were published that included an AAUW member leader press interview, six states organized lobby days at their state capitols, and countless events were held across the country.

States also commemorated the day by passing a comprehensive equal pay bill through the [Rhode Island](#) senate, and announcing the signing of a strong equal pay bill in [New Jersey](#).

In exciting news, the day before Equal Pay Day, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit issued a ruling in the case of [Legal Advocacy Fund-supported plaintiff Aileen Rizo](#). The court [held](#) that using prior salary alone as a "factor other than sex" or in combination with other factors cannot justify a wage differential. Basing pay on [salary history](#) can perpetuate the gender pay gap, so this decision is a huge victory for employees who work in states covered by the Ninth Circuit. However, the fight for protections for all workers continues. [Federal legislation](#) like the Paycheck Fairness Act and Pay Equity for All Act would ban the use of salary history nationwide, as well as provide other necessary updates to strengthen the Equal Pay Act.

We're proud to work together to tackle the pervasive gender pay gap from multiple angles including in-depth [research](#), innovative [programming](#), and strategic federal and state [advocacy](#). With your continued efforts, we can make Equal Pay Day a thing of the past.

Kate Nielson

State Policy Manager

And on a completely different topic, but one that will affect all of our children and grandchildren the State Office gave us this article.

States Explore New Avenues to Protect Students from Debt

As the enormity of the student loan debt crisis becomes more and more apparent, states are taking action. Many legislators are working to pass strong legislation, but one Massachusetts state senator took an additional creative approach. The National Council of Higher Education Resources (NCHER) is a trade association representing national student loan servicers. NCHER lobbies for the federal government to set consistent standards for loan services – undermining state efforts to tackle the problem on an individual basis. Massachusetts State Senator Eric Lesser (D-First Hampden and Hampshire) and 48 of his colleagues sent a letter to the Massachusetts Education Financing Authority (MEFA), which pays dues to NCHER, asking the quasi-public entity to withdraw its membership. MEFA did so, and after similar pressure, the New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority followed suit. Coupled with efforts such as creating a bill of rights for student borrowers and a loan ombudsman to oversee and assist with the loan process, this is an important step to provide relief to student borrowers. Recently, AAUW members in Illinois, Virginia, and Washington have successfully advocated for such reforms.

And from the national, just some additional concerns and issues:

Bits and Pieces

On Monday, Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) became the first senator to give birth while in office. This makes the senator one of only 10 women to have a baby while serving as a member of Congress. AAUW congratulates Sen. Duckworth on the arrival of her daughter Maile!

On April 4, The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, and AAUW, among others, participated in a meeting with Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos during the U.S. Department of Education's School Safety and Climate Summit. The education and civil rights advocacy groups were invited to discuss the 2014 joint Department of Education and Department of Justice school discipline guidance, which addresses racial disparities in school discipline. The advocates voiced their grave concerns about the possibility that the Trump administration will rescind these vital protections for minority students, urging the Department to stand by its commitment to protect students' civil rights by keeping this crucial guidance in place.

Following an ethics inquiry regarding sexual harassment allegations, Rep. Blake Farenthold (R-TX) announced Friday that he would resign from Congress. Farenthold had previously said that he would not seek reelection, but now will step down immediately.

Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-MS) was sworn-in on Monday, bringing the total number of women servicing in the U.S. Senate to 23. This marks a record high for Congress's upper chamber.

Lita Gloor-Little

lgloorlittle@gmail.com

A New View of the Moon

<https://youtu.be/XCrJ3NflOpE>

This video is worth a look!

Thanks for sharing, Claudia!

It is a short film at just over 3 minutes long.



EDUCATION

Gayle Duncan

On March 11th, Mt. Diablo Unified School District Superintendent, Nellie Meyer, district administrators, school board members, and hundreds of families, attended the district's second annual STEM showcase. This event was held at the Willow Creek Center in Concord. There were student displays of hands-on science and engineering stations, robotic challenges, and a monster robot demonstration. The STEM showcase has replaced the Science Fairs that used to be held at elementary schools. Displays are chosen based on criteria that asked the students why they chose a specific topic or problems. There is no competition and students do not move on to a state competition. The STEM showcase displays are aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), which explains the change from the traditional Science Fairs. The NGSS requires the students to "think, collaborate, and dive deeply into their topics," said Jan Robertson, a science instructional coach with the district. The projects are divided into Science Inquiry and Engineering Design. One student investigated sour-dough batteries for his science project. Another student worked on engineering an air conditioner. Group projects such as building bridges or developing a mechanical arm were also entered. Robertson commented that the entries have improved over the last few years. She stated, this is because, "Teachers are exposing students to the science and engineering practices from the Engineering is Elementary (EIE) program." The EIE program is an offshoot from the Museum of Science in Boston. It uses the Design Cycle as a tool to solve problems. There were also displays from area high schools and middle schools. Project Lead the Way, "a national organization that creates classroom projects and empowers students to develop in-demand knowledge and skills," provided activities. A workshop on composting worms was presented by Heather Farms Gardens. The newly adopted NGSS K-12 science content standards, reflects major advances in science and technology. "The goal is to create a set of research-based, up-to-date standards that give local educators the flexibility to design classroom experiences that stimulate students' interest in science and prepare them for college, careers, and citizenship." Superintendent Meyer, called the STEM fair a "resounding success." She also remarked, "When students are engaged in activities like these, they produce amazing results."

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

PH-MTZ BRANCH of AAUW SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2018-2019

Elected on April 18, 2018 at the April General meeting

President ~~ July, August & September is Marilyn Thelen

October, November & December is Jennifer Apkarian

January, February & March is Barbara Chambers

April, May & June is Nancy Hobert

VP Programs ~~ Harriett Burt and Nancy Hobert

VP Membership ~~ SarahJoy Haynes and Claudia Bass

VP AAUW Funds ~~ Diane Coventry and Gayle Miner

Secretary ~~ Barbara Minneman

Treasurer ~~ Trinkia March

The Nominating Committee consisted of: Janice Walker (Secretary), Harriett Burt, Diane Coventry, Marlene de Laurenti, Marlene Maksel, Elva Valli and Sandy Wolfe

Parliamentarian,
Marilyn Thelen

TECH TREK TIDINGS

Diane Coventry

Fabulous team work and tremendous branch support! Once again, we are sending five seventh grade girls to camp! The camp is June 24-31 at Sonoma State University. The cost this year is \$1000 per camper. We received \$2000 from the Shell Grant, a community sponsor. Thank you Katrinka for applying for this. Kiwanis Club awarded Tech Trek \$250 through a service project grant. Thank you to this important community organization for their support. Many of you will remember the new fundraisers, Bowling Blast and Painting with a Twist. Both were very fun and well attended. Hope to do this again for next year's camp.

We are excited to announce our 2018 campers: Kenzie Kirshen, Andrea Maldonado-Rojas, and Molly Skinner from Martinez Junior High, Annika Nelson from Sequoia Middle, and Victoria Umana from Valley View. We look forward to introducing them at our end of the year brunch on Saturday, June 2nd. I hope you'll plan on attending so you can see for yourselves these young women who show interest and promise in STEM for the future. They have also promised to attend our Fall Brunch in September to share their Tech Trek camp experiences. On June 10 our Tech Trek campers will get a chance to meet other girls and their families from the area at the Contra Costa IBC Ice Cream Social at Pacheco Community Center. It is a great opportunity to make contacts and start new friendships.

One of our campers from 2016, Isabella Martinez has been accepted to be a Junior Counselor this summer. I have reached out to our past trekkers informing them about the upcoming reunion at the AAUW conference in Irvine. Several girls have reported back, unfortunately having conflicts of timing due to midterms will not be able to attend. Maybe we will see them next time when the conference is in the northern region. Dorathea Siero, a camper from 2000, will be attending with mother Reba. Hope to get a report from them. Dorathea graduated from UC Davis in 2010 with a BS in Neurobiology, Physiology and Behavior and in 2015 completed UC Davis, DVM, School of Veterinary Medicine. She now works 2-3 days/week at a spay/neuter clinic and 1-2 days/week as a relief vet. She is a volunteer at the Marine Mammal Center, working on the necropsy floor and on the rehabilitation of baby harbor seals. We are very proud of her accomplishments. I have kept in touch with Elizabeth von Ruden, 2009 camper and my student in 5th grade. She attended University of San Diego, biology and pre-health science major, currently a research assistant at College of Arts and Sciences and soon to be a Conservation Educator at Columbia Gorge Ecology Institute in Hood River Oregon. Sounds like exciting work, educating 4th and 5th graders and taking field trips around the Columbia Gorge. Taravat Lakzian, 2011 camper, was a junior and senior counsel at Tech Trek camp for the past 5 years. She is currently a sophomore at UCLA studying Physiological Science following the Pre-Med track and hopes to be a pediatrician one day. Great to make the connections and see inspiration continue as the girls accelerate in their education and pursue careers in science.

Outstanding job Tech Trek Committee, Trinkia March, Sherrie Moore, Claudia Bass, Helen Pereira, and Penny Harris, and Nancy Hobert. Thank you for reading through the applications, interviewing candidates, participating in our fundraisers, offering support and encouragement for the team.

Thank you to our branch members for your continued support. Check out the latest CA Tech Trek website at <http://www.aauw-ca.org/what-is-tech-trek/>.

GAME DAY



THURSDAY, May 31, 2018
Brookview Clubhouse



We will be playing Bridge, Mexican Train and Mahjong
Bridge players, if possible, please sign up with a table of four

Prizes for top scores in all games
The cost is \$10 and will benefit LAF
12:30 to 3:30 pm
Snacks and Iced Tea

PLAN TO ATTEND, HAVE FUN AND SUPPORT LAF

Reservations: Marlene at 689-5439 OR marlene@maksel.us
Before 4 pm on Monday, May 28th
Pay at the door ~ reservations will be a commitment



SAFETY IN OUR SCHOOLS

Community Outreach by Diane Coventry

After hearing our speaker, Charmen Goehring, AAUW CA State Director, at the March program I was intrigued about the idea of community interests and our branches' role in connecting with the community. I know many of our members are educators so when I heard about the panel discussion on ***Safety in Our Schools***, I thought I would attend. Plus, it was an opportunity to eat at the Norse Restaurant at DVC which is delicious.

On March 29, 2018 I attended the Contra Costa County School Boards Association (**CCCSBA**) panel discussion, ***Safety in Our Schools***, at DVC. The panel moderator was Contra Costa Community College District Chancellor, Dr. Fred E. Wood. DVC President Dr. Susan Lamb hosted the event. The panel comprised of 8 people. The topics discussed were '**Creating a Positive School Climate for All**', '**Protecting Students in Your Digital Playground**', and '**Mental Health Supports for the Whole School**'.

The Chief of Police of DVC, Ed Carney and Superintendent Matthew Duffy of WCCUSD presented key points: having safety plans and systems in place and practice emergency drills, use common sense and clearly communicate actions to be taken. They talked about having a resource officer on campuses and having a positive school climate.

Sonya Hooks, Regional Sales Manager for Gaggle spoke about safety management in technology. It reviews emails, links to websites, and does analysis of inappropriate image detection. Todd Airola, Director of Technology at Liberty High School District highlighted the importance of knowing and following 7 Digital Citizenship Rules, working in collaboration with CDE, and schools taking *California Healthy Kids Survey* to assess and monitor health risks, survey resiliency, protective factors, risk behavior, and school climate. It gives us a better understanding of the relationship between students' health behaviors and academic performance and is a critical component of school improvement efforts to guide effective health, prevention, and youth development programs.

Dr. Crystal Simmons, of Vallejo Unified School District and UC Berkeley presented the Continuum of School Mental Health Services where increasing levels of support are given to students who demonstrate a need for them. It is a systematic approach for developing and meeting the socioemotional needs of students. It is similar to the 3 tiered model used in schools for Response to Intervention (RTI). J.G. Larochette presented *Mindful Life Project*, which guides students to make positive life choices both at school and in their community. Students learn to understand and navigate their feelings, emotions, thoughts, and life experiences, which enables new, wiser responses that improve attention, learning, emotional regulation, empathy, and conflict resolution. Useful for adults too. This topic, *Mindfulness*, might be something our group might consider learning more about.

If you would like more information about any of these topics I can send you the handouts and documentation that was presented. I am also willing to share and discuss this further. Thank you to Linda Mayo, MDUSD Board Member and Janice Walker for reaching out and inviting our AAUW branch to this event.

BOOK EXCHANGE - 1st CALL

This is your annual opportunity to join the BOOK EXCHANGE! Read up to 12 hardbacks published in 2018 for the cost of only one! You buy one book; then each month you receive a new selection from another member of the Exchange.

Please contact Mary Hanlon @ 925-934-3528 (Home) or 925-286-2223 (Cell) or mkhibibliophile@aol.com with your selected title and author **PRIOR** to purchasing your book.

There have been 2 to 3 Exchange Groups for the past few years. Don't miss out! (You can purchase 2 or 3 books to join all the Exchanges and double or triple your reading pleasure!) Reserve your Titles - and your places in the Exchanges - now. We should begin exchanging books by October 1st.



AAUW-CA Board of Directors welcome us to the 94th convention



Kimberly Churches
CEO of AAUW National



Lisa Maatz
Former AAUW lobbyist in DC

Workshop
Women in Stem,
Globally



Workshop
Building Self-Esteem
In Girls



Speech Trek Finalists

Tech Trek 20 year
Reunion - Stanford



2017-2018 LEADERSHIP TEAM

May-June 2018

- May 2** Morning Books, 10 am, Sherrie Moore
- May 9** In Indelible Ink, 10 am, Ginny Hargrave
- May 9** Board meeting, 7 pm,
Rolling Green Clubhouse
- May 14** Grand Slammers Bridge, 12:30 pm,
Brookview Clubhouse
- May 15** Lunchin' Ladies, 1 pm, Fatty Maddie's, PH
RSVP to Marlene Maksel before **May 15th**
- May 18** Mah Jongg, 12:30 pm, Brookview Clubhouse
- May 19** A Salute to Spring, 3 - 6 pm,
Cheryl Buscaglia's home
- May 24** Matinee Idle, Marlene Maksel
- May 31** Game Day, 12:30 pm, Brookview Clubhouse
- Jun 2** End of Year Brunch, Scholarship & Tech Trek
Awards, Installation of Officers
- June 4** Evening Books, 6 pm, Jack's Restaurant, PH
- June 6** Morning Books annual potluck luncheon,
Brookview Clubhouse, Marlene Maksel and
Ish Mendonsa, co-hostesses
- June 25** July/August 2018 N.E.W.S. deadline to Reba
This is a 2 month newsletter!
- June 28** Matinee Idle, Marlene Maksel

Presidents

Jennifer Apkarian 228-2027 apkarian1@att.net

Claudia Bass 372-8679 cbasslancer29@aol.com

Vice Presidents - Program

Bambi Barker 229-1720 fanciphree@comcast.net

Sally Figueiredo 890-0675 sallyfigueiredo@comcast.net

Vice Presidents - Membership

Bea Ball 890-0202 beaball@att.net

Elva Valli 228-8056 wevalli@sbcglobal.net

Vice Presidents - AAUW Fund

Barbara Chambers 229-5837 ccrecbarb@gmail.com

Marlene Maksel 689-5439 marlene@maksel.us

Secretary

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

Treasurer

Trinka March 372-8420 drtrinks@sbcglobal.net

Newsletter Editor

Reba Siero 228-8211 rebasiero@yahoo.com

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**Copy deadline for the July/August 2018 N.E.W.S. (2
months worth!) is June 25th.** Please email copy to:

rebasiero@yahoo.com

Webmaster

Sherrie Moore 229-4177

www.aauw-pleasanthill-martinez.org

AAUW C C C Inter-branch Council

Cindy Alpert, Chair (925) 829-7813

alpert@pacbell.net

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

California State Office of AAUW

1331 Garden Highway, Suite 100

Sacramento, CA 95833

office@aauw-ca.org (916) 448-7795

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

AAUW National Office

connect@aauw.org (800) 326-2289

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

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.