



Volume 62 Issue 8

April 2020



Nevertheless, She Persisted: The Inspiring Story of Cheryl Dembe, Ph.D.

Wednesday, April 15, 2020 - 7 pm

Your Home, via Zoom!

It's going to be an unusual monthly meeting. First: we will be using Zoom, the newest and easiest way for groups to meet on line. Don't be afraid. If Harriett can do it without a problem, truly anybody can. Reba will send out info on how to participate although I bet a fair few of you already use it.

Second: we are going to have a fabulous speaker, Dr. Cheryl Dembe, Ph.D. She is the woman who made the national news in 2019 when the University of Chicago not only awarded her the Ph.D. in superfluidity she all but completed 48 years before and would have received had her supervising professor not died suddenly just before she was ready to turn it in. Her subject was so advanced in a little-researched area of chemistry at that time that only two professors in the Chemistry department were thought to be qualified to step in to approve submission. One refused because he felt he did not know enough to evaluate such advanced research. The other adamantly refused because, he said, he didn't allow women in his research group.

She challenged the decision at the time but was turned down. The Lafayette resident will tell you how she felt about that and how she dealt with the need to get on with the rest of her life. Included in that life has been a successful 35 year career as the 'First Woman Everything' in the Science Division of Diablo Valley College Science Division: 'the first woman chemist, the first woman Chemistry Department Chair, the first woman Physical Science Division chair (interim) as well as one of the first women to have children while teaching at DVC. (A very partial list!)

A few years ago, she decided to apply again to the University to reconsider its decision in 1971. The positive technique she used combined with the slowly growing change of the status of women in formerly totally male dominated areas and the fact that she had kept all her meticulous research led to the University not only deciding to award the degree but to freely admit that a terrible mistake had been made all those years ago. By the way, two years after she was refused her degree, a man published a comparable project at Cornell and in 1996 won the Nobel Prize for it.

Dr. Dembe, (soon to be Cheryl to all of us but I love using her title), is a woman of many talents and interests including being active in the Bay Area musical, spiritual, religious and tantric communities. She has also been a rancher.

She is a charming and fascinating speaker on the telephone as well as in front of a microphone. Reba talked to her on the phone to make the Zoom arrangements and came away as enthused as Helen and I were talking with her in person. Reba has already suggested that we have her speak in person next year.





PRESIDENTIAL POSTINGS

Well, it's been quite an amazing last few weeks. Our lives have been shifted around to an extent many of us have not seen.

The board just met via Zoom and it went quite well technically! Most of us could see each other and all of us (15) could hear each other!

The SAM program finished in the nick of time in March, and was a great success. Check out the spread on page 5! Wonderful!

I want to thank the Tech Trek committee for conducting the camper interviews, using this new to many of us technology, called Zoom. It was important that the girls went through as much of the process as possible and to acknowledge their efforts.

Any in-person gatherings in the next couple of months are an unknown right now, so we're in a holding pattern as far as branch activities.

One bright note is that we are looking forward to hearing from Dr. Cheryl Dembe at our regular meeting date and time on April 15th. We're going to do it using the Zoom platform. I've been learning something new and we'll all see how well I've done next Wednesday evening!

More details on the Zoom process will be coming soon. I will send a blast with the details of how to set up your computers, tablets and smart phones to participate in the meeting. It is pretty straightforward, and though I don't know all things Zoom, I learn more each day!

Until then, enjoy the world around us, welcome a beautiful Spring and stay safe and well.

Reba

rebasiero@yahoo.com



Cheryl Dembe, PhD

TECH TREK TIDINGS

Diane Coventry, diane.coventry@yahoo.com

Update - as of April 6, 2020

In this time of uncertainty, we are certain that Tech Trek Camps are cancelled for 2020. There is disappointment and relief felt by many of us involved in the process. The decision was first issued at the National level and then State. State leadership is notifying our Camp Universities of our decision to cancel. Our first and foremost concern is the safety and health of our members, camp staff, presenters, and of course our Tech Trek campers. No need to worry about our SPF funds and payments, if need be, they will be transferred to the next year. Our committee successfully interviewed 11 candidates on April 5 via Zoom Conferencing. We felt it was important and valuable for the candidates to complete the full selection process. We selected 6 girls and 2 alternates. It was a tough choice to make, all the candidates were excellent and we enjoyed talking and learning more about them. I would like to thank all involved, including the teachers from our middle schools and families of the nominees. The finalists have not been officially notified yet so I am withholding their names from this article. Being an optimist, I am hoping to invite the girls and their families to our Welcome back Brunch in September.

INTEREST SECTIONS MEETINGS

ALL IN PERSON MEETINGS CANCELLED



****MORNING BOOKS** did **NOT** meet in April as we will still be sheltering-in-place. Hopefully, we will be able to meet in May and our book for discussion is Trevor Noah's *Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood*. Please plan to join us!



****IN INDELIBLE INK** is discontinued until further notice ~ if you are interested in this section, please let Marlene Maksel know.



****LUNCHIN' LADIES** was planning to lunch on Tuesday, April 21, with the location to be announced. Please call Marlene 689-5439 OR marlene@maksel.us with suggestions for restaurants to try out in the future.



****EVENING BOOKS MAY** meet virtually on Monday, April 27, 7 pm, via video conferencing. We will be discussing *The Age of Innocence* by Edith Wharton ~ our classic read for the year. Hopefully, we will be able to discuss *Gardener of Eden* by David Downie at our annual dinner on June 1. Join us for great discussions.



****MATINEE IDLE** will **NOT** be able to go to the movies on Thursday, April 23rd. 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 will **NOT** meet this month due to Shelter at Home orders

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's meeting is **CANCELLED** due to Shelter at Home orders.

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.

APRIL BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2020

1:30 PM

Online ZOOM meeting

Copy deadline for the
May/June 2020 N.E.W.S.

Friday, April 24th

Please email copy to:

Reba Siero rebasiero@yahoo.com

(925) 917-1061



Pleasant Hill - Martinez AAUW Website



Our website will show you everything you need to know about our Pleasant Hill - Martinez branch. Check out the photos from our **SAM Program** on the **Community Action 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

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

SarahJoy Haynes and Kathleen Woulfe,
Membership VPs

Hello, wonderful AAUW members. Sarah Joy and Kathleen appreciate so much how many of you have sent in your membership checks. If you haven't had a chance yet, please get your check to us by Tuesday, April 14 to be in the early renewal drawing. Also, if you do not plan to join again, please let us know. Thank you.

SarahJoy Haynes
(925) 586-9493, plumleathr@aol.com

Kathleen Woulfe
(925) 372-7726, kathleendwoulfe@aol.com

SUNSHINE

Gayle Garrison

Sunshine likes to send cards to members, however, I do not always know who is ill or might just need a "thinking of you" card. Please call and let me know, as several calls are better than none.

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



SAM at Fair Oaks in March

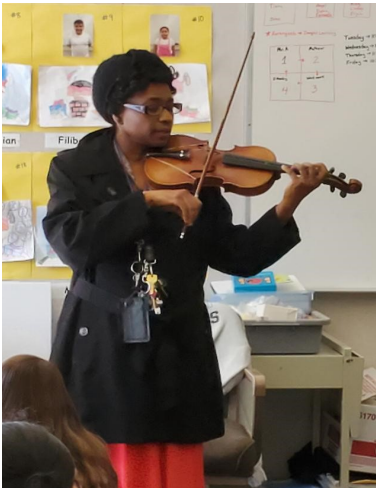
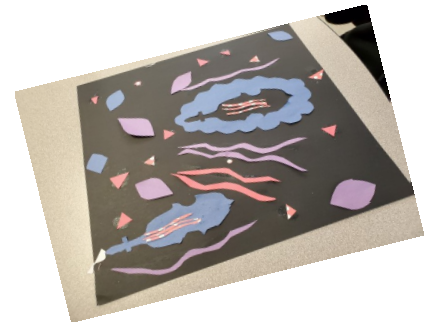
Thank you, volunteers, for helping with our SAM (Study Art and Music) Program at Fair Oaks Elementary School. We appreciate the following members who assisted us: Ish Mendonsa, Marlene Maksel, Charlotte Liniger, Virginia Hewgley, Georgette Armstrong, Judi Hamberg, Jennifer Apkarian, Claudia Bass, Carole Nacon, Andree Moran, Penny Harris, Helen Pereira, Trinkka March, Susan Trebino, Vicki Anderle, and Sally Whitsett.

We taught 14 classes, TK (Transitional Kindergarten) thru 5th grade and 2 Special Ed classes (SDC). The artist we studied was Henri Matisse and the composer was Ravel. Matisse is known for his vibrant colors, patterns and cutout work of "drawing with scissors". By cutting out shapes from bright and patterned paper, each student created a different, interesting composition. We emphasized the use of positive and negative space.

This year we additionally partnered with the Fair Oaks music department, and their school music teacher incorporated our composer, Ravel, and his music, Bolero, into her curriculum for all grades. The orchestra teacher performed string music selections for several classes. It was a treat for us, their teachers, and classmates.

Thanks again to all of our volunteers. We couldn't have done it without you!

Sherrie Moore, Barbara Minneman, and Diane Coventry





Save the date

Tech Trek Fundraiser

This event may be postponed or cancelled

Painting with a Purpose for Tech Trek

2 hour class costs \$35- arrive 15-20 minutes early

Saturday, May 9th 1:00 - 3:00 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, 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.

Space is limited



NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Janice Walker, Parliamentarian

Slate of Candidates for the 2020-2021 Year

President: Gayle Miner and Reba Siero

Program Vice Presidents: Harriett Burt and Helen Pereira

Membership Vice Presidents: SarahJoy Haynes and Kathleen Woulfe

AAUW Fund (EF) Vice Presidents: Jennifer Apkarian and Claudia Bass

Secretary: Sue Trebino

Treasurer: Trinkia March

Since there were no additional nominees put forth via the internet or by phone, the election of the above candidates will take place during our virtual meeting on Wednesday, April 15. Again, special thanks is extended to the following members of the nominating committee for their time and effort: Margi Alkire, Jennifer Apkarian, SarahJoy Haynes, Charlotte Liniger, Gayle Miner, Margie Pruitt, and Kathleen Woulfe and to the above candidates who have stepped forward to offer their time and effort for the benefit of the Pleasant Hill-Martinez Branch.

2019–2020 LEADERSHIP TEAM

April 2020 and Beyond

Stay Tuned for Updates!

- Apr 8** Board meeting, 1:30 pm, Zoom
Apr 13 Grandslammers - CANCELLED
Apr 15 Dr. Cheryl Dembe, PhD, 7 pm, Zoom
Apr 17 Mah Jongg - CANCELLED
Apr 17-19 AAUW CA Convention, Westin San Francisco Airport - CANCELLED
Apr 21 Lunchin' Ladies - CANCELLED
Apr 24 May/June 2020 N.E.W.S. deadline to Reba
Apr 27 Evening Books, 7 pm, maybe with Zoom???
May 6 Morning Books, 10 am, maybe with Zoom???
May 9 Painting with a Twist, TT Fundraiser ???
May 13 Board meeting, ???, ???
May 17 DVC play, NUTS,
Local Scholarships Fundraiser ???
May 26 CCC IBC meeting, 4 pm, Zoom
June 1 Evening Books Annual Dinner ???
June 6 End of Year Brunch/Installation, 10 am,
IBEW Hall ???
June 7 Tech Trek Ice Cream Social - CANCELLED
June 10 Joint Board meeting, 5:30 pm, ???

President

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rebasiero@yahoo.com

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

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Katrinka March D.V.M.
Karen Shore B.V.M.S.
Cindy Pieper D.V.M.