



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 63 Issue 4

December 2020



## PH-M AAUW ANNUAL LAYETTE SHOWER Wednesday, January 13, 2021, 10 AM, ZOOM

This year's layette shower will be on Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 10:00 AM via ZOOM. Reba Siero has graciously agreed to be our technical coordinator for this event. Please email a picture of your layette item to Reba, [rebasiero@yahoo.com](mailto:rebasiero@yahoo.com), by Monday, January 11. Reba will then create a slide show featuring each item to share with all the attendees at our ZOOM gathering. During that time each person will be given an opportunity to present her donation. Please also email me, [sandjwalk@comcast.net](mailto:sandjwalk@comcast.net), by Sunday, January 10, to let me know you intend to be a part of the shower. I will then send you contact information prior to our gathering. In addition I will contact to you individually to set up a pick up time for your item after the shower. Despite the negatives of COVID, we have a chance to do something positive. I hope you'll join me!

**Janice Walker**

[sandjwalk@comcast.net](mailto:sandjwalk@comcast.net)

## It's Almost Coffee Klatch Time!

The Coffee Klatch is our annual fundraiser to support scholarships for women grads from College Park High and Alhambra High. Because of your generosity last year, we were able to give \$1000 scholarships to six deserving 2020 graduates! If you haven't already met these extraordinary young women, you can read all about them on the [Community Action](#) page of our website.



In usual times, we would pass out the Coffee Klatch flyers at our January Soup Supper. However, this year they will be delivered to your door by our intrepid volunteers! Please keep an eye out for them to arrive during the 3rd week of January. A pre-labeled return envelope will be included, so you can put a stamp on it and drop your check in the mail, or drop it in my home mail slot if you prefer. If you have any questions, or if you would like to volunteer to help with deliveries, I can be reached at (925) 768-4417 or [vhewgley@astound.net](mailto:vhewgley@astound.net).

Thanks in advance for your generosity, and Happy Holidays to you all!

Virginia Hewgley, Local Scholarships Chair

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



## PRESIDENTIAL POSTINGS

As 2020 draws to a close, I am thinking of all the people and things that I am grateful for.

And this branch of AAUW is on that list for so many reasons. Each of you believe in the principles and goals of AAUW and support them with your dollars, time, and talents. And as a part of the larger organization, and like-minded sister and brother organizations, we can accomplish so much good.

I am grateful to everyone who made the internet a reality and the fact that it allows so many of us to stay connected in a time that would have kept us isolated before its invention. I encourage you to participate in our meetings on Zoom to help maintain your relationships with the branch. I am happy to help you get connected. Please ask!!

As you can see from the front page of this newsletter, we are carrying on with projects that have become part of our annual traditions.

The Layette Shower on January 13th is a great time to share any hand crafted or purchased items you are donating. Of course, we can't hand them around to admire, but we can share them with a slide show of pictures you send to me!!

Our Local Scholarships Coffee Klatch fundraiser is proceeding in a slightly different manner, with those letters being distributed much as the rosters were handed out. I know you will be generous!

Thanks to everyone who has stepped up to make things happen in a creative and flexible manner!



## HELP WANTED

Our AAUW Branch has openings for the following officers and positions on the board that need to be filled:

### **Appointed Officers**

Parliamentarian

Community

Education

Public Policy

Communications

### **Appointed Positions**

Historian

Major Fundraiser

Please consider volunteering for one of the above positions. AAUW Pleasant Hill Martinez Branch needs you! Please call Reba Siero, (925) 917-1061 OR Gayle Miner, (925) 349-6795 to find out more about these positions if you are interested. WE NEED YOUR HELP!



The best of the Season to each of you and to a healthy and Happy New Year.

Be well and stay safe,

Reba Siero, 2020-21 Co-President

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



## PUBLIC POLICY

### **Human Trafficking**

By Kit Hein, AAUW California Public Policy Committee

January 11, 2021 is National Human Trafficking Awareness Day. AAUW California supports efforts to combat Human Trafficking, as noted in our Public Policy Priorities: “Freedom from violence and fear of violence, including ...human trafficking...in homes, schools, workplaces and communities...”

Human Trafficking is the third largest organized criminal activity in the world. Human Trafficking is a modern-day form of slavery, with an estimated number of victims in the millions. Whether for labor or sex, men, women, and children are manipulated through force, fraud, and coercion.

Research shows that people of color, especially the Black community, are more likely to experience some form of sex trafficking. Racial and economic biases drive both social and legal presumptions of “victims” having chosen their situation.

Law enforcement efforts against human trafficking are stronger today than in 2017, but still inadequate. Globally, definitions of human trafficking vary from country to country. Even using the term “slavery” is met with opposition in cases of forced marriages and cross border smuggling.


In California, legislation in the past few years includes support for victims, updating school health curriculum, and addressing hospitality industry training. But legislation is not the key unless the public is educated as to the enormity of the issues, both locally and globally. Local branches of AAUW continue to provide community awareness events to educate the public. Please join Santa Cruz County Branch on January 11, 2021 at 1 pm for a Zoom webinar to learn more. Access the branch website <https://santacruz-ca.aauw.net/> for more information and an invitation to this event.

And a note from Kit:


Thank you to all of you and your branch members who answered the PP survey. Our committee will be meeting in January to go over all the responses and come up with 2020-2021 Public Policy Priorities based on the results of those surveys.



## INTEREST SECTIONS MEETINGS

 **\*\*MORNING BOOKS** met on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, via Zoom at 10 am. We will be discussing *Disappearing Earth* by Julia Phillips. In January, our book will be *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michele Richardson.

 **\*\*LUNCHIN' LADIES** will not meet in December.

 **\*\*EVENING BOOKS** will not meet in December. In January we will discuss *Eye of Darkness* by Dean Koontz.

 **\*\*MATINEE IDLE** will not meet in December.



**JANUARY BOARD MEETING**  
**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2021**

**7:00 PM**

**ZOOM**

**Copy deadline for the**  
**January 2021 N.E.W.S.**

**Wednesday, December 30<sup>th</sup>**

Please email copy to:

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

(925) 917-1061

## OTHER GROUPS



**\*\*MAH JONGG**

**CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

We usually play on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month, at 12:30 pm. We would love to have you join our group, as soon as we are able to meet again. 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,

[seabear92020@outlook.com](mailto:seabear92020@outlook.com)

Gayle Miner at (925) 349-6795,

[gayle.miner@yahoo.com](mailto:gayle.miner@yahoo.com)



**\*\*GRAND SLAMMERS**

**CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

We are a social bridge group, which usually plays on the second Monday of each month at 12:30 pm at the Brookview Club House. We are not meeting until it is safe to do so.

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](mailto:mdl@astound.net) or (925) 934-4171 if you are interested in playing.



Pleasant Hill-Martinez (CA) Branch

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

## AAUW FUND REPORT

Jennifer Apkarian and Claudia Bass, AAUW Fund VPs

A huge thank you to our membership for your generous contributions to AAUW Fund through the solicitation letter. We have received 37 contributions so far for a total of \$4,335.00. There is still time to send in your contribution. The deadline is **December 20, 2020**. This will give time to get your contribution sent to national by their deadline at the end of the month.

At our November program we heard from Peggy Cabaniss who is AAUW National Finance Chairperson. She explained restricted funds vs. unrestricted/ or greatest need funds. Restricted funds are restricted to specific areas in Fellowships and Programs. This includes full scholarships and leadership programs such as NCCWSL. Currently there is enough in this fund to last 150 years. Out of the total amount of funds restrictive consists of 98%. Unrestricted or greatest needs funds all the other programs that impact women's lives. With this fund there is flexibility to develop programs that are needed. AAUW is hoping to use some of these funds to reach out to younger women of diversity to better their lives. Unrestrictive funds consist of 2% of the total fund budget. National is encouraging any contributions made to AAUW Fund go to unrestrictive or greatest need fund.

AAUW Fund CA is short of their \$500,000 goal by \$221,760. The committee will work to contribute to unfinished endowments in February or March. This is done through the state.

Even though we are going through uncertain times, AAUW National is still going ahead with NCCWSL. Applications from DVC will be picked up in December. The committee will select our student in January.

Our next meeting will be **Monday, January 18, 2021 at 2:30**. Again it will be via Zoom. If you are interested in attending let Jennifer or Claudia know so we can send the link for the meeting.

Jennifer Apkarian at (925) 228-2027 or [apkarian1@att.net](mailto:apkarian1@att.net) or  
Claudia Bass at (925) 372-8679 or [cbasslancer29@aol.com](mailto:cbasslancer29@aol.com)



*Merry Christmas*



## TECH TREK TIDINGS

Diane Coventry

“Not even a pandemic can stop our love of STEM”, an appropriate quote seen on our Tech Trek 2020 Camp T-shirt. The California residential Tech Trek camps will still be on hiatus for 2021. AAUW CA Tech Trek Coordinators are moving forward with a Virtual Tech Trek week long Program. It will be run at least three times in Summer 2021: June 21-25, July 12-16, and July 26-30. Planning has been ongoing for several months. At this time, each camp will host about 300 girls and a staff of 100+. The camps will not be regionally based as in the past, but rather by date. The camp model uses both near-peer (close in age) and adult virtual coaches. Virtual coaches are real people who coach in a virtual environment. The Virtual Camp Director will start soliciting for instructors and coaches in January. Please consider being a coach, either build or social. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me, [diane.coventry@yahoo.com](mailto:diane.coventry@yahoo.com) or Mary Isaac at [2021TTVirtualCamp@aauw-ca.org](mailto:2021TTVirtualCamp@aauw-ca.org)

I have asked our local middle school contacts for feedback regarding their support and participation. We hope to select 6 girls to attend Virtual TT Camp 2021. There is a chance that the 2020 candidates may be able to participate too. Meanwhile, our committee is in the process of reconnecting with past Tech Trekkers, looking to form an alumni group (TTAG – Tech Trek Alumni Group, - one in southern California Beach Cities has been very active and successful). If you know any former Trekkers please have them contact me. These girls could be excellent coaches for the Virtual Camp.

The longer-term goal remains to resume residential Tech Trek camps as soon as health and safety conditions allow, hopefully in 2022.

Remember that the OML AAUW branch is sponsoring a STEM webinar series. See last month’s newsletter for details or check out [AAUW Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette \(CA\)](#)

Diane Coventry  
[diane.coventry@yahoo.com](mailto:diane.coventry@yahoo.com)



## 2020-2021 LEADERSHIP TEAM

### December 2020 - January 2021

#### All meetings virtual

Now through the rest of the year - Have a safe and healthy Holiday Season!

- Dec 30** January 2021 N.E.W.S. deadline to Reba
- Jan 6** Morning Books, 10 am, Zoom
- Jan 13** Layette Shower, 10:00 am, Zoom
- Jan 13** Board Meeting, 7:00 pm, Zoom
- Jan 18** Fund Committee Meeting, 2:30 pm, Zoom
- Jan 20** Dr. Julie Synyard, PhD, Superintendent, MUSD and Helen Rossi, Asst. Superintendent, MUSD  
7 pm, Zoom
- Jan 25** Evening Books, 7 pm, Zoom
- Jan 26** IBC meeting, 7 pm, Zoom  
Zoom



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

### 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.

#### Presidents

- Gayle Miner 349-6795 [gayle.miner@yahoo.com](mailto:gayle.miner@yahoo.com)  
Reba Siero 917-1061 [rebasiero@yahoo.com](mailto:rebasiero@yahoo.com)

#### Vice Presidents - Program

- Harriett Burt 372-8038 [hjburt1940@comcast.net](mailto:hjburt1940@comcast.net)  
Helen Pereira 685-0757 [helenmp45@aol.com](mailto:helenmp45@aol.com)

#### Vice Presidents - Membership

- SarahJoy Haynes 586-9493 [plumleathr@aol.com](mailto:plumleathr@aol.com)  
Kathleen Woulfe 372-7726 [kathleendwoulfe@aol.com](mailto:kathleendwoulfe@aol.com)

#### Vice Presidents - AAUW Fund

- Jennifer Apkarian 228-2027 [apkarian1@att.net](mailto:apkarian1@att.net)  
Claudia Bass 372-8679 [cbasslancer29@aol.com](mailto:cbasslancer29@aol.com)

#### Secretary

- Susan Peterson Trebino 228-1492 [strebino@gmail.com](mailto:strebino@gmail.com)

#### Treasurer

- Trinka March 372-8420 [drtrinks@sbcglobal.net](mailto:drtrinks@sbcglobal.net)

#### Newsletter Editor

- Reba Siero 917-1061 [rebasiero@yahoo.com](mailto:rebasiero@yahoo.com)

Pleasant Hill – Martinez AAUW N.E.W.S. is published 10 times a year by and for AAUW. May/June & July/August are combined issues.

Copy deadline for the January 2021 N.E.W.S. is December 30<sup>th</sup>. Please email copy to:

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

#### Webmaster

Sherrie Moore 229-4177

[www.aauw-pleasanthill-martinez.org](http://www.aauw-pleasanthill-martinez.org)

#### AAUW C C C Inter-branch Council

Debbie Cummings, Chair

[debbie94565@yahoo.com](mailto:debbie94565@yahoo.com)

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

#### California State Office of AAUW

1331 Garden Highway, Suite 100

Sacramento, CA 95833

[office@aauw-ca.org](mailto:office@aauw-ca.org) (916) 448-7795

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

#### AAUW National Office

[connect@aauw.org](mailto:connect@aauw.org) (800) 326-2289

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