

Congratulations to Jennifer Apkarian, Diane Coventry and Helen Pereira!



Barbara Newacheck was a dynamic member of Pleasant Hill Branch who embodied the values and missions of AAUW. She passed away in 2004 and in 2005 the Barbara Newacheck Memorial Award was established to honor an exemplary member of the branch.

The 2020-2021 Barbara Newacheck Award was awarded to **Jennifer Apkarian** at the end of the year Zoom meeting. Jennifer joined AAUW and our branch in 2012. She has served on the board as treasurer, secretary and then president for two years and one quarter. She continued to serve on the board representing our branch at the Inter-Branch Council meetings. She will be Co-VP AAUW Fund this upcoming year. As well as on the board, Jennifer has served on many committees. She is a long standing member of the AAUW Fund committee. Also she has served on the Christmas party, fall brunch, bowling tournament, major fundraising and nominating committees. She was a model at the Macy's fashion show and also volunteers for the SAM Program. Jennifer readily volunteers to do what is needed and participates in most branch activities.

Even though Jennifer can be shy, she has a great sense of humor. It is a pleasure to work with her in various positions and activities. Even though she is easy going she is also responsible and organized. Overall she has contributed much to our branch. She is an outstanding member and goes way beyond the call of duty. Congratulations, Jennifer.

The Named Gift Honorees are given to members who have given time and hard work to the branch and AAUW.

At the end of the year zoom meeting, AAUW Fund presented the 2020-2021 Named Gift Honorees for Pleasant Hill- Martinez Branch to **Helen Pereira and Diane Coventry**. Helen served on the board in many positions. This



year she will be CoVP Programs for the second year in a row. She is a member of several committees; AAUW Fund, Tech Trek and SAM Program. Helen spearheaded the bowling committee for two years. Whenever something needs to be done Helen will volunteer and help wherever she can. Diane started out being the branch co-director for Tech Trek and eventually director. She has filled the position for many years with enthusiasm. Not only is she the branch director but took on the role of co-director of the Sonoma Camp at the state level. Diane



has represented our branch well. She also helped to coordinate the SAM Program and was CoVP AAUW Fund. Congratulations to both Helen and Diane.

AAUW California Statement on Racism and Additional Comments

June 12

Over the past two weeks, our country has witnessed an extraordinary outpouring of grief over the deaths of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor at the hands of police. We at AAUW California are not immune from this pain wrought of unfair treatment of our sisters and brothers of color.

We condemn racism and its associated discrimination. It is the root cause of today's injustices. These recent instances of anti-Black violence have reaffirmed the need for major societal change, and for a national discussion going beyond racism and police brutality. Prejudice and inequality - including economic equality - cannot be passively ignored. AAUW has been a leading voice in America in the fight for equity for women and girls, and we especially recognize the additional challenges facing Black women and girls.

AAUW is committed to fighting for justice, and will work collaboratively to give access for all people to the opportunities and resources needed for optimal health and safety. Our organization is a member of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, and we will work to advance the policies and systemic changes such as those identified in the [New Era of Public Safety: A Guide to Fair, Safe, and Effective Community Policing](#) and [Vision for Justice](#) platform.

Cathy Foxhoven – State Co-President

Jane Niemeier – State Co-President

Dianne Owens – State President Elect

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Judy Cavin Brown – Director

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Marlene Cain – Speech Trek Coordinator

Indrani Chatterjee – International Chair

Kathleen Doty – Governance Chair

Alicia Hetman – Title IX Representative

Donna Lilly – College/University Chair

Susan Negrete – Tech Trek State Coordinator

June 15 – Additional Comments

To our members:

Several days ago, the AAUW California Board of Directors released a statement expressing our strong stance against injustice and anti-Black racism. Some members have taken the time to share their thoughtful reactions, which we appreciate. In response, AAUW California has expanded its earlier statement to further clarify its stance and to address some of the comments we received.

AAUW California values our individual members and welcomes all input. We understand that our members represent a wide range of ideological viewpoints. However, AAUW and AAUW California speak with one voice, and that is the voice of justice for and equal treatment of all persons. This concept is at the core of our [Public Policy Priorities](#). The AAUW vision includes several ideological pillars, one of which is advocacy “to guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse and inclusive society.” These policies are developed with input from our members, who also vote on the final statement before it is published. They are also consistent with AAUW National’s stand on civil rights: “AAUW advocates for equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse society.”

To those who feel we have gone beyond our mission statement to promote equity for women and girls, we remind you of the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.” To those who feel our words were too strong, we remind you of the words of Malala Yousafzai: “I raise up my voice – not so that I can shout, but so those without a voice can be heard.” And to those who feel we should not be in the business of condemning police brutality, we remind you of the words of George Floyd: “I can’t breathe.”

PROGRAMS for 2020-2021

Hi, Everyone! Helen and I are looking forward to some sort of contact with you all at some point or points, depending on this or that regarding COVID 19!

Meanwhile, we know you are dealing with “whatever” comes or goes “whenever” it is clear “whatever is. How’s that for a picture of what uncertainty looks like right now?

But we are taking steps to organize the 2020-21 program line-up which in an election year is usually pretty easy because we start off with the League of Women Voters explaining the ballot measures. PH-M is the first local branch this year to contact the League and reserve a date (October 21, which is the third Wednesday). Kay Jones, League program contact, put us on the calendar. However, she added that because the near future is very unclear, the League is actively discussing what format would be used to present the information if they decide to go ahead with a program at all this election cycle. She prefers the traditional format even if it has to be done on Zoom. I was proud to tell her that we are equipped to do Zoom if we have to.

Right now, they are discussing setting up a review of the measures to run on You Tube which might be all the League does. But Kay feels that it would be better to offer both You Tube and Zoom for branches to choose from because setting up a You Tube program would have to be done well in advance of campaign season so last minute changes or information could not be included not to mention that we can ask questions on Zoom but not You Tube.

Anyway, it was a good conversation. So far, we are set for October.....well, sort of.

November is set with a second Wednesday date....Helen Rossi, Deputy Superintendent of the Martinez Unified School District, will tell us about the process of setting up and operating public schools in the time of COVID 19. She’s in the middle of organizing it right now so we will get the picture from summer to late fall. She is an outstanding administrator and person so it should be very interesting. Because the third Wednesday is Helen’s birthday, she preferred Wednesday, November 11. If there is a problem with that for a number of us, let Helen or Harriett know and we’ll find another date.

“Brave Little Nell”, the re-enactment of the life of Eleanor Roosevelt, scheduled for March 2020, will be held next spring. Laurie Strawn, who puts on a wonderful biographical presentation according to two Branch members who have seen it, is excited to come in the Spring, so ‘date to kum’ as newspaper copy editors mark it. And of course, ideas for programs are welcome from members....we got some good ones last year so we’re eager for more!

Harriett and Helen

Forwarded by Harriett — Regarding the Suffrage Centennial

Dear Friends Celebrating the Suffrage Centennial,

As August 18-26 approaches, the National Women’s History Alliance offers the enclosed link to an 11-page Centennial Update to highlight some of the major upcoming events along with some new links and resources. Especially this year, along with the suffrage centennial, we want to emphasize the importance of the vote, so hard won and so decisive.

Despite the virus, countless events, real and virtual, will mark next month’s historic anniversaries and the months that follow. Online events will make many of these diverse, widespread celebrations easily accessible as never before.

To recognize women’s successful grassroots drive to win the vote, suffrage centennial-oriented groups have grown up across the country to orchestrate celebrations and generate new and exciting educational materials. The Update lists over 100 organizations over four pages, and there are surely many more recognizing the centennial. The final two pages that follow feature festive centennial items that the NWA is now offering On Sale.

Since many groups are extending centennial celebrations through the year to August 26, 2021, we can make

INTEREST SECTIONS MEETINGS



****MORNING BOOKS** will not meet in July or August. The Book Selection committee is meeting sometime in July ~ whether in person or via Zoom hasn't been decided. Once a list is compiled, I will send it to all Morning Books attendees ~ you will have a chance then to sign up for book discussion leader and/or hostess.



****LUNCHIN' LADIES** will not meet in July or August. However, please give Marlene suggestions for some restaurants it would be fun for us to try in September.



****EVENING BOOKS** will not meet in July or August. Hopefully, we can again gather in September. Sometime, between now and then, we will decide if we want to discuss one of the books we missed during the end of March and April, or just go for a new list.



****MATINEE IDLE**, like everything else, is in a state of flux. At this writing, movie theatres aren't open ~ and our members might not feel like participating in this outing anyway. We'll hope for better news in September.

AUGUST BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2020

7:00 PM

ZOOM

Copy deadline for the
September 2020 N.E.W.S.

Monday, August 24th

Please email copy to:

Reba Siero rebasiero@yahoo.com

(925) 917-1061

OTHER GROUPS



****MAH JONGG**

CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

We usually play on the 3rd Friday of the month. 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,

seabear2@msn.com

Gayle Miner at (925) 349-6795,

gayle.miner@yahoo.com

BOOK EXCHANGE/Round Robin 2nd CALL

This is your annual opportunity to join the BOOK EXCHANGE! Read up to 12 hardbacks published in 2019 for the cost of only one! You buy one book; pass your book to the next member each month; and then each month you receive a new selection from another member of the Exchange.

We certainly would welcome additional members, as we just had 2 Exchanges last year. (You can purchase 2 - or potentially 3 books - to join all the Exchanges and double or triple your reading pleasure!) Please call with any questions.

Please contact Mary Hanlon at:

(925) 934-3528(home) or (925) 286-2223

(cell) or mkhbibliophile@aol.com with your selected title and author **PRIOR** to purchasing your book.

Reserve your Titles - and your places in the Exchanges - now. We should begin exchanging books by October 1st.

While the libraries are scheduled to re-open with limited hours/access, who knows how long that may last. E-Books should continue, but maybe this year is a good year to try the Exchange!

AAUW FUND REPORT

Jennifer Apkarian and Claudia Bass, AAUW Fund VPs

Well it certainly is nice to see things slowly open up for us even though times are still uncertain. In September you will receive a solicitation letter for AAUW Fund and distributed to you in a manner that will be determined later. More details will follow in the September newsletter.

Unfortunately our NCCWSL DVC student, Desiree Marino, was not able to attend due to cancellation of the conference. I have been in contact with her. She will be majoring in radiology at Cal State Northridge. This fall semester she will be staying in Concord and taking her classes online. Hopefully in the spring she will be at the college. Currently she is looking for volunteer hours at a radiology center. Desiree has been a recipient of many scholarships including one from the California Retired Teachers Association - Diablo Vista Chapter. We wish her well as she pursues her education and beyond.

Our July Fund committee meeting was on Monday, July 20th at 2:30 pm on Zoom. We planned activities for the upcoming year. This is a great time to join our dynamic committee and we would like to welcome more members. The commitment isn't huge as we only meet every other month. The purpose of the committee is to bridge national AAUW Fund activities to our branch to meet the mission of AAUW. Another part of the committee's responsibilities is to select and sponsor a student from DVC to attend the National Conference for College Student Leaders (NCCWSL) at University of Maryland. Many of you have heard from previous recipients and know this is truly a worthwhile and meaningful experience for them. So if you are interested in joining the committee or checking us out, contact:

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

A Note from Zuhail Rahmani, NCCWSL 2016 recipient

Good Morning,

Zuhail Rahmani here, former AAUW NCCWSL recipient from 2016. I hope this email finds you well and that you are staying safe and healthy during this time. I was looking back on some photos that I had taken when I attended the NCCWSL conference back in 2016 with the support of the AAUW Pleasant Hill- Martinez branch and how that opportunity has shaped my educational and career path.

All is well and life is good. I graduated UC Davis in 2018 with my Bachelors in Psychology and a minor in Education. Currently, I am working on my Masters in Counseling (specialization in College Counseling) at San Francisco State University and simultaneously working full time at DVC where I administer our Federal Work Study program.

Thank you for your support during my undergraduate career, it was greatly impactful!

Best wishes,
Zuhail Rahmani



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

SarahJoy Haynes and Kathleen Woulfe, Membership VPs

Welcome back to a new year with PH-M AAUW. At this time, the branch has 95 members, with 6 of you as life members.

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

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

IN MEMORIAM - JEANNE MCGINNIS

Jeanne McGinnis passed away on July 4, 2020. Debbie Byrne sent this letter from her husband, Terry McGinnis, who asked that it be shared with Jeanne's friends.

July 7, 2020

Dear Friends:

It was July 4, 2020 when Jeanne declared her freedom from her world of dementia . Following lunch at her Aegis Memory Care Unit, she moved to the couch in the common area and about an hour later closed her eyes and drew her last breath. There were no signs of pain, struggle, or trauma. Her cause of death is unknown.



The last time I saw Jeanne was June 3rd because the facility was in a Covid-19 lock-down. I knew she would never come home, but Jeanne otherwise was healthy. I expected she would live on for many more years.

In 2015, a few months after her Mom's death at 99, Jeanne was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease. She was given the standard medications for the disease and they nicely masked the symptoms. Parkinson's is a physical disease.

Sadly in November 2018, Jeanne started showing cognitive problems when we were hit with a couple of small kitchen fires. About 40 percent of Parkinson's people experience mental problems.

From there on, Jeanne stair-stepped down and an ever-increasing slope where she could no longer be cared for at home. She went from having an occasional hallucination or delusion to a situation where they were ongoing. She was running around our block in her underwear, towel, or night gown, knocking on doors, and yelling at people and their kids. It would take up to an hour to get her back into the house.

For about six weeks, our granddaughter (21) helped Jeanne in the morning while I attended to her weekends and the rest of the day. It then became obvious we needed ongoing outside assistance.

Jeanne entered a nearby Memory Care Unit on June 3, 2020. She was severely agitated, uncooperative with her caretakers, and eloped several times, once to a city street. She was placed on 24-hour watch to ensure she would not hurt herself or others.

Thankfully, the Memory Unit at Kaiser stepped into the situation and its doctors and staff were able to calm her down. She was taken off 24-hour watch last week. Kaiser has an outstanding reputation in this area for memory care and we are lucky to have them as a health provider.

I am sorry to share this sad news with you, but you were a part of her circle of friends and I thought you should know.

God is merciful. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers.

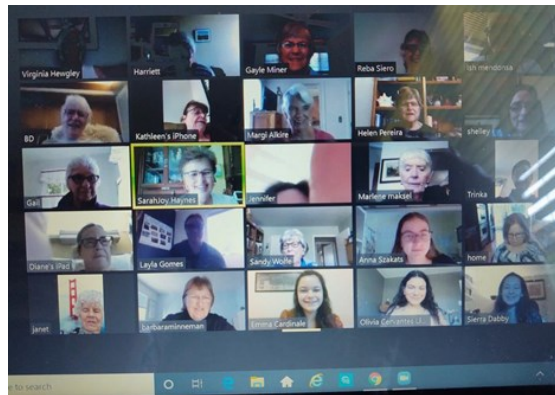
I am doing okay. I have received wonderful support from my children.

Love,

Terry



Pleasant Hill - Martinez AAUW Website



Our website will show you everything you need to know about our Pleasant Hill - Martinez branch. On the **About Us Page**: our 2020-2021 Executive Board, The Barbara Newachek winner, and Named Gift Recipients. On the **Community Action Page**: our Local Scholarship and Tech Trek girls, On the **Photos Page**, pictures from our Zoom June Brunch.

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

(from page 4) the most of another focused year to educate our fellow citizens and commemorate women's lasting victory. The suffrage and women's rights movements make up the very roots of women in politics and women rising in national leadership.

This centennial cannot be lost to the restrictions and impact of the tragic pandemic. While we look forward to new and healthy opportunities ahead, we acknowledge and respect the pain and intimate personal loss felt by so many families today.

During August and afterwards, we will continue to commemorate this significant anniversary for women and their significant victory for equal rights and an end to prejudice against women.

This is the link to the Updated Gazette <https://nationalwomenshistoryalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/Centennial-Update-Fall-2020-2021.pdf>

Please keep us posted about your plans, and Happy Centennial Equality Day in advance.

In celebration,

Robert Cooney, Advisory Board Chair, National Women's History Alliance



Fatima



Layla



Sierra



Anna



Emma



Olivia

LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

At our June Zoom Brunch, college scholarship awards were presented to six local High School Seniors. These deserving girls were recognized for excelling in their high school years, not only with excellent grades, but also in community service and leadership ability. They were each awarded a \$1,000 AAUW scholarship in recognition of their achievements. This year's scholarship recipients are: Olivia Cervantes Llamas, Emma Cardinale and Anna Szakats from College Park High School, and Sierra Dabby, Layla Gomes, and Fatima Lizarde from Alhambra High School.

In the Fall, Olivia is going to UCLA and majoring in International Development Studies, Emma is going to St. Mary's and will be studying Allied Health Services, and Anna is headed to Purdue University and majoring in Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering. Sierra will attend UC Berkeley and will be studying Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences. Layla is off to Sonoma State University studying Biochemistry, and Fatima will attend USC with a major in Political Science and a related subject, probably History.

Our branch is proud to award these young women our 2020 scholarships. As a branch, we strongly support the Local Scholarship Fund through several fundraisers including our Silent Coffee Klatch, proceeds from our grand Slammer Bridge group, as well as individual member donations.



2020–2021 LEADERSHIP TEAM

**August - September -
October - November 2020
All meetings virtual until
further notice**

- Aug 12** Board Meeting, 7:00 pm, Zoom
Aug 24 September 2020 N.E.W.S. deadline to Reba
Sep 9 Board Meeting, 7:00 pm, Zoom
Sep ?? Fall Welcome Brunch, 10 am - Zoom
Oct 14 Board Meeting, 7:00 pm, Zoom
Oct 21 League of Women Voters—information on the Propositions—Zoom or—7 pm
Nov 7? Board Meeting, 7:00 pm, Zoom
Nov 11 7 pm—Helen Rossi, Deputy Superintendent of MUSD to speak on how schools are preparing to teach in this era of Covid-19—Zoom or—7 pm



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

Montecito Animal Clinic



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Pacheco, CA 94553
925/686-0683
FAX 925/686-4754



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