



## Audrey Goins Cormier

Wednesday, February 19, 2020 at 7 pm

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

1601 St. Mary's Drive, Pleasant Hill

Last year while Helen and I were preparing the Branch Speaker schedule for this year, Helen showed me the Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette newsletter's article about their upcoming speaker for March, 2019. The description of Audrey's education and work experience as well as her post-retirement work as a diversity and inclusion expert, a mentor and a philanthropist was compelling.

As our speaker on February 19, her focus will be on how we as women can lead, mentor and impact our families, our communities and the lives of others – especially young women. To help us do that, she will bring a list of resources and materials that we can use or pass on to those actively working in schools and other organizations to help young women and minorities focus effectively on their futures.

But what really hit the spot was the enthusiasm of Branch president Denise Burian and President-Elect Marielle Boortz after March. They could not say enough positive things about the talk and about the strong impact it had on Branch members, who like ourselves are busy gathering money for scholarships, interviewing candidates for Tech Trek and advocating for the advancement of women and youth in all fields but particularly those long effectively closed to many women and minorities. Audrey will remind us with enthusiasm that there is much we can do to inspire our young women in addition to the importance of raising money and choosing Tech Trekkers and scholarship winners.

Born in Birmingham, Alabama and graduated from Auburn University with BS and MS degrees in biological sciences, she also has an MBA in Supply Chain Management from Arizona State. Recently retired as manager of Diversity and Inclusion for Chevron Corporation, prior to that position she was a manager of procurement strategy, planning and coordination and held positions in environmental affairs and public/external affair.

Since retirement she has been very active setting up programs for girls and minorities at the Richmond Boys and Girls Club among other activities focused on the theme of diversity and inclusion with particular focus on young women and minorities.



## PRESIDENTIAL POSTINGS

The new year is proving to be full of opportunities to support our fundraising efforts and have some fun with our AAUW family at the same time. Check out the various Fund, Tech Trek and Local Scholarship Fundraisers planned for the next few months.

Harriett and Helen have some wonderful programs lined up. We begin in February with Audrey Goins Cormier, then March with Laurie Strawn portraying Eleanor Roosevelt and in April with Cheryl Dembe, who received her doctorate 48 years late.

It was most interesting to hear Hiro relating a kid's eye view of living through the relocation of his family from Martinez to the Santa Rita Camp in Utah. And all the wonderful soups, breads and desserts were so nice on a cool January evening. Thanks to all who participated.

The AAUW CA convention is coming up on April 17-19. Word on the street (or at least in the most recent Board to Board email!) is that there will be some women from the past roaming around the convention, in celebration of the centennial of a woman's right to vote. You might see Victoria Woodhull, who in 1872, was the first woman to make the attempt to run for President. She chose Frederick Douglass as her running mate. The government refused to put her name on the ballot. You might also see Harriet Tubman of Underground Railroad fame or suffragist Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

There are many sessions that look to be very interesting, too. And it's just across the Bay at the Westin San Francisco Airport! Give attending some consideration!

Reba

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

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Mark your calendar!**  
**AAUW FUND**  
**GAME DAY**

Tuesday, March 31, 2020  
 12:30 - 3:00 PM




Brookview Clubhouse  
 Watch for reservation details  
 in the March newsletter

**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](mailto:tarheel61@yahoo.com) or (925) 798-7528

***FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING***  
***WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2020***

**7:00 PM**

***Trinka March's home***

**Copy deadline for the**  
**March 2020 N.E.W.S.**  
**Monday, February 24<sup>th</sup>**

Please email copy to:

Reba Siero      [rebasiero@yahoo.com](mailto:rebasiero@yahoo.com)  
 (925) 917-1061

## INTEREST SECTIONS MEETINGS



**\*\*MORNING BOOKS** will meet on Wednesday, February 5, 10 am, at Margie Pruitt's. We will be discussing our classic with two stories by Mark Twain ~*Life on the Mississippi* & *Roughing It*. ~ you can read both, or just one. In March, we will be discussing *The Honey Bus* by Meredith May. Plan to join us! NOTE: *Becoming* was discussed in January and the group agreed that the book showed Michelle Obama to be honest, determined, devoted, intelligent, strong, flexible and a role model. All were interested in what the future holds for her.



**\*\*IN INDELIBLE INK** will not meet in February.



**\*\*LUNCHIN' LADIES** will go to lunch on Tuesday the 18th, 1 pm, at Social Bird Kitchen and Bar in Lafayette (former site of Yankee Pier). Please let Marlene know before Sunday the 16<sup>th</sup>, if you plan to attend so reservations can be made. Also, please call Marlene 689-5439 OR [marlene@maksel.us](mailto:marlene@maksel.us) with suggestions for restaurants in this new year.



**\*\*EVENING BOOKS** will meet on Monday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm, at Brookview Clubhouse. We will be discussing *The Island of Sea Women* by Lisa See ~ two young girls form an 80-year old friendship as they dive for sea-food from a Korean island. In March, we will be discussing *Gardener of Eden* by David Downie. Join us for great discussions.



**\*\*MATINEE IDLE** will go to the movies on Thursday; February 27<sup>th</sup> Details will come by email the Monday prior. 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 meet at 12:30 PM on Friday, February 21<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:seabear2@msn.com)

Gayle Miner at (925) 349-6795,

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

We play on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup>.

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.



### **\*\*WALKING and HIKING**

There seems to be some interest in starting a walking group. Members can decide on easy hikes in different locations in the Contra Costa and Easy Bay. Each member will pick a walk or hike for the month. Dates and times will be determined at the first meeting and it may vary. One AAUW branch meets at 9:00 am the second Saturday a month. Let Diane Coventry ([diane.coventry@gmail.com](mailto:diane.coventry@gmail.com)) know if you are interested in a once-a-month walk or hike. Thank you to the six members who signed up at the Soup Supper. We have your name and email.

Save The Date: The AAUW California Convention will be April 17 – 19, 2020 at the Westin San Francisco Airport Hotel, One Old Bayshore Highway, Millbrae, CA. Specific convention program and registration information is available on the AAUW CA website and in the Winter Perspective – watch for an email with details coming from state.

Did you know that Elect Her, Start Smart, Tech Trek and other new programs empower women and girls at the branch, state and national levels. Also our AAUW magazine covers issues that women face today, from the gender pay gap to human trafficking.

The Fund Committee has selected Desiree Maurino from DVC to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) at the University of Maryland in late May. Desiree is studying to become a Radiologist. She wrote in her application that “I believe that attending this leadership conference will aid me in reaching my goals to building myself into the type of person I want to become, a woman who works well with others, but can take control of a situation with emotional strength and ease; someone who stands out in a crowd and isn’t afraid to state her mind and delegate those around her. This is a place where I can meet likeminded women who are also trying to make a difference in the world; conquering each obstacle head-on. I believe that we can uplift and empower each other to be successful and work together in perfect unity.” Desiree has recently been a Teacher’s Assistant in Anatomy/Physiology at DVC and has received high praises from her professor who said she was “hardworking, diligent and motivated” in his letter of recommendation. We feel that we have selected the best woman to attend NCCWSL and feel she will greatly benefit from attending the conference. Hopefully, you will all meet her at the Fall Brunch.

The AAUW Fund Committee’s next meeting is Monday, March 16 at the home of Gayle Miner. We would love to have new members on our committee. Please call Gayle Miner (925) 349-6795 or Claudia Bass (925) 372-8679 if you are interested in joining us to see what Fund is all about.



## SAM at Fair Oaks in March

Our SAM (Study Art and Music) Program for Fair Oaks Elementary School is scheduled for the first two weeks in March in the morning. We have sent a signup sheet to those members on our list. This year we are studying the artist Matisse and the composer Ravel.

The volunteer duties are pretty simple -- help us set up and clean up and then admire the work of the students. We will teach TK (Transitional Kindergarten) thru 5th grade and 2 Special Ed classes (SDC).

We are planning a workday on Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup> from 10 - noon in the teachers' workroom at Fair Oaks where we will prepare the materials for the students. Let us know if you can join us.

We still have room for additional volunteers. It is lots of fun and rewarding.

Sherrie Moore, Barbara Minneman, and Diane Coventry





## 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 **Annual Soup Supper** on the **Photos Page**. Take a look at our upcoming **Programs and Events** on the **Program 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

The membership committee is excited, that with your help, our membership has increased by 2 at the Soup Supper. What a wonderful evening filled with fabulous soups, breads, desserts, and Hiro Okawachi's program. We are excited to let you know our branch has inherited Muriel Fry's Karaoke machine for future events. Roger Fry has graciously given Pleasant Hill-Martinez AAUW her Karaoke machine to us in her name.

Remember that for folks that join now 'til March 15<sup>th</sup>, the dues are reduced. Let's encourage our friends to join soon.

Joining our branch at the Soup Supper, please welcome our newest members and add them to your directory.

Kate Christensen  
246 Christie Drive  
Martinez, CA 94553  
(925) 681-9469  
[katethamina@live.com](mailto:katethamina@live.com)

Kate attended UC Irvine earning a BS in Biology and an MD at their School of Medicine.

Nancy Myers  
505 Suisun Avenue  
Rodeo, CA 94572  
(805) 861-4723  
[tchrnmyers@hotmail.com](mailto:tchrnmyers@hotmail.com)

Nancy attended Oregon State University earning a BS in Nursery School Teaching and attended Sonoma State University for a Multiple Subject Credential.

SarahJoy Haynes, (925) 586-9493, [plumleathr@aol.com](mailto:plumleathr@aol.com)  
Kathleen Woulfe, (925) 372-7726, [kathleendwoulfe@aol.com](mailto:kathleendwoulfe@aol.com)

## TECH TREK TIDINGS

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

The Tech Trek camper selection process is well underway. Information brochures, nomination forms, and applications have been sent to our four middle schools, and are due back February 18. The committee will read and score them by March 5, when we will meet again to discuss and set up interviews with the top finalists on March 22.

If any members are interested and looking for something to do this summer, June 21 -27, please consider being a dorm mom or a class monitor. We currently have two dorm mom positions open. Visitation Day is on Thursday, June 25. As Camp Sonoma Co-Director, working on staffing, planning workshops, and nighttime events I am happy to report that we have all 5 Core teachers and field trips lined up, but are actively seeking workshop/mini-lab presenters and women to speak at our Professional Women's Night. If you would like to volunteer, as a dorm mom or class monitor, or have connections for potential speakers and presenters, contact me, [diane.coventry@yahoo.com](mailto:diane.coventry@yahoo.com).

We have one fundraiser on the books this year – Painting with a Twist, on May 9. See article by Sherrie for specifics. Know any middle school girls? AAUW Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette (OML) Branch is hosting their annual STEM Techbridge Conference at St. Mary's on Saturday March 21.

<https://eyh.techbridgegirls.org/conferences/AAUWSAINTMARYS/> Last year I volunteered with registration and visited several of the workshops. Exciting stuff and high energy! It was great to see a few Tech Trekkers there too.

Thank you for your continuous generous support for Tech Trek. Muriel Fry would be proud of the many contributions made in her honor. I will be sure to acknowledge Muriel and our branch at the Camp Sonoma opening ceremony on June 21.



# Save the date

## Tech Trek Fundraiser

*Painting with a Purpose for Tech Trek  
2 hour class costs \$35- arrive 15-20 minutes early*

**Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> 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*



### ANNUAL LAYETTE SHOWER

by Sherrie Moore

In January, our branch generously donated baby gifts to the Hillcrest Congregational Church Social Service Program. So many beautiful items were received – a hand-made afghan, receiving blankets and hats, and adorable baby clothes --- sleepers, newborn outfits, blankets, and sweaters. We sent a big pile of newborn necessities for happy babies and grateful Moms.

Hillcrest Church packages up complete layettes for boys and girls. They are picked up by Contra Costa Health Services public health nurses and given to new moms when the nurses visit homes to assess the needs, and the health and needs of the babies after they return home from the hospital. Thank you Suzanne Rheingruber for being our host.



## 2019–2020 LEADERSHIP TEAM

### February 2020 and beyond

- Feb 5** Morning Books, 10 am, Margie Pruitt's
- Feb 10** Grand Slammers Bridge, 12:30 pm,  
Brookview Clubhouse
- Feb 12** Board meeting, 7 pm, Trinkia March's
- Feb 18** Lunchin' Ladies, 1 pm, Social Bird, Lafayette  
RSVP to Marlene Maksel by Feb 15
- Feb 19** Audrey Goins Cormier to speak, 7 pm,  
St Andrew's Presbyterian Church
- Feb 21** Mah Jongg, 12:30 pm, Brookview Clubhouse
- Feb 24** Evening Books, 7 pm, Brookview Clubhouse
- Feb 24** March 2020 N.E.W.S. deadline to Reba
- Feb 27** Matinee Idle, call Marlene Maksel
- Mar 10** Local Scholarships Fundraiser, 11 am to 9 pm,  
BJ's in Sun Valley Mall
- Mar 14** Eleanor Roosevelt will visit, 10 am,  
St Andrew's Presbyterian Church
- Mar 16** Fund Committee meeting, Gayle Miner's
- Mar 21** OML Stem Techbridge Conf, St Mary's College
- Mar 24, May 26** CCC IBC meetings
- Mar 31** AAUW Fund Game Day
- Apr 17-19** AAUW CA Convention, Westin San Francisco  
Airport
- May 9** Painting with a Twist, TT Fundraiser
- May 17** DVC play, NUTS, Local Scholarships Fundraiser

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