



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 64 Issue 1

September 2021

## Pleasant Hill-Martinez AAUW

### SEPTEMBER WELCOME BRUNCH

Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021

10:00 AM to 12 Noon

Nancy Hobert's Home

1040 Vaca Creek Rd

Martinez, CA

(925) 228-7271

### PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS WELCOME

- ◇ Listen to Tech Trekkers talk about camp
- ◇ Make new friends and greet the old
- ◇ Check out the Interest Section offerings
- ◇ Pick up your 2021-2022 Directory
- ◇ Bring a friend/prospective member

**RSVP to:**

Sandy Wolfe at (925) 228-2633 or [rfwolfeman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rfwolfeman@sbcglobal.net)

**RSVP by:**

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10<sup>th</sup>**

Due to Covid, the food will be catered and we are requesting a \$5 donation in lieu of bringing food to share. We will be outdoors, but masks are required when not eating.

Bring a sunhat.

As with all things during these times, plans may change due to health and safety guidelines in the state and county.

### Directions to Nancy's home:

From Highway 4: Take Alhambra Ave exit and go **SOUTH** on Alhambra Ave. Turn **RIGHT** onto Alhambra Valley Rd and go 1.3 miles. Turn **RIGHT** to stay on Alhambra Valley Rd and go 0.8 miles. Turn **RIGHT** onto Vaca Creek Rd and go 100 yds. Nancy's home is the first one on the right.

From Gregory Ln/Grayson Rd: Take Grayson Rd up to the cemetery. Turn **RIGHT** onto Reliez Valley Rd and go 2.2 miles. Continue straight ahead onto Alhambra Valley Rd and go 0.8 miles. Turn **RIGHT** onto Vaca Creek Rd and go 100 yds. Nancy's home is the first one on the right.



Update on Tech Trek – STEM 2021 Virtual Camp

July 30<sup>th</sup>, we completed the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final session of Virtual Tech Trek Camp. Our branch sent 11 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade girls to one of three sessions. The total number of campers from the state was over 600, 76 branches participated, 250 volunteers (branch members and prior campers) were technical and social coaches – ‘adults in the breakout rooms’, and logistics coordinators. One of our Tech Trek alumni and former camp counselor, Isabella Martinez, was a build coach. Deborah Wechsler of DAWC branch was the Hub Logistics Coordinator for all of the East Bay branches, with 68 campers and about 20 coaches. As Branch coordinators, myself and Debbie Cummings (Delta-Contra Costa) along with DAWC member Bev Nidick helped complete and distribute kits for the campers and coaches. Modeling great Teamwork!

The camp core activity was a robotics component sponsored by the company Qualcomm. On the final day of camp each girl submitted a video of her “Wearable Art” creation – a crazy animated hat. We have the flipgrid videos of our girls’ presentations to share. Following lunch each day was an inspirational speaker and two STEM workshops. Additionally, there was a 90- minute evening program, one which was finding the secrets of the Rubik’s Cube.

Here are a couple of comments from our campers -

*I loved camp so much! Being a part of a community of STEM girls is awesome! Learning together with the other girls in the workshops was really fun. I especially enjoyed the inspiration hour each day. It really made me more interested in going into the STEM field when I’m older. I had the best time at Tech Trek!*

When I inquired on which workshop I should link into and watch, this was her reply:

*I most enjoyed the math workshops as well as the strawberries have DNA and the water one. All of those ones are very hands-on and were very enjoyable and educational experiences. I did really enjoy all the workshops, so you'll probably like whatever you end up in, but those are the ones I would recommend. I am really looking forward to the Ice Cream float party!*

Point of view from Isabella, social coach, former TT camp counselor extraordinaire, soon to be Freshman at UC San Diego in chemical engineering (we are so proud of her):

*Although virtual camp came with its challenges, seeing so many girls eager for camp after a draining year of online education was promising. None of us had met each other in person prior to camp, yet we were still able to become comfortable with one another. The girls would talk about their day and make the most out of the virtual setting. The women that I worked with always put their best efforts forward. Especially being online, we often had to work on solving technical issues on top of designing and building our hats. Though technical challenges were presented, zoom offered a media that allowed everyone to learn and connect from the comfort of their home.*

And from Elizabeth, who was a 2020 pick and is now in HS:

*Tech Trek was a huge highlight of my summer! Tech Trek helped me grow in so many ways and learn so much more. I really enjoyed getting to learn how to code using arduino as well as learning other things STEM related. The workshops and inspirational speakers really inspired me and showed me so many ways I can use my love of STEM in successful ways. I can't wait to get work as a counselor!*

Included are two photos from our Meet and Greet Root Beer Float event at Hidden Valley Park on Aug. 15., and pictures of the girls modeling their hat during their video presentation.

Hopefully, all eleven girls will attend our branch’s September brunch to tell our branch members and guests about their Tech Trek camp experiences. The 2021 Virtual Camp was successful but let’s hope the 2022 Tech Trek Camps will be back on college campuses so our campers can have a full Tech Trek Camp experience—with all the camaraderie, hands-on learning, and fun and exciting STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) activities that Tech Trek Camp can provide.

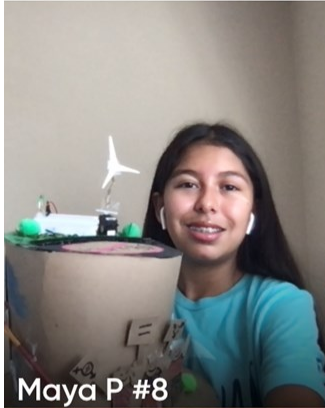
We greatly appreciate your contributions whether they were your time, talents, or monetary donations. Looking ahead to some fundraising in the future.

See Photos on the next page!





Makena, Isabella, Maya, Elizabeth, Samantha, and Jaap



Maya P #8



13 Chiara K



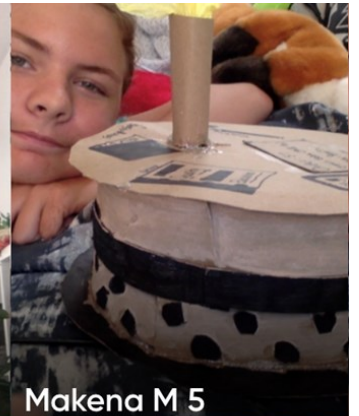
14 Elizabeth



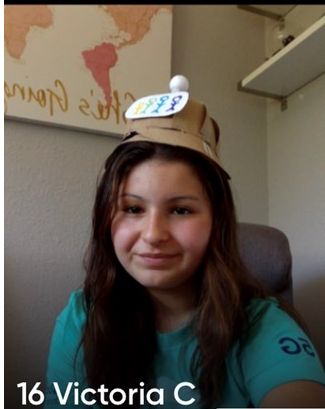
15 Jaap K.



Afra S. 6



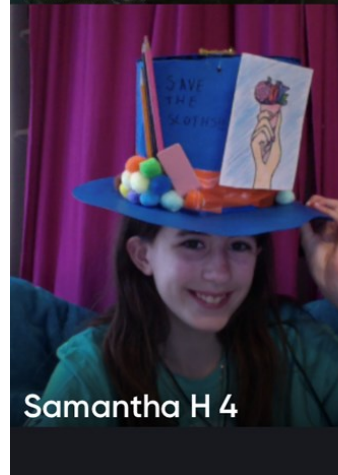
Makena M 5



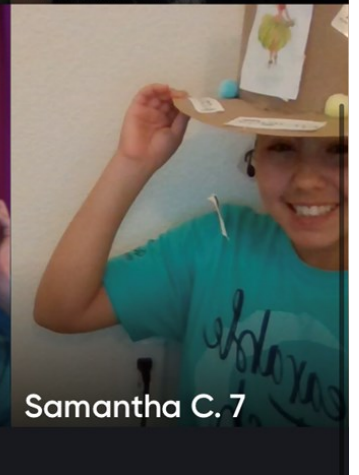
16 Victoria C



17 Adora N



Samantha H 4



Samantha C. 7



## INTEREST SECTIONS MEETINGS



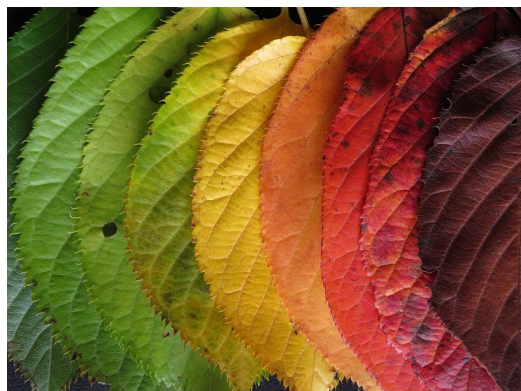
**\*\*MORNING BOOKS** met on Wednesday, September 1, 10 am, at Margie Pruitt's home. Our book for discussion was *The Women of Chateau Lafayette* by Stephanie Dray. Many thanks to Sherrie Moore for all her work in receiving and processing all the ballots for book choices. And, thanks to all of you for giving us those titles and for choosing your favorites.



**\*\*EVENING BOOKS** did not meet in July or August. Our next meeting will be Monday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm at the Brookview Clubhouse. We will be discussing *This Tender Land* by William Kent Krueger. Contact Marlene Maksel to learn more - (925) 689-5439 or [marlene@maksel.us](mailto:marlene@maksel.us)



**\*\*MATINEE IDLE** goes to the movies on the 4th Thursday of the month. Contact Marlene Maksel to learn more - (925) 689-5439 or [marlene@maksel.us](mailto:marlene@maksel.us)



## OTHER GROUPS



**\*\*MAH JONGG** will meet on Friday, September 17<sup>th</sup> and October 15<sup>th</sup> at the Brookview Clubhouse, 12:30 PM. Please let Suzanne Salter know if you plan to attend. Her contact information is: Suzanne Salter  
[seabear92020@outlook.com](mailto:seabear92020@outlook.com)  
(925) 988-0322 cell)



### **\*\*GRAND SLAMMERS**

For information, contact:

Marlene DeLaurenti at [mdl@astound.net](mailto:mdl@astound.net) or (925) 934-4171

**SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2021**

**7:00 PM**

**ZOOM**

**Copy deadline for the**

**October 2021 N.E.W.S.**

**Tuesday, September 28<sup>th</sup>**

Please email copy to:

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

(925) 917-1061

## BOOK EXCHANGE/Round Robin LAST CALL

This is your annual opportunity to join the BOOK EXCHANGE! Read up to 12 hardbacks published in 2021 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 still have openings available for 2 Exchanges and would welcome additional members. Unless there is a flurry of interest, we will not have a 3rd Exchange. Please call with any questions.

Please contact Mary Hanlon @ (925) 934-3528 (Home) or (925) 286-2223 (Cell) or [mkhbibliophile@aol.com](mailto:mkhbibliophile@aol.com) with your selected title and author **PRIOR** to purchasing your book. **DEADLINE** for reserving your Titles - and your places in the Exchanges - is **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20th**. We should begin exchanging books by October 1st.

## AAUW FUND REPORT

Jennifer Apkarian and Claudia Bass, AAUW Fund VPs

At the virtual end of the year celebration, we had the pleasure to hear from our 2021 DVC student, Bryanna King who attended the virtual National Conference for College Women Student Leaders this year. She said it was amazing and thanked us for giving her the opportunity to attend and enjoyed the workshops. She did highlight some aspects of the conference. One was about rage and the ability to acknowledge the rage but make it productive. Another was how to brand yourself which was especially helpful as Bryanna runs her own business. Overall, it was a worthwhile experience for her. Next fall she will be attending UCLA majoring in communications and marketing. We wish her well with her future endeavors.

As we have heard from our NCCWSL student the positive experience they have had attending NCCWSL makes the Kinder's coupon sales worthwhile and possible for them to attend. Thank you to everyone that bought coupons which made the sale a huge success. Also, thanks to friends and family who made purchases. For the spring sale we had a profit of \$939.25 and for fall sale a profit of \$836.00 totaling \$1,802.25 for the year. That will cover another DVC student to attend the conference next year. This would not have been possible without our sellers, Claudia Bass, Jennifer Apkarian, Helen Pereira and Marlene Maksel. A huge thanks goes to Gayle Miner who organized the sales.

Our AAUW Fund committee met on July 12 to plan the year. We look forward to sending a DVC student to the AAUW National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) next year. Details regarding the conference are forthcoming. The student that we sent this year, Bryanna Nicole King, spoke at the end of year meeting about her experiences at the virtual conference.

Since our spring Kinder's sale was so successful and sold out quickly, this fall we will be selling Kinder's Tickets again. Sales will begin in time to buy coupons as stocking stuffer gifts for the holidays which would be good through February. We will once again include a mail order option for your convenience. More information and a mail order form will be included in a future newsletter.

When you receive your new 2021-2022 membership directory you will find an envelope with a solicitation letter in it to donate towards AAUW Fund. The letter explains about AAUW Fund. This is the heart of AAUW and promotes our mission for education and equity for women and girls. In the past you have been very generous with your donations, and it is much appreciated. Again, unrestricted needs category is the greatest need for AAUW Fund as the endowments are on solid ground. Unrestricted needs allow AAUW Fund to be flexible and implement programs that fulfil AAUW's mission.

Later this fall, the AAUW Fund Luncheon will be happening virtually. AAUW Grant recipients talk about their studies, and it is very interesting. The luncheons are scheduled for Saturday October 23, Saturday October 30 and Sunday, November 7 from 10 am- Noon via Zoom. Additional information and a Zoom link will be forthcoming in the October newsletter. Registration can be made via the AAUW California event website. Hearing from these women is truly inspiring and interesting which makes our contributions and our efforts to raise money so worthwhile.

We welcome you to join our committee. It is a truly productive and fun group. We meet every other month. For more information you can contact Jennifer or Claudia. Our next meeting is Monday, September 20 at 2:30 pm, location to be determined. Please let us know if you can attend.

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)



## Pleasant Hill - Martinez AAUW Website



Our website will show you everything you need to know about our Pleasant Hill - Martinez branch. Check out the Zoom photos from our virtual June End-of-the-Year Brunch on the **Photo Page**. Kudos to our Local Scholarship and Tech Trek girls on **The Community Action Page**. Congratulations to our Barbara Newachek winner and our Named Gift Recipient on the **About Us Page**. Meet our 2021 National Conference for College Student Leaders (NCCWSL) representative on the **About Us 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 Pleasant Hill- Martinez Branch

## 2021-2022 Proposed Budget

### Revenue:

Membership Dues	\$2210.00
Ads	\$50.00
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Total Revenue	\$2260.00

### Expenses:

Directory	\$200.00
Hospitality	\$50.00
Insurance	\$500.00
Membership	\$250.00
Newsletter	\$25.00
Program	\$880.00
Website	\$110.00
Sunshine	\$25.00
Conference and Conventions	\$200.00
State Raffle Registration	\$20.00
<hr/>	
Total Expenses	\$2260.00

### IN MEMORY OF SHARON LIND

Former member, Sharon Lind, passed away June 26. Until her health failed, she was a member of our branch. She loved to read, and attended our books group. Her minestrone soup was delicious and a big hit at our annual soup supper.

A native of California, she grew up on a turkey farm. She attended San Jose State for one year, then married and had a son and daughter. She lived in Pleasant Hill and returned to graduate from Diablo Valley College, and San Jose State with a degree in interior design.

To those of us who knew her, she was a lovely person and dear friend.

Gayle Garrison



**SAVE THE DATE**

**PH-M AAUW**

**ANNUAL LAYETTE SHOWER**

**Wednesday, January 12, 2022, 10 AM**

**At the home of Janice Walker**

**More info to come!**



## 2021-2022 LEADERSHIP TEAM

### September - October 2021

- Sep 1 Morning Books, 10 am, Margie Pruitt's
- Sep 8 Board Meeting, 7 pm, Zoom
- Sep 10 Ways and Means, 11 am, Brookview Clubhouse
- Sep 10 Deadline to RSVP for Welcome Brunch
- Sep 14 Election Day!
- Sep 18 Welcome Brunch, 10 am, Nancy Hobert's home
- Sep 20 Fund Committee Meeting, 2:30 pm, Venue TBD
- Sep 27 Evening Books, 7 pm, Brookview Clubhouse
- Sep 28 IBC meeting, 7 pm,
- Sep 28 October 2021 N.E.W.S. deadline to Reba
- Oct 6 Morning Books, 10 am, Venue TBD
- Oct 13 Board Meeting, 7 pm, Zoom
- Oct 23 Fund "Meet the Fellows", 10 am - noon, Zoom
- Oct 30 Fund "Meet the Fellows", 10 am - noon, Zoom
- Nov 7 Fund "Meet the Fellows", 10 am - noon, 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

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

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Sally Whitsett 689-5493 [sswhits@gmail.com](mailto:sswhits@gmail.com)

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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 October 2021 N.E.W.S. is September 28<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)

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#### California State Office of AAUW

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