



N.E.W.S.

Now/Events/Women/Success

Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy,
education, philanthropy and research

Volume 64 Issue 6

February 2022

**Patrick Remer
Senior Community Library Manager
Contra Costa County Library, Pleasant Hill
February 16, 2021 – 7p.m.
St Andrews Presbyterian Church
1601 Mary Dr
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523**

We are delighted that Patrick Remer, Senior Community Library Manager at the Contra Costa County Library here in Pleasant Hill, has accepted our invitation to speak on Wednesday, February 16th, at St Andrews Church.

Patrick has been in Pleasant Hill for many years. He has brought joy to children reading and playing instruments for happy audiences.

As many of us know, the New Pleasant Hill Library is coming together quickly at its new location. Patrick is excited to be showing lots of exciting pictures of all the changes and growth happening at the new building. We will learn some up to date information. I'm sure it will be very informative and exciting to see and hear.

Sally Whitsett
Co-VP Programs



Pleasant Hill-Martinez (CA) Branch

**Advancing equity for women and girls through ad-
vocacy, education, philanthropy and research**



PRESIDENTIAL POSTINGS

As the world is cautiously opening up, we're looking forward to seeing each other in person! There may be setbacks from time to time, but we have proven ourselves to be rather resilient and creative in how we have met the challenges. Here's to seeing each other more often.

Several of our members have had great losses in their families, and several are dealing with health issues. We send each of you our love and care. Please see the next page for details.

Thanks go to Janice Walker for hosting what turned

into a virtual Layette Shower. Thanks also to each who gave generously.

And more opportunities for generosity are in progress or on the way. Check out the details about the Coffee Klatch and Red Robin fundraisers (contact Virginia Hewgley for more info), and Game Day and Kinder's fundraisers (contact the Fund committee for more info).

AAUW has been working for equity in all areas of women's lives. Check out the Public Policy articles on pages 9 and 10 for updates on progress, and where you can help.

How can YOU help keep our branch strong? Say, "YES!", when the Nominating Committee calls you to fill spots on the Executive Board! See page 8.

The February meeting will be in person, and we are planning to have the Zoom option available as well.

See you soon, in person or in the virtual meeting place!

Reba Siero, 2021-22 Co-President



Game Day

Thursday March 31st

12:00- 3:00

Brookview Clubhouse

\$10.00

Come join us for a fun afternoon playing MAH JONGG, BRIDGE or MEXICAN TRAIN with fellow members. Snacks and beverages will be served.

Proceeds will fund Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF).

Let Marlene, [925-689-5439](tel:925-689-5439) or marlene@maksiel.us know if you are coming and what game you will be playing. It would be helpful if bridge groups reserve as a foursome group.

Hope to see many of you there!!!!

INTEREST SECTIONS MEETINGS



****MORNING BOOKS** postponed

our February meeting until June. . In March we will be discussing Erik Larsen's engrossing book, *The Splendid and the Vile*. Please plan to join us!



****EVENING BOOKS** will meet on

Monday, February 28th, 7 pm, possibly still on Zoom ~ notification will be sent later. We will be discussing *This is How It Always Is* by Laurie Frankel.



****MATINEE IDLE** is on hold for

the present time. We normally meet on the 4th Thursday of each month. If you are interested, please call or email Marlene Maksel.

OTHER GROUPS



****MAH JONGG** will meet on

Friday, February 18th at the Brookview Clubhouse, 12:30 PM. We will meet next on March 18th at 12:30 PM. Please let Suzanne Salter know if you plan to attend. Her contact information is:
Suzanne Salter

seabear92020@outlook.com

(925) 988-0322 cell)



****GRAND SLAMMERS**

For information, contact:

Marlene DeLaurenti at mdl@astound.net or (925) 934-4171

SUNSHINE

Gayle Garrison

Our deepest sympathy to Beth Madruga in the passing away of her dear husband, Phil. For many years, Phil was the owner of a service station in Pleasant Hill, and was very active in his community. Services will not be local and not in the near future

Sara Tancredy, lost her daughter, Kathleen, and we send her, and her family, our sympathy.

Kit Hein's son Chris passed away recently. We send Kit and her family our condolences.

Former Martinez AAUW member, Mary Smith, passed away on February 4. We send Mary's family our sympathy.

From Tom Byrne, Deborah Byrne has been in the hospital for cancer treatment. She is now at Manor-Care Rossmoor for rehab.

Kay Ernst had a traffic accident.

Kathleen Woulfe was in the hospital overnight for breathing issues (not Covid related). She is home now.

Gayle Garrison

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

AAUW FUND REPORT

Jennifer Apkarian and Claudia Bass, AAUW Fund VPs

After two years we are hoping to have Game Day for LAF (Legal Advocacy Fund). The date is set for Thursday, March 31st from 12-3 pm at Brookview. So, cross your fingers that Game Day does not have to be cancelled. More details will follow.

Plans for the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) are still in the planning stage for 2022 at the National level. Because of the uncertainty if the conference will happen and the time it takes to select a student from Diablo Valley College our Fund committee decided not to send a student this year. It is disappointing but hoping it works out for 2023.

Since AAUW Endowments are on solid ground, we have donated \$1800 as a branch to AAUW unrestricted funds. This will help with various programs that fulfill AAUW's mission of education and equity for women and girls.

Since our fall Kinder's gift certificate sales was such a success, we will have another one in the spring. Details will be coming later. Thank you to everyone for your support.

We would love to have more members on our committee. The time commitment is not huge as we meet every other month and meetings are not that long but productive. It would be great to get new people with new ideas. So, if you want to join some fun and awesome women and accomplish fulfilling AAUW's mission contact Claudia or Jennifer.

Next meeting will be Monday, March 14, 2022, at 2:30. The meeting will be held at Claudia's house or Zoom if we must.

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Next meeting will be Monday, March 14, 2022, at 2:30. The meeting will be held at Claudia's house or Zoom if we must.

Jennifer Apkarian at (925) 228-2027 or apkarian1@att.net or

Claudia Bass at (925) 372-8679 or 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 photos from our **January Layette Shower** on the **Community Action Page**. Find our upcoming Programs and activities 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

Gift idea for those who have everything and don't need more stuff!

From Gayle Garrison

Cameron Wright, who lives in Charlotte, NC, gave a donation to AAUW in honor of Gayle's birthday in November. If you have "everything and don't need more stuff", this is a really good gift. If a family member asks what you want for your birthday, give them this suggestion.



PH-M AAUW ANNUAL LAYETTE SHOWER

Thank you to the seventeen members who donated to this year's Layette Shower despite our last minute COVID restrictions and inability to meet in person. Everyone was very generous in supplying an assortment of items including 298 diapers, new board books and a monetary donation, in addition to 6 large bags of items. Items included handmade quilts, sweaters and hats, blankets, sleepers, receiving blankets, bibs, socks, a crinkle toy, and a multitude of outfits for both baby boys and baby girls. The representative for the Hillcrest Layette program was very appreciative of all the items. Despite the recent COVID concerns, she stated that the Public Health nurses continue to regularly pick up items to deliver to needy mothers. At this time when needs are great, once again AAUW members lent a helping hand. Thank you! And special thanks to Sherrie Moore for taking the photos.

Janice Walker



In Memoriam - Kathleen Tancredy, daughter of Sara Tancredy

Kathleen (Kathy) Tancredy

Oct. 7, 1963 – Jan. 24, 2022

Resident of Martinez

Kathleen Tancredy passed away peacefully in her home following a bout with cancer. Kathleen was born in Oakland, CA and is survived by her Mother, Sara Keller Tancredy; Siblings Elizabeth Spera, Joseph Tancredy (Patricia), Julie Barrett (Peter) and Karen Sandri (Dan); Nieces and Nephews Sara Barrett, Jennifer Barrett, Mary Sandri, Tommy Sandri, Kevin Sandri and J. T. Spera. Predeceased by her Father, Thomas Tancredy. Kathleen attended George Miller Center East in Concord for the past 26 years. Kathleen also enjoyed visiting The Respite Inn in Concord, where she could stay overnight and enjoy music, friendships and meals. Kathleen enjoyed going to school, music, water activities, rides in the car, stuffed animals, cartoons, hand games, and outdoor walks. She loved being around family and friends and her smile and laughter was treasured. For someone who was born unable to speak, she was able to communicate her needs and feelings very well, especially in later years. Holding hands and giving kisses and hugs with Kathleen will be especially missed. She had a positive, joyous impact on those who knew her.

An outdoor Funeral Mass and Interment was held on Wednesday, February 9, 2022 at 11:00 A.M. at Queen of Heaven Cemetery, 1965 Reliez Valley Road, Lafayette.

Donations in memory of Kathleen can be made to George Miller Center East, TLC, 3020 Grant Street, Concord, CA 94520 and/or The Respite Inn, 906 Lee Lane, Concord, CA 94518

FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING

FEBRUARY 9, 2022

7 PM

ZOOM

**Copy deadline for the
March 2022 N.E.W.S.
MONDAY, February 28th**

Please email copy to:

Reba Siero rebasiero@yahoo.com

(925) 917-1061





It's Coffee Klatch Time!

Since the Soup Supper had to be cancelled, we hand delivered the flyers and return envelopes for the Coffee Klatch again this year. (If you live outside of the Pleasant Hill/Martinez area, you can expect yours to arrive in the mail.) Many thanks to Jennifer Apkarian, Claudia Bass, Virginia Hewgley, Bobbi Horack, Gayle Miner, Sherrie Moore, Helen Pereira, Carol Walsh, and Sally Whitsett for getting all those envelopes out to our members!

For those of you who are new members, the Coffee Klatch is the primary fundraiser for the Local Scholarships Committee. Each year we provide \$1000 scholarships to seniors at College Park and Alhambra High. Thanks to the generosity of our members, we have been able to provide 3 scholarships to women at each school for the past several years. We hope you can help us keep this PH/M AAUW tradition going strong!

If you have not received your flyer and return envelope, or if you are interested in joining the scholarship committee, give Virginia Hewgley a call at 925-768-4417.

Nominating Committee seeks You!

We need members to help lead our Branch in several positions on the Board next year. If you could generously donate a little time and your talents to help out with the workings and functions of our wonderful organization, please call Helen Pereira soon at 925-285-1766. We work as a team which optimizes our time and efforts. Be a part of it !

Thank you!
Helen Pereira
Parliamentarian

PUBLIC POLICY

Childcare: An Overdue and Critical Investment

By Shelley Mitchell and Ginny Hatfield

AAUW CA Public Policy Committee

“It’s past time that we treat childcare as what it is – an element whose contribution to economic growth is as essential as infrastructure or energy...and the single most important thing we can do to build a stronger economy over the next several decades,” says Janet Yellen, the former Chair of the Federal Reserve Bank and now Secretary of the Treasury.

The state of U.S. childcare is deplorable compared with other developed nations, especially with respect to affordability. This fact has been brought home to us ever more vividly during the current pandemic. Women, who still bear the majority of childcaring, have left the workforce in the millions due to the absence of basic childcare services and the cost associated with it.

Here are some sobering statistics:

56% of married families with children under 6 consist of households where both parents work

The employment rate for single mothers raising a young child is 65%; it’s 83% for single fathers who maintain custody

The average American family with at least one child under 5 uses 13% of their income to pay for childcare

Less than 20% of children eligible for a low-income federal assistance program are getting the funding

50% of Americans live in childcare “deserts” or areas where there are three children per every childcare opening

In 24 states the average cost for infant full-time daycare exceeds the average cost of rent

97% of childcare providers are women, who are disproportionately women of color, making less than a living wage with no guaranteed benefits. In the US, the mean hourly wage for childcare workers is \$12.88, nearly \$3.00 less per hour than parking lot attendants, and \$5.00 less per hour than dog groomers.

This is a textbook example of a broken market, whereby the benefits of providing a service (in this case childcare) are not included in its overall value. Are our children really less important than our cars and dogs?

The consequences of not investing in quality childcare should have most Americans demanding action from their government leaders. Neglecting the care of young children is detrimental to their physical and mental wellbeing; it reduces productivity in the workforce; leads to lost wages and reduced retirement benefits for parents; it adds to the downward pressure on childcare workers, which in turn, impacts the quality and stability of childcare; and restricts future educational opportunities for family members.

There is hope on the horizon! *The Build Back Better Act*, now awaiting action by the Senate would provide universal preschool with high-quality childcare for 3- and 4-year-olds; increase wages for early childhood educators; upgrade existing childcare facilities, especially in high-need areas; and provide a sliding scale whereby parents would pay a reasonable percentage of their overall income to childcare costs.

Whether the legislation is included in the Reconciliation bill or taken up as a stand-alone bill, it deserves passage and your support. Childcare relief remains the top priority of AAUW California this year. Please be sure to contact your Senator and let them know of your AAUW membership and your commitment to ensuring our Nation’s future.

AAUW is calling on the 117th Congress to ensure that a permanent paid leave program, childcare funding and the Child Tax Credit are included in the budget reconciliation process.

To find out more or to contact your senators, [CLICK Here](#)

California Signs Equal Pay Pledge, Highlights Investments and Actions to Advance Pay and Gender Equity

Led by First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom, the California Equal Pay Pledge seeks to turn the nation's strongest pay laws into the smallest pay gap

For the first time in state history, California will establish a Chief Equity Officer to lead efforts to improve state hiring with an equity focus

SACRAMENTO – Building on previous actions to ensure gender and pay equity, Governor Gavin Newsom, First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom, and the California Department of Human Resources (CalHR) today announced the State of California has signed the [California Equal Pay Pledge](#), an initiative the First Partner launched to close the gender pay gap. Governor Newsom also announced the creation of a new Chief Equity Officer position to lead efforts to improve state hiring and other procedures with an equity focus, including efforts to achieve pay parity among the state government workforce.

“I’m proud to announce that California has signed the Equal Pay Pledge to advance pay equity in our workforce,” said Governor Newsom. “Signing the pledge and establishing a Chief Equity Officer position are just the latest examples of our continued commitment to ensuring our state government workforce practices reflect the highest standards of economic, gender and racial equity.”

The announcement follows the unveiling of the Governor’s California Blueprint, which includes a proposed \$1.4 million package to improve awareness of state pay equity rights and inform enforcement efforts against those that violate equal pay laws.

“We can’t reach full gender equity or close persistent gender and racial wealth gaps without reaching pay equity,” said California First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom, whose California for ALL Women campaign promotes initiatives that build women’s economic equity, support equal representation, and advance a family-first agenda. “As the state’s largest employer, California is leading by example. I call on other employers to join us as we work to create a California where all women are valued, respected, and paid equitably.”

Over 60 major California employers, including Airbnb, Apple, Gap Inc., Intel and Twitter, have signed the pledge, which the First Partner leads in collaboration with the California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls and the California Labor Commissioner’s Office. By signing the Equal Pay Pledge, signatories agree to conduct an annual, company-wide gender pay analysis, review hiring and promotion procedures to reduce unconscious bias and structural barriers, and promote best practices to close the pay gap.

California regularly releases summarized annual pay data for state employees through CalHR’s Women’s Earnings Report, Annual Census and Total Compensation Reports. The latest [Women’s Earnings Report](#), which includes state employee pay data from 2020, indicates that the state worker gender pay gap has trended downward since 2010. In 2010, the civil service gender pay gap was 21.3 percent and decreased to 14.3 percent in 2020. For the first time, the Women’s Earnings Report incorporates additional data sets to provide a better understanding of how state employees are compensated in each bargaining unit.

California has some of the strongest pay laws in the country, including a law signed by Governor Newsom in 2020 to promote compliance with state equal pay and anti-discrimination laws through mandated statewide pay data reporting for employers with 100 or more employees. Despite continued progress since the enactment of the California Equal Pay Act of 1949, studies estimate that California women continue to lose a combined [\\$87 billion](#) a year due to the wage gap, with Latina, Black and Native American women experiencing the widest gaps.



Help us celebrate St. Patrick's Day (March 17, 2022) with a fundraiser at Red Robin in Sunvalley Mall from 4 – 8 pm. Our Local Scholarship Fund will receive 20% back on all dine-in or to-go food orders. If you are dining in, simply tell your server that you are there for Pleasant Hill/Martinez AAUW fundraiser.

If you would like your order to-go, please follow these steps:

Start your order at <https://order.redrobin.com/> and select the restaurant above. If link does not work, please copy and paste to your browser.

Once in the menu, go to the category labeled "Fundraisers".

Open "Spirit Night (To-Go) Fundraiser".

Add organization name to the Special Instructions in the Spirit Night item, then add it to cart. (Note: if you add the item prior to entering your information, you can still edit it from your cart)

Add your meal items then check out.

Arrive at Red Robin, pull into a designated curbside spot where available and call the phone number on the sign. Our Team Members will bring your order to your car.

If you would like a flyer to print and hand out to your friends and family, or information to post on your social media, please email Virginia Hewgley at vhewgley@astound.net and she will email templates to you. We hope you can join us!

2021-2022 LEADERSHIP TEAM

February - March 2022

- Feb 2** Morning Books, postponed to June
Feb 9 Board Meeting, 7 pm, Zoom
Feb 16 General meeting, 7 pm, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Patrick Remer. Senior Community Library Manager, CCC Library, PH
Feb 18 Mah Jongg, 12:30 pm, Brookview Clubhouse
Feb 28 March 2022 N.E.W.S. deadline to Reba
Feb 28 Evening Books, 7 pm, Location TBA
Mar 2 Morning Books, 10 am, Location TBA
Mar 9 Board Meeting, 7 pm, Location TBA
Mar 14 Fund meeting, 2:30 pm, Claudia Bass' or Zoom
Mar 16 General meeting, 7 pm, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
Mar 17 Red Robin fundraiser, 4 to 8 pm, dine in or take out
Mar 18 Mah Jongg, 12:30 pm, Brookview Clubhouse
Mar 28 Evening Books, 7 pm, Location TBA
Mar 31 Game Day, 12 to 3 pm, Brookview Clubhouse

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rebasiero@yahoo.com

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

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