



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 65 Issue 5

January 2023



International Soup Supper

Wednesday, January 18, 2023, 6 PM

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

1601 Mary Drive, Pleasant Hill

Please join us for hearty, homemade soups, breads, and desserts at our AAUW Pleasant Hill-Martinez Branch Annual International Soup Supper.

Coffee, water, and tea will be provided

Be sure to bring your own soup bowl and spoon.

Dinner starts promptly at 6PM, and remember that spouses, partners, and friends are most welcome.

Our speaker for the evening is Evelyn LaTorre. Evelyn joined the Peace Corps upon graduation from Holy Names and was assigned to Peru where she taught PE and English and organized 4-H clubs. Evelyn's books about her experiences will be available for sale.

Let us know if you would like to bring
a pot of soup serving 10-12 people or bread or dessert
OR pay \$10. All guests pay \$10.

We are having a raffle to support Tech Trek.

1 for \$1, 8 for \$5, 15 for \$10, so bring some cash and have some fun!

Contact Diane Coventry if you would like to donate any raffle items.

Contact **Suzanne Salter (925) 988-0322** or seabear92020@outlook.com

to pay and indicate number of guests

RSVP & pay by January 12th (make checks to AAUW Pleasant Hill - Martinez Branch)

275 Appalachian Drive, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

Hope to see you there!





PRESIDENTIAL POSTINGS

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE! I hope 2023 brings you good health, happiness and new friendships. After a holiday break in December, your PHM AAUW Board is back working on your behalf. January brings the Soup Supper on the 18th and the Layette Shower on the 11th. I hope you have signed up for both events. Please check the NEWS for details.

Another thing that happens in January is that the Nominating Committee begins to meet to nominate people for Executive Board positions. The Nominating Committee consists of two people from the board and three people from the general membership, with one alternate for each. We have two board members who have volunteered to serve, but we need three people from the general membership and the alternates. BUT, we do not have anyone from the general membership to serve as yet. According to our By-Laws, we need three people from the general membership to serve on the Nominating Committee, plus an alternate. Helen Pereira and I have been asking for volunteers from the general membership for over two months and NO ONE has stepped forward as yet to serve on this important committee.

This fact brings up a huge dilemma and problem for our PHM branch. Executive Officers must be nominated by the Nominating Committee or from the floor at a General Meeting before we vote. If we do not have a Nominating Committee there will be no one officially nominated for the Executive Officer positions, which leads to no Executive Board. If there is no Executive Board, there is no PHM Branch of AAUW. The people now serving on the Executive Board have served for two years and in some cases many more years. It is time to nominate and elect new people, hence the importance of the Nominating Committee. If you want our branch to continue to exist, PLEASE help us out by serving on the Nominating Committee. I find it hard to believe that with 85 or so members, we can't find three people to serve on the Nominating Committee.

Helen Pereira and I had hoped that we would not have to call every member personally to ask them to serve on the Nominating Committee and that people would come forward to serve. Unfortunately, that has not happened. This is YOUR PHM Branch of AAUW, WE NEED YOUR HELP! Please step forward and serve on the Nominating Committee.

Please call Helen Pereira at (925) 285-1766 cell OR (925) 685-0757 hm. if you can serve on the Nominating Committee. She would love to hear from you!!

Gayle Miner
2022-23 President



Pleasant Hill-Martinez (CA) Branch

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INTEREST SECTIONS MEETINGS



****MORNING BOOKS** met on Wednesday, January 4th, 10 am, at Carol Walsh's. We discussed *Green Lights* by Matthew McConaughey. We all know him as a good actor, but this book is filled with his feelings of inadequacy, how he deals with it, his rise to "fame", family stories, and more. In February, we will be discussing Isabel Wilkerson's *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontent*. Please plan to join us!



****MATINEE IDLE** plans to view a movie in January on the 4th Thursday ~ 26th. You will be notified of the movie, time and place on the Monday before the 26th. At this point, the possible movie titles are unknown. Please call Marlene Maksel if you are interested in attending ~ also if you have a movie to recommend.



****LUNCHIN' LADIES**

will go to lunch on:

Monday, January 16 at 12:30 PM at Metro, Lafayette

Monday, February 20 at 12:30 PM at La Pinata, Concord

Reserve your space by the Monday BEFORE each date with Gayle Miner, (925) 349-6795 hm. or (925) 788-3272 cell, so she can make reservations in a timely manner.



OTHER GROUPS



****MAH JONGG** will meet on Friday, January 20th at the Brookview Clubhouse, 12:30 PM. We will meet next on February 17th 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 De Laurenti at mdl@astound.net or (925) 934-4171

SUNSHINE

Gayle Garrison

If you know of any member who needs a bit of sunshine, please let me know!

Gayle Garrison

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

Nominating Committee Report

Now that our Holiday celebrations have come to a close, we need to re-focus our attention to the needs of our AAUW Branch, and one of those is the necessity to form a Nominating Committee. Gayle Miner has echoed this in her remarks to us in this N.E.W.S. issue. Since you have not called me, she and I will be making phone calls to encourage you to help us. Please give this some serious thought and help our Branch stay a functioning one.

Thank you,
Helen Pereira, Parliamentarian
(925) 285-1766



Pleasant Hill - Martinez AAUW Website



Our website will show you everything you need to know about our Pleasant Hill - Martinez branch. Check out the pictures from our **December Jingle and Mingle Holiday Party** on the **Photo Page**. See our current list of Programs, Activities, and Fundraisers 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

JANUARY BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 11, 2022
7 PM
Trinka March's home and Zoom

**Copy deadline for the
February 2023 N.E.W.S.
FRIDAY, January 27th**

Please email copy to:
Reba Siero rebasiero@yahoo.com
(925) 917-1061



AAUW FUND REPORT

Claudia Bass andCarolynn Barcklay, AAUW Fund VPs

Thanks to everyone who responded to the solicitation letter. Everyone was very generous. 37 checks in the amount of \$3,340.00 were sent directly to National AAUW Fund to support their various programs. One of the programs that AAUW supports is the NCCWSL Leadership Conference (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders), an experience which empowers women to create meaningful impact on campus, mobilize their community, and prepare for personal and professional success after graduation. NCCSWL will educate young women about today's most pressing issues, help develop and expand upon leadership skills, and allow them to make lifelong connections with peers across the country. The information and applications are posted on the DVC website.

AAUW Fund committee will start plan for Game Day to be held in March. More details will be coming.

Our next meeting will be January 16, 2023, at 2:30 pm, at Carolynn's home. We would enjoy having new members on the committee.

Once again, thank you to all who have supported AAUW Fund and the mission of AAUW.

Claudia Bass at (925) 372-8679 or cbasslancer29@aol.com

Carolynn Barcklay at (925) 682-7552 or cbarcklay@hotmail.com

Other Branch Programs this week

San Ramon Branch is hosting a program on Thursday, January 19th that you and your members may be interested in attending. The meeting is virtual via Zoom. Please forward to your members if you think they are interested. Anyone interested in attending can send an email to aauwsr@gmail.com and I will send them the link. Here are the details:

Zoom in on Thursday, January 19, 7:00pm to 8:30pm, with our guest speaker and author, Susan Alcorn, who hopes to encourage and inspire you to get outdoors and walk, hike, or saunter. Susan will talk about how she became a long-distance hiker in her forties and how that led to writing about her hiking and traveling adventures throughout the world. Becoming a more serious hiker also brought her into the hiking community, where she learned about, and was inspired by, others to go farther afield.

Susan's most recent book, *Walk, Hike, Saunter: Seasoned Women Hikers Share Tales and Trails*, is based on interviews that she conducted with 32 women hikers, all 45 and older. Susan will discuss why she decided to write this book, how and why she selected the women, and how her writing process works.

Though Susan loves hiking in far-flung places, she also feels extremely lucky to live in the Bay Area, with our thousands of miles of trails in our city, regional, state, and national parks. She loves exploring new trails, so—with her husband, Ralph, and a few friends—she is currently working on two new challenges: circumnavigating the Bay Area Ridge Trail and walking every street in Alameda (it's flat and easy to get to!). Bottom line, there are paths and trails suitable for people of all ages, abilities, and interests everywhere we look, and, with our exceptional climate, we can enjoy many of them year-round!

You can also check out Susan's other books on her website at susandalcorn.com

OML's speaker for January 17th had to cancel at the last minute but we were able to secure a new speaker who may be of interest to you and/or the DEI team in your branch. The meeting is on Tuesday, January 17 at 9:30 in person at Orinda Community Church community room, 10 Irwin Way. All are welcome.

Edda Collins Coleman received a Bachelors Degree from Hampton University and a Masters from Georgetown University. She is a Co-Founder of All In Together, a nonprofit with the mission to equip voting age women with a non-partisan civic education. She is a managing Director of Cogent Strategies advising Fortune 50 companies as they communicate with Congress and the Executive Branch. She has worked for Senator Mark Warner both as Senator and as Governor of Virginia and a gubernatorial appointee to the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth and is currently Chair of the Board of Directors of Facing History and Ourselves.

Edda has recently been elected to the Board of Trustees of the Orinda Union School District



PH-M AAUW
ANNUAL LAYETTE SHOWER
Wednesday, January 11, 2023, 10 AM

The 2023 Layette Shower was held on Wednesday, January 11, at 10:00 AM, in person, at Janice Walker's, 524 Monti Circle, PH. Layette items will benefit the Hillcrest Layette Program, which requests anything a little one can use, except newborn, and under 7lb sizes. Please contact me by phone, 925-827-3374 or sandjwalk@comcast.net, if you would like to make a contribution. Margi Alkire was able to share some information about the beginning of the layette project. It was started many years ago by Jean Hambleton, an active member of Hillcrest Congregational Church. Her memory lives on with this project which has helped many of those in need. Thank you for helping us make this year's Layette Shower a positive beginning to the new year!

Janice Walker



SAM at Fair Oaks in March

Would you like to be a SAM volunteer? We are creating a curriculum for our SAM (Study Art and Music) Program for Fair Oaks Elementary School for March 2023. Our lesson plan always includes an artist and a composer, and this year we will be studying the artist Carmen Lomas Garza and Rebeca Mauleon is our composer.

Your duties will be 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 in March where we will prepare the materials for the students.

Please let us know if you would like to volunteer. So far, we have 20 volunteers on our list. It is lots of fun and rewarding. More details to come.

Sherrie Moore, Barbara Minneman, and Helen Pereira





Thanks to everyone who attended *Witness for the Prosecution*. What a wild ride – so many twists and turns, and the ending was shocking! It made for a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon, and we raised \$255 for Local Scholarship

and Tech Trek! Save the date for our next play, a musical – *Freaky Friday* on March 26, 2023.

COFFEE KLATCH KICKOFF

The annual Coffee Klatch is the major fundraiser for Local Scholarship. Thanks to your generosity last year, we were able to give \$1000 scholarships to five seniors from local high schools. We will be distributing the solicitation letters at the Soup Supper on January 18.



2022–2023 LEADERSHIP TEAM

January 2023 & beyond

- Jan 4 Morning Books, 10 am, Carol Walsh's home
Jan 11 Layette Shower, 10 am, Janice Walker's home
Jan 11 Board Meeting, 7 pm, Trinka March's home
Jan 16 Lunchin' Ladies, 12:30 pm, Metro, Lafayette
Jan 18 International Soup Supper, 6 pm,
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
Jan 20 Mah Jongg, 12:30 pm, Brookview Clubhouse
Jan 26 Matinee Idle returns!
Jan 27 February 2023 N.E.W.S. deadline
Feb 1 Morning Books, 10 am
Feb 8 Board Meeting, 7 pm
Feb 15 General Meeting, 7 pm,
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
Feb 17 Mah Jongg, 12:30 pm, Brookview Clubhouse
Feb 20 Lunchin' Ladies, 12:30 pm, La Pinata, Concord
Feb 23 Matinee Idle
Mar SAM at Fair Oaks

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www.aauw-pleasanthill-martinez.org

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

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

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