



Pleasant Hill - Martinez Branch

NEWS

NOW/EVENTS/WOMEN/SUCCESS

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

Presidential Postings

As we welcome the holiday season, Thanksgiving and Friendsgiving celebrations have come and gone. We hope you enjoyed the time with family and friends, good food and conversation.

Our November meeting at El Tapatio was a rousing success. Gathering to eat and get to know each other better is always a good thing. Then, we heard from Deputy District Attorney Mary Knox on how to prevent being taken advantage of via email, phone calls, clicking on the wrong websites, etc. Those who attended learned what the DA's office does to prevent fraud, as well as showing that they are well informed about how to protect themselves. All in all, a great meeting.

Our Nominating Committee slate was approved by a voice vote. They will look for our new Board for the 2025-2026 program year. Please consider saying yes to serving the branch as an officer when they get to work early next year.

The next big event is the Magic Moments Holiday Party on Friday, December 6th, at Brookview Clubhouse. This is always a festive occasion with wonderful company and great food. We look forward to seeing many of you there!

The new year will bring many activities to look



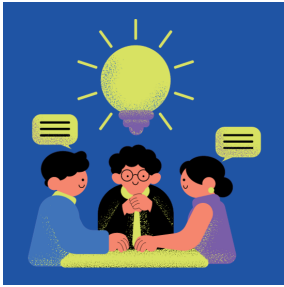
International Soup Supper



Layette Shower



SAM at Fair Oaks



Presidential Postings (cont.)

forward to. The Layette Shower is on January 22nd at 10 am at Janice Walker's. For the crafty among us, a handmade item is most welcome. Purchased clothing items are also encouraged. Details are in another article from Janice.

The Soup Supper is taking place on February 19th. Check out the details coming soon.

The SAM program is set to run in February and March. The chosen artist is Georgia O'Keefe and the composer is Ferde Grofé, who wrote the Grand Canyon Suite. It is always fun to see how the children react to the music and create wonderful art.

What a great lineup of events for our branch.

May this season bring you good times with friends and family.

~SarahJoy, Sherrie, & Reba

SUNSHINE

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

Marti Martin

richmar1016@sbcglobal.net or 925-225-3574



International Soup Supper

Note the February date!!

Our annual Soup Supper will be held at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Pleasant Hill on February 19th at 6 pm.

Enjoy hearty homemade soups, breads, and desserts while socializing with your AAUW friends and participating in a raffle to support Tech Trek's 2024 Camp at Sonoma State.

You can bring a pot of soup, bread, or dessert, or if you don't feel like cooking, pay \$10 at the door. This is a wonderful opportunity to bring friends, as well, so they can learn what our organization is all about!

The Soup Supper Committee is accepting items for the raffle. Contact Sherrie Moore, Diane Coventry, Suzanne Salter, or Claudia Bass if you have questions.



Annual Layette Shower

It's that time of year when thoughts turn to giving to others.

It has been a tradition of our Branch, started many years ago by Jean Hamilton, an active member of AAUW, and the Hillcrest Congregational Church to donate baby items for needy mothers to the church's Layette Program. Thus began our Layette Shower.

Our 2025 Layette Shower will be on Wednesday, January 22, at 10:00 AM at Janice Walker's, 524 Monti Circle, PH. The Layette Program requests anything a little one can use, except newborn and items under 7lb sizes.

Please email me, sandjwalk@comcast.net, or call 925-827-3374, if you plan to attend the shower. If you're unable to attend but would like to make a donation, please drop off your item before the shower, or contact me and we can make arrangements for a pickup. Do plan

to participate in January so we can continue to help those in need in a very positive way!

~Janice Walker



SAM At Fair Oaks in February / 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 in February/March 2025. Our lesson plan always includes an artist and a composer. This year we will be studying the artist Georgia O'Keefe, and Ferde Grofé is the composer. Our music is Grand Canyon Suite.

Your duties will be pretty simple - help us set up and clean up, then admire the work of the students. We will teach TK (Transitional Kindergarten) thru 5th grade, and two Special Ed classes (SDC). We are planning a workday in February where we will prepare the materials for the students and get familiar with the powerpoint.

Please let us know if you would like to volunteer. So far, we have 12 volunteers on our list. It is lots of fun and rewarding.

~Sherrie Moore, Barbara Minneman, and Helen Pereira



AAUW FUND REPORT

Fundraising for National Fund continues.

You can still donate to the AAUW FUND until December 15th. You will find the information in the Solicitation Letter you received with your directory. Game Day is scheduled for Wednesday, March 26th. This fun day is full of good food, friends, laughter, and games. We hope you join us!

~Carolynn Barcklay 925-323-8229 or cm5barcklay@gmail.com

~Gayle Miner 925-349-6795, cell 925-788-3272 or gayle.miner@yahoo.com



Tech Trek Tidings

Date set for Tech Trek 2025.

Tech Trek at Sonoma State will be held June 22-28, 2025. We expect to send 6 campers total from

Martinez Junior High, Valley View Middle School, Sequoia Middle School, and Pleasant Hill Middle School. Our Committee members will be contacting schools in December and follow up in January.

Our fundraising for 2025 will include donation letters to members as well as Martinez Kiwanis and Rotary grants. We are hoping to add Pleasant Hill Rotary. There will also be the Soup Supper Raffle in February. We are asking members to donate items and create baskets for the raffle. Click [here](#) for a donation letter for members to give to potential business donors for the raffle. We are looking for a member to host our Wine and Cheese event in the Spring.

AAUW CA is helping branches with TTAG (the Tech Trek alumnae group) startups. We are updating our alum's contacts for future correspondence about events and meetings. We want to keep in touch with our Trekkers!

~ Diane Coventry





PHM AAUW Website

Our website will show you everything you need to know about our Pleasant Hill - Martinez branch. Check out the [pictures from our November program](#). Review the programs and activities for the coming year on the [Program Page](#). Look at the various groups to join on the [Interest Groups](#) page. Just go to <https://www.aauw-ph.org/index.html>. 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 on the [About Us](#) page.



~Sherrie Moore, Webmaster

Grand Slammers

Bridge Club - For information, contact:

Marlene de Laurenti
mdl@astound.net
 or 925-934-4171





Wine Club

Many thanks to our October guest!

The Wine Appreciation group met on [Friday, November 15th](#) and learned a little about Riesling wines. We blind tasted three wines and thank Carol Walsh, Sandy Wolfe, and Diane Peterson for providing the wine.

We will not meet in December, and our next meeting will be on [January 17th](#) at 4 PM at Diane Peterson's house. We will have a guest speaker, Harris Miner (Gayle's grandson) who works for Halleck Vineyards. He will make a presentation and provide wine for tasting. If you would like to attend, please let Diane know. Space is limited.

The group also decided to support the Tech Trek raffle at the Soup Supper in February by creating wine themed gift baskets. If you attend the January Wine Appreciation event, please bring a bottle of wine and either crackers, chocolates, napkins or wine glasses for the baskets.

~Diane Peterson



Nominating Committee

At the [November 16](#) luncheon meeting of the branch, there was a unanimous vote ratifying the members of the

Nominating Committee who will guide the selection of next year's branch officers. Board members serving on the Nominating Committee are Diane Peterson, Carlyn Obringer, and alternate Helen Pereira. Other branch members on the Committee are Diane Starkey, Marilyn Thelen, Trinkia March, and alternate Kathleen Woulfe. Parliamentarian Marylee Taylor will chair the Committee.

The Nominating Committee will be working hard in January. If you have thoughts or suggestions to contribute, please contact a member of the Committee.

~MaryLee Taylor



Lilly Ledbetter

A Beacon of Equality and Justice

One of [AAUW California's Public Policy Priorities](#) is economic security for all women, including equity in the workplace and enforcement of anti-discrimination statutes. Last week, an icon in the equal pay movement, [Lilly Ledbetter](#), passed away at 86.

Writing a check for Fund, DVC plays, or events? Please make it out to AAUW Pleasant Hill - Martinez Branch.

Lilly Ledbetter (cont.)

Ledbetter's story is not just one of individual resilience; it embodies the ongoing struggle for women's equality in the workplace. Lilly worked for nearly two decades at [Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company](#) and uncovered that she was being paid thousands less per year than her male counterparts. This revelation sparked a fire within her, igniting a campaign that would forever alter the landscape of equal pay in America.

In 2007, Ledbetter [took her fight to the Supreme Court](#) yet [the Court's ruling](#) was disheartening; it stated that she had filed her complaint outside the statute of limitations. In response to the 5-4 majority opinion, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg provided [one her infamous and noteworthy dissenting opinions](#), calling out the eight male justices for their apathy. "The court does not comprehend or is indifferent to the insidious way in which women can be victims of pay discrimination," she said, imploring Congress to act.

Undaunted, Lilly remained a voice for many. Her activism ultimately led to the introduction of the [Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009](#), which President Obama signed into law as his first piece of legislation. This landmark act marked a significant victory in the fight for gender equality, sending a clear message that pay discrimination would not be tolerated.

Beyond the legislative impact of the Act, Lilly became an icon of empowerment and

perseverance, traveling the world and encouraging others to stand up for their rights. Her memoir, [Grace and Grit: My Fight for Equal Pay and Fairness at Goodyear and Beyond](#) emphasized the importance of awareness and action in combating workplace discrimination. At the peak of the #MeToo movement, her [opinion piece](#) in the New York Times linked workplace sexual harassment to pay inequity. [Lilly, a feature film based on her life](#), premiered at the Hamptons International Film Festival on October 10, 2024, just two days before her passing.

Lilly's journey reminds us that individual stories can catalyze monumental change and that every voice matters in the quest for equality. The [AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund \(LAF\)](#) challenges sex discrimination in higher education and the workplace. The Fund has provided millions in support of hundreds of cases. View [Past Cases](#) and [Current Cases](#) to learn more.

Ledbetter's legacy shows us that change is possible through persistence, courage, and community. As we reflect on her contributions, we are called to continue the work of advocating for equality, ensuring that future generations inherit a world where every individual is compensated fairly for their contributions, regardless of gender. Together, we can continue to champion the cause of equality and ensure that Lilly's legacy endures.

~Erica Dias, Member AAUW California Public Policy Committee Member



Public Policy

A Successful

2024 Legislative Agenda

2024 has been an exciting year for AAUW California's Legislative Agenda. There were many excellent bills that were introduced in the legislature early in the year. The Public Policy Committee evaluated over 60 of these bills that were most closely aligned with our Public Policy Priorities. Our committee met virtually over a weekend in March to discuss and vote on the best bills to include in our 2024 Legislative Agenda, prioritizing them into A, B, C, and Watch categories. We selected 41 bills for our Legislative Agenda, not including the Watch bills, and from March through September we worked to educate about and advocate for these bills.

Thanks to the many AAUW members who participated in Lobby Days, to those who called or wrote to their legislators and the Governor through our Action Alert Network, and thanks in no small part to the tireless efforts of Kathy Van Osten, our Legislative Advocate, 29 of the 41 bills on our Legislative Agenda made it to the Governor's desk, and 25 of them have been signed into law!

Excitingly, all three of our A priority bills were signed by the Governor:

- Our signature bill [AB 2843](#) was authored and sponsored by AAUW California. The bill eliminates cost sharing, including

deductibles, from being imposed on any rape survivor seeking medical care following a rape. The bill was inspired when Kathi Harper, Public Policy Director, read an [OpEd piece](#) in the Los Angeles Times by [Dr. Samuel Dickman](#), Chief Medical Officer at Planned Parenthood of Montana, describing the plight of countless rape survivors who do not seek medical care following their assault because of prohibitive costs. AB 2843 removes the cost barrier, ensuring that survivors can receive the care they need following a traumatic sexual attack.

- [AB 2326](#), also sponsored by AAUW California, requires the Chancellors of the Community Colleges and the State Universities, and the President of the University of California, to provide an annual report of their schools' compliance with Title IX. The report will be publicly, orally presented to the Senate and Assembly Budget Subcommittees on Education Finance.
- [AB 2099](#) makes it possible for the District Attorney to pursue felony charges for the posting of information about reproductive health care patients or providers if the posting and subsequent actions result in bodily injury.

Two of our B priority bills were signed into law:

- [AB 1790](#) requires the CSU system to report on the implementation of recommendations provided in the

- California State Auditor report, to ensure Title IX compliance and protections against sexual harassment.
- [AB 1831](#) expands the law prohibiting the possession and distribution of material depicting minors performing sexual activities to include AI and computer-generated images.

And very significantly, AB 1955 was signed into law. This was a C priority bill only because it was added to our Legislative Agenda later in the process.

- [AB 1955](#) prohibits public schools from notifying parents if their child uses a different name or pronouns or identifies as a different gender than assigned at birth. **California is the first state in the nation to ban forced outing of transgender students.**

For additional details on all the bills on the 2024 Legislative Agenda, see our bill tracking report [HERE](#).

And if you have not yet signed up for Action Alerts, and would like to be notified about opportunities to advocate for AAUW California's priority legislation in 2025, please sign up [HERE](#).

~ Amy Hom and Missy Maceyko, Co-chairs AAUW California Public Policy

AAUW PRIORITIES IN LIGHT OF THE ELECTION RESULTS

Wednesday, 12/4/24, 4:00 pm PT Online

The AAUW Silicon Valley Branch will host a Zoom featuring Meghan Kissell, AAUW Senior Director of Policy and Member Advocacy. Meghan will address post-election priorities for AAUW, particularly relating to social justice issues that include reproductive rights, childcare, secure food and housing, voting rights, and more.

REGISTER [HERE](#)



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Katrinka March, DVM

Karen Shores, BVMS

Cindy Piper, DVM

PHM AAUW Calendar

NOV 13	Board Meeting, 7 pm, SarahJoy Hayne's home
DEC 4	Morning Books, 10 am, Carol Walsh's home
DEC 6	Holiday Party, 5:30, Brookview Clubhouse
DEC 16	Lunchin' Ladies, 12 noon, Crescent Bistro, Pleasant Hill
Dec 20	Mah Jongg, 12:30 pm, Brookview Clubhouse
JAN 22	Layette Shower, 10 am, Janice Walker's home
DEC 25	Deadline for December NEWS
JAN 17	Wine Club, 4 pm, Diane Peterson's home
FEB 20	Soup Supper, 6 pm, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Pleasant Hill

MORNING BOOKS

MORNING BOOKS will meet on Wednesday, December 4th, 10 am, at Carol Walsh's home. We will be discussing Amor Towles' *Table for Two*. This book has six thought-provoking short stories and one novella, which is a sequel (?) to his earlier book, *Rules of Civility*. Please let Carol know if you plan to attend. In January, we will be discussing *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon. Please join us for great discussions on both of these books!

MAH JONGG

Mah Jongg will meet at Brookview Clubhouse on Friday, December 20 at 12:30 PM.

Please let Suzanne Salter know if you plan to attend. Her contact information is:

seabear92020@outlook.com

(925) 988-0322 (cell)

LUNCHIN' LADIES

Lunchin' Ladies will dine on **Monday, December 16** at Crescent Bistro, 45 Crescent Drive, Pleasant Hill at 12 Noon. Reservations must be in to Gayle Miner by **Monday, December 9**.

NO EXCEPTIONS TO RESERVATION DEADLINE DATES PLEASE. To reserve your spot, contact Gayle Miner (925) 788-3272 cell or gayle.miner@yahoo.com by email.

2024-25 Leadership Team

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International Soup Supper

Wednesday, February 19, 2025, 6 PM

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
1601 Mary Drive, Pleasant Hill

Please join us for hearty, homemade soups, breads, and desserts at our 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 6 PM, and remember that spouses, partners, and friends are most welcome.

**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.**

Contact Suzanne Salter 925 988-0322 or seabear92020@outlook.com
 to pay and indicate number of guests

Reservation deadline and payment by February 15th
 (make checks to AAUW Pleasant hill-Martinez Branch)
275 Appalachian Drive, Pleasant Hill 94523

**Our speaker for the evening is Ellen Osmundson
 who grew up in Hong Kong**

We are having a raffle and a silent auction to support Tech Trek.

Raffle - 1 ticket for \$3, 2 for \$5, 5 for \$10, 12 for \$20

SO bring some cash and have some fun!

**Let Diane Coventry know by February 12th if you would like to donate
 any raffle items. Indicate estimated value of items.**

Hope to see you there!