



Pleasant Hill - Martinez Branch

NEWS

NOW/EVENTS/WOMEN/SUCCESS

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



Presidential Postings

We want to welcome everyone to the new year for the Pleasant Hill - Martinez branch of AAUW.

Thank you to the outgoing board for your service. Welcome to our new board members. We look forward to working with you this year.

Congratulations go to Patricia Harris upon receiving the Barbara Newacheck award this year, for her steadfast service to our branch as our Hospitality chair this year and for many before that.



Karen Winters was awarded the 2024 AAUW Fund Named Gift Honoree for significant contributions to the mission of AAUW. As one of our Membership VPs, she tackled the Membership Data Base and all its intricacies to make the job much easier for future Membership VPs.



And, speaking of membership, it is time to renew if you haven't already done so. Contact our new Membership VPs, Nancy Hobert and Diane Peterson, if you have questions.

We were able to give Local Scholarships to 5 young women heading off to college. They excelled in their studies as well as in service to their community and in leadership.

2024 Awards

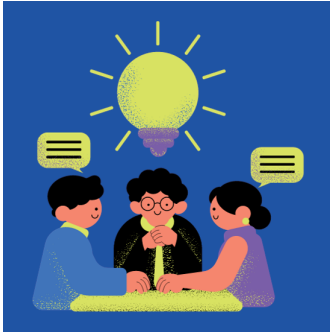


Tech Trek



DVC Scholarship





Presidential Postings (cont.)

Six girls were selected to attend Tech Trek science camp this summer.

Tech Trek fundraising letters were passed out at the June End of the Year Brunch. Please remember to send in your contribution to this important program.

Sandy Wolfe will be hosting her popular Wine and Cheese Tech Trek Fundraiser on Friday, July 19th, at her lovely home. Look for details in this newsletter.

And there are 2 interest groups that have begun recently. Diane Peterson started Wine Club and

Nimble Fingers has returned under the leadership of Janet Sullivan and Karen Winters. Contact these folks if you are interested in learning more.

Our September Welcome Back Brunch is scheduled for Saturday, September 14th, at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church. More information to come! We will hear all about the adventures of our Tech Trek girls during their week at Sonoma State at the end of June.

As you engage in your summer activities, whether you are traveling great distances, or sticking closer to home in this beautiful area we are lucky to live in, have a wonderful time!

~Reba Siero



WELCOME BACK BRUNCH

Save the date! Our annual Welcome Back Brunch will be held on Saturday, September 14, at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Pleasant Hill.

Our Tech Trek girls will report on their experiences at Sonoma State this summer, you will have a chance to sign up for interest groups, we will have our first General Meeting of the 2024-25 year, and of course you will enjoy a delicious brunch! See the attached flyer for information on how to sign up.

2024 Awards Given

Barbara Newacheck was a dynamic member of the Pleasant Hill Branch who embodied the values of AAUW. She passed away in 2004 and in 2005 the Barbara Newacheck Memorial Award was established to honor a member who, like Barbara did, advances the mission of AAUW through her contributions to the Branch and beyond.



This year's honoree is Pat Harris. She has been a member since 1981 and grew up in San Pablo. She taught for the Martinez Unified School District, and worked at Vine Hill Elementary, Morello Park Elementary, and John Swett Elementary. She taught 1st and 2nd grade for 15 years. She has volunteered at the Regional Health Center in the Gift Shop for 20 years. Pat is active at the Martinez Senior Center, especially enjoying line dancing. She has been our Hospitality Chairperson for many years and does a great job.

AAUW Fund supports our work to promote equity for women and girls. There are several different entities included within Funds, and all donations are fully tax deductible. Pleasant Hill-Martinez

Branch of AAUW has historically been a generous contributor to AAUW Fund, ranking ninth highest in the state in 2016. In the 130 years of Fund, nearly 100 million dollars in over 12,000 fellowships, grants and awards have been given to recipients from the United States and more than 130 other countries. Every contribution of any amount each of us makes truly helps in some way to make the world a better place.

Our 2024 Named Gift Honoree was awarded to Karen Winters for significant contributions to the mission of AAUW. Karen has spent the last two years at her computer working on our branch Membership Data Base as our Membership VP. In the first year, she worked very hard figuring out National's new Membership System. This was a very difficult undertaking as the system was extremely hard to use. She now has the National system under control for the next Membership VP. She also serves on our Local Scholarship Committee and attends the Morning Books interest group, her knitting always in hand. Thank you, Karen!

~Sherrie Moore





Tech Trek STEM Camp

Franklin Camp at
Sonoma State was a
rousing success!

Six middle school girls from Pleasant Hill and Martinez spent last week at Tech Trek thanks to the generous support of our branch. Avery Giotta (Sequoia Middle), Courtney Reed (Martinez Junior High), Maya Manchester (Sequoia Middle), Rachel Collins (Martinez Junior High), Selah Yoo (Pleasant Hill Middle), and Aliena Luna (Valley View Middle) joined 84 other Trekkers from northern California for the week of June 23 - 29.

Trekkers participated in core classes focusing on aerospace engineering, natural science-environmental management, chemistry, water resource civil engineering, and forensics. They were able to join in workshops on Galileoscopes, Jiggybots, robotics using Arduino coding, plate tectonics, origami, architectural design using

Tinkercad, dance, or yoga. Everyone had a chance to go on a field trip to the Sonoma Water Authority as well as take a campus tour. A high point this year was the opening presentation given by Rosalind Franklin, niece of Camp Franklin's namesake.

Volunteers from 11 different branches filled 51 volunteer slots. There were nine dorms moms, and five of them were Tech Trek alumni this year! There were also two Senior counselors and eight Junior counselors, all former Tech Trek girls, some having attend Virtual Camps during the pandemic.

Diane had plenty of help this year from co-director Jessica Gong (Fremont branch), and director-in-training Lillian Cohen (Marin branch).

Thanks to everyone who donated this year! Solicitation letters for donations to Tech Trek 2025 were passed out at the brunch or mailed to your home. If you haven't received yours, contact Trinka March and she will get one to you. Sandy Wolfe will also be hosting another Wine and Cheese afternoon in her beautiful back yard to benefit Tech Trek on July 19. See the attached flyer for more information about that event. We hope to see you there!

~ Diane Coventry & Virginia Hewgley



Congratulations to Mary Hanlon and Janet Sullivan, who were recognized as our newest 50-year Honorary Lifetime Members at the Spring Brunch.



As Chairperson of the Local Scholarship Committee, I want to heartily thank all the members of the committee who

helped make our year's efforts so successful.

With 25 applications from the two local high schools from which to choose just five scholarship recipients, a lot of serious consideration was needed in order to determine the best recipients. And so I thank Sherrie Moore, Virginia Hewgley, Carol Walsh, Karen Winters, and Vicki Anderle for all their help with our successful efforts.



We were happy to have four of the five recipients present with family members at the Spring Brunch on **Saturday, June 8th**. Dana Giacomino, Alison Stewart, Bianca Lewis, and Vanessa Magana were presented with \$1000 checks to aid with their college financial needs. A fifth recipient, Sabrina

Tsai, was awarded her check at an earlier time, as she was not able to attend the Brunch.

Thank you so very much for your contributions to our Local Scholarship fund, as this is what enables us to award these scholarships to our local high school girls! We appreciate your generosity!

~Helen Pereira

BOOK EXCHANGE/Round Robin - 2nd CALL

This is your annual opportunity to join the BOOK EXCHANGE! Read up to 12 hardbacks published in 2024 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 certainly would welcome additional members, as we just had 2 short Exchanges last year and this Section may not continue without sufficient participants. Please call with any questions

Please contact Mary Hanlon @ 925/934-3528 (Home) or 925/286-2223 (Cell) with your selected title and author **PRIOR** to purchasing your book. Reserve your Titles - and your places in the Exchanges - now. We should begin exchanging books by October 1st.

Grand Slammers

Bridge Club - For information, contact:

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





Diablo Valley College 2024 Scholarship Recipient

Our DVC scholarship recipient for 2024 is Marlene Gomez-Sarate.

She will be attending University of California, Berkeley next fall, majoring in political science. Eventually she would like to get a master's degree in education and become an educator at the high school or college level because she feels that education is important to her and others. She would like to help students achieve their goals, especially those in the Latinx community. Also, she may delve into politics for the benefit of the Latinx community and other minorities.

Marlene is a first-generation college student in her family, and she attributes her success to participating in the Upward Bound Program in high school and the Puente Program at DVC. She has gone back and volunteered in her high school Upward Bound Program as a mentor. Marlene has

volunteered in many organizations to assist in the betterment of the Latinx community. At DVC she is a student tutor in a variety of subjects. Marlene has shown a tremendous amount of leadership skill and was highly recommended by DVC faculty.

Congratulations! We wish her success as she starts a new chapter in her education.

~Claudia Bass



Wine Club

The Wine
Appreciation &
Tasting group met
on Friday, June
21st.

We learned a little about Rosé wine and blind tasted three Rosés. Twelve people attended and enjoyed comparing notes and exchanging stories about their wine experiences. Thank you to Lorrie, Karen and Janet for bringing the wines.

Our next meeting will be on Friday, September 20th at 4 PM at Diane Peterson's. Please let her know if you wish to attend (richpeterson@comcast.net). We will be discussing and blind tasting Syrah wines.

~Diane Peterson

Thanks From a Past Scholarship Recipient

If you were at the Spring Brunch, you may have had a chance to look at the lovely thank you card we received from Yara Hassan, one of the 2023 Local Scholars. The text of her lovely note is transcribed below:

Dear AAUW, I hope this message finds you well! My name is Yara Hassan, a scholarship recipient from Alhambra High School, Class of 2023. I am writing to express my heartfelt thanks for providing me with this scholarship, which has supported me tremendously during my first year at UC Berkeley! This year, I have had the privilege of engaging deeply with my passion for technology and social justice. I participated in several projects that extended my understanding and skills of data applications. One highlight was contributing to a project aimed at exploring the socio-economic implications of developing

machine learning models to predict housing prices. I have also gained an interest in consulting for companies in educational technology, through my involvement in several clubs on campus. Aside from academics, I spent time working in the Admissions Office, where I had the opportunity to give back to incoming students by helping them navigate the college admissions process. As I look forward to my next year at UC Berkeley, I am excited about the new academic challenges and opportunities to connect with amazing people. Thank you so much for being part of my journey, I truly appreciate the support! Warmest Regards, Yara Hassan 06/2024

Please be assured that your generous contributions to our scholarship programs for Local Scholars, as well as Tech Trekkers and this year, a DVC student, do indeed make a difference in these young peoples' lives.



Nimble Fingers Meeting

If hanging out with like-minded individuals for an afternoon of crafting and chatting sounds like fun to you, please join us. Our next meeting will be held on Monday, July 22, at 2:30 P.M., at Janet Sullivan's house, located at 218 Oak Manor Plaza in Martinez.

We welcome all skill levels and all portable crafts. (We won't have room for large equipment!) If there's something you want to learn or improve, don't be shy. Perhaps someone else will be able to help or recommend good resources.

If you're planning to attend, kindly RSVP to Karen at 925-408-5721 karen.winters@sbcglobal.net or Janet at 925-768-4628 jspringsullivan@aol.com.



PHM AAUW Website

Our website will show you everything you need to know about our Pleasant Hill - Martinez branch. Review photos from our June Brunch on the **Photos** page. Check out our new board, Barbara Newacheck and Named Gift Honoree recipients on the **About Us** page. See the Local Scholarship and Tech Trek finalists on the **Community Action** 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

SUNSHINE

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

Reba Siero

rebasiero@yahoo.com or 925-917-1061





AAUW FUND REPORT

AAUW Fund has two fundraisers coming up, starting in September.

The first is our annual Solicitation Letter to raise money for National AAUW Fund. This will last from September 14 to December 15, 2024. This letter will be tucked into your new Directory, which will be handed out at the Welcome Brunch on September 14. We hope you all will again be generous in supporting National endeavors.

Our second fundraiser is our annual KINDER'S GIFT CARD SALE which runs from September 6

to October 18, 2024. The gift cards will be available at the Welcome Brunch and other AAUW events and interest groups until October 18. We will also have our Mail Order Form in the September Newsletter for your convenience. The gift cards will again be \$20.00 each, of which we make a profit of \$4.50. The money raised from this sale will go toward our \$1,000.00 scholarship awarded in the Spring to a DVC student going on to a 4 year college or university.

More information and specifics will be in the September Newsletter. Thank you all in advance for your continued generosity!

~Carolynn Barcklay 925-323-8229 or cbarcklay@hotmail.com

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



Spend an afternoon outdoors
enjoying wine and cheese with
your AAUW friends!
July 19th at Sandy Wolfe's house.
Benefits Tech Trek program.

See attached flyer for details!!





Public Policy

2024 Updates to Title IX: An Overview of Changes and Challenges

On Friday, April 19, 2024, the Biden Administration released long-awaited guidance on the application and administration of Title IX. The rule changes rework Trump Administration guidance on the handling of campus sexual assault, providing expanded protections for survivors and expanding Title IX protections against sex/gender-based harassment and discrimination to protect members of the LGBTQ+ community, as well as pregnant and parenting students.

In sum, the 2024 regulations clarify what sex-based discrimination is and who should be protected from sex-based discrimination under Title IX: the regulations prohibit discrimination not only on the basis of sex, but also on the basis of sex characteristics, pregnancy or related conditions, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

Many of the major changes in guidance under Title IX come from a centering of the term “sex-based,” including a redefinition of “sexual harassment” as “sex-based harassment.” Under this redefinition, sex-based harassment still includes sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking, but, importantly, allows harassment to be defined as conduct that contributes to the

creation of a sex-based hostile environment, more broadly. This means that unwelcome sex-based conduct can be more holistically understood as problematic, including a consideration of conduct that is not only offensive but also so severe or pervasive that it limits one’s ability to participate in or benefit from an education program or activity.

The 2024 guidance also reforms the process for reporting, hearing, and resolving Title IX complaints, which is an important shift, as guidance issued under the Trump Administration created a reporting environment that many experts agreed was friendlier to those accused of misconduct than to those who were victimized by misconduct.

Because the focus of Title IX guidance has shifted to protecting against “sex-based” forms of discrimination and harassment, it also clarifies the boundaries of pregnancy-related discrimination and expands protections to the LGBTQ+ community. Both of these expansions under Title IX align with current interpretations of federal law under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, which prohibit workplace discrimination on the basis of sex/gender.

While the changes to Title IX have been widely supported as an overall good by a wide coalition of gender equity advocates, including AAUW National, a coalition of states and conservative advocacy organizations have started to file lawsuits to block the new rules from going into effect, as scheduled, on August 1, 2024.

Furthermore, at the time of this writing, at least eight states' governors have issued executive orders that openly refuse to comply with the new guidance, putting their state universities at risk of losing all federal funding.

Officials who have filed suit and/or who refuse to comply with the new Title IX guidance claim that the rules conflict with their state laws, especially those aimed at the due process rights of those accused of misconduct, LGBTQ+ material in curricula, and the regulation of transgender students' access to bathrooms and sports teams. Therefore, these state officials claim that they should not have to follow the new guidance.

For a concise overview of major rule changes under the 2024 guidance, check out the coverage in Ms. Magazine, here. For continued updates, you can also peruse upcoming issues of Public Policy News via AAUW California throughout the summer.

~Missy Maceyko, Co-chair, AAUW California Public Policy Committee

CA AAUW FUND RECOGNITION

Associate Circle - Nancy Hobert

Sustaining Circle - Suzanne Salter
Isabel Mendonsa
Margi Alkire
Patricia Harris
Harriet Burt

Century Club Circle - Janice Walker
Charlotte Liniger
Lorraine Osborne
Martha Martin
SarahJoy Haynes
Diane Coventry
Gretel Holit
Marlene Maksel

Need to make changes to your contact information before the 2024-2025 Directory comes out?

Contact Reba Siero rebasiero@yahoo.com before August 15th.



PHM AAUW NEWS IS SPONSORED BY MONTECITO ANIMAL CLINIC

5280 Pacheco Blvd Pacheco, CA 94553

925-686-0683 Fax 925-686-4754

Katrinka March, DVM

Karen Shores, BVMS

Cindy Piper, DVM

PHM AAUW Calendar

JULY 19	Mah Jongg, 12:30 pm, Brookview Clubhouse
JULY 19	Wine & Cheese Fundraiser, 3:00 PM, Sandy Wolfe's home
JULY 22	Nimble Fingers, 2:30 PM, Janet Sullivan's home
AUG 14	Board Meeting, 7 pm, SarahJoy Haynes's home
AUG 16	Mah Jongg, 12:30 pm, Brookview Clubhouse
SEPT 4	Morning Books, 10 am, Margi Alkire's home
SEPT 14	Welcome Back Brunch, 10 am, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
SEPT 16	Lunchin' Ladies, 12 noon, Bella Sienna, Benicia
SEPT 20	Wine Club, 4 pm, Diane Peterson's home

Writing a check for Fund, DVC plays, or events?

Please make it out to AAUW Pleasant Hill - Martinez Branch.

MORNING BOOKS

MORNING BOOKS will not meet in July or August. Our next gathering will be on Wednesday, September 4th, 10 am, at Margi Alkire's. We will be discussing Kristin Hannah's *The Women*. The list of books for 2024-2025 has been sent to everyone and Sherrie and I are still looking for hostesses and discussion leaders. Enjoy a summer of reading.

LUNCHIN' LADIES

Lunchin' Ladies WILL NOT MEET IN JULY OR AUGUST. We will resume our lunches out on SEPTEMBER 16 at Bella Sienna, 127 First Street, Benicia at 12:00 Noon. Reservations are due by September 9 to Gayle Miner.

Gayle Miner (925) 788-3272 by cell or gayle.miner@yahoo.com by email.

MAH JONGG

We will continue Mah Jongg through the Summer! Our Friday meeting dates are July 19 and August 16 at BrookView Clubhouse 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)

2024-25 Leadership Team

PRESIDENT 1 (BOARD MEETING CHAIR)

SarahJoy Haynes 925-586-9493
plumleathr@aol.com

PRESIDENT 2 (GENERAL MEETING CHAIR)

Sherrie Moore 925-229-4177
moosherry@comcast.net

PRESIDENT 3 (NATIONAL & NEWSLETTER)

Reba Siero 925-917-1061
rebasiero@yahoo.com

VICE PRESIDENT - PROGRAM

Carlyn Obringer 925-324-9595
carlyno@yahoo.com

VICE PRESIDENTS - MEMBERSHIP

Nancy Hobert 925-228-7271
nhobert@aol.com
 Diane Peterson 925-278-1634
richpeterson@comcast.net

VICE PRESIDENTS - AAUW FUND

Carolynn Barcklay 925-682-7552
cbarcklay@hotmail.com

Gayle Miner 925-349-6795
gayle.miner@yahoo.com

SECRETARY

Helen Pereira 925-685-0757
helenmp45@aol.com

TREASURER

Claudia Bass 925-372-8679
cbasslancer29@aol.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR/COMMUNICATIONS

Virginia Hewgley 925-768-4417
vhewgley@astound.net

WEBMASTER

Sherrie Moore 925-229-4177
moosherry@comcast.net
www.aauw-pleasanthill-martinez.org

Pleasant Hill-Martinez AAUW NEWS is published 10 times a year by and for AAUW. May/June and July/August are combined issues.

Copy deadline for SeptemberNEWS is August 25th. Email copy to vhewgley@astound.net