



Pleasant Hill - Martinez Branch

# NEWS

NOW/EVENTS/WOMEN/SUCCESS

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

## Presidential Postings



Hello, Autumn! The past week or so has been a lovely combination of cool nights and comfortably warm days. It makes me think of cozy sweaters, hot tea, rich soups and cold noses!

The November meeting will be held at El Tapatio near DVC. The date is November 16th, at 11:30 am. Deputy District Attorney, Mary Knox, will join us to inform us about Fraud Prevention. The cost for brunch is \$27. Space is limited, so get your check in to Claudia Bass soon!

Marylee Taylor, our Parliamentarian, has formed our Nominating Committee. These are the folks who will look for our new Board for the 2025-2026 program year. We will vote to approve this committee at our November meeting. Please consider saying yes to serving the branch as an officer when they get to work early next year.

The new year will bring many activities to look forward to. The Layette Shower is on January 22nd at Janice Walker's. The Soup Supper is on February 19th. And, the SAM program is set to run in February and March.



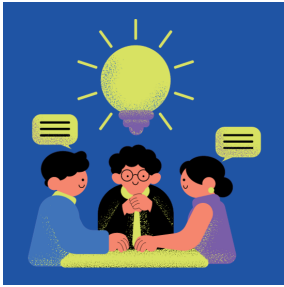
### November Program Flyer



### Holiday Party



### Public Policy - CA Ballot Propositions



The Holiday Party is scheduled for Friday, December 6th, at Brookview Clubhouse. The first planning meeting at Sandy Wolfe's on October 11th resulted in a wonderful plan for a festive

dinner and celebration of the holiday season. Be sure to send your check to Joan Foster by November 27th (the day before Thanksgiving!). See the flyer for all the details.

~SarahJoy, Sherrie, & Reba



## Nominating Committee

At the November 16 luncheon meeting of the branch, there will be a vote to ratify the members of the

Nominating Committee. They will guide the selection of next year's branch officers. Board members who have agreed to serve on the Nominating Committee are Diane Peterson, Carlyn Obringer, and Helen Pereira as alternate.

Other branch members who have agreed to serve are Diane Starkey, Marilyn Thelen, Trinkia March, and Kathleen Woulfe as alternate.

Parliamentarian Marylee Taylor will chair the Committee.



## 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

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



## AAUW FUND REPORT

### Fundraising begins for National Fund

A huge “thank you” to those who supported the Kinder Gift Card event. We made a profit of \$382.50. The money raised will go to fund a \$1000 scholarship for a woman student from DVC going to a four-year college. Gayle Miner and Claudia Bass took the lead in handling the gift card sales. Again, we appreciate all the support from our AAUW members.

We are accepting donations for the annual drive for AAUW National Fund that supports fellowships and grants. Donations can be made until mid-December. The solicitation letter was in the new directory you received at the Welcome Brunch. Thank you, to all those who have already donated.

Our next meeting will be at 2:30 on November 11<sup>th</sup> at Carolynn Barcklay's house.

~Carolynn Barcklay 925-323-8229 or [cm5barcklay@gmail.com](mailto:cm5barcklay@gmail.com)

~Gayle Miner 925-349-6795, cell 925-788-3272 or [gayle.miner@yahoo.com](mailto:gayle.miner@yahoo.com)



## 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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.



## Wine Club

Many thanks to  
our October  
guest!

The Wine Appreciation and Tasting group met on Oct. 18th. We were treated to a very informative presentation and tasting by Sommelier Patrick Miner. We learned some of the finer points about how to taste wine.

Our next meeting will be on Friday, Nov. 15th at 4 PM at Diane Peterson's house. We will be learning about and tasting Reisling wine. Please let Diane know if you want to attend.

~Diane Peterson



## Tech Trek Tidings

Save the date for the  
2025 Soup Supper,  
Feb. 19.

We will be having our annual Tech Trek raffle at the Soup Supper. Thank you again to Gayle's daughter-in-law for making 10 baskets for us last year. We would love to have more members do the same, and even solicit gift certificates from local businesses and restaurants. Thank you Claudia for donating some of those in the past. Please let me know by late January if you have basket ideas and items to donate. We raised \$980 last year. Our goal this year is \$1300, enough for one camper scholarship.

~ Diane Coventry

### 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

### HOLIDAY PARTY DECEMBER 6

Please see flyer at the end of this newsletter  
for details. Deadline for reservations is  
November 27.

### SAVE THE DATE !



### PH-M AAUW ANNUAL LAYETTE SHOWER

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, January 22, 2025, 10 AM, at the home of Janice Walker. Handmade or bought items, other than newborn sizes, will be greatly appreciated. More info in December.







## PHM AAUW Website

Our website will show you everything you need to know about our Pleasant Hill - Martinez branch. 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](mailto:mdl@astound.net)**  
or 925-934-4171





## Public Policy

### Public Policy

#### Priorities (PPPs) and the Election - Highlight: Student Loan Debt

At the national and state levels, AAUW has been a leader in the fight for increased economic security for all women, becoming well known for putting out annual data on gender-based wage gaps. However, wage gaps are only one part of the much bigger picture of gender-based economic inequality. AAUW, following contemporary socio-economic research, conceptualizes economic insecurity as part of wealth gaps and debt cycles that are created by multiple factors, including the ballooning cost of higher education.

Education is critically important for social and economic mobility. In 2024, young college graduates still tend to make more money than their counterparts who do not have a college degree, and have higher earnings later in life. However, the value of higher education has become a more complicated calculus for many: as education costs have risen, overall income rates have remained stagnant and low interest borrowing and repayment options to cover these costs have, in many cases, decreased. Without intergenerational wealth, ongoing family support, or scholarship wins, many Americans must go into debt to obtain a higher education.

Women are disproportionately impacted by these increasing costs. Women tend to make

less money directly after graduation when compared with men. This, combined with many additional factors, such as the tendency for women to be primarily responsible for the financial and emotional costs of household maintenance, such as caregiving, makes any accrued student debt much harder for women to repay. **As such, women in the United States owe \$929 billion, or two-thirds of the nation's student debt.**

As part of the larger commitment to economic security for women, AAUW has been a leader in pushing for policies that meaningfully address massive increases in the cost of education and the student debt crisis. In California, reducing the cost of education and easing the financial burden of acquiring a degree remains central to AAUW California's Public Policy Priorities, as well. In California, our work to reduce the burden of student debt falls under three of our four Public Policy Priority Pillars.

- Economic security for all women.
- Equal access to quality public education for all students.
- Increased representation of women in leadership roles, including access to programs that promote participation in public service careers. The issue of student debt, as an issue of women's overall educational access, social mobility, and economic security, also looms large in the current election cycle. Addressing student debt issues in ways that align with AAUW's PPPs may include:

- student debt relief for borrowers;
  - making investments in public education;
  - expanding federal grant access;
  - ensuring the continuation of the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program, which eliminates federal student loan debt after 10 years of work at a non-profit or government agency;
  - maintaining Income Driven Repayment (IDR) plans, like SAVE, which take into account unique financial situations and eliminate interest-driven balance increases for borrowers who make on-time monthly payments.
- Not addressing student debt issues at all or exacerbating these issues does not align with AAUW's PPPs. Actions taken that are not in alignment may include:
- widespread funding cuts for higher education;
  - cutting loan forgiveness programs or slowing their functionality;
  - eliminating the Department of Education.
  - While many candidates have tried to distance themselves from Project 2025, their openly stated and proposed policies may still be in alignment with the 900-page planning document's positions on the topic of women's economic security via higher education access and debt relief: Project 2025 calls for changing, rescinding, or repealing federal student loan forgiveness plans, including PSLF and debt relief through IDR.
  - **As you prepare to vote, be sure to ask: what do the candidates who you are considering stand for?** Do your own assessment by comparing candidates' public statements, policy positions, and voting history against AAUW California's Public Policy Priorities.
- ~ Missy Maceyko, Co-Chair Public Policy, AAUW California



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**Katrinka March, DVM**

**Karen Shores, BVMS**

**Cindy Piper, DVM**



## PHM AAUW Calendar

NOV 6	Morning Books, 10 am, Janice Walker's home
NOV 13	Board Meeting, 7 pm, SarahJoy Hayne's home
NOV 15	Mah Jongg, 12:30 pm, Brookview Clubhouse
NOV 15	Wine Club, 4 pm, Diane Peterson's home
NOV 16	General Meeting, 11:30 am, El Tapatio, 40 golf Club Road, Pleasant Hill
NOV 18	Lunchin' Ladies, 12 noon, Mangia Bene Restaurant, Martinez
NOV 25	Deadline for December NEWS
DEC 6	Holiday Party, 5:30, Brookview Clubhouse
FEB 20	Soup Supper, 6 pm, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Pleasant Hill

## MORNING BOOKS

**MORNING BOOKS** will meet on Wednesday, November 6th, 10 am, at Janice Walker's. We will be discussing Elizabeth Letts' *The Ride of Her Life*, a true story of Annie Wilkins' ride from her farm in Maine to the coast of California. The ride was on a horse, Tarzan! This was in 1954 and she has many adventures and meets many friendly, helpful folks. Please let Janice know if you are planning to attend. In December, we will be discussing Amor Towles' *Table for Two*. Please join us for great discussions on both of these books!

## MAH JONGG

Mah Jongg will meet at Brookview Clubhouse on Friday, November 15 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, November 18** at Mangia Bene Restaurant, 1170 Arnold Drive #116, Martinez at 12 Noon. Reservations must be in to Gayle Miner by **Monday, November 11**.

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



# 2024-25 Leadership Team

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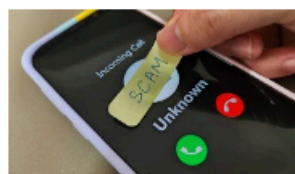
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Copy deadline for December NEWS is November 25th. Email copy to [vhewgley@astound.net](mailto:vhewgley@astound.net)

# AAUW Pleasant Hill-Martinez November 2024 Program

Speaker: Deputy District Attorney Mary Knox, fraud prevention



Place: El Tapatio, 40 Golf Club Rd, Pleasant Hill

Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup> 11:30

All-inclusive buffet \$27 per person including tax and tip

Chicken and cheese enchiladas, chicken and beef tacos,  
chicken and pork burritos,  
rice and beans, chips and salsa, and a beverage



Send your check to Claudia Bass by November 11<sup>th</sup>

1706 Endriss Drive, Martinez 94553

Payable to AAUW Pleasant Hill-Martinez Branch

Capacity is 42, so please reserve early

The parking lot gets full, so you may want to carpool



# *MAGIC MOMENTS*

## *PH-M AAUW Holiday Party*

**December 6, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.**

**Brookview Clubhouse**

**Please carpool as parking is limited**

**Scallops in Champagne Sauce and Stuffed Mushrooms as appetizers**

**Cynthia's Classic Caesar Salad**

**Chicken Piccata and Cheesy Scalloped Potatoes**

**Sautéed Green Beans**

**Tiramisu, Berry Custard Cakes, and Lemon Bars for dessert**

**Vegetarian or vegan option available upon request**

**Catering by Cynthia**

**\$50 per person**

**Send your check, by November 27<sup>th</sup> to:**

**Joan Foster, 146 La Espiral, Orinda, CA 94563**

**(made out to AAUW Pleasant Hill - Martinez Branch)**

**No refunds!**

**Join us for an evening of holiday cheer!**

**Spouses and friends are welcome!**