



Pleasant Hill - Martinez Branch

NEWS

NOW/EVENTS/WOMEN/SUCCESS

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

Presidential Postings

May the New Year bring you many good things!

And some of those good things will be participating in the events for our Pleasant Hill - Martinez branch!

A lovely holiday party, Magic Moments, in early December was enjoyed by many of our members and their guests. A big Thank You! goes out to Sandy Wolfe and her talented committee who arranged such a fun evening. Great food and wonderful conversations were the order of the day as we rang in the season.

The January board meeting is scheduled for January 15th (instead of the 8th). Any branch member is welcome to attend. Please let SarahJoy know you plan to be there!

The Nominating Committee will begin its work to create a slate of Board officers for the 2025-2026 program year. Please consider saying "Yes!" to serving the branch as an officer when they call!

Janice Walker is hosting the annual Layette Shower at her home on January 22nd at 10 am. Handmade items are always welcome. I know that those who attend always ooh and aah over them! Age-appropriate clothing items are also encouraged. Please see Janice's



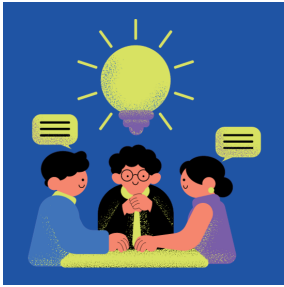
International Soup Supper



Layette Shower



SAM at Fair Oaks



Presidential Postings (cont.)

article for details.

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

When the SAM program takes place in late February and early March, all the students at Fair Oaks Elementary School will be introduced to artist Georgia O'Keefe and composer Ferde Grofé, who wrote Grand Canyon Suite. It is always fun to see how the children react to the music and then create wonderful art.

We are so fortunate to be a part of this community!

~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 2025 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 Diane Coventry if you have questions.



Annual Layette Shower

Final reminder!

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

Please contact me by phone, 925-827-3374, (feel free to leave a message) or email, sandjwalk@comcast.net, if you intend to be a part of the shower. If you can't participate on the 10th but would like to make a contribution, you can drop it off prior to the shower or let me know you have an item and we can arrange a pickup.

Help make this year's Layette Shower a positive beginning to 2025 for a mother and a child. I hope to see you on the 22nd!

~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

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



Wine Club

The Wine Appreciation Group will meet on **Friday, Jan. 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.

To support the Tech Trek raffle at the Soup Supper, please bring a bottle of wine, crackers, cheese, chocolates, napkins or wine glasses to the January Wine Group.

Please let Diane know if you plan to attend on the 17th. Space is limited.

~Diane Peterson



Tech Trek Tidings

We're still accepting contributions for Soup Supper Raffle.

Let Diane know by the end of January if you plan to contribute. Just like last year, Tech Trekkers will join us for supper and help out with the raffle.

If any members are interested in joining the Tech Trek Committee, let Diane know. In the spring we will be interviewing girls for 2025 camp at Sonoma State. It's always a lot of fun to meet all the applicants and hear their stories. We also have a great time putting on the Wine and Cheese Event in the summer, along with all the other Tech Trek activities throughout the year. We are still looking for someone to head up our TTAG group so we can keep in touch with our Trekkers!

~ Diane Coventry

Communications - State and National

How can we communicate if you have unsubscribed?

After a contentious election year, many of us have experienced email burnout. Or maybe the sales ads for the holiday shopping season are driving you over the edge. My home branch is quite large and uses Mailchimp to send e-blasts and newsletters. AAUW California also uses the Mailchimp platform. When you choose to unsubscribe from one of our messages, you are prevented from getting any messages, including the *California Connection*! To re-subscribe, you need to send an email to webteam@aauw-ca.org to request to be re-subscribed.

AAUW National has the same issue and asks you to ensure you stay connected with them by re-subscribing to AAUW National emails. Simply use this link, aauw.us/emailoptions, to re-subscribe and guarantee that you receive all the latest news, webinars, and opportunities from AAUW National.

~ **Michelle Baer and Donna Holmes**, Directors, Communication Committee Co-chairs,
communications@aauw-ca.org



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 Holiday Party](#). 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





**Public
Policy -
Are
Gender-
based**

Scholarships Problematic?

Not for AAUW, but the current legal and political climate has made universities wary to offer them.

2024 Title IX of the Higher Education Act of 1972 bans sex-based discrimination in educational institutions that receive federal funding. An outgrowth of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which offers workplace protections on the basis of 'sex,' Title IX was created to address historical marginalization on the basis of sex/gender in education. In sum, Title IX was created to provide women with equal access and success in educational institutions, to redress the historical marginalization of women in educational settings relative to men.

The definition of what counts as sex-based discrimination has necessarily expanded over the years, eventually coming to protect everyday Americans from things like pregnancy discrimination and gender-stereotype discrimination (e.g. not getting a promotion because you are not performing in a way that aligns with the gender you are perceived to be). In 2024, the Biden Administration extended a 2020 Supreme Court decision about LGBTQ+ workplace discrimination to

AAUW FUND REPORT

Thank you for your generous support for the AAUW FUND Solicitation Letter. The total amount contributed was \$2,930. Those monies go directly to National. Game Day will be March 26th. We hope you will join us for an afternoon of fun, friendship, and food. If you have never come to Game Day before, we would like to encourage you join us for Mexican Train (this group has fun and the game is easy to learn), Mah Jongg (give it a try, as the gals enjoy sharing how it's played), and Bridge (signs up in groups of four players, please). Hope you can join in the fun.

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

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

Branch Communications

Many thanks to Karen Winters for taking on the role of Newsletter Editor! And Carlyn Obringer will now be in charge of keeping our social media up to date.

Public Policy (cont.)

Title IX, providing protections to the LGBTQ+ community by acknowledging that LGBTQ+ discrimination is often the result of animus derived from gender stereotyping.

The spirit of Title IX is to protect those who have been historically marginalized on the basis of sex/gender. However, as part of the larger pushback against social justice and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), we have seen a sharp uptick in watchdog efforts and legal action around educational programs and scholarships focusing on fostering gender (and racial) equity. **Those bringing these lawsuits suggest that programs and scholarships that are explicitly for women violate Title IX** because they discriminate against men. For instance, between 2016 and 2022, Mark Perry, an emeritus professor at the University of Michigan's Flint campus and a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, filed 410 Title IX complaints against universities that offer programs or awards for women, but not men.

Lawsuits like those brought by Mark Perry **lean in to the concept of equality**, the idea that fairness is giving everyone the exact same things. This is opposed to **leaning into the concept of equity**, where fairness is reaching equilibrium by giving some individuals and groups different protections and support to make sure that everyone has what they need to succeed. If one student scrapes their knee and you give everyone a bandaid, this is equality. If one student scrapes their knee and you give

only that student a bandaid, this is equity. Leaning into equality work does not make sense when equity should be the target to redress an historical and/or current harm.

However, **given the threats of legal action to DEI programs, and given the ongoing legal wrangling over rules and guidance about gender equity and gender equality under Title IX, many educational institutions are unsure about the legality of their gender equity programs and initiatives.** Furthermore, the threat of legal action has had a chilling effect as institutions with shrinking budgets fear the cost and burden of ongoing legal challenges based on gender equality and equity efforts.

Scholarships that seek to target protected groups to overcome historical forms of marginalization have become a target in the larger attack against DEI, Title VII, and Title IX. If a college or university is wary of listing your AAUW scholarship, this might be why. AAUW does not receive federal funding under Title IX, so can offer gender-specific scholarships and programs without this same fear.

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

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



Lobby Days 2025

Save the date!

Get ready to advance legislation that makes a difference! This spring the AAUW California 2025 Lobby Days event will be held over two days: an in-person meeting day at the State Capitol on Tuesday, April 8 and a virtual meeting day over Zoom on Wednesday, April 9, 2025. We encourage all AAUW California members to participate in this opportunity for advocacy that is essential to achieve our legislative priorities!

Starting in January, the Public Policy Committee will evaluate new bills introduced in the state legislature which are aligned with our Public Policy Priorities. In mid March, the committee will meet to select 30-35 bills to make up AAUW California's 2025 Legislative Agenda, including the top three bills that we will advance during Lobby Days. Training materials on these three bills will be posted on the state website by March 26, 2025, and a mandatory training webinar will be held on March 31, 2025 at 7:00pm.

A registration form will arrive in your inbox in early January 2025. Please be sure to complete and return the form so that you get necessary updates about Lobby Days, including your team and meeting details.

After you register, you will be assembled into teams of 3 or 4 AAUW members and matched with Assembly and Senate districts. For in-

person meetings, each team will be scheduled to meet with at least 3 legislative offices while for Zoom meetings, each team will be scheduled to meet with 1 to 3 legislative offices. Regardless of whether you are in-person or online, each meeting will last for 15 to 30 minutes.

Because legislators have many commitments during the busy legislative season, most Lobby Days meetings will be held with legislative staffers and it is not always possible to schedule AAUW members with their own legislators. However, be assured that these meetings are always impactful: because teams will be representing AAUW California as a bill sponsor and/or supporter, legislative offices will consider these meetings to be as important as constituent meetings.

Lobby Days 2025 is scheduled to take place just before the legislature adjourns on April 10th for Spring Recess. AAUW members are encouraged to participate in-person on April 8, 2025, and directly advocate at the State Capitol as these in-person meetings are the most effective way to advance our priority legislation. Even though we know that being in-person is impactful, AAUW California is not able to pay for your travel to Lobby Day in Sacramento. For those who are not able to come to the Capitol, there will be an opportunity to meet with legislative offices virtually via Zoom on April 9, 2025.

We understand that travel incurs a cost, and we appreciate you considering the in-person option. If you can afford to take a road trip,

Lobby Days 2025 (cont)

consider carpooling with your fellow members, and if driving a long distance, sharing accommodations to make in-person Lobby Day a more budget friendly event.

NOTE: In addition to our members, this year some of your Lobby Days teams will include college students who have been invited to join in via a college outreach pilot project. Through this project, we will be distributing Lobby Days event flyers to several colleges and universities from November to February. Increased college student participation will enable us to reach more legislative offices; however, most importantly, we hope that this introduction to

AAUW will inspire advocacy-minded young people who share our values to join AAUW.

If you have participated in Lobby Days in the past, we would love to hear your feedback on what worked and what didn't. Please send your comments to publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org.

Lobby Days is a wonderful opportunity to meet with legislative offices and advance bills to promote gender equity and improve the lives of women and girls. We hope that you will join us in this important activity to promote our values.

~ Rhonda Skipper, Member AAUW California Public Policy Committee



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Katrinka March, DVM

Karen Shores, BVMS

PHM AAUW Calendar

| | |
|--------|--|
| JAN 8 | Morning Books, 10 am, SarahJoy Haynes's home |
| JAN 13 | Lunchin' Ladies, 12 noon, Il Fornaio, Walnut Creek |
| JAN 17 | Wine Club, 4 pm, Diane Peterson's home |
| JAN 17 | Mah Jongg, 12:30 pm, Brookview Clubhouse, Concord |
| JAN 22 | Layette Shower, 10 am, Janice Walker's home |
| FEB 19 | Soup Supper, 6 pm, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Pleasant Hill |
| MAR 26 | Game Day, Brookview Clubhouse |

MORNING BOOKS

MORNING BOOKS will meet on Wednesday, January 8th, 10 am, at SarahJoy Haynes's. (PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN DATE) We will be discussing *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon. This book is a gripping historical mystery with the protagonist as a midwife who defies the legal system ~ in the 1800's. Please let SarahJoy know if you plan to attend. In February, we will be discussing Erik Larson's *The Demon of Unrest*. Please join us for great discussions on both of these books!

MAH JONGG

Mah Jongg will meet on Friday, January 17, at 12:30 PM at Brookview Clubhouse.

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, January 20**, at 12 Noon at Il Fornaio, 1430 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Walnut Creek. Reservations due by **Monday, January 13** to Gayle Miner

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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Copy deadline for February NEWS is January 25th. Email copy to karen.winters@sbcglobal.net



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!