



Presidential Postings

According to the calendar, Spring has begun! And the days are longer and generally warmer. It is so fun to see the neighborhood trees leaf out and become covered with beautiful blossoms in a variety of colors.

The SAM program at Fair Oaks Elementary School in Pleasant Hill wrapped up the first week of March. Three hundred students from all 14 classrooms participated and made some amazing artwork using paper, sharpie pens, tissue paper, and glue. They were introduced to the enlarged flowers and skull paintings of Georgia O'Keefe and the Grand Canyon Suite of composer Ferde Grofé. We appreciate the commitment of our leaders Barbara Minneman, Sherrie Moore, and Helen Pereira, and all our wonderful volunteers.



The March program was very successful. It was so nice to visit with other Branch members, enjoy a nice meal, and hear from Concord dentists Elizabeth Nichols, DDS, and Anne-Lise Fink, DDS, who participated in a dental mission to Kenya last summer. Their story was interesting and enlightening. They worked under some challenging conditions, and it was marvelous to see what they were able to accomplish in such a short time.



April Meeting

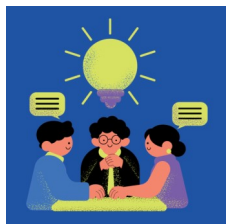


Proposed State Dues Increase



Tech Trek





Presidential Postings (cont.)

Our April meeting brings us the League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley with a presentation on how we can navigate the news in this age of mis/disinformation. They will help you decipher, understand, and manage media messages.

We will vote on the slate of officers for the next program year at the April meeting. Thanks go to the Nominating Committee for their work to find our branch leaders for next year.

Membership renewal dues are due soon. Our dues go to support our national and state organizations, as well as our local branch to do all the important work in advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

~ SarahJoy, Sherrie, and Reba

Writing a check for donation or event?

**Please make it payable to
AAUW Pleasant Hill—Martinez Branch.**



Tech Trek Tidings

On March 22nd, the Tech Trek committee, consisting of Bobbi Horack,

Susan Trebino, Claudia Bass, Penny Harris, Helen Pereira, and Trinkia March, interviewed 12 potential campers. Thanks to your generous contributions, we were able to selected 6 girls to attend 2025 Sonoma Camp. As always, it is a difficult choice as so many of the girls are deserving.

The following have been selected:

- Sydney Cooper: Martinez Junior High
- Anika Panda: Sequoia Middle School
- Natalia Maksimovic and Alicia Sanchez-Osorio: Pleasant Hill Middle
- Olivia Mascaro and Jessica Tu: Valley View.

Our two alternates are

- Grace Willis: Martinez Junior High
- Abigail Saidian: Pleasant Hill Middle School.

Diane Coventry interviewed the parents.

Congratulations to all! Come meet the 2025 campers at the end of the year brunch!

~ Claudia Bass and Trinkia March, Tech Trek committee members

Game Day Supports DVC Scholarship Fund

Thank you to all the players who joined us for Game Day. All had fun and enjoyed playing either Bridge, Mexican Train, or Mah Jongg. Your contribution helps our local branch of AAUW to fund a scholarship of \$1,000 for a DVC woman who is going to a 4-year college.

We thank Marlene Maskel for the arrangements for the use of Brookview Clubhouse and managing the collection of money at the door. Claudia Bass and Jennifer Apkarian, thank you for your delicious treats.

We have received the DVC student applications for the \$1,000 scholarship. The Fund committee will review the fourteen applications and select a winner.

~ AAUW Fund VPs Gayle Miner and Carolyn Barcklay



Wine Appreciation Club

The Wine Appreciation Group met on Friday, March 21st. We learned a little about Malbec wines and blind tasted three wines.

Thank you to Lorrie Osborn, Gayle Miner, and Carolyn Barcklay for bringing the wines.

The next meeting will be Friday, April 11, at 4 P.M. at Diane Peterson's house. We will be tasting Chardonnay (white) wines. Please let Diane know if you would like to attend as space is limited.

~ Diane Peterson



Morning Books

Morning Books will meet on Wednesday, the 2nd, at 10 A.M., at Sharon Wilson's home. We will be discussing Laura Spencer-Ash's *Beyond That, the Sea*. This story is about war, displacement, childhood attachments, and emotions that carry through to adulthood. Please let Sharon know if you plan to attend.

In May, we will be discussing William Kent Kreuger's *The River We Remember*. Please join us for great discussions on both of these books!



Mah Jongg

Mah Jongg will meet on Friday, April 18, at 12:30 P.M., at

Brookview Clubhouse. Please reserve your place with Suzanne Salter, (925) 988-0322 or sea-bear92020@outlook.com.



Grand Slammers

Bridge Club - For information, contact Marlene De Laurenti: mdl@astound.net or (925) 934-4171



Nimble Fingers

Nimble Fingers will meet on Monday, April 28, at 2:30 P.M., at Nancy Hobert's home, at 1040 Vaca Creek Road, Martinez.

Join us for a fun afternoon of crafting, chatting, admiring each other's work, and possibly learning a new skill.

Please let Janet or Karen know you're coming.

Janet: 925-768-4628

jspringsullivan@aol.com

Karen: 925-408-5721

karen.winters@sbcglobal.net



Lunchin' Ladies

Join us on Monday, April 21 at 12 Noon for a casual lunch at The Greenery Restaurant, Diablo Hills Golf Course, 1551 Marchbanks Road, Walnut Creek.

Reservations must be in to Gayle Miner, (925) 788-3272 or gayle.miner@yahoo.com, by Monday, April 14. NO EXCEPTIONS PLEASE.



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





SAM at Fair Oaks in February/March



Our SAM (Study Art and Music) Program in February and March for Fair Oaks Elementary School was very successful. We presented our lesson to TK (Transitional Kindergarten) through 5th grade classes, and three Special Ed classes (SDC). This year we studied the artist Georgia O'Keeff, and composer Ferde Grofé. We played the Grand Canyon Suite as our music. The students drew big pictures of flowers, skulls,

or bones like Georgia O'Keeffe, and they filled them in with tissue paper.

Thank you to our volunteers: Ish Mendonsa, Sara Tancredy, Bea Ball, Georgette Armstrong, Claudia Bass, Vicki Anderle, Penny Harris, Marlene Maksel, Karen Winters, Lorie Osborn, Trinkia March, Sharon Wilson, Judy Hamberg, and Reba Siero.

Our SAM program is funded by a grant donated from the Mary Walters' Fund from the Pleasant Hill Community Foundation.

The students and the teachers all appreciated our presentation and art and music lesson.

~ Sherrie Moore, Barbara Minneman, and Helen Pereira



Save the Date: End-of-Year Brunch

Our end of the year brunch will be on Saturday, June 7, at 10:00 A.M., at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church. Join us to socialize and meet the local scholarship recipients and Tech Trek girls, and to honor the Barbara Newacheck Memorial Award recipient and the AAUW Fund Named Gift Honoree.



Proposed State Dues Increase

Last week AAUW California sent an email to all members regarding an upcoming election.

One of the things on the ballot is a \$10 increase to our state dues. The California state dues are currently \$20. This proposed increase of 50%, if passed, would bring the state portion of our dues to \$30. This would be effective for the 2025-26 dues, which are due July 1, 2025, and would bring our annual dues to \$130. (Remember national just increased their portion of our dues from \$72 to \$74, with another \$2 increase scheduled for next year.)

The email that AAUW California sent provides information on the services they provide, the cost-cutting measures they have implemented, and their rationale for the increase. Please take the time to read through

their email. If you cannot locate it, you can contact Karen Winters

(karen.winters@sbcglobal.net), who will forward the email to you.

The voting period starts on April 26 and goes through May 16. You should receive an email from AAUW California on April 26, which will contain a personal invitation to vote. In that email, you will find a link that you can click to go to the online ballot.

If you can, please take the time to vote. Our votes really do count!

Earlier this year, we had an opportunity to comment on the \$25 dues increase (over 5 years) proposed by national. Many of us expressed our concerns, and the dues increase was reduced from \$25 to \$4. So instead of the proposed increase of \$5/year for 5 years, the national dues increase is \$2/year for 2 years.

Public Policy

Prepare for Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April

Sexual assault violence prevention calls for the creation of safer communities. Addressing the root causes of this kind of violence is difficult as it involves a multipronged approach, including improving street and housing conditions,

Public Policy (cont'd)

providing education, and offering support services. We should work to advance policies at workplaces and schools, discuss sexual assault and its consequences with friends and family, and prioritize prevention in our communities.

Official channels for raising awareness about sexual assault violence and creating and implementing the policies needed for prevention has a long history in the United States; however, given the current administration's attack on "DEI," much of this work is now under threat of being dismantled.

In addition, the current Administration has attacked the Office of Family Violence Prevention and Services and the Office on Violence Against Women, who must now disclose information that may further eliminate funding and resources, such as whether grants are being used to support "removable of illegal aliens or immigrants;" to "promote gender ideology;" or to advance "illegal DEI" programs.

As individuals and non-profit organizations, we can contact our Congressmembers and state officials

to back efforts to get the money flowing to relevant organizations and programs that raise awareness of and prevent sexual assault violence.

We can also act in our local communities to reduce sexual assault violence. We can ask to improve lighting to make streets and other public spaces safer. We can make sure our city, county, and public health officials promote policies for families and children, address economic security, and provide access to safe, stable housing. We can collaborate with community-led organizations that coordinate resources and services that help with trauma, mental health, and substance use, all of which lead to sexual abuse. (from [CDC-Violence Prevention](#))

Overall, we can all work to [support the organizations country-wide](#) that are on the front lines of dealing with sexual assault violence. [Click here](#) for downloadable free materials to share from the Domestic Violence Awareness Project.

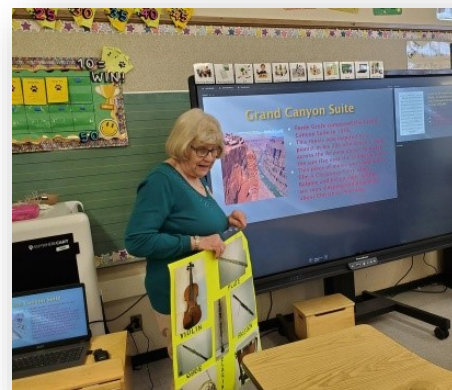
~ Claire Noonan, AAUW CA Public Policy Committee



AAUW Pleasant Hill— Martinez Branch Website

Our website will show you everything you need to know about our Pleasant Hill—Martinez branch. Check out the pictures from our March Program on the **Photos Page**. See photos of the SAM Program on the **Community Action Page**. 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 <http://www.aauw-pleasanthill-martinez.org>. 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





April Program



April 16, 2025, 7:00 pm

St. Andrew's Church, Pleasant Hill

Identifying and Debunking Disinformation in the Media Fact or Fiction?

How can we navigate the news in this age of mis/disinformation?

The League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley will help you
decipher, understand, and manage media messages.

We will talk about what is mis/disinformation, how to spot it, how to report it,
and how to join a growing community of truth messengers
in this complex digital world.



Our Speakers:

Janet Hoy has been involved with the League for 10 years, working in education and advocacy, primarily focused on elections but also getting involved in local issues in both North Carolina and California. Janet's professional background was in the health insurance industry working for insurance companies in a variety of regional roles and working for a large integrated hospital system in San Diego.

Since retiring after 30 years in the investment management industry, **Anna Honda** has pursued volunteer activities that are closely aligned with her values and interests. She is pleased to be an active member of the League of Women Voters to advance the League's mission of making democracy work. Anna graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles, and is a Certified Financial Analyst.

PHM AAUW Calendar

- Apr 2** Morning Books, 10 A.M., Sharon Wilson's
- Apr 9** Board Meeting, 7 P.M., Helen Pereira's
- Apr 11** Wine Club, 4:00 P.M., Diane Peterson's
- Apr 16** General Meeting, 7:00 P.M., St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
- Apr 18** Mah Jongg, 12:30 P.M., Brookview Club-house
- Apr 21** Lunchin' Ladies, 12:00 noon, The Greenery Restaurant, Diablo Hills Golf Course, 1551 Marchbanks Road, Walnut Creek
- Apr 25** May/June 2025 NEWS deadline
- Apr 28** Nimble Fingers, 2:30 P.M., Nancy Hobert's
- May 7** Morning Books, 10 A.M.
- June 7** End-of-year brunch, 10:00 A.M., St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

2024–25 Leadership Team

President 1 (Board Meeting Chair):

SaraJoy Haynes

President 2 (General Meeting Chair):

Sherrie Moore

President 3 (National & Newsletter):

Reba Siero

Vice President—Program:

Carlyn Obringer

Vice Presidents—Membership:

Nancy Hobert & Diane Peterson

Vice Presidents—AAUW Fund:

Carolynn Barcklay & Gayle Miner

Secretary: Helen Pereira

Treasurer: Claudia Bass

Webmaster: Sherrie Moore

Newsletter Editor: Karen Winters

Social Media: Carlyn Obringer

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