

Presidential Postings



The sun is getting stronger, and the days are getting longer as we travel through the middle of our relatively mild winter here in northern California and head into spring.

In January, the tradition of the annual Layette Shower at Janice Walker's home took place on the 22nd. Many wonderful items were gathered that have been donated to the Hillcrest Layette Program. Thank you, Janice, and all those who made and bought items for this worthy cause.

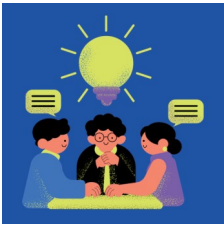


Our International Soup Supper will take place on February 19th. Be sure to sign up with Suzanne Salter to either bring soup, bread, or dessert, or pay \$10 ahead of time. If you have items to contribute to the Tech Trek raffles, please bring them to Diane Coventry.



SAM is coming, SAM is coming! We have our dates for when we will visit the classrooms at Fair Oaks Elementary School in Pleasant Hill. The program will run from February 24th through March 7th. Volunteers are signing up now. Contact Sherrie Moore if you can lend a hand. Georgia O'Keefe is the artist and Ferde Grofé is the composer. It will be another wonderful art and music year at Fair Oaks.

During the summer of 2024, Concord dentists, Elizabeth Nichols, DDS and Anne-Lise Fink, DDS, participated in a Dental Mission to Kenya, via the HoldUs Foundation (<https://holdus.org/>). They will share their story at our March 15th meeting, which is a Saturday afternoon. All the details about this luncheon meeting may be found later in this newsletter.



Presidential Postings (cont.)

We want to thank Virginia Hewgley for all her contributions to our branch through the years. She has brought joy and energy to us with all the DVC play fundraisers she has organized, as well as giving us beautiful newsletters for the last two years. Thank you, Virginia, and we wish you all the best in this new phase of your life. You will be greatly missed.

And a big thank you goes to Karen Winters, who has graciously taken on the role of newsletter editor. Thank you for keeping us informed of our branch events and beyond.

~ SarahJoy, Sherrie, and Reba



Game Day

Game Day is on Wednesday March 26th from 12:30 to 2:30

at Brookview Clubhouse, and the cost is \$12. The proceeds will benefit the DVC Scholarship.

Please join us for **Bridge**, **Mexican Train**, or **Mah Johgg**. Snacks and beverages will be provided.

RSVP by March 21 to Carolyn Barcklay (925-323-8229 or cm5barcklay@gmail.com).

Let us know what game you would like to play. Bridge players need to reserve in groups of four.

We hope to see you there!



Nominating Committee Report

The Nominations Committee (Diane Peterson, Carlyn Obringer, Diane Starkey, Marilyn Thelen, Trinka March) offers the following slate of candidates for consideration by the membership.

Presidents: *SarahJoy Haynes, Sherrie Moore, Reba Siero*

Program Vice President: *Carlyn Obringer*

Membership Vice Presidents: *Nancy Hobert, Diane Peterson*

AAUW FUND (EF) Vice Presidents: *Carolynn Barckley, Gayle Miner*

Secretary: *Sue Greenfeld*

Treasurer: *Claudia Bass*

As you can see, of the 10 elected 2024-2025 officers, 9 agreed to remain in their current positions for another year.

The exception is for the position of Secretary, and the willing nominee is Sue Greenfeld, who served as Redlands AAUW Branch President before moving to our area.

~ Marylee Taylor, Parliamentarian

Writing a check for donation or event?

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



Layette Shower

As one of the television news commentators might say: "There's good news today"!

Twenty-two members donated 195 items to this year's Layette Shower! Items for boys and girls included: 44 outfits, 28 sleepers, 3 pairs of shoes, 34 pairs of socks, 18 knitted hats with two matching handmade sweaters. Also two sewn quilts, 9 crocheted blankets, plus 8 receiving blankets were donated. Counted as one item were a blanket with 2 pairs of booties, another 6 piece bath set, and a box of 36 diapers. But that's not all! Six books, a set of stacking rings, and 2 girls' snowsuits were also part of our donation! WOW! What generous gifts!

Mona Sorrell, head of Hillcrest Church's program, was once again delighted with our donations! THANK YOU to the 22 members who contributed!

~ Janice Walker



International Soup Supper

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

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!





Tech Trek Tidings

We have an exciting collection of raffle items for the Soup Supper Tech Trek Fundraiser. I am

accepting a few more items if you wish to participate. Please notify me of your donation. A couple of our Tech Trekkers from 2024 will be there to help with your raffle ticket purchases. Be sure to bring your cash. See Soup Supper Flyer for details.

Our four middle schools, Martinez JH, Valley View Middle, Sequoia MS, and Pleasant Hill Middle, are in the process of nominating potential campers. The Tech Trek Committee will be gearing up to read and evaluate the applications at the end of February, with interviews scheduled for March 22. Good luck to all the nominees. Thank you teachers for your time and Tech Trek Alumni ambassadors for assisting our teachers. Kudos to Maya and Avery for their presentation at Sequoia to potential candidates. Well done!

Camp Franklin at Sonoma is June 22-28, you might consider being a class monitor for a day. More information to follow in the Spring. I would like to express my appreciation and thanks to Virginia Hewgley for her support and work with Tech Trek. I will miss her attention to detail, organization skills, and sense of humor during our times preparing for camp.

~ Diane Coventry



Local Scholarships

It's now time to be making preparations for our Local Scholarships program.

The committee consisting of Helen Pereira, Sherrie Moore, Carol Walsh, Karen Winters, Shelley Jacobson, and alternate Vicki Anderle is proceeding with the process of awarding four or five \$1000 scholarships to graduating girls at Alhambra High School and College Park High School who are planning to attend a two- or four-year college in the fall of 2025.

In order to have the funds necessary to provide the scholarships, we will soon be launching our annual Coffee Klatch fundraiser. You will receive your invitation at the Soup Supper on February 19th or by other means if you cannot attend.

The scholarship applications will be due March 21st, at which point the committee will read them and determine the scholarship recipients in early April. We have found the girls' applications, especially the essays, to be absolutely amazing in their depth and maturity. We hope you will be able to contribute to the furthering of their education and life goals. Thank you in advance!

~ Helen Pereira





SAM at Fair Oaks in February/March

We are starting to schedule our volunteers for our 2025 SAM Program (Study Art and Music) for Fair Oaks Elementary School for February/March 2025. We have created our curriculum/lesson plans. This year we will be studying the artist, Georgia O'Keeffe, and Ferde Grofé is the composer. Our music is Grand Canyon Suite. The program runs from Monday, February 24th through Friday, March 7th, with two morning sessions most days.

Your duties will be pretty simple—help us set up and clean up and then admire the work of the students. We will teach TK (Transitional Kindergarten) through 5th grade, and 3 Special Ed classes (SDC).

We are planning a workday on Tuesday, February 11th, from 10:00 – 12:00 in their workroom, where we will prepare the materials for the students and get familiar with the PowerPoint.

Would you like to be a SAM volunteer? Please let us know. So far, we have 18 volunteers on our list. It's lots of fun and rewarding.

One request: — do you have any artificial flowers, skulls ,or bones that you can lend us? These will be used for the students as examples of what to draw.

~ Sherrie Moore, Barbara Minneman, and Helen Pereira



SUNSHINE

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

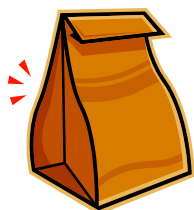
Marti Martin

richmar1016@sbcglobal.net or 925-225-3574



Morning Books

Morning Books will meet on Wednesday, Feb. 5th, 10 A.M., at Margie Pruitt's home. We will be discussing Erik Larsen's *The Demon of Unrest*. This book chronicles the events that led up to the Civil War. Please let Margie know if you plan to attend. In March we will be discussing David Grann's *The Wager: A Tale of Shipwreck, Mutiny & Murder*. Please join us for great discussions on both of these books!



Lunchin' Ladies

Lunchin' Ladies will dine on Monday, Feb. 17, at 12:00 Noon at DO SIT Thai Cuisine, 1520 Palos Verde Shopping Center, Walnut

Creek. Call or Email Gayle Miner at (925) 788-3272 (cell) or gayle.miner@yahoo.com to reserve your spot before the Monday, Feb. 10, deadline. No reservations accepted after Monday, Feb. 10. No exceptions please.



Mah Jongg

Mah Jongg will meet on Friday, Feb. 21, at 12:30 P.M. at Brookview Clubhouse.

Call Suzanne Salter at (925) 988-0322 to reserve your place.



Grand Slammers

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



Wine Club

The Wine Appreciation Group met on Jan. 17th. We had a delightful, informative, and delicious presenta-

tion by Harris Miner from Halleck Winery. Thank you to Harris and Gayle Miner for your support!

Our next meeting will be on Fri., Feb. 21st, at 4:15 P.M. at William Welch Wines, 837 Main St., Martinez. Come and learn about a Martinez pioneer, William Welch, taste 6 great wines (4 reds, 1 white, & 1 rose), and support a local business. The cost is \$12 per person (for 6 one-ounce pours). If 2 bottles of wine are purchased, the tasting fee is waived. No need to RSVP, there is plenty of room!

~ Diane Peterson



Nimble Fingers

Nimble Fingers will meet on Monday, Feb. 24, at 2:30 P.M., at Janet Sullivan's home, at

218 Oak Manor Plaza, Martinez.

Join us for a fun afternoon of crafting, chatting, and admiring each other's WIPs (works in progress), FOs (finished objects), and possibly some UFOs (unfinished objects).

Please let Janet or Karen know you're coming.

Janet: 925-768-4628

jspringsullivan@aol.com

Karen: 925-408-5721

karen.winters@sbcglobal.net



Pleasant Hill - Martinez AAUW Website



Our website will show you everything you need to know about our Pleasant Hill - Martinez branch. Check out the pictures from our Layette Shower 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





Why AAUW Public Policy Priorities Matter

Why do AAUW's Public Policy Priorities matter? They shape the actions that we take as an organization, socially and legally.

AAUW's mission is to advance equity for women and girls. Our Public Policy Priorities guide how we encourage active citizenship toward the goal of advancing our mission. There are four branches to our Public Policy Priorities: Economic Security, Equal Access to Quality Public Education, Social and Racial Justice, and Increased Representation of Women in Leadership Roles. Each of these priorities is further broken down into several action-oriented sub-categories, such as enforcement of Title IX and passage of the ERA. Our 2023-25 priorities can be found at <https://www.aauw-ca.org/public-policy-priorities-ppp-revised/>.

As active participants in society we can help shape the laws and society that govern us, such as healthcare, environmental policies, sex education, curriculum and book banning, housing, childcare, voting rights, immigrants' rights, sexual harassment, domestic violence, racial and LGBTQ discrimination, and Title IX enforcement. We "advocate" or promote our mission through research, education, and lobbying for legislation on the international, national, state, and local levels.

History has shown that our advocacy has made a big impact on national, state, and local

laws. In California alone, you can see the laws that AAUW sponsored, authored, and/or promoted, including those that were passed in the most recent session by going to [AAUW California Bill Tracking Report 2024 - Google Sheets](#). AAUW is also doing impactful work internationally, working to curtail human trafficking and promote civil and human rights for all immigrants, including through participation in the UN Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Over the next four years, there will be a lot of opportunities to use this legislative advocacy to push back against attempts to overturn long-standing human rights and civil rights protections.

Our Public Policy Priorities also shape our efforts to push forward programs that break through educational and economic barriers for women such as speaker programs, scholarships, oversight of local school boards, leadership and salary training, STEM opportunities for students, and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) programs.

Why do our Public Policy Priorities matter? They make us the most effective advocates for our collective mission to protect and expand gender equity. At the branch and individual levels, we can take advantage of as many opportunities as possible to operationalize our Public Policy Priorities, and through this work to actively promote AAUW's mission. AAUW as an organization relies on the branches to stay informed and to keep track of where our Public Policy Priorities may fall short, to form coalitions with local allies who have similar missions, and to assign branch members to focus where we can have the most impact.

~ Nancy Major, Member AAUW California Public Policy Committee



International Soup Supper

Wednesday, February 19, 2025, 6 P.M.

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 P.M., 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 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!

AAUW Pleasant Hill-Martinez March 2025 Program

Speakers: Elizabeth Nichols, DDS, and Anne-Lise Fink, DDS, Concord Dentists

During summer 2024, these women participated in a Dental Mission to Kenya, via the HoldUs Foundation. They will share information about how they provided basic dentistry and hygiene education to the children of families that were primarily living at a nearby dump site.

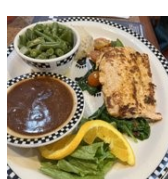
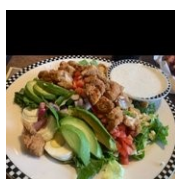
Place: Black Bear Diner, 700 Bancroft Rd, Walnut Creek

Saturday, March 15th 1:30



Cost for the meal is \$28 per person including drink, tax, and tip.

Choose one meal:



Crispy Chicken Cobb Salad - Salad mix with crispy chicken tenders, cherry tomato, crispy bacon, hard-boiled egg, diced avocado, bleu cheese crumbles, red onion, & croutons. Served with your choice of dressing.

Blackened Pesto Salmon - Cajun seasoned, grilled salmon fillet topped with creamy pesto sauce. Served over sautéed spinach & cherry tomatoes with mashed potatoes & country gravy and seasonal vegetables.

Build Your Own Pasta - Served with garlic parmesan toast and basil pesto sauce. Add a topper: Grilled Chicken Breast or Crispy Chicken Strips

Bacon & Cheddar Burger - A beef patty built on a brioche bun, lettuce, tomato, red onion, dill pickle chips, mayonnaise, & Thousand Island dressing. Topped with diced bacon & cheddar cheese. Your choice of French fries, onion rings, or sweet potato fries.

Veggie Burger - Served on a brioche bun. Your choice of French fries, onion rings or sweet potato fries.

Send your check to Claudia Bass by March 10th

1706 Endriss Drive, Martinez 94553

Payable to AAUW Pleasant Hill-Martinez Branch

Capacity is 30; please reserve early

Parking is a little tight, so you may want to carpool



Game Day

Wednesday, March 26

12:30 — 2:30

Brookview Clubhouse

\$12.00

Come join us for a fun afternoon playing MAH JONGG, BRIDGE or MEXICAN TRAIN with fellow members. Snacks and beverages will be served.

Proceeds will go to DVC Scholarship.

Let Carolynn Barcklay (925-323-8229 or cm5barcklay@gmail.com) know you are coming and what game you will be playing. Bridge players reserve as a foursome group.

Deadline for reservations due Friday, March 21.

Hope to see many of you there!!!!

~ The Fund Committee



PHM AAUW NEWS is sponsored by Montecito Animal Clinic

5280 Pacheco Blvd, Pacheco, CA 94553

925-686-0683

Fax 925-6986-4754

Katrinka March, DVM

Karen Shore, BVMS

Rebecca Horn, DVM

PHM AAUW Calendar

- Feb 5** Morning Books, 10 A.M., Margie Pruitt's
- Feb 12** Board Meeting, 7 P.M., SarahJoy Haynes'
- Feb 17** Lunchin' Ladies, 12:00 noon, Do Sit Thai Cuisine, Walnut Creek
- Feb 19** International Soup Supper, 6 P.M., St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
- Feb 21** Mah Jongg, 12:30 P.M., Brookview Club-house
- Feb 21** Wine Club, 4:15 P.M., William Welch Wines, 837 Main St., Martinez
- Feb 21** March 2025 NEWS deadline
- Feb 24** Nimble Fingers, 2:30 P.M., Janet Sullivan's
- Feb 24—Mar 7** SAM at Fair Oaks
- Mar 5** Morning Books, 10 A.M.
- Mar 15** General Meeting, 1:30 P.M., Black Bear Diner, Walnut Creek
- Mar 26** Game Day, 12:30 P.M., Brookview Club-house

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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