



Presidential Postings

Welcome to March! Spring will start officially on March 20th, but the signs are letting us know we are on our way! Take a walk around your neighborhood and there is new life everywhere.

The International Soup Supper on February 19th was a great success. Thanks to each of you who brought wonderful soups, lovely breads, and delicious desserts to share. There were 3 Tech Trek girls on hand to help sell tickets for the raffle items. Thanks to everyone who contributed items for this fundraiser for Tech Trek. Our speaker, Ellen Osmundson, told us about her life in Hong Kong, both when she was growing up and today. We want to thank the committee who pulled this together for the enjoyment of all: Claudia Bass, Diane Coventry, Sherrie Moore, and Suzanne Salter. Thank You!



SAM (Study Art & Music) at Fair Oaks Elementary School in Pleasant Hill will run from February 24th through March 7th. Volunteers are in place and scheduled to visit all the classrooms during the two weeks. Georgia O'Keefe is the artist and Ferde Grofé, who wrote the Grand Canyon Suite, is the composer. It will be another wonderful art and music year at Fair Oaks. Thanks go to the committee of Barbara Minneman, Sherrie Moore, and Helen Pereira, as well as all the amazing volunteers.



March Meeting

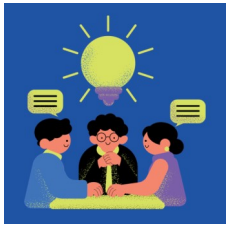


Game Day



Kaffee Klatch





Presidential Postings (cont.)

Our March meeting will be on March 15th, Saturday afternoon at 1:30 pm, at the Black Bear Diner in Walnut Creek. Concord dentists, Elizabeth Nichols, DDS and Anne-Lise Fink, DDS, participated in a Dental Mission to Kenya in the summer of 2024, and they will share their story with us. Seating is limited, so choose your meal and send your check for \$28 to Claudia Bass to reserve your spot.

The annual Game Day to benefit our DVC Scholarship is scheduled for Wednesday, March 26th, from 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm, at Brookview Clubhouse. The cost is \$12 per person and the games will include Mah Jongg, Bridge, and Mexican Train. Contact Carolynn Barcklay for more details.

The Nominating Committee has created a slate of officers for our next program year. Thanks to Marylee Taylor and the members of the committee for their work to find branch leaders for the 2025-2026 season. We will vote for the slate at our April meeting.

~ SarahJoy, Sherrie, and Reba

Writing a check for donation or event?

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

International Soup Supper

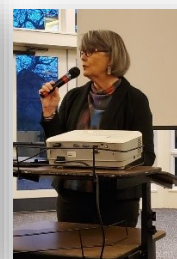


Our 2025 Soup Supper on Wednesday, February 19th at St Andrew's Church was a great success. We had almost 60 attendees including our speaker and 3 Tech Trek girls. We had 11 delicious soups, 12 kinds of bread, and 10 yummy desserts to choose from. Kathleen Woulfe decorated the tables with colorful flower arrangements, and Pat Harris provided our beverages. Thank you!

Our speaker was Ellen Osmundson, who grew up in Hong Kong. She explained to us what life was like when she was growing up compared to Hong Kong today. She included a lot of history and her family life. Her presentation was interesting and informative.

Our raffle was a huge success for Tech Trek. Prizes included homemade goods and crafts, small gift baskets, wine and champagne, and gift certificates for local establishments. Thank you to our membership for offering so many raffle items and bringing soup, bread, and dessert. A great time was had by all.

Committee: Sherrie Moore, Diane Coventry, Claudia Bass, Suzanne Salter





Local Scholarships

Our biggest fundraiser, the Kaffee Klatch invitation to donate to our fund for four

or five \$1,000 scholarships to seniors at Alhambra and College Park High Schools who are going on to 2 or 4-year colleges, was hand-delivered to those who attended the Soup Supper. The rest of the donation letters will be either hand-delivered or mailed to those of you who could not attend the supper. Please send your donation checks to:

Helen Pereira
121 Gardenia Ct.
Martinez, CA 94553

Thank you in advance. We greatly appreciate your support!

On March 21st the applications for these scholarships will be procured from the two high schools, and the committee will meet in April to determine the scholarship recipients.

~ Helen Pereira



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 for a woman transferring to a four-year college.

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.

If you have never joined us before, we hope that you consider joining us this Game Day. If you are not familiar with the games, we would help you learn the game of Mexican Train or Mah Johgg. They are both fun games and you will enjoy the event.

We hope to see you there!



Wine Club

On February 21st, twenty-three people visited the William Welch Wine tasting room on Main Street in Mar-

tinenez. We heard the owner, Steve Welch, tell us the fascinating story of 200 years of his family's history as early Martinez pioneers. Las Juntas Street was named to honor his family's Spanish Land Grant, Las Juntas. We also tasted wonderful wines made from his vineyard.

Our next meeting will be Friday, March 21st, 4 P.M., at Diane Peterson's house. We will be learning about and tasting Malbec wines. Please let Diane know if you would like to attend as space is limited.

~ Diane Peterson



Tech Trek Tidings

Tech Trek campers appreciate all our tremendous member support throughout the years.

Many of you generously stepped up to donate items to our raffle and purchase tickets at the Soup Supper. It was a great success. We raised \$700 plus a donation for our speaker Ellen Osmundson.

Twenty items were successful in the raffle. Special thanks, just to mention a few, to the Book Group, spearheaded basket making by Sherrie Moore. The Wine Group contributed five baskets, thanks to Diane Peterson, Gayle Miner, and Charlotte Liniger. We had a Farmer's Market Basket by Helen Pereira and a handmade table topper by Suzanne Salter. Marylee Taylor reached out to Ruth Bancroft Garden for a dual membership and basket of succulents. We had many more items our recipients will enjoy.

It takes a village for these worthwhile events. Our Tech Trek alumni, Sanvi Panda (2022), Maya Manchester (2024), and Avery Giotta (2024) sold tickets and helped draw them at the end. Congratulations to the winners.

Additional applause to Nancy Hobert and the Martinez Rotary for supporting a camper scholarship.

Our alumni look forward to sharing their experience with local organizations. If you know of any other business that would support Tech Trek let me know, we can arrange a presentation.

The Tech Trek Committee has received 17 nominations (5 from PH Middle, 5 from Sequoia, 3 from Valley View, 4 from Martinez JH.) Parents are filling out parent authorization and girls are filling out applications and writing their essays, which are due Feb. 28th. Interviews will be held March 22. Thank you to our committee for putting in the hours in March to choose our 2025 campers. Camper names need to be submitted to Camp Directors by April 15.

Camp Franklin at Sonoma is June 22—28. You, our members, should consider being a class monitor for a day. More information to follow in the Spring.

~ Diane Coventry





Morning Books

Morning Books will meet on Wednesday, the 5th, 10 A.M., at Kathleen Woulfe's home. We will be discussing David Grann's *The Wager: A Tale of Shipwreck, Mutiny & Murder*. This story takes place in the mid-18th century and certainly reveals that life at sea was no picnic!! It is a tale of human behavior at the extremes, in the hidden world on a British warship. Please let Kathleen know if you plan to attend. In April, we will be discussing Laura Spence-Ash's *Beyond that, the Sea*. Please join us for great discussions on both of these books!



Mah Jongg

Mah Jongg will meet on Friday, March 21, at 12:30 P.M. at Brookview Clubhouse. Please reserve your place with Suzanne Salter, (925) 988-0322 or seabear92020@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, March 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, 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

Lunchin' Ladies will gather on March 17, at 12 Noon, at Luna Restaurant, 2118 Willow Pass Road, Ste 100B, Concord. Reserve your place with Gayle Miner, (925) 788-3272 or gayle.miner@yahoo.com by Monday, March 10th or before. 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





Scam Alert

How flattering to have your boss urgently ask you for a meeting to help with a problem. How

special to have your bestie ask you confidentially for a small loan. How empowering to have the AAUW president ask if you can spare a few minutes for a phone call. The problem is: those may not be the real people who sent you those emails. Don't feel unworthy. Email scams are rampant. Hackers hijack contact lists and pretend to be people you trust. But how can you tell?

First, be suspicious of unusual requests. If you don't even know the president of AAUW, it's likely they don't need your advice, brilliant as it may be. The email is probably fake. Second, hover your mouse over the sender's name to see their email address. If it's yourbestie@alligatortraining.com, it's probably fake. Third, check out the grammar and spelling. If you see phrases like "Good friend, help with problem big," it's probably fake.

What to do? Delete anything suspicious. Change your password. Do not reply. Do not click on any links. Do not open any attachments. Do not bother notifying AAUW, as there is nothing the organization can do. Do not pass Go. Do not collect \$200. (Well, maybe that would be okay.)

~ reprinted from AAUW California Connection

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 Soup Supper on the **Photos 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





Public Policy

We Didn't Start the Fire.

The LA fires are a tragedy. DEI is the solution, not the problem.

It is January 2025. Populous, beloved, and well-known neighborhoods in Los Angeles, one of the biggest metropolitan areas in the world, are on fire. For days, residents have been evacuating, firefighters have been going without sleep, and homes and iconic landmarks have been burning. Even those that are not in immediate danger are breathing in toxic air that can create diseases for generations. It seems like everyone in the city is grieving something or someone.

And yet, as the disaster unfolds, people in LA are engaging in a massive outpouring of collective mutual aid and community support for the people and animals who are displaced and suffering.

On the other hand, as Angelinos are left to cope with displacement, property damage, and loss, leading figures in national politics have seized the moment, not to offer support, but to immediately go on the attack. They are placing blame on who they felt was the most likely culprit for these horrific fires and their aftermath: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI).

These accusations about DEI would be laughable were they not so problematic. Blaming DEI shows a lack of understanding of what DEI is and does

while also simplifying a large and complex problem related to a multitude of factors such as weather, infrastructure, and climate change.

In sum, DEI experts say that diversity is valuable for many reasons—for addressing historical marginalization, yes, but also for increasing our problem-solving capacity and leading to innovation. Both inside and outside of the business world, diversity is associated with higher engagement, reduced turnover, and improved, and more objective, decision-making and problem-solving. **Diversity of thought in inclusive teams has been found to lead to more innovation and better, higher-impact ideas.** Indeed, as University of Michigan professor of Complexity, Social Science, and Management, Scott Brown, notes, to solve complex problems in the 21st century, like climate change, we need diverse teams who can communicate across difference: “groups of experts, at least as we’re accustomed to thinking about them, are going to have a hard time competing with talented teams of people with relevant diverse perspectives.”

We need to truly understand this problem in order to prevent future loss. Rather than vilifying DEI, we need to acknowledge that DEI is one of the best tools that we have to solve such a problem. We need to come together to leverage a diversity of experiences and perspectives.

In the case of the LA fires, DEI has also been singled out as the primary culprit due to the assumption that “DEI hiring” impacts competent leadership.

Public Policy (cont'd)

Certain leaders have been targeted for what was labeled as inadequate planning, resourcing, and response, **such as Mayor Karen Bass and Fire Chief Kristin Crowley. These leaders have not only been labeled as incompetent, but also as “DEI hires.”**

The labeling of these leaders as “DEI hires” is likely because they are a woman of color and a woman who is a member of the LGBTQIA+ community, respectively. They are holding positions that have historically been held by, and associated with, cis-gender and heterosexual (cis-het) white men. **Given the leadership positions that they hold, alongside their gender, sexuality, and race, any potential fallibility in their decision-making is not only labeled as incompetence, but is also tacitly attributed to their “DEI” status.**

As in this case, any association of DEI with hiring is assumed to be the antithesis of meritocracy. In other words, DEI considerations in hiring are assumed to unfairly divert jobs and benefits to “minority” candidates, who are positioned as an undeserving majority that get an opportunity because of who they are instead of being considered for their skill sets, experiences, and past accomplishments. This narrative about “DEI” and hiring clearly overlooks the fact that women like Mayor Karen Bass and Fire Chief Kristin Crowley *are* hired based on merit,

regardless of their identity, even as they often have to overcome additional hurdles to enter into historically masculine fields and gain the qualifications and experiences to succeed.

Accusations about the harms of DEI proliferate in the current political environment, rife with threats of increased regulation and retribution. It is absolutely necessary to scrutinize the policy and planning of all leaders and decision-makers in LA in order to fully answer questions about fire mitigation and response. However, to pin the blame on DEI is to tacitly pin the blame on *only* those decision makers who are not cis-het white men and/or on those who are supportive of the kind of work that is needed to engage a range of perspectives.

Over the last few years, and accelerating after January 20, 2025, state and federal level policy changes and pronouncements in the United States have not only (seemingly) forced DEI from federally funded programs, but also created a chilling effect, leading some large corporations and public universities to (seemingly) pull back from DEI initiatives. However, given the well-known benefits of business-integrated DEI strategies in a globalized economy, DEI work will—and must—continue in order to solve big problems.

~ Missy Maceyko, Co-Director, CA State Public Policy Committee



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.

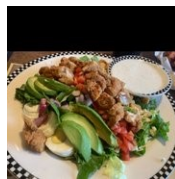
Place: Black Bear Diner, 700 Bancroft Rd, Walnut Creek

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



It's Kaffee Klatch Time!

American Association of University Women Pleasant Hill-Martinez Branch invites you to a Kaffee Klatch

- **Where: Your house**
- **When: Any time**
- **Why: To provide scholarships for women grads from Alhambra High and College Park High**



This is the most delightful benefit you will "never" attend
For you don't have to come, just friendship you send,
Brew your own coffee and make yourself a pot,
Add cream and sugar, just to hit the spot.
So grab your cup and saucer, they don't have to match,
Think of Local Scholarships and enjoy your kaffee klatch!



Your contributions fund our \$1000 scholarships, open to our local high school grads going on to a two- or four-year college or university.

Please make your check payable to AAUW Pleasant Hill—Martinez Branch, with a memo to Local Scholarships. Mail it to Helen Pereira, 121 Gardenia Ct., Martinez, CA 94553. (An addressed envelope was included with the letter that was given or sent to you.)

Thank you for your support.





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 24—Mar 7 SAM at Fair Oaks Elementary

Mar 5 Morning Books, 10 A.M., Kathleen Woulfe's

Mar 12 Board Meeting, 7 P.M., Helen Pereira's

Mar 15 General Meeting, 1:30 P.M., Black Bear Diner, Walnut Creek

Mar 17 Lunchin' Ladies, 12:00 noon, Luna Restaurant, Concord

Mar 21 Mah Jongg, 12:30 P.M., Brookview Club-house

Mar 21 Wine Club, 4:00 P.M., Diane Peterson's

Mar 24 Nimble Fingers, 2:30 P.M., Janet Sullivan's

Mar 25 April 2025 NEWS deadline

Mar 26 Game Day, 12:30 P.M., Brookview Club-house

Apr 2 Morning Books, 10 A.M.

2024–25 Leadership Team

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President 2 (General Meeting Chair):

Sherrie Moore

President 3 (National & Newsletter):

Reba Siero

Vice President—Program:

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