



## Presidential Postings

We had a great program in April from the League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley.

With the title of "Fact over Fiction: Navigating the News," it was most timely.

A wonderful quote by Madeleine K. Albright led off the evening. "The ability of a free and independent press to hold political leaders accountable is what makes open government possible ... it is the heart-beat of democracy."

And then the presentation went on to describe what is happening now and what each of us can do to make sense of what we see and hear, how to separate fact from fiction, and how to report the bad stuff. It encouraged critical thinking, how to spot false information, and what makes good journalism.

They gave us important ideas to consider as we try to decipher, understand, and manage media messages.

Our End of Year Brunch is on June 7<sup>th</sup>, where we will honor long-time members, introduce our Tech Trek and Local Scholarship recipients, and install our officers for the coming year. More details are found in this newsletter.



### June Brunch



### AAUW Elections

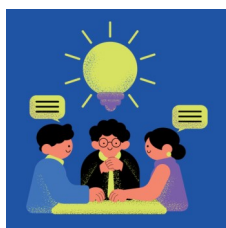


### Wine & Cheese

### Tech Trek

### Fundraiser





## Presidential Postings (cont.)

Thanks to all who have served in leadership roles this year and to those who will serve our branch in the coming year. Each of you is most appreciated.

Be sure to look for the election emails from both State and National and vote on the issues and officers on each of those ballots.

~ SarahJoy, Sherrie, and Reba



## Tech Trek Tidings

Tech Trek Camp Franklin at Sonoma leadership is making great progress in our preparations for **June**

**22-28.** We hope some of you can make the trip to SSU to volunteer and check it out.

Class monitors are integral to our program and necessary to keep the student-to-adult ratio at or below 10:1. If you would like to be a class monitor for a half or full day, here is the link to sign up:

[www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4EA9A92EA1FFCF8-56279859-class#/](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4EA9A92EA1FFCF8-56279859-class#/)

We've had several other branches getting ready to sign-up -- don't let them get all the good spots! You can contact me too.

Exciting news — we have an Engineering teacher. Neesha is joining us from Novato. Core classes this year are Aerospace Engineering, Botany, Chemistry, Electrical Engineering, and Forensics.

You can meet our trekkers at the End of Year **Brunch on June 7<sup>th</sup>**. It's always a pleasure to hear these young people talk about their interests and hopes for the future. We will also be handing out letters at the brunch asking for your financial support for this program. Can't make it to the brunch or don't want to wait? You can mail a check to Trinka March any time. Just make it out to AAUW — CA SPF and put Tech Trek on the memo line to make your donation tax deductible. We appreciate your continued support. A big thank you to Gray-Bowen-Scott, a Walnut Creek Civil Engineering firm, who funded a camper scholarship for next year. Another thank you to Martinez Kiwanis for accepting our grant application to fund a camper from Martinez.

Speaking of fundraising, Sandy Wolfe has graciously offered to host our **Wine and Cheese Fundraiser**. Mark your calendars for **June 13, 3:00 – 5:30 pm**. Let us know if you wish to bring an appetizer, bottle of wine, or other beverage. See the flyer for details.

~ Diane Coventry

**Writing a check for donation or event?**

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



## Local Scholarships

The Local Scholarship Committee met recently to choose this year's recipients

for our \$1000 scholarships to high school senior girls going the next school year to a 2- or 4-year college/university. There were 12 applicants from College Park High and 19 from Alhambra High School. Having to make some difficult decisions due to the high qualifications of the applicants, we finally chose Sarah Kim and Gema Sanchez Peraza from College Park High School and Willa Adler, Chiara Ke, and Giana Dubon from Alhambra High School. They will be receiving AAUW certificates at their Senior Awards Assemblies, and will receive their \$1000 checks at our June 7<sup>th</sup> Brunch. I want to thank my committee members. Sherrie Moore, Karen Winters, Shelley Jacobsen, and Nancy Hobert, for their time and efforts in making the decisions for our scholarships. It wasn't easy!

~ Helen Pereira

## AAUW Fund Report

We had 14 applications for the DVC scholarship in the amount of \$1000 to be awarded to a woman transferring to a four-year college. The committee chose Tara Lanoie. We are excited to introduce Tara to everyone at the Brunch in June.

A big thank you to the Fund Committee members who worked very hard reviewing all applications: Helen Pereira, Jennifer Apkarian, and Claudia Bass.

~ Gayle Miner and Carolynn Barcklay, Co-VPs



## Wine Appreciation Club

The Wine Appreciation Group met on April 11<sup>th</sup>, learned a little about char-

donnay wine, and tasted Sonoma and French chardonnays. The next event will be May 16<sup>th</sup> with Patrick Miner, and we will be tasting champagne. This event is already at capacity.

The June event will be on Friday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, at 4 P.M., at Margie Pruitt's house. Claudia Bass will lead us in learning about Chenin Blanc (white) wines. If you would like to attend, please let Diane Peterson know.

~ Diane Peterson



## Nimble Fingers

Nimble Fingers will not meet in May, due to the Memorial Day holiday. We will meet on Mon-

day, June 23, at 2:30, at Karen's home, 2148 Westward Place, 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

[ispringsullivan@aol.com](mailto:ispringsullivan@aol.com)

Karen: 925-408-5721

[karen.winters@sbcglobal.net](mailto:karen.winters@sbcglobal.net)



## Morning Books

Morning Books will meet on Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, at 10 A.M. at Margie Pruitt's. We will be discussing

William Kent Kreuger's *The River We Remember*. This story starts with a body floating in the river and the investigation that follows involving many of the town's citizens and more. Please let Margie know if you plan to attend. Plans for the June luncheon will be discussed, and a sign-up for the food will be available. Please join us for a great discussion.

In June, Morning Books will meet on Wednesday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, at **11:30 A.M.**, at Brookview Clubhouse for a pot-luck luncheon. We will not be discussing a book, but we will pick the favorite read from the past year, as well as the selection for the September meeting. Possibly, there will be a quiz, and your leader for 2025-2026, Sharon Wilson, will discuss plans for the upcoming year.

If you missed the opportunity to make a reservation and/or choose your food contribution, please call Marlene @ 689-5439, or email [marlenemaksel10@gmail.com](mailto:marlenemaksel10@gmail.com)



## Lunchin' Ladies

Lunchin' Ladies will meet on Monday, May 19 at 12 Noon at La Veranda Cafe, 6201 Center Street, Clayton. RESERVATIONS

ARE A MUST.

Make your reservation with Gayle Miner, (925) 788-3272 or [gayle.miner@yahoo.com](mailto:gayle.miner@yahoo.com) by Monday, May 12.

LUNCHIN' LADIES WILL NOT MEET IN JUNE, JULY, OR AUGUST. Look for our September Lunchin' Ladies announcement in the July/August Newsletter.



## Mah Jongg

Mah Jongg will meet on Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, and Friday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, at 12:30 P.M., at Brookview Club-

house. Be sure to let Suzanne Salter ([seabear92020@outlook.com](mailto:seabear92020@outlook.com) or 925-988-0322) know if you are coming for each date.



## Grand Slammers

Bridge Club - For information, contact Marlene De Laurenti:

[mdl@astound.net](mailto:mdl@astound.net) or (925) 934-4171

## SUNSHINE

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

Marti Martin

[richmar1016@sbcglobal.net](mailto:richmar1016@sbcglobal.net) or 925-225-3574



## VOTE AAUW Elections

It's that time of year again. We get to vote in the AAUW national and state elections.

In the national election, we are voting for the national board of directors, as well as proposed changes to the national bylaws and public policy priorities. You should have already received one or more emails containing a link for voting. The national election runs through May 13.

In the state election, we are voting for the state board of directors, as well as proposed changes to the state public policy priorities and a proposed dues increase of \$10. An email with a link to vote in the state election was sent out on Saturday, April 26. It came from "siteadmin@aauw.org" via SurveyMonkey, and may have ended up in your Spam/Junk folder. The state election runs through May 15.

## AAUW Membership Renewal

AAUW membership renewal time is approaching for most of our members, whose membership runs from July 1 through June 30. If you joined in the past couple of years, you may have a different renewal date.

You will be receiving emails from National reminding you to renew. They are encouraging everyone to renew online. However, we realize that not everyone is comfortable doing that. Don't worry. You may still send your renewal check to Membership Co-VP Nancy Hobert, who will process your renewal.

But don't write that check or renew online just yet! We need to wait until after May 16 to find out if the \$10 proposed state dues increase passes or not. (Refer to the previous article about voting.)

Current dues are \$74 national plus \$20 state plus \$26 local, for a total of \$120. If the proposed state dues increase passes, that total will be \$130.

Once we know the results of the state election, we will inform our members. Thanks for your patience and understanding.

## Pre-Paid Event Cancellation Policy

We have had many events that require people to pre-pay. The board has adapted the policy that no refunds will be granted with cancellations on the day of the deadline or after.



## Public Policy Public Policy Committee Sets AAUW California 2025 Legislative Agenda

The Public Policy Committee met over a weekend in mid-March for our most important meeting of the year, to set the Legislative Agenda for 2025. Prior to the meeting, our committee collectively evaluated over 60 bills related to AAUW's mission and Public Policy Priorities. During our two-day marathon session, we carefully considered each bill. We then voted to select and prioritize the top 25 bills, leaving room to add a few



## Public Policy (cont'd)

more bills that we know will be coming to us in the next few weeks.

Our three “A” priority bills are SB 771 “Social Media Platforms Endangering Californians”, AB 579 “Yaeli’s Law”, and SB 418 “Ensure Equal Access to Care for All”. All three of the “A” priority bills this year fall under the Social Justice pillar of our Public Policy Priorities.

The first “A” bill, SB 771 “Social Media Platforms Endangering Californians”, is authored by Senator Henry Stern and is sponsored by AAUW California. SB 771 clarifies that a social media platform may be liable for civil penalty under existing law if and when its algorithms or AI aid or abet individual users who are engaging in already unlawful intimidation of others in online spaces. While hateful speech is problematic, it is not illegal. However, it can cross the line into illegal action. When hate speech is “brought to the doorstep” of marginalized communities, for example, if someone maliciously posts anti-immigrant messages on the virtual Facebook wall of an immigrant family, they are engaging in unlawful intimidation, terrorism, and threat. While social media platforms are not responsible for the speech of individual users, aspects of their platform such as algorithms or AI can be complicit in the targeting of marginalized groups, which is unlawful. Social media companies have recently intentionally turned away from providing safeguards that they previously provided for targeted vulnerable communities. They should be held accountable for that decision, in light of the real-world impacts of proliferation of online hate and their complicity in unlawful intimidation.

The second “A” bill, to which we are taking an opposition position, is AB 579 “Yaeli’s Law” authored by Assemblymember Leticia Castillo. This bill rests on the premise that denial of support for youth self-identity, including refusal to use a child’s name and pronouns, or refusal to provide or allow their gender-affirming care, is not harmful and therefore should not be considered child abuse under the law, and, accordingly, not be allowed as a basis for custody or removal decisions. This is problematic. Research shows that transgender children are more likely to experience anxiety and depression and are at greater risk of substance abuse and homelessness when they live in households that do not accept their gender identity. We oppose this bill because every child deserves to be protected from emotional and physical abuse, including the right to be removed from a harmful household to a more healthy environment.

The third “A” bill is SB 418 “Ensure Equal Access to Care for All” authored by Senator Caroline Menjivar. This bill would prohibit a health plan or a health insurance provider from denying coverage or denying benefits to a person based upon their race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex — including sex characteristics such as intersex traits, pregnancy, and gender identity. Access to gender-affirming care is a fundamental aspect of health equity and human rights. SB 418 will protect against discrimination on the basis of sex, while also sending a powerful message of support to the LGBTQ+ community, affirming that their needs matter. Creating an environment where all individuals can express their identities without fear is foundational to a strong democracy.

To see the full 2025 Legislative Agenda, please go to the [Bill Tracking Report](#). This report is a living document that will be updated as the bills move through

## Public Policy (cont'd)

the legislative process, so you will always be able to see the latest status.

~ Missy Maceyko and Amy Hom, Co-chairs Public Policy Committee

## Take Action to Help Kids Feel Safe at School

Many of our members have expressed concerns about the potential for ICE raids in our local schools. These intrusions on school grounds are already happening in some places, and are having a significant detrimental impact on these families, especially for their children. Some of the ramifications have included:

- Parents not showing up at school events fearing agents might be there
- Students don't want to come to school, fearing their parents will be taken while they're gone
- Children not learning, consumed by fear of agents coming on campus to take them away

Here are some things you should know:

- Current law (Plyler v Doe 1982) held that all children, even undocumented, have a constitutional right to free public education
- In 2011, DHS issued the "Sensitive Locations" policy, which prohibited raids from certain places including schools
- Although the President has attempted to revoke

the order, Executive Orders and Actions cannot change statutes or regulations

- There are currently 4 lawsuits challenging the attempted revocation; 3 from churches have been successful so far, 1 from a school in Denver has resulted in a denial of a request for a temporary injunction
- Current law also prohibits ICE entry on campuses without a warrant

Even if they have a warrant to enter, that does not entitle them to have access to private/protected student records

Here are two things you can do:

- Urge your school boards/districts to issue a "Safe Zone" Resolution – template can be found here: [Guidance on Immigration Issues | NEA](#)
- Engage your branch members in a postcard-writing campaign to their school boards with following message:

WE STAND WITH

- Immigrant students
- LGBTQ+ youth

~ Kathi Harper, Chair, Public Policy School Board Project





## 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 April Program 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







## **June End of the Year Brunch**

**June 7, 2025 10:00 - Noon**

**St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Pleasant Hill**

**Meet the Tech Trek and Local Scholarship girls**

**Introducing the DVC Scholarship winner**

**Honoring our newest 50-year honorary lifetime members**

**Announcing the Named Gift Honoree**

**and Barbara Newacheck Award Recipient**

**Installation of Officers**

**Cost: \$15 for the catered Brunch**

**To reserve your spot,**

**please send your reservation and check to**

**Claudia Bass**

**by Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup>**

**Make checks payable to: AAUW Pleasant Hill-Martinez Branch**



# Tech Trek Fundraiser

Join us for an afternoon of wine and cheese benefiting Tech Trek.  
\$20 donation per person. Open to family and friends.

Friday, June 13th at 3:00-5:30  
Sandy Wolfe's Backyard  
156 Elderwood Drive, Pleasant Hill  
RSVP: Sandy Wolfe  
925-586-4523  
[rffwolfeman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rffwolfeman@sbcglobal.net)

## PHM AAUW Calendar

**May 7** Morning Books, 10 A.M., Margie Pruitt's

**May 14** Ways & Means Committee, 11 A.M.,  
Brookview Clubhouse

**May 14** Board Meeting, 7 P.M., Helen Pereira's

**May 16** Mah Jongg, 12:30 P.M., Brookview Club-  
house

**May 16** Wine Club, 4:00 P.M., Diane Peterson's

**May 19** Lunchin' Ladies, 12:00 noon, La Veranda  
Cafe, 6201 Center St., Clayton

**June 4** Morning Books, 11:30 A.M., Luncheon at  
Brookview Clubhouse

**June 7** End-of-Year Brunch, 10:00 A.M., St. An-  
drew's Presbyterian Church

**June 13** Wine & Cheese Tech Trek Fundraiser,  
3:00—5:30 P.M., Sandy Wolfe's

**June 20** Wine Club, 4:00 P.M., Margie Pruitt's

**June 23** Nimble Fingers, 2:30, Karen Winters'

**June 25** July/August NEWS deadline

**TBD** Joint Board Meeting

## 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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### AAUW California:

[www.aauw-ca.org](http://www.aauw-ca.org)

PO Box 160067, Sacramento, CA 95816-0067

916-389-0220

Office Hrs: Mon-Fri 9 A.M.—2 P.M.

[webteam@aauw-ca.org](mailto:webteam@aauw-ca.org)

[askusfirst@aauw-ca.org](mailto:askusfirst@aauw-ca.org)

### AAUW National:

[www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)

1310 L Street NW, Washington, DC 20005

202-785-7700

Office Hrs: Mon-Fri 7 A.M.—2 P.M. Pacific Time

[connect@aauw.org](mailto:connect@aauw.org)