

## Presidential Postings



SAM (Study Arts and Music) at Fair Oaks Elementary School brought the music of George Gershwin and the art of Piet Mondrian to many of the classrooms this year. The students were very enthusiastic.

Martinez Mayor Brianne Zorn joined us on March 14<sup>th</sup> and spoke about her dual roles as Mayor of the City of Martinez and 20-year career as a professional wetland scientist. Her priorities on the Martinez City Council have been transparency and good communication, air quality and the health and safety of Martinez residents, parks and open space, and improvement to the Martinez waterfront, which benefits from her professional expertise. She shared how she balances a STEM career and city leadership, in addition to serving as a mother and stepmother of three children.



On April 11<sup>th</sup>, Sue Noack will speak to us. She was elected to the Pleasant Hill City Council in 2014 and has served in many capacities including several times as Mayor. She sits on the board of several area transportation groups and is currently serving as Chair of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission which represents the 19 cities of Contra Costa County.



Sue came to California in 1995 and moved to Pleasant Hill in 1998 and started her family. She left the corporate world in 2007 and uses her time, energy, and expertise to serve her community in many capacities.

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[April Meeting](#)




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[Local Scholarships](#)




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[Tech Trek](#)

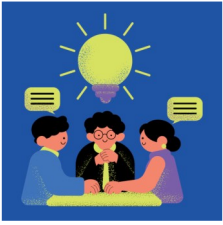



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[Voting for Branch Officers](#)




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## Presidential Postings (cont.)

April also brings our election of officers for the coming program year. That proposed slate of officers is noted elsewhere in this newsletter. Thanks to the nominating committee and to all who have agreed to serve. Also, look for a bylaws update soon.

Three committees are working on awarding scholarships to Tech Trek campers from our middle schools, high school seniors from Alhambra and College Park, and a Fund recipient from DVC. I know the decisions will be challenging!

~ SarahJoy, Sherrie, and Reba

*Secretary: Sue Greenfeld*

*Treasurer: Claudia Bass*

As you can see, of the 10 elected 2025–2026 officers, 8 agreed to remain in their current positions for another year. The 2 new candidates are Trinka March as a Co-President and Bobbi Horack as a Co-Vice President for Membership.

At the Soup Supper meeting, this slate of 2026–2027 officers was *accepted*. But the vote has yet to take place. We will vote at the April 11 Annual Meeting, after the floor is open to additional nominations. Come to the Annual Meeting prepared to vote.

~ Marylee Taylor

## Voting for 2026–2027 Officers

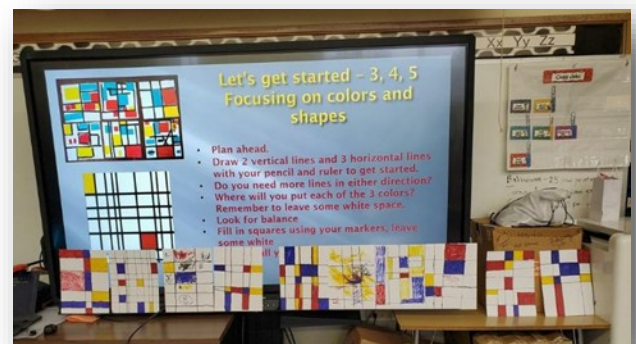
The Nominating Committee (Gayle Miner, Penny Harris, Kathleen Woulfe, Marilyn Thelen, Trinka March) has offered the following slate of candidates for consideration by the membership as 2026–2027 officers.

*Presidents: Trinka March, Sherrie Moore, Reba Siero*

*Program Vice President: Carlyn Obringer*

*Membership Vice Presidents: Nancy Hobert, Bobbi Horack*

*AAUW FUND Vice Presidents:Carolynn Barcklay, Gayle Miner*





## SAM Program Report

We have completed our SAM (Study Art and Music) program for 2026. All of the teachers and students really appreciated our presentation and art project.

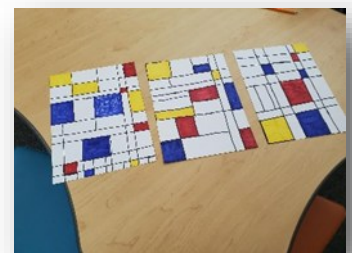
This year, our SAM program began the last week of February and continued through the first week of March. We visited 12 classes: K – 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes, and 2 SDC classes. We had 18 of our volunteers to assist with the classes and help prepare on our workday. Thank you, volunteers: Jan Cooper, Georgette Armstrong, Reba Siero, Claudia Bass, Vicki Anderle, Sharon Wilson, Karen Winters, Trinkia March, Marylee Taylor, Ish Mendonsa, Patrizia Guccione, Sara Tancredy, Diane Coventry, Penny Harris,

Bea Ball, and Jennifer Apkarian!

Our artist was [Piet Mondrian](#), and the composer we chose was [George Gershwin](#). The music selection was [Rhapsody in Blue](#). We coordinated with the school’s music and art teachers.

We chose a slightly different project for K–2 and 3–5. The younger students used black paper strips and primary color construction paper squares to design their artwork. The older students used primary color markers and a black sharpie to create lines and squares. The pictures turned out awesome! Examples from the classes are shown on this page and the preceding page .

~ Sherrie Moore, Barbara Minneman, and Helen Pereira, AAUW SAM Presenters





## Tech Trek Tidings

On March 21, the Tech Trek Committee, consisting of

Claudia Bass, Penny Harris, Bobbi Horack, Trinka March, Helen Pereira, and Susan Trebino interviewed 13 nominees. Diane Coventry interviewed the parents. We were able to select 6 girls to send to camp. It was a tough decision; all applicants showed promise and interest in STEM. Thank you to the teachers at our middle schools who nominated the candidates: Nicole Angel from Martinez Junior High, Kate Hurtado and Dane Morton from Sequoia Middle, Lenny Friedman from Pleasant Hill Middle, Sean Bailey and Daniel Idryo from Valley View.

The following girls have been selected: Rayann Marazzani from Martinez Junior High, Lily Elrod, Dior Nguyen, and Allison Mo from Sequoia Middle, and Sophia Li and Dariia Rychahivska from Valley View.

We look forward to introducing them to our members at the End-of-the-Year Brunch in June. We will be calling for class monitors near the end of April/early May, so keep June 22–26 open if you'd like to volunteer.

On a fundraising note, Tech Trek was invited to speak at the Rotary meeting on March 25. The alumni did an outstanding job educating the Rotarians about Tech Trek and sharing their camp experience. Alumni from 2025, Anika Panda and Jessica Tu, spoke very confidently in front of the group, making us proud. Addi Young, alumni from 2023, Valley View sophomore told us about her STEM journey into high school, and winning 3<sup>rd</sup> place with the Robotics Team at a regional competition. Their team is looking for sponsors if anyone is interested in supporting them. Thank you to Martinez Rotary for financial support of a camper for next year. We appreciate all our community commitment towards Tech Trek.

~ Diane Coventry





## Local Scholarships

The applications from students hoping to receive our AAUW scholarships are presently being turned in to the committee for consideration.

As of this writing, we have received 8 applications from College Park High School. A similar number will be received from Alhambra High School later this week. This information will be published in the next NEWS edition along with the choices of scholarship recipients that are made by our committee in the near future. We want to thank all those who have contributed so generously to this fund. To date we have received 27 donations in the amount of \$3,000. The recipients of our scholarships are always so very thankful and honored to receive them. You really do have an impact on their education and thus their future! Thank you!

~ Helen Perreira

## AAUW Fund Report

The Fund Committee will be meeting April 15<sup>th</sup> to choose a recipient for the DVC Scholarship for a woman continuing to a 4-year collage. This year the scholarship will be \$2000.

~ Gayle Miner and Carolynn Barcklay, Co-VPs



## Morning Books

*The Real James Herriot: A Memoir of My Father* by Jim Wight is our

April 1<sup>st</sup> book. By the time you are reading this, we may have already met since our meeting date is April 1. Margie Pruitt will host and Ilene Linsen will be our discussion leader.

Our final book until we break for summer is *What You Are Looking For Is in the Library* by Michiko Aoyama. It is a heartwarming novel that explores the power of books through the experiences of various characters who seek guidance from an enigmatic librarian. Her wisdom, patience, and humor embody the novel’s message of finding inspiration in unlikely places and valuing inner peace over external validation. Through her character, the novel celebrates the quiet yet transformative power of libraries and literature in shaping lives. We'll meet at Margie Pruitt's home on May 6<sup>th</sup>, and Karen Winters will be our discussion leader.

Our book group will meet on June 3<sup>rd</sup> for a potluck luncheon for our final recap of the year and to decide what books we'd like to read next year. More details about that will be forthcoming.

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

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





## Wine Appreciation Group

The Wine Appreciation Group met on March 20<sup>th</sup>. We tasted a white, a red, and a sweet wine paired with grapes, lemon, salt, and chocolate. It was a unique experience with some unexpected taste surprises. Thank you to Gayle, Jan, and Rich for providing the wine and to Charlotte, Claudia, Sandy, and SarahJoy for the food.

The next meeting will be Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, at 4 P.M. at Diane Peterson's house. We will be tasting white and red wines from New Zealand. Please let Diane know if you would like to attend. Space is limited.



## Lunchin' Ladies

Lunchin' Ladies will meet on Monday, April 20 at 12:00 noon, at Sichuan House, Countrywood Plaza Shopping Center at the corner of Bancroft and Treat Blvd., Walnut Creek.

Reservations due by April 13<sup>th</sup>.

Gayle Miner, 925-788-3272 or [gayle.miner@yahoo.com](mailto:gayle.miner@yahoo.com)

NO EXCEPTIONS PLEASE.



## Grand Slammers

Bridge Club — for information, contact Marlene De Laurenti:

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



## Nimble Fingers

Nimble Fingers will meet on Monday, April 27, at 2:30 P.M., at Karen Winters' home.

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](mailto:jspringsullivan@aol.com)

Karen: 925-408-5721

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



## Mah Jongg

Mah Jongg will meet on Friday, April 17, at 12:30 P.M. at Brookview Clubhouse. Newbies are welcome too!

Be sure to let Suzanne Salter know if you are coming:

[seabear92020@outlook.com](mailto:seabear92020@outlook.com) or 925-988-0322

## 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

925-229-3574

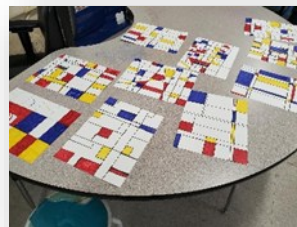


# AAUW Pleasant Hill— Martinez Branch Website

Our website will show you everything you need to know about our Pleasant Hill—Martinez branch. Read about our March program on the **Photos Page**. Enjoy photos of our SAM program on the **Community Action Page** (remember to scroll down). Check out our programs and events on the **Program Page**. As always, read the latest newsletter on the **Newsletter 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



## PHM AAUW NEWS is sponsored by Montecito Animal Clinic

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Katrinka March, DVM

Karen Shore, BVMS

Rebecca Horn, DVM



## **AAUW Pleasant Hill-Martinez April 2026 Program**

**When: Saturday, April 11th, 10:00 A.M.  
Place: First Congregational Church of Martinez  
1229 Court Street, Martinez**

**Speaker: Sue Noack, Pleasant Hill City Councilmember  
Former Pleasant Hill Mayor (twice)**

**Current chair of the Bay Area Metropolitan Transportation  
Authority (MTC)**



**Please join us for light refreshments and an informative discussion**





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

**June 13, 2026, 10:00 – Noon**

**St. Andrew's 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,  
send your reservation and check to**

**Claudia Bass**

**by Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup>**

**Make checks payable to AAUW Pleasant Hill–Martinez Branch**



Pleasant Hill-Martinez (CA) Branch

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

## PHM AAUW Calendar

- Apr 1** Morning Books, 10 A.M., Margie Pruitt’s
- Apr 8** April board meeting, 7 P.M., SarahJoy Haynes’
- Apr 11** General meeting, 10 A.M., First Congregational Church, Martinez
- Apr 17** Mah Jongg, 12:30 P.M., Brookview Clubhouse
- Apr 17** Wine Club, 4 P.M., Diane Peterson’s
- Apr 20** Lunchin’ Ladies, 12:00 noon, at Sichuan House, Countrywood Plaza Shopping Center at the corner of Bancroft and Treat Blvd., Walnut Creek
- Apr 25** May/June NEWS deadline
- May 6** Morning Books, 10 A.M., Margie Pruitt’s
- June 13** End-of-the-Year Brunch



## 2025–26 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: Sue Greenfeld

### Treasurer: Claudia Bass

### Webmaster: Sherrie Moore

### Newsletter Editor: Karen Winters

### Social Media: Carlyn Obringer



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