



	<b>Pleasant Hill Branch</b> <b>N.E.W.S</b> <b>Now/Events/Women/Success</b>
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Volume 51 Issue 4

December 2008

## HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA

**Friday, December 12, 2008**

**Enjoy appetizers and a wonderful dinner with wine  
Visit with friends, sing carols  
featuring Gayle Garrison at the piano**

**Location:** Brookview Club House  
1201 Monument Blvd, Concord

**Time:** 6:00 pm - ?

**Cost:** \$15.00 per person



**Reservations are important!**

*Be sure Eileen has your check by December 9<sup>th</sup>, as no late reservations will be accepted. If checks arrive after the 9<sup>th</sup> you will be placed on a waiting list for attendance.*



*Send checks made out to PHAAUW to Eileen Bordenave, 303 Sunset Rd,  
Pleasant Hill, 94523*

**Check out the Pleasant Hill AAUW Web Site**  
<http://www.aauw-ph.org>

## **KIT'S KORNER**

The elections have passed, the year is coming to an end and I feel like Charles Dickens had it right. These are definitely the best of times and the worst of times. As we get deep into the holiday season we celebrate with family and friends, remember those who are no longer with us, and hope for peace and prosperity in the New Year.



PH AAUW helps us promote the holiday spirit as we share our good fortune with others at the Tech Trek Book Fair. I know I am more than happy to add to the camp scholarship fund for our 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls by buying books. My problem, of course, is trying to limit my choices and stay within my budget☺

I'm afraid I will miss the annual Holiday Extravaganza but feel that watching my daughter Emily receive her Master's Degree in Construction will certainly be along the best of AAUW guidelines. We continue to support the women and girls who are in non-traditional fields. I hope each of you has bookmarked the AAUW Blog in order to keep up on the discussions. This month it's interesting to read about women being the first in their field or occupation. How many do you know?

So, my best wishes for all of you this season. We will reconnect in the new year and think about continuing the good work that this year's board has begun by nominating officers for next year's board. Please consider doing your part.

*Kit*

## **Nominating Committee**

According to Branch Bylaws we are to have a list of nominees for next year's officers ready to publish 30 days before the annual meeting. Taking the timeline backwards, that leaves us with our January meeting as the last possible time to elect members of the nominating committee.

The Executive Board elected their representatives (2 members and an alternate) in November. Three and an alternate from the general membership must be elected at the January meeting.

Please be available if you are nominated. The strength of any organization depends on the willingness of its members to serve. By becoming a member of the nominating committee, you help in the selection of the officers who will lead our branch through next year.

## 2008 – 2009 Board

### **President's Team**

#### **President:**

**Kit Hein** 228-7503

#### **Vice President's Program:**

**Bea Ball** 825-3622

**Eileen Bordenave** 944-5528

#### **Vice President's – EF:**

**Marlene DeLaurenti** 934-4171

**Sandy Wolfe** 228-2633

#### **Vice President's Membership:**

**Margi Alkire** 827-2940

**Diane Gartner** 798-0798

#### **Vice President – LAF:**

**Victoria Maat** 933-4432

#### **Secretary:**

**Ish Mendonsa** 680-2749

#### **Treasurer:**

**Suzanne Salter** 935-0861

#### **Newsletter Editor:**

**Kit Hein** 228-7503

**Marilyn Tubbs** 939-6220

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#### **IBC Chair:**

Debbie Cummings –

Email:

[Debbie94565@yahoo.com](mailto:Debbie94565@yahoo.com)

Copy deadline for January

N.E.W.S. is due on

December 15.

Please send copy to

Marilyn Tubbs,

18 Monivea Pl, PH or

email [marclin@comcast.net](mailto:marclin@comcast.net)

## **MEMBERSHIP:**

**We now have 78 members!**

Welcome to our newest new member! (And add her name to your directory)

**Joyce Somerwill**  
**449 Bifrost Avenue**  
**Pleasant Hill, CA 94523**  
**689-4813**

[jsomerwill@yahoo.com](mailto:jsomerwill@yahoo.com)

Joyce joined in a dramatic way, at the dinner at Dragon 2000! Her fortune cookie that night read: "Now is the day for a new collection or hobby!" Providential! Joyce is a retired teacher, but back to teaching at College Park High School.

**Remember - our Membership Committee (you!) is still active! Call Margi (827-2040) or Diane (798-6708) with your suggestions!**

## **SUNSHINE:**

As a branch, we try to remember members and former members with cards.

If you know of someone who needs a get well, sympathy, or just thinking of you card, please let me know. I will send one ASAP. *Gayle Garison*

## **Interest Group Meetings:**

**MORNING BOOKS** will meet on Wednesday, December 3, 10 am, at Judi Hamberg's..

We will be discussing Distant Land of My Father by Bo Caldwell. The setting is pre World War II Shanghai and Anna, the daughter, tells her father's story through memories and journals.. The pick for January is The Devil & Miss Prym by Paulo Coelho and the pick for February is Run by Ann Patchett.. Don't miss these exciting reads!

**IN INDELIBLE INK** will meet on Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 10 am, at Ginny Hargrave's. Our assignment will be to develop a quiz about Christmas and babies to be used the following week at the Playreading gathering to support layettes at Hillcrest Church. We welcome all participants and quiz questions!

**EVENING BOOKS** will not meet in December. Our next meeting will be on Monday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm at Marti Martin, 1653 Sunhill Ct, Martinez. We will be discussing Michael Chabon's The Yiddish Policeman's Union. What if the Jews were not settled in Israel in 1948, but in Alaska? This novel has comic moments as well as a mystery, all set in the cold lands of Alaska. Please join us for a great discussion.

**FRUGAL FOODIES** will not meet in December.

**MATINEE IDLE** will go to the movies on Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, a change since our usual dates fall on Christmas! We usually pick the movie at the beginning of that week, so please phone Marlene (689-5439) if you are interested. We always have coffee, or something, after the movie to discuss it.

**EVENING BRIDGE** will meet on Monday, December 1, 7:00 pm @ Shirley Thompson's, 71 Del Vista Ct, PH.

**NIMBLE FINGERS** will not meet in December.

**BOARD MEETING** No board meeting in December.

## **Playreading invites Branch Members to a Baby Shower**

Playreading is hosting a party to support the county layette project sponsored by Hillcrest Congregational Church.

Come on **Tuesday morning, December 16, 10:00 a.m.** to Margi Alkire's home at 51 Rolling Green Circle for coffee and treats, and more. Just bring a gift for the layette—a sleeper, blanket, crib sheet, disposable diapers, or such for these needy babies.



## **Thanks to our NEWS Supporters**

**MONEYMOVERS INVESTMENT CLUB** will celebrate the holidays on Monday December 8, 6:00 pm @ Ginny Hargrave's.



**UPS**



**CYBERCOPY**

PACKAGING/SHIPPING OUTLET

**SIKANDER ZAIDI**  
MANAGER

1200 Contra Costa Blvd Suite, E  
Pleasant Hill, Ca 94523  
Ph: (925) 688-2326  
Fax: (925) 688-2328

e-mail: [cybercopy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cybercopy@sbcglobal.net)

## **HELP WANTED!!**

Three people needed to help clean up at the Christmas party.

**Job description.** Remove dinner plates from tables, and later dessert plates. Help washing and drying glasses in the kitchen and general clean up. One person (perhaps a husband) who would carve the ham and place on a platter.

*Call Eileen at 944-5528 with your offer to help.*

## **PUBLIC POLICY**

Women made the difference in the outcome of the recent election! Obama won 56 percent of the women's vote, versus 49 percent of the men's vote. In New Hampshire, women won a majority of the state senate seats, making it the first legislative body to be dominated by women in the history of the United States.

At least 74 women will serve in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress, setting another all-time high. And the total number of women state governors is eight.

In these difficult economic times, please remember our local schools and volunteer to help where help is needed. With a \$6.6 million proposed cut for Mt. Diablo Schools, the end result can only mean a decrease in the educational resources for our children. Write to Governor Schwarzenegger urging him to find places other than education for funding reductions ~ urge him not to jeopardize our children's future.

A biennial gender report recently released showed that the proportion of spending on women's sports decreased over the last two years. AAUW advocates vigorous enforcement of Title IX and all other civil rights laws pertaining to education. Write to your congressmen and senators regarding this issue.

*Marlene Maksel, Chair*

## **IN INDELIBLE INK**

(Edited by Marlene Maksel)

*Following are some of the comments written by members of III on the topic "My Mother Always Said ..."*

"Do the hardest thing first." "Counting things makes time go faster." Kay Ernst's mother.

"Stand up straight! Don't slouch! Be as tall as you possibly can!" "You'll always be better off if you tell the truth." You can always get more with honey than with water." Marilyn Tubbs mother.

"If you can't say anything nice, don't say anything at all." "Clean your plate or the food will go to the starving children in Europe." Margi Alkire's mother.

"You must never laugh at people different from you." Ginny Hargrave's mother.

"If you don't stop fighting, you're going to send me to the bug house." Marlene Maksel's mother (you had to be there).

## **MEMORABILIA:**

Charlotte Anderson has 25 years of PHAAUW Directories she is willing to donate to anyone who wishes them. Contact Charlotte @ 676-5267



## **Congratulations to Suzanne Salter**



Suzanne has served as Treasurer of the City of Pleasant Hill for 24 years and has now decided to turn in her check-book and retire.

Remember 1984? That was when Ronald Reagan won his second term and that was when Suzanne was appointed to the position of City Treasurer, because current treasurer, J. Joan Butterfield (a former PH AAUW member) had

decided to move to Hawaii. Suzanne was then elected to the position of City Treasurer in 1987 and has been re-elected ever since.

Suzanne is married to Dan Salter. They have lived in Pleasant Hill for 39 years, moving here in 1969. They have three children—Keith, Scott, and Elizabeth—and five grandchildren. In 2003 she retired from a 28-year career as an Enrolled Agent and tax preparer.

After that retirement, Suzanne had time to do the things she'd always wanted to do. She went to DVC for two years of music theory, polished up her piano playing, and took voice and harp lessons.

Two important hobbies for her have been singing and quilting. Since 1997 she has been a member of the Diablo Women's Chorale, a group founded in 1944 which has given two concerts a year for the last 64 years. She has also sung with the DVC Masterworks Chorale, the Golden Notes of Pleasant Hill Senior Center, the Martinez Adult Chorus, and the Pleasant Hill Christmas Carolers, and she performs at convalescent and senior homes with the Silver Wings Repertory. In addition, she is a Happy Hooper, tap dancing with the Rossmoor Rhythm Revue.

As for quilting, Suzanne quilts with the Guild of Quilters of Contra Costa and does hospice quilting at the Mt. Diablo Adult Center for a Contra Costa hospice group. They have lovingly stitched nearly 4000 quilts. She is a member of Valley Stitchers.

She is currently serving on the Board of Directors of the Pleasant Hill Community Foundation and is next-in-line to become treasurer of that community-based organization.

Suzanne joined PH AAUW in the early 1980's. She is a graduate of Cal State Hayward. She has attended Branch functions throughout the years, becoming more active since her retirement. She now serves as Branch Treasurer (thank you, Suzanne). She also is active in Nimble Fingers and in beginning bridge.

As for what the future may bring, Suzanne looks forward to plucking the strings on her harp, and she and Dan plan many trips in their new 27-foot motor home.

The City will miss her, but we are glad she is here for us in PH AAUW! (Submitted by Margi Alkire)



**PLEASANT HILL  
AAUW**

**BOOKFAIR  
BARNES & NOBLE  
BOOKSELLERS**



**SATURDAY  
DECEMBER 6  
9 A.M. TO 8 P.M.**

**Rules:**

Go to Barnes & Noble and select the books on your list. When you are finished shopping, go to the cashier and present this flyer with the voucher on the bottom. Ten percent (10%) of your total sales will go to the Pleasant Hill Branch of the American Association of University Women. It's that simple!

Tech Trek, a science and math camp for 8th grade girls, is the program you will be supporting by buying books on December 6 at Barnes & Noble.

Thank you ~ and good reading!

**BARNES & NOBLE  
BOOKSELLERS**

**BOOKFAIR VOUCHER**

**BENEFITING:**

**Pleasant Hill AAUW**

**Barnes & Noble Booksellers  
552 Contra Costa Blvd.  
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523**

**Saturday, December 6  
9 A.M. to 8 P. M.**

*Present this voucher at the cash registers at the time of purchase. A percent of the net sale will be donated to the Pleasant Hill AAUW*

For Office Use Only: Register #:	Transaction #:
Amount of sale before tax less purchase of Gift Cards, Membership Cards and café consumables: \$	

*The following transactions are not included in Bookfair totals: The purchase of Gift Cards, Membership cards and café consumables.*

**GIVE A BOOK TO THE FAIR  
OAKS LIBRARY**

The library wish; list was in the November N.E.W.S. If you buy your book at Barnes & Noble on Dec 6<sup>th</sup> 10% of the price will go to Tech Trek.

Bring your unwrapped book to our Christmas party on December 12<sup>th</sup>. A box for books will be near the door.

Questions? Phone Eileen Bordenave (944-5528)

**Save the Dates: More to follow:**

**Wednesday, January 21, 2009 6:00 pm**

International Soup Supper, Hillcrest Congregational Church

**Wednesday, February 17, 2009**

Combined meeting with Danville/Alamo Branch - Fellow speaker from China Scotts Seafood Grill & Bar, WC

**Saturday, February 28, 2009**

Goodwill Bag Ladies Luncheon  
EF Fundraiser- Hillcrest Congregational Church

## 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Danville-Alamo AAUW Holiday Home Tour

**Our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Danville-Alamo AAUW Holiday Home Tour will be on Friday, December 12 and Saturday, December 13 from 10 am-4 pm. Tickets are \$30 per person if postmarked by December 5 and \$35 thereafter or day of tour.** Seniors 65+ tickets are \$25. Tickets can be purchased by sending a self-addressed, stamped return business sized envelope along with a check payable to: Danville-Alamo AAUW and mailed to Danville-Alamo AAUW, 255 Morris Ranch Ct., Danville, CA 94526. Tickets may also be purchased at Leku Eder at 178 E. Prospect Ave., Danville during their regular hours and on the days of the tour. For questions, contact Mary at (925) 831-1784 or Tena at [president@aauw-da.org](mailto:president@aauw-da.org). Our profits from the Holiday Home Tour go to local scholarships and Tech Trek, a week long, residential summer camp for middle school girls with interest in math and science.

Here is a brief description of the five homes:

A traditional Diablo estate remodeled in a beautiful setting among heritage oaks, pool and golf course. As you enter the elegant entry you will have a warm feeling of this lovely home. Extensive Dept 56 Christmas village complete with skating pond and twinkling lights. The owner has collected enough ornaments to decorate more than 20 Christmas trees, each with a different theme. You will also see many lovely garlands and wreathes. Sophisticated media room with bar and wine cellar. "JOE'S CLUB HOUSE" is a study with a cozy fireplace, golf trophies and much more. After leaving the house you may walk along the side yard to visit the cozy guest cottage also adorned with another of the owner's theme trees, plus the potting shed and the rose garden. A truly magnificent experience.

A life size nativity scene and a beautiful entry will welcome you to this house that is filled with garlands, trees and family portraits. The owners completely remodeled and landscaped two years ago, their concern for detail is apparent. Enjoy the view of the garden from the French doors. Notice the hand carved fireplace in the family room and master bedroom. The kitchen was customized with entertaining in mind. You will pass through the dining room that is faux painted, climb an elegant staircase with a floral iron railing designed by our hostess, to a large master bedroom with a coffee bar and a separate laundry room. Nearby (in the guest bathroom) is an infrared sauna, an office and a game room with a photo gallery. Outdoor Pavilion.

An elegant hilltop estate with a beautiful blend of family tradition and today's modern style. The original home has been expanded to 7000 square feet of grandeur with soaring coffered ceilings, stunning views and endless opportunities for entertaining. The unending knot, one of the symbols of Buddhism has been incorporated into the iron-work of the front door and the beautifully crafted stair rail. The added space includes a thoroughly modern kitchen, spacious family room and wrap around deck overlooking the hills of Blackhawk and Mt. Diablo. Many of the elements of the original home have been re-invented in the new spaces. The original front doors frame the entrance to the new master suite with a Roman style master bath.

An original 1917 Diablo country cottage that has been completely restored. It is in a beautiful setting with large decks, a bridge over a running creek that connects to a guest cottage, a new pool, fireplace and an outdoor entertaining area. This wonderful home is warm, open and inviting, with large spacious rooms. Kay has collected American antiques for most of her life. You will see her antique collection displayed in all the rooms throughout the house. The large upstairs master bedroom, bath and workroom areas are decorated in colors of celadon green and white. The lovely holiday decorations specifically relate to each room. The owners spent two years planning and completing the restoration of this beautiful home.

Beautiful views of Las Trampas, Diablo golf course and open space can be seen starting at the front porch. This lovely Diablo home was totally transformed by the visions and creativity of its owner and contractor into a calm, airy, light filled space. Adding crown moldings, raised coffered ceilings, Brazilian oak floors and new bathrooms, they created this charming house whose focus is a beautiful modern kitchen featuring a Viking range, which functions well for her talented cooking skills. Notice the large red glass globe ornament centered in the living room window, a hundred year old treasure from France inherited from her grandmother. Many lovely wreaths and Christmas trees throughout the home and much, much more.



# December 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>Evening Bridge</b> 7:00 pm @ Shirley Thompson's		<b>AM Books</b> 10:00 am @ Judi Hamberg's	<b>Movie Idle</b> <b>Matinee</b> (Call Marlene Maksiel for info)		
			<b>In Indelible Ink</b> 10:00 am @ Ginny Hargrave's		<b>PHAAUW</b> <b>Holiday Party</b> 6:00 pm @ <b>Brookview</b> <b>Club House</b>	
		<b>Playreading</b> <b>Layette Shower</b> 10:00 am @ Margi Alkire's				
 Winter Begins						
			 New Years Eve			



Pleasant Hill Branch

18 Monivea Place

Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

**Membership – AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research. AAUW is open to all graduates of two year accredited colleges with AA degrees and/or accredited four year colleges or universities. In principle and practice AAUW values and supports diversity. There shall be no barriers to full participation in the organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class.**