



Pleasant Hill Branch N.E.W.S.

Now/Events/Women/Success

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

Volume 52 Issue 3

November 2009

NOTED COLUMNIST IS KEYNOTE SPEAKER

❖ PHAAUW HOSTS NILDA REGO

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18
7 PM
HILLCREST CHURCH
404 GREGORY LANE, PLEASANT HILL



Noted author, columnist, and historian **NILDA REGO** will be our speaker for November. Each week Ms. Rego presents historical facts on those who have lived in Contra Costa County in years past. She will headline the women in these past eras and their vital influence on our community then and now.

Born and raised in Berkeley, Ms. Rego has been in the newspaper business all of her adult life, starting with the Martinez Gazette, then the Concord Transcript and on to the CCTimes. Her “Days Gone By” column started in 1987 and continues to this day, even though she is “officially” retired.

Members, guests and general public invited. You won’t want to miss all the interesting and informative stories she has to tell.

December 6-12

BARNES&NOBLE, PLEASANT HILL

TECH TREK BOOK FAIR

Help send three future women leaders in the world of science to the annual Tech Trek program. Purchase holiday gifts, donations for our adopted school, Fair Oaks, and catch up on your own favorite novels and coffee table books. More information and vouchers can be found on pages 5 and 6 of this newsletter.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11

MELE KALIKIMAKA

Save this date for the annual PHAAUW Holiday Party. Though it may seem early, we hope you will mark it on your calendar now. The party will be held at the lovely Brookview Clubhouse. We have planned great food, beverages and entertainment. Hawaiian attire encouraged so dig out the muumuu. Plan to join us. More details in the December NEWS.



Presidential Team Report

October was a busy month with our wonderful Festa Italiana, the general meeting with Jo Harberson on the history and future of AAUW, and the Fellows luncheon at the Crow Canyon Country Club. The field of studies undertaken by these Fellows is truly mind-boggling!

November will be busy, too. Our SAM (Study, Art, Music) program will continue at Fair Oaks Elementary School. Our general meeting on Wednesday the 18th, will feature Nilda Rigo from the Contra Costa Times as the speaker; she will focus on women throughout the history of our area. Don't forget Election Day on the 3rd and, of course, Thanksgiving is on the fourth Thursday! Additionally, during November we will have a display at the P. H. Library featuring our branch. Be sure to check it out!

The Nominating Committee (already?!) will be selected in November. Please start thinking now about what position in the branch you would like to fill during 2010-2011. When the Nominating Committee calls you ~ probably in early January ~ please be prepared to say "yes" to serving in an elected position on the board. Or better yet, let a member of the N.C. know that you are interested in serving in a particular position.

The Team



Board Notes

Most of the information from the board meeting is covered in other sections, but here are a few:

- ❖ National Women's History Museum – bill being considered by Congress – AAUW supports
- ❖ Margi reported that Muriel is encouraging our branch to seek a member from the JFK administration or teaching staff
- ❖ AAUWFunds may hold a White Elephant auction and dinner in March or April
- ❖ Marlene reported from IBC that branches were asked to consider organizing and attending a WAGE workshop – part of the Financial Literacy Commission' program to prepare graduating women in their preparation for their first job search.

Bylaws

*Parliamentarian Shirley Thompson reports that the branch bylaws have been completed with AAUW mandatory revisions and are currently being read and, hopefully, approved. You may see the approved version online at our branch website ~ www.aauw-ph.org ~ after November 15th.

* At their October meeting, the AAUW CA Board of Directors voted to amend the state bylaws. The amended bylaws call for the four officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Chief Financial Officer) to be elected by the members. The amended bylaws can be found on the website www.aauw-ca.org in the **Forms & Documents** section, under **Governance**.

Public Policy - Marlene Maksel, Chair

AAUW-supported legislation that would strengthen the federal response to hate crimes was passed by the House last week. This new legislation will allow the Department of Justice to take on cases motivated by the victim's actual or perceived gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, or disability, as well as race, color, religion, or national origin. President Obama is expected to sign this legislation when it reaches his desk.

Dr. Carol Greider, an AAUW member, won the Nobel Prize for work in her field of medicine. She shared the award with a colleague.

Two very important state bills supported by AAUW were signed in to law by the Governor. One concerned Domestic Violence Proceedings and the other was **AB119** regarding pricing and health care coverage.

An Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship, a paid fellowship for K-12 math, science and technology teachers, is being offered for the school year 2010-2011. The Fellows spend a school year in Washington D.C. serving in a federal agency or on Capitol Hill, sharing their expertise with educational leaders, policy makers and agency directors. For more info visit www.einsteinfellows.ne

Be sure to contact your members of Congress for support on issues ~ and to thank them for supporting bills that have passed.

Focus on Membership

Margi Alkire and Suzanne Salter

New Members Add their names to your new red directory!

DUNLOP, SARAH

934-7175

747 Hamilton Drive
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

she was so proud to be eligible to join University Women!

SARAH remembers when she first joined our group in the 1970's,

HOLMES, JEANNETTE (formerly Dorsey)

942-0801

233 Tono Lane
Walnut Creek, CA 94597

jholmes1226@hotmail.com

Marquette Univ (English, Education)

USF (MA School Administration)

JEANNETTE was also a member of PH AAUW in the 70's! She was very active at that time. She was the lead stitcher on our quilt! Since then she has lived in South Lake Tahoe (serving as President of her Branch) and Sacramento (where she was Membership Vice President). This was in addition to her career as school teacher, principal, and superintendent. Welcome back JEANNETTE!

Corrections and Additions to the directory

Add email address for Joan Olson jeaolson@sbcglobal.net

Correct email address for Bea Ball: beaball@att.net

Kudos for our members in other pursuits

Kay Ernst won first prize in the national DAR jewelry contest for her beautiful beading creations! An accomplished beader, Kay used red, white and blue beads to create a patriotic presentation.

Kay is presented with her
Sally Holcombe, Regent -



award by
Anne Loucks Chapter, Martinez.



Thanks to so many members for a job well done – Festa Italiana was a huge success

Well, that was some party! We fed 114 people and netted over \$2,000 for EF. What really impressed us the most was all you wonderful A.A.U.W. women who helped us in so many ways. All you who sold tickets, procured raffle items and Safeway gift cards, put gift baskets together, shopped for us, provided authentic appetizers, baked lasagnas, prepared salad, and made all those biscotti. You lent us all kinds of items of your own to make the evening work. Many of you also gave of your time that night to help set up, run the sound system, serve food, and, after a long evening, clean up. Some spouses of members pitched in too. We'd like to list you all, but since there are 23 of you, there's not enough space here to do it. With all this support, how could we not be successful! A very big thank you to all! **Alana, Lynn and Susanne**

WE ARE IN THE WINDOW!

The Pleasant Hill Library display window that is!

November is the month when

Pleasant Hill AAUW is featured,

Be sure to check out the window in the lobby.

Thanks to Interest Group III for the design.

INTEREST GROUP MEETINGS



**** MORNING BOOKS** will meet on Wednesday, 4 November, 10 am at Margi Alkire's. Our discussion will be on *White Tiger* by Aravind Adiga ~ his debut novel. The setting is India and the protagonist is complicated, but critics loved this black comedy. Join us for the discussion and make your own value judgement. In December, we will be reading *Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Pie Society* by Shaffer and Barrows. This is a change in the previous book listing.



**** IN INDELIBLE INK** will meet on Wednesday, November 11th, 10 am at Kay Ernst's. The topic will be to write about something you lost . . . and then, found. **THINK SERIOUSLY** about joining this group. We have a lot of fun and we don't criticize anyone's writing! If you don't want to write this time, come anyway and **LISTEN** in!



**** EVENING BOOKS** will meet on Monday, 23 November, 7 pm at Eileen Bordenave's. We will be reading *Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Society* by Shaffer & Barrows. This story really captured the interest of readers last year; it takes place on the island of Guernsey during the German Occupation ~ events are told through a series of letters. Totally fascinating and engrossing, this book will make a good discussion. Please come!



**** MATINEE IDLE** will go to the movies on Thursday, 19 November. Because the 4th Thursday in November falls on Thanksgiving, we will meet one week earlier ~ probably the same thing will happen in December. Call Marlene (689.5439) if you are planning to attend, or if you have any good suggestions for a movie. A light discussion, over coffee or other liquid refreshment, usually follows.



**** BRIDGE** – Evening bridge will meet on Monday, Nov. 2, in the home of Suzanne Mesetz, 1099 Orchard Rd., Lafayette. Call Suzanned (283-3050) or Elizabeth Di Pietro (210-0281) for more information.



**** NIMBLE FINGERS** - will meet on Thursday, Nov. 12, at 10:00 AM in the home of Kathy Searles. Please call Kathy (228-5700) if you can come. Do bring your handwork, Those of you who would love to learn to knit, crochet, etc. are welcome to come and acquire a new talent.



****Nimble Fingers** invites all members to a **Layette Shower** on Dec. 10 at 10am in the home of Margi Alkire. This will be our traditional branch shower for needy mothers through Hillcrest Church. It is your chance to make a baby afghan or hat or booties. Or enjoy shopping for baby clothes, diapers, a crib sheet, or stuffed animal.

In Memoriam – Rachel Holmes
At the end of August our branch lost an unusually talented member, Rachel Holmes. This gracious 93 year old lady was an active supporter of all our branch activities and was always quick to offer her help.

Her own life was a vivid testament to the value of education. She dropped out of school at 15 but was left with a strong personal goal to finish high school and attend college.

She studied accounting at night and worked as a bookkeeper. During the war she worked in the shipyards. Her degrees included a certificate in dental hygiene from U. of Oregon Dental School, B.A. from Portland State, and an MA from Columbia University in New York. This former dropout retired in 1976 as Head of the Dental Hygiene Dept. at U. of Oregon Dental School.

Having moved to Calif. to be near her family, Rachel joined PHAAUW. She was an active member, especially in Morning Books and EF fundraisers, and we will miss her greatly.

SAM Alert

Student Art & Music Program
Fair Oaks Elementary School

Mary McGhee is planning the first SAM program of the year to begin in November. It will feature Beethoven and Georgia O'Keefe.

dates are still pending volunteer sign-up is ongoing. If you are available during school hours, contact Mary



Beethoven

and Definite but ongoing. to assist please

(mary@mcgheemail.com) or Marilyn Tubbs (marclin@comcast.net) We will contact you when the final dates are set.

So, what is SAM?

Three years ago and friends developed a program depicting a



PHAAUW curricular famous artist

and a musician and presented it at Fair Oaks Elementary School. Students and faculty have been extremely supportive of our volunteers coming into their classrooms for a presentation and a classroom activity. It was the vision of Suzanne Mesetz and continues under the direction of Mary McGhee. PHAAUW volunteers present 3 different programs each year so there is plenty of opportunity to for all to participate. Please plan to join us this year.

LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND –Victoria Maat

\$4,000 was approved by AAUW board to support each of these cases:

- Jauregito v Feather River CC (CA)
- Mansourian, et al v Regents of the U. of California
- Potera-Haskins v Gamble, Montana State U.
- Schuster v Berea College (KY)
- Thein v Feather River CC (CA)
- Wartluft v Feather River CC (CA)

Work goes on and your help is needed. Find out about the new LAF Campus Outreach Program-in-a-Box. Funding of up to \$750 will be awarded for a branch to implement a gender-equity focused program on a local college campus. Contact Victoria juju-bee@pacbell.net for more information.

TECH TREK – Marti Martin, Sandy Wolfe, Marlene De Laurenti

MARK THE DATE!

TECH TREK BOOK FAIR

BARNES & NOBLE, 552 Contra Costa Blvd., Pleasant Hill
Beginning - Sunday, December 6, 2009

Help us send three future leaders in the world of science to the annual Tech Trek program. Three girls from our local middle schools will have the opportunity to attend this special Math & Science camp with our support. At the same time, you can help Pleasant Hill Branch's adopted school, Fair Oaks Elementary, by purchasing one of the books from the list that the school's librarian has prepared. Barnes&Noble will have these books on hand and will collect them for us behind the counter when you tell them it is for Fair Oaks School.

ONE MAJOR CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEARS –NO VOUCHERS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON SITE. IN ORDER FOR US TO GET THE CREDIT FOR THE SALE, YOU MUST **BRING YOUR VOUCHER WITH YOU!** However, 2 policies make this easy. (1) We can send copies of our voucher to friends and family members in other areas – even other states. They can go to their local Barnes & Noble store with our voucher and we get credit for their purchase. (2) This is not a 1 day event. You may use your vouchers anytime between Dec. 6 and Dec. 12

You'll find copies of the voucher in this newsletter and it will also be in next month's newsletter. Please keep them, pass them to friends and family, and don't forget to come to Barnes & Noble on Dec 6-12. It's a great time for purchasing holiday gifts as well.

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

COMMUNITY – Jill Anderson

Senior Center Holiday Boutique

233 Gregory Lane, PH

Sat., Nov. 14, 9am – 4pm

FREE Admission

39th Annual Community Awards Night
Wednesday, Nov. 18, 5:30pm-9pm
Pleasant Hill Community Center
Phone 925-687-0700

Pleasant Hill Community Foundation

Founded in 1987 as a non-profit organization to promote and support cultural, recreational, and educational activities for the people living and working in Pleasant Hill, the Foundation is looking for new members. If you are willing to apply for a 3 year commitment as a board member, please see the website at <http://www.phcommunityfoundation.org>

Willows Theatre Company

The Willows Theatre Company, for more than 30 years one of the Bay Area’s most popular performing arts groups, announced that it is faced with a financial crisis that may force shutting down its main-stage facility in Concord and a cabaret in Martinez, perhaps forever, unless it can raise \$350,000. The company is accepting donations at the Willows Cabaret Theatre, 636 Ward Street, Martinez, CA 94553 or phone (925) 798-1300. For more information - <http://www.willowstheatre.com>

GREAT DECISIONS
For those of you who are interested in international affairs, check out the group in Rossmor that will be hosting Great Decisions. Cost of the book is \$20. Books can be picked up after Jan. 15. Meetings will start Feb. 2 from 9:30am-11am. Call Gretel Holit (9396436) for more information.

PHAAUW NEWS NOV., 2009

Mrs. Manners – an occasional column for fun and enlightenment by a member who chooses to remain anonymous.


Telephone Manners

☒ When placing a call, identify yourself. If you recognize the voice answering the phone, acknowledge her “Oh, Hi Alice, this is Emma.”

☒ To leave a voice mail, speak slowly and clearly. Leave your name (spell it if necessary), telephone number and a short message of the subject of the call and the best time to call you back.

☒ If you receive a call and the calling party is evasive as to who they are and why they are calling, hang up.

☒ When disconnected during a telephone conversation, it is the responsibility of the person who placed the call to dial again for a reconnect.

The older we get, the more difficult it becomes to maintain communication lines. Whether from hearing loss, memory difficulties or other issues, we all must strive to make our message clear and, even though the person cannot see our smile, they can detect it in our voice. So keep on  smiling

2009– 2010 Leadership Team

Presidents:

- Jean Hambleton 798-2344
- Ginny Hargrave 798-2370
- Marlene Maksel 689-5439

Vice President’s – EF:

- Alana MacDonald 933-4427
- Lynn Murphy 935-2109
- Suzanne Rheingruber 945-0347

Vice President’s Membership:

- Margi Alkire 827-2940
- Suzanne Salter 935-0861

Vice President – LAF:

- Victoria Maat 933-4432

Secretary:

- Gayle Garrison 798-7528

Treasurer:

- Marilyn Tubbs 939-6220

Newsletter Editor:

- Kit Hein 228-7503

**Barnes & Noble
BOOKFAIR
Supporting
Pleasant Hill
AAUW**

Sunday, December 06, 2009

Barnes & Noble Pleasant Hill

552 Contra Costa Blvd Ste 90

Please present this voucher prior
to making your purchase.
A percentage of the net sale will
be donated to your school/organization.*

10047108

*The purchase of gift cards, Barnes & Noble memberships,
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in bookfair totals. Our discount purchasing
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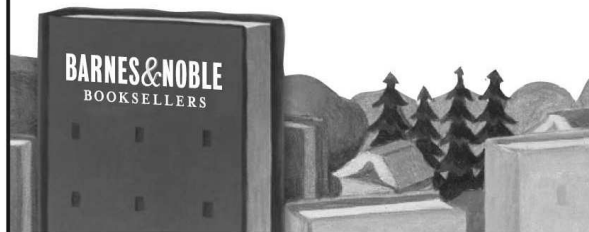
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November 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 7p Bridge	3 Election Day	4 10a Morning Books	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 10a In Indelible Ink 7p Board	12 10a Nimble Fingers	13	14 9:04a Senior Center Holiday Boutique
15	16	17	18 7p <u>Nilda Rigo</u> <u>Speaker</u>	19 Matinee Idle	20	21
22	23 7p Evening Books	24	25	26 Happy Thanksgiving	27	28
29	30					

Coming Events:

December 6-December 12 Tech Trek Book Fair
 December 10 –Layette Shower
 December 11 – Holiday Party

Jan/Feb – Great Decisions begins



Pleasant Hill Branch
 533 Roanoke Dr.
 Martinez 94553

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.