



VOLUME 54 ISSUE 4

Pleasant Hill-Martinez Branch N.E.W.S.

Now/Events/Women/Success
Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy,
education, philanthropy and research

DECEMBER 2011

'TIS THE SEASON

Each year that I have been editing this newsletter the branch has given me an excuse to indulge my fascination with textboxes. As we have no general meeting or holiday gathering this month, I am choosing to exercise my editorial license and use this page to offer you all "boxes" that you can picture under your tree or hanging as ornaments, wrapped in blue and white or red and green, shared with friends, the gardener or others who make our lives easier. I hope you will think of your AAUW family and its mission as you wrap up this year and begin a new one **advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.** Kit



Layette Shower Friday, December 9, 10 a.m.

Susanne Rheingruber's
14 Pillon Real, Pleasant Hill

This is our 5th annual PH AAUW Layette Shower! The baby items will go via Hillcrest Church to needy moms in the County. You might want to make or buy a layette item: blanket, package of diapers, booties, sleepers, stuffed animals or whatever you think a new baby needs. Bring your gift, unwrapped, to the party and enjoy snacks, the gifts, and games. Open to all members and friends. Just come!



Special recognition from our elected official:

"I had the pleasure of visiting Fair Oaks Elementary this morning. Cheryl shared how much AAUW is providing to the school and helped identify funding for the Arts program. Fair Oaks is a great Pleasant Hill school. Thanks for your support."
Linda Mayo, MDUSD Board Member

Giftng someone with an AAUW membership gives you the chance to share your values while empowering the recipient to provide a future where women and girls' equity will no longer be an issue. For more information please contact Membership VP Marti Martin

richmar1016@sbcglobal.net



TWO IN JANUARY - SAVE THE DATES

➤ **TUESDAY, January 17** – Annual soup supper; more information to follow in Jan N.E.W.S.

➤ **SUNDAY, January 29** – 2-4 pm Lafayette Library
CCC Interbranch Council All Branch Event: "Human Trafficking: What is it? How Can You Make a Difference?" Three government and non-profit sector experts from our area : Jennifer Alderete, special agent with Homeland Securities Investigations, Cindy Liou, staff attorney with Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach , and Ms. Caritas Foster with the Holy Family Sisters organization. They will discuss the scope of the problem (nationally and locally), suggest ways to combat human trafficking, and inform attendees of non-profit and government resources. This program is a continuation, not a repeat, of the program our branch had with Sister Caritas last year. Mark your calendar now.

Membership Matters

Marti Martin and Reba Siero

Fall continues to be a great season for Pleasant Hill-Martinez AAUW. As of the 15th of November, we have 106 members, including 13 members who are new this year.

We held two very successful gatherings at the end of October to welcome new members and to offer prospective members the opportunity to learn more about our organization. Margi Alkire graciously hosted these evenings at her festively decorated home, and she provided delicious refreshments for all. Several "old" members joined us as well. The

conversation and good spirits made for two lively evenings.



Three of the prospective members at those gatherings are now members of our branch. And the fourth new member just joined us. Please add their names to your directories and introduce yourself to them when you see them at an interest section or meeting. They are:

Trina Harris
5660 Likins Avenue
Martinez, CA 94553
925-228-0159
jtharris@pacbell.net

Trina is one of original founding members of the Martinez branch. She has not been active in the branch recently but has now decided to rejoin. Trina has a BS from University of Oregon in Business Administration.

Penny Harris
205 Hidden Creek Court
Martinez, CA 94553
Home: 925-229-1493
Cell: 925-209-7772
penny.harris@comcast.net

Penny is Trina's daughter. It is nice to have another mother/daughter team in the branch. Penny has an MS from Hayward State and her interests are hiking, fiberart, books and music.

Susan Loustalet
5501 Terra Granada Drive, # 1B
Walnut Creek, CA 94598
925-935-7286
donsusan@att.net

Carol holds a BA in Psychology from Cal State East Bay with a minor in Business Administration. She is interested in community service, music and walking/hiking.

Francine Sanchez
1139 Glengarry Drive
Walnut Creek, CA 94596
Home: 925-938-6665
Cell: 925-588-3861
FranGeneWC@msn.com



Francine has an AA from DVC, a BA from San Francisco State and an MA from Saint Mary's College. Her interests are quilting, travel, reading, movies, theater, bridge, cooking, antiques and spending time with friends, family and 10 grandkids!

She belongs to Diablo Valley Quilters, Delta Kappa Gamma and Lioness Club. She was previously a member of AAUW in the 1980s.

WELCOME Trina, Penny, Susan and Francine.

As always, we are happy to contact anyone that you think may be interested in joining our branch. If you have a neighbor, friend, family member or colleague that you think would be a great member of our group, and they have an AA, BA or higher degree and support our mission of advocacy and education for girls and women, give their names and contact information to one of us. We will be happy to get in touch with them. You can reach Marti at 229-3574 or richmar1016@sbcglobal.net or Reba at 228-8211 at rebasiero@yahoo.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

LET AAUW HELP WITH HOLIDAY GIFT GIVING

What can you give the person who has everything? How about a gift that continues to give all year long - membership in AAUW? \$49 allows you to gift someone with an association membership; if they live locally include state and local dues (additional \$32) so they can participate in our branch activities. Do you have any graduate students on your gift list? You can provide graduate students membership in AAUW for only \$18.81 (It was 130 years ago in 1881 that AAUW was founded). Undergraduates can join national as student affiliates for only \$17. And for those who are really strapped, undergraduates may qualify for FREE membership if they attend an AAUW affiliated college; see the AAUW website aauw.org to find which of the 100's of colleges and universities are AAUW affiliated.



Education

SAM (Student Art & Music) program at Fair Oaks elementary School recently completed its first session this past week presented by Mary McGhee and her AAUW volunteers. Students were exposed to

Their hands-on art project was working with clay making pinch pots.



Frederic Chopin, the Polish composer and virtuoso pianist.



Many thanks to AAUW volunteers assisting with the project: Margi Alkire, Trinkia March, Sherrie Moore, Marlene Maksel, Ish Mendosa, Shelley Jacobson, Alana Macdonald, Jean DeGregory, Marci Longchamps, Vicki Anderle, Cynthia Tubbs, and Marilyn Tubbs.

INTEREST GROUP MEETINGS



** **MORNING BOOKS** will meet on Wednesday, December 7th, 10 am, at Janice Walker's. We will be discussing Mark Dunn's, *Ella Minnow Pea*. Myra Goldberg's comment that the book is "a love letter to alphabetarians and logomaniacs everywhere" kind of says it all!! In January (2012!!!!) we will be reading *Finding Nouf* by Zoe Ferraris. Please join us for great discussions!



** **MATINEE IDLE** will go to the movies on Thursday, DECEMBER 1st. Since our regular date falls too close to Christmas, we are going early in the month. In January, we will again be going to the movies on the 4th Thursday of the month. We usually attend a matinee at a local theatre. Call Marlene (689.5439) if you are planning to attend, or if you have any good suggestions for a movie. We always discuss the movie after over coffee or other liquid refreshment.



** **EVENING BOOKS** will NOT meet in December. Our next meeting will be on Monday, January 23rd, 7 pm, at Marti Martin's. We will be reading *The Persistence of Memory* by Tony Eprile. This is a fascinating story about the waning years of apartheid in South Africa. Come for a very interesting discussion.



** **IN INDELIBLE INK** will NOT meet in December. We will meet in January on the 11th at Margi Alkire's at 10 am. Our theme will be "Choices." Maybe you've made a good/bad choice; maybe you know someone who has made a good/bad choice; or maybe you have a terrific fictional story about that topic. We'd love to hear your story and we like hearing oral versions, too! We don't critique your writings, so there is no pressure. Please come!

COMMUNITY

Marlene Maksel & Harriett Burt

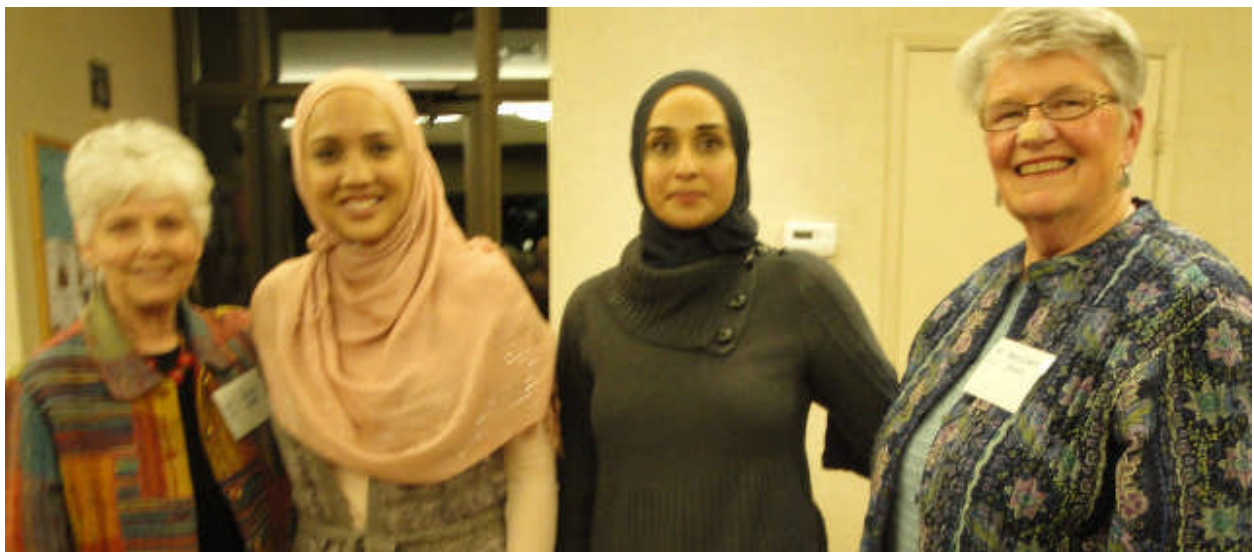
- ❖ Be on Crescent Drive in downtown Pleasant Hill on Thursday, **December 1st** for the "annual" lighting of the big Christmas Tree. The festivities begin at 5 pm and will feature free carriage rides, an arts and crafts show, refreshments, carolers ~ and more!
- ❖ **Winter Wonderettes**, the musical comedy sequel to Roger Bean's "Marvelous Wonderettes" opens Dec 1 at the Willows' own Campbell Theatre in Martinez for a run through Dec 31. Check the Willows Theatre website for ticket information 
- ❖ **Family Fun Alert!** The very popular Holiday Frolic and Snow Park on Main Street Martinez opens its 3 day run Friday evening, December 2 with the arrival of Santa Claus, a great Holiday Light Parade and a real hill of snow to slide down! Main Street Martinez sponsors the very popular events. 
- ❖ **Santa Claus is Coming!** Our own Martinez born and bred Santa Claus, Marty Ochoa, will be ready every day between Dec 3 and 24 to provide a ready ear for children eager to share their Christmas wishes. He'll be in the Santa Claus House on Main Street Plaza between Starbucks and the Bank of America. Check the Main Street Martinez web page for the exact schedule.
- ❖ Sunday, **December 11th** at 4 pm, Christ the King Catholic Church ~ the "annual" Choir Concert, featuring choirs from 5, or 6, local churches. Each choir "performs" as a single unit for one hymn/carol and then all of the choirs sing several pieces together for a truly awesome sound! You get to sing along, too. This event, with just a couple of hiatus', was started by Ginny Hargrave about 30 years ago under the aegis of the Pleasant Hill Arts Council. 
- ❖ Wednesday, **December 21st** at 5:30 pm is the Pleasant Hill Chamber of Commerce Mixer. We are members and you can all attend, if you call in your reservation to Ingrid at 687-0700. This event will be at the Aegis Assisted Living facility on Oak Park.

PICTURE THIS

Many thanks to Marilyn Tubbs for keeping that camera handy. The first pictures are from the ever popular Festa Italiana. No names necessary – you know who you are 😊



At November's General Meeting we had the pleasure of meeting new friends Hina Mukhtar and Arzina Ali, shown here with Program VP Gretel Holit and facilitator Harriett Burt.



A VERY SPECIAL REQUEST

Last year members of Pleasant Hill AAUW volunteered their time to help with the Poetry Out Loud program at Mt Diablo High School. They must have known what they were doing as their winning choice at the school level went on to place 2nd in the state competition.

This year our local and coming to College Park High School. Once again volunteers are needed. The presentation- program is expanding are needed. The competition will take place from 12noon until about 2:30pm on January 18 at Mt Diablo High School and from 7pm until about 9:30 on January 19 at College Park.

If you have an interest in poetry recitation and would like to be a judge or help in some other way, please contact Kit Hein at 925-305-6301 or 925-228-7503 as soon as possible.

Poetry Out Loud is a national competition sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts and The Poetry Foundation. You can read more about the program at poetryoutloud.org



ONE LAST TEXT BOX ☺

SAVE THE DATE!

SPREAD THE WORD!

April 13-15, 2012

Santa Clara Marriott Hotel



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Tena Gallegher Tena@aol.com

December 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 <u>Matinee</u> <u>Idle</u> 	2 Santa arrives in Martinez	3
4	5	6	7 <u>Morning</u> <u>Books</u> 	8	9 <u>Layette</u> <u>Shower</u> 	10
11 Joint church choir	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 PH Chamber Mixer	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 "Winter Wonderettes" ends

Save the Date: Jan. 11–In Indelible Ink; Jan.17- Soup Supper; Jan. 23 – Evening Books; Jan. 29 – IBC Program "Human Trafficking"



Pleasant Hill – Martinez Branch
533 Roanoke Dr.
Martinez 94553

Membership – AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy 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.