



**Pleasant Hill Branch  
N.E.W.S.  
Now/Events/Women/Success**  
Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy,  
education, philanthropy and research

VOLUME 53 ISSUE 7

MARCH 2011

**Human Trafficking Here and Around the World**  
Sr. Caritas Foster, SHF

Wednesday, March 16, 2011



7:00 pm

Brookview Clubhouse  
1201 Monument Blvd.  
Concord, CA

Human Trafficking or Trafficking in Persons is a modern-day form of slavery. Human Trafficking is defined as controlling a person through force, fraud or coercion—physical or psychological—to exploit the person for forced labor, sexual exploitation, or both. By federal law any minor exploited by prostitution or pornography is considered trafficked. It is estimated that annually 27 million persons are trafficked globally: 80% are women; 15% are children; and 5% are men. Trafficking is the fastest growing



criminal activity throughout the world.

Sister Caritas Foster is a member of the Sisters of the Holy Family. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for MISSEY, a local organization that serves sexually exploited youth. Sister Caritas belongs to a coalition of religious communities standing against human trafficking, volunteers at Tri-Cities Homeless Shelter, and is an advocate for affordable housing.



FEB. BOARD NOTES: 1) We now have 100 members and counting; 2) Theatre Night at DVC netted about \$400 for Tech Trek; 3) AAUW-CA Convention (April 8-April 10, Irvine Marriott) can be partially reimbursed. Register up to March 20; 4) Suggestion that Sept. Brunch be dedicated to Pleasant Hill's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

*Ed. Note: this only highlights parts of the board minutes that are not mentioned in the rest of the newsletter.*





## Presidential Duo Report

I hope you've all received your Winter issue of Outlook. The theme is "To Your Health" and has many great articles ~ from "gender rating for insurance purposes", to ways of eating more healthy foods, to the importance of exercising, and to suggestions on taking care of "you" in your busy life. Our magazine has really grown into a prestigious publication!

Please note, also, the proposed changes to the By-laws. These changes will be voted on at the National Convention in June. Most of these are "housekeeping" changes, but be sure you read them so you are informed about the new wording, or the deletion of some wording.

Kudos to the Nominating Committee for putting together such an outstanding slate of officers for 2011-2012! And to the Tech Trek committee for a successful Theater Afternoon at DVC.

This month our program chairs have prepared an insightful program about the evils of Human Trafficking ~ don't miss it! And, your LAF Chair has provided a fun way to contribute to LAF by attending the Bridge/Games afternoon on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

Lots of things going on ~ participate!!

### **The Duo**

### **2011-2012 Board Nominations**

*The nominating committee recommends the following slate of officers for 2010-2011:*

**Co-Presidents:** Kathy Searles and Marilyn Thelan

**Program V.P.s:** Gretel Holit and Sally Whitsett

**Membership V.P.s:** Reba Siero and Marti Martin

**V. P. Education Fund:** Marlene DeLaurenti and Alana MacDonald

**V.P. LAF.:** Pat Harris

**Secretary:** Joy Barden

**Treasurer:** Jill Anderson

*Elections will be held at our March meeting.*

*Nominations may also be made from the floor. Prior consent of the proposed nominee is required. The branch is grateful to the hard-working Nominating Committee: Alana MacDonald, Jean Hambleton, Ginny Hargrave, Ish Mendonza, Reba Siero and alternates Marilyn Tubbs and Shelley Jacobson.*

### **Presidents:**

Jean Hambleton 798-2344  
Marlene Maksel 689-5439

### **Vice Presidents Program:**

Ginny Hargrave 798-2370  
Jeannette Holmes 942-0801

### **Vice Presidents – EF:**

Waiting for a volunteer

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

Suzanne Salter 935-0861  
Marti Martin 229-3574

### **Vice President – LAF:**

Kathy Searles 228-5700

### **Secretary:**

Gayle Garrison 798-7528

### **Treasurer:**

Marilyn Tubbs 939-6220

### **Newsletter Editor:**

Kit Hein 228-7503

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AAUW Help Line: 800/326-AAUW

<http://www.aauw.org/>

### **CA AAUW Office**

Amanda Hawkins,

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Web Page: <http://www.aauw-ca.org/>

*PHAAUW N.E.W.S. and lots of other branch information can always be found at*

*<http://www.aauw-ph.org>*

## INTEREST GROUP MEETINGS



**\*\* MORNING BOOKS** will meet on Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 10 am, at Joan Olson's. We will be discussing *The Bridge* by Doug Marlett. It is the fiction debut of a gifted but perceptive artist ~ an acclaimed Pulitzer Prize-winning editorial cartoonist. Please join us for a great discussion. In April we will be reading David Ebershoff's *The 19th Wife*.



**\*\* IN INDELIBLE INK** will meet on Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 10 am, at Marti Martin's. Our topic will be "A Thing(s) that Annoy(s) Me." We all have triggers that the actions of others set off in us ~ let us know what yours are. Even if you don't want to write anything, come and hear what others have written. We hope to see you!




**\*\* NIMBLE FINGERS** will meet on Thursday March 10 at 10 am at the home of SarahJoy Haynes, 635 Sherree Court, Martinez. Please call 372-9211 or email [plumleathr@aol.com](mailto:plumleathr@aol.com) SarahJoy for directions and/or to let her know you are coming. Thank you Nancy for hosting the February meeting. Just a heads up, April 14 will be at the home of Suzanne Salter.



**\*\* MATINEE IDLE** will go to the movies on Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup>. 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.



### **\*\* BRIDGE**

**Monday Night Bridge** will be at Janet Sullivan's, 7 PM on Mar 7th. I understand that Grand Slammers  bridge group will NOT be meeting on Monday, March 14th, as usually scheduled!



**\*\* EVENING BOOKS** will meet on Monday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm at Eileen Bordenave's. We will be discussing *Room* by Emma Donoghue. This is an intriguing story about 5-year old Jack who lives alone with his mother in an 11– by –11 foot room, which is his whole universe. One reviewer said it was "emotionally draining, but impossible to put down." See you there??!



### **PAST PRESIDENTS**

Dear Past Presidents - Did you forget to wear your Past-Presidents' Pin at the last meeting?? You did? Had there been a fine imposed, as has happened before, the Convention Fund would have been increased by some \$30. Think about this. Past-Presidents have been honored by their members by being presented with this lovely gift and don't you think it behooves us to wear it at meetings and in a special way say thank you to the membership for their gift? If we go to convention we wear them proudly- why not at home? See you on March 16, 7pm  
Guess Who

### **JOIN US IN A BRIDGE**



#### **AND GAME AFTERNOON!**

PH AAUW is hosting an afternoon of Bridge  
(and other card/board games as well!)

**Wednesday, March 30, 2011**

**12:30 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.**

Brookview Clubhouse

\$10 will benefit the Education Fund (LAF arm)

Dessert will be served mid-afternoon

Not a game player? You are welcome to come socialize  
and have dessert!

Call Kathy Searles (228-5700), Gayle Garrison (798-7528)

or Pat Harris (228-6263) to

reserve your spot!



## **Membership Matters**

Suzanne Salter & Marti Martin

Do you know anyone who has been thinking about joining our branch? The spring would be an ideal time to bring them to an event or interest section. If they join before March 15, there is a 50% discount on the dues for a total of \$41.50 for membership through June 30, 2011. Or, if they join after March 15, they can get up to 15 months for the regular 12 month dues of \$83 (their membership would then expire on June 30, 2012.) Think about it and invite someone to join you at your next AAUW activity.

- ❖ Suzanne Mesetz had knee replacement surgery on the 8<sup>th</sup> of Feb.
- ❖ Bea Ball had surgery and as of last Saturday is doing fine recuperating at Bud's.
- ❖ Our deepest sympathy goes out to our Newsletter Editor, Kit Hein, on the recent death of her mother.

## **Members Make the Program**

Ginny Hargrave      Photos by Marilyn Tubbs

A big thank you to all members who participated in the poster for our Title IX meeting on Saturday, Feb.19. Our speaker, Elizabeth Kristen (see photo bottom right), a young lawyer from the Legal Aid Society and is Director of the Equity Project of Tuttle IX K-12 was very informative and alerted us to many things we can do to help protect the young women and girls in the athletic programs of our schools.

There were ten members who chose to share a picture of themselves as athletes in a younger year and it was much fun to uncover just who they were (Marilyn Tubbs, Margie Alkire, Janet Sullivan, Jill Anderson, Helen Pereira, Jeannette Holmes, Kit Hein, Alvera Welsh, Marlene Maksel and Ginny Hargrave). Marilyn Tubbs walked away with the winner's medal for recognizing the most members on the poster and was duly honored with a red, white and blue ribbon with a gold medal. Congratulations, Marilyn (see photo to the right). Special thanks also go to Diane Gartner for her help with the Hospitality Committee (Chair: Gayle Miner)

## **Education**

Kit Hein and Marilyn Tubbs

### **SAM**

SAM (Student Art & Music) volunteer program at Fair Oaks Elementary has just completed its second series presentation this year discussing Egypt and its culture. Students completed a project of writing their name on an art stick on a hieroglyphics cartouche, coloring it and wearing it around their neck along with stamping the hieroglyphs alphabet alongside their own alphabet.

What an interesting project prepared and presented by Mary McGhee! And many thanks to the AAUW volunteers who assisted with the program. Kudos goes to Ginny Hargrave, Patty Harris, Muriel Fry, Jessie Inouye, Ish Mendonsa, Jeanne McGuinness, Sarah Joy Haynes, Alana MacDonald, Lynn Murphy, Kathy Searles, Clint Tubbs and Marilyn Tubbs.

Cartouche with hieroglyphic symbols for "Kristin".



## **Foundation for Pleasant Hill Education**

For all things education and Pleasant Hill go to [www.fphe.org](http://www.fphe.org) and/or attend the Foundation for Pleasant Hill Education Board Meetings:

March 1 (at Jack's Restaurant)

April 5

Meetings are open to the public and held at 7:30 pm at Pleasant Hill City Hall.



Pictured above are the photos of our Program Co chairs with Elizabeth Kristen, a delightful, personable speaker at our February meeting, who enlightened us about Title IX and its implementation around the country and the state. She discussed several court cases and suggested ways AAUW members could monitor Title IX in local area schools. There is much work to be done.



The winner of our local PHAAUW sports membership recognition contest was Marilyn Tubbs. It was amazing how many members displayed their physical sporting endeavors in both current and past photos. The prize was a winner's medal, some Danish rolls and a pound of coffee. WOW! Those program committee members rock!

## Community

Jill Anderson

### Chamber of Commerce

Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>

5:30-7:30 PM

La Tapatia, 536 Main Street, Martinez



### Mixer

### Rodgers Ranch

315 Cortsen Road, Pleasant Hill

<http://www.rodgersranch.org>

The house is open to the public each Thursday from 12-4 p.m. and the third Sunday of each month from 2-4 p.m.

\*Nature Programs, Workshops, and activities related to the heritage of the region \*Hands-on experiences of family farm life over the years \*Displays of history farm tools and equipment \*Historical rehabilitation of the site, historic research, preservation and heritage study.

### Diablo Valley College Philharmonic Orchestra

Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup> 8:00 PM

<http://voyager.dvc.edu/~olee/orchestra>



DVC Performing Arts Center  
Tickets \$10 general admission at the DVC box office before each concert.  
\$7 pre-sale from the DVC Box Office  
(925.687.4445, open M-F noon-4pm)

### Diablo Valley College Chamber Ensemble Concert

Tuesday, March 15<sup>th</sup> 3:30 PM FREE

Room M101 M-104

### Pleasant Hill Community Foundation

17th Annual Community Grant Awards - Grants of up to \$1,000 will be awarded to projects that will benefit cultural, educational and recreational activities for Pleasant Hill residents. Applications must be received by March 15<sup>th</sup>.

Visit the website for an application <http://www.phcommunityfoundation.org> or contact Committee Chair - Jill Anderson, 925-932-2063.

## Public Policy

Susanne Rheingruber

### New Federal Restrictions on Selling Children's Books

Ed. Note: the following excerpt is copied from a news brief sent from AAUW. It was intended primarily for branches that hold book sales as fundraisers. For the full story and sample letters please ask Susanne Rheingruber to email the brief to you. As a long time member of ALA, I have already written my letter and hope many of you will do the same.

#### **Background**

In response to media stories about lead and other toxins in children's toys, Congress adopted the "Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act" in 2008. The law seeks to lower the levels of dangerous toxins, such as lead, in products intended for children 12 years of age or younger. The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), which regulates most consumer goods, was put in charge of enforcing this law. The CPSC announced that almost all products for children ages 12 or younger were covered by this law, **including books**. Under this interpretation, books are subject to the same testing standards as children's toys and clothing.

AAUW is lobbying Congress to pass legislation to end this restriction on children's books which have been repeatedly proven safe. This bill, H.R. 272, was introduced in January 2011 and would exempt books from the CPSC's new lead standards. Introduced by Rep. Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE), it has the support of both AAUW and the American Library Association. We will keep you posted on our progress in moving the legislation, and will look to you to provide your voice for its passage.

#### **What You Can Do**

- Send a letter to Congress






#### **AAUW Voices Project**

As we take the fight for gender equity to the 112th Congress, we know the political dynamic has changed. We need to address this changed dynamic head-on. We need to move beyond Congress and take the discussion of gender equity into newspapers, online news sources, and new media. To do that, we've developed a brand new opportunity for AAUW members to speak up and shape the debate: **the AAUW Voices Project**.

Members of the Voices Project will be provided with training and resources aimed at targeting their writing skills for op-eds, letters to the editor, and other media outreach. Voices Project members will be AAUW's media first-responders.

AAUW members interested in joining the **AAUW Voices Project** can complete the short application found here: <http://capwiz.com/aauw/utr/1/JBGWOKZDBQ/BIRWOKZDRF/6390033201>. Send your application by email to Samuel Lehman <<mailto:lehmans@aauw.org>>, AAUW grassroots advocacy coordinator, or fax to (202) 466-7637 (Attn: Samuel Lehman). You must be an AAUW member to join.

# March 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 <b>Morning Books</b> 	3	4	5 DVC Philharmonic Orchestra
6	7 <b>Monday Night Bridge</b>	8	9 <b>In Indelible Ink Evening Books</b>	10 <b>Nimble Fingers</b>	11	12
13	14	15 DVC Chamber Ensemble	16 <b>General Meeting: <u>Human Trafficking</u></b> 	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 <b>Evening Books</b> 	29	30 <b>Bridge and Game Afternoon</b> 	31		



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.

# The Best Intentions...

A Motown Tribute Band

**8:00pm**

**March 12, 2011**

**At Rizza Auditorium**

on the California Maritime Academy – Vallejo Campus



Close your eyes...there's Smokey, the Four Tops, the Temptations...and more!  
Enjoy a night of nostalgia - clap your hands, sing along and dance in the aisles

**Benefits Benicia-Vallejo AAUW's TECH TREK camper scholarship program**

**Tickets \$25**

**Checks payable to Benicia-Vallejo AAUW**

**Mail to: PO Box 1876, Benicia, CA 94510**

**or purchase at Bookshop Benicia, Southampton Shopping Cntr.**

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