



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

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

Volume 54 Issue 10

July-August 2012

(Note: This is a combined issue of the N.E.W.S. for the months of July and August. The next issue will come out September 1.)

Please come, bring a guest, and enjoy the Pleasant Hill/Martinez

AAUW Summer Social

Saturday, July 21, 2012
4 - 7 p.m.

Nancy Hobert's home
1040 Vaca Creek Road
Martinez, CA 94553

\$10 per person

RSVP DEADLINE: JULY 14
228-7271 / nhobert@aol.com



The FESTA, our annual dinner and wine tasting at Viano Winery, will take place on Saturday, Sept. 29th, from 3:30 to 6:30. Save the date!
*PLANNING FOR THE FESTA: The Festa is our major fund raiser of the year. Please come to the organizational meeting and volunteer to help out. Most jobs are small; but, together, we make a big thing happen! The meeting will be at Alana Macdonald's house at **1:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 17th**, 233 Western Hills Dr., Pleasant Hill.



Il Messaggero

Happy, Happy Summer!!

We want to thank everyone who held a position or worked on a committee this year. All of you provided great leadership in the programs you were involved in. That's what makes our Pleasant Hill-Martinez AAUW so awesome. Our membership is the largest that it has ever been. We also know that our 2012/2013 leaders are already working on their very interesting and stimulating programs for the coming year.

Our Tech Trek recipients are currently participating in their Math/Science programs at Sonoma State. Our own Trinka March is once again meeting with them to help develop new skills. Trinka, we applaud you!! We wish them an enjoyable learning experience and look forward to hearing all about their experience at our September 15th Brunch.

Be sure to read our July-August Newsletter to find a NEW Interest Section. If you have an idea for another new section, please let Janice or me know, and we'll try to help get it started. Let's get everyone involved this year!!

We hope everyone has our July 21st Summer Social on their calendar at Nancy & Kent Hobert's beautiful home. It will be a great time to just relax, munch and socialize. See you all there!!

Ciao & Amore,

Marilyn & Janice



DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO WOULD BE A GREAT ADDITION TO OUR MEMBERSHIP? THEN PLEASE INVITE HER TO JOIN YOU FOR A SOCIAL, A MEETING, OR AN INTEREST SECTION. WE WOULD LOVE TO MEET HER!

2011- 2012 Leadership Team

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sandjwalk@comcast.net

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ilmthelen@comcast.net

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Pleasant Hill AAUW N.E.W.S. is published ten times a year by and for the American Association of University Women. May/June & July/August are combined issues. **Copy deadline for September N.E.W.S. is August 15th.** Please send copy to Kit Hein
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Membership Matters

Reba Siero (925) 228-8211 rebasiero@yahoo.com
Marti Martin (925) 229-3574 richmar1016@sbcglobal.net

This is my (Marti's) last newsletter article as Membership Co-Vice President. Please give a very BIG WELCOME TO ELENA NOBLE who assumed the position of Membership Co-Vice President on July 1.

Elena joined Reba and Marti to welcome new and prospective members at an informational social evening at Marti's home on May 24th. Marilyn Thelen, Janice Walker and Marlene Maksel also attended as well as new members Marge Munger and Sara Tancredy. We would like to welcome the two new members who joined that evening. Please add their information to your current directories.

Carole Larson
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Concord, CA 94521
(925) 686-1481 home
(925) 451-1892 cell
carole.l.larson@gmail.com

Carole has a Masters degree from Cal State East Bay and her interests are art, reading and theater.

Diane M. Burnley
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Martinez, CA 94553
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Diane has a BA in Liberal Studies from Cal State Hayward with a 5th year Teaching Credential from St. Mary's College. Her interests are hiking, reading, museum visits and quilting.

WELCOME, Carole and Diane. It was so nice to meet both of you.

And WELCOME BACK to returning member Beth Madruga. Add her info, too:

Beth Madruga
325 Pikes Ct., Mtz., 94553
(925) 933-8061
Zukie1@sbcglobal.net

One more (in case you, like your mindless editor, missed this change of address):

Ginny Hargrave ggh77b@gmail.com

A REMINDER - DUES ARE PAST DUE. We must send the list of our members to National in July, PLUS you risk not having your name in the 2012-2013 Pleasant Hill-Martinez AAUW Directory as only members with current paid dues will be listed. If you haven't sent your dues in yet, **NOW IS THE TIME.** The good news – the price is still the same: \$83 from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013. It breaks down to:
\$49 National (\$46 is tax deductible)
\$16 California AAUW
\$18 Pleasant Hill Branch.

You may pay by check (made out to PH AAUW) and mail it to:

Reba Siero
836 Westview Court
Martinez, CA 94553

Or you may pay by credit card at:

www.aauw.org- Member Center

Log in with your membership number, go to renew, etc. If you do pay online, please let Reba know at rebasiero@yahoo.com

Also, this is the time to make donations to the Barbara Newachek Fund. Just send a separate check to Reba for that.

(to make sure our records are correct, please fill in this form and send it with your check. This is what will appear in the membership directory.)



Name _____

Address _____

Home phone _____

Do you want included:

Cell phone _____

Email address: _____

Spouse's name: _____

Any changes to your educational information?

INTEREST GROUP MEETINGS



**** MORNING BOOKS** Looking ahead to September, we will be meeting at Susanne Rheingruber's on **Wednesday, September 5th**, 10 am, and we will be discussing *The Rules of Civility* by Amor Towles.



**** MATINEE IDLE** We will go to the movies on **Thursday, July 26th**. If you have any suggestions for a movie, call or email Marlene at 689-5439 or marlene@maksel.us We usually go to an early movie and then have coffee, or other liquid refreshment, after to discuss the movie.

We will go to the movies on **Thursday, August 23rd**. We will follow the same format as July ~ see above!!



****BOOK EXCHANGE**
2nd CALL

This is your annual opportunity to join the BOOK EXCHANGE! Read up to 12 hardbacks published in 2012 for the cost of only one! You buy one book; then each month you receive a new selection from another member of the Exchange.

Please call Mary Hanlon @ 934-3528 with your selected title and author PRIOR to purchasing your book.

There have been 2 to 3 Exchange Groups for the past few years. Don't miss out! (You can purchase 2 or 3 books to join all the Exchanges and double or triple your reading pleasure!) Reserve your Titles - and your places in the Exchanges - now. We should begin exchanging books by October 1st.

	Marilyn Tubbs Associate License: 0H53896
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NEW SECTION NEWS



MUSEUMS/ART GALLERIES

Our first outing will be very local ~ aRt Cottage in Concord at 2238 Mt. Diablo Blvd. We will plan to meet outside the cottage at **1:30 pm, on Tuesday, July 24th**. The artist for the month will Mark Jezierny, a well-known local artist who grew up in Moraga and paints in oils and acrylics on canvas or board using the plein air technique. FROgard Butler, owner and curator, will tell us about the paintings, too. After, we can go for coffee at a coffeehouse nearby and plan strategy for our next outing. Please let Marlene know if you are planning to attend ~ 689-5439 or marlene@maksel.us. Hope to see you there!

COMMUNITY

Pleasant Hill – Marlene Maksel

*Fourth of July:

8 am ~ Firecracker 5K Fun Run
9:30 ~ Parade
10:30 ~ Fun at the Park
9 pm ~ Fireworks

*Plaza Concerts:

First Friday of July, August and September
6:30 – 8:30 pm in the Plaza next to Jack's

restaurant

*Wine Walk:

Friday, July 6th, 5:30 to 8 pm
\$20 includes glass and map to restaurants and businesses pouring wine and offering hors d'oeuvres.

*Herb Day 2012:

Sunday, July 15, 11 am to 4 pm at Rodgers Ranch. Lots of demonstrations, vendors, and information on herb gardening.

*Chamber Mixer:

Wednesday, July 18th, 5 to 7 pm at the Contra Costa Country Club. Reservations required ~ call Chamber office 687-0700.

*DVC Garden:

Harvest Rosemary, Oregano, Sage, Parsley and Mint ~ or just walk through the gardens. Open July 12, 17 and 24 from 9:30 am to noon.

*Blues and Brews Festival:

Saturday, July 21st from noon until 6 pm in the Pleasant Hill Park on Gregory. Unlimited beer tasting for \$30 if you get ticket in advance by calling 687-0700. Delicious food and free music.

SAM

Marilyn Tubbs



A recent awards ceremony was held at Fair Oaks Elementary School to thank Ken Walters for providing annual funding from the Mary Walters Memorial Fund, established through the Pleasant Hill Community Foundation following her death in 2003, to the SAM (Student Art & Music) program at the school.

The SAM program is produced and presented by Mary McGhee with the assistance of the Pleasant Hill-Martinez AAUW members. It focuses on a hands-on art project and a major musician several times during the school year for each student grades K-5 at the school.

Mary Walters was a very active and beloved member of the Pleasant Hill AAUW branch. In addition she was involved in many Pleasant Hill community activities for many years.

TECH TREK

Katrinka March & Sherrie Moore



At our June brunch, we presented Tech Trek camp awards to four students from our local schools. Each recipient was honored by their families and friends and our members. After introducing themselves and their guests, each girl told us about her interest in math and science and the Tech Trek camp.

Tech trek, a program of AAUW California which started in 1998, is a Science and Math camp for girls who excel. Its aim is to encourage girls who will be entering eighth grade in the fall to consider careers in science, math, engineering, or technology. The camp features hands-on activities in STEM fields. All sleeping, eating, instructional, and recreational facilities are located on a variety of university campuses throughout California.

This year four girls from Martinez and Pleasant Hill will attend Tech Trek camp on the Sonoma State campus. The following outstanding students were chosen because of their passion for math and science: Alexis Williams (Martinez Junior HS), Kalina Ziegler (Pleasant Hill MS), Olivia Hunter-McElroy (Sequoia MS), and Angelica Alberti (Valley View MS).

Congratulations to these exceptional girls. They will join us again at our Fall Brunch on Sept. 15th to describe their Tech Trek camp experience. Be sure to put it on your calendar.

LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP

Elva Valli



Congratulations to Scholarship Recipients

Two young women from Alhambra HS and two from College Park HS were honored at our AAUW Brunch. At their respective Awards Nights these 4 very deserving seniors were recognized for excelling in their high school years with excellent grades, community service and leadership ability. They were each awarded a \$1000 AAUW scholarship in recognition of their achievements. This year's recipients of Pleasant Hill/Martinez AAUW Scholarships are:

Carielle Spangenberg is off to UC Berkeley with a major in Engineering.

Samantha Viano will attend Cal Poly and is interested in Marketing in the Wine Industry.

Madelyn Kring will attend UC Berkeley and her proposed field of study is Medical and International Study.

Amelia Lowry is headed to Chico State University and has an interest in Business.

Congratulations and best wishes to these 4 young women. The Local Scholarship Fund which makes this possible is funded by a variety of means. One of these is the generosity of you, the members, and your support of the Silent Tea Party Fundraiser. The Scholarship Committee is very appreciative of each and every donation.

POLL WORKERS ARE AWESOME

The June Primary may or may not have had the results we anticipated, but our Poll Workers certainly did their part. Our Local Scholarship Fund benefited greatly due to their participation in the Adopt-A-Poll Program. Kudos to Ish and George Mendonsa, Marlene Maksud, Alana McDonald, Shelly Jacobson, Sherrie Moore and Marilyn and Clint Tubbs. Joy Barden was trained and ready to work, also. They all readily volunteered and our branch will be receiving the stipends which were earned by their efforts. The Scholarship Committee is thankful and hopes to receive the same eager participation for the November election.



2012-2013 PH-MTZ AAUW BOARD

Muriel Fry installs our newly elected officers.



Showing her magical way of getting new officers to start their jobs knowing exactly what their responsibilities will be, Muriel lead our incoming officers in a recitation of their new duties.



Ready to get the new year started, with mission based programs, philanthropic fundraisers for women and girls, and activities to educate and entertain our members, the 2012-2013 board takes a brief moment to show you who they are. When you see them at a meeting or read their request for help in the newsletter, be sure to step up and volunteer.

Back row, from left: Patricia Harris (AAUW Funds-LAF), Alana Macdonald (AAUW Funds), Reba Siero (Membership), Shelley Jacobson (Program), Marlene DeLaurenti (AAUW Funds), Jill Anderson (Treasurer), and Joy Barden (Secretary).

Front row, from left: Marilyn Thelen (President), Sherrie Moore (Program), Janice Walker (President), and Elena Noble (Membership).

PH-MTZ AAUW WEBSITE

Marilyn Tubs & Sherrie Moore

Please check out the additions to our Pleasant Hill-Martinez AAUW website. We have added photos from the Grand Finale June Brunch -- including the 2012-2013 Tech Trek camp and Local Scholarship winners, the new presidents and board, and the Barbara Newachek award winner. We've added information and pictures about the Mary Walters Memorial Fund for the SAM program at Fair Oaks Elementary School. Also included are new pictures from the Book Club end of the year luncheon.

Just go to <http://www.aauw-ph.org>.

CCC INTERBRANCH COUNCIL

The following is an excerpt of the letter sent to The Stratford at Countrywood for their generous support of our Interbranch Council. If you have a need for Senior Living arrangements for yourself or loved ones, please consider The Stratford at Countrywood.

Ms. Melissa Malek, Assisted Living Director
The Stratford at Countrywood
Dear Ms. Malek,

The AAUW Contra Costa Inter-Branch Council (IBC) has had the privilege of using your meeting room for our bi-monthly meetings on the third Tuesday evenings from September through May. Carol Dowell was been the person with whom we have worked and want to acknowledge her assistance in coordinating our meetings. She even allowed us to use a computer one evening when we needed to use the internet to demonstrate information from our national website. We also want to acknowledge your kitchen staff who provided delicious snacks and beverages for us to enjoy. Your flexibility in allowing us to set up the room to best meet our needs was very helpful.

Your hospitality is greatly appreciated.

Marie Bonilla, Outgoing IBC Chair

AAUW-CA

By the time you receive this N.E.W.S. you should also have received your copy of *California Perspective*, the AAUW-CA periodical. There are many informative articles about the organization as well as a full report on the 2012 Convention. Some highlights:

*Director Bakula Maniar reports on continuing successes with our state project on Financial Literacy through Money Trek and \$tart \$mart.

*Encouragement from Program Director Cathy Foxhaven for branches to participate in *It's My Vote...I Will Be Heard*

*The Speech Trek topic for 2012-2013:

"SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN SCHOOLS...big deal?"

If you did not receive your *Perspective* and would like more information on any of these programs and more, check out the website at:

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

AAUW Mission & Action

* This year's National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) was the largest one yet: Nearly 600 women attended! Special thanks go to the AAUW state, branch, and individual donors who make this event possible. Check out this year's highlights, and start planning today for next year's conference, May 30-June 1, 2013.

* **AAUW Celebrates the 40th Anniversary of Title IX**

This past week's AAUW Title IX celebrations included briefings on Capitol Hill; a reception featuring former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), and swimmer Donna de Varona; and a birthday party at the AAUW national office.

* **The Invisible War**, a documentary on sexual assault in the military that features plaintiffs from two Legal Advocacy Fund-supported lawsuits opened this weekend. Look for a Program in a Box later this summer that will help you bring this moving documentary to your community.

IN REMEMBRANCE

The past few months have brought sadness to our members and their families.

Alvera Welsh

AAUW members were sorry to hear of the death of a long time member Alvera Welsh following a brief struggle with an illness. She passed away at John Muir Hospital on April 1, 2012.

Alvera was a very active PH AAUW member for many years. She published the branch newsletter for several years and was an active member of the MoneyMovers Group until the group disbanded in 2011.

Alvera was a Stanford graduate and always kept up with the Cal/Stanford games. She enjoyed playing golf, bridge, listening to jazz, belonging to a computer club and was a proud member of the Red Hat Society, AAUW and Widow & Widowers Group.

She is survived by her daughter, Karen Welsh of Oregon, three grandchildren and one great grand daughter. Alvera spent her final retirement years in the Rossmoor Community in Walnut Creek.

Anatoli (Terry) Onopchenko, husband of PH-MTZ AAUW member Judy Onopchenko, died on Tuesday, June 5, 2012, in Walnut Creek. Married to Judy for 48 years, Terry will be remembered for his sense of humor at AAUW social events, of which one memorable one was in their home. A memorial service was held in June.



Honored at the June AAUW Membership Brunch as our 2012 Barbara Newacheck Award Winner, Kathy Searles passed away June 9 after a courageous battle with cancer. Kathy taught for 37 years in the Martinez Unified School District, all the while maintaining an active life in volunteer activities of which AAUW was a primary one. A past president and AAUW EF Named Gift Honoree, Kathy was a true leader in AAUW. She held various elected board positions but was also a “worker bee”, serving as N.E.W.S. Label Chair as well as working, with her husband John (also a named gift honoree), at many 49er games. Kathy was serving as Co-president this year (for the second time around) with Marilyn Thelen when she fell ill. She will be remembered as a true example of what AAUW stands for “advancing equity for women and girls.” She will be missed.

A memorial for Kathy will be held at Morello Park Elementary at 4pm on Saturday July 14th. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Searles Family Scholarship. Additional information can be found on www.caringbridge.org/visit/kathysearles.



July 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 	5	6  PH Concerts	7
8	9	10	11	12 DVC Open Garden 	13	14 Sum. Social RSVP <i>Kathy S. Memorial</i>
15  Herb Day Rogers Ranch	16	17  <u>Festa Planning</u>	18 PH Chamber Mixer	19	20	21  <u>SUMMER SOCIAL</u>
22	23	24  <u>Museum/Art Galleries</u>	25	26  <u>Matinee Idle</u>	27	28
29	30	31	AUGUST	23  <u>Matinee Idle</u>		

PLAN AHEAD: Sept. 5 – Morning Books; Sept. 15 – Welcome Back Brunch; Sept. 29 – Festa Italiana



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.