



Pleasant Hill-Martinez (CA) Branch

N.E.W.S.

Now/Events/Women/Success

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

Volume 58 Issue 10

July/August 2016

Pleasant Hill-Martinez AAUW SEPTEMBER WELCOME BRUNCH

Saturday, September 10th, 2016
10:00 AM to 12 Noon

Marilyn Thelen's Home
5318 Stonehurst Drive
Martinez, CA
925-228-2600

PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS WELCOME

- ◇ Listen to Tech Trekkers talk about camp
- ◇ Make new friends and greet the old
- ◇ Check out the Interest Section offerings
- ◇ Pick up your 2016-2017 Directory
- ◇ Bring a friend/prospective member

RSVP by FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9th to:

Bea Ball at (925) 825-3622 or beaball@att.net or

Elva Valli at (925) 228-8056 or wvalli@sbcglobal.net

Bring a sunhat.

Directions to Marilyn's home:

From Highway 4: Take Alhambra Ave exit and go **SOUTH** on Alhambra Ave. Turn **RIGHT** onto Alhambra Valley Rd and go 1.3 miles. Turn **RIGHT** to stay on Alhambra Valley Rd and go 0.8 miles. Turn **RIGHT** onto Vaca Creek Rd and go 100 yds. Turn **LEFT** onto Stonehurst Dr and go 0.2 miles. 5318 is the first house on the **RIGHT**.

From Gregory Ln/Grayson Rd: Take Grayson Rd up to the cemetery. Turn **RIGHT** onto Reliez Valley Rd and go 2.2 miles. Continue straight ahead onto Alhambra Valley Rd and go 0.8 miles. Turn **RIGHT** onto Vaca Creek Rd and go 100 yds. Turn **LEFT** onto Stonehurst Dr and go 0.2 miles. 5318 is the first house on the **RIGHT**.



PRESIDENTIAL POSTINGS

“And so with the sunshine and the great bursts of leaves growing on the trees, just as things grow in fast movies, I had that familiar conviction that life was beginning over again with the summer” – F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*

As our branch begins anew this summer, let us pause to reflect upon the ways in which we collectively have fulfilled the mission of “advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research” this past year.

Our thought provoking *programs* included inspiring stories of courage and determination ...one woman’s struggle for freedom from Communist China, a Dutch couple who hid Jews during WWII, a military veteran who became an innovative leader in her community, the struggle for women’s suffrage and a physicist turned mystery writer. We thank Program Co-chairs Priscilla Tudor and Susan Lawson as well as International Advocacy Co-chairs Gayle Garrison and Sarah Joy Haynes for such insightful events.

This year we awarded *Local Scholarships* to four very deserving young women from Alhambra and College Park High Schools. In addition, we helped send FIVE middle school girls to *Tech Trek* camp at Sonoma State University this summer. It was a privilege to meet these young women and hear their future plans at our June 4 end-of-year brunch. Our AAUW Funds committee selected a stellar young woman to attend the *National Leadership Conference for Student Leaders* in Maryland AND our branch was #9 in the state for per capita contributions to *AAUW Funds*. All of this would not be possible without the generosity of our membership and the leadership of our chairpersons Marie Cattalini and Lynn Murphy (Local Scholarships), Janice Walker (Tech Trek), Harriet Burt and Helen Pereira (AAUW Funds). Heartfelt thanks to all of you.

For the 2015-16 year, our executive committee honored Janice Walker with the *Barbara Newacheck Award*. Outgoing co-presidents Gayle Miner and Trinkia March were

named gift honorees by AAUW Funds. These three ladies epitomize the AAUW mission through their steadfast leadership and it was our privilege to present these awards to them.

Now, on to the present and future! On May 21, some of us attended *East Bay District Leadership Training* at Cal State East Bay in Concord. We were provided with some useful tips and resources to help us fulfill our duties. New officers were installed by Muriel Fry at our June 4 brunch and she shared beneficial advice for leaders. Thank you to all continuing and new officers for accepting your positions! And thank you to those who helped organize the brunch, brought food, etc. Our new year got off to a positive start on June 8 when we held a joint board meeting at Gayle Miner’s house. Committees are moving forward in planning for the coming year. Please consider joining one of these committees – meeting dates can be found further in this newsletter. We encourage you to save **September 10** for our *Welcome Brunch* and **October 1** for our *Taste of Fall* fundraiser. More details will be forthcoming....

Through increased participation, we bring added vitality to help reach our objectives. We hope more of you will become involved in our branch in some way - by joining an interest group, serving on a committee, accepting a position on the board or bringing in new members. Over ten new members joined our branch last year - some serve on the board as appointed officers and participate in committees. We currently have one open position – *Communications*. If you like interacting with the media, we need someone to help inform the local community about our events, by submitting articles through newspapers and/or social media. We also would love to get together with all of you this summer at a *Summer Social*! If anyone is interested in chairing (or co-chairing) the Summer Social, then we can bring this event to “fruition” (just contact Jennifer or Claudia).

Together, let’s make it a great year!

Jennifer and Claudia

AUGUST BOARD MEETING:

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2016

7 PM

Home of Jennifer Apkarian

Copy deadline for the September 2016 N.E.W.S. is:

August 21st

Please email copy to:

Reba Siero

rebasiero@yahoo.com

Trina Harris - In Memoriam

Harriett Burt

Longtime AAUW member Trina Harris passed away on June 9 after a long illness. She was 94.

Trina has the distinction of being the last surviving charter member of Martinez Branch. She joined as a 27 year old in 1948. When branch member Jean Taylor wrote "The Talbot Story", a one act play about the founding of AAUW, Trina took the role of "The Future". The play was sent to every Branch in the country during the centennial celebration in 1981.

A member of the Branch for many years, she came to the 2012 Summer Social with plans to rejoin. But unfortunately, she became ill.

Her daughter Penny and granddaughter Rachel carry on as members of Pleasant Hill-Martinez Branch. They have our condolences at Trina's passing.

A memorial service is planned for July.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Bea Ball and Elva Valli
Membership VPs

As you can see by the very creative Flier on the front of this newsletter it will soon be time to celebrate our September Welcome Brunch. We'll be having this traditional event once again at the home of Marilyn Thelen. The date is September 10th, 2016 at 10:00 AM.

The initial step in the planning process began early in June when the outgoing and incoming Boards met to make a smooth transition into the 2016-2017 year. It was a helpful meeting as new officers received a warm welcome and much encouragement. The new Membership VP's, Bea Ball and Elva Valli, have already begun to make plans for the Brunch. A Committee was formed and a planning session scheduled for July 5th at Marilyn's. They are hoping to be joined by anyone who has helpful ideas and is interested in helping.

It was very much appreciated to see the enthusiasm with which so many of you volunteered and signed up to help. We will continue to ask for help as it will be needed with Set-up, Clean-up, Food and Decorating.

To volunteer please contact:

Bea Ball at (925) 825-3622 or beaball@att.net or

Elva Valli at (925) 228-8056 or wevalli@sbcglobal.net

BOOK EXCHANGE - 2nd CALL

This is your annual opportunity to join the BOOK EXCHANGE! Read up to 12 hardbacks published in 2016 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 contact Mary Hanlon @ 934-3528 (Home) or 286-2223 (Cell) or mkhbibliophile@aol.com 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.

INTEREST SECTIONS MEETINGS



****MORNING BOOKS** will not meet in July or in August. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 7th and we will be discussing Kristin Hannah's *The Nightingale*. Good summer reading.



****IN INDELIBLE INK** will not meet in July or August. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 14th. Our topic will be, 'What famous, or not-so-famous, person would you like to introduce to friends'. In May we composed some limericks. Look in this issue of N.E.W.S. for some great limericks by Marti Martin.



****LUNCHIN' LADIES** will not go to lunch in July or August. Read the September N.E.W.S for the date and location of lunch in September.



****EVENING BOOKS** will not meet in July or August. Our next meeting will be on Monday, September 26th and we will be discussing *The Bridal Chair: A Novel* by Gloria Goldreich. A great summer read about the artist Marc Chagall.



****MATINEE IDLE** will go to the movies on Thursday, July 28th. We usually attend a matinee at a local theatre. Call Marlene (689-5439), if you are planning to attend, or if you have any suggestions for a movie. We always discuss the film after over coffee or other liquid refreshment.

We will go to the movies on Thursday, August 25th.

OTHER GROUPS



****GRAND SLAMMERS** will play bridge on Monday, July 11th at 12:30 at Brookview Club House.....\$5 per person....\$3 for Local Scholarship Fund and \$2 for rental. We will also play on Monday, August 8th - same time, place and cost. If you would like to play, contact Marlene DeLaurenti at mdl@astound.net or 934-4171.

Two Limericks by Marti Martin
 Composed during the May meeting of
IN INDELIBLE INK
 An accordion player named Rich,
 Was kidnapped one day by a witch.
 She locked him away,
 And forced him to play,
 While she sang extremely off-pitch.
 She always carried a book.
 It saved her one day from a crook.
 She swung it his way
 When he told her to pay.
 A swift blow was all that it took.

TREASURER'S MESSAGE

Joan Foster

As of this date, I will not take money or disbursements without the proper documentation. If you are giving me money and/or cash, or needing a check cut, you will have to fill out the form for each "order," so I can make the correct notations.

Although some of you have done this, I ask that each of you in charge of AAUW Funds, Tech Trek, Local Scholarship, budget categories, and any fund raiser to keep a monthly account. Before each board meeting I will email or phone you for your balance, thus ensuring we are on the same page.

Please, write your checks to **AAUW Pleasant Hill-Martinez Branch**. Some of you do not feel you need to do that and that just makes my job more difficult as I have to find a different branch to deposit that check.

Budget and Ways and Means will be meeting this summer and we will be able to set our goals.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to call or email me.



TECH TREK TIDINGS

Janice Walker

If you were able to attend our June 4th Brunch, you met four of our five bright and enthusiastic campers. The accompanying photo was taken when all five were able to attend Interbranch's informational Ice Cream Social held the week prior to their camp departure. From left to right our campers are: Isabella Triana, Sequoia Middle, Julia Beaty, Martinez Junior High, Isabella Martinez, Sequoia Middle, Lexi Alford, Martinez Junior High and Jazmine Cano, Valley View Middle. I hope you'll plan now to attend our Fall Brunch on September 10th when our campers will report back about their camp experience.

Recently we were fortunate to receive a \$500 donation toward our Tech Trek program from the Kiwanis Club of Martinez. This type of donation along with your support of our fundraisers and direct donations made it possible for us to send five girls this year when the opportunity became available. As said in last month's report, the only expenses taken out of the Tech Trek fund these past two years has been the purchase of the Tech Trek bears given to each of the girls. So all of your contributions have gone toward this program. And it is one which has an unforgettable impact on its participants and you make it possible!

This year I am passing the Tech Trek bag and binders over to Diane Coventry, who along with Trinkia March, will take over Tech Trek. I hope you will continue to be as supportive of Diane and Trinkia's efforts as you have been of mine. Again, **thank you** for your support and donations, without them we wouldn't be sending girls to camp!

And last, but certainly not least, **thank you** for the honor of being named this year's Barbara Newacheck Memorial Award recipient. It was completely unexpected but it meant a lot!

2016 LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Sherrie Moore

At our June Brunch, we presented college scholarships to four students from our local high schools. It is the mission of AAUW to break down barriers for women and girls by promoting education and supporting their personal and professional growth. Each recipient was honored by members, family, and friends.

Four very deserving High School Seniors were recognized for excelling in their high school years, not only with excellent grades, but also in community service and leadership ability. They were each awarded a \$1,000 AAUW scholarship in recognition of their achievements. This year's recipients of Pleasant Hill-Martinez AAUW Scholarships are: Laura Maule and Taravat Lakzian from College Park High School, and Amy Moran and Joyce Figueroa from Alhambra High School.

In the Fall, Laura, who is interested in Neuroscience, is going to UC Berkeley, and Amy is headed to Cal Poly with a Liberal Studies major in Elementary Education. Joyce will attend San Diego State University to study Speech-Language Pathology. Taravat is off to UCLA and would like to go into the Pediatrics/Neurobiology field.

Best of luck to all of these outstanding young women.



AAUW FUNDS

Harriett Burt and Helen Pereira
AAUW Funds VPs

Did Zuhail Rahmani enjoy the National College Women Student Leadership Conference? You bet she did. Her enthusiasm for all the activities, her fellow conference attendees and the keynote speakers is hard for her to contain!

There were a variety of activities for attendees to choose from the day before the Conference convened. Zuhail chose to volunteer at A Wider Circle, a Washington organization that takes a holistic approach to ending poverty by not only providing furniture and other household items as well as re-entry workshops. The director of the organization was only one of several successful women whom Zuhail got to meet and talk to. She also enjoyed the variety of workshops and was able to see some of the most impressive sites in the nation's capital including the Lincoln Memorial in the evening. For the soon-to-be UC Davis junior, the chance to talk to other college women leaders and develop a sense of the wider world not only of college but of opportunity was the greatest benefit of attendance.

Zuhail will speak to us at the Fall Brunch. We have invited her parents as well. They will not be the only proud ones there. Gayle Miner will be beaming as well. Zuhail, whose name in Afghani means Shining Star, was in Gayle's first grade class.

AAUW Funds Committee appreciates the support the Branch gives this program not only through Funds but also by direct local contributions. We paid for registration and airfare locally, including some direct contributions from some members.

Funds Committee has had a good and fun year eating Ginny Hargrave's candy at planning meetings. Marlene Maksel, Ginny, Muriel Fry, Pat Harris and Funds Co-VPs, Harriett and Helen, have signed up for another year. We are all sorry that Georgette Armstrong cannot continue because of family responsibilities.

But, we look forward to welcoming new members. It doesn't take up a lot of time but it does widen our appreciation of what AAUW at every level does to expand the opportunities of women. And the gratitude of Zuhail and her mother for the Nickwhistle opportunity is better than a paycheck. So contact any committee member. Of course few of us are shy so we may be contacting you!!!



This is Hilary Corna, she was one of the keynote speakers at the conference. She is an entrepreneur and author. Hilary spoke about her journey which was really interesting and inspiring and I can't wait to read her book!



These are some of the many girls that I met at the conference.

My friends and I also got the privilege of meeting one of the women of distinction, Kelly Tsai who is a writer, performer, director and producer. I also met Anu Duggal another women of distinction who is an entrepreneur.





For my pre-conference activity, I spent the morning volunteering at the organization A Wider Circle, an organization that takes a holistic approach to ending poverty by providing necessary items (household items such as beds, dressers, baby items, lamps, televisions, etc.) and educational programs such as workshops for adults for resume building and finding a job and more. I got the chance to help sort out donated items and see if they were in good condition for those families coming in to pick them up from the showroom.

This is the Wider Circle showroom where families come in and pick out items for their homes.



This picture was taken after the opening session. I was able to network and meet many other college students and understand their goals and what they are doing on their campuses.

This was at the career fair!



These are just some the tables that were at the career fair.

This was our night out at D.C., we are sitting on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial looking at the view of the reflecting pool and the Washington Monument!



The Lincoln Memorial was amazing! It was truly a majestic memorial!



Pleasant Hill - Martinez AAUW Website



Our website will show you everything you need to know about our Pleasant Hill - Martinez branch. Check out pictures from our **June Brunch** on the **Photo Page**.

On the **About Us Page**, see photos of our new Board and the Barbara Newachek honoree. The Local Scholarship and Tech Trek girls are featured on the **Community Action Page**.

Just go to <http://www.aauw-pleasanthill-martinez.org> for all of this and more. Remember to press F5 to get the most current version of each page. Forward any questions or comments that you may have to the webmaster, located on the **About Us Page**.

Sherrie Moore, webmaster



A Taste of Fall



*Please mark your calendar for our annual fundraiser, **A Taste of Fall**, which will be held on Saturday, October 1st from 3:00 - 5:00 at Margie Pruitt's house.*

*For **A Taste of Fall**, we will be making hearty appetizers, bite size desserts, and assembling baskets for our silent auction. As you know, it takes a great effort by everyone to make this fundraiser successful. You have been generous with your time in the past.*

*We invite you all to come to our next **committee meeting** on Tuesday, August 30th at Margie Pruitt's house at 12:30. If you are a new member, an active member, or just want to become more involved, we need your assistance.*

*Please contact the co-chairs **Sherrie Moore** (moresherrie@comcast.net or 229-4177) or **Marlene De Laurenti** (mdl@astound.net or 934-4171) if you can attend this next committee meeting. All are welcome. Looking forward to working with you.*



Barbara Newacheck Memorial Award Winner

Each year, the Barbara Newacheck Memorial Award is presented to a branch member in appreciation for her/his contributions to the continued vitality of our AAUW branch, and for promoting the mission of AAUW to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. Barbara Newacheck was an esteemed member of the branch who embodied these ideals. She died in 2004 and we have remembered her each year with this award.

This year's award winner, **Janice Walker**, is an extremely kind person with a big, warm heart. She has been a member of the Pleasant Hill branch for many years, and was president back in the 1980s. Janice has held many offices in the branch, and in fact was president recently, again. She has been the Tech Trek coordinator for several years and has organized many fundraisers like the lovely Tech Trek Tea and our Tahoe Joe's restaurant events. You can always count on Janice to be willing to help and more often be the leader. She is passionate about AAUW, helping women and girls, locally and nationally. Congratulations, Janice.



From PH-M AAUW member Barbara Hall

My son, Colin Hall, has 22 tree paintings on display at Lindsay Wildlife Experience (formerly Lindsay Museum) 1931 First Ave, Walnut Creek Wed - Sun 10 - 5

This summer's theme is Camp Lindsay so the community Manzanita Room has tents and equipment that a family might use to go camping. My son's large tree paintings are along the walls. My son researches the locations of old growth trees in the central Sierra Nevada. He hikes to them and photographs them. Then he paints them. Sometimes he paints from archival photos of trees that have been logged. Many of the trees are sugar pines. Lots of these trees are dying because of drought, bark beetles and fires.

Check out the Lindsay Wildlife Experience press release for further details, including a Campout at Camp Lindsay on July 16th!

<http://lindsaywildlife.org/press-release/celebrate-great-outdoors-camp-lindsay-summer/>



WAYS AND MEANS

Ish Mendonsa
Penny Harris

The Ways and Means summer meeting will be held on Monday, August 8 at 1:30 pm, at Ish Mendonsa's home in Concord. This is a date change from the original. If you are a Fund Chairman- Local Scholarships, AAUW Funds, Tech Trek, or any other person planning to hold fund raisers this coming year, please plan to attend or send a representative. Thank you. Please RSVP to Ish or Penny.

COMMUNITY ~ PLEASANT HILL

Marlene Maksel

Fourth of July ~ 5K Run, Parade, Party in the Park and Fireworks.

July 15th & 16th ~ Blues & Brews Festival in PH Park on Gregory Lane Craft Beer tasting on the 16th. Music, food, wine and much more.

July 20th ~ JFKU "Hispanic Undergraduate Success Center" Grand Opening, 11 am to 1 pm, light refreshments. Funding made possible by a Title V Hispanic-Serving Institution Grant from the US Dept. of Education.

Sept. 26th ~ Save the Date for the Annual Golf Classic at the CCC Country Club sponsored by the PH Community Foundation and the Foundation for PH Education ~ fundraiser for impactful programs throughout our community.

PUBLIC POLICY

Lita Gloor-Little

As your, very new, Public Policy Board member, I thought I should introduce myself and explain something about this role.

I am a retired licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. I have lived most of my life in the Bay Area and am a California native. I graduated from St. Mary's College in Moraga and earned my Master's at John F. Kennedy University. I have always been interested in politics, but never active other than by voting in every election.

AAUW has a brochure titled Public Policy Priorities 2015-2017 from which I will freely quote. "The AUW CA Public Policy program supports its mission to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research, and complements the national Public Policy Program. AAWU CA's priorities for action are chosen according to the criteria of viability, critical needs, and strong member support. All members were invited to comment regarding the priorities which AAUW CA should place on California legislation affecting women and girls during the next two years, and these priorities reflect member comments."

The priorities are as follows:

"To achieve economic self-sufficiency for all women

To support a strong system of high quality public education and

To guarantee equality, individual rights and social justice for a diverse society".

It seems to me that these are highly desirable and lofty goals which we can meet, it will take work and effort on our part. So, it is my intention that whenever I learn of some area in which our participation can help that I inform our membership so that they can take action. I will work to make sure you are all informed about any concerns that fall into this priorities. I will also point out that this is a vital election year and that may inform our priorities.

Please feel free to contact me about any concerns you have. My email address is lgloorlittle@gmail.com



2016–2017 LEADERSHIP TEAM

July/August 2016

- July 5** Fall Brunch planning, 9:30 am,
Marilyn Thelen's home
- July 11** Grand Slammers bridge, 12:30 pm
Brookview Clubhouse
- July 14** Tech Trek committee, 7:00 pm,
Trinka March's home
- July 22** AAUW Funds committee, 1:30 pm,
Ginny Hargrave's home
- July 28** Matinee Idle, Marlene Maksel
- Aug 8** Grand Slammers bridge, 12:30 pm
Brookview Clubhouse
- Aug 8** Ways and Means committee, 1:30 pm,
Ish Mendonsa's home
- Aug 10** Board meeting, 7:00 pm,
Jennifer Apkarian's home
- Aug 21** September N.E.W.S. deadline, Reba Siero
- Aug 25** Matinee Idle, Marlene Maksel
- Aug 30** Taste of Fall planning, 12:30 pm,
Margie Pruitt's home
- Sep 10** Welcome Brunch, 10 am,
Marilyn Thelen's home
- Oct 1** A Taste of Fall, 3 - 5 pm,
Margie Pruitt's home

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Katrinka March D.V.M.
Karen Shore B.V.M.S.
Cindy Pieper D.V.M.

The AAUW National Washington DC office moved in mid-June to the new space. The next national convention will be in DC so plan on attending and taking a tour of the new offices.

from Muriel Fry