



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 7

March 2016

## Rise Up, Women

### The Struggle for Women's Suffrage

7:00 pm

Wednesday, March 16, 2016

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

1601 Mary Drive, Pleasant Hill

At our March General Meeting Phyllis Bratt will talk about the long, arduous journey to achieve the women's right to vote both in Britain and America. Frustration with the movement's lack of progress in England prompted Emmeline Pankhurst and her daughters to adopt militant tactics included picketing politicians, burning buildings, breaking windows, destroying pillar boxes and organizing large exhibitions designed to bring their fight to the public. The colors purple, white and green became the symbols of the fight.



Items in Phyllis Bratt's Collection of Women's Suffrage Memorabilia

One of Mrs. Pankhurst's American followers was Alice Paul, who traveled to London to take part in the protests. She joined many suffragettes in Holloway Prison, went on a hunger strike and was forcibly fed. She learned from her experiences how to generate publicity for the cause and brought her knowledge back to America, where she introduced those tactics. Alice founded the National Women's Party in 1916. Phyllis will tell the stories of these amazing women to whom we owe a huge debt of gratitude.

Phyllis Bratt lived in London from 1992 to 1995. She became interested in the suffrage movement after viewing the Museum of London's 1992 exhibition called "The Purple, White and Green, Suffragettes in London 1906-1914." While in London Phyllis began her own collection of suffrage memorabilia. After returning to California, she added items from the American movement to her collection which today includes more than 700 postcards, newspapers and magazines, handbills, photographs, sheet music, china, buttons, badges, stationery, and playing cards and games. The centerpieces of the collection are the hunger strike medal of Edith Downing, a Welsh artist and suffragette, and a china tea set designed by Sylvia Pankhurst for a 1908 exhibition in London.



## PRESIDENTIAL POSTINGS

Those of you who braved the rainstorm to attend the February 17<sup>th</sup> general meeting were treated to the amazing life story of Graciela Tiscareño -Sato, recipient of an AAUW Career Development Grant to do post-graduate study after serving in the U.S. Air Force. Listening to Graciela speak brought home to us how helpful and important those AAUW grants and Fellowships are to the people who receive them. Through AAUW member contributions, we are able to assist women to obtain advanced degrees. Most of these women pay it forward in many different ways. It was a delight to meet and listen to an AAUW grant recipient in person and to ask questions about her studies and work. It was truly informative and inspiring. If you missed this program... we have another great presentation, Rise Up, Women, to be held on March 16 at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church at 7:00 P.M. Thank you to Priscilla Tudor and Susan Lawson, our Program VPs, for bringing these outstanding programs to us.

Also at the February 17<sup>th</sup> meeting, our members voted to approve the proposed By-Laws changes.

Coming up on Thursday, March 17 is, a very important film for young women and men to see. The Hunting Ground will be shown at DVC in the Forum (library building) from 7:00-9:50 P.M. This program is open to the public and is free of charge. The film is about sexual assault and cover ups at US institutions of higher learning and is sponsored by DVC and the AAUW Inter-Branch Council of Contra Costa County. Any young woman or man going off to college should see this amazing film. If you know of someone, think grandchildren, neighbors, etc., please tell them about this film.

Lastly, please note that our hardworking Nominating Committee has published a nominated slate of officers for 2016-17 in this newsletter. We will be taking additional nominations from the floor and voting on this slate of officers at our general meeting in April. We

would like to thank the following people who served on the Nominating Committee this year: From the board – Reba Siero (chairperson), Joan Foster, and Jennifer Apkarian (alternate). From the general membership – Jeanne McGinnis, Marilyn Thelen, Margie Pruitt, and Sandy Wolfe (alternate).

Once the slate of nominees is voted upon in April, our new presidents will be looking to fill appointed positions on the board. So, if you are interested in an appointed position, let our new presidents know. It is your chance to be more involved and help to guide our branch towards the future.

Gayle and Trinka

***MARCH BOARD MEETING:***  
***WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2016***  
***7 PM***  
***Home of Trinka March***

**Copy deadline for the April 2016 N.E.W.S. is:**  
**March 21st**

Please email copy to:  
Reba Siero [rebasiero@yahoo.com](mailto:rebasiero@yahoo.com)

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

This year's nominating committee presents the following candidates for the:

**PH-MTZ AAUW SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2016-2017:**

**Co-Presidents: Jennifer Apkarian and Claudia Bass**

**VP Programs: Gayle Garrison and Nancy Hobert**

**VP Membership: Bea Ball and Elva Valli**

**VP AAUW Funds: Harriett Burt and Helen Pereira**

**Secretary: Gayle Miner**

**Treasurer: Joan Foster**

The election will be held at the April General meeting. Nominations may be made from the floor with the prior approval of the nominee. Many thanks to each member of the committee for your help in developing this most capable slate. And our thanks to these candidates for accepting the challenge to lead our branch.

Reba Siero, Nominating Committee Chairperson

## INTEREST SECTIONS MEETINGS



**\*\*MORNING BOOKS** will meet on Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 10 am, at Judi Hamberg's. PLEASE let your hostess know if you are going! We will be discussing *The Hare with Amber Eyes* by Edmund de Waal. This is a family memoir that covers a large slice of recent and important history ~ the author is a world-famous ceramicist. In April we will be discussing *The Buddha in the Attic* by Julie Otsuka. Please plan to join us for great discussions!



**\*\*IN INDELIBLE INK** will meet on Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 10 am, at Marlene Maksel's. Our topic assignment is "Fads" ~ do you have a favorite one, or one you especially hated? These Fads can be from your past, or something that is current. We welcome oral versions as well as written and we do NOT critique your writings. Please come and try out this Interest Section.



**\*\*LUNCHIN' LADIES** will try to meet on Tuesday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 1 pm at Le Sen on Salvia Street in Concord. Please let Marlene (marlene@maksiel.us) know if you are planning to attend by the 28<sup>th</sup>, so reservations can be made. If you have an idea for a great restaurant that would be fun for us to try, please let Marlene know that, too.



**\*\*EVENING BOOKS** will meet on Monday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm, at Diane Peterson's. We will be discussing *The Distance Between Us* by Rayna Grande. The story is about immigration and the emotional separation of family members. Please plan to join us for the discussion.



**\*\*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 suggestions for a movie. We always discuss the film after over coffee or other liquid refreshment.

## OTHER SMALL GROUP GATHERINGS



**\*\*MAH JONGG** Friday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 at the Brookview Clubhouse. \$2.00 per person. Order your new card for 2016. They mail them out the beginning of April. Bring your set, if you have one, and remember your card. Snacks are welcome.

Contact **Sherrie Moore** if you would like to play.  
925-229-4177 [moresherrie@comcast.net](mailto:moresherrie@comcast.net)



### REQUEST FROM THE TREASURER

Joan Foster

If you need a check, it must have all of the information before I issue the reimbursement or pay the vendor's bill. Also, I will not process any receipt or disbursement without the required Deposits or Reimbursements form from our web site. That form **MUST** be filled out completely. If you need a check quickly, I am usually in Martinez every Thursday in the late afternoon. If you are sending me money, please email me that you have sent it and I will acknowledge it when I receive it. When you receive my check, please email me or leave me a message.

**VERY IMPORTANT:** Our bank says that all checks written to the branch must say, **AAUW Pleasant Hill-Martinez Branch**. From now on, they **WILL NOT** accept them. Then, I will have to return them to you to rewrite.  
Thanks.

### **Contra Costa Tackles Truancy**

Laws in California have traditionally required parents to see to it that their children attend school regularly, but the law leaves the enforcement to local school districts or to counties.

As of this school year, Contra Costa County has initiated a program which is designed to intervene and provide support to families rather than punishing parents for student absences and tardies, as had been the case previously. The program consists of a "truancy court" which handles cases of students 12 years old and younger who are chronically absent and tardy. The age limit is stipulated because children at this level are too young to bear the responsibility of getting themselves to school and of arriving on time. Further, it is believed that developing good school attendance habits while young will carry on to the higher grade levels.

Students who miss 10% or more of the school year are considered chronically truant and are referred to district attorney Laura Delehunt who determines whether to issue an "infraction", which brings fines and requires payment of court costs, and then sends the case to truancy court. Judge Rebecca Hardie has the capability of sending the family for services such as parenting classes, counseling, substance abuse programs, etc. The goal of the program is to attack the problems that are preventing children from attending school regularly.

California Attorney General, Kamala Harris, reported that in Contra Costa County, in 2013-14, 30.4 per cent of children in grades k-5 met the Education Code's definition of truancy. It is difficult to calculate the huge drain such truancy has on society, with eventual student attrition, gang involvement, inability to find work, incarceration not to mention the tremendous waste of human potential. Hopefully the truancy court will have the desired effect of seeing that more Contra Costa children attend school regularly so they can reap the benefits of a good education.



### **Pleasant Hill - Martinez AAUW Website**



Our website will show you everything you need to know about our Pleasant Hill - Martinez branch. Even though it was pouring raining, many members attended the February meeting to hear our engaging speaker. See more pictures on the **Photo Page**.

Find our updated AAUW branch bylaws at the bottom of the **Home Page**.

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

**Sherrie Moore, webmaster**

## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Alana Macdonald and Claudia Bass  
Membership VPs

This year seems to be flying by and now we need to think of dues renewal for 2016-2017. Look in your mail box later in March for your renewal notice.

Dues will remain the same at \$87.00 with \$49.00 going to national (\$46.00 is tax deductible), \$20.00 to state and branch dues at \$18.00.

As of March 16<sup>th</sup> dues for new members will be \$87.00 and if they join "On the Spot" dues will be \$62.50 and both will be good through June 30, **2017**.

We currently have 122 members. Welcome to our newest member Lita Gloor-Little. She is a member at large at the national level but has recently joined our branch. Below is her information to be added to your directory.

Lita Gloor-Little

415 Warren Street

Martinez, CA 94553-2435

925-698-1737

[lgloorlittle@gmail.com](mailto:lgloorlittle@gmail.com)

JFK University, MA in Clinical Psychology

Alana Macdonald, [alanam88@gmail.com](mailto:alanam88@gmail.com)

Claudia Bass, [cbasslancer29@aol.com](mailto:cbasslancer29@aol.com)

For those members who do not drive and would like to come to the meetings or events, the following is a list of volunteer drivers. Please contact them if you need a ride. If you would like to volunteer to be a driver please let Claudia or Alana know.

Helen Pereira: 925-685-0757; 925-285-1766, Martinez

Trinka March: 925-372-8420, Martinez

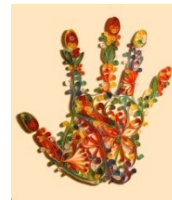
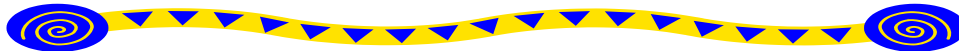
Suzanne Salter: 925-988-0322, Pleasant Hill

Muriel Fry: 925-937-4709, Lafayette

Priscilla Tudor: 925-798-4095, Martinez

Claudia Bass: 925-372-8679, Martinez

Thank you to those who have volunteered to be drivers.



## **SAM Program at Fair Oaks Elementary** **Student Art and Music Program** **Can you volunteer?**

**March 7th, 9th, 10th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 18th, 21st, 23rd, 24th, and 25th**

**3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grades: 8:50 - 9:50**

**K through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade: 10:10 - 11:10**

**Call Ish Mendonsa for details 680-2749**





Facilitator: Elena Noble

For the second year, AAUW Inter Branch Council will be hosting Start Smart Wage Negotiation Workshops at DVC.

Elaine Groen, AAUW Concord and I will be facilitating the workshop on March 10<sup>th</sup>.

If you are interested in attending or have any questions, you can contact me at [enoble4@astound.net](mailto:enoble4@astound.net)



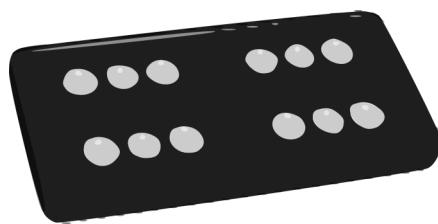

## AAUW FUNDS Harriett Burt and Helen Pereira AAUW Funds VPs

The big news for this month is that we have one applicant for the National College Student Women Leadership Conference to be held in Baltimore in June. Coordinators Marlene Maksiel and Ginny Hargrave have gone over the application and give it very positive reviews. The remaining members of Fund Committee will read it and we will meet soon to decide on sponsorship and if we do, to begin planning her travel. We'll keep you posted.

Just a reminder, you can enjoy a pleasant afternoon playing bridge or mah jongg or dominoes and supporting the Legal Advocacy Fund at the same time. The annual Game Day will be held at Brookview on Wednesday, March 30 starting at 12:30. Experienced organizer Pat Harris always picks a fifth Wednesday or Thursday so that there will not be another meeting conflict. Clever, isn't she? It is always a fun event. See the notice elsewhere in this issue for Pat's contact information.

Our mysterious fundraiser will be revealed soon. We'd love all those who are going to Convention to help us sell them. Harriett is going so will help organize the 'half-table'.

Enough about the future for now. Switching over to AAUW Fund history, did you know that in **1927** the Million Dollar Fellowship fund campaign began to reinforce AAUW fellowships through permanent endowments so that the organization could continue supporting promising women scholars. Thousands of members played a part in the campaign and contributions came from all over the country. And now, we come back to the present to report that AAUW provided nearly \$4 million in 2015-16 for over 240 graduate grants and fellowships in the United States and overseas. The moral of this story? Part of that \$4 million came because you bought more scarves and ate at every Tahoe Joe's fundraiser not to mention your generous response to the annual "Fund-raiser letter". Thank you.



**JOIN US FOR A  
BRIDGE & GAME AFTERNOON!**

**Pleasant Hill-Martinez AAUW is hosting an afternoon of  
Bridge, Mah Jongg and dominoes!**

**Wednesday, March 30, 2016**

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

**The Brookview Clubhouse**

**\$10 will be collected to benefit AAUW FUNDS (LAF)**

**Dessert will be served.**

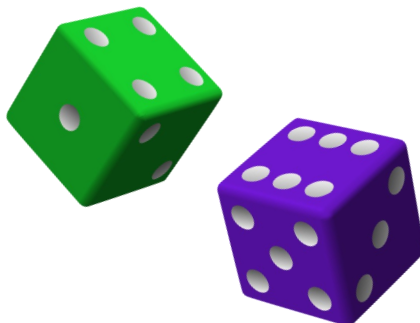
**Call or e-mail Pat Harris to reserve your spot and for directions if needed**

**228-6263 or [patriciaharris4@mac.com](mailto:patriciaharris4@mac.com)**

**Open to members and non-members alike.**

**Other games are welcome.**

**Have fun for a good cause!**



## 2015–2016 LEADERSHIP TEAM

### March 2016

- Mar 2** Morning Books, 10 am, Judi Hamberg
- Mar 7, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, 18, 21, 23, 24, 25**  
SAM Program at Fair Oaks Elem, Ish Mendonsa
- Mar 8** Ways and Means, 1 pm, Gayle Garrison
- Mar 9** In Indelible Ink, 10 am, Marlene Maksel
- Mar 9** Board meeting, 7 pm, Trinka March
- Mar 10** \$tart \$mart Salary Negotiation Wkshp,  
12pm, DVC, Elena Noble
- Mar 16** **Rise Up, Women** with Phyllis Bratt, 7 pm  
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Pleasant Hill
- Mar 17** The Hunting Ground, 7 pm, DVC Forum
- Mar 18** Mah Jongg, 1 pm, Brookview Clubhouse,  
Sherrie Moore
- Mar 21** N.E.W.S. deadline, Reba Siero
- Mar 24** Matinee Idle, Marlene Maksel
- Mar 28** Evening Books, 7 pm, Diane Peterson
- Mar 29** Lunchin' Ladies, 1 pm, Le Sen on Salvio  
Street in Concord, Marlene Maksel
- Mar 30** AAUW Funds (LAF) Game Day, 12:30 pm,  
Brookview Clubhouse, Pat Harris

#### Presidents:

Trinka March 372-8420 [drtrinks@sbcglobal.net](mailto:drtrinks@sbcglobal.net)

Gayle Miner 349-6795 [gayle.miner@yahoo.com](mailto:gayle.miner@yahoo.com)

#### Vice Presidents - Program:

Susan Lawson 285-4430 [susanelawson@comcast.net](mailto:susanelawson@comcast.net)

Priscilla Tudor 790-4095 [ptudorlcsw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ptudorlcsw@sbcglobal.net)

#### Vice Presidents - Membership:

Claudia Bass 372-8679 [cbasslancer29@aol.com](mailto:cbasslancer29@aol.com)

Alana Macdonald 933-4427 [alanam88@gmail.com](mailto:alanam88@gmail.com)

#### Vice Presidents - AAUW Funds

Harriett Burt 372-8038 [hjburt1940@comcast.net](mailto:hjburt1940@comcast.net)

Helen Pereira 685-0757 [helenmp45@aol.com](mailto:helenmp45@aol.com)

#### Secretary:

Jennifer Apkarian 228-2027 [apkarian1@att.net](mailto:apkarian1@att.net)

#### Treasurer:

Joan Foster 254-5232 [joanfoster2002@yahoo.com](mailto:joanfoster2002@yahoo.com)

#### Newsletter Editor:

Reba Siero 228-8211 [rebasiero@yahoo.com](mailto:rebasiero@yahoo.com)

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**Copy deadline for the April 2016 N.E.W.S. is March 21st.** Please email copy to: Reba Siero

[rebasiero@yahoo.com](mailto:rebasiero@yahoo.com)

#### Webmaster

Sherrie Moore 229-4177

[www.aauw-pleasanthill-martinez.org](http://www.aauw-pleasanthill-martinez.org)

#### AAUW C C C Inter-branch Council Chair

Sandy Kirkpatrick (707) 745-2484

[sandykirkpat@earthlink.net](mailto:sandykirkpat@earthlink.net)

CCC IBC website

<http://ccc-ibc-ca.aauw.net/>

#### California State office of AAUW

1331 Garden Highway, Suite 100

Sacramento, CA 95833

[office@aauw-ca.org](mailto:office@aauw-ca.org)

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

#### AAUW National

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

## Ways and Means

The Ways and Means committee will meet Tuesday, March 8th, at 1:00 pm, at home of Gayle Garrison.

798-7528

[tarheel61@yahoo.com](mailto:tarheel61@yahoo.com)

## PH-M AAUW N.E.W.S. SPONSOR

### Montecito Animal Clinic



5280 Pacheco Boulevard  
Pacheco, CA 94553  
925/686-0683  
FAX 925/686-4754



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