



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 59 Issue 1

September 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) 890-0202 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 second 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 second house on the **RIGHT**.



PRESIDENTIAL POSTINGS

It is hard to believe that summer is ending and fall is just around the corner. We are approaching a new year of a variety of activities that support our AAUW mission and have fun in the process. One talks about the “lazy days of summer” but some of our branch members have been very busy with planning for the upcoming year. Thank you to everyone who participated.

Our first event is the **Fall Welcome Brunch** which is our traditional kick-off for the year. It is being held on September 10, 2016 at Marilyn Thelen’s home from 10:00 until noon. This has always been a fun and informative event with an opportunity to get to know more about our branch and AAUW. We will be hearing from our Tech Trek girls and their experience at camp. It is always exciting and gratifying to hear the Tech Trek girls talk about their experiences and how excited they are for the opportunity to attend science camp. Also we will have the opportunity to hear from our sponsored student, Zuhail Rahmani from DVC about her experience at the AAUW student leadership conference at University of Maryland which we are looking forward to. This was coordinated through AAUW Fund. We will also hear about our interest groups and committees as well as socialize. It is a full program and the brunch committee is very busy planning and putting it together. For planning purposes you MUST RSVP and details are on the flyer in this newsletter. You will also receive your new directory. This is a well-attended event and hope to see many of you there.

Our next event will be **“A Taste of Fall”** on October 1st at Margie Pruitt’s home from 3 to 5. This is a new venue from Festa and will be our major fundraiser. The committee has been hard at work planning an elegant affair with food, wine, silent auction gift baskets, raffle and music... Buy your tickets soon (\$40.00 per person) and they will be available at the brunch. Bring cash or your checkbook. We are looking forward to this event and seeing many of you there.

One way to become involved and get to know other members is to join a committee which is a great way to start. Our stand-

ing committees need people and would welcome anyone. The committees are: **Ways and Means** which coordinate the various branch fund raising activities and determines where the money goes; **Local Scholarships** puts together a fundraising event and is involved in selection of the high school scholarship recipients; **Tech Trek** coordinates fundraising activities and selection of the seventh grade girls who will be “science campers” and **AAUW Fund** plans fundraising activities and select our DVC student that we sponsor to attend AAUW National Student Leadership Conference (Nick Whistle) at the University of Maryland. Also this committee sends funds to AAUW National as part of our AAUW mission. If you are interested in joining a committee you can contact Claudia or Jennifer or contact the committee chairs listed in the directory. Committee meetings are also listed in the newsletter.

Carol Walsh will continue to be our Sunshine person. If you know of any member who is ill, having surgery or needs a boost give Carol a call and she can send a card from our branch.

OPEN POSITON: Communication is open and this could be a shared job. If someone is interested or knows someone who would be please contact Jennifer or Claudia. We are open to any suggestions. Thanks.

In closing, we are looking forward to a great year for our branch.

Jennifer and Claudia

SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING:
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2016
7 PM
Rolling Green Clubhouse
(next to Margi Alkire’s home at
51 Rolling Green Circle, Pleasant Hill)
Copy deadline for the October 2016 N.E.W.S. is:
September 18th
Please email copy to:
Reba Siero rebasiero@yahoo.com

TREASURER’S MESSAGE	Joan Foster
Please, write any checks to the branch:	
AAUW Pleasant Hill-Martinez Branch	
Look for the 2016-2017 Proposed Budget for our branch in a separate attachment or document.	



A Taste of Fall

*A benefit for Pleasant Hill-Martinez AAUW
Providing Scholarships for Tech Trek, Local Scholarships, and AAUW Fund*

Saturday, October 1st, 2016

3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

*Hearty appetizers
Wine tasting
featuring local vineyards
Dessert
50/50 raffle and Silent Auction
Live music*

*Margie and Lou Pruitt's home
10 W Hayward Court, Martinez*

Ticket Donation \$40

*Purchase Tickets at the September Brunch from:
Gayle Miner 925-349-6795 Marlene Maksel 925-689-5439
Joy Barden 925-935-7118 Marilyn Thelen 925-228-2600*

Co Chairs: Sherrie Moore and Marlene De Laurenti



INTEREST SECTIONS MEETINGS



****MORNING BOOKS** will meet on Wednesday, September 7, 10 am, at Susanne Rheingruber's. We will be discussing Kristin Hannah's *The Nightingale*. This is a story about WWII and the French Resistance ~ especially about two sisters and their actions during the war. In October our selection is Susan Golman's *The Ice Cream Queen of Orchard Street*. Please join us for great discussions.



****IN INDELIBLE INK** will meet on Wednesday, September 14, 10 am, at Ginny Hargrave's. Our topic will be, 'What famous, or not-so-famous, person would you like to introduce to friends'. In 2003, I'll "published" a book containing some of the section's writings ~ most were sold for \$5, but 12 still remain. Those books will be available for purchase at the Brunch on September 10 for only \$2.



****EVENING BOOKS** will meet on Monday, September 26, 7 pm, at Linda Robbins, 2442 Lariat Lane, W.C. We will be discussing *The Bridal Chair: A Novel* by Gloria Goldreich. The story is told by the daughter of artist Marc Chagall and is a fascinating tale of the famed surrealist artist. In October our selection is *The Sandcastle Girls* by Chris Bohjolan. Plan to join us!



****LUNCHIN' LADIES** will go to lunch on Tuesday, September 20, 1 pm at The Cooperage in Lafayette. Please call by the 17th so reservations can be made. Please let Marlene (marlene@maksel.us) know if you are interested in this section, ~ also if you have an idea for a great restaurant it would be fun for us to try.



****MATINEE IDLE** will go to the movies on Thursday, September 22nd. 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, other liquid refreshment, or frozen yogurt.



OTHER GROUPS

****GRAND SLAMMERS** will play bridge on Monday, September 12th at 12:30 at Brookview Club House.....\$5 per person....\$3 for Local Scholarship Fund and \$2 for rental. All bridge players are welcome. If you would like to play, contact Marlene DeLaurenti at mdl@astound.net or 934-4171

COMMUNITY ~ PLEASANT HILL

Marlene Maksel

Sept. 26th ~ The Annual Golf Classic at the CCC Country Club sponsored by the PH Community Foundation and the Foundation for PH Education ~ fundraiser for "impactful" educational programs throughout the community. If interested call Yvonne Ceresa at 335-9102.

October 1st and 2nd ~ Annual PH Art, Jazz and Wine Fest on Crescent Drive. From 10 – 6 pm on Saturday and 10 – 5 pm on Sunday.

Michelle Lacy will be the new General Manager for the PH Recreation and Park District. In the 65 years of existence, Ms. Lacy is only the 3rd General Manager ~ preceded by Ted Winslow and Bob Berggren.

PH is planning a ½ cent sales tax increase to begin on 4-1-17, if approved by voters. The increased revenue will help provide for a new library, among other deferred maintenance items. The present library has a leaky roof, inadequate heating/air conditioning, asbestos problems and seismic compliance needs.





A Taste of Fall



Our annual fundraiser, **A Taste of Fall**, will be held on **Saturday, October 1st** from **3:00 – 5:00** at **Margie and Lou Pruitt's home** in **Martinez**. The ticket price is \$40. Proceeds help to provide scholarships for local 7th grade girls to attend Tech Trek camp, as well as scholarships for our Alhambra and College Park High School Senior girls, and also support our AAUW Fund.

You will enjoy **hearty appetizers, bite-size desserts, wine tasting by local wineries, and music by a local high school jazz band**. This year, again, we will sell tickets for our 50/50 raffle, and as a special fund raiser, include a richly filled silent auction that will feature many handcrafted items, beautiful baskets, and artwork showcasing local artists and members work. **We can accept cash or checks**. Many of our local merchants have generously donated items or gift cards.

Just to mention a few of our silent auction items: **Sandy Wolfe, Bea Ball, Janet Sullivan, and Gayle Miner** will be offering a **Gourmet Dinner Party for 8**, the **Welch winery, Rancho Las Juntas Vineyard in Martinez**, donated a **wine and food tasting for 16 people with a tour of their vineyard**, our own well known local artist, **Reba Siero**, is offering **hand woven towels** and a stunning **earring and necklace jewelry set**, **Suzanne Salter** has quilted a gorgeous **fall theme placemat and runner set**, **Judi Hamburg** will include a beautiful watercolor painting, **Massage Envy** has donated **an hour massage** that is included in our **Serenity Spa Basket**, our **Entertainment Basket** includes **2 California Magic Dinner Theater tickets for dinner and the show (\$158 value)**, **4 movie tickets to Contra Costa Stadium Cinemas** with leather, recliner seats, and **2 tickets to Armando's Club on Main Street**, **Claudia Bass and Gayle Miner** have assembled a **Golf Basket with 9 holes of Golf and gift cards**, and **Margie Pruitt's husband, Lou**, is donating a **hand crafts wooden butler tray with 2 sizes of napkin holders**. See the complete listing attached to Reba's email.

Tickets are available to purchase from **Gayle Miner** (349-6795), **Joy Barden** (935-7118), **Marlene Maksel** (689-5439) or **Marilyn Thelen** (228-2600). This well-known popular event sells out quickly and space is limited. Tickets may be purchased at the September Brunch. Make your reservations **by September 26th**.



BOOK EXCHANGE - LAST 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.

We are in need of new or "renewing" members to fill the Exchanges.

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.

Don't miss out! (You can purchase 2 or possibly 3 books to join all the Exchanges and double or triple your reading pleasure!) Deadline to reserve your Titles is Tuesday, September 20th. We should begin exchanging books by October 1st.

AAUW FUND

Harriett Burt and Helen Pereira, AAUW Fund VPs

AAUW Fund! Launching a new Branch year

The big news this month is that Ways and Means Committee has approved the fall Tahoe Joe's fundraiser to be held by AAUW Fund Committee. It will take place on **Sunday, November 13**. Tech Trek Committee has chosen instead to present a DVC theater night as its fall fundraiser. Fund will join with Tech Trek to hold a Bocce Tournament next April in place of the spring Tahoe Joe event. We will be forming a committee soon to start the preparation! It will be great fun especially now that we have lots of players from both PH and Mtz (not to mention the community at large)!

We are all looking forward to hearing Zuhail Rahmani, our representative to the National Conference of College Women Student Leaders, at the fall brunch and meeting her charming mother. Zuhail's enthusiasm about the experience is refreshing and inspiring. She starts UC Davis this month but we hope we can snag her for the Northern California Fund Luncheon planned for **Saturday, October 29**. (Put the date on your calendar.)

To hear our fellows and grantees such as Zuhail speak about what our support has meant to them is beyond motivational.....it makes the checkbook the obvious next step! Your annual invitation to contribute to AAUW Fund is in your directory. You are free to designate a specific program or 9110 for unrestricted on the memo line. The latter is being encouraged by National because so many of the established funds have sufficient money for their grants. "Unrestricted" allows the build-up of the new programs such as Tech Trek as needed. The choice is yours. By the way, Tech Trek supporters can designate their contribution to go to the camp our trekkers attend. We will obtain the correct method to support the Sonoma State Camp and still get a tax deduction and put it in the letter.

Send your check with your choice of a specific fund or "unrestricted" to Helen who will log it in and send it to AAUW headquarters in Washington so you get the tax deduction. Not only do you help women achieve their scholastic and career dreams but your donation adds to the amount we have available for Named Gift Honoree awards. Thank you for your continued generosity. Our contributions put PH-Mtz Branch on the international map of commitment to the educational and career advancement of women as well as by being ninth in the state for Branch giving in 2015. Thank you.

EDUCATION

Gayle Duncan

PBS will present "Spotlight Education," during the week of September 12-17. This is a special week of programming, during primetime, which will present reports featuring America's students, and new models of learning. President and CEO of PBS, Paula Kerger, states that, "Spotlight Education, highlights public media's focus on education and our role in convening conversations around how to improve outcomes for students." Special on-air programming will include resources to support teachers. Interactive content modules and a social hub will also be featured during the week. More than 100 public television and radio stations will join with over 1,700 partners in 49 states, to publish stories of students all over the United States, as well as the adults who are responsible for helping them achieve success. Eleven films and documentaries will be aired on local PBS stations, during the week of September 12-17. A special broadcast of the 5th annual American Graduation Day, will end the week. This presentation will celebrate and highlight individuals and non-profits that have been responsible for keeping students focused on graduating from high school. Following the week in September, a year-long campaign, "Teach Boldly," will be led by PBS and local member stations. There will be a variety of virtual and community training events, and a digital space called PBS Teachers' Lounge. "Teachers will be able to share ideas, learn from their peers, and access tools and resources that can be implemented in their classrooms." All the above mentioned programs will be available on the PBS app for both iOS and Android devices. Updates of various programs can be accessed through #SpotlightEduPBS and #amgrad on Twitter. "Public media is committed to providing Americans of all ages with educational content for free and commercial free," said Pat Harrison President and CEO, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting." The Corporation for Public Broadcasting provided a majority of the funding for Spotlight Education. PBS has 350 member stations, with 100 million people watching each month, and 33 million access PBS online. PBS is "committed to supporting education-at home, in the classroom, and in communities."

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Bea Ball and Elva Valli
Membership VPs

Many thanks to all of you for renewing your membership! Well done! As many of you know we do have new members who joined at the Soup Supper. We welcome you again and hope you'll continue to enjoy everything our AAUW branch has to offer.

The Welcome Brunch will be held at Marilyn Thelen's on September 10, at 10:00 A.M. The Brunch Committee is in the middle of organizing this September event. The plans are progressing fairly well, but the committee would be happy to accept any additional help from the members. Contact Bea Ball or Elva Valli if you can help with set-up, menu items, or clean-up. It would be so appreciated.

This event offers the perfect opportunity to bring friends and to introduce them to AAUW and all that AAUW is about. They are prospective members whom our branch would welcome with open arms. Feel free to invite family and friends.

Please RSVP as soon as you can to:

Bea Ball at (925) 890-0202 or beaball@att.net or

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



Jennifer Apkarian, Alana Macdonald, Claudia Bass, Reba Siero, Barbara Minneman, Bea Ball, Elva Valli
Members of the Welcome Brunch Planning Committee

PROGRAMS

Gayle Garrison and Nancy Hobert, Program VPs

In planning programs for our general meetings, we try to have a variety of topics and speakers. There are several "traditional" programs such as our September brunch where we hear girls who attended Tech Trek camp tell about their experience. And various interests groups have information for us. Our ever popular International Soup Supper in January features an international speaker and many delicious soups made by our members. In May we meet our Tech Trek girls who have been selected, and four young women who are awarded a \$1,000 scholarship which is funded by our Local Scholarship donations.

This year our general meeting on **October 19** at 7:00 PM at St. Andrew's, will have Gail Murray, current BART director and former mayor of Walnut Creek, as our speaker. BART will have a bond issue on the November ballot and we need to be informed before we vote. The public is welcome to attend.....invite your friends and neighbors.

Questions concerning programs please call:

Gayle Garrison 798-7528 or tarheel61@yahoo -or- Nancy Hobert 228-7271 or nhobert@aol.com

AAUW has taken a stand on several of the Propositions on the California Ballot on November 8, 2016.

For your information, they are as follows:

Proposition 51: Support - This is a state school bond to address the multi-billion dollar backlog of school construction projects. These projects have been approved by local school board and must meet state program eligibility criteria. School districts will use local funds to match state dollars.

Proposition 52: Support - A "yes" vote supports requiring voter approval to change the dedicated use of certain fees from hospitals used to draw matching federal money and fund Medi-Cal services. The initiative was also designed to require a two-thirds majority vote of the legislature to end the hospital fee program.

A "no" vote opposes this initiative, allowing the legislature to change, extend, or eliminate the hospital fee program with a majority vote.

The California Legislature would be permitted to amend the hospital fee program via a two-thirds vote, but only when the proposed changes "amend or add provisions that further the purposes of the Act."^[1]

Proposition 53: Oppose - A "yes" vote will be a vote in favor of requiring voter approval before the state could issue more than \$2 billion in public infrastructure bonds that would require an increase in taxes or fees for repayment. A "no" vote will be a vote against the voter approval requirement and in favor of continuing to allow the state to issue new debt without voter approval.

A "no" vote will be a vote against the voter approval requirement and in favor of continuing to allow the state to issue new debt without voter approval.

Supporters of Proposition 53 refer to it as the **"No Blank Checks Initiative."**

Proposition 55: Support - Proposition 55 protects our Students and Public Schools from Returning to the Days of Massive Budget Cuts, Educator Layoffs, Larger Classes and Tuition Hikes

California public school funding was cut to the bone during the recession, forcing more than 30,000 teacher layoffs, huge class sizes, and the elimination of programs like music and art that make our kids well-rounded. Public schools and colleges are just starting to come back from these cuts, and unless we pass Prop. 55 to maintain the current income tax rates on the wealthiest Californians, **our schools will lose \$4 billion a year.**

Furthermore, California is facing a severe teacher shortage. **There is a need to hire more than 22,000 teachers next year alone**, and there is still a need to hire education support professionals like library aides, bus drivers and custodians.

Proposition 58: Support

A "yes" vote is a vote **in favor of repealing** most of the 1998 Proposition 227, the "English in Public Schools" Initiative, thus effectively allowing non-English languages to be used in public educational instruction.

A "no" vote is a vote **against repealing** most of the "English in Public Schools" Initiative, which was designed to prohibit non-English languages from being used in public schools.

Proposition 58 was sponsored in the California State Legislature by State Senator Ricardo Lara (D-33) as Senate Bill 1174, or the **Multilingual Education for a 21st Century Economy Act.**

For more information on these propositions, please read your voter pamphlet. And a full report on them will be in the September issue of "Perspective"



2016–2017 LEADERSHIP TEAM

September 2016 and beyond

- Sep 7** Morning Books, Susanne Rheingruber's
- Sep 10** Welcome Brunch, 10 am,
Marilyn Thelen's home
- Sep 12** Grand Slammers bridge, 12:30 pm
Brookview Clubhouse
- Sep 14** Board meeting, 7:00 pm,
Rolling Green Clubhouse
- Sep 14** In Indelible Ink, Ginny Hargrave's
- Sep 18** October N.E.W.S. deadline, Reba Siero
- Sep 20** Lunchin' Ladies,
Marlene Maksel by Sep 17
- Sep 22** Matinee Idle, Marlene Maksel
- Sep 26** Evening Books, Linda Robbins'
- Sep 27** IBC meeting, 7 pm, Atria Park
1656 Pleasant Hill Rd, Lafayette, 3rd floor
- Oct 1** A Taste of Fall, 3 - 5 pm,
Margie and Lou Pruitt's home
- Oct 29** AAUW Fall Fund Luncheon
Crow Canyon Country Club, Danville
- Nov 6** Theater Day, Tech Trek Fundraiser
- Nov 13** AAUW Fund Fundraiser
Tahoe Joe's, Pleasant Hill
- Dec 9** Holiday Party, 6 - 9 pm,
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Concord

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