

Dena Al-Adeeb



Wednesday, April 19th, Program begins at 7:30 pm

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
1601 Mary Dr. Pleasant Hill

Pot Luck dinner at 6:30 pm

Bring your favorite dish to serve at least 6

Please bring your own table service

Drinks and bread will be provided

Questions: Call Gayle Garrison 798-7528

e-mail tarheel61@excite.com

Dena Al-Adeeb is a Ph.D. candidate in the Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies Department, Culture and Representation track with a focus in Arts Politics at New York University. Dena is also an Adjunct Faculty in the Department of Media, Culture and Communication at NYU and a Visiting Instructor at the Pratt School of Architecture and Humanities and Media Studies Department at the Pratt Institute.

Dena's research is related to the United States' military occupation of ancient Iraqi heritage sites and destruction of cultural institutions, such as museums, libraries, and universities. She specifically takes on the case of the 2003 U.S. invasion of Iraq but also makes references to other comparative situations, such as Palestine/Israel, within the larger discourse of cultural destruction and iconoclasm. Her research is situated within representational practices of empire building projects, which are linked to colonial legacies, geopolitical control of the region, international economic trade relations as well as contemporary entrepreneurial institutions, such as the museum. Her work also tackles the construction of the cultural districts in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates and Doha, Qatar in light of Orientalism and how contemporary art production, global consumer economy and the circulation of cultural meaning is being presented and contested. Her scholarship considers intersectional dynamics that revolve around politics of representation, visual culture, memory, violence and power, as well setting these geographies as a spectacle.

Her research takes on a transdisciplinary approach, which provides insight into processes of decolonization through remapping theoretically and visually discursive narratives of representation and subjectivities. She also examines key methodological and theoretical concerns in the visual culture of the West Asia and North Africa regions by examining decolonial architecture and aesthetic practices.





PRESIDENTIAL POSTINGS

“April in Paris, chestnuts in blossom, holiday tables under the trees.” – *E.Y. Harburg*

Spring has sprung! The flowers are in bloom! In that vein, our branch is springing forward with flourishing activity. Our Tech Trek Committee received and interviewed a record number of Middle School applicants for selection to attend camp at Sonoma State University this summer. Our Local Scholarship Committee looks forward to reviewing applications from high school girls planning to attend college in the fall. In addition, our AAUW Fund committee has selected a young woman from DVC to attend NCCWSL in June.

On April 1, at CSU East Bay in Concord, branch members and officers attended an AAUW Leadership Day. It was a great experience to network with women from other branches and share information and ideas to further AAUW’s mission to advance equity for women and girls. We learned helpful conflict resolution skills, explored ways to engage others in modeling the AAUW Value Promise, acquired new tools to advocate and lobby our local policy leaders, and heard a panel discussion on empowering, engaging and retaining new members.

April 4 is Equal Pay Day, symbolizing how far into the year women must work to earn what men earned in the previous year. Last month, branch member **Elena Noble** conducted two Start Smart workshops at the DVC campuses in Pleasant Hill and San Ramon to teach young women entering the work force how to negotiate for a fair and equitable salary. Thank you, Elena, for your hard work and dedication to this important issue.

In March, Tim Farley, Vice President of the Contra Costa Community College District Governing Board, gave an animated speech about the Electoral College, his experience as a Presidential Electoral, attending the Inauguration and participating in the Women’s March in Washington DC with a group of St. Mary’s College students. Speaking of elections, our branch will be holding an election for our 2017-2018 Executive Board

Officers at our next meeting on April 19, a simple process, with no Electoral College participation.

Many of our members may know that in 2017, the Pleasant Hill Branch will be 60 years old, and in 2018, the Martinez Branch will be 70 years old. We are excited to announce that we will be having a Summer Social at the home of **Nancy and Kent Hobert** to commemorate these two important milestones! Please save the date on your calendars for Saturday, July 22 to join other members in an evening of celebration and reminiscences about our two branches which are now joined as one.

AAUW Fund and Tech Trek have formed a committee which is hard at work planning a joint Bocce Tournament Fundraiser in the Fall. We are looking at holding the tournament on Saturday, November 4. Bocce enthusiasts are encouraged to join this committee to help plan what should certainly be a fun event. Please contact **Helen Pereira, Jennifer Apkarian** or **Claudia Bass** if you are interested in assisting.

This month, **Gayle Garrison** and **Nancy Hobert** have arranged for an AAUW Fellow to speak at our general meeting. Our speaker is Dena Al-Adeeb, an American Fellow working on her PH.D in Islamic arts and politics. She is studying the US 2003 invasion of Iraq which resulted in many artifacts and ancient archaeological sites being destroyed. She has spoken briefly to us at the AAUW Fellowship luncheon. Her topic inspired our interest and we wanted to hear more. We hope to see everyone on April 19 for this fascinating program. The meeting will start earlier and include a potluck dinner, so please bring your favorite entrée, appetizer, salad or dessert. More information is included in this newsletter. Looking ahead, our Spring Installation Brunch will be held on Saturday, May 20 at St. Andrew’s Church.

Happy Spring!

Jennifer and Claudia

APRIL BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 2017
7 PM
Rolling Green Clubhouse

Copy deadline for the May/June 2017 N.E.W.S. is:
Monday, April 24th
Remember that this is a 2 month newsletter!

Please email copy to:
 Reba Siero rebasiero@yahoo.com

A Big Month for Fund in our Branch

Shia Stennis of Fairfield will be PH-Mtz Branch's third participant at the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). Fund Committee members returned recently after meeting her, quite impressed and pleased that she will be representing us at NCCWSL

An honor student, Shia earned an Associate of Science degree at Napa Valley College and immediately enrolled in introductory architecture classes at DVC which she will complete in June before entering the University of California at Berkeley to study for a Bachelor's degree in architecture. .

Daniel Abbott, professor of Architecture at DVC who has taught Shia for the past two years, describes her as "mature, attentive, highly studious and very respectful and considerate" of all with whom she comes in contact including her professors and her fellow students.

Shia, who volunteers at Seneca Support Services helping an autistic individual, also has a strong sense of community and a desire to use her interest in architecture and design "to create solutions in order to achieve socio-economic needs for the community whether that is the development of schools, homeless shelters or the preservation of an area." She sees NCCWSL as a way to strengthen her leadership skills so she will be able to make a difference in society in a more impactful way.

We will all have a chance to meet her at the Fall Brunch. Meanwhile, thanks go to Marlene Maksel, Ginny Hargrave and Gayle Miner for their work on the selection and Jennifer Apkarian for finding a low-price non-stop flight on Virgin Airlines to save our budget. And special thanks to all members who worked on and/or participated in the various fundraising events that make this grant possible.

Besides NCCWSL which is part of AAUW Fund, we also contribute to other Fund programs. Fund Fellow Dena Al-Adeeb, subject of another article in this issue, will speak at our April meeting. Marlene wrote an outline of the Fund programs in this issue.

AAUW American Fellow Cloe-Mai Le Gall-Scoville spoke at the last Northern California Fund Luncheon. Her UC-Davis doctoral studies on the impact of racism and women in 19th century European and American literature is supported in part by the Martinez AAUW 50th Anniversary Fund. Fund is local in more ways than one!

Pleasant Hill-Martinez Branch of AAUW has historically been a generous contributor to AAUW Fund, ranking ninth highest in the state in 2016. In the 130 years of Fund, nearly 100 million dollars in over 12,000 fellowships, grants and awards have been given to recipients from the United States and more than 130 other countries. Every contribution of any amount each of us makes truly helps in some way to make the world a better place.

Shia Stennis is congratulated by, from left, Fund Committee members Helen Pereira, Ginny Hargrave, Marlene Maksel and Gayle Miner on being chosen PH-Mtz Branch representative to the 2017 National Conference of College Women Student Leaders at the University of Maryland in early June. Shia is taking architecture classes at DVC prior to entering the University of California Berkeley this fall to major in architecture with an emphasis on community oriented design.





Pleasant Hill - Martinez AAUW Website



Our website will show you everything you need to know about our Pleasant Hill - Martinez branch. Enjoy photos from our February and March Programs on the **Photo Page**.

Do you need some information from one of our previous Newsletters? Go to the **Newsletter Page**. We have Newsletters from the past 11 years.

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

Thank You from Bob Anderson

Bob Anderson would like to thank Charlotte's AAUW friends who brought food to the reception after her Memorial service. Charlotte cherished her friends in AAUW and valued her many years of being a member.

In Memoriam: Helen Reeks

Helen Reeks, a long-time member of Pleasant Hill AAUW, passed away on March 16, at the age of 98. She was active in the Branch for many years and enjoyed all of the activities.

A memorial service for her will be held at Hillcrest Congregational Church on April 15 at 11 am

INTEREST SECTIONS MEETINGS



****MORNING BOOKS** will meet on Wednesday, April 5, 10 am, at Joan Foster's. We will be discussing *Songs of Willow Frost* by Jamie Ford. As in his earlier books, this one takes place partly in Seattle, where an orphaned boy searches for his mother. In May we will be discussing *At the Edge of the Orchard* by Tracy Chevalier. Please join us for great discussions.



****IN INDELIBLE INK** will meet on Wednesday, April 12, 10 am, at Ginny Hargrave's. Our topic will be "My Perfect Vacation" ~ you don't have to travel far to have a good vacation; tell us about a memorable weekend, or a tour of foreign lands. Fiction or fact ~ both okay! We welcome oral versions as well as written. Come and try us out!



****LUNCHIN' LADIES** will meet for lunch on Thursday, April 20, 1 pm, at Rooftop Restaurant and Bar in Walnut Creek. This restaurant has been open for almost 1 year, so some of you have tried it already. It's on the 3rd floor (rooftop) of 1500 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Please call Marlene (689-5439) for reservations before Tuesday the 18th of April. Also, please tell Marlene if you are interested in this section ~ and if you have an idea for a great restaurant it would be fun for us to try.



****EVENING BOOKS** will meet on Monday, April 24, 7 pm, at Gayle Garrison's. We will be discussing *Dead Wake* by Erik Larsen. This is a fascinating, poignant story of the sinking of the Lusitania ~ and life aboard the tiny U-Boats of WWII. In May we will be meeting at a restaurant for dinner ~ no book discussion, but we will start planning for next year! Plan to join us!



****MATINEE IDLE** will go to the movies on Thursday, April 27 on our regular 4th Thursday. Call Marlene (689-5439), if you have any suggestions for a movie. We always discuss the film after over coffee, other liquid refreshment, or frozen yogurt ~ sometimes, lunch!

Branch Officer Installation Tech Trek and Local Scholarship Recipients Celebration

Gayle Garrison and Nancy Hobert
Program VPs

Save the Date

Our final meeting of the year is on May 20th. We will install our officers for next year and celebrate our Tech Trek and Local Scholarship recipients. We'll enjoy a lovely brunch on a beautiful spring day.

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

OTHER GROUPS



****GRAND SLAMMERS** will play bridge on Monday, April 10th at 12:30 at Brookview Club House. Each player pays \$5, with \$3 for Local Scholarship Fund and \$2 for room rental. All levels of players are welcome, members and non-members.

Contact Gayle Garrison at (925) 798-7528 or tarheel61@excite.com if you would like to play.



****MAH JONGG**

COME PLAY MAH JONGG!

Mah Jongg meets at 12:30 PM on April 21st, at Brookview Clubhouse.

There is a \$2.00 per person charge for the clubhouse rental. If you don't know how to play Mah Jongg, but would like to learn, we will be happy to teach you.

Reservations are a must each month, so contact Suzanne Salter at (925) 935-0861, email: seabear2@msn.com OR Gayle Miner at (925) 349-6795, email: gayle.miner@yahoo.com

We play on the 3rd Friday of the month We would love to have you join our group.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Bea Ball and Elva Valli, Membership VPs

It's that time of year for many people. We don't mean taxes, we mean dues. For our AAUW members it means time to renew by paying our 2017-2018 dues. The amount is \$87.00 and is broken down in the following manner: \$49.00 to national, \$20.00 to state and \$18.00 to our branch. The reminder letters have been mailed along with the information forms which help keep our directory up to date. If there have been any changes in your information, please use the form to make the corrections and return it to us with your dues check. Even if there are no changes, please return the form noting "no changes." Remember that checks must be written "payable to" AAUW Pleasant Hill-Martinez Branch. (no abbreviations)

There is an Early Bird bonus when you pay your dues! The magic date is April 17th. Those early bird members' names will go into a hat and 3 winners will be announced at the April 19th general meeting. Their national dues will be paid for them!!! So it pays to be an early bird.

Happy Spring! Enjoy the sunshine.

Bea Ball -890-0202

Elva Valli -228-8056



Elena Noble (PH-M), Elaine Groen (C), Diane Bell-Rettger (OML), Sara Lautenbach (WC-OML), Marie Bonilla (OML) and Jill West (OML)
Start Smart Facilitators AAUW IBC CCC

During the Month of March, Start Smart Wage Negotiation Workshops were conducted for sixty-four Diablo Valley College Students. Classes were offered at both Pleasant Hill and San Ramon Campuses. Based on the exit surveys, the students expressed gratitude for information on the Gender Gap and Equal Pay. We want to thank **Catherine Franco, Melissa Jacobsen** and **Bridgette Schaffer** of **DVC**, who helped coordinate each event.

Appreciation and thanks to the nine branches of AAUW Inter Branch Council who purchased the three year license for the Contra Costa College District. (Please note that Los Medanos and Contra Costa College were also offered the free



classes, but did not respond to our many calls and emails.)

April 4th is Equal Pay Day for 2017. This means a women, doing the same job as a male colleague will finally catch up with the salary he made ending Dec. 31, 2016.

The key to Wage Negotiation is, "Know Your Value and ASK for what you are Worth."

Pass it along.

Elena Noble enoble4@astound.net

WHAT IS AN AAUW FELLOWSHIP/GRANT?

AAUW is one of the world's largest sources of funding for graduate women. In the 2016-17 academic year, AAUW provided more than \$3.7 million in funding for more than 230 fellowships and grants to outstanding women and nonprofit organizations.

Fellowship and grant recipients perform research in a wide range of disciplines and work to improve their schools and communities. Their intellect, dedication, imagination, and effort promise to forge new paths in scholarship, improve the quality of life for all, and tackle the educational and social barriers facing women worldwide.

Fellowship and Grants: Who may apply

American Fellowships:

Women pursuing full-time study to complete dissertations, conducting postdoctoral research full time, or preparing research for publication for eight consecutive weeks.

Funding: \$6,000 - \$30,000

Career Development Grants:

Women pursuing a certificate or degree to advance their careers, change careers, or reenter the workforce and whose bachelor's degree was received at least 5 years before the award period. Funding: \$2,000 - \$12,000

Community Action Grants:

Individuals, AAUW branches and states, and nonprofit organizations for funding innovative programs or non-degree research projects that promote education and equity for women and girls. Funding: \$2,000 - \$10,000

International Fellowships:

Women pursuing full-time graduate or postdoctoral study in the US who are not US citizens or permanent residents. Funding: \$18,000 - \$30,000

International Project Grants:

Alumnae of AAUW's International Fellowships program who are living in their home countries and pursuing community-based projects to improve the social advancement and economic empowerment of women and girls.

Funding: \$5,000 - \$7,000



60 + 70 + 6 adds up to 136 Years of Pleasant Hill-Martinez AAUW

Let's Have a Party!

At a recent Board meeting it was mentioned that 2017 is Pleasant Hill's 60th anniversary and 2018 is Martinez's 70th. It's also the sixth year we've been a united branch. It was a short step from that conversation to the "let's celebrate" part.

So **SAVE THE DATE of JULY 22** when we will have a Summer Social to mark the anniversaries. Thanks to Nancy and Kent Hobert who have offered their lovely home and yard. The next step is to plan the party. An enthusiastic group met on March 21st at Margie Alkire's to start planning.

Preliminary decisions are to have dinner catered by Cynthia Espinoza for a reasonable per person price, to have a fun but relatively short and unobtrusive program instead of the more formal one we both did 10 years ago, to drag out the scrapbooks for people to look at and mainly just to enjoy ourselves like we always do at a Summer Social!

Ideas and help are very welcome. So far, we have Margie, Nancy Hobert, Harriett Burt, Charlotte Liniger, Jennifer Apkarian, Gayle Miner, Marlene Maksel, Sarah Joy Haynes, Claudia and Muriel Fry involved. Let us know if you want to help and most of all, mark the date on your calendar.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

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

PH-MTZ BRANCH of AAUW

SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2017-2018

Co-Presidents: Jennifer Apkarian and Claudia Bass

VP Programs: Bambi Barker and Sally Figueiredo

VP Membership: Bea Ball and Elva Valli

**VP AAUW Funds: Barbara Chambers
and Marlene Maksel**

Secretary: Gayle Miner

Treasurer: Trinkia March

The election will be held on April 19th 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 Spokesperson

AMAZON SMILE

Amazon Smile is a way to use Amazon that allows you to give a small percentage of your purchases to an approved charity of your choice. Our branch is not a 501(c)(3) organization, but two AAUW charities that are, are listed here:

American Association of University Women
(which is an AAUW National charity)

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN
Special Projects Fund

(which is an AAUW-CA State charity)

Just go to: <https://smile.amazon.com/>

and sign in there to choose the charity you want to support.



2016–2017 LEADERSHIP TEAM

April 2017 and beyond

- Apr 5** Morning Books, 10 am, Joan Foster's
- Apr 10** Grand Slammers Bridge, 12:30 pm,
Brookview Clubhouse
- Apr 12** In Indelible Ink, 10 am,
Ginny Hargrave's
- Apr 12** Board meeting, 7 pm,
Rolling Green Clubhouse
- Apr 19** Annual Meeting of the Branch, 7 pm,
Election, Dena Al-Adeeb to speak
St Andrew's Presbyterian Church
- Apr 20** Lunchin' Ladies, 1 pm,
Rooftop Restaurant and Bar, Walnut Creek
- Apr 21** Mah Jongg, 12:30 pm
Brookview Clubhouse
- Apr 24** May/June 2017 N.E.W.S. deadline to Reba
- Apr 24** Evening Books, 7 pm, Gayle Garrison's
- Apr 27** Matinee Idle, Marlene Maksel
- May 10** Board meeting, 7 pm,
Rolling Green Clubhouse
- May 20** Installation of Officers for 2017-2018
Tech Trek and Local Scholarship presentations
St Andrew's Presbyterian Church
- Jun 14** Joint Board meeting, 7 pm,
Location TBA

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