



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 60 Issue 4

December 2017



International Soup Supper

Our Pleasant Hill-Martinez Branch will hold its Annual International Soup Supper followed by Lara DeLaney's presentation. Lara has worked in the Contra Costa County Administrator's Office for eighteen years and has been recently named the Director of the Office of Reentry & Justice. She has also been a Martinez city council member since 2002.

BUT... the reason Lara is speaking for our Soup Supper is to share her fascinating childhood tales while growing up in Saudi Arabia!!

Please join us for hearty, homemade soups, breads, and desserts. Coffee and tea will be provided but be sure to bring your own soup bowl and spoon. Dinner starts promptly at 6PM and remember that spouses, mates, and friends are most welcome :)

Wednesday, January 24, 2018, 6PM

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

1601 Mary Drive, Pleasant Hill

~ Each AAUW *attending* member may provide a pot of soup serving 10-12 **OR** pay \$10 at the door.

RSVP by January 18th as to your attendance and # of guests (at \$10 each).

Co-chair Margie Pruitt * 372-8789 * mlpruitt@comcast.net

Co-chair Carol Walsh

Thank you!





PRESIDENTIAL POSTINGS

The year has flown by quickly and the holiday season is in full swing. It is a time of sharing and caring, a time to celebrate with those we hold dear, a time to reflect on the past year and a time to look to the future. It is also a time to think about ways to provide service to others, whether it is helping out in a soup kitchen, distributing food to the hungry, providing a toy to a child in need, or furthering AAUW's cause to advance equity for women and girls.

On Saturday, November 4, AAUW Fund and Tech Trek held a joint fundraiser which was also a "funraiser", and gathered together members and friends for a Bowling Blast at Paddock Bowl in Pacheco. There were strikes and spares galore, along with a good amount of gutter balls. Everyone really did have a blast, with the winners of team Hawk and Roll winning the grand prize which was a bottle of wine for each player. Much appreciation goes to **Helen Pereira** and her committee for bringing this event together amidst a change in course from Bocce to Bowling due to unforeseen logistical circumstances. The event really came together very well.

On Wednesday, November 15, our general meeting was a field trip to Las Juntas Elementary School for a demonstration of their S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) Lab in live action. After a scrumptious meal of pizza and salad, Principal Crystal Castaneda and a group of Shell engineers who also set up and are active participants showed us a slide presentation demonstrating how the lab works and the components involved. Then we got a chance to experience the lab ourselves. We were like kids ourselves, playing with magnetic circuits, navigating robots on a colored lines which could be color programmed to direct the robots to follow our commands, and participating in other fun activities. We didn't want to leave the lab and wanted to come back and play again.

At the meeting, our branch elected Nominating Committee

members who will recruit prospective officers to the 2018-2019 Executive Board. Committee members are as follows: **Marlene Maksel**, **Elva Valli** and **Diane Coventry** (alternate) from the board; **Marlene De Laurenti**, **Janice Walker**, **Sandy Wolfe** and **Harriett Burt** (alternate) from the general membership. Please contact any of those listed above with suggestions for next year's officers. Remember, self-recruiting is entirely acceptable!

November was a very active month for our branch. Tech Trek held a fundraiser on Saturday,, November 18 at Painting with a Twist in Pleasant Hill. A group of us got together and each of us painted our own version of *Starry Night over the Golden Gate* after Vincent Van Gogh's *Starry Night*. With step by step instruction by an experienced local artist, we were able to bring out our inner artists. While most of us didn't see ourselves on the caliber of Vincent Van Gogh, the end result was that we each created our own unique masterpieces with the help of a little wine. It was a fun and fulfilling experience and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. Many thanks to **Diane Coventry** and **Sherrie Moore** for organizing a fantastic afternoon of artistic endeavors.

It was mentioned in the November newsletter that the SAM program at Fair Oaks Elementary School is returning. This is an update that the dates for this program have changed from November to January. More information will be forthcoming. Thank you again to **Suzanne Mesetz** for organizing this special program. Volunteers will need to be finger printed and tested for TB as district policy. At Fair Oaks there is a student store where students earn points for good behavior and accomplishments, and as a result get coupons, which they redeem for an item from the store. Currently the principal is running the store and Suzanne is looking for a store coordinator and volunteer to hand out the items twice a month. If you are interested you can contact **Suzanne**, **Claudia** or **Jennifer**. Donations for the store are also welcome with the exception of stuffed toys.

On Wednesday, January 24, 2018, our branch will enjoy our ever-popular Soup Supper. Don't miss out on these hearty and delicious homemade soups, prepared and introduced by our members. Sign up by contacting co-chairs **Margie Pruitt** or **Carol Walsh** - to bring soup, bread, dessert, or to help in other ways. For those interested in participating in activities held by other branches in our area, please visit the AAUW Contra Costa County Interbranch Council website at <http://ccc-ibc-ca.aauw.net/>.

Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season surrounded by loved ones and filled with peace and joy!

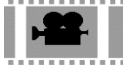
Jennifer and Claudia



INTEREST SECTIONS MEETINGS



****MORNING BOOKS** will meet on Wednesday, December 6, 10 am, at Carol Walsh's. PLEASE let your hostess know you will be attending. We will be discussing *Vinegar Girl* by Anne Tyler. This is billed as a modern-day version of Shakespeare's "The Taming of the Shrew." Do you agree? Come and find out what others thought. For January, we will read *Last Bus to Wisdom* by Ivan Doig. Plan to join us for all of the discussions.



****MATINEE IDLE** will go to the movies on Thursday, **DECEMBER 7th** ~ a change from our regular 4th Thursday due the holidays. 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!



****LUNCHIN' LADIES** will not meet in December. In January we will meet for lunch on the 3rd Tuesday ~ restaurant to be announced later. Also, please give Marlene any suggestions for a great restaurant it would be fun for us to try.



****IN INDELIBLE INK** will not meet in December. In January our topic will be "Treasures in Our Garage or Attic." Please join us! We would welcome some new writers! We like oral versions, too.



****EVENING BOOKS** will not meet in December. For January, we will read *Our Souls at Night* by Kent Haruf. Please join us!

Please, write any checks to the branch:
AAUW Pleasant Hill-Martinez Branch

OTHER GROUPS



****MAH JONGG**

COME PLAY MAH JONGG!

Mah Jongg meets at 12:30 PM on Friday, December 15th, 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. Contact:

Suzanne Salter at 925-935-0861, seabear2@msn.com

Gayle Miner at 925-349-6795, gayle.miner@yahoo.com

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



****GRAND SLAMMERS**, a social bridge group, plays on the second Monday of each month at 12:30 at the Brookview Club House.

This month we meet on Monday, December 11th.

Each player pays \$5, which covers \$3 for our Local Scholarship Fund and \$2 for facility use. All player levels are welcome, members and non-members.

Contact Marlene DeLaurenti at mdl@astound.net or 925-934-4171 if you are interested in playing.

Nominating Committee for 2017-2018

The Nominating Committee for 2017-2018 was elected at the general meeting on November 15th.

There are three members from the Board:

Marlene Maksel

Elva Valli

Diane Coventry, alternate

And four members from the general membership:

Marlene De Laurenti

Janice Walker

Sandy Wolfe

Harriett Burt, alternate

Marilyn Thelen, Parliamentarian

925-228-2600

ilmthelen@comcast.net

SAM PROGRAM

Suzanne Mesetz

The topic of Cave Painting is scheduled for mid-January. There is a list of volunteers, and if anyone else would like to help, please let me know.

Jon Pierce, the principal, has told me that the store format will change. There will be a catalogue for the grades, except for kindergarten. He would appreciate having some volunteers for the kindergarten store. I believe the store will be open once or, at most, twice a month. Even if you volunteer just once, enough volunteers could keep it going.

Suzanne Mesetz

gmasm39@yahoo.com

925-939-2132

NO DECEMBER BOARD MEETING

JANUARY BOARD MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2018

7 PM

Rolling Green Clubhouse

Copy deadline for the

January 2018 N.E.W.S. is:

Thursday, December 28th

Please email copy to:

Reba Siero rebasiero@yahoo.com

925-228-8211

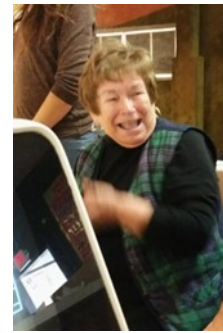
EDUCATION

Gayle Duncan

Tina Hayes, is the owner of The School of Etiquette and Decorum. For the past decade, Tina has been teaching the basics and finer points of good manners from kindergarteners to college students in the East Bay and beyond. Ms. Hayes enters classrooms dressed stylishly and impeccably groomed. She offers five-to-eight week after school courses, sponsored by school districts and various organizations, so there is no cost to the students. Tina lectures on a variety of topics: polite conversation, party etiquette, gifts, thank you notes, RSVP's, profanity, talking on cellphones too loudly in public places, and saggy pants. She states to the students, "Gentlemen, no one wants to see your underclothes." She also offers instruction, to young men, on how to converse with their date's parents. Tina emphasizes how important first impressions are. She tells the students that, "Strangers will form an opinion about you within seven seconds after the introduction." She instructs youngsters how to express sincere apologies, and the six do's and don'ts of a proper handshake. Ms. Hayes recently gave two Middle School students 30 seconds to arrange a heap of plates and silverware into a proper table setting. Middle School students also will get to test their knowledge of table manners at a four-course dinner Hayes will host at Lone Tree Golf Course in December. Tina equates etiquette with success. She tells the students of her own difficulties in the corporate world. She had no confidence networking or speaking in front of groups; eating in expensive restaurants was intimidating, not knowing her way around a place setting. Tina stresses to students how important it is to learn proper etiquette now, and then they will have that skill set when they reach adulthood. Ms. Hayes' services are important in an age when respect is lacking in many areas. Civility to one another has become a thing of the past. Tina blames prime time TV more than poor parenting. She states, "On TV, everything is sex, rudeness, backstabbing, and cussing, so what can the children learn, if that's all that's in front of them?" Students have signed up for her after school class to "see what etiquette means", and "to pick something in your spare time to do besides watching TV or playing video games." In addition to Antioch, Tina has traveled to Oakley, Pittsburg, Lafayette, Vallejo, Fairfield, Turlock, and Tracy, where her six week class is mandatory at one of the area high schools. Hayes also speaks at the Richmond Police crime prevention activities the department hosts for youth, and visits teens in the Sacramento Police Department's cadet program.



Pleasant Hill - Martinez AAUW Website



Our website will show you everything you need to know about our Pleasant Hill - Martinez branch. See pictures from our November Program on the **Photos Page**. Check out photos from our November fundraisers 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



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Bea Ball and Elva Valli, Membership VPs

When we find ourselves needing sweaters, coats, and a time change we know we're approaching the holiday season. It's a festive and happy time of year for many people, but unfortunately not so for so many who were victims of fires, hurricanes and floods. This is the wonderful time of year when people strongly feel the spirit of giving. This year it's definitely needed. Your membership VPs wish you a blessed and healthy Christmas season.

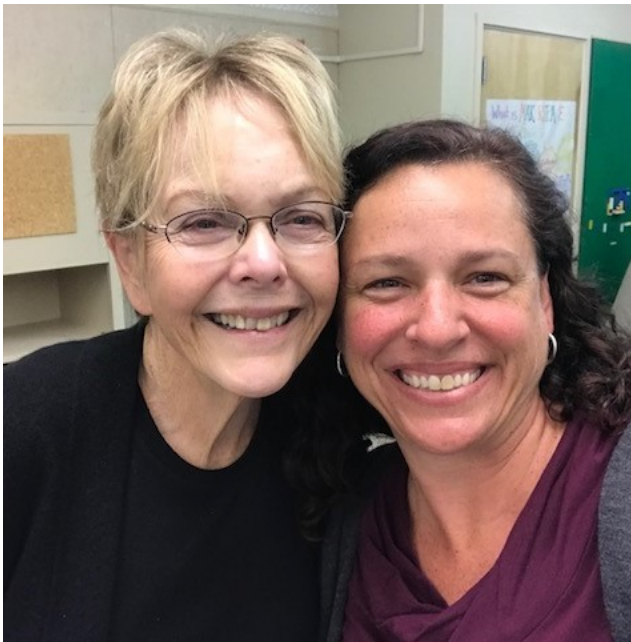
We have new members whom we hope you'll soon meet. Their names and information were in the last several newsletters. There will be an additional new member. Gayle Costanza is interested and hopes to join us in the very near future.

Bea and I will be hosting a New Member dessert and wine evening on December 13th at 7:00 P.M. We look forward to welcoming and getting to know all of the women who have recently joined.

Bea Ball at (925) 890-0202 and Elva Valli at (925) 228-8056

Branch member, Joy Barden, passed away on Wednesday, November 29th. No service is scheduled as yet.

More information will be published as we learn it.



PH-M AAUW Program co-VP, Bambi Barker, and Las Juntas Elementary School Principal, Crystal Casteneda, at the November 15th PH-M AAUW visit to the S.T.E.A.M. Lab

SUNSHINE

Gayle Garrison

When a member needs a get well card, sympathy card, or just a thinking of you, please let me know.

Gayle Garrison

tarheel61@yahoo.com or 925-798-7528



PH-M AAUW branch members visit the S.T.E.A.M. Lab, guided by Shell engineers, Katie Clasen and Jackie Brew.

From Suzanne Mesetz:

There is a PGE rebate program, available to anyone who has a PGE bill. It is completely free. PGE will send someone to assess your home's needs. Call Joy at 510-417-9821.

They will replace light bulbs, do caulking, give you a microwave and power strips, install new shower heads and insulation in your attic, and install a new water heater cover. They will also check your air conditioner and pump new coolant into it.

2017–2018 LEADERSHIP TEAM

December 2017 and beyond

- Dec 6** Morning Books, 10 am, Carol Walsh
Dec 7 Matinee Idle, Marlene Maksel
Dec 8 & 9 DAWC AAUW Holiday Home Tour
Dec 11 Grand Slammers Bridge, 12:30 pm,
Brookview Clubhouse
Dec 15 Mah Jongg, 12:30 pm,
Brookview Clubhouse
Dec 28 January 2018 N.E.W.S. deadline to Reba
Jan 10, 2018 Board meeting, 7 pm,
Rolling Green Clubhouse
Jan 24, 2018 Soup Supper - Lara Delaney,
"Growing up in Saudi Arabia"
Feb 21, 2018 Ann Notarangelo
"From Here to There: TV News and Beyond"
Mar 21, 2018 Cathy Foxhoven
Leader on Loan: AAUW Program
Apr 18, 2018 Prof. Mary Volmer
"Women and the California Gold Rush"
May 19, 2018 A Salute to Spring, 3 - 6 pm,
Cheryl Buscaglia's home
Jun 2, 2018 End of Year Brunch
Scholarship & Tech Trek Awards
Installation of Officers

Presidents

- Jennifer Apkarian 228-2027 apkarian1@att.net
Claudia Bass 372-8679 cbasslancer29@aol.com

Vice Presidents - Program

- Bambi Barker 229-1720 fanciphree@comcast.net
Sally Figueiredo 890-0675 sallyfigueiredo@comcast.net

Vice Presidents - Membership

- Bea Ball 890-0202 beaball@att.net
Elva Valli 228-8056 wevalli@sbcglobal.net

Vice Presidents - AAUW Fund

- Barbara Chambers 229-5837 ccrecbarb@gmail.com
Marlene Maksel 689-5439 marlene@maksiel.us

Secretary

- Gayle Miner 349-6795 gayle.miner@yahoo.com

Treasurer

- Trinka March 372-8420 drtrinks@sbcglobal.net

Newsletter Editor

- Reba Siero 228-8211 rebasiero@yahoo.com

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rebasiero@yahoo.com

Webmaster

Sherrie Moore 229-4177

www.aauw-pleasanthill-martinez.org

AAUW C C C Inter-branch Council

Cindy Alpert, Chair (925) 829-7813

alpert@pacbell.net

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

California State Office of AAUW

1331 Garden Highway, Suite 100

Sacramento, CA 95833

office@aauw-ca.org (916) 448-7795

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

AAUW National Office

connect@aauw.org (800) 326-2289

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



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.