



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 1

September 2017

Pleasant Hill-Martinez AAUW SEPTEMBER WELCOME BRUNCH

Saturday, September 16th, 2017

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 2017-2018 Directory
- ◇ Bring a friend/prospective member

RSVP to:

Bea Ball at (925) 825-3622 or beaball@att.net or
Elva Valli at (925) 228-8056 or wevalli@sbcglobal.net

RSVP by:

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11th

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 appears that fall is around the corner and the magic of summer will be heading out but alas time has a way of marching on. Many members have been busy planning activities during the summer for the upcoming year to support AAUW missions and having fun in the process.

But before we get into fall, we need to reflect on time as our branches have been around a long while; Pleasant Hill this year is 60 years old, next year Martinez 70 years and combined branches for 6 years. Part of the magic of summer was our "anniversary gala". It was a magical evening stretching into a beautiful balmy summer evening. Many members gathered at the lovely home of Nancy and Kent Hobert and enjoyed each other's company, excellent food, playing a get to know you game and reminiscing by watching the power point of pictures through the years and enjoying AAUW memory items. Everyone had a great time including spouses and guests. This would not have been possible without the help of the committee and a big thanks goes out to Charlotte Liniger, Margi Alkire, Sandy Wolfe, Joan Foster, Marilyn Thelen, Harriett Burt, Marlene Maksel and last but not least Nancy Hobert for hosting and putting together the power point. What a fun group. Also kudos to Cynthia's Catering for the outstanding food.

Our first event to kick off the year is the **Fall Welcome Brunch**. It is being held on Saturday, September 16th at Marilyn Thelen's home from 10:00 until noon. This is always a high energy event and a fun time to get together. We will be hearing from our 6 Tech Trek campers and we always enjoy hearing about their experiences at science camp and how meaningful it was to them. Another presentation will be Shia Stennis who was the DVC student that we sent to the AAUW student leadership conference at University of Maryland which was coordinated through AAUW Fund. From the feedback she has given us it will be great for other members to hear about her positive experience. In keeping with tradition you will hear about the interest groups and various committees that you can become involved in. You will be receiving your new directory. So looking forward to seeing everyone at Marilyn's to kick off a great year. This is a great event to bring guests and potential members.

Unfortunately our bocce ball fundraiser had to be cancelled due to changes at the NorCal facilities as the bocce ball courts are being taken out. The committee was very disappointed

but reconvened to think of an alternative plan for a fundraiser. Many thanks to the following committee members who worked hard for several months and they are Harriett Burt, Nancy Hobert, Elena Noble, Penny Harris, Charlotte Liniger, Diane Coventry, Janet Andronis, Pat Harris, Muriel Fry, Trinkka March, Gayle Miner and Barbara Chambers. And great appreciation goes to Helen Pereira for leading the committee and setting up the event at NorCal.

The committee has met and we are now having a bowling tournament on November 4. It will be held at Paddock Bowl which was luckily available on the same day that we scheduled the bocce ball tournament. So the committee is busy putting together this fundraiser which is for Tech Trek and AAUW Fund. It should be fun and even if you don't bowl invite your friends and family. Thank you Helen Pereira for lining this up.

After bowling, the next fundraising event will be Saturday, November 18. It will be held at Painting with a Twist in Pleasant Hill. It will be a time for us to become creative and have fun in the process. Space is limited so sign up early. This will benefit Tech Trek.

Looking way forward, our major fundraiser will be this spring May 19, 2018 and will be called "A Salute to Spring". It will be a similar format as "A Taste of Fall". So keep that date in mind and mark on your calendar if you have a 2018 calendar. The committee is already busy with the planning phase. If you would like to help contact Marlene DeLaurenti or Janice Walker. It is fun and a great way to get to know other members.

AAUW Interbranch Council (our branch is a member) and Junior League East Bay are sponsoring a workshop on how to get involved in your local community by being appointed to a board or commission. All the ins and outs on how one goes about the process will be presented. It has been found that women are underrepresented in government which includes boards and commissions. It will be held Tuesday, October 12 at 6:30 at the Civic Park Community Center in Walnut Creek. This workshop is being put together by the California Women Lead organization and State Assemblywoman Catherine Baker. It should be very informative and we hope several members of our branch can attend and represent us well. If you are thinking about it let us know and maybe we can carpool. This event is open to the public so spread the word.

Our sunshine person this year is Gayle Garrison. If you know of any member who is ill, having surgery, lost a loved one or just needs a boost give Gayle a call or email and she can send a card from our branch.

OPEN POSITION: Community for Pleasant Hill is open and this can be a shared job. Basically this person gathers community events being held in Pleasant Hill and puts the information in our newsletter. If anyone is interested contact Jennifer or Claudia. Thanks.

We are off and running and looking forward to a great year for our branch!!!

Jennifer and Claudia

INTEREST SECTIONS MEETINGS



****MORNING BOOKS** will meet on Wednesday, September 6th, 10 am, at Margi Alkire's. We will be discussing Gill Paul's *The Secret Wife* ~ a romanticized version of the revolution in Russia and the Romanov family. A family connection brings the story into the 21st century. In October, we will be reading *Hillbilly Elegy* by J. D. Vance. Plan to join us for all of the discussions.



****IN INDELIBLE INK** will meet on Wednesday, September 13th, 10 am, at Ginny Hargrave's. The topic will be that old standard, "How I Spent My Summer." Did you do something interesting? Read a good book? Take a trip? Join us with your thoughts. We would welcome some new writers!



****LUNCHIN' LADIES** will meet on Tuesday, September 19th, 1 pm, at Wise Girl Ristorante in Pleasant Hill. Please let Marlene know by the 17th if you are interested in lunching then (689-5439). 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, September 25th, 7 pm, at Linda Robbins', 2442 Lariat Lane, W. C. Please let your hostess know if you will be attending (932-2351). We will be discussing Amor Towles' *A Gentleman in Moscow*. The story is about Count Rostov, a Russian aristocrat, who is under house arrest for supposed ties to the revolution and the events that swirl around him. In October, we will be reading *The Silent Sister* by Diane Chamberlain. Please join us!



****MATINEE IDLE** will go to the movies on Thursday, September 28th 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!

BOOK EXCHANGE - LAST CALL!

Final call for your annual opportunity to join the BOOK EXCHANGE! Read up to 12 hardbacks published in 2017 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 @ 925-934-3528 (Home) or 925-286-2223 (Cell) or mkhbibliophile@aol.com with your selected title and author **PRIOR** to purchasing your book.

We currently have 2 Exchange Groups. Don't miss out! Reserve your Titles - and your places in the Exchanges - now. Deadline for joining is Wednesday, September 20th. We should begin exchanging books by October 1st. Give our section a try - no meetings to attend!



SAVE THE DATE!

****NIMBLE FINGERS** will return on Wednesday, October 18th.

Contact Suzanne Mesetz for more information, gmasm39@yahoo.com or 925-939-2132.

SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2017
7 PM
Rolling Green Clubhouse

Copy deadline for the
October 2017 N.E.W.S. is:
Friday, September 22nd

Please email copy to:

Reba Siero rebasiero@yahoo.com

Outlook Is Going Digital!

Starting with the summer 2017 issue, *AAUW Outlook* will be going digital. You'll still get the same insight about the issues that affect women and girls the most, but with more content. Make sure we have your preferred email address on file, and look out for this issue in your inbox!

OTHER GROUPS



****MAH JONGG**

COME PLAY MAH JONGG!

Mah Jongg meets at 12:30 PM on Friday, September 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, 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.



****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, September 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.

PH-M AAUW Memories

Nancy Hobert has the photos from the PH and Martinez scrapbooks that were scrolling along on a laptop at the summer "Celebrating Together" gathering in July.

They are in electronic form and if you would like a copy, please bring Nancy a memory stick (thumb drive, jump drive, etc) and she will make you a copy.

Nancy Hobert
nhobert@aol.com
925-228-7271



SAVE THE DATE !

BOWLING TOURNAMENT
to benefit

Tech Trek and AAUW Fund

Saturday, November 4, 2017
12:30 - 4:30 PM

Paddock Bowl
5915 Pacheco Blvd.
Martinez

Registration forms and more details will be available at the September 16th Brunch and in the October edition of the N.E.W.S.

**FAMILY TEAMS and
ALL AGES ENCOURAGED!**



K I N D E R ' S K I N D E R ' S K I N D E R ' S

Who doesn't like Kinder's sandwiches???

**One \$10 ticket gets you a sandwich and a drink
AND \$4 goes to AAUW Fund**

**Tickets are valid for 4 months
At Kinder's in Nob Hill Shopping Center**

**Buy now!!
Fund committee members will have
tickets for sale at the September Brunch
and other events**

Who doesn't like Kinder's sandwiches???

WITH SYMPATHY

Two members of our branch recently passed away. Our sympathy to the family of Leslie Rueb and to the family of Yvonne Cottrell. Their obituaries were in the EAST BAY TIMES and are in this newsletter. Our branch makes a donation of \$25 to AAUW Fund in honor of a member who passes away. This, in part, is thanks for their contribution to our branch and to the importance of education for women.

Charles (Chuck) Thompson, husband of member, Shirlee Thompson, passed away on July 1. He was a "member of the Greatest Generation" and a POW in Germany in WWII. Chuck always supported AAUW. Our sympathy to Shirlee and her family.

Eileen Bordenave's daughter-in-law, a resident of Chico, passed away very suddenly. Our sympathy to Eileen and all her family.

Gayle Garrison

925-798-7528

tarheel61@yahoo.com



Leslie Rueb December 11, 1943 - August 2, 2017 Martinez

Forty-Seven Year Resident of Martinez

On Wednesday August 2nd, Leslie Rueb passed away peacefully in her sleep. Leslie is survived by her loving family including her three sons, Greg, Brent and Mark, daughters-in-law, Sharon and Lynn, her six grandchildren: Lauren, Justin, Catherine, Griffin, Will and Mia and her sister Carol and her brother Lanny.

Leslie Rueb was born to Merle and Eileen Olson in Cloquet, Minnesota and raised on Hi-Lo Acres farm in Carlton, Minnesota. In her youth, she was an active participant in the 4H Club, raising animals and competing in County Fairs. She also enjoyed hay riding, ice skating, swimming in lakes and traveling with her family. She attended Blackhoof Valley Elementary School (a one-room school house) from grades 1 through 8. She graduated from Barnum High School ('61) and then obtained her Bachelor's Degree in Education specializing in Kindergarten/Primary Education and a Minor in Art from the University of Minnesota, Duluth ('65).

While in college, Leslie was truly blessed to meet the man of her dreams, Harold David Rueb. They met in 1963 at The Officer's Club while Dave was in the US Air Force stationed in Duluth, MN. After a two-year courtship, they were married on April 10, 1965 in Minnesota. Together they blazed a trail to Alaska while Dave continued to serve in the Air Force at Elmendorf AFB in Anchorage. Upon Dave's honorable discharge, they moved to Berkeley so he could pursue his Master's Degree in Structural Engineering at U.C. Berkeley ('69). In 1970, they moved to Martinez and raised their three boys. Leslie subsequently attended St. Mary's College in Moraga in pursuit of her Master's Degree in Education. For approximately 15 years, Leslie was a substitute and full-time elementary school teacher both in Anchorage and Martinez. She primarily taught Music and Kindergarten. She lived in Martinez until her passing, which amazingly was on the same day as Dave's passing 8 years ago.

Leslie's passion was her family. She dedicated her time, love and undivided attention to her children and grandchildren. Leslie was known for her huge heart and generous donation of her time with a never-ending supply of energy. Over four decades, Leslie endured three separate open heart surgeries, demonstrating her incredible strength and fortitude. Leslie had a passion for the Holidays with Thanksgiving and Christmas being her favorites. As a child, she marveled in the lights, decorations and spirit of Christmas and this translated into a huge collection of over a thousand Santa Clause antiques and unique collectibles. Leslie's other passions included music, art, painting, BUNCO, attending the ballet and Warriors' games, as a season ticket holder since the mid 80's.

Leslie devoted much of her life to charitable organizations including P.E.O., P.T.A., and the Martinez Historical Society. She also served as a Cub Scout Den Leader and Band Mother for her three boys. Her generosity and spirit blessed and enriched everyone she had contact with throughout her incredible life.

Her favorite quotes were – "We grow old too soon and too late smart", "Live each day to the fullest and make memories", "You Betcha", "Faith is seeing a rainbow in each tear" and "Laughter is good medicine."

A public viewing was held on Tuesday August 8th at the Redwood Chapel at Oakmont Memorial Park, 2099 Reliez Valley Road, Lafayette. Funeral/graveside services were held on Wednesday August 9th also at Oakmont Memorial Park, followed by a celebration of her life at the Contra Costa Country Club.



Yvonne Cottrell June 9, 1931-August 9, 2017 Martinez

Yvonne Patton Cottrell, born June 9, 1931 in Delta, Colorado passed away on August 9, 2017. Yvonne is survived by her three sons and daughters-in-law, Pat and Camilla, Gregg and Melanie, and Karl and Diane. She was blessed with 16 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren.

Yvonne was raised on her family's fruit ranch on Rogers Mesa near Hotchkiss, Colorado. She graduated in 1952 from the University of Colorado, Boulder, with a degree in Education. It was while at CU she met Glenn and they were married in Hotchkiss on August 24, 1952.

Yvonne and Glenn moved to Martinez in 1953. Yvonne taught first grade for one year prior to the birth of their first son, Pat. Yvonne, Glenn and Pat moved to their newly built home in Alhambra Valley the day Gregg was born in 1956. Soon Karl and Karen were joyfully added to the

family. These were happy years for Yvonne, raising their children in the beautiful surroundings in Alhambra Valley, making many life-long friends.

During her 62 years in Martinez, Yvonne was extremely active in many philanthropic groups. She served in multiple leadership roles with P.E.O, AAUW, and The Women's Fellowship of the United Church of Christ. She served on the Contra Costa Grand Jury in 1994-1995, Briones Park Annexation Committee and was the 1992 Martinez Woman of the Year. Yvonne was a strong supporter and volunteer for numerous school and community projects while her children attended school in Martinez, always there for their concerts, track meets, football games and music recitals.

Yvonne was an accomplished seamstress, quilter and knitter. All of her kids and grandkids will always cherish the heirloom Christmas stockings she lovingly made for each of them. She enjoyed gardening, cooking, reading, playing bridge, Mah Jongg and any social outing with friends.

A memorial service was held for Yvonne at the United Church of Christ in Martinez on September 4th, with a reception/lunch following, hosted by her family at the home of Dr. & Mrs. Kent Hobert.

FROM THE NATIONAL CONVENTION

Joan Foster

First, I want to thank our branch for sending me to the AAUW Convention in Washington, D. C and helping to defray my expenses.

Harriett and I divided up which sessions we would attend and I chose membership and attended all of them. All branches in the US are struggling to retain and find new members. In addition to our web site, we were told we need a presence on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram to attract new and younger members. AAUW National has all of the tools to help us get up to speed. It would be wonderful if we could find people to get us up and running on these sites.

AAUW continues to work very hard on gender equity, adequate funding for enforcement of Title IX, finding solutions to help women pay off their huge student loans as women have the highest amount of debt and enter the job market with less pay than men, expanding Pell grants for low income students, as well as ensuring nontraditional students have the resources they need, such as child care and successfully helping to complete college degrees.

FYI - our senators and Congressmen all vote positively for AAUW's issues.

Associate Justice Sotomayor was the main guest speaker and she was fascinating and personable.

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

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



Pleasant Hill - Martinez AAUW Website



Our website will show you everything you need to know about our Pleasant Hill - Martinez branch. See pictures of the Summer Social on the **Photos Page**. Check out the photo of our Past Presidents on the **About Us Page**. Find our Programs and fund raisers on the **Program Page**.

Perspective New Members can find the revised Membership form on the **Membership Page**. You'll find the new Deposit & Reimbursement Request Form on the **About Us 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

TECH TREK TIDINGS

Diane Coventry

If members are interested in viewing the pictures taken at Tech Trek, Camp 2017 at Sonoma State here is the link for the AAUW Petaluma Branch. Their website has all the pictures from the Facebook group website that was used during camp.

<http://www.aauwpetaluma.org/2017techtrek.php>

To register for the **Painting with a Purpose** (See the wonderful flyer on page 8) fundraiser click on this link:

<http://www.paintingwithatwist.com/events/viewEvent.aspx?eventID=1099618>

using this passcode: **TECH TREK ROCKS**

See the wonderful flyer on page

and follow the directions. If you have any questions contact Diane Coventry.

diane.coventry@yahoo.com or 925-293-4699



Pleasant Hill-Martinez AAUW Tech Trek Fundraiser

*Painting with a Purpose for Tech Trek
2 hour class costs \$35- arrive 15-20 minutes early*

Saturday, November 18th 3:00 - 5:00 pm

*Painting with a Twist of Pleasant Hill
548 Contra Costa Blvd. Suite E/F
Pleasant Hill, Ca. 94523*

*Studio holds only 30 guests - in the Bar Room, you can order beer and wine
Appetizers and endless lemonade or ice tea*

*Step-by-step instruction with an experienced and enthusiastic local artist.
You will leave with a one-of-a-kind creation and a new found talent.*

Starry Night over the Golden Gate



Sign up online at:

<https://www.paintingwithatwist.com/events/viewevent.aspx?eventId=1099618>

*This event requires this passcode to register - **TECH TREK ROCKS***

Space is limited



EDUCATION

Gayle Duncan

Oakland Unified has introduced a computer game that helps students learn math in a fun way. Playing the computer game, students solve puzzles to help Jiji, an animated penguin that appears across the screen. The program is called Spatial-Temporal Math or ST Math. When the students play ST Math games, they get excited about math, and are learning. The students are able to draw connections between real world problems and the games they are playing. Math is taught without the use of words, symbols, or numbers to students in Pre-K through Algebra 1. Numbers and symbols are used later in the games. The program has been especially effective with second language learners, students with some disabilities, and visual learners. Oakland schools, as well as more than 1,300 schools in California, and 3,281 schools in 45 states are using ST Math. Six hundred thousand students login every school year, in California alone, making up half of the 1 million students that use the program nationwide. MIND Research Institute, was created in 1998, by three University of California researchers. ST Math was based on studies that showed the brain's spatial temporal reasoning ability allows students to learn math concepts visually. By using images and animation, the computer program explains basic concepts like addition and subtraction to younger students, and complex problems like Algebra to older students. For example, fourth graders learn that one-third is more than one-fifth by showing a whole divided into three parts, compared to five parts. New games have been added to reflect the Common Core standards. The program also reinforces mathematical practices standards, including staying with a task until it is completed. The students respond to the program because it is like a game. Once students have learned a concept, Jiji, the penguin, appears and moves to the next game level. When a student answers incorrectly, the computer shows them why their solution didn't work, and has them try again. If the student still has difficulty, a red square appears on the screen, alerting the teacher that help is needed. Recent research showed that scores of 3rd through 5th graders, who met or exceeded math standards, on the 2015-2016 Smarter Balanced tests, was 5.4% higher than in schools that did not use the program. The students were using the program 90 minutes per week. The ST Math program does not replace district curriculum, but supplements it. There were a few negatives expressed by students. One, they have to ask the teacher to let them skip ahead to the next concept and two, they have been frustrated by no instructions and having to start over when they answer incorrectly. MIND recommends that the program be used 60 to 90 minutes a week to get the maximum benefit, as well as keeping up with the math curriculum.

AAUW FUND

Marlene Maksel and Barbara Chambers, AAUW Fund VPs

FUND FACTS

The Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF), as you know, is a part of AAUW Fund. Recently, you may have noted in the news the death of Betty Dukes, a gender equity proponent.

Dukes lived in Antioch and worked for Walmart. She was the lead plaintiff in a class action suit filed in the U.S. District Court for No. California against Walmart. The suit alleged that women employees were denied advancement and training opportunities, paid less than men for the same or comparable work, steered to lower-paying departments, subjected to a sexually hostile work environment and retaliated against when they attempted to address sex discrimination. The case was argued before the U. S. Supreme Court on March 29, 2011.

AAUW representatives were with Dukes and other plaintiffs the night before the hearing. In addition to providing financial support, AAUW issued press releases, attended the hearing and co-led a rally in support of Dukes and other women at Walmart.

Even though the Supreme Court rejected the suit, please remember Betty Dukes and her fight for gender equality when you think of the your annual donation to Fund and its many entities.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Bea Ball and Elva Valli, Membership VPs

Your Membership VPs welcome you back for another year of interesting events, programs and enriching activities. We hope your summer was a healthy and enjoyable break.

The Anniversary celebration hosted by Nancy and Kent Hobert in July was a very well attended event enjoyed by all. We're sure it is to be followed by more of the same.

Sadly, the summer brought news of the loss of two of our members. Leslie Rueb and Yvonne Cottrell passed away in August and will be greatly missed.

Plans are progressing in preparation for the September Welcome Brunch. It is to be held at Marilyn Thelen's on September 16th, at 10:00 A.M. The Committee is requesting your participation and help, especially with the menu. Please contact Bea Ball or Elva Valli if you can help with any of the following: Menu items needed are breakfast casseroles or frittatas, mini-muffins, fruit salads or fruit platters, and assorted juices. Also needed is help with set-up and clean-up.

The Brunch is a wonderful opportunity to invite friends. It allows them to see what AAUW is all about, especially when they meet the Tech Trek Girls. They'll be impressed when they hear them share their Math and Science Camp experiences.

Please RSVP to let us know you plan to attend and if you will bring guests.

Bea Ball at 925-890-0202

Elva Valli at 925-228-8056

SAM Program

Suzanne Mesetz

The SAM Program (Study Art and Music) at Fair Oaks Elementary School, is based on the FAME Program (Fine Arts and Music Education) that was used at Pleasant Hill Elementary School about 15 years ago when my grandchildren attended and I volunteered. I used FAME as a basis for SAM, and added more contemporary art and music, while keeping the classics. I have never been a teacher, but I love researching the artists and musicians and finding out what their lives were like. My experience is that of a grandma, wanting to enrich children's lives.

I spoke at the teachers' meeting about 2 weeks ago, telling them we were going to resume SAM. I believe it hasn't been activated for the last year or two. My goal is to do 5 programs, but 3 is more realistic. I need help from at least 2 volunteers per program. I love doing this activity, and I think you will, too. Past programs have included Duke Ellington and Jackson Pollock, as well as Chopin and Ravel. We have often done folk music and quilting during Black History Month.

Since starting the SAM program, at Marilyn Tubbs' urging, we received a grant and a storage closet. Quite heady!!

Another activity is the student store. Small items are in the store as rewards for various good behaviors demonstrated by the students. I believe Clint Tubbs ran that and he was marvelous. I asked Mr. Pierce who runs it now, and he said that he did, with some help, about once month. We need some volunteers to take over that activity as well, perhaps once a week or every two weeks. The students really seem to enjoy it.

I also asked them to let me know what they needed and that we would try to accommodate them. I am quite the scavenger, using freecycle and other means. I recall when I was at the school before they needed wipes for the desks, and socks to wipe off the white boards. Often, the classroom is lacking a dictionary.

Also, the patches of dirt between the rows of classrooms are arid and sad. I will find out if that is a summer thing or year round thing. Perhaps we could do some sprucing up. The patches seem to be about 30" x 30".

I find it tremendously exciting to work with this school and try to give the students what schools in affluent areas already give their students. Please contact me to help out.

Suzanne Mesetz

gmasm39@yahoo.com

925-939-2132



A Salute to Spring

Saturday, May 19, 2018 3:00-6:00 pm

Preparations are under way for our next big fundraiser,
A Salute to Spring

to benefit AAUW Fund, Tech Trek and Local Scholarships. A kick-off meeting was held on July 17 to determine format and begin planning. The consensus was to follow the same design as last year's Taste of Fall success.

Like all successful events, it will take many hands to reach the goal. If you can assist us in any way with your time or a donation, it will be greatly appreciated.

Right now we are looking for baskets, empty or full, basket items, other auction items and gift cards. We'll also be needing appetizers and desserts.

Our next meeting is:

Tuesday, October 24 at 11:00 am

Janice Walker's home

524 Monti Circle

Pleasant Hill

Many hands make light the work, so we hope you will join us and become part of the *Salute to Spring* team!

Co-Chairs:

Marlene DeLaurenti mdl@astound.net
Janice Walker sandjwalk@comcast.net



PUBLIC POLICY

Lita Gloor-Little lgloorlittle@gmail.com

Dear Pleasant Hill-Martinez AAUW members,

The article below reflects many of my feelings (I am your Public Policy Officer) and I hope you take the time to read this. Many thanks to Kathi Harper, Carlsbad-Oceanside- Vista Public Policy Chair for this article.

Public Policy Matters!

Kathi Harper, Carlsbad-Oceanside-Vista Public Policy Chair

Can you remember the day you first learned about AAUW? It may not be as imbedded a memory as “I remember what I was doing when Kennedy was shot”, but if you think back you might remember what that special thing was that made you think –“Yes – I want to be a part of that!” Was it the desire to join the fight to help all women achieve economic self-sufficiency? Or maybe it was the idea of finding ways to guarantee equality, individual rights and social justice for the underserved in your community that got your juices flowing. How about playing a role in ensuring legislation that protects women’s reproductive rights? Any of this sound familiar?

Now, here you are, 2 or 5 or 10 years and 120 bridge games, or lunches, or book discussions later ... and public policy is just that report you listen to each month from your branch PP Chair. Now we public policy nerds enjoy our interest groups and social activities as much as anyone, don’t get us wrong. But what if you could fit in just one extra hour, or maybe two, each month, to rekindle your passion for doing something that would really make a difference in the lives of girls and women?

In talking with branch Public Policy Chairs around the state, the common and recurring lament is that “nobody wants to do public policy work!” In so many branches, all the work is left to a single person – the PP Chair. Worse than being merely overly burdensome for one person is the fact that there is so much that is left undone – one person can only do so much. And there is so much that still needs to be done. We are still fighting for equal pay for equal work; still being denied promotions and access to power; still facing workplace policies that make it harder on women than men to balance life/work responsibilities; still watching our female athletes being denied equal access on the playing fields and in coaching positions; still watching state-after-state pass laws restricting our access to safe, effective family planning methods of our choice; still afraid of sexual violence on campus, and domestic violence in the home, and physical violence in the military.

Any of these making you mad? Are you ready to join the chorus and declare “we’re not going to just keep taking it?” Your State Public Policy Committee wants to remind you that Public Policy *Still* Matters, and encourages you to contact your branch PP Chair today to ask – “what can I do to make a difference?” Sometimes all that’s needed is just an extra pair of hands. You don’t need to be an attorney or a political science major to do public policy work – just passion and your gift of time.

Kathi Harper is a member of the AAUW CA Public Policy Committee



2017-2018 LEADERSHIP TEAM

September 2017 and beyond

- Sep 6** Morning Books, 10 am, Margi Alkire's
- Sep 11** Grand Slammers Bridge, 12:30 ppm
Brookview Clubhouse
- Sep 13** In Indelible Ink, 10 am, Ginny Hargrave's
- Sep 13** Board meeting, 7 pm,
Rolling Green Clubhouse
- Sep 15** Mah Jongg, 12:30 pm
Brookview Clubhouse
- Sep 16** Welcome Brunch, 10 am,
Marilyn Thelen's home
- Sep 19** Lunchin' Ladies, 1 pm, Marlene by the 17th
Wise Girl Ristorante, Pleasant Hill
- Sep 22** October 2017 N.E.W.S. deadline to Reba
- Sep 25** Evening Books, 7 pm, Linda Robbins' home
- Sep 28** Matinee Idle, Marlene Maksel
- Oct 12** CCC IBC/Junior League workshop, 6:30 pm,
Walnut Creek Civic Park Community Center
- Oct 24** A Salute to Spring planning meeting, 11 am,
Janice Walker's home
- Nov 4** Tech Trek/AAUW Fund Fundraiser
Bowling Tournament, 12:30 - 4:30 pm
Paddock Bowl, Martinez
- Nov 18** Painting for a Purpose for Tech Trek, 3 pm,
Painting with a Twist, Pleasant Hill
- May 19, 2018** A Salute to Spring, 3 pm,
Cheryl Buscaglia's home

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