



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

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## International Soup Supper

Happy New Year! It's hard to believe that we are in the year 2018 already. That means that the Pleasant Hill-Martinez Branch is holding its annual International Soup Supper on Wednesday, January 24<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to our speaker, Lara DeLaney, as she relates her childhood experiences while living 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. Each AAUW attending member may provide a crockpot of soup serving 10-12, bread, dessert, or pay \$10 at the door.

**Wednesday, January 24, 2018, 6PM**

**St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church**

**1601 Mary Drive, Pleasant Hill**

Thanks to those who have already committed to bringing a soup (with ladle), bread, or dessert. However, we do need two more generous souls to provide soup. Contact Margie Pruitt if you're able to do so.

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

Co-chair Margie Pruitt \* 372-8789 \* [mlpruitt@comcast.net](mailto:mlpruitt@comcast.net)

Co-chair Carol Walsh

Thank you!





## PRESIDENTIAL POSTINGS

Cannot believe that we are already in another year and starting 2018. As we move to another year reflection of the past year is in order as we look forward to another year of activities in our branch and fulfilling our AAUW missions which we do very well. This couldn't have been done without so many people helping out and contributing in any way they can. We encourage new members to become involved on committees as a way to connect more with our branch as we move forward.

Looking back we had a Layette Shower on November 29. It was a well-attended event and everyone enjoyed the refreshments and a chance to visit. It was also fun to ogle the cute baby clothes and items that everyone brought. All of the items will be distributed to needy mothers who have recently given birth. It is very gratifying to know that we are able to give the new mothers and their infants a head start on their new adventure. Many thanks goes to Susan Rheingruber for offering to organize the shower as well as host it.

Even though December can be a busy time, an evening was spent getting together with new members and in a casual setting where we got to know them and they had an opportunity to hear what our branch can offer. As always this is a very enjoyable event and fun. Elva and Bea had a very welcoming and warm atmosphere complete with hot cider, wine, delicious cookies and dessert. Appreciation goes to Elva Valli and Bea Ball our membership VPs for hosting such a nice evening.

Bringing in the New Year, our first event is the traditional International Soup Supper which will be held on the **fourth Wednesday, January 24<sup>th</sup>**. This was to accommodate our speaker who is Lara Delaney. And no she will not talk about Martinez city business but rather her childhood spent in Saudi Arabia. It should be interesting to hear the experiences of growing up in a different culture and how to fit in. To take the edge off the cold weather we will be able to warm up with a great variety of heartwarming soups, breads and desserts. If you can help by bringing food, setting up or anything else please contact Margie Pruitt or Carol Walsh.

The SAM program at Fair Oaks in Pleasant Hill will be back and running at the end of January and is being organized by Suzanne Mesetz. She is planning on doing cave art and drawings and certainly could use help. In order to volunteer at the school per district policy one must be fingerprinted and have a TB test done during the last two years. If you are interested contact Suzanne.

With the New Year coming we are gearing up for our major fundraiser "A Salute to Spring" and will be continuing planning. The next planning meeting will be on January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 11:00 at Janice Walker's house. We encourage you to come and help with the planning as a way to get involved with the branch. The more the merrier!!! If you can't make it to the meeting but could help in any way contact Janice Walker or Marlene De Laurenti. Be sure to put the date May 19 on your calendar for the actual "Salute to Spring" event.

The nominating committee has been selected at the November meeting. They will be busy in January finding members to fill officer positions for our branch. Please consider accepting as this will keep our branch strong. It is also a great way to become involved and get to know the branch and fellow members. Just remember usually you will have a co person to help and a very supportive board. There are many members that have experience that can help you. Again consider saying YES!!! You can volunteer if an office peaks your interest, just contact Marilyn Thelen.

The LEAD workshop for how to get on a public board or commission at the local or state level has been rescheduled for January 23<sup>rd</sup>. It will be held at 6:30 at the Walnut Creek Library. Women are underrepresented when it comes to serving. This work shop will give you the nuts and bolts on how to do this. Assembly-woman Catherine Baker along with other LEAD women are spearheading this event. This is an Inter Branch Council sponsored event along with the Junior League of Oakland- East Bay. You must register to attend by going to [www.cawomenlead.org/event/WalnutCreekAppointmentsTraining](http://www.cawomenlead.org/event/WalnutCreekAppointmentsTraining).

Earlier this fall there was a state AAUW election to return AAUW California to a Public Benefit Corporation. Unfortunately it did not pass because of 26 no votes even though 99% voted yes. In order to change a status of a corporation according to California state law there has to be a unanimous vote or in other words a 100% yes vote. **AAUW is rescheduling a re-vote for January 9-11, 2018. It is imperative to get the 100% yes vote so vote yes.** This will enable AAUW California to move forward and avoid costly and time consuming legal options. For more information you can go to the state website at [www.aauw-ca.org](http://www.aauw-ca.org).

As we look forward to a New Year with our branch we wish everyone a Happy New Year!!!!

Jennifer and Claudia

## INTEREST SECTIONS MEETINGS



**\*\*MORNING BOOKS** will meet on Wednesday, January 3, 10 am, at Janice Walker's. PLEASE let your hostess know you will be attending. We will be discussing *Last Bus to Wisdom* by Ivan Doig. This was Doig's last novel and is described as "an utterly charming, good-hearted romp" and "a book worthy of the late author's enduring legacy in Montana." In February, we will be reading our classic, *1984*, by George Orwell. Plan to join us for all of the discussions.



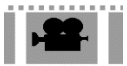
**\*\*IN INDELIBLE INK** will meet on Wednesday, January 10, 10 am, at Ginny Hargrave's. Our topic will be "Treasures in Your Garage or Attic." Please join us! We would welcome some new writers! We like oral versions, too.



**\*\*LUNCHIN' LADIES** will meet for lunch on Tuesday, January 16, 1 pm, at Metro in Lafayette. Please let Marlene know before the 14<sup>th</sup>, so reservations can be made. Also, please give Marlene any suggestions for a great restaurant it would be fun for us to try.



**\*\*EVENING BOOKS** will meet on Monday, January 22, 7 pm, at Georgette Armstrong's. We will be discussing *Our Souls at Night* by Kent Haruf. Set, again in Holt, Colorado, this is a love story between two people who have lost their mates and find each other. In February, we will be reading our classic, Dickens' *The Pickwick Papers*. Please join us!



**\*\*MATINEE IDLE** will go to the movies on Thursday, January 25<sup>th</sup> ~ back to our regular 4<sup>th</sup> 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!

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, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:seabear2@msn.com) Gayle Miner at 925-349-6795, [gayle.miner@yahoo.com](mailto:gayle.miner@yahoo.com) We play on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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, January 8<sup>th</sup>.

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](mailto:mdl@astound.net) or 925-934-4171 if you are interested in playing.

**JANUARY BOARD MEETING**  
**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2018**

**7 PM**

**Rolling Green Clubhouse**

**Copy deadline for the**

**February 2018 N.E.W.S. is:**

**Thursday, January 25<sup>th</sup>**

Please email copy to:

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

925-228-8211

## **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](mailto:tarheel61@yahoo.com) or 925-798-7528

## Ode to Joy

Joy Leslie Barden

April 3, 1949 - November 29, 2017

Our AAUW branch lost one of its most dedicated members on November 29, 2017. From 2011, when Joy Barden joined AAUW, she served as Parliamentarian, Local Scholarships Chairperson and led book reviews for Morning Books. We enjoyed her great sense of fun playing Mah Jongg and enthusiastic participation on Game Days. She arranged "Middle of the Road" bridge group and Bridge Marathon and served as a member of the Tech Trek Committee. Joy also baked delicious treats for AAUW meetings and special occasions. Joy's teaching career spanned nearly 40 years. Her family and friends miss her amazing zest for life, her staunch sense of right and wrong and her unending commitment to those she loved.

--from Shelley Jacobson

### MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Bea Ball and Elva Valli, Membership VPs

We hope your Christmas and New Year holidays were happy and healthy! Even though the year 2017 was one full of hardship and sadness for many families we will look forward to 2018 with hope.

Bea and I hosted a wine and dessert evening to welcome our newest members on December 13<sup>th</sup>. We welcomed Kathleen Woulfe, Donna DiBetta, Pam Schmitz, and Mary Lee Taylor with mulled cider, wine, Christmas cookies and chocolate dessert. A family emergency regrettably prevented Karen Sandri from joining us, something she had been looking forward to doing. Claudia, Jennifer and Reba were on hand to welcome them and shared information about our branch and what it offers its members. We learned much about our new members as each and every one of us spoke about our families, careers and education. Quite a diverse group! It was an enjoyable gathering and we look forward to the next such evening in the spring as more women join us in the next few months.

From January 1 to March 15 National, State and Branch dues will be reduced for anyone joining during this time. The Shape the Future campaign for "On the Spot" joiners will also be in effect. This applies to a person joining while attending an AAUW publicized event such as our Soup Supper this month. It is a perfect time to invite interested family and friends to attend a branch function.

Thank you for your continued help as we reach out to women and girls who believe in the work and mission of AAUW.

Alana Macdonald has a new address - same phone number:

Alana Macdonald  
1545 Pleasant Hill Road #303  
Lafayette, CA 94549

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



## *A Salute to Spring*

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

Happy New Year! We hope you had a fantastic holiday season and that you have already marked May 19, the date of our *Salute to Spring* fundraiser, on your 2018 calendar!

Our committee members continue to move forward with the preparations for this event, but we are still in need of some additional helping hands and auction items. If you can solicit a favorite merchant for a gift card or basket item, we are happy to furnish you with a tax deductible letter for him/her. If you would like to sponsor a basket, or add to one, the following are some of the ones we had last year that we're hoping to repeat: Mexican, Italian, tea, games, and gardening baskets. All were sought after items! Any unneeded item can become an appealing basket item, such as a bottle of sherry, which we'd be happy to have, to accompany a sherry set and complete a sherry basket.

We're also in need of a few more appetizers. If that's a better option for you, let us know what you'd like to bring. Anything you can contribute in any way to make our *Salute to Spring* a success will be greatly appreciated!

Our next *Salute to Spring* committee meeting will be Tuesday, January 23, at 11:00, at Janice Walker's home, 524 Monti Circle, Pleasant Hill. We hope to see you there!

Co-Chairs:

Marlene De Laurenti      [mdl@astound.net](mailto:mdl@astound.net)

Janice Walker      [sandjwalk@comcast.net](mailto:sandjwalk@comcast.net)







## 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 Layette Shower and our Tech Trek fundraiser 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**



## TECH TREK TIDINGS

Diane Coventry and Trinkia March

We have very generous members who support so many wonderful programs for AAUW. Thank you!! Recently we have gotten donations from our members for Tech Trek in memory of Joy Barden who was an active member of the Tech Trek committee for many years from Janet Sullivan, Janice Walker and Sandy Wolfe. What a fitting memorial! We have also gotten donations to commemorate Ginny Hargrave's 94<sup>th</sup> birthday! Now that is something to celebrate.

Please remember that if you want these generous donations to be tax deductible that Tech Trek is once again in the hands of California and is no longer a national program. This means that the checks must be made out to AAUW CA-SPF (Special Projects Funds) which is a non-profit organization. Our branch is not a non-profit organization so donations made to AAUW Pleasant Hill-Martinez Branch are technically not tax deductible.

Sonoma State TT camp will be June 24-30. Please consider visiting camp this summer. Our local middle schools, Martinez JH, Valley View MS, Pleasant Hill MS, and Sequoia MS teacher contacts have been notified. Teacher nominations and student applications are due Feb. 20. The committee will review them and set up interviews in March.



## AAUW FUND FACTS

Marlene Maksel and Barbara Chambers, AAUW Fund VPs

**THANK YOU** to all of the generous members and supporters of AAUW Fund. You have donated a grand total of \$3,210 to the various entities of AAUW Fund as a result of the annual solicitation letter.

As you know, LAF (Legal Advocacy Fund) is a big part of AAUW Fund. One of the key components of the LAF legal case support program is emotional and moral support. The LAF committee and AAUW members become like family to the LAF plaintiffs as they pursue costly and time-consuming litigation.

On 12-12-17, AAUW and LAF members stood with Aileen Rizo at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit as her petition concerning the permissibility of using prior salary alone to calculate current wages under the Equal Pay Act was reheard by a panel of judges.

Hearings like these are guided by civil procedure, which outlines the rules and traditions of American jurisprudence. In keeping with that tradition, AAUW has stood with many LAF plaintiffs throughout the years at critical stages in their cases.

We will be having a Game Day to help future litigants with court costs on Thursday, March 29, 2018, Brookview Clubhouse. Games will be Bridge, Mexican Train and Mahjong. Prizes, too! Please save the date.

## 2017–2018 LEADERSHIP TEAM

### January 2018 and beyond

- Jan 3** Morning Books, 10 am, Janice Walker
- Jan 8** Grand Slammers Bridge, 12:30 pm,  
Brookview Clubhouse
- Jan 10** In Indelible Ink, 10 am, Ginny Hargrave
- Jan 10** Board meeting, 7 pm,  
Rolling Green Clubhouse
- Jan 16** Lunchin' Ladies, 1 pm, Metro, Lafayette  
**RSVP to Marlene Maksel by January 14**
- Jan 19** Mah Jongg, 12:30 pm,  
Brookview Clubhouse
- Jan 22** Evening Books, 7 pm, Georgette Armstrong
- Jan 23** A Salute to Spring committee, 11 am,  
Janice Walker
- Jan 23** Appointments Training, 6:30 pm, WC Library
- Jan 24** Soup Supper - Lara Delaney,  
"Growing up in Saudi Arabia"  
**RSVP by January 18**, Margie Pruitt
- Jan 25** Matinee Idle, Marlene Maksel
- Jan 25** February 2018 N.E.W.S. deadline to Reba
- Feb 21** Ann Notarangelo  
"From Here to There: TV News and Beyond"
- Mar 21** Cathy Foxhoven  
Leader on Loan: AAUW Program
- Apr 18** Prof. Mary Volmer  
"Women and the California Gold Rush"
- May 19** A Salute to Spring, 3 - 6 pm,  
Cheryl Buscaglia's home
- Jun 2** End of Year Brunch, Scholarship & Tech Trek  
Awards, Installation of Officers

#### Presidents

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

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**Copy deadline for the February 2018 N.E.W.S. is January 25<sup>th</sup>.** Please email copy to:

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