

N.E.W.S.

Now/Events/Women/Success

Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research

Volume 60 Issue 7 March 2018

Charmen Goehring, AAUW CA State Director



Wednesday, March 21, 2018, 7 pm St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church 1601 Mary Drive, Pleasant Hill, CA

Charmen Goehring will spend an evening with our branch speaking about anything AAUW. She is the Public Policy co-chair for AAUW CA, which is where much of her expertise lies. She has worked with younger women who are starting YWTF (Younger Women's Task Force) chapters, served as a state president of a small state and spent 4 years on the national board. We've asked her to speak about LAF, what it is and to give us an update, in anticipation of our March 29th Game Day LAF fundraiser (see page 6). Any questions about other AAUW topics are welcome.

CELEBRATING THE WOMEN OF MARTINEZ

The Martinez Historical Society is recognizing **Women's History Month 2018** during the month of March at the Martinez Museum with a wonderful exhibit titled **"Celebrating the Women of Martinez"**

Mary Goodman, long-time Martinez resident and museum volunteer, is the one we can all thank for her thoughtful recognition of 27 amazing Martinez women who have made interesting and major contributions to the City of Martinez over the years. Photographs and personal items of these remarkable women will be on display, along with their fascinating and awe-inspiring stories.

The exhibit will be on display from March 4, 2018 through March 29, 2018 during regular museum hours and for specially scheduled tours.

Martinez Museum, 1005 Escobar Street, Martinez, CA

If you are interested in scheduling a special tour of the museum and this exhibit, or for further information, please contact:

Andrea Blachman, Museum Director, at 925.387.5385 or andreablachman@gmail.com



PRESIDENTIAL POSTINGS

We finished the month of February with a very enlightening program listening to our speaker, previous newscaster Ann Notarangelo from channel five. She described how she got in the news field and later left the news and joined Shell. Her stories were interesting and stashed with humor. Many thanks to Bambi Barker and Sally Figueiredo for arranging the program and providing such an array of delicious treats.

The SAM program at Fair Oaks Elementary is finished and it was a huge success. The theme was cave drawings and the students were presented with a short talk on what cave paintings are and how they were discovered. Later students were able to do their own drawings on butcher paper attached to the outside walls using charcoal. It was so much fun to see the excitement of the students as they drew their own cave drawings and many were very creative. One student commented that she felt "like an artist." Many thanks go to Suzanne Mesetz for putting the program together and organizing it with the school. Thank you to Sherrie Moore for scheduling and coordinating branch volunteers for many of the sessions. Last of all thanks to all of the volunteers that helped: Muriel Fry, Sara Gross, Diane Coventry, Joan Foster, Bea Ball, Trinka March, Erika March (Trinka's daughter) Barbara Minneman, Marlene Maksel, and Sara Tancredy.

Many enjoyed the cuisine at BJ's at Sunvalley mall. Local scholarships got twenty percent of all sales tickets. Thank you to Carol Walsh and Marie Cattalini for organizing.

Now we are moving into March which is also Women's History Month. We have many activities planned to promote our mission of providing opportunities and equity for women and girls to flourish and create their own history.

START SMART will be up and running during the month of March at the community colleges. This is a workshop given to community college women students who learn skills to negotiate salaries to promote equitable pay. Elena Noble has a workshop set up March 14th at Los Medanos and later at DVC. If you are interested in sup-

porting Elena contact her. Having observed one of the sessions it was very interesting.

Our speaker for the next program on March 21st will be from AAUW and will speak about the Legal Advocacy Fund known as LAF. We will be brought up to date on what LAF is doing and how it helps women resolve discrimination issues. Hope to see everyone there.

The March program sets the stage for our Game Day scheduled for March 29th. The funds raised will be our branch's contribution to LAF at the national level. Come and enjoy your fellow members' company and play bridge, Mah Jongg or Mexican Train dominoes. More information is included in the newsletter.

Kinder's is back. After the success of the last Kinder's sandwich sales a spring run is in order. For every ticket sold \$5 will go to AAUW Fund. And best of all not only are the tickets redeemable at the Martinez store but also at the Pleasant Hill store on Morello. Tickets will be available at our next meeting. Thank you Harriett Burt and Gayle Miner for organizing.

Time is flying by and before we know it May will be upon us. Salute to Spring is rapidly coming upon us and is scheduled for May 19th so mark your calendar. The committee is very busy putting together the event but could always use help. If you can help in any way please contact Marlene De Laurenti or Janice Walker. The more help the more success the event will be. All funds raised will be split between AAUW Fund, Tech Trek and Local Scholarships.

The AAUW California convention is scheduled for April 27-29 and will be held at the Irvine Marriott. The theme will be celebrating the 20th anniversary of Tech Trek. If anyone is interested in attending please contact Jennifer or Claudia. There are funds to help with the cost.

Our nominating committee has been working countless hours, days and many phone calls to fill our officer slate. This has not been an easy task for them and they have most filled. However at this time our branch needs a president or co-presidents. So we are sending out a plea to have someone step up to the plate. We are an active branch and are very supportive of the presidents and can ease the load. It has been a rewarding experience for us and we have gotten to know many of the members. If anyone has any ideas or would like to step in please contact Marilyn Thelen. Thank you to all of the nominating committee Elva Valli, Marlene Maksel, Diane Coventry, Janice Walker, Sandy Wolfe, Marlene De Laurenti and Harriett Burt for their tireless efforts along with Marilyn Thelen. Let's make it easier for them and volunteer.

Happy Spring and see you March 21st and 29th.

Jennifer and Claudia

INTEREST SECTIONS MEETINGS

**MORNING BOOKS will meet on Wednesday, March 7, 10 am, at Kathleen Woulfe's. PLEASE let your hostess know you will be attending. We will be discussing *The Other Einstein* by Marie Benedict. If you watched the recent series on TV, "Genius," about Einstein's life, you would realize the impact she had on his life and work. In April, our book is *Lucky Boy* by Shanthi Sakaran. Plan to join us for all of the discussions.

**IN INDELIBLE INK will meet on Wednesday, March 14, 10 am, at Ginny Hargrave's. Our topic will be to write a bio about yourself. Nothing too complicated ~ but, the high points and progression of your life. Please join us! We would welcome some new writers! We like oral versions, too.

**LUNCHIN' LADIES will meet for lunch on Tuesday, March 20, 1 pm, at Stanford's, 1300 S. Main in WC. This place has been around for a long time, but still gets good reviews. Please let Marlene know before the 19th, 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, March 26, 7 pm, at Sharon Wilson's. We will be discussing *The Last Castle* by Denise Kiernan. This is the story of the Biltmore Estate, the largest residence ever built in the US, and about the Vanderbilt family. In April we will read a modern classic by Graham Greene ~ *Travels with My Aunt*. Please join us!

**MATINEE IDLE will go to the movies on Thursday, March 22nd. 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 meets at 12:30 PM on Friday, March 16th, 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, March 12th.

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.

MARCH BOARD MEETING WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 2018 7 PM

Rolling Green Clubhouse

Copy deadline for the

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

Sunday, March 25th

Please email copy to:

Reba Siero

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 or 925-798-7528

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Bea Ball and Elva Valli, Membership VPs

An early St. Patrick's greeting to all of you. It seems as though we just celebrated New Year's Day! The year 2018 is slipping by as rapidly as did the year 2017.

Also rapidly approaching is March 16th, which means it is time to renew your membership in AAUW. The National AAUW Board of Directors voted to increase annual membership dues from \$49.00 to \$59.00 effective in fiscal year 2018-2019. This means dues are now \$97.00 (National dues are \$59, State dues are \$20, and our Branch dues are \$18) and will be good through June, 2019.

The reminder letters are ready for mailing and should reach you during the first week of March. Remember "the Early Bird Gets the Worm" slogan. If we receive your dues by April 16th you'll be eligible for a drawing. Your letters explain it all and we certainly appreciate your promptness.

Included with your reminder is the 2018-2019 Information form. Please review and update this form with any changes to name, address, phone number or email. It is necessary to update any changes in our branch directory and also for national records. If there are no changes we ask you to still fill in your name and send it with your dues check in the enclosed envelope.

Thank you for your help,

Your Grateful Membership VPs - Bea Ball at (925) 890-0202 and Elva Valli at (925) 228-8056

FLORENCE FOWLER MEMORIAL SERVICE

Florence Fowler, who often played bridge with AAUW members, passed away on January 22. Her memorial will be Saturday, March 10, at Zio Fraedo's in Pleasant Hill, at noon. Questions - call or e-mail Gayle Garrison, 798-7528, tarheel61@yahoo

Report on the January 24, 2018 Soup Supper

The Soup Supper seemed to be a successful evening thanks to the help of all involved. The 11 round tables were decorated with red tablecloths (8 at each table) and fresh flowers. We had 17 varied, tasty soups, lots of wonderful corn bread and garlic bread, plus many delicious desserts. Our last-minute speaker was former Congressman George Miller, kindly filling in for Lara DeLaney who had unexpected city council business. George's wit and wisdom after 40 years a congressman was appreciated by most of those attending.

Expenses incurred were minimal considering we purchased 11 red round plastic tablecloths, 100 dessert plates, 100 napkins, 96 bread plates which totaled \$76.31. The butter pats which sell at a 200 pat minimum, were \$16.79. Since we used less than 100 butter pats, Margie has the leftovers in her freezer, which are guaranteed to be good for next year. Hard to believe but it's true:) The flowers were \$40. Margie donated the difference (\$32) for the flowers which were 12 bunches at \$5.99 each her pleasure. Total purchases were\$133.10. The room rental was \$145. The total money taken in was \$470. The net gain was \$191.90.

*All in all things went pretty darned well in spite of the rainy evening! So many helped in so many ways. Kudos to those who helped setting up, husbands included, to those minding and figuring out the extension cords and power strips.....that's most important.....and to those who helped take down and close up. It wouldn't have worked without such good help and humor. And particular appreciation for our kitchen help, Pat Harris and Marge Munger, who really kept coffee and water filled and the kitchen clean. It does take a village!

Thank you all,

Margie Pruitt and Carol Walsh, co-chairs

A Salute to Spring

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

Our spectacular Salute to Spring fundraiser is less than 3 months away! If you are like we are, you know how quickly those weeks can fly by. Thus, below you will see our reservation form for the event. To help decrease expenses, we are taking reservations as done for last summer's celebration social. The price per person is \$40. Please be sure to list the names f all attendees so everyone has a chance for the door prize! Send the reservation form and money to Janice at the address listed and you're set!

We'll be beginning the assembly of baskets and auction items this month. Any items and gift cards will be most appreciated. Thank you to all who have already donated items, offered assistance and volunteered with food donations. All of it will make for a fabulous event!

Our next Salute to Spring committee meeting will be Tuesday, March 27, at 11:00, at Cheryl Buscaglia's home, 127 Stonehurst Ct, Martinez, the location of our event.

mdl@astound.net

Co-Chairs:

Marlene De Laurenti

Janice Walker		sandjwalk@comcast.net								
No West V	Salvary	Valley.	Vallan.	No Waley	Statistical States	W. Wall	National V	Wall Wall	Na Wall	
Cut Here										
Names of Attendees										
# of Reservationsat \$40 each. Total enclosed \$										
Checks payable to: AAUW Pleasant Hill – Martinez Branch										
Send to: Janice Walker, 524 Monti Circle, Pleasant Hill 94523										





Pleasant Hill - Martinez AAUW Website









Our website will show you everything you need to know about our Pleasant Hill - Martinez branch. Check out the photos from the SAM (Student Art and Music) Program on the **Community Action Page**. See pictures from our February Program on the **Photos 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

AAUW FUND FACTS

Marlene Maksel and Barbara Chambers, AAUW Fund VPs

Do you like to play games?? Do you support AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund program?? Here is your opportunity to do both at the same time.

Game Day will be on Thursday, March 29th at the Brookview Clubhouse. The event will begin at 12:30 pm and you can choose to play Bridge, Mah Jongg or Mexican Train. Your donation of \$10 will benefit LAF.

Reservations are needed so we can provide enough tables/chairs for each game. Please email, or call

Marlene Maksel marlene@maksel.us or (925) 689-5439

There will be prizes!

PUBLIC POLICY

Lita Gloor-Little

State AAUW asked that we put this into our next newsletter.

DEEPER IN DEBT: WOMEN AND STUDENT LOANS

Women take on more student debt than men ... But are paid less after college Between 1976 and 2014 the price of college attendance more than doubled, but household incomes barely budged. Today most students must bridge the gap between income and cost with student loans—followed by student debt. Women take on more loans and take longer to repay their debt, thus women hold almost two-thirds of the outstanding student loan debt in the United States.

Following graduation, women repay their loans more slowly than do men, in part because of the gender pay gap, and they are also more likely to struggle economically during repayment. This means that women may have to put off saving for retirement, buying a home, or starting a business.

Student debt is a systemic and national problem that disproportionately impacts women. AAUW members can help make changes to reduce women's student loan debt burden:

Congress must protect and expand Pell Grants for low-income students to reduce the amount of student loan debt they must take on to complete a degree.

State and federal legislators should increase funding for public colleges and universities and support efforts to move toward tuition- and debt-free options for students.

The department of education and lawmakers should make it easier for students to enroll in income-driven repayment options to help mitigate some women's financial difficulties.

Institutions can address the academic and financial needs of traditional and nontraditional students, such as access to child care.

Learn more and take action at: http://www.aauw.org/RESEARCH/DEEPER-IN-DEBT/

Adapted by Michele St. Clair, Public Policy Director, AAUW Healdsburg Branch, from https://www.aauw.org/resource/deeper-in-debt-one-pager/Kate Nielson
State Policy Manager

I attended a program led by Assemblywoman, Catherine Baker and Mona Pasquil Rogers the Appointment Secretary to Governor Brown. The topic was how to get appointments to State Boards and Commissions.

There are over 100 Boards and Commissions that are constantly looking for members, some of these are paid positions, some volunteer with travel expenses paid. They range from such subjects and Food and Agriculture, Governmental Operations Agency, Environmental Protection Agency to Veteran's issues.

The main presenter, Mona Pasquil Rogers, was funny and great and talked about the process of applying for any of these positions. She, and Assemblywoman Baker, said the following: Don't talk yourself out of it, don't let anyone else talk you out of it; if you know someone who's interested in joining a Board or Commission, be encouraging.

To find appointment opportunities (to see what's available):

If you are interested in pursuing this go to the website www.gov.ca.gov

Click on the red tab Appointments

Click on "Boards and Commissions Appointees"

Select the link that contained the letter of the Board or commission you are interested in applying for to determine if there are any vacancies or terms that will be expiring soon.

(Public Policy continues from page 8)

Following the description of the board or commission will be a numbered page listing the current composition of the board showing the current incumbent (or vacancy), the ate of appointment and the term ending date (if any),

If you are interested in pursuing this go to the website <u>www.gov.ca.gov</u>

Click on the red tab Appointments Application Form link

Complete the application

Print and sign the authorization form at the end of the application Submit authorization form and resume via mail or fax to:

Office of the Governor

Attention: Appointments Unit

State Capitol Building

Sacramento, California 95814

FAX: 916.558.3190

Mona also mentioned that Counties also need members of their Boards and Commissions and suggested that you go to your County's website to see what is available.

Lita Gloor-Little

Igloorlittle@gmail.com

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

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

PH-MTZ BRANCH of AAUW SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2018-2019

President ~~ Vacant

VP Programs ~~ Harriett Burt and Nancy Hobert

VP Membership ~~ SarahJoy Haynes and Claudia Bass

VP AAUW Funds ~~ Diane Coventry and Gayle Miner

Secretary ~~ Barbara Minneman

Treasurer ~~ Trinka March

The committee was unsuccessful in finding a candidate to recommend to the board for the office of President. We, therefore, leave it to the board to take this matter up with the membership at large!!

The election will be held on April 18th at the April General meeting. Nominations may be made from the floor with the prior approval of the nominee.

The Nominating Committee consisted of:

Janice Walker (Secretary) Harriett Burt Diane Coventry

Marlene de Laurenti Marlene Maksel Elva Valli

Sandy Wolfe

Parliamentarian, Marilyn Thelen



AAUW California's biennial convention will be April 27-29, 2018 at the Irvine Marriott (18000 Von Karman Avenue in Irvine). The convention theme is "Educated. Reasoned. Active.", a counterpoint to today's social media driven hysteria. There has never been a time in which we have been more challenged to advance our mission, nor has there ever been a greater opportunity.

Come celebrate the advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research we do to achieve equity for women and girls! Meet state and national leaders. Attend informative and revitalizing workshops. Hear inspiring and entertaining speakers, including plenary sessions on grassroots advocacy, women peacebuilders, advancing equity for all, and this year's Speech Trek competition: "How Can We Stand Up to Sexism?" The convention's grand finale will be a celebration of the 20th anniversary of Tech Trek! Additional details and registration materials are in the winter issue of the California Perspective and on our state website. Register now for reduced registration and hotel rates. **Early bird rates until March 7th.**

http://www.aauw-ca.org/register-aauw-california-convention-2018/

From Suzanne Mesetz - PG&E energy saving upgrade program

I have had this done. It is marvelous. You have already paid for it. They showed me on our bill the tiny amount (\$0.21/month in our case) over the years. I believe you have to have Medicare or be over 65.

Call Joy at: 510.417.9821

It took a few months from start to finish. PG&E did the following:

changed all my light bulbs

replaced a ceiling light fixture

gave me a microwave

checked out our a/c and cleaned it and put more coolant in it

put a blanket on the water heater

repaired a leak (from a/c in closet)

changed furnace filters

Installed a new shower head

blew a huge amount of insulation into our attic

weather stripped as needed

It is not a scam. Plus you will receive 20% off your bill until 1/2020.

xo suzanne

March 2018 and beyond

Mar 7 Morning Books, 10 am, Kathleen Wolfe

Mar 12 Grand Slammers Bridge, 12:30 pm,
Brookview Clubhouse

Mar 14 In Indelible Ink, 10 am, Ginny Hargrave

Mar 14 Board meeting, 7 pm,
Rolling Green Clubhouse

Mar 16 Mah Jongg, 12:30 pm, Brookview Clubhouse

Mar 20 Lunchin' Ladies, 1 pm, Stanford's, W.C.

RSVP to Marlene Maksel by March 19

Mar 21 Charmen Goehring, AAUW CA State Director

Mar 22 Matinee Idle, Marlene Maksel

Mar 25 April 2018 N.E.W.S. deadline to Reba

Mar 26 Evening Books, 7 pm, Sharon Wilson

Mar 27 A Salute to Spring committee, 11 am, Cheryl Buscaglia

Apr 18 Professor Mary Volmer

"Women and the California Gold Rush"

Apr 27-29 AAUW CA Convention, Irvine

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

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.

2017–2018 LEADERSHIP TEAM

Presidents

Jennifer Apkarian 228-2027 apkarian1@att.net

Claudia Bass 372-8679 cbasslancer29@aol.com

Vice Presidents - Program

Bambi Barker 229-1720 <u>fanciphree@comcast.net</u>

Sally Figueiredo 890-0675 sallyfigueiredo@comcast.net

Vice Presidents - Membership

Bea Ball 890-0202 <u>beaball@att.net</u>

Elva Valli 228-8056 <u>wevalli@sbcglobal.net</u>

Vice Presidents - AAUW Fund

Barbara Chambers 229-5837 <u>ccrecbarb@gmail.com</u>

Marlene Maksel 689-5439 <u>marlene@maksel.us</u>

Secretary

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

Treasurer

Trinka March 372-8420 <u>drtrinks@sbcglobal.net</u>

Newsletter Editor

Reba Siero 228-8211 rebasiero@yahoo.com

Pleasant Hill – Martinez AAUW N.E.W.S. is published 10 times a year by and for AAUW. May/June & July/August are combined issues.

Copy deadline for the April 2018 N.E.W.S. is

March 25th. Please email copy to:

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

Sacramento, CA 55055

office@aauw-ca.org

http://aauw-ca.org/

(916) 448-7795

AAUW National Office

connect@aauw.org (800) 326-2289

http://www.aauw.org/