



Pleasant Hill-Martinez (CA) Branch

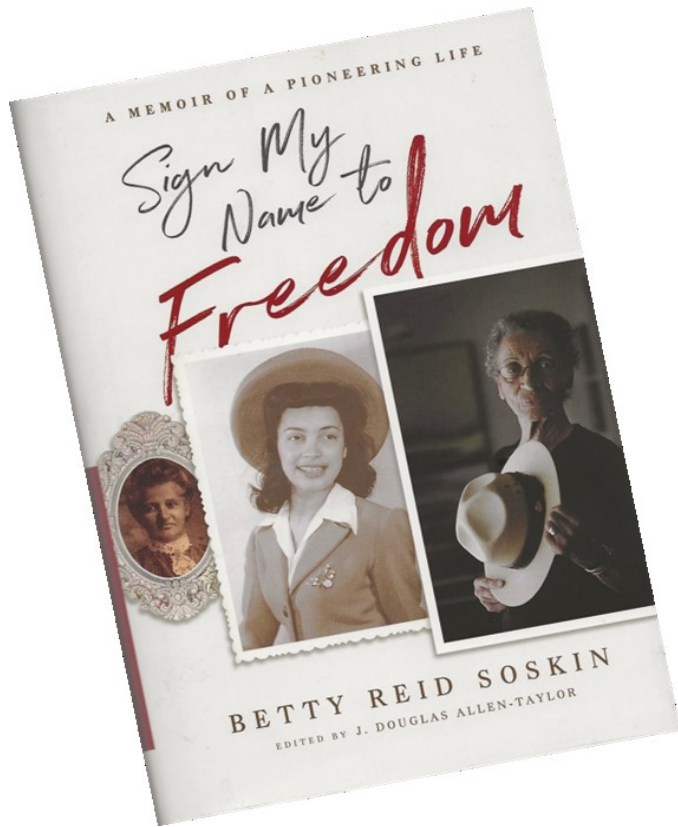
N.E.W.S.

Now/Events/Women/Success

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

Volume 61 Issue 3

November 2018



BETTY REID SOSKIN

Presents a fascinating and compelling description of her 97 years beginning with her childhood in New Orleans to her adult life in the East Bay including becoming a famous National Park Ranger at the Rosie the Riveter NHS in Richmond.

Betty also calmly and honestly depicts life at its best and its hardest for an African-American Creole woman from the 1920s to now. Don't miss it!

Wednesday, November 7, 2018 at 2 pm

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Sanctuary

1601 Mary Drive

Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

Admission: Free, and the public is welcome (Seating for 200)

(Her autobiography "Sign My Name to Freedom" will be available for purchase and an autograph if you wish)

For questions or letting us know you can help with refreshments, please contact:

Harriett Burt

or

Nancy Hobert

hjburt1940@comcast.net

nhobert@aol.com

925-372-8038

925-228-7271



PRESIDENTIAL POSTINGS

Thanksgiving is upon us! We have so much to be thankful for as a branch. Our membership is strong with over 100 members. We have many women who volunteer to help with our activities and fundraisers. We have a board that works together and supports one another to keep our branch vital and strong. Thanks especially to our July through September president **Marilyn Thelen** for her bold and visionary leadership this summer as she recruited Appointed Officers and Positions for the board and spearheaded a brainstorming session full of fresh ideas.

At our first general meeting on October 17, two League of Women Voters representatives updated us on ballot propositions in preparation for the November 6 election. It was very informative with valuable insights to help guide voters' decisions at the polls. Thank you to our Program VPs, **Nancy Hobert** and **Harriett Burt** for giving us the opportunity to learn more. We also held an election of our own as we voted for the nominating committee who will select Executive Officers for 2019-2020. Committee members are as follows: **Claudia Bass, SarahJoy Haynes** and **Penney Harris** (alternate) from the board; **Beverly Diefenbacher, Reba Siero, Sally Whitsett** and **Mary Westgate** (alternate) from the general membership. Please contact any of those listed above if you are interested in becoming an officer or would like to suggest a candidate.

On October 19 a group of 42 members, friends and spouses attended the **California Magic Show** in Martinez which included a three course dinner and entertainment. The food was delicious and everyone had a fun, happy time watching the magicians perform. Some of our group got up on stage as part of the show to assist the magicians. No one got hurt or lost any belongings in the process. Thanks to **Nancy Hobert, Sherrie Moore** and **Marilyn Thelen** for organizing the event.

Speaking of fun, we are holding a fundraiser to help send a group of seventh grade girls to science camp this summer through our Tech Trek program. Hope to see many of you at DVC on Novem-

ber 4 to watch the play **Footloose**. It will be a great way to spend an afternoon.

We have a very special program scheduled for our November meeting which will be held on the FIRST Wednesday of the month on November 7 at 2pm. Famous National Park Ranger **Betty Reid Soskin** will discuss her fascinating 97-year life starting in the 1920s and crossing the United States from New Orleans, LA to Richmond, CA. Her autobiography **Sign My Name to Freedom** will be available for purchase and an autograph. This is expected to be a popular event so arrive early for a good seat.

On November 9, **Sandy Wolfe** will be hosting a wine and cheese event at her home. This is a great way to meet and form friendships with other members while at the same time raising funds for Local Scholarships. Please contact Sandy if you would like to attend.

Hope to see everyone bring out your athletic spirit at Pacheco Bowl on November 17. Invite your friends and form a team of four or five to go bowling for the benefit of AAUW Fund and Tech Trek. A sign-up sheet is included with this newsletter.

The holiday season is just around the corner. Our annual Holiday Party will be held at Brookview Clubhouse in Pleasant Hill on December 7. The theme will be a Red and White Gala. Plan to attend and spread holiday cheer with fellow members and guests over a lovely catered dinner. Additional party details are in this newsletter.

As you can see we have a full plate in November and many will finish the month with a Thanksgiving plate of food. So on that note, have a wonderful Thanksgiving and give many thanks to all the members of our branch who put in their time, effort and donations which provide a variety of opportunities for so many individuals and makes a meaningful impression on the recipients.

Jennifer

NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2018

7:00 PM

At location TBD

Copy deadline for the

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

Monday, November 25th

Please email copy to:

Reba Siero rebasiero@yahoo.com

925-228-8211



National Park Ranger Betty Reid Soskin to speak at AAUW Community Event

Just a reminder that our November meeting day and time and room is changed as National Park Ranger Betty Reid Soskin will be coming to St. Andrews Church on Wednesday, November 7 at 2 p.m to talk about what has been a very interesting life. We will be meeting in the Sanctuary as we have no idea how many people will attend. But response from those we have talked to is quite enthusiastic so we shall see.

It will be a great opportunity to hear an amazing woman talk about her equally amazing life, about 90 years of which has been lived in the East Bay Area.

Famed National Park Service Ranger Betty Reid Soskin turned 97 on September 22 but she doesn't let that slow her down. Her blog shows 29 events, including two separate flights to Southern California, planned from October 1 through Wednesday, November 7, the day she speaks about her life and experiences at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Pleasant Hill. Three days later she leaves for three days in New York for a Glamour magazine photo shoot.

Her talk at St. Andrews is arranged by Pleasant Hill/Martinez AAUW and is open to the community. The event begins at 2 pm. Admission is free. Copies of her autobiography, *Sign My Name to Freedom*, will be available for purchase and signing.

Betty Charbonnet Reid Soskin is an author, composer and singer, social and political activist, entrepreneur, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, historian, blogger, public speaker, and National Park Service Ranger whose remarkable life spans the great American fault lines of the 20th and early 21st centuries.

Born into a Cajun/Creole African-American family in 1921, she spent her early years in New Orleans in the era of lynchings and Jim Crow segregation. Her family later settled in Oakland, California, following the historic floods that devastated the City of New Orleans in 1927. As a file clerk in an all-Black segregated union hall during World War II, she was witness to the flood-tide of black and white workers who poured into the Bay area wartime shipyards, a mass migration that changed the face and social fabric of California and helped usher in the civil rights era.

Along with her first husband, Mel Reid, Betty helped integrate the East Bay suburbs by moving their family into a previously white neighborhood. Betty and Mel also founded one of the first Black-owned record stores in Reid's Records in Berkeley, California.

In the 1960's and 70's, she was active in the Bay Area's civil rights and Black Power movements, as well as the movement to end the Vietnam War.

In 1995 Betty was named a "Woman of the Year" by the California State Legislature. In 2005 she was named one of the nation's ten outstanding women, "Builders of communities and dreams" by the National Women's History Project in ceremonies in both Griffith Park in Los Angeles, and in Washington, D.C.

As a State Assembly field representative, Betty was instrumental in the establishment of Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park in Richmond, California, in 2000.

She was later hired to work at the Rosie the Riveter Park, and is the oldest ranger in the National Park Service at 96. She is a highly sought-after public speaker and her blog, CBreaux Speaks, has thousands of followers.

Betty continues to work for the National Park Service. She lives in Richmond, California.

INTEREST SECTIONS MEETINGS



****MORNING BOOKS** will meet on Wednesday, November 7, 10 am, at Kathleen Woulfe's. We will be discussing *Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee. The story covers several generations of Korean families displaced by war and occupation and living in Japan. Please let your hostess know that you will be attending. In December, we will be discussing our classic, *Tess of the D'urbervilles* by Thomas Hardy. Plan to join us for great discussions!



****IN INDELIBLE INK** will meet on Wednesday, November 14th, 10 am, at Ginny Hargrave's. Our topic will be "A Thanksgiving Story" ~ a memoir, fiction, ~ maybe what you're planning for this Thanksgiving. Please join us! We would welcome some new writers! We like oral versions, too.



****LUNCHIN' LADIES** will not meet in November or December due to the holidays. Please give Marlene suggestions for some restaurants it would be fun for us to try.



****EVENING BOOKS** will meet on Monday, November 26th, 7 pm, at Linda Robbins', 2442 Lariat Lane, WC. We will be discussing *Beartown* by Fredrik Backman. Backman is the author of the much loved *A Man Called Ove*. The story is about a tiny community, it's hockey team and the loyalty, commitment and responsibilities of friendship it engenders. Please join us!



****MATINEE IDLE** will go to the movies on Thursday, December 6th ~ a combo for November and December. We will resume our regular 4th Thursday in January. 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, November 16th, at Brookview Clubhouse. New 2018 cards will be used.

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.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN PLAYING A LARGER ROLE IN AAUW? CONSIDER A POSITION ON THE AAUW CA LEADERSHIP TEAM

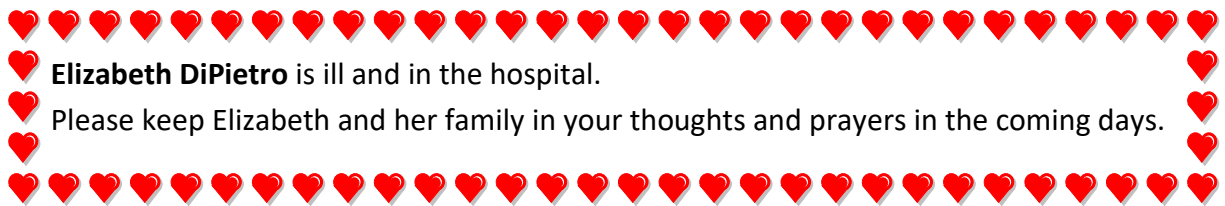
In your Fall 2018 *California Perspective* you might have seen an article "Get on Board the Mission Train!" The AAUW CA Nominating Committee is looking for members who are interested in serving on the state board for 2019. The process will begin on December 1, 2018.

In Spring 2019, the following offices will be open for election:

- President-Elect
- Chief Financial Officer (CFO)
- 2 Directors (at Large)

If you are interested in taking on one of these positions you can submit an application. More detailed information on the open board positions is on aauw-ca.org. If you have more questions regarding nominations, campaign or election guidelines, contact nominating@aauw-ca.org. You can also contact Jennifer Apkarian and she will provide a phone number of one of the nominating committee members.

See your Fall 2018 *California Perspective*, page 3 for the full article.



Elizabeth DiPietro is ill and in the hospital.

Please keep Elizabeth and her family in your thoughts and prayers in the coming days.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Claudia Bass and SarahJoy Haynes, Membership VPs

Fall has been a great season for Pleasant Hill-Martinez AAUW. Thank you to everyone who heeds the call to help. One of the ways this is evident is in spreading the word about what AAUW is all about and in encouraging folks to join. Our branch has grown to 108 members. Please note that all new members have a colored dot on their nametag, so we trust you will welcome them personally very soon.

June Rogers

6 Fairway Place

Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

925-689-8726 home

925-808-5881 cell

925-228-2302 work

juner@ibew1u302.com

June holds a degree in Human Development from Cal State Hayward

Welcome June!

Claudia Bass at 925-372-8679, cbasslancer29@aol.com

SarahJoy Haynes at 925-372-9211, plumleathr@aol.com

Wine & Cheese Party with a Purpose

We will be hosting a series of social events to raise funds for scholarships. The first few people to RSVP for each event will be given the option to bring something for the party or donate to the scholarship fund. Once all the party supporter roles are filled the only way to get on the guest list is to make a \$10 donation. Each of the quarterly morning or afternoon social events will have a different theme but support a single goal - raising scholarship funds.

Bring wine or cheese, or donate \$10 for scholarships

Date: November 9th

Time: 3:00-5:00

Where: 156 Elderwood Drive, Pleasant Hill

Maximum attendance: 20

RSVP: Sandy Wolfe

925-228-2633

Rfwolfeman@sbcglobal.net



Pleasant Hill - Martinez AAUW Website



Our website will show you everything you need to know about our Pleasant Hill - Martinez branch. Check out the pictures of our October Program and the Dinner/Magic Show on the **Photos Page**. Look for our upcoming activities on the **Program 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

International Soup Supper - Save the Date - January 16, 2019, 6 pm

Budd MacKenzie to speak on his experiences in Afghanistan.

Budd is a local lawyer and community volunteer who founded Trust in Education after reading *Charlie Wilson's War*, becoming informed about US involvement in Afghanistan, and visiting Afghanistan. TIE is comprised of an ever increasing number of people who, like Budd, have chosen to make time to help Afghans rebuild their lives and country. He has learned through this experience that the greatest rewards in life come from the impact we have on the lives of others.

Donna DiBetta
Chair, International Soup Supper

AAUW FUND REPORT

Gayle Miner and Diane Coventry, AAUW Fund VPs

What is the difference between AAUW Fund and The AAUW Action Fund? A branch or member may donate to the AAUW Fund and it is a tax deductible gift that supports AAUW's 501(c)(3) endeavors. Donations to the AAUW Action Fund are NOT tax deductible and support AAUW's (c)(4) work. To learn more, visit the Action Fund's separate website. (Taken from Board to Board newsletter, 4th edition, 2018). We have had an overwhelming response to our solicitation letters for National AAUW Fund and their endeavors. Your donations of \$3,485.00 so far, will be a great benefit to AAUW Fund on the National level. If you haven't yet had a chance to donate, we will be delighted to receive your donation at any time. Thank you for your generosity to support women and girls through AAUW Fund.

Here is Diane Coventry's report on the Fund Luncheon:

The Fund Luncheon in Danville at the Crow Canyon Country Club on October 7th, was inspiring, "a lovely setting and a room filled with interesting women with amazing stories", shared Charlotte. Four members of our branch attended, two of us for the first time. I (Diane) sat next to one of the Fellows, Sylvia Lewin, who is a Physics doctorate at UC Berkeley. She is doing research on quantum materials, which sounded very intriguing and complex.

The next Fund meeting is Monday, November 19 at 2:30 PM at the home of Ginny Hargrave. If you would like to join us, please call Gayle Miner 925-349-6795 or Diane Coventry 510-912-9306.



SAVE THE DATE

PH-M AAUW ANNUAL LAYETTE SHOWER

Benefiting new mothers and babies in need in Contra Costa County

Susan Rheingruber's home

14 Pillon Real, Pleasant Hill

Wednesday, December 12th at 10 AM

Bring lightly used or new baby needs as gifts (do not wrap)

Have some fun with your friends





Pleasant Hill-Martinez Branch
And



Presents

Remarkable You.

Fashion Show Fundraiser
Featuring
EILEEN FISHER and INC Clothing

Saturday Dec. 1st @ 1:00 pm

Second Floor Women's Apparel

Macy's Walnut Creek, 1301 Broadway Plaza

\$10 per person, sign up ahead, pay at the door (cash or check)

Friends and Family included

Light snack, fashion show, Macy's goody bag

Contact **Elena Noble** to sign up

enoble4@astound.net

925-787-2410

2018-2019 Nominating Committee

At our October 17 general meeting members approved Claudia Bass and SarahJoy Haynes along with Penny Harris as alternate to represent our Board and Beverly Diefenbacher, Reba Siero and Sally Whitsett along with Mary Westgate as alternate to represent the general membership on this year's Nominating Committee. The committee will convene in January to begin developing our slate of officers for our 2019-2020 year. If you are interested in holding a position or would like to recommend someone for a position, please contact me before then.

Janice Walker, Parliamentarian

PLEASANT HILL-MARTINEZ AAUW



Candy Cane Lane

Friday, December 7, 2018

6:00 social time

6:30 dinner

Brookview Clubhouse, 1201 Monument Blvd, Concord

\$50 per guest

Red and white attire optional

Please send your check made out to AAUW Pleasant Hill-Martinez Branch to Bea Ball, 94 Rolling Green Circle, Pleasant Hill, 94523 by **December 1.**

Your check is your reservation. Attendance limit is 72. Please car pool.

Enjoy appetizers, wine, sparkling cider, dinner, dessert, from Catering by Cynthia, and entertainment

Written below is the AAUW Public Policy Priorities. It is this writer's opinion that we all need to know the basis of all of AAUW's beliefs and lobbying policies; therefore, I have made this my priority for everyone to learn what is important to AAUW. If any of this is of interest to you, please feel free to contact me for more information.

AAUW Public Policy Priorities

The Public Policy Priorities underscore AAUW's mission of advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research and speak to women's needs, aspirations, and concerns across the life span. The work of AAUW BUILDS UPON MORE THAN 130 YEARS OF RESPONSIBLE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, AND THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES PROVIDE A BASIS FOR AAUW MEMBERS' ACTION AT THE LOCAL, STATE, NATIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS. Implicit in each of our principles is support for government agencies administering programs, including adequate appropriations, effective and accountable administration, and provisions for citizen participation. We advocate public discussion to ensure enlightened decisions on these principles. We work to increase the number of women and other underrepresented populations in policy—and other decision-making positions. AAUW is committed to working in collaboration with diverse allies and coalitions to break through educational and economic barriers for women and girls.

Public Policy Principles for Action

Basic to all of AAUW's public policy efforts is the understanding that true equity requires a balance between the rights of the individual and the needs of the community. AAUW opposed all forms of discrimination and supports constitutional protecting for the civil rights of all individuals.

AAUW believe that high-quality public education is the foundation of a democratic society and the key to economic prosperity and gender equality. Ad advocate equitable climates free of harassment, bullying, and sexual assault. We support academic freedom, civic education, protection from censorship, bias-free education, and responsible funding for all levels of education, including early childhood education and programs for students with disabilities. We advocate increased access to higher education, especially for women in poverty. We promote equitable efforts to close the persistent achievement gap that disproportionately affects low-income children and students from minority communities.

AAUW promotes the economic, social, and physical well-being of all persons. Essential to that well-being are an economy that provides equitable employment opportunities, reduction of poverty, a living wage, quality, affordable dependent care; paid family and medical leave, safe, livable and affordable housing, quality, affordable, and accessible health care, including reproductive health care; and a clean healthy, and sustainable environment. We support a Social Security system that provides inflation-protected, guaranteed lifetime benefits with a progressive benefit formula, spousal and widow benefits, and disability and survivor benefits. We oppose any efforts to undermine Medicare and Medicaid, including privatization and block grant proposals. AAUW recognizes that gun violence is a public health crisis.

AAUW believes in the right to privacy and freedom from violence. We firmly believe in the separation of church and state. We support a fair, balances, and independent judiciary. We support public budgets that balance individual rights and responsibility to the community. We see an urgent need for meaningful campaign finance reform, open and fair elections, and nonpartisan voter education efforts that will promote equitable political participation and representation in a pointed and elected office.

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AAUW supports the efforts to improve racial, ethnic and gender justice. This includes creating a diverse culture of involvement, respect, inclusion and connection, where the richness of ideas, backgrounds, and perspectives is fully appreciated and utilized.

AAUW believes that global interdependence requires national and international policies against human trafficking and that promote peace, justice, human rights, sustainable development, and mutual security for all people. We support the civil and human rights of all immigrants, including a fair and just path to legal status. We support a strengthened United Nations and its affiliated agencies. We advocate implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, from the 4th World Conference of Women and subsequent declarations. We affirm our active participation in the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women and our commitment to ratification of the U.N. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). We support international family planning programs that are consistent with AAUW policy.

Biennial Action Priorities

National priorities inform state and local action. Biennial priorities for national action are chosen according to the criteria of viability, critical need, strong member support, and potential for distinctive AAUW contribution of leadership. No order of importance is implied.

To support a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity, and diversity, AAUW advocates

- Adequate and equitable funding for quality public education for all students
- Opposition to the use of public funds for nonpublic elementary and secondary education and to charter schools that do not adhere to the same civil rights and accountability standards as required of other public schools
- Protection of programs that meet the needs of girls and women in elementary, secondary, and postsecondary education, including strong promotion of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education and comprehensive sexual health education
- Vigorous enforcement of Title IX and all other civil rights laws pertaining to education
- Increased support for and access to affordable higher education for women and disadvantaged populations
- Increased support for programs that break through barriers to women and girls in STEM fields

To achieve economic self-sufficiency for all women, AAUW advocates

- Pay equity and fairness in compensation and benefits
- Equitable access and advancement in employment, including vigorous enforcement of employment and anti-discrimination statutes
- Greater availability of and access to a high standard of benefits and policies that promote work-life balance, including quality and affordable dependent care
- Programs that provide women with education, training and support for success in the workforce, including nontraditional occupations and women's entrepreneurship
- Strengthening programs, including welfare and career and technical education to improve postsecondary education access, career development, and earning potential
- Strengthening retirement benefits and programs, including pensions improvements and protecting Social Security from privatization

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To guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse society AAUW advocates

- Vigorous enforcement of and full access to civil and constitutional rights, including affirmative action and expanding voting rights
- Self-determination of one's reproductive health decisions
- Increased access to quality, affordable health care and family planning services, including expansion of patients' rights
- Freedom from violence and fear of violence, including hate crimes, in homes, schools, workplaces, and communities
- Support for U.N. programs that address human rights and women's and girls' concerns.
- Freedom in the definition of self and family and a guarantee of civil rights for all family structures
- Passage and ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment



Elena Noble enoble4@astound.net

Start Smart Facilitator, CCC Inter-Branch Council

This year AAUW and Luna Bar are partnering to bring Salary Negotiation Skills to more women than ever.

Our popular **Start Smart** and **Work Smart** Classes can now be taken online **for FREE**.

The idea is for AAUW Members to gather daughters, sisters, and friends to review our Salary Skill Builder site together.

We know that woman to woman, having a conversation about pitfalls in wage equity coupled with teaching strategies to break down norms is key to success.

I personally did this with my granddaughter and daughter-in-law and found not only were they shocked; they listened and appreciated becoming informed.

So, check it out aauw.org Search Salary Negotiation

Let us know how it went....



2018–2019 LEADERSHIP TEAM

November 2018 and beyond

- Nov 4** "Footloose", DVC, 2:30 pm, RSVP Trinka March
- Nov 6** Election Day - Everyone **VOTE!**
- Nov 7** Morning Books, 10 pm, Kathleen Woulfe's
- Nov 7** November meeting, 2 pm,
St Andrew's Sanctuary
Betty Reid Soskin (special date and time)
- Nov 9** Wine & Cheese Social, 3 pm, Sandy Wolfe
- Nov 14** Board meeting, 7:00 pm, Location TBD
- Nov 14** In Indelible Ink, 10 am, Ginny Hargrave's
- Nov 16** Mah Jongg, 12:30 pm, Brookview Clubhouse
- Nov 17** Bowling Fundraiser, RSVP Gayle Miner
- Nov 19** Fund meeting, 2:30 pm, Ginny Hargrave's
- Nov 22** Thanksgiving Day!
- Nov 25** November 2018 N.E.W.S. deadline to Reba
- Nov 26** Evening Books, 7 pm, Jeanne McGinnis's
- Dec 6** Matinee Idle, Marlene Maksel
- Dec 7** Candy Cane Lane Holiday Party, 6 pm
Brookview Clubhouse
- Dec 12** Layette Shower, 10:00 am, Susan Rheingruber's
- Jan 16, 2019** International Soup Supper,
6 pm, St Andrew's
Budd MacKenzie from TIE to speak

President (October, November & December 2018)

Jennifer Apkarian 228-2027 apkarian1@att.net

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Vice Presidents - AAUW Fund

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Copy deadline for the December 2018 N.E.W.S. is November 25th. Please email copy to:

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