



N.E.W.S.

Now/Events/Women/Success

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

Volume 61 Issue 8

April 2019

National Women's History Alliance "39 Years of Writing Women Back into History"

HISTORY TRIVIA QUESTIONS: What famous Suffragist spoke at the Martinez Opera House during the unsuccessful 1896 suffrage campaign? What early Martinez resident chaired the second Women's Suffrage meeting in upstate New York in 1848?

We are very fortunate to have Molly Murphy MacGregor, co-founder and Executive Director of the National Women's History Alliance, as our guest speaker in April. For 38 years she and other women have been working to ensure that the contributions of women to our nation's history and its success are known and honored by everyone. Now the organization is recognized as an important advocate for studying and recognizing the incredible contributions of women in our country from its beginning.

It is now the centennial year(s) of women obtaining the right to vote -- year(s) because the 19th Amendment passed both the House and Senate in 1919 to be sent out for ratification by three-fourths of the states. That was achieved when Tennessee passed it in 1920.

That makes a double good excuse for a celebration. The National Women's History Alliance, headquartered in Santa Rosa, is one of the leaders in the effort underway to make sure that the centennial is honored as it should be and that awareness of the contributions of women to our history are properly and permanently noted. Already NWAH is preparing not only for national celebrations but also for local events. One such is to have local groups such as ours identify the graves of local women who were instrumental in the fight for the vote. We have that information from the 2011 suffrage centennial here in Alhambra Cemetery and other locations. How about a little grave decoration project in our area this year?

Their first success years ago was lobbying Congress to designate March as Women's History Month. NWAH then worked to provide information and training for educators, community organizations and parents on women's contributions to US history. The most recent NWAH success was influencing a Congressional Commission to study the possibility of a museum of American Women's History. In November 2016 the Commission reported to the President and Congress that women's history is integral to the American story and the Smithsonian Institution is the natural place to honor women's contributions to this country. The President and Congress agreed by taking a first step....creating the American Women's History Initiative at the Smithsonian. There were 90 million social media hits in the first 10 days of a marketing campaign, #BecauseOfHerStory.

Ms MacGregor will talk about the work of the NWAH, its goals and the importance of all of us supporting awareness of the contributions of women to our history locally and nationally. We can also think about whether we might organize a little project to honor the Pleasant Hill and Martinez women who worked so hard in 1896 (unsuccessfully) and 1911 (successfully). We know who many of them are! Bring guests and students who would be interested.

You are welcome to spread the word and bring guests and students who would be interested.

Wednesday, April 17, 2019 at 7 PM

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

1601 Mary Drive, Pleasant Hill



PRESIDENTIAL POSTINGS

Dr. Fred Wood, chancellor of the Contra Costa Community College District, was our March speaker. He was an articulate and enthusiastic advocate for our junior college system, which currently serves over 51,000 students at three colleges and two centers. He gave many statistics about the district, but the most horrifying was that 40% of the students at the Diablo Valley College have experienced at least one day without knowing where their food is coming from. All three campuses now have food pantries for their students in need.

Kudos to the SAM committee - Barbara Minneman, Diane Coventry, and Sherrie Moore- for coordinating two weeks of art and music at Fair Oaks Elementary. Thanks also to the many volunteers who participated. The lessons were based on music by Modest Mussorgsky and art by the painter, Wassily Kandinsky. It was fun to participate!

Barbara Newacheck Award

Recipient Needed!

The Barbara Newacheck Award will be given at the Installation Brunch in June. Please give it some thought, and if you have a suggestion for a recipient, please let Nancy Hobert know. The President, Treasurer and Membership VPs make the selection, but we need names to consider.

April 30th is game day, so be sure and call Marlene Maksiel and make a reservation. Chair Gayle Miner is planning games for all interests – including Mah Jongg, Mexican Train, bridge, and Pictionary. The time is 12:30 to 3:30 and the cost is \$10.

The April 17th meeting will be a celebration of the 100th anniversary of Congress passing the women’s right to vote amendment. We will have speaker from the Women’s Historical Project. The board meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. prior to the general meeting at St. Andrew’s Church.

Two important dates to put on your calendar now! June 1st will be our new officers installation brunch. It is also your chance to see our scholars and meet the Tech Trek girls. The joint dinner meeting for the old and new board will be June 12th at my home.

Thank you to all members who voted by phone on the bylaws changes and the due increase. Both passed.

Spring is bursting forth all over because of all the rain we have had this past winter. Enjoy all the beauty around us – we are indeed fortunate to live in this part of our wonderful country.

Nancy

***APRIL BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2019***

6:00 PM

***At St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church
(before the regular meeting)***

**Copy deadline for the
May/June 2019 N.E.W.S.
(This is a 2 month issue!)**

Friday, April 26th

Please email copy to:

Reba Siero rebasiero@yahoo.com

925-228-8211

INTEREST SECTIONS MEETINGS



****MORNING BOOKS** will meet on Wednesday, April 3, 10 am, at Janice Walker's. We will be discussing *This I Believe*, compiled by Jay Allison and Dan Gediman. This series of essays by well-known folk might inspire you to look at your own personal beliefs. PLEASE let your hostess know if you are planning to attend. In May, we will be discussing Jason Fagone's *The Woman Who Smashed Codes*. Plan to join us for great discussions!



****IN INDELIBLE INK** will meet on Wednesday, April 10, 10 am, at Ginny Hargrave's. The theme will be "April." Maybe an April Fool's Joke story, an Easter remembrance, a vacation . . . whatever! Please join us! We would welcome some new writers! We like oral versions, too.



****LUNCHIN' LADIES** will meet on Tuesday April 16th, 12:30 pm, at Hideout Kitchen in Lafayette, 3406 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Please call before the 15th so reservations can be made. And, please give Marlene suggestions for some restaurants it would be fun for us to try.



****EVENING BOOKS** will meet on Monday, April 22, 7 pm at Eileen Bordenave's. We will be discussing *Amy Snow* by Tracy Rees. Please let your hostess know if you are planning to attend. Our next meeting will be Monday, June 3, and we will meet at a local restaurant; we will not be discussing a book. Please join us!



****MATINEE IDLE** will go to the movies on Thursday, April 25. Details will come by email the Monday prior. 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**

WE'RE PLAYING ONE WEEK EARLY!

COME PLAY MAH JONGG!

Mah Jongg meets at 12:30 PM on **Friday, April 12th**, 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. We will use new cards (2019) at our April Mah Jongg gathering.

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 usually play on the 3rd Friday of the month, but this month we are moving to the 2nd Friday so as not to interfere with Good Friday. We would love to have you join our group.

AAUW FUND REPORT

Gayle Miner and Diane Coventry, AAUW Fund VPs

We love Kinders! Be on the lookout for more **Kinder coupons** starting April 29, until June 6, 2019. They will be available at Game Day, at the End of the Year Brunch and from Fund Committee members. Gayle Miner: 349-6795, Harriett Burt: 209-0800, Marlene Maksel: 689-5439, Jennifer Apkarian: 228-2027. Thank you to all who purchased coupons last time. We sold 246 with a profit of \$1,256.00!

Check out the flyer in this month's newsletter for more details about **Game Day**. Tuesday, April 30, 12:30 to 3:30 at Brookview Clubhouse. \$10.00 per person. Games are Bridge, Mexican Train, Mah Jongg and Pictionary. For reservations contact:

Marlene Maksel at 689-5439 or

marlene@maksiel.us.

RESERVATIONS ARE A MUST.

Come join the fun and support LAF.

JOIN US FOR GAME DAY!



Tuesday, April 30, 2019

12:30 - 3:30 PM

Brookview Clubhouse



We will be playing Bridge, Mexican Train, Mah Jongg and Pictionary

Prizes and Snacks

The cost is \$10 payable at the door

RESERVATIONS ARE A MUST!

Contact Marlene Maksel at 689-5439 OR marlene@maksel.us to make your reservation by April 28th.

NOTE: BRIDGE PLAYERS SHOULD REGISTER IN GROUPS OF 4 ONLY.

PLEASE get your group of 4 names together before calling Marlene for your reservation.

Thank you for supporting AAUW FUND!

Slate of Candidates for the 2019-2020 Year

President: Reba Siero

Program Vice Presidents: Harriett Burt and Helen Pereira

Membership Vice Presidents: SarahJoy Haynes and Kathleen Woulfe

AAUW Fund (EF) Vice Presidents: Claudia Bass and Gayle Miner

Secretary: Barbara Minneman

Treasurer: Trinkia March

The election of our Executive Officers for the 2019-2020 year will take place on Wednesday, April 17, at our general meeting. Nominations from the floor will be accepted at that time, with the permission of the candidate. Special thanks is extended to the following members of the nominating committee for their time and effort: Claudia Bass, Beverly Diefenbacher, Penny Harris, SarahJoy Haynes, Reba Siero, Sally Whitsett, and Mary Westgate and to the above candidates who have stepped forward to offer their time and effort for the benefit of the Pleasant Hill-Martinez Branch.

Thanks is again extended to all our members (82) who voted to amend **Article X. Section 1d**, making it possible for Trinkia March to be included in this year's Slate of Candidates.

Janice Walker, Parliamentarian



Thank you SAM Volunteers

We would like to thank the following SAM (Study Art and Music) program volunteers:

Claudia Bass, Bea Ball, Ish Mendonsa, Marlene Maksel, Sara Tancredy, Linda Goetz, Muriel Fry, Helen Pereira, Charlotte Liniger, Trinka March, Nancy Hobert, Elva Valli, Beverly Diefenbacher, Susan Trebino, Jennifer Apkarian, Vicki Anderle, Andre Moran, and Penny Harris



We just finished two weeks of our art and music program at Fair Oaks Elementary School in Pleasant Hill. Our lesson plan for 14 classes included a painter, Wassily Kandinsky, an abstract expressionist, who used colorful shapes. We listened to composer Modest Mussorgsky's piece, *Pictures at an Exhibition*.

The primary classes drew shapes with colors, and the 4th and 5th graders painted using acrylics on birch rounds. Thanks to all of you who helped. It's a very rewarding experience.

Barbara Minneman, Diane Coventry, and Sherrie Moore



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Claudia Bass and SarahJoy Haynes, Membership VPs

Spring has sprung and AAUW dues time has arrived! I know excitement is in the air! For our AAUW members it means time to renew notice and information form (which keep our directory up to date) have been mailed for the 2019-2020 dues. The amount is \$105 and is broken down in the following manner: \$59.00 to national, \$20.00 to state and \$26.00 to our branch. Thank you for many of you for your prompt reply to the information forms and checks. We are appreciative and remind you about the EARLY BIRD BONUS. When paying your dues by the magic date of **April 11**, early bird members names go into a hat and 3 winners will be announced at the Wednesday, April 17 general meeting. Their national dues will be paid for them!!! So it pays to be the early bird.

We have a new member and would like to welcome Carol Roberts. Here is her information and please add her to your directory.

Carol Roberts

1032 Arlington Way, Martinez, CA 94553

925-229-0588

Caroldrob47@sbcglobal.net

University of Florida, Gainesville: BA Journalism

San Francisco State University: Marriage Family Child Counseling

License: M.F.T.

Corrections and changes:

Diane Coventry: use cell phone 510-912-9306

Kit Hein: cell phone 925-305-6301

Bobbi Horack: new address as of 4/11/19, 1010 Andrews Drive, Martinez, CA 94553

Kathy Wheeler: cell phone is main phone for now

Happy Spring! Enjoy the sunshine.

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

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

SUNSHINE

Gayle Garrison

Sunshine likes to send cards to members, however, I do not always know who is ill or might just need a "thinking of you" card. Please call and let me know, as several calls are better than none.

Gayle Garrison

tarheel61@yahoo.com or 925-798-7528





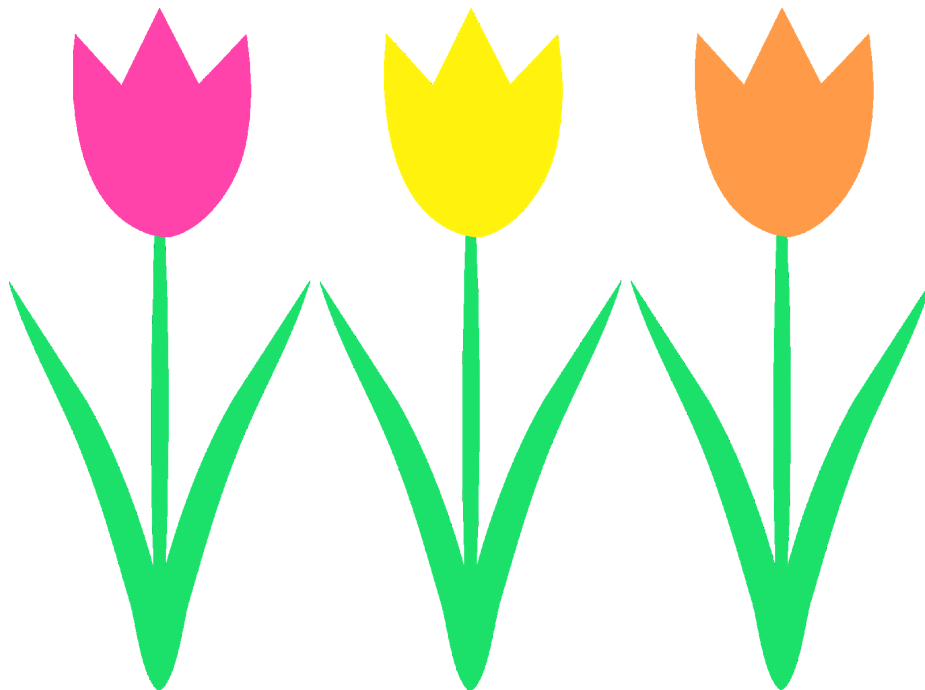
Pleasant Hill - Martinez AAUW Website



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



March is Women's History Month: in 2020 we will have had the vote for 100 years, AAUW worked hard to get this for us. Below are other lobbying efforts that your dues (part of which goes to National AAUW) helps to create for all women. From the State Chapters here are just a few of the things they are working on.

Battle Over Title IX Heats Up at the State Level

In November, the Department of Education issued a proposed rule that would undermine the critical civil rights protections of Title IX. In response, over 100,000 comments were submitted regarding the changes, including ones from [AAUW](#) and [6,143 AAUW members and supporters](#) from all 50 states opposing the harmful proposal. States are also offering their own responses. Many are scrambling to understand how the proposed regulations would impact current state laws, and some are working to strengthen their existing legal framework. With the support of AAUW of CA, [California](#) state Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson (D) introduced a bill outlining procedures that schools would have to follow when dealing with sexual harassment and assault claims. Last year, the [Hawaii](#) legislature passed a law to create a state version of Title IX, thanks in part to the advocacy of AAUW of HI members. While the report required by that law is delayed, the state plans to continue to strengthen its provisions in the coming years. Unfortunately, other states, such as [Missouri](#) and [North Carolina](#), are attempting to further curtail student rights and protections. AAUW members are fighting back, with AAUW of MO members in particular working hard to stop harmful legislation in their state. All these efforts are important – both to proactively offer good solutions and set the agenda, and reactively respond to problematic offered legislation.

More Momentum in 2019 for Passage of the ERA

The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to the U.S. Constitution would guarantee constitutional equality between men and women — a concept a [majority](#) of Americans agree is necessary. First proposed in 1923, the [ERA](#) was ratified by 35 of the necessary 38 states by 1977. However, Congress imposed a deadline to complete ratification by 1982. In 2017 and 2018, [Nevada](#) and [Illinois](#) became the 36th and 37th states, respectively, to ratify the ERA. Now several states are striving to be the 38th. A particularly robust campaign is underway in Virginia where [AAUW of Virginia](#) advocates are leading the charge. If Virginia, or another state, ratifies the amendment [further action](#) from Congress would be necessary to complete the process.

Meanwhile, other states are working to add similar protections to their state constitutions. In January, with the support of AAUW of Delaware members, [Delaware](#) lawmakers amended their state constitution to include: "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged on account of sex." A similar measure is moving forward in the Minnesota legislature.

At National Level:

It's official! One of AAUW's [top federal legislative priorities](#) – [the Paycheck Fairness Act](#) – will be brought for a vote on the House floor as soon as the week of March 25! In anticipation of this major event, we have been ramping up our advocacy since the very first day of this historic Congress. AAUW worked behind the scenes on the House hearing and committee process, Lobby Corps visited hundreds of offices to make sure they have the information they need before the vote, and our staff spoke on panels, [at rallies](#) and met with key Congressional offices [along with Lilly Ledbetter](#) to garner additional support this important bill. For the last push before the vote, we are looking to our member leaders to hold in-district meetings and our activists to write to their representatives (starting with "One Thing You Must Do" below) to make it clear that passing the [Paycheck Fairness Act](#) is a national priority. This is an all hands on deck moment, and we could not be more excited! Thanks to you, all this hard work will mean that we will be celebrating passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act for this year's Equal Pay Day.

Lawsuit Victory Requires Companies to Report Pay Data by Gender, Race

In an important victory on Monday, a federal district court judge in D.C. [ruled](#) that the government acted illegally when it stopped the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) from collecting pay data by sex, race and ethnicity from large companies. The government must now move forward with a [requirement](#) that employers report compensation information to the EEOC by demographic information and job category. The Trump Administration [halted the pay data collection](#) in August 2017 in response to opponents who felt it created a costly and unfair burden on employers. Subsequently, three advocacy groups [filed](#) a lawsuit challenging the move. AAUW has long advocated for pay data collection so that employers and enforcement agencies are better able to analyze and act on pay disparities. With this federal pay data collection moving forward, employers and enforcement agencies can better develop solutions to close gender and race pay gaps.

The House of Representatives this week took steps to advance a number of AAUW's [priority issues](#), including combatting workplace harassment, guaranteeing paid leave, raising the minimum wage and preventing violence against women.

(from page 7)

On Tuesday, legislators introduced the Ending the Monopoly of Power Over Workplace Harassment through Education and Reporting (EMPOWER) Act. This AAUW-endorsed legislation would address workplace harassment by making it easier and safer for people to speak out and harder for employers to avoid accountability. Also on Tuesday, AAUW SVP Deborah J. Vagins was invited to speak at the press conference for the introduction of the Federal Employee Paid Leave Act (FEPLA), which would provide 12 weeks of paid leave for federal employees. Paid leave was also addressed Thursday at a House Ways and Means Committee hearing on the challenges faced by working families. Members of Congress and witnesses spoke about the importance of passing the FAMILY Act, which would provide paid family and medical leave for all employees. On Wednesday, the House Education and Labor Committee approved the Raise the Wage Act out of committee, defeating several harmful amendments and sending a strong bill to gradually increase the minimum wage to the House floor. And on Thursday, the House Judiciary Committee held a hearing on the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). AAUW is excited to see progress on these important issues and pieces of legislation.

We can, and do, make a difference for all women.



TECH TREK TIDINGS

Diane Coventry

The Tech Trek committee has been busy. They spent hours reviewing applications, interviewed eleven candidates, and selected 6 campers for Sonoma 2019. We were able to select at least one applicant per middle school. The finalists are: Bianca Lewis from Martinez Junior High, Emilia Costa from Pleasant Hill Middle, Jade Watson from Valley View Middle, and three girls from Sequoia Middle, Avery Greenwood, Lilian Schrempf, and Alison Stewart. Congratulations girls. We hope they can attend our End of the Year Spring Brunch on May 18th.

Thank you committee members, Sherrie Moore, Katrinka March, Helen Pereira, Claudia Bass, Penny Harris, Bobbi Horack, and Susan Strebino for your perseverance and hard work. A job well done. I am sure our campers will have a fun and exciting week at camp, June 23rd - 29th. I again would like to encourage our branch members to be dorm moms, class monitors, or come visit the camp on Visitation Day. If you are interested or would like more information send me an email, diane.coventry@yahoo.com.

While I did not interview our camper applicants this time, I had an opportunity to attend *Expanding Your Horizons STEAM Conference*, at St. Mary's College. It was presented by AAUW Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette Branch. It started 4 years ago, when Staci Cragholm and some of the branch members noticed that so many girls applied to Tech Trek to fill the few spots for the branch at camp, and decided that this conference would give more middle school girls an opportunity to participate in hands-on, interactive science, technology, engineering, art, and math workshops. There were 20 workshops offered, with each of the 200 attendees signed up for three. The keynote speaker was Danielle Feinberg, Director of Photography for Lighting with Pixar. She spoke of her journey and her story, encouraging the girls to "stand out in the crowd" and build their "unique story" and "push your boundaries. She was very inspirational and entertaining, showing her love of combining computers and art. We all enjoyed seeing video clips from Wall*E, A Bug's Life, Brave, and Coco. It was a captivating day with many networking opportunities.

2018–2019 LEADERSHIP TEAM

April 2019 and Beyond

- Apr 3** Morning Books, 10 am, Janice Walker's
Apr 6 AAUW California meeting - San Diego
Apr 10 In Indelible Ink, 10 am, Ginny Hargrave's
Apr 12 Mah Jongg, 12:30 pm, Brookview Clubhouse
Apr 16 Lunchin' Ladies, 12:30 pm,
Hideout Kitchen, Lafayette
RSVP to Marlene before Apr 15
Apr 17 Board Meeting, 6:00 pm, St Andrew's
Apr 17 April Meeting, 7 pm, St Andrew's
Election and NWA presentation
Apr 22 Evening Books, 7 pm, Eileen Bordenave's
Apr 25 Matinee Idle, Marlene Maksel
Apr 26 May/June 2019 N.E.W.S. deadline to Reba
Apr 29 to Jun 6 Kinder's Coupons on Sale
Apr 30 Game Day, 12:30 pm, Brookview Clubhouse
Fund Fundraiser
Jun 1 Installation Brunch, 10 am, IBEW Hall, Martinez
Jun 3 Evening Books End of Year Luncheon
Jun 9 Tech Trek Ice Cream Social, noon
Pacheco Community Center
Jun 12 Joint Board Meeting, Nancy Hobert's

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