



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 6

February 2019

A Woman's Fight for a College Education in the Sciences 1954 to the 1970s

Wednesday, February 20, 2019, 7 pm

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

1601 Mary Dr, Pleasant Hill, CA

Our February speaker, Dianna Vanni Stephenson, loved her classes in science and math all the way through public school so never hesitated to declare a science major when she left for college. She has given two well-received Soup Supper talks about aspects of her career. We've also heard her describe the encouragement and support her Alhambra High chemistry teacher, our own senior life member Carol Baier, gave her as she headed off to UC Berkeley in 1954 to be one of the few women in those days to major in science or mathematics.

Dianna gave us a hint in a talk at the Soup Supper a few years ago about how very difficult it was for women science majors to pursue an education not because of their intellect but because of extreme, callous, and accepted discrimination by professors and male students. But she gritted her teeth and finally prevailed, earning her B. S. at UC Berkeley in 1958 and a master's degree at the University of Nevada before being awarded the Northern Arizona University's first doctoral degree in the mid-1970s. In her talk at the February meeting, she will describe just how hard it was then and the extent if any to which it is easier for women science majors now. Her advisor at NAU made it very coldly clear that while that she would receive her diploma, the first Ph. D awarded there, they would not hire her (or any other woman with an advanced science degree) to teach there.

Times have changed to some extent in 65 years. Dianna has marked that change and her appreciation of Carol's encouragement of her so many years ago by establishing with her husband, Bill, the Carol Baier Scholarship for Alhambra graduating senior women planning to major in science or mathematics in college. Carol's family will be endowing the scholarship so that it can continue for a number of years. In the future, the funds will come from a bequest by Carol's eldest child, the late Mary Baier, who died earlier this year from cancer at age 60.

We will let Dianna tell the story of her experiences as an extremely bright female science student in all levels of university study, the challenges of applying for college and university teaching jobs where the job applications often included a sentence that no one over 40 or women need apply and how much, if at all, things have changed in the intervening decades. Dianna will point out one encouraging fact: that discrimination and harassment on the basis of sex is considerably less blatant in government employment these days.

We all remember Dianna's great sense of humor in her previous talks. She will bring that along although we may wonder in the end how she stood it for as long as she did. Bring your own stories and experiences. Even female history and political science majors like me have stories of sexual discrimination and disrespect in non-science courses 60 years ago.

But Dianna's story and the popularity of Tech Trek encourage all of us in AAUW to raise money for science scholarships and to work with young women in programs such as Tech Trek to encourage girls to follow their interests and their dreams like Dianna did without the short-sighted and unfair barriers that still exist although often less blatantly today particularly in government jobs and projects.



PRESIDENTIAL POSTINGS

What a great turnout for the Soup Supper!!! I was told that there were over 80 attendees. Thank you to Margie Pruitt and Donna DiBetta for organizing the event. Thank you to Nancy Hobert and Harriett Burt for arranging yet another interesting speaker. Thank you to all the members who made the delicious soups, breads, and desserts.

While I am in the thanking mode, let me offer a big thank you to Sandy Wolfe for hosting another successful “with a purpose” event. On January 11, members got together at Sandy’s home for hot cider, cookies and fellowship to make money for local scholarships.

Now for some important business. After many months of discussion, our board has recommended a dues increase for our branch dues. Our branch dues do not currently cover our day to day operating expenses. The proposed increase is \$8.00. This would bring our branch dues from \$18.00 to \$26.00. The new total amount of dues (including branch, state and national dues) would be \$105.00. We will hold a vote on the dues increase at our February 20th meeting. Look for other articles in this newsletter about dues.

The speaker for the February 20th meeting will be Dr. Dianna Stephenson. She will share her stories, insights, and experiences about being a woman majoring and working in the science field during the 1960’s through 1990’s.

I attended the IBC meeting and want to report that the

date for the Tech Trek Ice Cream Social is June 9, 2019 at the Pacheco Community Center from noon – 2 p.m. (Tech Trekkers and families hours are 12:15 – 1:45). The other Branches have many events planned in the next few months. Some of those events are on February 23, Concord and Clayton Branches will host a joint Salad and Dessert Lunch with one of the Fund fellows as guest speaker. Concord Branch will also be doing an Art, Wine and Beer Walk in Downtown Concord on May 11. The Orinda/Lafayette/Moraga Branch along with Expanding Your Horizons will host a STEAM workshop at St. Mary’s College for 250 girls on March 23.

As you know, we are trying new things this year such as rotating quarterly presidents. I am going to try something new for our next board meeting. We will meet on the same day as our regular meeting. The board meeting will be on February 20, at 5:30 p.m. at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church (we plan to use a small room off the main room).

Enjoy the beautiful green hills that the mixture of rain and sunshine has produced. I hope to see you at our February 20th meeting.

Barbara Chambers

***FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2019***

5:30 PM

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

**Copy deadline for the
March 2019 N.E.W.S. is:
Sunday, February 24th**

Please email copy to:

Reba Siero rebasiero@yahoo.com

925-228-8211

INTEREST SECTIONS MEETINGS



****MORNING BOOKS** will meet on Wednesday, February 6, 10 am, at Carol Walsh's. We will be discussing *The Firebrand and the First Lady* by Patricia Bell-Scott. This history between Eleanor Roosevelt and Pauli Murray is described as a "portrait of a friendship, as they struggle for social justice." PLEASE let your hostess know that you will be attending. In March, we will be discussing *Strangers in Their Own Land* by Arlie Russell Hochschild. This book was postponed from an earlier date. Plan to join us for great discussions!



****IN INDELIBLE INK** will meet on Wednesday, February 13, 10 am, at Ginny Hargrave's. The theme will be "What First Name Would You Choose for Yourself, if You Could Change?" Please join us! We would welcome some new writers! We like oral versions, too.



****LUNCHIN' LADIES** will meet on Tuesday the 19th, 1 pm, at Fatty Maddie's in PH. Please call before the 18th 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, February 25, 7 pm at Marge Munger's. We will be discussing *Mrs. Poe* by Lynn Cullen. We all know about Edgar Allen Poe ~ what about his wife? Please let your hostess know that you will be attending. In March, we will be discussing *When the Crocodile Eats the Sun* by Peter Godwin. Please join us!



****MATINEE IDLE** will go to the movies on Thursday, February 28. 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**

COME PLAY MAH JONGG!

Mah Jongg meets at 12:30 PM on Friday, February 15th, at Brookview Clubhouse.

There is a \$2.00 per person charge for the clubhouse rental. If you don't know how to play Mah Jongg, but would like to learn, we will be happy to teach you.

Reservations are a must each month. 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.

2019 SOUP SUPPER FINALE

Thank you to all of you who prepared and brought wonderful soups, a variety of fabulous breads, and yummy desserts to the Soup Supper. Considering the weather, this was an amazing act you performed!!! Everything was delicious!!

Thank you, too, to the kitchen help who set up the coffees, tea, and water and managed this all so well, keeping everything clean and plentiful.

For those of you who managed the front desk, taking in the money, distributing name tags, and welcoming all attendees, your services were invaluable and greatly appreciated.

We appreciated all who came despite the weather and rain to support the evening with your food contribution or your financial contributions. We felt the evening was well attended considering the weather and actually a lot of fun, and the speaker really interesting!!! He was pleased that he sold 21 of his books and said that the honorarium we gave him of \$100 he endorsed to his foundation, Trust In Education. He said that \$100 is 50% of the monthly salary of one of their computer teachers.

Thank you all so very much for your support.

Donna DiBetta and Margie Pruitt
Co-Chairs



In Memoriam

Dick Newacheck passed away on Friday morning, February 1st. His wife, Barbara, was a charter member of the PH branch. When membership was opened to men, Dick joined. He was always supportive of AAUW. His memorial will be Sunday, March 3, at 2:00 pm, at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 1601 Mary Drive, Pleasant Hill, CA.

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



SAM at Fair Oaks in March

Would you like to be a SAM volunteer? We are creating a curriculum for our SAM (Student Art and Music) Program for Fair Oaks Elementary School in March. The teachers have signed up for class times, and we need your help. We would love for you to sign up for one or more classes, actually, as many as you'd like. We need at least two volunteers for each class.

Your duties are pretty simple -- help us set up and clean up and then admire the work of the students. We have TK (Transitional Kindergarten) thru 5th grade, and 2 Special Ed classes (SDC). We know many of you have volunteered in the past, and we hope you can sign up this year. We have two weeks in March - the 1st and 3rd weeks of the month.



Our lesson plan included a painter and a composer. Wassily Kandinsky is an abstract expressionist who uses colorful shapes. Modest Mussorgsky was a Russian Romantic Era Composer. We will be listening to Pictures at an Exhibition.

We also will plan a workday in February where you can help us cut out circles and trees. We'll give you a peak at our lesson. More details about that later.

Please let us know if you would like to volunteer. We can't do this without help from our members. And it's lots of fun and rewarding.

Barbara Minneman, Diane Coventry, and Sherrie Moore

AAUW FUND REPORT

Gayle Miner and Diane Coventry, AAUW Fund VPs

The Fund Committee selected our National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) candidate, Lili Eshtehar from Castro Valley. She presented us with an impressive application. Lili is a psychology major who plans to continue her education at one of four University of California campuses to which she has applied. To date, she has been accepted to the program at UC Davis and is awaiting word from Berkeley, Los Angeles, and Irvine. A straight 'A' student, Lili is also active in a number of academic and service campus organizations. Outside of her school activities, she is an accomplished dancer and dance instructor/choreographer at Castro Valley Performing Arts Center, having been involved in numerous out-of-state conventions and performances in recent years. She is excited about attending NCCWSL and looks forward to this opportunity to enhance her leadership skills. She will be attending the NCCWL conference being held at the University of Maryland May 29 – June 1, 2019. (thank you Helen for your article contribution.)

Wonder what Booktrackers are or would like to buy some more? Not to worry, we will distribute them to Morning and Evening Books, at general meeting, and the end of the year brunch.

Game Day will be held officially on **Tuesday, April 30, 2019** at 12:30 at Brookview Club House. We will be playing the favorites – Mah Jongg, Bridge, and Mexican Train, plus some other Board Games. If you have a request or a game you want to share, please let the Fund Committee know.

Watch for the Spring Kinders Sale, sometime between April 15 and June 8th.

Our branch is giving \$1,200 each to the **Vivian Lamont Coe #4046 (West Contra Costa) Fellowship** and **Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek (CA) Branch 45th Anniversary #4391 Fellowship**. These are two of many unfinished AAUW Fund Endowments, to which branches can contribute.

Our next meeting is Monday, March 18th at Ginny Hargraves' home at 2:30.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Claudia Bass and SarahJoy Haynes, Membership VPs

Currently we now have 116 members, which include our three new members from the soup super. We welcome our three new members who joined us "on the spot" at the Soup Supper. Please add their information to your directory:

Gayle Costanza, 358 Willow Creek Lane, Martinez, CA 94553 (H) 925-228-5773 © 925-787-6861

gaylecostanza@comcast.net CSU Sacramento, BA – Liberal Studies

Gail Soldavini, 336 Maryal Road, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523 © 925-457-6157

gailsoldavini@gmail.com USC Philosophy/French

Virginia Hewgley, 136 Wiggins Court, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523 (H) 925-977-9469 © 925-768-4417

vhewgley@astound.net, UC Santa Cruz, BA Linguistics, University of San Diego, Master of Education

And a correction to the directory: Andrea Blachman's phone number is 925-387-5385.

Our Branch is hosting a Happy Hour to welcome our new members to our branch on February 7, 2019 4:30-6:30, at Claudia Bass 's Home at 1706 Endriss Drive, Martinez, CA 94553 RSVP 925-372-8679. Come and meet the new members.

"Dues" Our branch is up for an increase of our Local Dues. In the past few years, State and National hav raised their dues to be able to put forth our goals. On our Local level, dues have not increased since before 2011/2012, when we joined branches. Costs have been on the rise and to keep up with "Business at hand" an increase of \$8.00 is up for a vote. Our local dues will increase to \$26.00. This increase will raise our total dues to \$105.00 per year. Let your voice be heard at the February 20th meeting, during which a vote will be taken.

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

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



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 **January Soup Supper** 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



This month I want to let you know what both State and National AAUW has resolved to work on in 2019. Therefore, I am providing you copies of both National and State AAUW plans for 2019. Your dues go to help AAUW lobby for laws that fit the mission of AAUW and both State and National are very effective in achieving our goals.

In one year, 1920, we will be celebrating the 100 year anniversary of Women's Right to Vote. In that vein, KQED had a show (Until We Meet Again), on Tuesday, January 8th that told two stories: one was of the first two women pilots who flew commercial planes; the other was the story of two women who had fasted in the Illinois State Capital to urge the Illinois State Assembly to pass the Equal Rights Amendment. Both stories are very important part of women's history. If you're interested, here is the link and the name of the production.

<http://www.pbs.org/meet-again/home/>

SEASON 2, EPISODE 6

The Fight for Women's Rights

Aired: 2019-01-08 5:20 Expires: 2019-02-06

Two women search for friends and colleagues who forged a path for equal rights.

National AAUW sent the letter below:

Happy (belated) new year! I hope you had a wonderful and restful holiday season. Looking back to the end of 2018 and looking forward to what 2019 will bring, there is much to report.

The end of the year proved very busy, with the start of the partial government shutdown and more last-minute policy announcements rolling back hard-won gains for students. It was particularly disheartening to see the decision by the U.S. Departments of Education and Justice to, just before the holidays, [rescind](#) the Obama-era school discipline guidance package which helped schools change disciplinary practices that were disproportionately harming students of color and students with disabilities. We have seen the fundamental injustice of students being deprived of their right to education by overly harsh and exclusionary disciplinary practices. We will [continue to fight](#) for equal access to education for all students.

Turning to the new year and the new Congress, it has been an exciting time as we've welcomed the most diverse Congress in history. So many women and men are coming to Congress focusing on issues central to families' economic security, and we are working to ensure AAUW's priorities are front and center. A [large coalition of groups](#) focused on pay equity, led by AAUW, has been working hard to encourage swift passage of the [Paycheck Fairness Act](#) — a much needed bill that would update and strengthen the Equal Pay Act of 1963. The next few weeks and months will be filled with meetings, briefings, calls, and letters, and we will need your help urging Members of Congress to bring us one step closer to pay equity! Read more below.

Deborah J. Vagins

AAUW Senior Vice President of Public Policy & Research

Tell Your Member of Congress: Cosponsor and Pass the Paycheck Fairness Act

The economic well-being of women and families was a central issue in the election of the historically diverse 116th Congress. Now, our legislators have come to Washington with a charge to stand up for women's economic security — and there is no more fitting way to begin than by making real progress toward ensuring all women receive fair pay.

The Paycheck Fairness Act will soon be introduced in Congress — and you can be a critical part of the work to pass it by urging your members of Congress to become original cosponsors and to call for its swift passage.

[Urge your members of Congress to affirm their commitment to pay equity by cosponsoring the Paycheck Fairness Act today!](#)

The Paycheck Fairness Act would take meaningful steps to help close the gender pay gap. AAUW advocates have made sure Congress knows pay equity is a priority for women and families. Now, the Paycheck Fairness Act must be a priority in the 116th Congress.

Our lawmakers must make good on their promises to make progress for gender equity. Urge your members of Congress to cosponsor the Paycheck Fairness Act to help close the gender pay gap.

(continued on page 8)

(from page 7)

State AAUW sent this out.

AAUW [joined](#) more than 100 civil rights organizations this week in a letter to the Departments of Education and Justice opposing the rescission of their joint school discipline guidance package. The guidance, established under the Obama administration, aimed to address disproportionately high disciplinary rates for students of color and students with disabilities, and was [rescinded](#) in late December.

AAUW mourns the recent deaths of two prominent advocates for women. [Bernice Sandler](#), known as the “[godmother](#)” of Title IX, opened doors for countless women to learn without discrimination, and her tireless activism for gender equity in schools will be greatly missed. [Nancy Roman](#), known as the “mother of Hubble,” was a groundbreaking woman astronomer who worked on the Hubble Space Telescope and was a fierce advocate for [women in science](#).

Happy New Year and welcome to the 2019 legislative session! The majority of legislatures are already back and getting to work. We’re looking forward to a productive spring full of strong legislation that will positively impact women and families across the country.

An important anniversary is also just around the corner — on January 29 we'll celebrate the 10th anniversary of the signing of the federal [Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act](#). This important law undid a misguided ruling from the U.S. Supreme Court, ensuring that wronged workers can seek redress from discrimination on the job. Lilly Ledbetter's bravery has also inspired activity across the country to close the gender pay gap. Her case was an important one, but it was only a beginning.

You can commemorate this important milestone by advocating for more change in your state and community. Educate people about the gender pay gap and ask your elected officials to introduce strong policies to help close it once and for all.

We made great strides in 2018, and I can't wait to see more progress this year. I'm excited to work together and look forward to celebrating more successes.

Kate Nielson

State Policy Counsel



Dear AAUW Member,

Are you looking to showcase your artistic talent? The annual AAUW Art Contest is underway, and it's a terrific opportunity to display your work! Enter now and vote later for your favorite entries.

This year, we will give special preference to entries that reflect AAUW's mission, vision and values:

1. Advancing equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy
2. Equity for All
3. Nonpartisan, fact-based, integrity, inclusion and intersectionality

Through February 7, submit an electronic version of your design to the [AAUW Art Contest web page](#). Your entry can be photography, a digital photo of your painting, drawing, sculpture, or any other form of visual art. AAUW members can vote for their favorite images once a day from February 12 until February 26. The winning entries as well as the artists' biographies will be featured on a collection of AAUW notecards that will be mailed to members this spring.

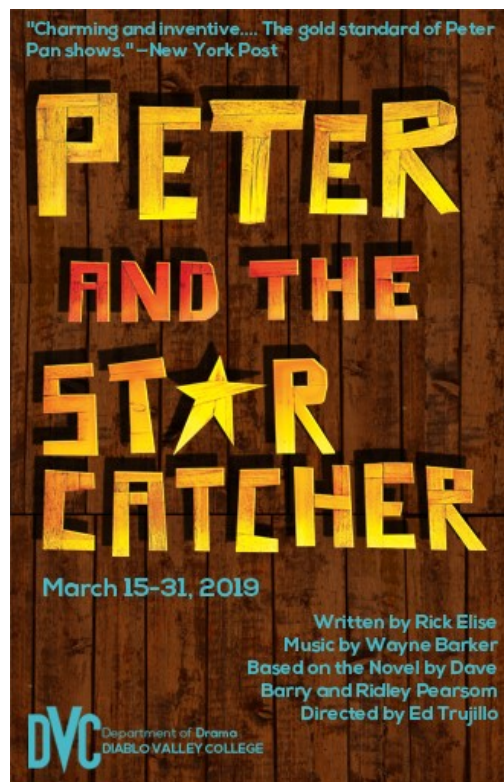
For more information, to submit artwork, and to see last year's art gallery, please visit the [AAUW Art Contest web page](#).

I hope you'll participate in this year's contest. And please spread the word throughout your branch and state. Thank you!



Pleasant Hill-Martinez AAUW
Peter and the Star Catcher
DVC Theatre (Performing Arts Center)
Sunday, March 31st, 2019
2:30 pm
Cost: \$30

**Come join us for a fun afternoon
and support Local Scholarships**



From marauding pirates and jungle tyrants to unwilling comrades and unlikely heroes, PETER AND THE STARCATCHER playfully explores the depths of greed and despair... and the bonds of friendship, duty and love.

Contact Carol Walsh for tickets: 229-3234 or baricarol2@gmail.com

Reserve by March 21st



2018–2019 LEADERSHIP TEAM

February 2019 and Beyond

- Feb 6** Morning Books, 10 am, Carol Walsh's
- Feb 7** New Member Happy Hour, 4:30 - 6:30 pm
Claudia Bass'
- Feb 7** Deadline for AAUW Art Contest entries
- Feb 13** In Indelible Ink, 10 am, Ginny Hargrave's
- Feb 15** Mah Jongg, 12:30 pm, Brookview Clubhouse
- Feb 19** Lunchin' Ladies, 1 pm, Fatty Maddie's, PH
RSVP to Marlene by Feb 18
- Feb 20** Board Meeting, 5:30 pm, St Andrew's
- Feb 20** February Meeting, 7 pm, St Andrew's
Dianna Vanni Stephenson
- Feb 24** March 2019 N.E.W.S. deadline to Reba
- Feb 25** Evening Books, 7 pm, Marge Munger's
- Feb 28** Matinee Idle, Marlene Maksel
- Mar 18** Fund meeting, 2:30 pm, Ginny Hargrave's
- Mar 31** Peter and the Starcatcher, 2:30 pm, DVC
Local Scholarship Fundraiser
- Apr 30** Game Day, 12:30 pm, Brookview Clubhouse
Fund Fundraiser
- Jun 9** Tech Trek Ice Cream Social, noon
Pacheco Community Center

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