



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 62 Issue 1

September 2019

Pleasant Hill-Martinez AAUW SEPTEMBER WELCOME BRUNCH

Saturday, September 7th, 2019

10:00 AM to 12 Noon

Marilyn Thelen's Home

5318 Stonehurst Drive

Martinez, CA

(925) 228-2600

PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS WELCOME

- ◇ Listen to Tech Trekkers talk about camp
- ◇ Meet our NCCWSL attendee, Lili Eshtehar
- ◇ Meet Diane Neypes, 2015 Local Scholarship recipient
- ◇ Make new friends and greet the old
- ◇ Check out the Interest Section offerings
- ◇ Pick up your 2019-2020 Directory
- ◇ Bring a friend/prospective member

RSVP to:

Kathleen Woulfe at (925) 372-7726 or kathleendwoulfe@aol.com

RSVP by:

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5th

Directions to Marilyn's home:

From Highway 4: Take Alhambra Ave exit and go **SOUTH** on Alhambra Ave. Turn **RIGHT** onto Alhambra Valley Rd and go 1.3 miles. Turn **RIGHT** to stay on Alhambra Valley Rd and go 0.8 miles. Turn **RIGHT** onto Vaca Creek Rd and go 100 yds. Turn **LEFT** onto Stonehurst Dr and go 0.2 miles. 5318 is the second house on the **RIGHT**.

From Gregory Ln/Grayson Rd: Take Grayson Rd up to the cemetery. Turn **RIGHT** onto Reliez Valley Rd and go 2.2 miles. Continue straight ahead onto Alhambra Valley Rd and go 0.8 miles. Turn **RIGHT** onto Vaca Creek Rd and go 100 yds. Turn **LEFT** onto Stonehurst Dr and go 0.2 miles. 5318 is the second house on the **RIGHT**.



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PRESIDENTIAL POSTINGS

The September Welcome Brunch, on Saturday, September 7th, at Marilyn Thelen’s lovely home, is just a week away! We will share a wonderful brunch, visit with each other, welcome guests and potential members, and hear about all the ongoing activities in the branch, as well as future programs and special events.

Our 2019 Tech Trek girls and families will join us and we will hear all about their adventures at the Sonoma State Tech Trek camp in June. Lili Eshtehar, who was our NCCWSL grant recipient, will attend, as well as Diane Neypes, a 2015 Local Scholarship recipient from College Park HS. It is always great to see that our fundraising efforts make a difference for those we support!

Check out all the neat Interest Sections on Page 3. There is something for everyone! Take a look at the calendar listing on the last page of each newsletter to be reminded of when and where various meetings take place.

Until we see each other on the 7th!

Reba
rebasiero@yahoo.com



BOOK EXCHANGE/Round Robin LAST CALL

This Section was nearly a no-go, but we will have 1 and likely 2 groups. We certainly would welcome additional members!! The opportunity to join the BOOK EXCHANGE comes once a year. Please call with any questions or potential ideas for books. From my observation, Barnes & Noble is open in The Veranda next to The Willows.

Read up to 12 hardbacks published in 2019 for the cost of only one! You buy one book; pass your book to the next member each month; and then each month you receive a new selection from another member of the Exchange. You can purchase 2 books - to join both Exchanges and double your reading pleasure/choices!

Please contact Mary Hanlon @ 934-3528 (Home) or 286-2223 (Cell) or mkhbibliophile@aol.com with your selected title and author **PRIOR** to purchasing your book. **Deadline** for reserving your Titles - and your places in the Exchanges - is **Monday, September 16th**. We should begin exchanging books on October 1st.

Ways and Means

We have a meeting scheduled for Friday, September 6, 1PM, at the Brookview Clubhouse. If you can't come, please let Penny Harris or Ish Mendonsa know of any plans you have for fundraising. Thanks.

Please, write any checks to the branch:
AAUW Pleasant Hill-Martinez Branch

INTEREST SECTIONS MEETINGS



****MORNING BOOKS** will meet on Wednesday the 4th, 10 am, at Margie Pruitt's. We will be discussing Delia Owen's *Where the Crawdads Sing*. This book has been on the best seller list for months ~ besides the heart-wrenching story of abandonment and survival, there is a mystery over which to ponder! The book for October will be *Daughter of Molokai* by Alan Brennert. Plan to join us!



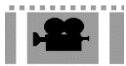
****IN INDELIBLE INK** will meet on Wednesday the 11th. Location to be decided ~ call Marlene for info. The topic will be "What *In Indelible Ink* Means to Me." If you can't attend, we might put a couple of the essays in N.E.W.S. and maybe it will inspire others of you to come.



****LUNCHIN' LADIES** will go to lunch on Tuesday the 17th, 1 pm, at Fat Maddies Barrelhouse Bistro in Pleasant Hill. This gathering will be a sort of planning session with suggestions for other restaurants in the area. Please call Marlene 689-5439 OR marlene@maksiel.us) by the 16th so reservations can be made.



****EVENING BOOKS** will meet on Monday the 23rd, 7 pm, in the Brookview Clubhouse. We will be discussing *The Storyteller's Secret* by Sejal Badnai. The story is about love, healing and the desire to dream. In October, we will be discussing *Only Woman in the Room* by Marie Benedict. Join us for great discussions.



****MATINEE IDLE** will go to the movies on Thursday, September 26th. 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!



****MAH JONGG**

COME PLAY MAH JONGG!

Mah Jongg will meet at 12:30 PM on Friday, September 20th 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.

OTHER GROUPS

****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, September 9th.

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.

SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2019

7:00 PM

Trinka March's home

Copy deadline for the
October 2019 N.E.W.S.
Friday, September 20th

Please email copy to:

Reba Siero rebasiero@yahoo.com

(925) 917-1061

AAUW FUND REPORT

Gayle Miner and Claudia Bass, AAUW Fund VPs

Our AAUW Fund committee met in July to plan the year. We will be sending a woman student from DVC to the AAUW National Conference for College Woman Student Leaders (NCCWSL) in 2020. The student that we sent this year, Lili Eshevar is planning on attending the September brunch and will speak about her experience. Her feedback via email was very positive and enthusiastic. This fall we will be selling Kinder Tickets as it has been such a successful fundraiser. Thanks to everyone who purchased tickets as we earned enough to send someone to NCCWSL this year and hopefully we can do the same with the next round of sales.

When you receive your new 2019-2020 membership directory you will find an envelope with a solicitation letter in it to donate towards AAUW Fund. The letter explains about Funds. This is the heart of AAUW and promotes our mission for education and equity for women and girls. In the past you have been very generous with your donations and it is much appreciated.

There are many facets and activities that AAUW Fund supports and we will feature two a month. (1) AAUW Advocacy: Guided by our member-endorsed Public Policy Program, AAUW's local, state, national, and global lobbying and grassroots efforts help empower women and girls. (AAUW handout) (2) AAUW National Convention: Our biannual meeting empowers women leaders to learn new skills, gain insight and inspiration, and connect with other women leaders. (AAUW handout)

The 2019 AAUW Northern California Fund Luncheon will be held on **Sunday, October 6** at Crow Canyon Country Club, Danville from 12:00 pm- 3:00pm (check in at 11:30). The cost is \$45.00. The registration link is <https://2019-aauw-fund-danville.eventbrite.com>. **Deadline to register is September 20th**. We also have paper forms you can mail in. Hearing from the women who have received fellowships from AAUW Fund are truly inspiring and interesting which makes our contributions and our efforts to raise money so worthwhile. If you are interested in attending contact Gayle or Claudia and we can carpool.

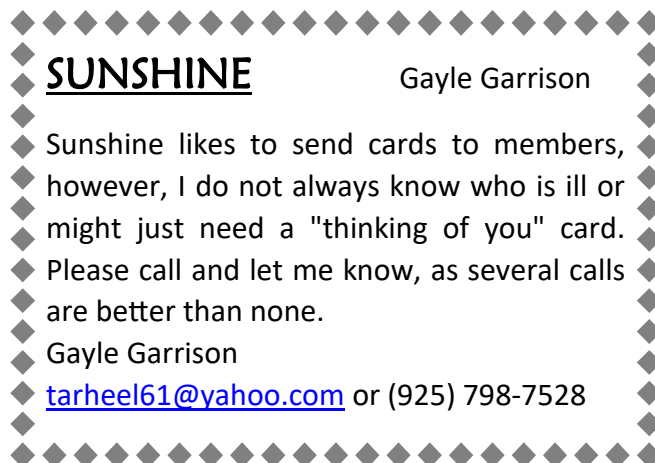
We would love to have you join our committee. It is a productive and fun group. We meet every other month. For more information you can contact Gayle or Claudia. Our next meeting is September 16 at Claudia Bass' house at 2:30. Let us know if you can come.

IN MEMORY OF SHIRLEY LISTON

Shirley Liston, a former member of the Pleasant Hill branch, died on June 27, 2019. She was 94 years old. Shirley was a long time AAUW member who, when she and her husband retired, moved to the Gold Country. She moved to Paradise after her husband died.

At the time of her passing, she was living in Fresno to be close to her daughter. Shirley was an educator and taught at Fair Oaks Elementary School for many years. Those of us who knew Shirley remember her active participation in PH AAUW. Our sympathy goes to her family and friends.

Gayle Garrison



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

SarahJoy Haynes and Kathleen Woulfe, Membership VPs

Your Membership VPs SarahJoy Haynes and Kathleen Woulfe welcome you back for another year of interesting events, programs, and enriching activities. We hope your summer was a healthy and enjoyable break.

The summer Mini Fund raiser with Wine and Cheese hosted by Sandy Wolfe was a very successful event enjoyed by all.

Plans are progressing in preparation for the September Welcome Brunch. It is to be held at Marilyn Thelen's on September 7, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. The Committee is requesting your participation and help, especially with the menu. **Please contact Kathleen Woulfe at 925-372-7726 or email kathleendwoulfe@aol.com to RSVP** and helping out with any of the following: Menu items needed are breakfast casseroles or frittatas, muffin or coffee cake, fruit salads or fruit platers. Help is needed with set-up and clean-up.

The Brunch is a wonderful opportunity to invite friends. It allows them to see what AAUW is all about, especially when they meet the Tech Trek Girls. They'll be impressed when hearing them share their Math and Science Camp experiences.

Please RSVP to let us know you plan to attend and if you will bring guests. If a prospective member joins at our brunch the dues for the first year is reduced from \$105.00 to \$75.50 as the national dues are reduced by half. Hope to see everyone there!

SarahJoy Haynes, (925) 586-9493, plumleathr@aol.com

Kathleen Woulfe, (925) 372-7726, kathleendwoulfe@aol.com



Our 2019 Tech Trek participants

More details on page 9



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 **Wine and Cheese with a Purpose Fundraiser** 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



SAM at Fair Oaks

Would you like to be a SAM volunteer? We will be creating a curriculum for our SAM (Student Art and Music) Program for Fair Oaks Elementary School this school year. Our lesson plans always include an artist and a composer.

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 will sign up again.

We will give you more information at the Welcome Brunch. We can't do this without help from our members. And it's lots of fun and rewarding.

Sherrie Moore, Barbara Minneman, and Diane Coventry

AAUW Pleasant Hill- Martinez Branch

2019-2020 Proposed Budget

Revenue:

Membership Dues	\$2626.00
Ads	\$50.00

Total Revenue	\$2676.00
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Expenses:

Directory	\$200.00
Hospitality	\$75.00
IBC Dues	\$50.00
Insurance	\$500.00
Membership	\$125.00
Newsletter	\$150.00
Program	\$1000.00
Website	\$100.00
Sunshine	\$25.00
Conference and Conventions	\$300.00
Start Smart	\$100.00
State Raffle Registration	\$20.00

Total Expenses	\$2645.00
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Wine and Cheese with a Purpose

On July 26th, thirty-eight people enjoyed an afternoon at Wine and Cheese with a Purpose. To quote Margi Alkire, "Imagine! Perfect weather! Perfect yard! Perfect wine and cheese! And great people! What fun!"

Yes, it was great fun and \$445 was raised for scholarships plus a generous donation was made that evening of \$455 from a nonmember. That makes a total of \$900. That's close to the cost of one Tech Trek scholarship. I am very excited it was all so successful.

I hope the next time I have another Wine and Cheese with a Purpose some more of you will join us.

Thanks to the people that helped out with cheese platters. Helping hands made my job a lot easier.

Sandy Wolfe

October Program - Save the Date

Helen and I love it when we get program recommendations from fellow Branch members. So thank you, Kathleen Woulfe, for suggesting we talk to the Mt. Diablo administrator of school and community relations, Sandra Wilbanks, about the district's active program to help homeless students. Sandra is very enthusiastic and willing to spread the word about how the district helps homeless students and their families to be successful in school and get the support they need to build a future which includes what so many of us take for granted... a home.

Either Sandra or district social worker Vivica Taylor will speak to us on Wednesday, October 16 beginning at 7 p.m. at St. Andrew's depending on their schedules. Kathleen gives the program high marks for interest, education and a real chance for positive outcomes for a significant portion of our local population.

Harriett Burt and Helen Pereira
Vice Presidents, Program



SAVE THE DATE
PH-M AAUW
ANNUAL LAYETTE SHOWER
Susan Rheingruber's home
14 Pillon Real, Pleasant Hill
Wednesday, December 11th 10 AM

Diane Neypes, 2015 Local Scholarship recipient



We would like to introduce Diane Neypes, who received our Pleasant Hill-Martinez AAUW scholarship four years ago. She graduated with the Class of 2015 at College Park High School.

At Azusa Pacific University, her major was nursing. She really loved her school and the community that came with it. During school, her biggest challenge was being more than a nursing major. At APU, nursing is well-known especially for its rigorous curriculum and time requirements for clinical rotations. It was difficult balancing the social aspect of college with making sure she had enough time to study and be prepared for her courses.

Though it took some time, she was successful in enjoying both her academics and social life. Diane's successes include gaining friendship with peers and professors that have now become family, helping with planning a mobile health clinic one of her professors is trying to start, and discovering her passion for public health. Her interests are in primary care and preventative care in vulnerable populations. She desires to work with the homeless as well as at-risk youth and eventually become a nurse practitioner. In addition to facing a competitive job market in urban areas, she faces challenges in acquiring a job aligned with her interests that will take a new grad nurse without years of experience. Despite this, she remains hopeful that opportunities will open up for her in California.

Diane wrote us a note of appreciation to express her gratitude for our financial support for her higher education. She thanked us for believing in her and inventing her future. Currently as a graduate of Azusa Pacific University and an official licensed registered nurse, she is applying for nursing jobs throughout California. Diane will be joining us at our September Brunch. When you see her, give her a huge AAUW welcome.

Sherrie Moore

Elena Noble
AAUW Start Smart and Work Smart Facilitator
Enoble4@astound.net
925-787-2410

[Welcome to AAUW Work Smart Online.](#)

As an AAUW Member, you're an ambassador, helping to build relationships between AAUW and the public. By supporting mission-based programs and resources, you're showing your solidarity in ways that will impact the lives of women for generations to come and helping us to end the gender pay gap by 2030 by training 10 million women by 2022. Empower the women you know in the workforce on salary negotiation by **sharing this free course**. As a member ambassador, we hope you will login and explore the course at your leisure with your email address and default password of **Salary1**.

Empower the women in your life to negotiate for fair and equal pay by directing them to [salary.aauw.org](https://courses.aauw.org) to register for this course. <https://courses.aauw.org/learn>

For assistance, contact salary@aauw.org



HELP SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT AWOSMONLIN!

TECH TREK TIDINGS

Diane Coventry

We will be seeing our Tech Teck 2019 Campers at the Welcome Back Brunch on Sept. 7. Hope you can make it to hear about their experiences and all the fun they had. As Co-Director of Camp Sonoma, it was wonderful to see some of our branch members at Visitation Day (Sherrie Moore, Barbara Minneman, and Virginia Hewgley) and also participating as Class Monitors (Penny Harris and Susan Trebino). I am sure they have stories to share with us, too. The Tech Trek Camp Sonoma opportunity would not be possible without the dorm moms (especially our own, Trinkia March), classroom teachers, counselors and all those who volunteer at camp, and behind the scenes, and of course to all your monetary donations.



Back Row, L to R - Jade, Lily, Emilia

Front Row, L to R - Bianca, Alison, Avery

This year we set up a new Instagram account during camp so families could see the girls in action throughout the week. Parents appreciated the quick peeks of their daughters. If members are interested in viewing the pictures taken at Tech Trek Camp 2019 at Sonoma State here is the link for the AAUW Petaluma Branch. Their website has many of the pictures taken during camp.

<https://www.aauwpetaluma.org/Tech-Trek/2019pictures/index.php>.

It was a busy packed schedule at Camp Sonoma. Breakfast at 7:45 AM, Core Class (Biology, Chemistry, Math/Architecture, Aerospace Engineering, and Engineering) at 8:30, 11:45 for Lunch. Afternoons, from 1:00 – 5:00, the girls were in workshops – Mad City Money, Cybersecurity, Math Models, Veterinarian Clinic, Tours of the biology and engineering SSU departments, Suspension Bridges, Rocketry, Origami, and Forensics Lab. Two morning we had field trips – Sonoma County Water Authority at Russian River and Ellis Creek Water Treatment Plant with bird watching at Schollenberger Park. Evening activities included Ingenuity Night, Movie Night, Game Night with dancing, Star Gazing, Professional Women’s Night, and Build it Night. Reflecting on this year’s camp experience I suggest we add a little more ‘down time chillin’ with the dorm groups for next year.

Our next Tech Trek Committee meeting will be in the evening in late September, date and place to be determined. We will discuss the year plan, our camper selection and interviewing process, ways to engage and keep in contact with former Trekkers. If you are still interested or wish to join our committee please send me an email –

diane.coventry@yahoo.com.

2019–2020 LEADERSHIP TEAM

September 2019 and beyond

- Sep 4 Morning Books, 10 pm, Margie Pruitt's
- Sep 5 RSVP deadline for Welcome Brunch
- Sep 6 Ways & Means, 1 pm, Brookview Clubhouse
- Sep 7 Welcome Brunch, 10 am,
Marilyn Thelen's home
- Sep 9 Grand Slammers Bridge, 12:30 pm,
Brookview Clubhouse
- Sep 11 In Indelible Ink, 10 am, Location TBD
- Sep 11 Board meeting, 7 pm, Trinka March's
- Sep 16 Fund meeting, 2:30 pm, Claudia Bass'
- Sep 16 Deadline for joining a Book Exchange
- Sep 17 Lunchin' Ladies, 1 pm, Fat Maddies, PH
RSVP to Marlene Maksel before **Sept 16th**
- Sep 20 Mah Jongg, 12:30 pm, Brookview Clubhouse
- Sep 20 Deadline to register for Fund Fall Luncheon
- Sep 20 October 2019 N.E.W.S. deadline to Reba
- Sep 23 Evening Books, 7 pm, Brookview Clubhouse
- Sep 24 CCC IBC meeting
- Sep 26 Matinee Idle, Marlene Maksel
- Oct 6 AAUW Fund Fall Luncheon, East Bay, 12 pm,
Crow Canyon Country Club, Danville
- Oct 9 Board meeting, 7 pm, Trinka March's
- Oct 16 October meeting, 7 pm, St Andrew's,
How Mt. Diablo USD aids homeless students
- Nov 20 November meeting, 7 pm, St Andrew's
Mayor of Concord, Carlyn Obringer
- Nov 26 CCC IBC meeting
- Dec 11 Layette Shower, 10 am, Susan Rheingruber's
- Mar 31 AAUW Fund Game Day (tentative)
- Jan 28, Mar 24, May 26 CCC IBC meetings

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Copy deadline for the October 2019 N.E.W.S. is September 20th. Please email copy to:

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PH-M AAUW N.E.W.S. SPONSOR

Montecito Animal Clinic



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