



N.E.W.S.

Now/Events/Women/Success

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

Volume 63 Issue 3

November 2020

Money, Money, Money! National Finance Chair To Give Us the Inside Dope!

We are very fortunate to have AAUW's National Finance Chair as a neighbor! Peggy Cabaniss is a member of Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette Branch and its treasurer. She is also a member of AAUW's national board. Therefore, she knows and works with finance issues from the ground floor up and with AAUW state organizations as well as understanding local finance issues and concerns.

Obviously, Peggy spends a lot of time on Zoom where she is a friendly, knowledgeable, and enthusiastic voice which we will get to hear at our November meeting on Wednesday, the 18th.

She will talk about National and its over \$125 million endowment for annual scholarships and grants for post graduate work for women which we all support with contributions not to mention the fall luncheons where we hear from grantees not only what they are doing with the money but also about their appreciation for the support of thousands of AAUW members all of the country.

Peggy will also discuss the \$16 million national operating budget we contribute to. It not only provides for scholarships and grants but also for member services, legislative work (never forget that AAUW is one of the most highly respected lobbies in Washington), and programs such as STEM, Start Smart/Work Smart, and research.

Bring your questions and concerns to your telephone starting at 7 p.m. on the 18th for an interesting and important earful and a chance to 'talk back'.

By the way, our thanks to Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek branch for organizing an interesting, well-organized and helpful League of Women Voters presentation on the Propositions on the November ballot.

And thanks also to our Reba for gathering the information material together so we all could access it and for working with the DAWC president so it was easy for our members to get it. I shared the material with folks here at Carlton who were very appreciative.

Although we will very much miss the Soup Supper in January, we will have a good program even if you don't live in the Martinez Unified School District. The new superintendent, Dr. Julie Synyard, PhD. and Asst. Superintendent Helen Rossi, whom some of you might know as former principal of Martinez Junior High, will attend. Dr. Synyard will talk about how schools will operate going forward in the Covid crisis and other education issues. We will ask her to talk also about the wider world of public education, especially in our part of the Bay Area as she has worked in several other districts.

See and hear you on the 18th! Helen and Harriett





President, Reba Siero, for keeping our members informed about the various Webinars and Zoom links during the weeks before the election. There were so many dates and links to distribute to our members so that they could stay informed and Reba did a fantastic job, not only for the election information, but book group meetings, Fund Lunches, Public Policy Survey and other things of interest to members.

Be sure to Zoom in on our General Meeting on November 18 at 7:00 PM to hear Peggy Cabaniss from OML branch, where she is treasurer, in addition to being AAUW's National Finance Chair. Reba will be sending out Zoom invitations before the meeting.

Finally, we wish you a Safe and Happy Thanksgiving. Please be careful, wear a mask and socially distance, no matter how much you want to give hugs and kisses to those close to you.

Gayle Miner
2020-21 Co-President
gayle.miner@yahoo.com



PRESIDENTIAL POSTINGS

AAUW is still not sanctioning in person meetings, so it looks like we will be Zooming for awhile yet. Both National and AAUWCA are meeting virtually until 2021 at least.

We hope you all had the opportunity to complete the Public Policy Survey that was sent out to you recently. The Public Policy State Committee will review the results and discuss any suggested changes. Based on the responses, the committee will make revisions to the current priorities. A new updated draft will be sent out to members. Members will then have the opportunity to vote to accept the full Public Policy document in April, 2021.

To be better informed, let's take a look at the National AAUW Budget for 2021 presented to our IBC Committee on September 22, 2020 by AAUW's National Board Finance Officer. AAUW has 16M in expenses and 16M in revenue for 2021. For revenue: 20% comes from dues, 31% comes from Individual Member Contributions, 27% comes from Legacy Planned Giving, 19% comes from Corporations, and 23% comes from Branch Giving. For expenses: 11% goes to research (STEM), 17% goes to Operations and Administration, 12% goes to Advancement and Partnerships, 4% goes to Public Policy, 37% goes to Fellowships and Programs, and 14% goes to occupancy. I thought you might be interested in how National earns and spends it's funds.

I want to give a HUGE THANK YOU to my Co-

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



SAVE THE DATE

PH-M AAUW

ANNUAL LAYETTE SHOWER

Wednesday, January 13th, 2021, 10 AM

More info to come!

Janice Walker



Do you need some new music to get you through the pandemic? Do you know the entire dialogue of the DVD's in your collection? Are you annoyed by the high price of books on Amazon and then it takes two weeks to arrive?

Well, leave your frustrations behind and step inside the new Friends of the Pleasant Hill Library Book Store – both a physical and virtual world. The physical store is located at 35 Crescent Drive in downtown Pleasant Hill and open daily from 11am-5pm. With 2,500 square feet of selling space and over 12,000 items for sale, you just might find that book about anti-gravity that's impossible to put down! All Book Store items are in great condition and priced to sell with hundreds of new arrivals every day. There is plenty of space to browse and be socially distant.

Our new virtual store, located at phlibraryfriends.org has everything the Book Store offers and more. You can view the entire collection and complete your online purchases while sheltering at home. There are lots of ways to pick up your items: Pick them up inside the store, have them brought to your car, or for sales over \$10, your purchase can be delivered locally right to your home.

We are an all-volunteer organization and all proceeds will benefit the new Pleasant Hill Library.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

SarahJoy Haynes and Kathleen Woulfe
Membership VPs

Your membership team is hoping that you will all be zooming with us next Wednesday. We miss seeing your smiling faces and handing out the name tags at the meetings. Sarah Joy and Kathleen would appreciate some recruiting help. Please let us know if you have any prospective members or our wonderful group.

SarahJoy Haynes, (925) 586-9493

plumleathr@aol.com

Kathleen Woulfe, (925) 372-7726

kathleendwoulfe@aol.com



HELP WANTED

Our AAUW Branch has openings for the following officers and positions on the board that need to be filled:

Appointed Officers

Parliamentarian

Community

Education

Public Policy

Communications

Appointed Positions

Historian

Major Fundraiser

Please consider volunteering for one of the above positions. AAUW Pleasant Hill Martinez Branch needs you! Please call Reba Siero, (925) 917-1061 OR Gayle Miner, (925) 349-6795 to find out more about these positions if you are interested. WE NEED YOUR HELP!



INTEREST SECTIONS MEETINGS



****MORNING BOOKS** met on November 4th, via Zoom at 10 am. November our book is *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson. This is a true story about lawyer Stevenson's battle to free a prison inmate unjustly convicted of a crime. In December we will read and discuss *Disappearing Earth* by Julia Phillips.



****LUNCHIN' LADIES** will not meet in November.



****EVENING BOOKS** will meet via Zoom on Monday, November 23rd, at 7 pm. We will be discussing Annie Barrows' *The Truth According to Us*. This novel evokes small town charm and eccentricities with extraordinary characters. We will not meet in December ~ the book for January is *Eye of Darkness* by Dean Koontz.



****MATINEE IDLE** will not meet in November.

**NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2020**

7:00 PM

ZOOM

**Copy deadline for the
December 2020 N.E.W.S.
Tuesday, November 24th**

Please email copy to:

Reba Siero rebasiero@yahoo.com

(925) 917-1061

OTHER GROUPS



****MAH JONGG**

CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

We usually play on the 3rd Friday of the month, at 12:30 pm. We would love to have you join our group, as soon as we are able to meet again. 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,

seabear92020@outlook.com

Gayle Miner at (925) 349-6795,

gayle.miner@yahoo.com



****GRAND SLAMMERS**

CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

We are a social bridge group, which usually plays on the second Monday of each month at 12:30 pm at the Brookview Club House. We are not meeting until it is safe to do so.

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.



Pleasant Hill-Martinez (CA) Branch

**Advancing equity for women and girls
through advocacy, education, philan-
thropy and research**

AAUW FUND REPORT

Jennifer Apkarian and Claudia Bass, AAUW Fund VPs

The response to our solicitation letter has been outstanding. To date, we have received 36 contributions for a total of \$4,295.00. Everyone has been very generous contributing to these funds that are the heart of AAUW.

On October 10 and October 24 we had the opportunity to participate in a Zoom Webinar “Meet the Fellows” which took the place of the usual AAUW Fund luncheons held in Northern and Southern California. 18 Fellowship recipients presented their projects this year, eight on October 10 and ten on October 24. We attended the October 24 webinar. After welcome and introductions, AAUW National gave an update on our priorities:

1. Removing bias from education
2. Fighting for fair pay and economic equity
3. Advancing women in leadership

Then we heard from the fellowship recipients. Four American fellowship recipients gave interesting presentations on tropical wildlife conservation and ecology with a focus on frog vocalizations, frontier settlement in Chile’s Southern Frontera during the late 19th and early 20th centuries in relation to indigenous displacement drawing parallels with western expansion in the United States, post-secondary educational opportunities and inequities particularly among low-income single mothers of color, and the immigration experiences of DACA recipients pertaining to immigration policies of the past and current administrations. There were three international fellowship recipients, one from Jamaica receiving her Ph.D. in Ethnic Studies, another from Ecuador getting a Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolution and a British Chinese filmmaker pursuing an M.F.A. in Directing. Three women receiving Career Development Grants spoke about their experiences pursuing careers that would expand training opportunities for midwifery to provide pregnancy care to low income women, find solutions to food insecurity among college students and teach students botany and plant sciences in a way that allows them to be stewards for our planet amid a changing climate. It was inspiring to listen to these women who are doing such important work in their areas of study.

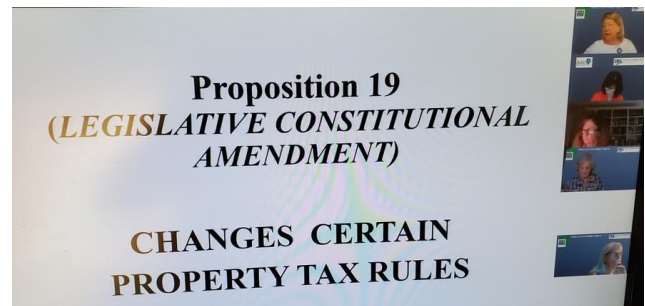
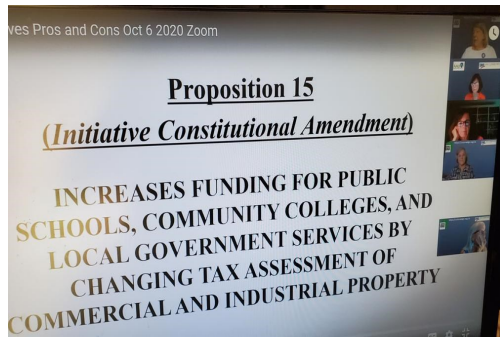
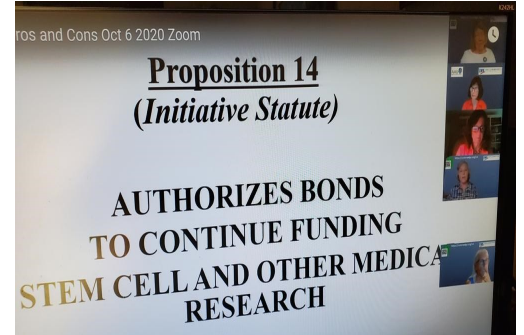
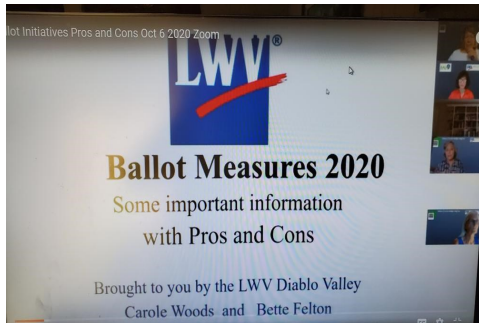
We would like to invite you to join our committee and help us support the various activities AAUW Fund does to support women on a national and local level. Our next meeting will be on Monday, November 16th, 2:30 on Zoom. Contact us if you are interested.

Jennifer Apkarian at (925) 228-2027 or apkarian1@att.net or
Claudia Bass at (925) 372-8679 or cbasslancer29@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 Zoom pictures on the **Photo Page** from the October 6th League of Women Voters presentation on the ballot propositions. On the **Program Page**, see the upcoming programs and activities for the next year.

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





American Association of University Women
Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette Branch

Announces the launch of a new Webinar Series
For High School Girls

Girls4Stem

The **Girls4STEM** webinar series is launching on Sunday, November 22, 2020. This webinar series introduces women working in STEM fields to high school girls who at this stage of their lives are making choices about high school coursework, in preparation for potential college majors and STEM careers. The presenters share their education and career paths, discuss their actual job activities, and provide tips for getting college internships and jobs after college.

Girls4STEM is free and open to all high school girls. Webinars will be offered 1-2 times per month on Sunday afternoons for up to 500 attendees. AAUW-OML is presenting this series as part of our community outreach projects, designed to advance equity for women and girls. A report published by USA Facts on 10/16/2020 says that while more women are earning STEM degrees than 10 years ago, women still earn only 32.4% of STEM degrees awarded. Our goal is to encourage high school girls to take STEM classes and major in a STEM field in college. This webinar series is made possible by a generous grant from the Bettelheim Family Foundation.

We are asking for your help to recruit high school girls to register for the webinars. We hope you will send the attached E-flyer to your family, friends, neighbors, anybody who knows high school girls who will benefit by the webinars and meeting some fantastic women in various STEM fields.

The E-Flyer has webinar dates, speakers, and links to register for our first 4 webinars. For more information about the series and the speakers, please go to our Girls4STEM webpage: <https://oml-ca.aauw.net/girls4stem-webinars/>. You can also email any questions you have to girls4stem.aauw.oml@gmail.com. Thank you for helping us make a difference.

Best Regards,
Denise Burian and Caroline Friedmann
AAUW-OML STEM Co-chairs



2020-2021 LEADERSHIP TEAM

November - December 2020

January 2021

All meetings virtual

- Nov 4** Morning Books, 10 am, Zoom
Nov 11 Board Meeting, 7:00 pm, Zoom
Nov 16 Fund Committee Meeting, 2:30 pm, Zoom
Nov 17 IBC meeting, 7 pm, Zoom
Zoom
Nov 18 Peggy Cabaniss of OML branch treasurer and AAUW National Finance Chair,
7 pm, Zoom
Nov 23 Evening Books, 7 pm, Zoom
Nov 24 December 2020 N.E.W.S. deadline to Reba
Dec 2 Morning Books, 10 am, Zoom
Dec 9 Board Meeting, 7:00 pm, Zoom
Jan 13 Layette Shower, 10:00 am, Zoom
Jan 13 Board Meeting, 7:00 pm, Zoom
Jan 20 Dr. Julie Snyard, PhD, Superintendent, MUSD and Helen Rossi, Asst. Superintendent, MUSD
7 pm, Zoom



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

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

Montecito Animal Clinic



5280 Pacheco Boulevard
Pacheco, CA 94553
925/686-0683
FAX 925/686-4754



Katrinka March D.V.M.
Karen Shore B.V.M.S.
Cindy Pieper D.V.M.

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