



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 64 Issue 4

December 2021

Wishing you and your loved ones
the best of the holiday season!



CHRISTMAS

HANUKKAH

KWANZAA

SOLSTICE



Pleasant Hill-Martinez (CA) Branch

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thropy and research



NOMINATING COMMITTEE

A Nominating Committee has been formed which will meet in January / February to look for a slate of potential officers for our Branch for the 2022-2023 program year. The following members were elected to the committee at the General Meeting on Wednesday, November 17th.

From the General Membership: Cricket Hamilton, Nancy Myers, Carolyn Barcklay, and Alternate Sarah Joy Haynes.

From the Board: Susan Trebino, Trinkia March, and Alternate Virginia Hewgley.

I appreciate that these members have volunteered to help with this important part of our organization and look forward to meeting with them a couple of months from now. Many Thanks !

Helen Pereira, Parliamentarian

PRESIDENTIAL POSTINGS

Thank you to our Program VPs for another lively program with Dr. Robert Martinez, who spoke about resiliency. We've all been particularly resilient in the last year and a half!

As the holidays are upon us, I wish each of you the very best of the season. Thanksgiving has just passed and we're beginning Hanukkah this week. The Solstice, Christmas, Boxing Day, and Kwanzaa arrive later in December! I hope you enjoy all the traditions your family has created through the years. I'm sure there are other festivities that I don't know about yet!

As we head into the shorter and colder days here in the northern hemisphere, I hope that you are able to attend gatherings that were off limits last year. It has been so nice to re-connect in person over the last few months.

Be sure to buy your Kinder's gift cards for holiday gift giving. It is a fundraiser for the branch and a nice thing for friends and family to receive. Contact Gayle Miner or Claudia Bass for more information. The order form has been included in the email with this newsletter. The order deadline is December 13, but I hear they are going fast!

A big thank you goes to Helen Pereira for putting together our Nominating Committee to look for our leaders for the 2022-23 program year! And thanks to each of you who are serving on that important committee. The branch is in good hands as we travel into our future together!

Take care of yourselves and each other as we close out this year and begin the next.



NO DECEMBER BOARD MEETING

JANUARY BOARD MEETING

JANUARY 12, 2022

AT SUSAN TREBINO'S HOME

Copy deadline for the

January 2022 N.E.W.S.

Thursday, December 30th

Please email copy to:

Reba Siero rebasiero@yahoo.com

(925) 917-1061

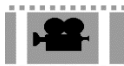
INTEREST SECTIONS MEETINGS



****MORNING BOOKS** will meet at Sandy Wolfe's on Wednesday, December 1, 10 am, to discuss *The Four Winds*, by Kristin Hannah. On January 5th, we will be discussing *Becoming Nicole* by Amy Ellis Nuff. Please plan to join us!



****EVENING BOOKS** will not meet in December, so our next meeting will be on January 24th, 7 pm, at the Brookview Clubhouse. We will be discussing our classic choice, Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea*.



****MATINEE IDLE** is on hold for the present time. We normally meet on the 4th Thursday of each month. If you are interested, please call or email Marlene Maksel.

OTHER GROUPS



****MAH JONGG** will meet on Friday, December 17th at the Brookview Clubhouse, 12:30 PM. We will meet on January 21st in the new year. Please let Suzanne Salter know if you plan to attend. Her contact information is:
Suzanne Salter
seabear92020@outlook.com
(925) 988-0322 cell)



****GRAND SLAMMERS**
For information, contact:

Marlene DeLaurenti at mdl@astound.net or
(925) 934-4171

GREAT DECISIONS 2022

I am looking into interest in our branch starting a Great Decisions group. Great Decisions is offered by AAUW. Each participant purchases a book with articles concerning this year's nine topics. We would meet once a month, probably in the afternoon. If enough members are interested in joining, I will get more information about ordering the books and also if we can pick and choose topics.

Please contact me if you are interested! Thank you!

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

Great Decisions 2022 topics:

- #1 'changing demographics' bonus article by Joseph Chamie
- #2 'outer space' by Erik Berger
- #3 'climate change' by Ron Bee
- #4 'Russia and the US' by Alan Lynch
- #5 'Miranmar and ASEAN' by Hunter Marston
- #6 'quad alliance' by Kevin Rudd
- #7 'drug policy in Latin America' by Monica Serrano
- #8 'industrial policy' by Jonathan Chanis
- #9 'Biden's agenda' by Jon Ikenberry'

AAUW FUND REPORT

Jennifer Apkarian and Claudia Bass, AAUW Fund VPs

It is amazing that December is here already. Speaking of December, the deadline for sending your solicitation letter donation to Jennifer is **December 20th**. Again, this year everyone has been very generous with their contributions to National AAUW. So far, our branch has donated \$3,910.00 which is greatly appreciated. National is requesting that donations go to unrestricted funds, but any category is welcome.

We are currently in the process of selling Kinder's \$20 gift certificates. They cost \$20 and we get \$4.50 per certificate we sell. You can redeem your gift certificate at any Kinder's location, purchase whatever you want and no expiration date. They would make great stocking stuffers. The sale ends **December 13th**, and they are going fast. Contact Gayle Miner (925) 344-6795 or Claudia Bass (925) 372-8679 to purchase a gift certificate. Thank you to everyone who has so far bought them.

Currently there is not any information available of what format the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) will be in 2022. The conference is still in the planning stage, and we do not know if it will be in person or virtual. Currently, we have a credit with Alaska Airlines for \$546.80 which expires on 12/31/21. We are offering the credit for \$446.80 or best offer for anyone who is interested in using it. It would be \$100 savings. You would need to book your flight by December 31st and payment would be made to AAUW Pleasant Hill-Martinez Branch. Alaska Airlines does not offer refunds so hopefully we can get part of our money back. If you are interested contact Jennifer Apkarian.

The AAUW Fund committee is going to reinstate Game Day. It will possibly be the last week of March. More details will be coming.

Our next committee meeting will be January 17, 2022, at 2:30. It will be held at Claudia's house. We would love to have you join us.

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 photos from our **November Program** on the **Photo Page**. Find our upcoming Programs and 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

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

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Barbara Minneman and Karen Winters, Membership VPs

We would like to welcome our two "new" members, actually former members: Elaine Seawell and Karyn Watanabe. Make sure you say Hi to them, and welcome them back.

We are always looking for ways to increase our numbers, and one of the best ways to interest friends in our group is to bring them to one of our events. The January Soup Supper is a great place to do just that. One of your Membership Co-Chairs became a member after an invitation to a Soup Supper, and she hasn't left yet!

Hope to see you and a friend or two in January.

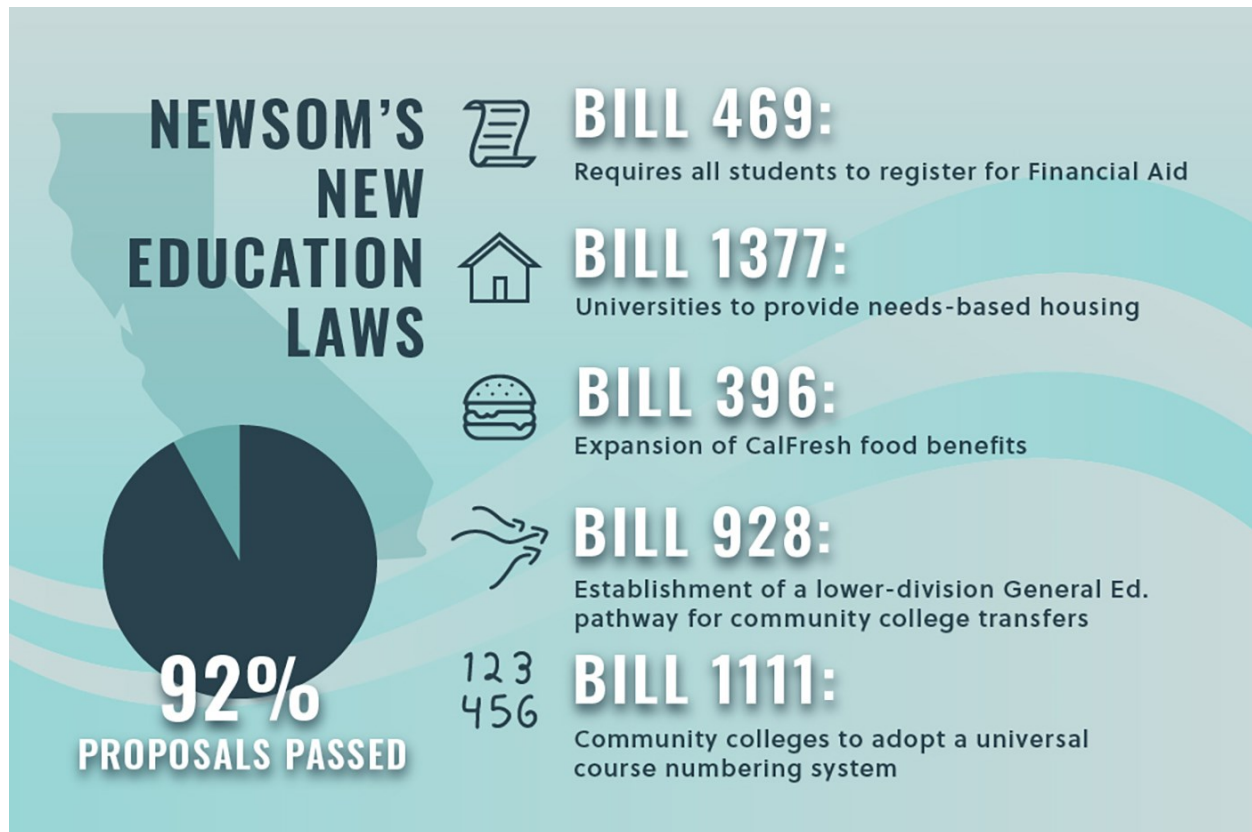
Barb Minneman blminneman@comcast.net

Karen Winters karen.winters@sbcglobal.net

PUBLIC POLICY

From Asha Bajaj, Public Policy chair, AAUW Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek branch

Education Bills



Parent Healthcare Act:

Assembly Bill 570, otherwise known as the “Parent Healthcare Act,” was authored by Asm. Miguel Santiago and introduced in February. The bill was sponsored by the California Department of Insurance (CDI) and supported by organizations such as California Health Advocates and immigrant groups who have fought to improve access to health care for undocumented citizens. The bill specifically targets those who do not qualify for Medicare and cannot afford health insurance, including immigrant families where the children are documented citizens, but their parents are not. In a statement provided to State of Reform, Santiago commented on how this bill will impact California families.

“AB 570 brings California one step closer to providing health care for all by allowing adult children to add their dependent parents to their health insurance. This helps working families to save money by combining healthcare costs on one plan. This is also an option for mixed-status families or working families with a disabled parent at home who doesn’t qualify for other safety-net programs like Social Security or Medicare.”

He emphasized that families can use the cost-savings provided by the bill on other necessities like food and rent. The bill will go into effect Jan. 1, 2023.

Sexual assault and spousal Rape

Assembly Bill (AB) 453, AB 1171, AB 939 and Senate Bill (SB) 215.

(continued from page 6)

AB 453, authored by Assemblymember Cristina Garcia (D- Bell Gardens), makes the act of non-consensually removing a condom, also known as “stealthing”, illegal.

SB 215, co-authored by Senator Connie Leyva (D-Chino), will allow survivors of sexual assault to track and receive information regarding their sexual assault evidence kit.

Tracking will take place through a new online portal that allows survivors to access the SAFE-T database.

AB 939 bans a survivor’s clothing from being used as evidence of consent in a sexual assault case. The bill, also known as the Denim Day Act of 2021, is named for a day recognized during Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April. Denim Day focuses on amplifying the message that manner of dress does not equate to consent.

“I want to thank my legislative colleagues for their support on this important measure. AB 939 makes it clear that an outfit never provides consent, ever. To even consider whether a survivor’s manner of dress should be admitted as evidence of consent wrongly scrutinizes the actions of the survivor, instead of placing that scrutiny where it truly belongs — on the actions of the perpetrator,” said Assemblymember Sabrina Cervantes (D-Corona). Under this new law, stealthing would be considered a form of sexual battery. However, it does not criminalize it.

We are all watching the progress of the “Build Back Better” infrastructure bill proposed by President Biden making its way to the Senate.

Booster doses and vaccines for kids 5-11 years of age are now open to everyone. Please go to Myturn.gov and sign up for vaccination.

Stay Alert! Stay engaged! Stay involved!



PH-M AAUW
ANNUAL LAYETTE SHOWER
Wednesday, January 12, 2022, 10 AM

It’s almost time! The 2022 Layette Shower will be on Wednesday, January 12, at 10:00 AM, in person, at Janice Walker’s, 524 Monti Circle, PH. Layette items will benefit the Hillcrest Layette Program, which requests anything a little one can use, except newborn, NB, and under 7lbs sizes. Please email me, sandjwalk@comcast.net, to let me know you intend to be a part of the shower. If you can’t participate on the 12th but would like to make a contribution, you can drop it off prior to the shower or let me know you have an item and we can arrange a pickup. Due to the fact that I have young grandchildren I am hoping you’ll be vaccinated when you attend, or be wearing a mask. Our Layette Shower is a great way to make a positive beginning to the new year! I hope you’ll join me!

Janice Walker



International Soup Supper
Wednesday, January 19, 2022, 6 PM
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
1601 Mary Drive, Pleasant Hill

Please join us for hearty, homemade soups, breads, and desserts at our Pleasant Hill-Martinez Branch Annual International Soup Supper.

Coffee, water, and tea will be provided

Be sure to bring your own soup bowl and spoon.

Dinner starts promptly at 6PM, and remember that spouses, partners, and friends are most welcome.

Our speaker for the evening is Evelyn LaTorre. Evelyn joined the Peace Corps upon graduation from Holy Names and was assigned to Peru where she taught PE, English and organized 4-H clubs. She married her husband, a Peruvian university student in Cusco, Peru, in June 1966. She worked twenty years as a School Psychologist for the Fremont and San Jose Unified School Districts. Evelyn was named Director of Special Education for San Jose Unified in 1990. She concluded 32 years' work in education in 2002 after eight years as a Special Education Administrator for the Contra Costa County Office of Education.

**Let us know if you would like to bring
a pot of soup serving 10-12 people or bread or dessert
OR pay \$10. All guests pay \$10.**

**Contact Suzanne Salter (925) 988-0322 or seabear92020@outlook.com
to pay and indicate number of guests**

**RSVP and pay by January 12th (make checks to
AAUW Pleasant Hill-Martinez Branch)**

Vaccination cards are required

Hope to see you there!

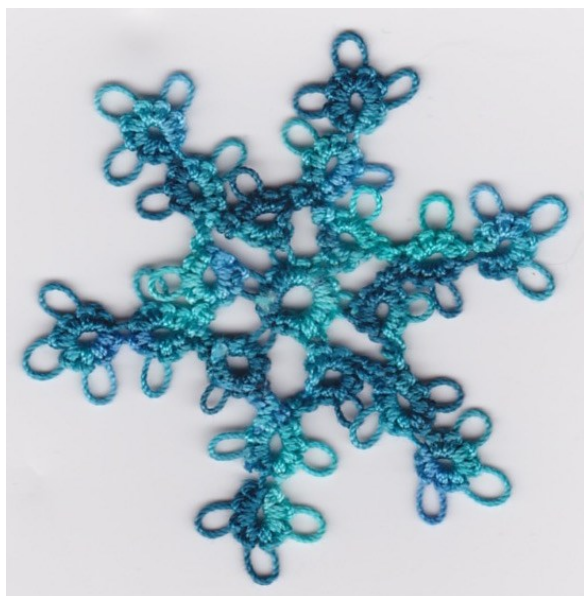


2021-2022 LEADERSHIP TEAM

December 2021

January 2022

- Dec 1** Morning Books, 10 am, Sandy Wolfe's
Dec 5 DVC play fundraiser for TT and LS, 2:30 pm, DVC
Dec 17 Mah Jongg, 12:30 pm, Brookview Clubhouse
Jan 5 Morning Books, 10 am, TBA
Jan 12 Layette Shower, 10 am, Janice Walker's
Jan 12 Board meeting, 7 pm, Susan Trebino's
Jan 17 Fund meeting, 2:30 pm,
Jan 19 Soup Supper, 6 pm, St. Andrew's
Jan 21 Mah Jongg, 12:30 pm, Brookview Clubhouse
Jan 24 Evening Books, 7 pm, Brookview Clubhouse



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



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

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www.aauw-pleasanthill-martinez.org

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