



N.E.W.S.

Now/Events/Women/Success

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

Volume 63 Issue 9

May-June 2021

Installation Brunch

Saturday, June 5, 2021 - 10 am

ZOOM

Fix a cup of coffee or tea, add a brunch goody, fire up your computer, tablet or phone,
and join us on Zoom!

Meet our Tech Trek girls - five girls from 2020 and seven new girls for 2021

Meet our Local Scholarship recipients from College Park and Alhambra High Schools

Meet our NCCWSL attendee for 2021

Learn who our Named Gift Honoree and Barbara Newacheck Award winners are for this year

Thank our Branch Officers for their leadership this past year

Meet our Branch Officers for 2021-2022 as they are installed today

Co-Presidents: Gayle Miner and Reba Siero

Program Vice Presidents: Bobbi Horack and Sally Whitsett

Membership Vice Presidents: Barbara Minneman and Karen Winters

AAUW Fund (EF) Vice Presidents: Jennifer Apkarian and Claudia Bass

Secretary: Susan Trebino

Treasurer: Trinkia March

Many thanks to all our leaders and to each of you for your support and generosity
during this past challenging year!



PRESIDENTIAL POSTINGS

Despite Covid 19, PHMAAUW has had a successful year. Through Local Scholarship efforts led by Virginia Hewgley, we have raised funds to give 4 – 6 high school seniors \$1,000 scholarships. Through AAUW Fund, we have raised monies to send another young DVC woman to NCCWSL – this year virtually. Also through our AAUW Fund, we have donated monies to National Funds. Our Tech Trek program is strong and on going, thanks to Diane Coventry and her committee, and will send 12 girls to Tech Trek virtual camp this Summer. All of these accomplishments are a result of our members generosity. We could not do the things we do without your generous donations to different causes.

Although we could not meet in person this year, we have managed to have many interesting speakers at our General Meetings via Zoom thanks to the hard work of Helen Pereira and Harriett Burt, our Program VPs. They are a hard act to follow, but I am confident our new Program VPs, Bobbie Horack and Sally Whitsett will do an outstanding job for us next year.

A huge thank you goes to our Membership VPs, SarahJoy Haynes and Kathleen Woulfe for their hard work in keeping track of our membership and collecting dues. Our membership remains strong at 97 members, 6 of those ladies are Lifetime Members. Barbara Minneman and Karen Winters will be our new Membership VPs and we wish them well as they take over this job for our branch.

Reba and I appreciate those board members who will continue in their positions for an additional year: Secretary Susan Trebino, Treasurer Trinkia March and Fund VPs Claudia Bass and Jennifer Apkarian. A big thank you to Reba Siero, who through her Tech expertise has kept us all connected through Zoom.

We look forward to the future when we can safely meet in person at General Meetings, Board Meetings and Interest Groups. Our membership has been very supportive in these Covid 19 times and we thank you all for that support. Have a relaxing, enjoyable, safe and healthy Summer. We will see you again at our Welcome General Meeting in September.

PS: Kinder’s Coupons are good until August 31.

Gayle Miner, 2020-21 Co-President



HELP WANTED

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

Appointed Officers

Community

Education

Public Policy

Communications

Appointed Positions

Historian

Major Fundraiser

Let us know if you can help!



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

SarahJoy Haynes and Kathleen Woulfe, Membership VPs

Dear members,

Thank you to everyone who has renewed their membership. Each member should have received an email from AAUW National around March 26, inviting you to renew online! The email address it was sent from is: memberinfo@aauw.org

Many members have already used it. It is very user-friendly and your membership can be charged on your credit card.

If you prefer to send a check, please mail \$108 made out to: **AAUW Pleasant Hill-Martinez Branch**

Kathleen Woulfe
2154 Deerwood Dr
Martinez, CA 94553

We are delighted to welcome a new member, Cricket Hamilton.

Cricket Hamilton
1960 1st Avenue
Walnut Creek, CA 94597
(925) 353-0114 cell
jimnycricket_2000@yahoo.com

And Sally Whitsett has a new email address: sswhits@gmail.com

SarahJoy Haynes, (925) 586-9493
plumleathr@aol.com
Kathleen Woulfe, (925) 372-7726
kathleendwoulfe@aol.com

JUNE JOINT BOARD MEETING WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9, 2021

7:00 PM

ZOOM

**Copy deadline for the
July/August 2021 N.E.W.S. (2 month issue!)**

Monday, June 30th

Please email copy to:

Reba Siero rebasiero@yahoo.com

(925) 917-1061

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

INTEREST SECTIONS MEETINGS



****MORNING BOOKS** met on May 5th, via Zoom at 10 am. We discussed *The Long Petal of the Sea* by Isabel Allende. We also assessed the possibilities of having a June luncheon ~ and if you want to serve on the Selection Committee, which meets during the summer, this is the time.



****EVENING BOOKS** met on May 24th, via Zoom at 7 pm. We discussed *A Woman of No Importance* by Sonia Purnell.



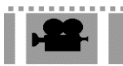
****MORNING BOOKS** will not be discussing a book in June.



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



****EVENING BOOKS** will not meet in June.



****MATINEE IDLE** will not meet in June. We might go to the movies in July!

OTHER GROUPS



****MAH JONGG** will begin again on July 16th at the Brookview Clubhouse, 12:30 PM. 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**

CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

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



Pleasant Hill-Martinez (CA) Branch

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

BOOK EXCHANGE/Round Robin 1st CALL

This is your annual opportunity to join the BOOK EXCHANGE! Read up to 12 hardbacks published in 2021 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.

We certainly would welcome additional members, as we just had 2 Exchanges last year. (You can purchase 2 - or potentially 3 books - to join all the Exchanges and double or triple your reading pleasure!) Please call with any questions.

Please contact Mary Hanlon at:

(925) 934-3528 (home) or (925) 286-2223 (cell)

or mkhbibliophile@aol.com with your selected title and author **PRIOR** to purchasing your book. Reserve your Titles - and your places in the Exchanges - now. We should begin exchanging books by October 1st.



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 photos from our virtual April Program on the **Photo 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

AAUW FUND REPORT

Jennifer Apkarian and Claudia Bass, AAUW Fund VPs

Our Spring Kinder's coupon sale is in full swing. Tickets were on sale through May 17th at \$14.00 per coupon. Each coupon includes a choice of a ball tip or chicken sandwich and a small drink. Coupons expire on August 31st. Thanks to Gayle Miner, Marlene Maksel, Claudia Bass, Jennifer Apkarian and Helen Pereira for handling the ticket sales. All proceeds from ticket sales raise money for AAUW Fund and help sponsor a student from DVC to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL).

The NCCWSL Conference just happened. It was held virtually on May 25th and 26th, 2021. Our NCCWSL student Bryanna Nicole King looked forward to attending. Bryanna was excited about attending NCCWSL and was anxious to learn leadership skills which will help in pursuing her goals. We are looking forward to hearing about her conference experience at our June 5th meeting. Last year's student Desiree Maurino had been planning to attend the conference as well. However, she was accepted into the radiology program and the orientation for the program was at the same time as the conference. Therefore, she was unfortunately unable to attend the conference. We are disappointed that she was not able to participate in the experience but are excited about her future endeavors.

Our AAUW Fund Committee meeting was on May 17th, with the next one on July 19th at 2:30 pm. If you are interested in attending contact Jennifer or Claudia. We welcome new committee members at our meetings!

Jennifer Apkarian at (925) 228-2027 or apkarian1@att.net or
Claudia Bass at (925) 372-8679 or cbasslancer29@aol.com



James L. Thelen - Dear husband of member Marilyn Thelen

September 22, 1938 - April 6, 2021

Resident of Martinez, CA

James L. Thelen, a devoted husband, father and grandfather, passed away peacefully in his home on April 6, 2021 after a valiant fight with pancreatic cancer for 2 1/2 years. James was born on September 22, 1938 in Thief River Falls, Minnesota, Post World War II. He was born into the "Silent Generation", an era when children were expected to be seen and not heard. Apparently, no one told James. His strong voice rang out in pursuit of truth, justice, open government and the accountability of public officials.

When James was 2, his family moved to Alameda, California. James attended St. Joseph's Catholic Elementary School and Alameda High School. In his senior year he joined the United States Navy Reserves. Upon graduation James, at the age of 17, along with two schoolmates set off to San Diego and Navy Boot Camp.

James was stationed on the newly modernized USS Hornet. He was assigned to the ship's fire control maintenance. On January 21, 1957 he departed for the Far East to bolster the strength of the 7th Fleet. He would make two deployments on the Hornet to engage in antisubmarine warfare tactics along the shores of Japan to Okinawa and the Philippines. During his tenure, James earned the highest rank as an enlisted sailor and was honorably discharged from the Navy in 1958. In the Navy, James realized that higher education was his calling and he set off for college at Chico State to follow his interest in Business Finance and Administration. While there, he met the love of his life, Marilyn Viano. On June 25, 1960, the couple eloped and spent a lifetime together, for over 60 years.

James and Marilyn faced the world together pursuing their dreams. They moved to Sacramento where James worked at a savings and loan and Marilyn became an educator. James studied at Sacramento State College, graduating in 1962 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Finance and Administration.

The couple moved to Oakland and James enrolled at the University of California Hastings College of Law in San Francisco. In the summer of 1964, the couple moved to Marilyn's hometown of Martinez. They welcomed their first daughter Lori in 1964 and Theresa a year later followed by their youngest, Jennifer. James, a gloating father, graduated from Hastings College of Law and was admitted to the California Bar Association in 1966.

James applied to the Contra Costa County Public Defender's Office and began a lifelong career in law. He dedicated his talents to helping those that needed a voice. He was an advocate for justice in an unfair world. He went into private practice and ultimately moved his law office to Main Street Martinez.

James became interested in politics when Martinez City Councilmember John Sparacino knocked on his door during his 1966 campaign. On that day, James told his wife he was going to run for office. In April of 1970, James was elected to the Martinez City Council and re-elected in 1974 and 1978. He also served as Chair of the Contra Costa Mayors Conference in 1972-1973. James was a strong advocate of transparent government and having city officials available to the public. He was known for being fiscally responsible with city funds and openly shared his opinions with a no-nonsense approach to city challenges. During his time in office, James was instrumental (along with Supervisor Nancy Fahden and City Manager Lee Walton) in leading the preservation of the Martinez waterfront for recreational use and persuaded the East Bay Regional Park District to establish a regional park at the Martinez waterfront. Land that was once an airport and public dump, riddled with contamination, is now a scenic destination for nature lovers, a refuge for birds and is thriving with vegetation. James loved Martinez! He was a tireless supporter of our residents and the Martinez business community.

James and Marilyn enjoyed a love for travel. They visited 6 of the 7 continents and many countries; Greece, Turkey, Antarctica, Italy, China, Spain and Australia, to name a few. James loved good food and good wine, reading, investing, puzzles, playing poker, hosting the family's annual Thanksgiving dinners for thirty-five plus members, and running his NFL pick'em contests.

James enjoyed and lived his life fully, not letting the unanticipated spread of his disease, its treatment, nor the pandemic and a mask keep him from travelling to Colorado to take an Amtrak ride through the Rockies with his grandchildren. James leaves behind his beloved wife, Marilyn, daughters, Lori Thelen, Theresa and Terry Heckmaster, Jennifer Thelen and Scott Brenneman, grandchildren, Taylor and Tom Heckmaster, and granddogs, Indie and Ollie. He is also survived by 3 brothers, 2 sisters and many nieces and nephews.

James was honored in a private service and interment at the Sacramento Valley National Military Cemetery on May 13th, 2021. If you wish to make a donation in his name, the family asks that it be made to the Boys and Girls Club of Contra Costa. James, your voice will forever resonate in our Hearts.



James Alkire - Dear husband of member Margi Alkire
August 16, 1934 - April 22, 2021
Resident of Pleasant Hill, CA

Jim had a wonderful life of 86 years, beginning in the mountains of West Virginia, then to the Sonoran desert of Arizona, and finally to the golden hills of California. He was born August 16, 1934, to Lawrence Webster Alkire and Olga Myrtle King Alkire in Grantsville, West Virginia.

At the age of 10, Jim, his sister Mary Ann, and parents moved to Tucson, AZ. Jim graduated from Tucson High School, class of 1952 (Go Badgers!), and attended the University of Arizona (Go Wildcats!), working part-time at El Rancho Market. He was drafted into the army in 1957, serving two years on stateside duty. He met his wife-to-be, Margaret Dawson, in Tucson and they were married in Evanston, IL, in 1960.

They lived in El Paso, TX, where Jim graduated cum laude from Texas Western College (now UTEP). Son Andy was born there. They moved to Philadelphia, PA, where Jim received a Master's degree in Public Administration from the Wharton School, Fels Institute of Local and State Government, at the University of Pennsylvania. Jim was a Samuel S. Fels scholar. Following graduation, he pursued his career in City Management beginning in Highland Park, Ill, where he served as Director of Finance and Assistant to the City Manager. Daughter Betsy was born there. In 1966 the family moved to Centralia, Il, where Jim was City Manager until 1970. His third child Bob joined the family there.

In 1970 the family moved to beautiful Pleasant Hill, CA, where Jim served as City Manager until his retirement in 1987. For over 50 years, he was active in St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church and was a proud member of Pleasant Hill Rotary Club. In his leisure time, he coached baseball for his sons in PHBA, listened to the jazz of Glenn Miller, indulged his family by camping, and enjoyed family reunions. He loved his two-buck chuck, sharing his sense of humor, and spending time with friends. He loved being a grandfather and enthusiastically attended any and all of their activities. Jim was an avid fan of the Oakland A's and the Golden State Warriors.

During the retirement years, Jim and Margi traveled extensively, going to Europe, Australia, New Zealand, and South America. They lived half the year in Jim's beloved Tucson, where they were active in St. John on the Desert Presbyterian Church. Jim organized UA baseball outings, attended UA basketball, and was a die-hard Arizona Wildcat fan.

He is survived by wife Margi, son Andy and wife Jacqueline, daughter Betsy and husband John, and son Bob. He had 8 grandchildren, which meant 8 wonderful ten-year-old trips. The beloved grandchildren are Alec Alkire, Ryan Alkire, Sean Alkire, Megan Alkire, Olivia Alkire, James Chabin, Sarah Chabin, and Nathan Chabin. He is also survived by his sister-in-law Jeannette D Kahlenberg and his nephew Tyler Kight. In his last months, Jim suffered from complications of pneumonia. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, St. John on the Desert Presbyterian Church, or the Pleasant Hill Rotary Club Foundation. A Celebration of Life was held on Saturday, May 8.

Addressing Discrimination against Black Transgender and Gender Non-conforming People

Archana Maniar, AAUW California Public Policy Committee Member

AAUW California supports “freedom in definition of self-identity” as critical to ensuring justice for a diverse and inclusive society. One group that is consistently denied this freedom is black transgender and gender non-conforming individuals. Over the past several years, increasing attention has been focused on the multitude of ways in which these individuals encounter marginalization and discrimination. A recent study by the National Center for Transgender Equality addressed these forms of discrimination through the National Transgender Discrimination Survey. The study highlighted a variety of economic, safety, and physical and mental health challenges faced by transgender and gender non-conforming individuals. Black transgender people had unemployment rates four times the rate of the general population and twice the rate of transgender people at large. A startling 41% of black transgender or gender non-conforming individuals said they had experienced being unsheltered. Black transgender individuals suffered extreme poverty at a rate of 31% which is twice that of transgender individuals of all races and eight times the general US population. Furthermore, 50% of black respondents who attended school while expressing their transgender identity or gender non-conformity reported harassment in the survey. Nearly half of black respondents to the survey had attempted to commit suicide and more than 20% were living with HIV compared to 0.60% of the general population. The findings highlight the profound challenges faced by black transgender and gender non-conforming individuals and point to the need for social justice advocates and government officials to address the intersection between race and gender identity to assure equity of transgender or gender non-conforming citizens.

AAUW members can address the challenges faced by black transgender and gender non-conforming individuals by advocating for legislation that assures an even playing field and addresses the unique housing and healthcare challenges faced by this population. These will help us achieve AAUW-California’s public policy goals of equality, inclusiveness and financial security for all women.

<https://www.thetaskforce.org/new-analysis-shows-startling-levels-of-discrimination-against-black-transgender-people/>

From Kit Hein, from the AAUW-CA Public Policy Committee

AB 92 Assembly Member Reyes *Child Care Family Fees*, has passed the Assembly. It will now go to the Senate. We are also asking for money from the budget to help fund it. This bill will:

- ☆ Extend waiver of family fees
- ☆ \$1B for child care provider rates
- ☆ \$1B to expand child care spaces to 200k+
- ☆ Release federal child care stabilization grants now

For those who participate in social media, here are some tags to use:

We are also UNITED for #ChildCare in the #CABudget!

#ChildCare4CA #RaiseTheRates #FreedomFromFees #NoLessThan200K

Excited for @CAGovernor @GavinNewsom #CAAssembly & #CASenate to come together.

2020–2021 LEADERSHIP TEAM

May/June 2021 and beyond Most meetings virtual

- May 4** Morning Books, 10 am, Zoom
May 12 Board Meeting, 7:00 pm, Zoom
May 14 Ways and Means Committee, 11 am, Zoom
May 17 Fund Committee Meeting, 2:30 pm, Zoom
Last day to buy Kinder's coupons
May 24 Evening Books, 7 pm, Zoom
Jun 5 End of Year Brunch, Installation, 10 am, Zoom
Jun 9 Joint Board Meeting, 7:00 pm, Zoom
Jun 30 July/August 2021 newsletter deadline
Jul 14 Board Meeting, 7:00 pm, Zoom
Jul 16 Mah Jongg resumes in person! 12:30 pm,
Brookview Clubhouse
Jul 19 Fund Committee Meeting, 2:30 pm, Zoom
Aug 31 Last day to use Kinder's coupons

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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