



# N.E.W.S.

**Now/Events/Women/Success**

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

**Volume 64 Issue 3**

**November 2021**

**Dr. Robert Martinez  
Superintendent of the Griffin Technology Academies  
November 17, 2021 – 7p.m.  
St Andrews Presbyterian Church  
1601 Mary Dr  
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523**

Our speaker for our AAUW meeting on November 17 is Dr. Robert Martinez, Superintendent of the Griffin Technology Academies in Vallejo.

Rob has degrees in Psychology and Education Leadership and 35 years of experience as an educator, both in the classroom and in administration.

One of Rob's passions is resiliency and he is known worldwide on social media as #Resiliency Guy. He has written children's books with a resiliency theme and has spoken widely, especially in light of the effect of the pandemic on our mental health.

I am sure you will enjoy this presentation and I look forward to introducing my friend, Dr. Rob Martinez # Resiliency Guy.

Bobbi and Sally



Pleasant Hill-Martinez (CA) Branch

**Advancing equity for women and girls through ad-  
vocacy, education, philanthropy and research**



## **PRESIDENTIAL POSTINGS**

Can you believe it! It is almost time for Thanksgiving. When Thanksgiving is approaching, we often think about the things we are thankful for, usually loved ones, family, job, friendships, health and many others. In this column I want to specify AAUW related things to be thankful for.

I am thankful for the many people at the AAUW National level who work so hard to run and maintain the various Fellowships and Endowments that support women and girls and oversee a huge budget, fundraising efforts, and various National committees. What a commitment to AAUW these people have made.

I am thankful for our AAUW State officers and their work for California AAUW, from the Leadership Team of President, Secretary, Parliamentarian, California Connection Editor, Nominations, Elections, and Meetings Planner, Brunch and Membership Assistance Director, Chief Financial Officer and Finance Committee, Investment Committee, Director of Communications, Board 2 Board Editor, Co-Chairs of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI), and Public Policy and Title IX Directors. There are also Marketing Groups, AAUW California Office Manager, Speech Trek Director and Treasurer, Tech Trek Program Director and Treasurer and Director of Financial Liaison to name a few. I am thankful for the many people working at the state level to insure a successful state organization to help and support women and girls in their pursuit of higher education, job training, equal pay, and legal fairness.

Locally, I am thankful for our Inter Branch Council (IBC) and the work they do to support the nine branches in our county. I am most thankful for the members of our local AAUW Pleasant Hill Martinez Branch. Our branch members give of their time, effort and money to support women and girls through fundraising and donations for scholarships, NCCWSL, and Tech Trek experiences. Although we enjoy our various interest groups that meet, our primary goal is to support women and

girls in various ways.

We belong to a wonderful AAUW organization, from National to State to Local Branches, members working together for common goals. I am thankful for all of you and what you do to support AAUW at all levels.

Please take a few moments this Thanksgiving to reflect on the whole AAUW organization, of which we are a small part, and how many committed people it takes to run this organization successfully and be thankful for the good work that they do.

On a different note, we had an excellent speaker at our in-person October General Meeting. Dr. Adam Clark, Superintendent of Mount Diablo Unified School District, spoke to us about his background in education, Covid 19 challenges for the district, and where the district is heading to better serve students. There were many questions after his talk that he took time to answer in great detail. It was the first time we have had an in-person speaker and meeting since Covid 19 began. We also had 5 people attend on Zoom – we are hybrid! During the business part of our meeting it was decided that we should go ahead and have the Soup Supper in January with Covid 19 modifications and restrictions. So save January 19, 2022 on your calendar. Masks and vaccination cards will be required. Diane Coventry, Claudia Bass, Sherrie Moore and Suzanne Salter have volunteered to chair this event. I also want to give a big thank you to Nancy Hobert, Marilyn Thelen and Elva Valli for chairing the Soup Supper in recent years past. Thank you, thank you, thank you!!

Lastly, we need volunteers to serve on the Nominating Committee, which will start meeting in January. We need 3 people from the General Membership and 1 alternate and 2 people from the Board and 1 alternate. Your co-presidents cannot serve on this committee according to our By-Laws. Please consider serving on this important committee. It is your organization and it is only great if we have people to get the various tasks completed that need to be done. Helen Pereira, Parliamentarian, will head this committee.

Have a lovely Thanksgiving holiday and we will see you at the Wednesday, November 17, General Meeting.

Gayle Miner, 2021-22 Co-President

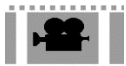
## INTEREST SECTIONS MEETINGS



**\*\*MORNING BOOKS** met on Wednesday, November 3, 10 am, to discuss *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett. On December 1, 10 am, we will be discussing Kristin Hannah's *The Four Winds*, at Sandy Wolfe's.



**\*\*EVENING BOOKS** will meet on Monday, November 29th, 7 pm, at Marlene Maksel's. We will be discussing Brit Bennett's *The Vanishing Half*. This section will not meet in December. In January our discussion will be on our classic selection, Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea*.



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

## OTHER GROUPS



**\*\*MAH JONGG** will meet on Friday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at the Brookview Clubhouse, 12:30 PM. We will meet next on December 17<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 PM. Please let Suzanne Salter know if you plan to attend. Her contact information is:  
Suzanne Salter  
[seabear92020@outlook.com](mailto:seabear92020@outlook.com)  
(925) 988-0322 cell)



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

Marlene DeLaurenti at [mdl@astound.net](mailto: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](mailto: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

The response to our solicitation letter has been outstanding. To date, we have received 29 contributions for a total of \$3,520.00. Everyone has been very generous contributing to these funds that are the heart of AAUW.

On October 23 we had the opportunity to participate in an AAUW Fund Event which took the place of the usual AAUW Fund luncheons held in Northern and Southern California. 13 Fellowship recipients presented their projects. This year marks AAUW's 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary and what better way to celebrate than to see our mission exemplified through these Fellowship recipients. There were two more opportunities to participate in these AAUW Fund Events on October 30 at 10 a.m. and November 7 at 1 p.m.

Seven American Fellowship recipients gave interesting presentations on topics such as Rhetorical Education in the Extracurriculum which trains citizens to engage meaningfully in their community beyond the classroom, looking at the Native American history of Danza and Southwest Powwows in a way that breaks colonial stereotypes and gives them a voice, the Pellagra Pandemic in the Deep South which is a nutritional deficiency of niacin B3 occurring between 1906 and the 1940s with an emphasis on women who fought these health crises needing to be written back into the history of public health, Supermassive Black Holes and Tidal Disruption Events in which black holes influence the evolution of entire galaxies, the Influenza Pandemic and Asian American Communities in Southern California from 1918 to 1941 in which some women of color participated in medical history in non-traditional ways, and mentoring young women of color in the STEM field particularly Materials Science & Engineering. The last American Fellowship recipient, Kelly Subramanian, Ph.D. from the University of California-Davis studying Cell Biology and Biology Education, received a partial grant from the Martinez Branch 50 year celebration endowment. She talked about how metabolic complexes are organized in mitochondrial cells and encouraged a continuation of undergraduate study in the sciences with an understanding of the features of research labs.

There were three international fellowship recipients, one from Kenya receiving her M.S. in Computer Science at Northeastern University who spoke about how artificial intelligence algorithms can be biased and discriminatory against women when applying for jobs, another from the Bahamas getting an M.S. in Bioengineering at UCLA who talked about coronary heart disease which is the leading cause of death in the Bahamas, beta blockers and targeted drug delivery that would clear up plaque build-up in the artery, and a young woman from Madagascar receiving her Ph.D. from UC Berkeley in Integrative Biology who spoke about how the decline of animal populations, particularly mouse lemurs, affect the rejuvenation of forests in Madagascar. One Career Development Grant recipient spoke about managing equitable college enrollment in marginalized communities. A Research Publication Grant Recipient spoke about heat shock proteins in treating neurological disorders and trying to develop drugs to treat COVID-19 and block the entry of COVID into our systems. Finally, a Community Action Grant recipient who works for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Oceanside spoke about targeting a 100% graduation rate for its club participants and engaging girls in STREAM Labs which focus on Science, Technology, **Research**, Engineering, Art and Math. It was inspiring to listen to these women who are all doing such important work in their areas of study.

The Fund Committee will be doing a Kinder's Fundraiser between November 15 and December 13, 2021. It will look a little different this year. Instead of selling coupon vouchers for a choice of sandwiches and a small drink, we will be selling \$20 gift cards. Our branch will receive \$4.50 for each gift card we sell. These gift cards can be used at **ANY** of Kinder's seven Bay Area locations and can be used toward **ANY** menu item. These gift cards make excellent stocking stuffer gifts for the holidays and do NOT expire. A mail order form is included in this newsletter. Please contact Gayle Miner or Claudia Bass for gift cards.

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 meeting was on Monday, November 15th, 2:30 at Jennifer Apkarian's home. Contact us if you are interested in joining the committee.

Jennifer Apkarian at (925) 228-2027 or [apkarian1@att.net](mailto:apkarian1@att.net) or  
Claudia Bass at (925) 372-8679 or [cbasslancer29@aol.com](mailto: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 **October 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

Dr. Jeff Ernst, son of Tim and Kay Ernst, passed away on October 10. Our deepest sympathy to Kay and all her family for the tragic loss of her son. His memorial is on page 6.

Gayle Garrison

[tarheel61@yahoo.com](mailto:tarheel61@yahoo.com) or (925) 798-7528

## In Memoriam - Dr. Jeff Ernst - Son of Tim and Kay Ernst

October 10, 2021

Resident of Pleasant Hill, CA



Dr. Jeff Ernst passed away on October 10th, 2021 at John Muir Hospital in Walnut Creek, California.

He graduated with honors from College Park High School in Pleasant Hill, California where he was a Captain on the football team and a decorated wrestler. He earned his Eagle Scout rank as a member of Troop 239 in his hometown of Pleasant Hill, California. He graduated from the University of California, Berkeley with a Bachelor of Science with Honors in Integrative Biology. He earned his Doctor of Medicine from St. George's University Medical School. He was a Surgical Resident Physician at Guthrie Robert Packer Hospital in Sayre, Pennsylvania.

Dr. Ernst is survived by his parents, Tim & Kay Ernst, his brother Scott, his wife Sarah, his son Michael & daughter-in-law Allison, his son Jeremy & daughter-in-law Lauren, his son Drake, his son Kyle, and his grandson Owen.

Memorial services were at Mt. Vernon Cemetery, Fair Oaks, CA. The family has requested in lieu of flowers donations be made to either the American Red Cross, PO Box 37839, Boone, IA 50037-0839 or The Salvation Army - Donation Center, 1806 Linda Dr., Pleasant Hill, CA 94523.

The family is planning a "Celebration of Life" sometime the summer of 2022 which will be in Jeff's hometown of Pleasant Hill, CA. Family and friends are invited. Details will follow when date and place are settled on.



**SAVE THE DATE**

**PH-M AAUW**

**ANNUAL LAYETTE SHOWER**

**Wednesday, January 12, 2022, 10 AM**

**At the home of Janice Walker**

**More info to come!**

### SOUP SUPPER - SAVE THE DATE

Looking ahead to 2022 – a Soup Supper Committee has been formed.

Thank you to Suzanne Salter, Sherrie Moore, Claudia Bass, and Diane Coventry for stepping up

to the plate, or should

we say bowl. Our first committee planning meeting was November 3rd at Sherrie's house.

Save the date on your calendar for Jan 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm.



## TECH TREK TIDINGS

Diane Coventry

Great news! At this point in time, it is full speed ahead for Tech Trek Camp Sonoma. Plans are underway in preparing for on-site camps throughout California. Our branch Tech Trek Committee will be making contact with our four middle schools, Martinez JH, Valley View Middle, Pleasant Hill Middle and Sequoia Middle School in December. We are requesting space for 6 spots with one alternate, 7 grade girls going into 8<sup>th</sup> grade. As in past camps we have asked the girls to indicate proof of MMR vaccination, now we will be adding proof of Covid-19 vaccination. The camp is scheduled for late June, cost to be determined, it was \$1000 per camper in 2019.

We will be doing some fundraising in the future and asking for donations. Remember Tech Trek is classified as a special fund and your donation is tax deductible. Checks should be made out to AAUW CA SPF, Tech Trek. I also want to remind you that if any of you are giving money to Tech Trek from an IRA account as a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), that they must be in to SPF by December 1, 2021 to insure that they can be counted for the 2021 tax year. The date is to give SPF time to make sure the deposits are made before 12/31/2021, as required by law for QCDs. So, checks must be written and delivered to Trinka before Thanksgiving.

As camp director I will be looking for members who would like to volunteer, as dorm moms or class monitors. You might also have ideas of potential STEM workshops or professional women as inspirational speakers. Please feel free to contact me if your wish to be part of the team or have any suggestions or questions.

We were pleased to hear from several of the Virtual 2021 campers at our brunch in September. I would like to thank the girls for sharing their experiences and answering our many questions. Great to see in person Elizabeth McCauley, Maya Ponce, Samantha Houston, Victoria Coy, and Jaap Kaur (not pictured). Good luck to all our Tech Trek girls as they pursue their interests in STEM education.

Thank you to our wonderful Tech Trek Committee members: Katrinka March, Helen Pereira, Claudia Bass, Penny Harris, Susan Peterson Trebino, and Bobbi Horack. Hope you are ready to board the Tech Trek Train of 2022. Next meeting TBD in November.



And here is a thank you from Victoria, expressing her appreciation for our support:

I had so much fun at Tech Trek interacting with other girls who had the same interest as me in STEM. I also enjoyed the different workshops. I especially enjoyed the Strawberry DNA workshop where we were taught how to extract the DNA from a strawberry or other fruit. Listening to the guest speakers sparked my interest in other occupations in the STEM field. In all the community was amazing, inspiring young girls to pursue any career they desire. Everyone really cares about the well-being of the girls and wants to make sure we have a fun experience to remember. I am so grateful I got this opportunity and will keep pursuing my love of science.

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*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the  
Night-Time*

*Fundraiser for  
Local Scholarships and Tech Trek*

**Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup> 2:30 PM**

**Tickets \$30 (make checks to PHM AAUW)**



**December 3rd-12th**  
For tickets: 925-969-2358  
[www.dvcdrama.net](http://www.dvcdrama.net)

Based on the novel by Mark Haddon  
Adapted by Simon Stephens  
Directed by Will Springhorn

**Contact Virginia Hewgley**  
925-768-4417 or [vhewgley@astound.net](mailto:vhewgley@astound.net)  
**Reserve by November 22<sup>nd</sup>**

15-year-old Christopher has an extraordinary brain: He is exceptional at mathematics but ill-equipped to interpret everyday life. He has never ventured alone beyond the end of his road, he detests being touched, and he distrusts strangers. Christopher is determined to solve the mystery of who murdered Wellington, his neighbor's dog.

All proceeds will be split between the Local Scholarship Fund and  
the Tech Trek program.

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## PUBLIC POLICY

### Updates from AAUW California Public Policy Committee

by Kathi Harper, Co-Chair

#### Abortion Justice

Although the constitutionally-guaranteed right to an abortion has been systematically under attack for decades, it is currently in danger of disappearing altogether. As AAUW National recently noted, "Every person should have the ability to make their own informed decisions regarding their reproductive life. It is beyond time for abortion to be secured legally, funded fully, and equitably available for all who need it, when they need it, without shame or stigma." With the recent refusal of the U.S. Supreme Court to intervene in the onerous Texas case, it is clear that we can no longer count on the courts to protect this critical right. Congress must pass the Women's Health Protection Act. Watch for Action Alerts from National, use them to keep pressure on your representatives, and sign-up now for the 2-Minute Activist if you haven't already done so by clicking here <https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/>.

Be sure to let us know if members from your branch participated in the Rally for Abortion Justice on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, along with Beach Cities, Palos Verdes, San Fernando Valley, Pasadena, Alameda, Carlsbad-Oceanside-Vista, Los Altos-Mt. View, San Jose and Morgan Hill, and send pictures if you have them to [publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org](mailto:publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org).

#### Legislative Updates

Our last five priority bills that were awaiting the Governor's signature have been acted on, here are the results

SB 62 (requires fair pay, instead of "by the piece" payment, for garment workers) **SIGNED**

AB 367 (free menstrual products must be provided in girls/women's bathrooms in schools) **SIGNED**

AB 887 (allows domestic violence restraining orders to be filed electronically) **SIGNED**

AB 123 (increases paid family leave benefits to 65 – 75% of regular pay) **VETOED**

AB 1074 (requires hotel and janitorial workers who have lost their jobs due the pandemic to be prioritized for hiring as businesses reopen) **VETOED**

#### Economic Equity

October 21<sup>st</sup> is Latina Equal Pay Day – the day Latina women, who are paid just 57 cents to every white male's dollar, finally catch up from the previous year. To help raise awareness, our coalition partner Stronger California is hosting a Latina Equal Pay Day & Essential Women Workers Virtual Summit. If you are interested in joining to learn more and hear from iconic civil rights leader Dolores Huerta as well as California's First Partner Jennifer Newsome, click here [register](#) to register.

#### ***NO DECEMBER BOARD MEETING***

Copy deadline for the  
December 2021 N.E.W.S.  
Sunday, November 28<sup>th</sup>

Please email copy to:

Reba Siero [rebasiero@yahoo.com](mailto:rebasiero@yahoo.com)

(925) 917-1061



## 2021-2022 LEADERSHIP TEAM

### November-December 2021

### January 2022

- Nov 3** Morning Books, 10 am  
**Nov 7** Fund "Meet the Fellows", 1 pm, Zoom  
**Nov 7** Local Scholarships fundraiser, 2:30 pm, DVC  
**Nov 10** Board Meeting, 7 pm, Trinka March's  
**Nov 15** Fund meeting, 2:30 pm, Jennifer Apkarian's  
**Nov 17** General meeting, 7 pm, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church,  
Dr. Robert Martinez, Superintendent of  
Griffin Technology Academies  
**Nov 19** Mah Jongg, 12:30 pm, Brookview Clubhouse  
**Nov 22** Deadline to reserve tickets for DVC play  
**Nov 28** December 2021 N.E.W.S. deadline to Reba  
**Nov 29** Evening Books, 7 pm, Marlene Maksel's  
**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 12** Layette Shower, 10 am, Janice Walker's  
**Jan 12** Board meeting, 7 pm, Susan Trebino's  
**Jan 19** Soup Supper, 6 pm, St. Andrew's



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.

#### Presidents

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#### AAUW C C C Inter-branch Council

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[debbie94565@yahoo.com](mailto:debbie94565@yahoo.com)

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