

**Pleasant Hill-Martinez AAUW
SEPTEMBER WELCOME BRUNCH**

Saturday, September 24th, 2022

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
- ◇ Make new friends and greet the old
- ◇ Check out the Interest Section offerings
- ◇ Pick up your 2022-2023 Directory
- ◇ Bring a friend/prospective member
- ◇ Catered brunch - \$10 per person

RSVP to:

Sandy Wolfe at (925) 586-4523

By **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16th**

Bring a sunhat.

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**.



PRESIDENTIAL POSTINGS

It's September already, where did summer go? Time to get things rolling for AAUW! Our first event is the annual Welcome Brunch at Marilyn Thelen's home on Saturday, Sept. 24 at 10:00 AM. Thank you for hosting this Marilyn! The price of this brunch is \$10.00. The \$10.00 is to help defray the cost of our Tech Trek and Local Scholarship families who do not pay to attend this event and also the caterer. Reservations are a must. Please refer to the brunch flyer in this newsletter for details about the brunch. New Directories for 2022-23 will be handed out along with our annual Fund solicitation letter. A huge thank you to our Membership VPs and their brunch committee for planning this event. I hope to see everyone there!

Only one and a half weeks later, on October 5 from 4:00 to 6:00 PM, our big fundraising event – Gourmet To Go will happen. There is a flyer in this newsletter about this AAUW take-out event. It has all the information you need to participate in this event to raise monies for our various projects, mainly Tech Trek, Local Scholarship and Fund. A strict reservation deadline of September 28 is in place. No reservations will be taken after September 28 for this delicious meal to help our caterer prepare the proper amount of food. We hope you will get together with a small group of friends or family in homes after picking up your order at the caterer's to enjoy this tasty meal. Arrange small groups ahead of time so tables can be set and ready when people arrive with their food. Add a little wine or other beverage of your own and you have a feast. The caterer's address is in the flyer. We hope to have lots of participants for this event: members, family, and friends are all welcome to participate. Let your friends and family know that this event is open to all. What a fun-filled way to raise money!

Speaking of fun, we would like to have a holiday party in December, but we need two people to Co-Chair and people to serve on the planning committee for this event to happen. We need to get started on this event soon in order to secure a venue and caterer for December. So, please think about helping PH-M AAUW out by volunteering to serve on this committee. If no one steps up to the plate, we will not have a holiday event this year. Please call me ASAP if you are interested in helping on the Holiday Committee. Gayle Miner: (925) 349-6795 hm, (925) 788-3272 cell or gayle.miner@yahoo.com.

We are off to a good start of our 2022-23 year. The more participation we have, the better our branch will be. Please think about how you can help and best serve our branch to further our goals of equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. It's what we are all about!

Gayle Miner
2022-23 President

INTEREST SECTIONS MEETINGS



****MORNING BOOKS** met on Wednesday the 7th, 10 am, at Margie Pruitt's We discussed Pearl S. Buck's *The Good Earth* ~ our Classic for both last year and this new year. We look forward to seeing you as we begin another year of great reads! If you need the list of books for this coming year, please let me know (Marlene Maksel, (925) 689-5439 or marlene@maksiel.us) Also, we are still looking for discussion leaders and hostesses.



****MATINEE IDLE** will have to be postponed for yet another month! Hopefully we can start going to the movies in October. Our date is the 4th Thursday of each month, so plan for October 27th. Movies, of course, will be chosen later. There is no longer a master list of interested movie-goers, so please call Marlene Maksel if you are interested in this Section continuing.

SUNSHINE

Gayle Garrison

Marlene De Laurenti's daughter, Jennifer, passed away suddenly in late August.

More information will be related as it becomes available. We send Marlene and her family our deepest condolences.

Gayle Garrison

tarheel61@yahoo.com or (925) 798-7528

OTHER GROUPS



****MAH JONGG** will meet on Friday, September 16th at the Brookview Clubhouse, 12:30 PM. We will meet next on October 21st at 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**
For information, contact:

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

SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING

SEPTEMBER 14, 2022

7 PM

Helen Pereira's and Zoom

Copy deadline for the

October 2022 N.E.W.S.

WEDNESDAY, September 28th

Please email copy to:

Reba Siero rebasiero@yahoo.com

(925) 917-1061

AAUW FUND REPORT

Claudia Bass andCarolynn Barcklay, AAUW Fund VPs

Our AAUW Fund Committee met on July 18th to plan the year. We look forward to sending a DVC student to the AAUW National Conference College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). Claudia has checked the DVC website and to date there is no information posted about the 2023 conference. Claudia will continue to work with Shari Keller at DVC to promote the conference.

This fall we will be selling Kinder's Tickets. Sales will begin in time to buy coupons as stocking stuffer gifts for the holidays. More information will be included in a future newsletter.

When you receive your new 2022-2023 membership directory you will find an envelope with a solicitation letter in it to donate towards AAUW Fund. The letter explains about the AAUW Fund. 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. Again, unrestricted needs category is the greatest need for AAUW Fund as the endowments are on solid ground. Unrestricted needs allow AAUW Fund to be flexible and implement programs that fulfil AAUW's mission.

AAUW FUND awarded \$6 million in Fellowships and Grants this year to 320 recipients. California received 49 of those awards. AAUW Fund is holding four Zoom meetings to showcase many of the recipients and hear their stories of their research and work. Registration starts in September for the meetings on the following dates: Oct 15, Oct 22, Oct 23, and Nov 12th. This is a great opportunity to see where your AAUW Fund dollars go. Registration can be made via the AAUW California event website.

We welcome you to join our committee. We meet every other month and next meeting is Monday, September 26, at 2:30 PM, location to be determined. If you are interested in coming, please let us know.

Claudia Bass at (925) 372-8679 or cbasslancer29@aol.com

Carolynn Barcklay at (925) 682-7552 or cbarcklay@hotmail.com

BOOK EXCHANGE/Round Robin - FINAL CALL

This is your annual opportunity to join the BOOK EXCHANGE! Read up to 12 hardbacks published in 2022 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 and we are short members this year. (You can purchase 2 - or potentially 3 books - to join all the Exchanges and double or triple your reading pleasure or choices!) Please call with any questions.

Please contact Mary Hanlon @ (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.

DEADLINE Monday September 26th so we can 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 pictures from our **June Brunch** on the **Photo Page**. Meet our Tech Trek girls on the **Community Action Page**. See our current list of Programs, Activities, and Fundraisers 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

Nominating Committee Report

When one is a member of the Nominating Committee, the duties of each office are considered when asking members if they would consider filling a particular role. This month I will relate to you the main duties of the Branch President.

The President represents the members of the Branch at local and inter-branch meetings, then bringing to the local membership the important information needed to make our branch in compliance with the state and national levels of operation. Leading the local Branch Board meetings, she also works with the committees to make their goals successful. The President leads the General Meetings throughout the AAUW year, making sure that all important business is communicated and handled appropriately.

We need a committee to help procure a president each year. If you would like to help, please call Helen Pereira at (925) 285-1766.

Thank you,
Helen Pereira, Parliamentarian



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



Gourmet to Go
AAUW Fundraiser Dinner
Wednesday, October 5th



Pick up your hot meal from 4 - 6 pm at:

Classic Catering

2653 Pleasant Hill Road Pleasant Hill, Ca. 94523

Menu:

Chicken Piccata w/ Wild Rice Pilaf Italian Chopped salad
roll and chocolate decadent brownie

\$40 per person, checks to AAUW Pleasant Hill-Martinez Branch

Final deadline September 28th

Send number of meals and check to:

Trinka March 925 372-8420

650 Linden Lane, Martinez, Ca 94553

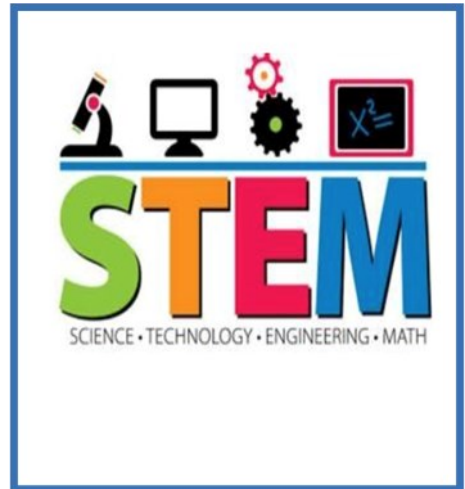
Order for you, your family, neighbors and/or friends
No muss, no fuss, no cooking! Dine at home with your family or
together with friends.

Funds for: Tech Trek, Local Scholarships, and AAUW Fund



Tech Trek Tidings

We collected \$3975 for Tech Trek in response to the letter we sent out in June!! Thank you!



We hope to see you at the Welcome Back Brunch to say hello to our 2022 Tech Trekkers. They will be sharing their STEM camp experience at Sonoma State with us. Here are some quotes from the thank you letters the girls wrote:

“This camp was truly an unforgettable experience. I am so glad I got to come to this camp, I made great friendships and memories. We did so many cool experiments in the Chemistry Core class. I loved the different workshops, especially the soldering and making flashlights.” *Natalia*

“I enjoyed the Sonoma Water District field trip because I have always been concerned about droughts. Here we learned how I can make a career out of saving and cleaning water...Getting the college experience alongside kind and smart girls has been a wonderful gift.” *Audrey*

“I am extremely proud to be at camp...I plan to follow a career in STEM and this camp has really helped encourage me to follow my dreams ...I have been reinforced with ideas of girls becoming engineers and scientists. This will always be in my heart.” *Marianne*

“Thank you for sponsoring me to go to Tech Trek. I will remember this for the rest of my life...There is nothing quite like sitting in a dorm room full of girls just like me, laughing and talking as we rolled newspapers for Build-It Night.” *Sanvi*

“I greatly appreciate this amazing opportunity to attend Tech Trek. Not only have I gained much knowledge in many areas of STEM, like Botany and Engineering, but I have gained many, many wonderful friendships!” *Georgia*

“I really enjoyed everything! I learned so much about Botany (my core class) and it was so interesting. I absolutely adored the dorms that we stayed in and my dormmates, junior counselor, and dorm mom were the best.” *Anvi*

“I am so grateful for this amazing opportunity to expand my love for STEM!” *Dylan*

It’s not too late to donate – your tax-deductible check can be made out to SPF Tech Trek CA. Your generous donations ensure that another group of girls will have a great experience next summer! *~Diane Coventry*”

GREETINGS FROM HARRIETT BURT!

Former longtime member Harriett Burt called me the other evening to say hello, chat and send everyone in AAUW a big “Hello” from San Antonio, Texas. She wanted you all to know that she is living in an assisted living place with 70 – 80 residents. She is very happy and contented. She has wonderful family close-by and she has met lots of the residents by sitting at a different table for every meal. There are no assigned tables, so she can move around. She is now serving on the Residents Council (of course). The not so good part is that she has officially been diagnosed with dementia. She would love to hear from you. We talked for about half an hour, with Harriett doing the most talking. It was a very enjoyable visit. Here is her contact information, if you do not already have it:

Harriett Burt

11349 Alamo Ranch Parkway, APT. 261

San Antonio, TX 78253

Cell: (925) 209-0800

Gayle Miner



Co-Chairs Needed for Holiday Party

The AAUW Board is looking for two members to Co-Chair the Holiday Party in December. If this sounds interesting to you, please contact Gayle Miner at gayle.miner@yahoo.com or (925) 788-3272 ASAP. Time is running out to reserve a venue and plan the party. We must get moving on this event or it will not happen.



SHE KILLS MONSTERS

*Fundraiser for LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS &
TECH TREK*



She Kills Monsters tells the story of Agnes Evans as she leaves her childhood home in Ohio following the death of her teenage sister, Tilly. When Agnes finds Tilly's Dungeons & Dragons notebook, however, she finds herself catapulted into a journey of discovery and action-packed adventure in the imaginary world that was her sister's refuge. In this high-octane dramatic comedy laden with homicidal fairies, nasty ogres, and 90s pop culture, acclaimed playwright Qui Nguyen offers a heart-pounding homage to the geek and warrior within us all.

Join us Sunday, OCTOBER 30, at 2:30 PM for the first play of the 2022-23 season!! Tickets are \$30. Contact Virginia Hewgley (925-768-4417 or vhewgley@astound.net) by October 14th if you would like to join us!

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

PUBLIC POLICY

When Women Vote, We Change the Conversation!

Since 1881, AAUW has been a leading voice promoting education and equity for women and girls. AAUW encourages women voters to get involved in the political process and gain a better understanding of the impact legislative action can have on our lives.

The recent US Supreme Court *Dobbs* decision on abortion has stimulated action in many states across the nation, including California. Our legislature passed and Governor Newsom signed AB1666 which will enable a woman coming into California to receive an abortion to be protected from lawsuits originating in her home state. This bill was co-sponsored by AAUW CA! A further step protecting a woman's right to make personal medical decisions is a Constitutional Amendment, Proposition 1, which will be on the November 8 ballot. It would amend the California Constitution to prohibit the state from denying or interfering with an individual's reproductive freedom in her most intimate decisions, which includes the fundamental right to choose to have an abortion and the fundamental right to choose or refuse contraceptives. AAUW CA supports this Constitutional Amendment.

Congressional races are particularly important this November. Redistricting after the 2020 Census has changed the boundaries of many Congressional districts. In the current partisan climate, we need to be aware of what is at stake in both our national and state upcoming elections. Your current member of Congress may no longer represent you – be sure to become informed soon on the candidates for Congress in your district. As you sort through all this, please reflect on priority issues affecting us, our daughters, and granddaughters, and evaluate candidates' positions on these issues.

If you are a leader in your branch, make your October program a focus on the election. You may want to consider a Candidates Night. Before a partisan election, AAUW branches may host candidate forums to which **all** major-party candidates in that election are invited. AAUW branches with 501(c)(4) status must make a thorough and good faith effort to ensure the participation of at least two candidates for a specific office but may proceed with a forum if only one candidate accepts. AAUW branches with 501(c)(3) status may only proceed with a candidate forum event if at least two candidates have accepted the invitation.

Here are resources to get helpful, non-partisan information:

- AAUW CA website: aauw-ca.org Public Policy section will soon have more detail on priority issues and questions to ask of candidates.
- AAUW website: aauw.org/policy/advocacy/tool-kit Ideas for branch activities, C/U partners, and specifics for 501 c 3 and 501 c 4 branches.
- CA Secretary of State website: www.sos.ca.gov voter info, Ballot Initiatives.
- State and County Voter guides – mailed to all registered voters in October.
- www.wedrawthelinesca.org – maps of newly re-drawn congressional districts

Register to vote, if you haven't already! And if you have recently moved you need to update your information with your County Registrar of Voters! Voting is a powerful tool to bring about change!

2022-2023 LEADERSHIP TEAM

September/October 2022

- Sep 7 Morning Books, 10 am, Margie Pruitt's
Sep 14 Board Meeting, 7 pm, Helen Pereira's and Zoom
Sep 16 RSVP deadline for Welcome Brunch
Sep 16 Mah Jongg, 12:30 pm, Brookview Clubhouse
Sep 24 Welcome Brunch, 10 am, Marilyn Thelen's
Sep 26 Fund Committee meeting, 2:30 pm, TBD
Sep 28 Reservation deadline for Gourmet to Go
Sep 28 October newsletter deadline
Oct 5 Morning Books, 10 am, TBA
Oct 5 Gourmet to Go Fundraiser, 4 - 6 pm
Oct 12 Board Meeting, 7 pm, TBA
Oct 21 Mah Jongg, 12:30 pm, Brookview Clubhouse
Oct 27 Matinee Idle, TBA
Oct Several possibilities for League of Women Voters presentations. More news later!



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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