



# NEWS

NOW/EVENTS/WOMEN/SUCCESS

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



## Presidential Postings

Spring is here and I hope all of you are enjoying it.

It is light much later now that we have daylight savings, so the General Meeting on April 17<sup>th</sup> will be at 7:00. This is an important meeting, so please try to attend.

Program VP Carlyn Obringer has arranged for another very interesting program for us.

Details in this bulletin.

Also, we will be voting for our slate of officers for the 2024-25 year at the April meeting - another reason we need you to attend!

Many thanks to the nominating committee chaired by Gayle Miner for their outstanding slate of officers for next year. Dividing the presidency into three compatible jobs that work together was really thinking outside the box!

Please read the bulletin carefully – there is a lot going on this month as we begin to reach the end of our year. Branch out and try something new! You may like it.

The next Board meeting will be on April 10th at my home.

~Nancy Hobert

### WE HEARD YOU!

Although it is too late to change dates and times for this year’s speakers, next year we will be planning to offer some Saturday and daytime General Meetings.

### Board Nominations



A new slate for 2024-25

### April Program

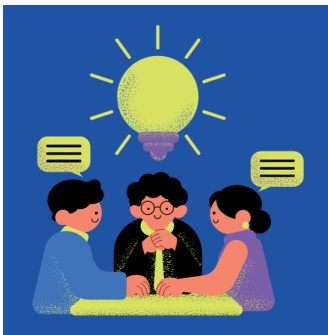


Rachel Shoemake

### Public Policy



From CA AAUW



## Board Candidates 2024- 25

We will vote at our General Meeting April 17, 2024.

**President 1 - Jennifer Apkarian** (Responsible for board meeting agenda and chairing board meetings)

**President 2 - Sherrie Moore** (Responsible for General Meeting agendas, Chairing the General meetings, Fall and Spring Brunch agendas, and MC for Fall and Spring Brunches)

**President 3 - Reba Siero** (Responsible for monthly newsletter column, dealing with National AAUW forms and communications)

**Program Vice President - Carlyn Obringer**

**Membership Vice Presidents - Diane Peterson & Nancy Hobert**

**AAUW Fund Vice Presidents - Carolyn Barcklay and Gayle Miner**

**Secretary - Helen Pereira**

**Treasurer - Claudia Bass**

*Thanks to all of you for volunteering your time so we can continue our important Branch programs!*

### MANY THANKS AND A JOB WELL DONE TO THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE!

**Gayle Miner, Chair**

**Helen Pereira**

**Claudia Bass**

**Marilyn Thelen**

**Reba Siero**

**Marlene DeLaurenti**

**Kathleen Woulfe**



**2023-2025**

**PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES**

- Economic Security for All Women
- Equal Access to Quality Public Education for All Students
- Social and Racial Justice for All Members of Society
- Increased Representation of Women in Leadership Roles

### DID YOU KNOW THAT AAUW OF CALIFORNIA HAS A NEW PUBLIC POLICY WEBSITE?

**Click [here](#) to check it out!**

**One of the new features is a Branch Events Page. Click [here](#) to see interesting events other branches are holding and get inspired!**

## Membership Alert



### Don't forget to vote!

Beginning April 3rd to May 15th, all members will be able to vote on a proposed National Bylaws change to Open Membership. This would open membership to those without a degree, but who support our efforts for inclusion and equality.

AAUW's National Board supports this change because it will enable us to include members with diverse backgrounds and perspectives. AAUW has had difficulties qualifying for grants and other funds because we are viewed as discriminatory. Inclusion is one of our values, yet we do not allow all who support our mission to join us.

Our Branch has had to turn away interested potential members because of the degree requirement.

**How to Vote:** Those with an email on file will receive an email from [vote@simplyvoting.com](mailto:vote@simplyvoting.com). The email will not come from AAUW but from a company hired to conduct the voting.

Check your email and spam/junk mail folders the week of April 3rd. You will receive a unique Elector ID and Password to vote.

If you do not have an email on file, you will be sent a paper ballot by mail.

**We will send out a blast with instructions once we have voted ourselves!**

**PLEASE VOTE!** A two-thirds affirmative vote is required to change the Bylaws.

*~Karen Winters & Diane Peterson Membership Chairs*

## APRIL PROGRAM



An emancipated minor, Rachel Shoemake graduated from high school in Arizona with honors, despite living in her truck. Finding college financially out of reach, she moved to California and was accepted into the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers' (IBEW) five-year apprenticeship program. A licensed electrician since 2009, Rachel is the Assistant Business Manager for IBEW Local 302 where she represents and supports over 1,300 electrical workers in Contra Costa County. She also serves as an executive board member of the Contra Costa Central Labor Council, and is the only woman delegate to the Contra Costa Building and Construction Trades Council. In 2023, she collaborated with Assembly member Rebecca Bauer-Kahan to write and pass into law

AB521, mandating women's bathrooms on all construction sites in California. At the [April 17](#) AAUW Pleasant Hill-Martinez meeting, she will be sharing what has led to her success in a largely male-dominated STEM field, and her work to ensure an equitable and greener future.



# SAM Program at Fair Oaks 2024

Charlie Harper and Sergei Prokofiev

This year for our SAM Program, we included artist, Charley Harper, who was known for drawing pictures of animals using geometric shapes. Our composer, Sergei Prokofiev, wrote the musical score of Peter and the Wolf. We combined the two to tell the story for our art and music program. The students created pictures of animals using geometric shapes. Sherrie Moore, Barbara Minneman, and Helen Pereira presented the PowerPoint presentation.

We had 15 volunteers who helped us with set up and clean up; distributing supplies, and oohing and aahing over the students' pictures. We visited 14 classrooms and 300 students in TK thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade and 3 Special Ed classes. All of the students and teachers appreciated the program. Thank you to all of our volunteers. We couldn't have done this without you!

*~Sherrie Moore, Barb Minneman, and Helen Pereira*



## SUNSHINE

If you know of any member who needs a bit of sunshine, please let me know!

Reba Siero

[rebasiero@yahoo.com](mailto:rebasiero@yahoo.com) or 925-917-1061



## 2024 Trekking Selected.

We will send 5 campers this year.

Drum roll please - our campers this year will be Avery Giotta (Sequoia Middle), Courtney Reed (Martinez Junior High), Maya Manchester (Sequoia Middle), Rachel Collins (Martinez Junior High), and Selah Yoo (Pleasant Hill Middle). Alternates are Aliena Luna (Valley View Middle), Alina Tibermacine (Sequoia Middle), and Ariana Nicks (Valley View Middle). We received applications from so many worthy

candidates this year, and had to spend all day interviewing 12 girls. Then came the hard part - paring it down to five. Many thanks to Claudia Bass, Penny Harris, and Bobbi Horack for interviewing, and double thanks to Bobbi for volunteering her beautiful home for the day.

We hope they can all make it to the Spring Brunch so our members will have a chance to meet these extraordinary girls.

We will be calling for Class Monitors near the end of April/early May, so keep June 24 - 28 open if you'd like to volunteer.

~ Diane Coventry & Virginia Hewgley

### GAME DAY IS COMING!

THURSDAY, APRIL 11

12:00 PM - 2:30 PM

BROOKVIEW CLUBHOUSE

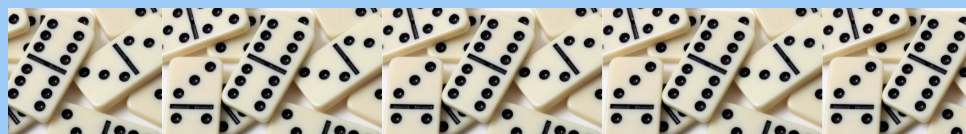
\$10 PER PERSON

Come join us for an afternoon of playing MAH JONGG, BRIDGE, or MEXICAN TRAIN.

Snacks and beverages will be provided. Proceeds will benefit LAF, AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund.

Let Carolynn Barcklay (925-323-8229 or [cbarcklay@hotmail.com](mailto:cbarcklay@hotmail.com)) know by **April 8** if you can join us and which game you will be playing. Bridge players need to reserve in groups of four.

**HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**





## AAUW FUND REPORT

We will award our first Fund scholarship to a DVC student soon.

The Fund Committee last met on March 11, 2024. At that meeting we discussed procedures for selecting a DVC student for our Fund Scholarship of \$1,000.00. We will be making our selection on April 8, after reviewing the 10 or 11 applications we received.

We are also planning Game Day, which will be on Thursday, April 11, from 12:00 noon to 2:30 PM, at Brookview Clubhouse. We will offer Bridge, Mah Jongg and Mexican Train for your enjoyment. RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY **APRIL 8** WITH CAROLYNN BARCKLAY (925) 323-8229. Reservations for Bridge should be made in groups of 4 people. Snacks will be provided. The cost is \$10.00 per person, payable at the door. Proceeds from Game Day go to National AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund.

**Writing a check for Fund, DVC plays, or events?**

**Please make it out to AAUW Pleasant Hill - Martinez Branch.**

Fund is also planning a Kinder's Gift Card sale in September, so be sure to watch for that information in the August and September Newsletters.

Our next regular Fund meeting will be on Monday, May 13 at 2:30 PM, at Gayle Miner's home. You are most welcome to join us to see what we are all about!

Carolynn Barcklay 925-323-8229 or [cbarcklay@hotmail.com](mailto:cbarcklay@hotmail.com)

Gayle Miner 925-349-6795, cell 925-788-3272 or [gayle.miner@yahoo.com](mailto:gayle.miner@yahoo.com)



Scholarship season is upon us!

Scholarship applications from Alhambra High School and College

Park High school were due at the end of March. In April the applications will be sent to the committee members to read and study, after which we will meet to discuss them and decide on the winning recipients.

Thank you very much for your generosity in supporting our Local Scholarships efforts. From our Kaffee Klatch fundraiser we have collected \$3,185 to date.

~Helen Pereira, Local Scholarship Chair



## Wine Club

Fourteen people attended the first Wine Appreciation & Tasting on **March 15th**. We learned a little about Pinot Noir, the Five S's of wine

tasting, and blind tasted three wines. There was a lot of enthusiastic discussion about the wines! The group decided to meet next on Friday, **April 19th** at 4 PM at Diane Peterson's house. Thank you to Jennifer Apkarian,Carolynn Barcklay, and Diane Coventry for bringing the wine.

To attend in April, please contact Diane Peterson at (925) 278-1634 or [richpeterson@comcast.net](mailto:richpeterson@comcast.net) by **April 8th**. Space is limited. Please bring your own wine glass **or** three glasses if you want to taste three wines side by side.

~Diane Peterson



## Our Last Play of the Season

We will attend *Hangmen* in the Arena Theater.

*Hangmen* is set in 1965 and the death penalty has just been abolished in England. Harry is the

second best hangman in England and the press wants a quote, but there is another stranger in town with a darker purpose. The New York Times called this play "...ruthlessly funny...amid an unfolding atmosphere of menace." We hope you can join us on May 5th at 2:30 pm. Tickets are \$30 each and proceeds are divided between Tech Trek and Local Scholarship.

The deadline for ordering tickets from Virginia Hewgley (925-768-4417, [vhewgley@astound.net](mailto:vhewgley@astound.net)) is April 19th.



## NEW FIBER CRAFTS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP?

Calling all fiber crafts enthusiasts! Do you knit, crochet, embroider, or do any other form of fiber craft? Are you interested in getting together for social crafting? If so, please contact Karen or Janet, and we'll happily coordinate the group. Here's our contact information:

Karen Winters: 925-408-5721; [karen.winters@sbcglobal.net](mailto:karen.winters@sbcglobal.net)

Janet Sullivan: 925-768-4628; [jspringsullivan@aol.com](mailto:jspringsullivan@aol.com)



## PHM AAUW Website

Our website will show you everything you need to know about our Pleasant Hill - Martinez branch. See photos from our SAM (Study Art and Music) Program on the [Community Action](#) page. Review pictures from our [March Program](#) on the [Photos](#) page. Look at our scheduled programs and activities on the [Program](#) page. Just go to <https://www.aauw-ph.org/index.html>

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 on the [About Us](#) page.

~Sherrie Moore, Webmaster



**The Spring Brunch is coming -  
put Saturday, June 8, 10 AM, on your  
calendars!**





## Public Policy

### How One Branch Has Put the School Board Project into Action

Last year the AAUW Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek branch said “Yes” to the AAUW California School Board Project (SBP) call to action. In August our branch members started to attend monthly local school board meetings and witnessed attacks by local religious and political extremists on books, curriculum, teachers, librarians and district staff.

Based on social media statements by people who want to “return schools to local control of concerned parents,” we believe our school district and adjacent districts are being targeted by groups intent on changing public education in California. As AAUW members we support our state and national public policy priorities of providing honest, equitable, and inclusive, quality public education for all students.

To implement the SBP and work toward these public policy goals, our branch has taken a three-step approach:

1. Educate our members and the public about the issues facing public education by hosting Issue Programs and later, Candidate Forums;
2. Advocate for our public education priorities by speaking up at local Board of Education (BOE) meetings to support

board decisions that are consistent with AAUW policies and values;

3. Collaborate by forming coalitions with local groups to educate the public about the importance of supporting public education and those candidates that believe in honest and equitable quality education for all.

**EDUCATION:** We encourage all branches to host an SBP program by inviting local experts to speak about what is happening in your districts. Often, accurate information is not available from local media and we need to hear from people actually engaged in public education to understand the local issues. PTA, BOE members, district superintendents, librarians, teachers and informed parents can provide valuable insights.

**ADVOCACY:** We hope all branches attend BOE meetings and have one speaker advocating AAUW values. Board members and school staff have voiced appreciation to AAUW members for speaking up in support of public education. Often AAUW is one of the few voices of reason and civility at these meetings. Our voices can change the tone of the public discussion.

**COLLABORATION:** We’ve learned our Education and Advocacy efforts naturally lead to other people and groups being interested in working together with AAUW to protect public education. We’re now working with others in a two-county area to “Lift Up Public Education” by educating the public, advocating for public education, and demonstrating community support for our local school districts. For more information on how we organized our coalition

and distributed the workload, visit our website [here](#).

We encourage other branches to support quality public education and promote critical AAUW values by taking these simple steps to build member and community support for Quality Public Education.

Remember to let your SBP liaison know when you have attended a school board meeting, and be sure to complete and submit the SB Checklist. You can find your liaison [here](#); you can find the Checklist [here](#).

*~Laurinda Ochoa, Member AAUW California  
Public Policy School Board Project Committee*

## A MESSAGE FROM DANVILLE ALAMO WALNUT CREEK BRANCH

SAVE THE DATE APRIL 13th!

We are delighted to announce that DAW recently has joined with a number of other local groups to launch a coalition called Lift Up Public Schools, to advocate for high-quality public education that values equity, diversity, and inclusiveness. Please mark your calendars for Saturday, April 13th, 1:30 pm at the Rossmoor Event Center to learn more about the breadth and depth of the challenges facing our school boards, and what we must do to support our schools, followed by school district-specific action planning and skill-building workshops.

Please save the date! We'll be following up soon with a formal invitation with more information about the agenda and how to register.

Email Ogie ([ogstrogatz@gmail.com](mailto:ogstrogatz@gmail.com)) with your questions.



**Helen Pereira, Barbara Minneman, & Sherrie Moore - the SAM committee.**



**Helen Pereira demonstrates the violin during SAM @ Fair Oaks**

## PHM AAUW Calendar

- APR 3** Check for an email from [vote@simlyvoting.com](mailto:vote@simlyvoting.com)
- APR 3** Morning books, 10 am, Sandy Wolfe's home.
- APR 11** Game Day, 12 - 2:30 pm, Brookview Clubhouse.
- APR 15** Lunchin' Ladies, 12 noon, The Hideout Kitchen, 32 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette.
- APR 17** General Meeting, 7 pm, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Pleasant Hill.
- APR 19** Mah Jongg, 12:30 pm, Brookview Clubhouse.
- APR 19** Wine Club, 4 pm, Diane Peterson's home.
- MAY 17** Mah Jongg, 12:30 pm, Brookview Clubhouse.
- May 20** Lunchin' Ladies, 12 noon, Ed's Mudville Grill, 6200 Center Street, Clayton

## Grand Slammers

For information, contact:

Marlene de Laurenti  
[mdl@astound.net](mailto:mdl@astound.net) or  
 925-934-4171



## MORNING BOOKS

**MORNING BOOKS** will meet on Wednesday, April 3rd, 10 am, at Sandy Wolfe's home. We will be discussing *The Last Garden in England* by Julia Kelly. This is a historical novel covering three generations of women whose destinies collide in a mysterious garden. Please let Sandy know if you plan to attend. On May 1st we will be discussing Geraldine Brooks's *Horse*. We will also be taking reservations and food assignments for the annual June luncheon. Plan to join us for great discussions on these current books.

## LUNCHIN' LADIES

On Monday, April 15th, **Lunchin' Ladies** will dine at the Hideout Kitchen, 32 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette, at 12:00 noon. On Monday, May 20th, we will dine at Ed's Mudville Grill, 6200 Center St., Clayton, at 12:00noon. As always, reservations are due to Gayle Miner by the 2nd Monday of the month.

Gayle Miner (925) 788-3272 by cell or [gayle.miner@yahoo.com](mailto:gayle.miner@yahoo.com) by email.

## MAH JONGG

**Mah Jongg** will meet on Friday, April 19th at the Brookview Clubhouse, 12:30 PM. We will meet next on Friday, May 17th 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)

# 2023-24 Leadership Team

## PRESIDENT (JULY - DEC 2023)

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