



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 59 Issue 5

January 2017

International Soup Supper

The Pleasant Hill-Martinez Branch will hold its Annual International Soup Supper followed by a presentation by retired DVC Oceanography Instructor, **Dianna Vanni Matthias**. The public is invited to attend for \$10.00. This is an annual January event for our branch, and we present it with an international flavor.

Dianna's presentation is titled "**Plastic Pollution Around Oceanic Islands**" which will cover her six summers spent as a volunteer on Midway Island in the Pacific Ocean. Since today's oceans contain a large collection of plastic waste, Dianna has cleaned up plant and plastic pollution on the island for several years. She will show slides and describe the work she did. Dianna grew up in Martinez, went to UC Berkeley, and has a Master's and PhD in Zoology. She has also done coral reef monitoring and bird banding.

We will serve hearty homemade soups and desserts. Bring a soup bowl and soup spoon. We will also provide bread and butter, and coffee and tea. Dinner starts promptly at 6 PM to allow ample time for the presentation which runs until 9 PM.

Date: Wednesday, January 18, 2017
Time: 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.
Place: St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
1601 Mary Drive, Pleasant Hill



Spouses, significant others and friends are invited.

Please bring your own soup bowl and spoon!

Bread, butter, tea and coffee will be provided

IMPORTANT: Each attending MEMBER may choose one of the following:

PROVIDE A POT OF SOUP TO FEED 8-10 OR

PROVIDE A DESSERT TO SERVE 8-10 OR

PAY \$10.00

NOTE: ALL GUESTS PAY \$10.00 EACH



Please RSVP by January 16, 2017 to:

SarahJoy Haynes (925) 372-9211

Marge Munger (925) 687-9773

And let them know if you plan to attend, bring guests, and what you are bringing: soup, dessert or \$10.



PRESIDENTIAL POSTINGS

We are starting a new year which gives time for everyone to pause and reflect on what the future holds. Part of ringing in the New Year is those New Year resolutions. As a branch we have set goals to carry on the mission of AAUW as well as our branch.

First of all I would like to welcome our newest board member Janet Andronis who filled the position of communication. She comes with many qualifications to fill this position and is already on board learning the ropes. So if you have a branch event, she is the one to contact to get it in our local newspapers. Contact information is (925) 228-1883 or andronko@juno.com. Thank you Janet for volunteering and stepping up to the plate and we are looking forward to working with you.

In December we had a new member "Happy Hour" as a way for the new members to get to know our branch. Even though it is such a busy time of the year we had several new members attend and it was so nice to get to know them. Many of us had discovered that our paths had crossed outside AAUW. Thank you to Bea Ball and Elva Valli, membership vice presidents for organizing the event. And it is greatly appreciated that Margi Alkire hosted the event at her home and provided the delicious food and beverages. All in all it was a success and fun.

Our branch finished the year with a big bang at the Razzle Dazzle Holiday Party at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. It was well attended and everyone enjoyed the dinner and an opportunity to socialize. Our enter-

tainment was very enjoyable and Gary Staller was an excellent guitar player. Thank you, Gayle Garrison, for arranging the entertainment. The party was very festive and fun. Many thanks go to Sherrie Moore for putting together a wonderful party and Marlene Maksiel for being the money person. Everyone who attended appreciate all of your efforts.

Bringing in the New Year, our first event is the traditional Soup Supper on Wednesday, January 18th. With this cold weather it would be very warming to enjoy homemade soups, breads and desserts. Please contact SarahJoy Haynes or Marge Munger if you can help by bringing food or setting up, or anything else that needs to be done.

The nominating committee will be meeting starting January and February to fill the executive positions on the board. Usually two people hold one position and the board is very supportive and helpful. Think about becoming involved and say YES when asked or volunteer. It is a great way to get to know your fellow branch members.

On January 21st there will be a National Women's March and AAUW is encouraging women to participate. The march coincides with the AAUW mission. There will be a march held in Walnut Creek on that day. More information is available on the IBC web page at ccc-ibc-ca.aauw.net.

The joint AAUW Fund and Tech Trek fundraiser Bocce Ball is now in the planning stages. The date has been tentatively set for Saturday April 29th. Volunteers are needed for putting together this event and if you are interested you may contact Harriett Burt, Helen Pereira, Diane Coventry or Trinkka March. Come join the team for a good cause and have fun in the process.

We are both looking forward to a great start in 2017 and wish everyone a happy, prosperous and healthy New Year.

Jennifer and Claudia

AAUW FUND

Harriett Burt and Helen Pereira, AAUW Fund VPs

First of all, thank you to all who have sent checks to AAUW Fund over the past three months. This has been a banner year for donations through Fund Committee's annual letter as well as your support of A Taste of Fall which benefits all three active Branch programs to fund educational opportunities for women and girls from middle school through graduate studies. The members of all three committees appreciate your generosity and hard work. The "many hands who make light work" also have a lot of fun and enjoyment in all we do.

Which leads to the prospect of another enjoyable activity for all of us that will also raise money for both Tech Trek and Fund -- a Bocce Tournament! It's been awhile since "Roll 'em" was a Branch event theme! But now that Pleasant Hill has its own league there's even more players available on Saturday, April 29, 2017 which will be here before we know it! Fund and Tech Trek committees are planning a bella Festa Bocce! Details to come soon.

So many of our members have children or grandchildren, nieces and grand nieces, or know daughters and granddaughters of friends and neighbors. Some of those great young women probably are attending DVC right now! Someone had the good idea that we all should talk up NCCWSL to all those eligible young women that we know or deputize their parents or grandparents to talk it up and encourage them to go to Student Services to get an application. We've had two great attendees so let's encourage more to apply. They can go on line to find out more about the program or pick up an application which has the very extensive website's address listed.

Meanwhile, here's what our Zuhail had to say about the experience when asked:

"The things I learned at NCCWSL taught me so much, and I was able to take what I learned at the conference and apply it not only to my college experience, but to my everyday life as well. The conference pushed me to take on challenges because they will help me grow and go outside of my comfort zone. Having the NCCWSL experience also gave me the opportunity of a greater sense of independence and confidence; especially since I was living away from home in an unfamiliar location. And that allowed me to better adjust to living on campus at UC Davis. All in all, the NCCWSL is something that I would recommend to all women because we gain increased knowledge, encouragement, and empowerment. Thank you again for giving me the opportunity to attend."
Enough said.

JANUARY BOARD MEETING

JANUARY 11, 2017

7 PM

Rolling Green Clubhouse

Copy deadline for the February 2017 N.E.W.S. is:

January 24th

Please email copy to:

Reba Siero

rebasiero@yahoo.com



Such a Deal!!!

Being a member of AAUW has many benefits. As a member you can print a discount card for 80% off selected products at Office Depot/OfficeMax. This would be good for on-line and in store purchases.

To obtain your card go to the AAUW website www.aauw.org; click on membership and then member benefits. Click on Office Depot/OfficeMax. Or you can go directly to www.officediscounts.org/aauw.html. Then print out your card.

COMMUNITY ~ PLEASANT HILL

Marlene Maksel

Saturday, January 21 ~ P. H. Lion's Club 44th Annual Crab Feed at the PH Senior Center. Cash door prizes ~ silent and live auctions. 6 pm No Host Bar; 7:30 pm dinner. Tickets are \$50 ~ call Ken at (925) 687-0858 or Don at (925) 676-5859.

Thursday, January 26 ~ Mayor's Breakfast at the Contra Costa Country Club, 7:30 to 9 am. The mayor will be giving his "State of the City" report. Cost is \$40/each. Call the Chamber of Commerce for ticket info ~ (925) 687-0700.



Pleasant Hill - Martinez AAUW Website



Our website will show you everything you need to know about our Pleasant Hill - Martinez branch. Enjoy photos from our Razzle Dazzle Holiday Party on the **Photo Page**.

Need to find a picture of one of our members? Just go to the **Members Page**. Let me know if you'd like your picture retaken. Want to find upcoming events? Check out 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

INTEREST SECTIONS MEETINGS



****MORNING BOOKS** will meet on Wednesday, January 4, 10 am, at Sandy Wolfe's. We will be discussing *My Name is Lucy Barton* by Elizabeth Strout. This is a "short novel about love, particularly the complicated love between mothers and daughters." PLEASE call **Janet Sullivan** (935-6340) if you are planning to attend. In February, we will be discussing our classic, *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith. Please join us for great discussions.



****IN INDELIBLE INK** will meet on Wednesday, January 11, 10 am, at Ginny Hargrave's. Our topic will be to write about an old adage (i.e. A fool and his money are soon parted; Absence makes the heart grow fonder; Actions speak louder than words). We welcome oral versions as well as written. Come and try us out!



****LUNCHIN' LADIES** will go to lunch at La Sen, 2002 Salvio Street in Concord on Thursday, January 19, 1 pm. Please tell Marlene if you are interested in this section ~ and if you have an idea for a great restaurant it would be fun for us to try. PLEASE call Marlene (689-5439) by the 17th, so reservations can be made.



****EVENING BOOKS** will meet on Monday, January 23, 7 pm, at Georgette Armstrong's. We will be discussing *The Japanese Lover* by Isabel Allende. The story is about a forbidden love and how it lasted forever. In February, we will be discussing *The Girls of Atomic City* by Denise Kiernan. Plan to join us!



****MATINEE IDLE** will go to the movies on Thursday, January 26 ~ back to our regular 4th Thursday. Call Marlene (689-5439), if you have any suggestions for a movie. We always discuss the film after over coffee, other liquid refreshment, or frozen yogurt.

The Morning Books Interest Section group in December read and discussed Sonia Sotomayor's book, *My Beloved World*. All the attendees liked the book and agreed to recommend it to others. Here are the words that the members used to describe Supreme Court Justice Sotomayor:

inspiring	tenacious
bold	resilient
gutsy	brilliant
strong	immigrant
studious	determined
smart	self-sufficient
persistent	diabetic
fortitudinous	

We hope you will enjoy the book too.



OTHER GROUPS



****GRAND SLAMMERS** will play bridge on Monday, January 9th at 12:30 at Brookview Club House. Each player pays \$5, with \$3 for Local Scholarship Fund and \$2 for room rental. All levels of players are welcome, members and non-members.

Contact Marlene DeLaurenti at (925) 934-4171 or mdl@astound.net if you would like to play.



****MAH JONGG**

COME PLAY MAH JONGG!

Mah Jongg meets at 12:30 PM on January 20th, at Brookview Clubhouse.

There is a \$2.00 per person charge for the clubhouse rental. If you don't know how to play Mah Jongg, but would like to learn, we will be happy to teach you.

Reservations are a must each month, so contact Suzanne Salter at (925) 935-0861, email: seabear2@msn.com OR Gayle Miner at (925) 349-6795, email: gayle.miner@yahoo.com

We play on the 3rd Friday of the month We would love to have you join our group.

IN MEMORY OF CHARLOTTE ANDERSON

September 6, 1922 to December 15, 2016

This past year, when it was time to re-new AAUW membership, I asked Charlotte if she wanted to re-new. At the time, she was living in a board and care home, due to her declining health. Of course, she said she wanted to pay her dues even though she could not be an active member. Since the early eighties, Charlotte had been very active. She served as president in 1986-87 and again in 2004-05. Her belief in the mission of AAUW was shown through her support all these years.



I always said Charlotte was the best member who joined when I was membership VP in the early 80's. One Saturday at my home, I had a meeting for women who were interested in membership. Charlotte was the only person who came...and she joined. I considered the meeting a success because she contributed in so many ways to AAUW.

Charlotte died on December 15 at age ninety-four. All her life, she had a career in helping people. She loved music, played the piano, and sang in her church choir for many years. Writing was another of her talents. Several years ago, she gave me a booklet of her writings which I really do cherish. We will miss Charlotte as an AAUW member and friend.

A memorial service to celebrate Charlotte's life will be held later in January at St. Andrew's in Pleasant Hill. AAUW members will be notified of the date and time.

Gayle Garrison

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Bea Ball and Elva Valli, Membership VPs

First and foremost Bea and I would like to wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year. The year 2016 ended on a festive note with our first Open House held on December 6th to welcome new members. With Margi Alkire's hostess talents we welcomed four of our new members. Margi's warm home was festively decorated and we all enjoyed the delicious refreshments she had prepared. New members joining us were Nancy Pulpaneck, Lorrie Osborn, Karen Watanabe and Janet Andronis. They all shared very interesting information about their families, their education and their careers. Claudia, Marlene M., and Sherrie joined us and were able to provide information about AAUW and what our branch has to offer. Bea and I are anticipating that the next few months will be just as busy as we welcome even more new members. Plans for the next new member Open House will be announced next month and held in March 2017.

In starting the new year the dues structure for new members will change due to the fact that they will be joining for a half year. From January 1 to March 15 National, State and Branch dues will be reduced by 50%, making a total of \$43.50. The Shape the Future Campaign for "On the Spot" joiners will also be in effect. This applies to a person joining while attending an AAUW publicized event. This means that National dues will be further reduced (National dues will be \$12.25, State and Branch will remain \$10.00 and \$9.00 respectively) and total dues would be \$31.25. The Soup Supper on January 18th is an example of a Shape the Future event. It is a perfect time to invite interested family and friends to attend a branch function. Thank you for your continued help as we reach out to women and girls who have the same interests as do the members of our branch.



Silent Auction Gourmet Dinner Winners

Here is a follow up to one of our Silent Auction winners from our October Fund Raiser, A Taste of Fall. A group of 9 guests was treated to a gourmet dinner catered by 4 of our members -- **Sandy Wolfe, Gayle Miner, Bea Ball, and Janet Sullivan** at Sandy's home on December 4th. We just wanted to share with you the compliments from some that attended. Thank you, ladies. Proceeds benefited Tech Trek, Local Scholarships and AAUW Fund.

From **Margi and Jim Alkire** -

"What a wonderful dinner last night! So amazing! The house was beautiful. All decorated for Christmas. So gorgeous. The table was astounding! What marvelous sets of crystal and china! The wine was a world-famous selection. How fun to learn all about it—and then to actually be able to drink it! All those colors and kinds!

The Hors d'oeuvres were wonderful---the bruschetta from Italy and the pâté. We could have had dinner on them! The soup was yummy, beautifully seasoned, hot, and in such precious little cups. The salad was exquisite. What was the dressing? I loved it. And with the persimmons, oh, what a treat!

Then there was the main course. Fantastic. The pork roast with the beautiful red sauce --- perfect. And the asparagus was so tender. Fork tender. Delicious. And then I think I better mention the baked potatoes. Perfectly baked and then filled with all those wonderful things (low calorie of course). To die for, as was the dessert. An exquisite ice cream pie for all of us over-filled people, who could not resist a bite of it. All was so well planned. We had a wonderful night there, especially with the well-trained staff and the delightful other guests. We just missed Ken. But I guess it was lucky that the nine of us made it. Thank so, so much. And we will bid on it next year!"

And from **Janice and Steve Walker** -

"Friends --

Thank you so much for the wonderful dining experience last night!! It was beyond expectations! The china and glassware, the flowers, the wine pairings and all the food from appetizers to dessert were all superb and all blended together to make it an evening far exceeding the bidding price! My hostess bags were truly a very small token of our appreciation!! You put a lot into a perfect evening and we are immensely grateful!"

Sherrie Moore, A Taste of Fall co-chair



9 lucky Taste of Fall Gourmet Dinner Winners!



**Gourmet Chefs and Hosts (l to r)
Sandy Wolfe, Janet Sullivan, Gayle Miner and Bea Ball**

PUBLIC POLICY

Lita Gloor-Little

In these turbulent times, it is my belief that sometimes we need some good news. Some of you may have received the announcement about the Equal Pay Pledge that I have pasted below. Equal Pay is one of the foci of AAUW. You may want to support one or more of these companies who signed the pledge.

AAUW commends the 44 additional companies that signed the White House Equal Pay Pledge on December 7. This diverse group of businesses including AT&T, eBay, the Estee Lauder Companies, Yahoo, and Zillow Group joins a list of more than 100 top companies such as Amazon, L'Oréal USA, and PepsiCo. President Barack Obama announced the creation of the pledge in June 2016, and initially the group featured 28 of America's leading businesses expressing their commitment to closing the gender pay gap.

"Equal pay is an issue whose time has come," said AAUW Vice President of Government Relations and Advocacy Lisa Maatz. "In 2016, the country furthered innovative approaches to closing the gender pay gap at the federal, state, and local levels, including a wave of pay equity legislation in red, blue, and purple states. We also continued to see this type of positive action by the business community, as well as smart use of executive actions by President Obama."

The incoming Donald Trump administration should keep this in mind as they consider their view on executive branch reforms such as the Employer Information Report (EEO-1) data collection effort and the new overtime rule. "The will for equal pay is at a high tide, which the new administration and Congress ignore at their peril," noted Maatz. "Any rollback of individual elements of the equal pay agenda will do real harm to people's paychecks. But, even if Trump and Congress fail to see the light, state legislatures and grassroots advocates will keep equal pay moving."

Anheuser-Busch made news in August when they decided to sign the pledge after urging from the public (and AAUW members) to do so. As part of the pledge, companies promise to conduct an annual company-wide gender pay audit, review hiring and promotion procedures, and address problems of implicit gender bias in hiring and pay structures. These are all best practices backed by AAUW research and advocacy.

"The pay gap is stubborn and pernicious," said Maatz. "By committing to getting their own houses in order, these businesses are setting an example and showing that pay discrimination must not be tolerated. Their participation shows more than support of basic fairness. Smart businesses know that equal pay for all workers is not just good legal practice, it's downright good business."

AAUW thanks the Obama administration for bringing equal pay into the spotlight and using executive authority strategically to push the issue forward.

President-Elect Donald Trump has made many announcements about his appointments to his cabinet: some of which are quite troubling to me and maybe to others of you. You have an opportunity to sign up for the AAUW Two Minute Activist Mailing List so you can urge your local representatives to vote the way you would like them to vote. These appointments will affect our daily lives in many ways.

AAUW has been closely monitoring announcements made by President-elect Donald Trump as he nominates his Cabinet. In early January 2017, the U.S. Senate will be faced with serious questions and confirmation votes on these nominees. Senate action on these appointees will affect the decisions that our federal agencies and courts make and, in turn, will impact the lives of every American. That's why we say "**personnel is policy.**"

Sign up for our [Two-Minute Activist](#) mailing list and get urgent e-mail notices to contact your members of Congress delivered right to your inbox.

PUBLIC POLICY

Thanks to all branches that took an active part in events leading up to the November election. Over 35 branches reported registering voters, holding candidate forums, educating voters on the California Ballot Propositions, or getting out the vote in other ways. While many of us have concerns about how the inevitable and still-undefined policy changes will impact AAUW's priority issues, we must acknowledge the re-

sults of the election but also commit to monitoring policy changes in the Administration and Congress. As Lisa Maatz succinctly stated, “AAUW will always speak truth to power.”

The CA Public Policy Committee will soon be drafting the AAUW CA Public Policy Priorities for 2017-19, which will then be on the spring AAUW CA ballot for member approval. Thanks to all branches who took the time to review and comment on the priorities!

Sue Miller, suellen-aauw@wavecable.org and **Nancy Mahr**, nlmahr@verizon.net
AAUW Public Policy Co-Chairs

There are many ways to get your voice heard and I’ve added a few. It is important to know that hate crimes have substantially risen since the election. We can make a difference, and here are some resources for you.

State Efforts to Combat Hate Crimes

Following the highly contentious election in early November, the country has seen a [rise in hate crimes](#). As many search for meaningful ways to combat hatred and help their neighbors, states are stepping up and providing resources. The attorneys general of [Massachusetts](#) and [Maryland](#) established hotlines to report hate crimes, while their counterparts in [Delaware](#) and [California](#) provided guidance to schools and law enforcement personnel regarding the proper way to handle incidents. Both the governor and attorney general of [New York](#) have responded by assembling community advocates and religious leaders, distributing materials to law enforcement agencies and schools, and notifying all victims about the protections of New York laws. AAUW [stands against bias and bigotry](#) of any kind and continues to be the leading women’s organization working on addressing hate crimes, especially gender-based hate crimes.

Raise Our Collective Voice, Help Grow the AAUW Action Network

AAUW provides a trusted voice in statehouses across the country. But we can always be louder. Let’s add to our [Action Network](#) - the cornerstone of AAUW’s e-advocacy efforts - so we can increase the drumbeat for education, equal pay, paid family leave, and so much more. Action Network sends subscribers urgent e-mail notices to easily contact their elected representatives through the [Two-Minute Activist tool](#). You don’t need to be an AAUW member to join. Ask every member of your branch to get three new people to sign up for Action Network, or start a competition between branches with a prize for those who sign up the most new advocates. [Print out this handy worksheet](#) and use it as a sign-in document for your state or branch meetings, tabling events, rallies, and other events. After filling out this worksheet, send it to advocacy@aauw.org to get everyone signed up. Together we can make a difference. You provide the voice, we’ll provide the megaphone.

Lita Gloor-Little
lgloorlittle@gmail.com



2016–2017 LEADERSHIP TEAM

January 2017

- Jan 4** Morning Books, 10 am,
Marlene Maksel
- Jan 9** Grand Slammers Bridge, 12:30 pm,
Brookview Clubhouse
- Jan 11** In Indelible Ink, 10 am,
Ginny Hargrave's
- Jan 11** Board meeting, 7 pm,
Rolling Green Clubhouse
- Jan 18** Annual Soup Supper, 6 pm, St Andrew's
Dianna Matthias:
Plastic Pollution Around Oceanic Islands
- Jan 19** Lunchin' Ladies, 1 pm, La Sen restaurant
RSVP to Marlene Maksel by Jan 17
- Jan 20** Mah Jongg, 12:30 pm
Brookview Clubhouse
- Jan 23** Evening Books, 7 pm, Georgette Armstrong
- Jan 24** February 2017 N.E.W.S. deadline to Reba
- Jan 26** Matinee Idle, Marlene Maksel



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Pleasant Hill – Martinez AAUW N.E.W.S. is published 10 times a year by and for AAUW. May/June & July/August are combined issues.

Copy deadline for the February 2017 N.E.W.S. is January 24th. Please email copy to: Reba Siero

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