



N.E.W.S.

Now/Events/Women/Success

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

Volume 64 Issue 8

April 2022

John H. “Spike” Speicher

Wednesday, April 20, 2020 at 7 pm

St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church

1601 St. Mary’s Drive, Pleasant Hill

or on Zoom!

Mr. John H. “Spike” Speicher will be speaking about his book.

He is currently a consultant with a strong computer and security background.

Mr. Spike has had a long career in California working first in the Navy, then IBM, continuing his sales career with various technology and security companies for almost 50 years.

After losing his wife of 54 years, 5 years ago, Mr. Spike noticed there was a void regarding how to securely handle all the demands of organizations such as banks, insurance and credit card companies, local, state and federal government agencies for information and decisions.

As a result, he started writing about the practical steps that need to be done before and after the death of a loved one. This resulted in his book, **Before and After, a practical guide for what to do and not do before and after a loved one dies.**



Pleasant Hill-Martinez (CA) Branch

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



Thanks go to each of you who have kept the branch going through some interesting and sometimes very difficult times over the past couple of years. Your energy and commitment to our missions is always inspiring.

Reba Siero 2021-22 Co-President

PRESIDENTIAL POSTINGS

With Spring arriving, renewal is visible all around us. There are more and more in person gatherings. Annual events that have been put on hold for two years are being held again. The days are filling with more and more things to do.

Local Scholarships had a dining fundraiser at Red Robin, with 20% of food orders coming back to the branch. Some of you went to the theater to see **The Addams Family: The Musical**, with proceeds going to Tech Trek. We had a successful Game Day at the end of March. Thanks go to the Fund team that made it happen.

April brings us Spike Speicher, who will speak to us on the 20th about the practicalities of preparing for the end of life. I'm sure we'll find some things to think about. This meeting will be a hybrid format, to allow everyone to attend, whether in person, or from home.

It is membership renewal time once again. Renewals can be done online, or by sending a check to our wonderful Membership VPs. See page 8 for details. On a side note, it was pretty straightforward to pay my renewal online, once I set up my account on the new website.

And Virginia has arranged another theater outing on May 15 that will benefit both Tech Trek and Local Scholarships. See page 7 to learn more about attending **Three Sisters** at DVC.

The election for next year's branch officers will happen this month. Look to page 6 for the slate of nominees. Is there a place for you in the branch leadership? Give it some thought and let any board member know if you can serve! This may be your time!



APRIL BOARD MEETING

APRIL 13, 2022

7 PM

ZOOM

**Copy deadline for the
May-June 2022 N.E.W.S.
SATURDAY, April 30th**

Please email copy to:

Reba Siero rebasiero@yahoo.com

(925) 917-1061

INTEREST SECTIONS MEETINGS



****MORNING BOOKS** met
Wednesday, April 6th, at 10 am, to discuss Kelli
Estes' *The Girl Who Wrote in Silk*.



****EVENING BOOKS** will meet on
Monday, April 25th, 7 pm, probably at Marlene
Maksel's. Call or email Marlene if you are inter-
ested.



****MATINEE IDLE** In April, we will
try Century 16 again! We normally meet on the
4th Thursday of each month. If you are interested,
please call or email Marlene Maksel.

OTHER GROUPS



****MAH JONGG** will meet on
Friday, April 15th at the Brookview
Clubhouse, 12:30 PM. We will meet
next on May 20th at 12:30 PM. Please let Su-
zanne 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 DeLaurenti at mdl@astound.net or
(925) 934-4171

John H. "Spike" Speicher Bio

I was born in Flint, Michigan quite a while ago. Went to public school in Detroit and then to Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan where I obtained a BBA Degree in Sales Management in 1962.

After college, I joined the US Navy and attended Officer Candidates School in Newport, RI and the Navy Supply Corp School in Athens, GA. Between Navy training and my first duty station in San Diego, California, I married my college sweetheart, Linda Lutton in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Our honeymoon was a drive to San Diego on Route 66.

Neither one of us had ever been to California. We really enjoyed our 2 1/2 years in San Diego. I had promised my father that when I fulfilled my Navy obligation, I would return to Michigan and work for him at his company. We struggled to build his company but were unsuccessful. After my father died, I sold the company. I then joined IBM as a salesman. That was the beginning of my sales career for almost 50 years. I worked for early technology companies both in hardware and software sales.

Toward the end of my sales career, I changed industries. I had two interesting positions, the first with a company that sold lottery equipment and software. We were the successful bidder for the California Lottery's on-line Lotto game. At the time of the sale in 1980's, the contract was the largest contract ever let in the history of the state. Needless to say, Lotto has been very successful.

After I ran out of lottery prospects (one per state), I joined a contract security company headquartered in Oakland, California. I was with the company for ten years and when the company was sold in 2000, it was the fifth largest security company in the US. I was Vice President of Sales and Marketing.

I then did consulting work for security guard companies and organizations that needed assistance in the bidding process for security officer services.

I have continued to stay busy. I feel that you need a strong motivation to get up each day. As Clint Eastwood has said, "I don't want to let the old man in."

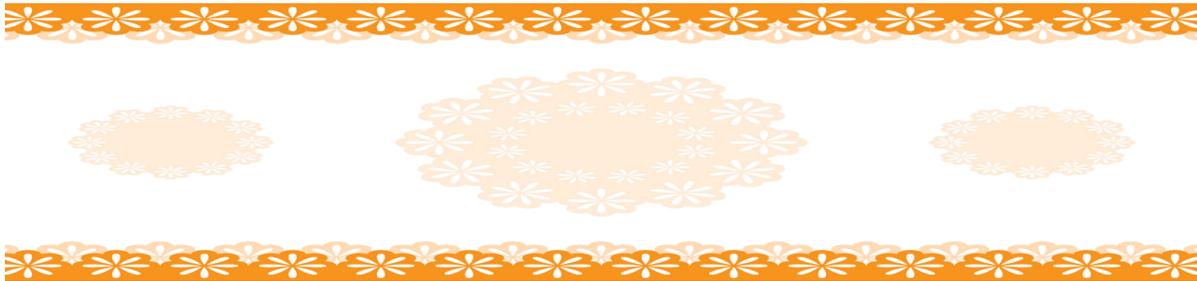
I continue to "stay busy" consulting for two startup companies. One, Cobalt Robotics, has developed and is now selling a robot that can roam around buildings checking for fires, water damage and unauthorized peo-

ple. The second startup is called KINOO. It has developed software and hardware to assist grandparents and grandchildren to connect across the internet to play games and spend quality time together. The target age for these grandchildren is 4 to 7 years.

I am also a member of the Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Club. When I was working in Silicon Valley, I would spend over 3 hours a day commuting. I had no time available to give back. Now I do.

My book was a result of losing my wife Linda to cancer in 2017. We were married 54 years and had three children. After her death, I attended a grief support group at my church. I found that many in the group had no idea how to handle the demands by organizations such as banks, insurance companies, credit card companies, local, state, and federal governmental agencies for information and decisions. At such times, there little guidance for spouses and other family members.

As a result, I started writing about the practical steps that need to be done after the death of a loved one. Little did I know when writing the book, I would create a how to document for those who have lost a loved one. Writing the book was an important step in my own grieving process.



AAUW FUND REPORT

Jennifer Apkarian and Claudia Bass, AAUW Fund VPs

Spring is in the air and our spring Kinder's \$20.00 Gift Certificate Card sale ended April 9, 2022. The cost was \$20.00 , and we received \$4.50 for every card we sell. With this card you can purchase whatever you like at any of the Kinder's locations. There is no expiration date. Thank you to everyone who purchased your gift cards.

With the Kinder's gift card sale we have been able to sponsor a student from Diablo Valley College to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) which is organized by National AAUW. The applications have been given to DVC and due date is April 20th. Our committee will select a student to attend. The conference is scheduled for May 24-26th and will be virtual this year. Hopefully, we will be able to hear from our student about the conference at the End of the Year Brunch.

Our branch has been very generous in contributing to National AAUW Fund in 2021. California AAUW members collectively contributed \$494,020.00 to Fund. CA AAUW has a program to honor certain levels of contributions and certificates will be presented at the brunch. However, every member's contribution is appreciated.

We had a fun afternoon being together and playing games on March 31st. It was complete with snacks, beverages, and fun. Proceeds of \$216.00 will be donated to Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF). Thank you to everyone who participated. And thanks to those who helped put the day together. They were Gayle Miner, Marlene Maksiel, Jennifer Apkarian, and Claudia Bass.

Jennifer Apkarian at (925) 228-2027 or apkarian1@att.net or

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



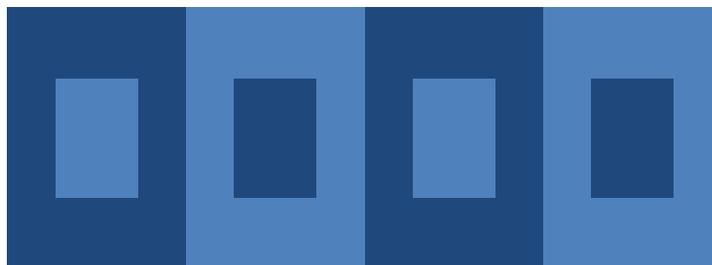
Pleasant Hill - Martinez AAUW Website



Our website will show you everything you need to know about our Pleasant Hill - Martinez branch. Check out the pictures from our **March 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**.

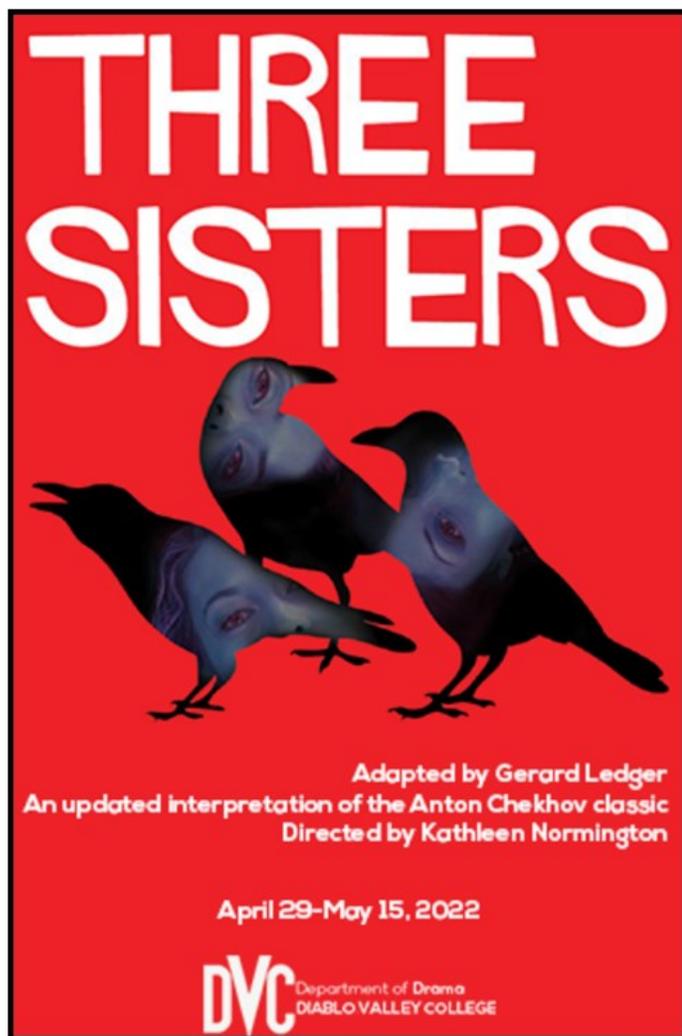
Sherrie Moore, webmaster



May 15

is our last DVC play Tech Trek and Local Scholarships fundraiser for the season!

We have really been enjoying DVC Drama's performances of 2021-22! Hopefully, you can join us for the last play of the season, *Three Sisters*, which will be performed in the Arena Theater. We will be attending Sunday, May 15th, at 2:30 pm. Please let Virginia Hewgley know by May 1 if you would like to attend. (vhewgley@astound.net or 925-768-4417) Tickets will be \$30, and checks should be made to AAUW Pleasant Hill-Martinez Branch.



Olga, Irina, and Masha are restless. Trapped in menial jobs and uninspiring relationships, these sisters yearn for more than what their small provincial town has to offer — the cosmopolitan and sophisticated life of Moscow. This adaptation of Chekhov's classic play passionately retells the three women's attempts to rise above their dictated circumstances and examines the timeless question — is happiness mandated by fate or can fulfillment be of your own making?



It's time to renew your membership in the Pleasant Hill Martinez Branch of AAUW

Renew your membership now

Remember the early bird gets the ————no, not a worm, but a chance to have the National portion of your dues paid...

The annual dues are \$108 .

National receives \$62 (of which \$59 is tax deductible), State receives \$20, and our branch gets \$26.

You can pay your dues online at www.aauw.org, or by check to us.

If you choose to pay online, be aware that the online process has changed due to a recent system update.

You can find an instructional video about the membership renewal process at

www.aauw.org/new-systems-update/ .

If you choose to renew by check, please make your check payable to AAUW Pleasant Hill Martinez Branch and send to

Karen Winters
2148 Westward Place
Martinez, CA 94553

or

Barb Minneman
301 Lava Court
Martinez, CA 94553

ALL CHECKS OR ONLINE PAYMENTS NEED TO BE COMPLETED BY JUNE 1, 2022

Remember that early bird ?.....well, if we receive your online renewal confirmation or check by April 18, 2022, you will be eligible for a drawing to have your National dues paid for.

We will be drawing 3 names at our general meeting on April 20, 2022.

Thanks for renewing! We are looking forward to a great year!

Karen Winters, Barb Minneman, Membership VPs

GOOD LUCK 

2021-2022 LEADERSHIP TEAM

April-May 2022

- Apr 5** Morning Books, 10 am, TBD
Apr 13 Board Meeting, 7 pm, Zoom
Apr 15 Mah Jongg, 12:30 pm, Brookview Clubhouse
Apr 18 Renew by today to get into the drawing!!
Apr 20 General meeting, 7 pm, John H "Spike" Speicher, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
Apr 25 Evening Books, 7 pm, Location TBA
Apr 28 Matinee Idle - tentative
Apr 30 Newsletter deadline
May 11 Board Meeting, 7 pm, TBD
May 1 Last day to reserve seats for Three Sisters
May 15 Three Sisters, 2:30 pm, DVC
June 4 Tentative date for End of Year Brunch



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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Karen Winters 408-5721 karen.winters@sbcglobal.net

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www.aauw-pleasanthill-martinez.org

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