



NEWS

NOW/EVENTS/WOMEN/SUCCESS

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



Presidential Postings

We will begin the new year with our International Soup Supper on January 17, 2024. More details are in this newsletter!

Thank you to our Program VP, Carlyn Obringer, for an informative program with Jonathan Lee, who spoke about the work of The Contra Costa County Bar Association

Port Chicago Task Force, formed last year to advocate for justice for the Port Chicago 50. For further information regarding the Port Chicago disaster, the aftermath for those accused of mutiny, and a petition go to [change.org](https://www.change.org).

Our Holiday Party is coming up on December 8th, at the Brookview Clubhouse, with your RSVP and check due by November 28th. Kinder's gift cards are available for holiday gift giving. It is a fundraiser for the branch and a nice thing for friends and family to receive. Contact Gayle Miner or Claudia Bass for more information. The order/purchase deadline is December 13th. We need to put together a Nominating Committee to look for our leaders for the 2024-2025 program year! Please join me and serve on this important committee. There is no board meeting in December; the board will meet again on January 10, 2024, at 7 pm. The Layette Shower happens that same day at 10:00 am, so mark that on your calendar also.

As the holidays draw near, I wish each of you the very best of the season. Thanksgiving is upon us, and we look forward to Hanukkah, the Solstice, Christmas, Boxing Day, and Kwanzaa in December! I wish you joy in all the traditions your family has created through the years.

~Reba rebasiero@yahoo.com

Layette Shower



Details for this annual event

International



Soup Supper

Public Policy



The latest information from CAAAUW



Annual Layette Shower

Benefit for Hillcrest Layette Program

It's almost time! The 2024 Layette Shower will be on Wednesday, January 10, 10:00 am, at Janice Walker's house, 524 Monti Circle, Pleasant Hill.

Layette items will benefit the Hillcrest Layette Program, which requests anything a little one can use, **except newborn and under 7 lb. sizes.**

Please contact me by phone, 925-827-3374, or at sandjwalk@comcast.net, if you intend to be a part of the shower. If you can't participate on the 10th but would like to make a donation, you can drop it off prior to the shower or let me know you have a contribution and we can arrange a pickup.

This event was started many years ago by Jean Hambleton, a member of Hillcrest Congregational Church, who would be delighted to know her efforts are still a part of our branch!

So, join me on the 10th of January and help us make this year's Layette Shower another positive beginning to the new year!

Hope to see you on the 10th!

~Janice Walker

SAM At Fair Oaks

Would you like to be a SAM volunteer?

We have created the curriculum for our SAM (Study Art and Music) Program for Fair Oaks Elementary School in February/March. This year we are going to study composer Sergei Prokofiev and artist Charlie Harper. We will create pictures of the animals in Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf* using geometric shapes.

Your duties will be pretty simple - help us set up and clean up, then admire the work of the students. We will teach TK (Transitional Kindergarten) thru 5th grade, and two Special Ed classes (SDC).

We are planning a workday in February where we will prepare the materials for the students.

Please let us know if you would like to volunteer. So far, we have over 20 volunteers on our list. It is lots of fun and rewarding.

~Sherrie Moore, Barbara Minneman, and Helen Pereira





Tech Trek Tidings

Thanks for your contributions to Tech Trek Special Project Fund (CA-SPF) this year.

We appreciate your support, and please note that some donations are tax deductible.

Several of the Trekkers participated in outreach to our local Kiwanis and Rotary Clubs and attended our brunch in May and September.

Former campers are all part of TTAG - Tech Trek Alumnae Groups - part of the Tech Trek Alumnae Community. I am still looking for a branch member to assist me as a Tech Trek Alumnae Advisor. We wish to stay in touch with these girls on their STEM journey and keep them connected with one another and with Trekkers from other branches and camps.

We are looking forward to selecting six new campers by March. Candidates are nominated by their STEM (Science, Tech, Engineering, or Math) Teacher. Five girls will be nominated in January from each of our four local schools – Martinez JH, Valley View, Pleasant Hill Middle, and Sequoia Middle. Our committee will be contacting our local middle schools in January.

The date for this year's Camp Sonoma is June 23-29, 2024. As Camp Co-Director I have begun

preparations for Camp Sonoma 2024. We are looking for professional women to present at our Professional Women's Night, class monitors to participate in our core classes and assist in the workshops, and possibly one or two dorm moms. I will keep you posted as we proceed in our planning.

We are excited to announce that our 2023 Trekkers have been invited to attend our Soup Supper in January. (See flyer in this newsletter.) They will be selling raffle tickets and monitoring our silent auction items for our Tech Trek fundraiser. Please consider donating an item for the raffle. Let me know by early January, what you wish to contribute and approximate value.

Happy Holidays – we look forward to seeing you at the Soup Supper.

~Diane Coventry

diane.coventry@yahoo.com, 510-912-9306

DON'T FORGET ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL SOUP SUPPER RAFFLE!



Diane will be collecting the actual items after January 1st, but you can let her know now what you will be donating.



International Soup Supper

Wednesday, January 17, 2024, 6 PM
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
1601 Mary Drive, Pleasant Hill

Please join us for hearty, homemade soups, breads, and desserts at our Pleasant Hill-Martinez Branch Annual International Soup Supper.

Coffee, water, and tea will be provided.

Be sure to bring your own soup bowl and spoon.
 Dinner starts promptly at 6 PM, and remember that spouses, partners, and friends are most welcome.

Let us know if you would like to bring
 a pot of soup serving 10-12 people or bread or dessert
OR pay \$10. All guests pay \$10.

Contact Suzanne Salter 925 988-0322 or seabear92020@outlook.com

to pay and indicate number of guests

Reservation deadline and payment by January 12th

(make checks to PHM AAUW)

275 Appalachian Drive, Pleasant Hill 94523

Our speaker for the evening is Mt. Diablo Unified School Board Trustee, Cherise Khaund. Cherise grew up in Saudi Arabi and Venezuela, has been a big proponent of STEM education for girls, earned her engineering degree at Stanford, and recently hosted a female Afghan refugee.

We are having a raffle and a silent auction to support Tech Trek.

Raffle - 1 ticket for \$3, 2 for \$5, 5 for \$10, 12 for \$20

Silent Auction – Starting bid with \$5 increments.

SO bring some cash and have some fun!

Let Diane Coventry know by January 10th if you would like to donate any raffle or silent auction items. Indicate estimated value of items.

Hope to see you there!



AAUW FUND REPORT

We are very happy to have the Kinder's Gift Cards available for sale until Dec. 13th.

They sell for \$20 (good at any Kinder's store) and AAUW receives \$4.50 for each card sold. The gift cards sold out early last year, so we encourage you to contact Gayle Miner or Claudia Bass to purchase your cards. (Order form is on the next page of this newsletter.)

There is still time to respond to your solicitation letter and make a contribution to the AAUW National Fund. The deadline for sending your check is December 16, 2023. Thank you to all those that have contributed, it does make a difference in the lives of women and girls. If you have donated online that's great. Could you please notify Gayle Miner or Carolynn Barcklay by email or text so we can be sure to count you in our totals.

Have a wonderful Holiday Season and we will see you next year.

Carolynn Barcklay 925-323-8229 or cbarcklay@hotmail.com

Gayle Miner 925-349-6795, cell 925-788-3272 or gayle.miner@yahoo.com

PHM AAUW HELP WANTED

TTAG Advisor - Do you enjoy working with young women who are interested in STEM careers? We are looking for someone to coordinate with local branches to support Tech Trek Alumnae. Contact Diane Coventry if you are interested.

IBC Representative - Help organize local advocacy and work with other branches to plan Tech Trek Ice Cream Social. Contact Reba Siero if you are interested.

Nominating Committee Members - We need two board members and three general members plus an alternate from each group to form this year's Nominating Committee. Contact Reba Siero if you are interested.

Raffle donations - New or gently used. Do you have contacts who would be willing to donate goods or services? Or perhaps you've just Marie Kondo-ed your place and have some things that no longer bring you joy, but might be joyful for someone else? Contact Diane Coventry about your donation.

Hospitality - Pat Harris is looking for someone to help manage refreshments at meetings.

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

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

KINDER'S Gift Card ORDER FORM

Gift Card sales help our branch give a DVC student a \$1,000 scholarship to a 4 year college.

YOUR NAME _____

YOUR ADDRESS _____

YOUR TELEPHONE _____

YOUR EMAIL _____

Gift Cards are good at all Bay Area Kinder's locations. You may use the Gift Card for any items on Kinder's menu.

GIFT CARD SALE IS FROM November 1 to DECEMBER 13, 2023. NO EXCEPTIONS

PRICE: \$20.00 each, with NO EXPERATION DATE!

Amount of Gift Cards you are ordering _____

Amount of your check: \$ _____

(Make checks payable to: AAUW Pleasant Hill Martinez Branch)

Give or Mail Order Form to: Claudia Bass, 1706 Endriss Drive,
Martinez, CA 94553 or Gayle Miner, 125 Price Lane, Pleasant Hill, CA
94523.

Claudia or Gayle will deliver or mail your Gift Cards to you upon receiving your check. Your check must be in by Dec. 13, 2023.

QUESTIONS? Call Claudia Bass, (925) 372-8679

NOTE: You can call or do mail order to Claudia (925) 372-8679 or Gayle (925) 788-3272. They are the only people who have Kinder's Gift Cards to sell.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR SUPPORT! THE FUND COMMITTEE



PHM AAUW Website

Our website will show you everything you need to know about our Pleasant Hill - Martinez branch. See the pictures from our November 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



SUNSHINE

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

Reba Siero

rebasiero@yahoo.com or 925-917-1061

Public Policy

California Enacts Law Prohibiting Book Bans and Curricula Censorship

On September 25, 2023, Governor Newsom signed AB 1078 into law, officially preventing school districts from banning books and censoring curriculum based on the materials' depiction of inclusive and diverse perspectives. Specifically, the new law:

- Reaffirms, in the Introduction, that: 1) California supports accurate and inclusive education; 2) the California Constitution guarantees pupils equal protection under the law; 3) California schools have an obligation to combat bias against pupils within their schools; 4) and accurate and inclusive education are essential to ensure the educational success of all pupils.
- Requires the Department of Education to develop guidance and public educational materials to ensure that all Californians can access information about educational laws and policies that safeguard the right to an accurate and inclusive curriculum.
- Requires all school districts to have sufficient instructional materials for all students that align with approved content standards.
- Adds to list of included topics in social sciences textbooks: the role and contributions of people of all genders, Latino Americans, LGBTQ+ Americans, and members of other ethnic, cultural, religious and socioeconomic status groups.

- Reduces a school district's funding formula allocation if the district does not provide sufficient instructional materials pursuant to these provisions.

- Prohibits governing members of school districts from refusing to approve or prohibiting the use of any book or instructional material on the basis that it contains inclusive and diverse perspectives.

It is not certain at this point how school districts will respond to the new law. We anticipate that most will comply, but suspect there are some that will not. Please note that the script in the School Board Project (SBP) ToolKit has been modified to reflect the new law, and please keep your SBP liaison apprised if your district is in violation (you can find your liaison in the ToolKit).

You can find the text of AB 1078 [here](#).

You can find the SBP ToolKit [here](#).

~Kathy Harper, Chair, Public Policy School board Project

Claudia Goldin Wins Nobel Prize in Economics for AAUW Aligned Research

One of AAUW California's Public Policy Priorities is to promote women in Leadership positions, so it is a pleasure to report that Claudia Goldin, 77, is the first woman to win the Nobel Prize in Economics without men as collaborators and the third woman to win overall. She was also the first woman to be

offered tenure in Harvard's economics department, in 1989.

Dr. Goldin's Nobel-winning study focuses on causes of the gender wage gap, the evolution of women's participation in the job market over the past 200 years, and the implications for the future of the labor force. [In a paper in the National Bureau of Economic Research](#), Goldin writes that, "the golden era of American women's rights lasted from 1963 to 1973." Of the 155 important moments for advancement of women, 45% took place in those years during which women changed from having jobs to pursuing careers. [This one factor is "among the grandest advances in society", according to Dr. Goldin.](#)

However, her work also focuses on the work that we still have to do to continue to advance.

[Another AAUW Public Policy Priority](#) is Economic Security for all women including equity in the workplace, enforcement of workplace anti-discrimination statutes, access to job training for career development, and work-life balance, including access to quality affordable childcare and paid sick and caregiving leave. These are exactly the factors studied by Dr. Goldin to understand why U.S. women earn \$.80 for every dollar a man makes, why men's wages are higher than women's in the same occupation, and why women lag behind men in the top jobs.

"Women are now more educated than men," [Goldin told the Associated Press](#). "They graduate from college at much higher rates

than men. They do better in high school than men do. So why are there these differences?"

In the first half of the 20th century, laws limited women's ability to work [when married](#) or [pregnant](#). In the second half of the century, birth control, later marriages and education resulted in [substantial progress for women in the labor market](#). However, a gender gap persists into the present day—a gap that is compounded by additional factors, such as class, race, ethnicity, and ability. Dr. Goldin's research shows that, when gender is the primary factor for consideration, parenthood and lack of childcare are the main factors contributing to the ongoing pay gap. As women are normally expected to shoulder caregiving responsibilities in the home, this pay gap begins a year or two after a woman's first child is born. And yet, since the Comprehensive Child Development Act was vetoed by President Nixon in 1971, an act which would have created a national daycare program, consistent and affordable access to quality child care options remains elusive for most American families.

While Goldin's research is not focused on solutions to entrenched problems related to gender and labor, [other economists note the importance of her work](#) for better understanding these issues, which is a critical step for creating meaningful social and legal change.

~Nancy Major

PHM AAUW Calendar

- DEC 6** Morning Books, 10 am, Carol Walsh's home.
- DEC 8** Holly Jolly Holiday Party, 5 pm, Brookview Clubhouse
- DEC 13** Kinder's gift card sale ends
- DEC 15** Mah Jongg, 12:30 pm, Brookview Clubhouse
- JAN 10** Layette Shower, 10 am, Janice Walker's home
- JAN 10** Board Meeting, 7 pm, TBD
- JAN 15** Lunchin' Ladies, 11:30 am, Troy at 720 Main St., Martinez
- JAN 17** International Soup Supper, 6 pm, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Pleasant Hill
- JAN 19** Mah Jongg, 12:30 pm, Brookview Clubhouse

Please note: There will be no Board Meeting or General Meeting in December.

Grand Slammers

For information, contact:

Marlene de Laurenti
mdl@astound.net or
 925-934-4171



MORNING BOOKS

MORNING BOOKS will meet on Wednesday, December 6th, 10 am, at Carol Walsh's. We will be discussing *West with Giraffes* by Linda Rutledge. This book tells of two giraffes who survive a hurricane crossing the Atlantic and are then trucked across the nation to the San Diego Zoo. Many adventures occur! Please let Carol know if you plan to attend. In January (3rd) we will be discussing Kim Fay's "Love & Saffron: A Novel of Friendship". Plan to join us for great discussions on these current books.

LUNCHIN' LADIES

Lunchin' Ladies will not meet in December. Lunchin' Ladies will resume on January 15, 2024 and meet at Troy, 720 Main Street, Martinez at 11:30 AM. Please reserve by the Monday before, which is January 12th.

NO EXCEPTIONS TO RESERVATION DEADLINE DATES PLEASE. To reserve your spot, contact Gayle Miner (925) 788-3272 by cell or gayle.miner@yahoo.com by email.

MAH JONGG

Mah Jongg will meet on Friday, December 15th at the Brookview Clubhouse, 12:30 PM. We will meet next on Friday, January 19th 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)

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