



NEWS

NOW/EVENTS/WOMEN/SUCCESS

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



Presidential Postings

Welcome to a new year here in the Pleasant Hill - Martinez AAUW Branch.

Many a thank you goes to all who have served our branch this past year and for all the years before that! And to those who will serve in the new year, my heartfelt thanks!

The next big event for our branch is the Fall Welcome Brunch on Saturday, September 16th, at Marilyn Thelen’s lovely home, when we look forward to hearing about all the ongoing activities in the branch as well as future programs and special events. I enjoy seeing our 2023 Tech Trek girls and families and listening to their adventures at the Sonoma State Tech Trek camp in June. And there is always a wonderful brunch to share as we visit and welcome guests and potential new members.

The newsletter will have most of the important information about upcoming programs, but there will be occasional email blasts with the latest information.

Thanks you for being an amazing group people who make advancing equity and for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research a big part of who you are.

Reba Siero
PH-M AAUW President, July through December
rebasiero@yahoo.com

Are any of you able to open your home for Board meetings for the first 4 meetings of the year? The dates are August 9, September 13, October 11, and November 8. Please let Reba know!



AAUW Fund
[Click here for update](#)

Tech Trek



[Click here for update](#)

Local Scholarship



[Click here for update](#)

Barbara Newacheck and Named Gift Honoree

2023 awards go to Virginia Hewgley

When Virginia joined AAUW Pleasant Hill-Martinez Branch she immediately jumped in with both feet. She joined the local scholarship committee, assisted Carol Walsh as co-chair, and continued on as chair for several years after Carol stepped back.

Virginia has been a significant member of the Tech Trek committee. She has become the right hand for Diane Coventry, our Tech Trek coordinator. Her tasks include organizing Tech Trek candidates for interviews, organizing class monitors for the actual camp, and maintaining a spreadsheet of contact information for current and previous campers.

Many of us enjoy going to the plays at DVC. Virginia puts out the information, collects the money and purchases the tickets as a fundraiser for Local Scholarships and Tech Trek. Recently she volunteered to take on



Communications by posting about AAUW and our branch on Facebook, Instagram, and Nextdoor. Next year she volunteered to take on doing the branch newsletter.

Through all her activities with our branch she does manage to sometimes join the Mah Jongg group.

When Virginia sees something that needs to be done, she will do it with a smile. She is very conscientious and puts every effort into what she does. Virginia is a valuable member of our branch. Congratulations and well deserved.



WELCOME BACK BRUNCH

Save the date! Our annual Welcome Back Brunch will be held on Saturday, September 16. Marilyn Thelen has graciously volunteered to open her lovely home to all of us once again!

Our Tech Trek girls will report on their experiences at Sonoma State Camp Franklin this summer, you will have a chance to sign up for interest groups, we will hold our first General Meeting of the 2023-24 year, and of course we'll enjoy a delicious brunch! This a great time to invite friends who are curious about AAUW and might be interested in becoming new members.



AAUW Fund Report

Welcome New Fund VP Gayle Miner

Thank you, Claudia Bass, for serving as AAUW Fund VP. Claudia will continue to be on the committee. Appreciation also goes to Helen Pereira and Jennifer Apkarian for their help in making the Fund team successful.

Looking forward to next year, you will be given a solicitation letter to donate to the National AAUW Fund in September at the Fall Brunch. It will be in your directory. Many of the endowments are well endowed and National AAUW encourages members to donate to greatest need. This allows flexibility to implement programs that fulfill AAUW's mission.

The committee will be looking into having a fall Kinder's sale. More details will be available later.

SAVE THE DATE!

Wine and cheese gathering at Sandy Wolfe's August 11, 3- 5:30 pm, to support Tech Trek.
More info to come.

“No matter the size of your contribution, it is always appreciated.”

As always, we encourage our branch members to join the AAUW Fund committee. We meet every other month, and the time commitment is not great. We would enjoy having new members. Our next meeting is July 17, 2023, at 3 PM at Carolyn Barcklay's house. Contact Gayle or Carolyn if you are interested in coming.

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

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

CALIFORNIA AAUW HAS STARTED A PROGRAM AWARDING CERTIFICATES TO THOSE WHO CONTRIBUTE \$100 OR MORE TO AAUW FUND

The following members received certificates -
Associates's Circle: Harriett Burt

Sustaining Circle: Margi Alkire, Kathleen Wheeler,
Patricia Harris

Century Club Circle: Gina Zagotta, Ish Mendonsa,
Nancy Hobert, Charlotte Liniger, Marti Martin,
Marlene Maksel, Ilene Linssen, Lorrie Osborn,
Suzanne Salter, Bambi Barker, Sandy Wolfe,
Janice Walker, Diane Coventry

Congratulations and thanks to all of you!



Tech Trek Tidings

Franklin Camp at Sonoma State was a success;

Johnson Camp begins soon.

Six Trekkers from Pleasant Hill and Martinez spent the week of June 18 - 24 on the beautiful campus of Sonoma State University in Rohnert Park. Maggie Kramschuster, Addison Young, Ivy Kohn, Kayli Wright, Terra Massollo, and Belle Lemesh stayed in dorms with other Trekkers from around the Bay Area, ate their meals in the Student Cafeteria, attended core classes (Botany, Chemistry, Geometry, Engineering and Aerospace Engineering), participated in workshops in medical technology, went on a field trip to the Sonoma Water Authority, and heard speakers at Professional Women's Night.

Volunteers from 13 branches filled 47 Class Monitor time slots, nine Dorm Moms made sure everyone got to where they were supposed to be, and six Junior and Senior Counselors helped teachers, recorded classes, and wrapped up loose ends. The only glitch was our fearless leader, Diane Coventry, fell at the Sonoma Water Authority, and ended up having surgery to mend both her leg and shoulder. Undaunted, she is still overseeing Camp Johnson while she recuperates, with



Volunteers from Petaluma Branch ready to sign in Trekkers!

plenty of help from members at other Northern California branches.

We were introduced to this year's Trekkers at the End of Year Brunch, and solicitation letters were handed out so we can send girls to this very exciting STEM program next year. Thanks to all of you who have already sent your donation in to Trinkia March. If you did not get your letter, contact Trinkia (drtrinks@sbcglobal.net) and she'll make sure you get one.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Did you hope to volunteer but were busy for the week of Franklin Camp? There are still plenty of time slots open at Johnson Camp, July 24 - 28. The Pleasant Hill and Martinez girls won't be there, but really, they're all our girls, aren't they? If you'd like to volunteer, here is a link to the sign up:

[SignUpGenius Tech Trek](#)

Local Scholarship Awards 2023

At our June 2023 Brunch, college scholarships were presented to five local High School Seniors. These deserving girls were recognized for excelling in their high school years, not only with excellent grades, but also in community service and leadership ability. They were each awarded a \$1,000 AAUW scholarship in recognition of their achievements. This year's scholarship recipients are Erin Hurley and Lauren Cardinale from College Park High School, and Monica Morrison, Yara Hassan, and Khin May May Lwin from Alhambra High School.

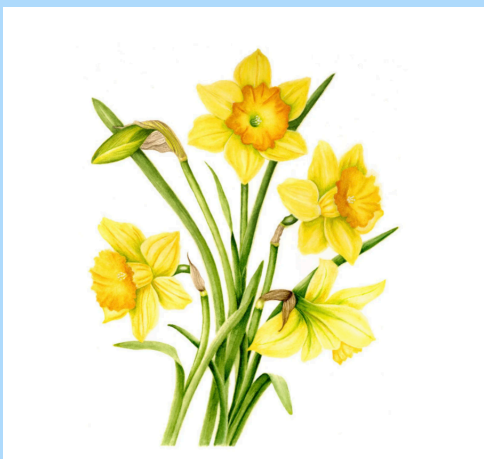
In the fall, Erin is going to University of Puget Sound and completing a double major in German and International Relations, and Lauren will attend St. Mary's College and will major in English. Monica is headed to University of California, Irvine to major in Philosophy and Astrophysics/Astronomy. Yara will attend UC Berkeley and will be studying



Data Science/Business. Khin May May is off to UC Merced, majoring in Human Biology/Molecular Biology.

Our branch is proud to award these young women our 2023 scholarships. As a branch, we strongly support the Local Scholarship Fund through several fundraisers including our Silent Coffee Klatch, Gourmet to Go, as well as individual member donations. Thanks to everyone who made these scholarships possible!

GOURMET TO GO



Thank you for supporting our Spring Fundraiser. We offered 2 meals (a chicken and a beef dish) from Classic Catering in Pleasant Hill. Everyone picked up their meals at the catering place.

41 dinners were ordered. We were able to contribute \$275 each to Tech Trek, Local Scholarships, and AAUW Fund.

We appreciate you participating in our fundraiser for scholarships.

~Sherrie Moore



PHM AAUW Website

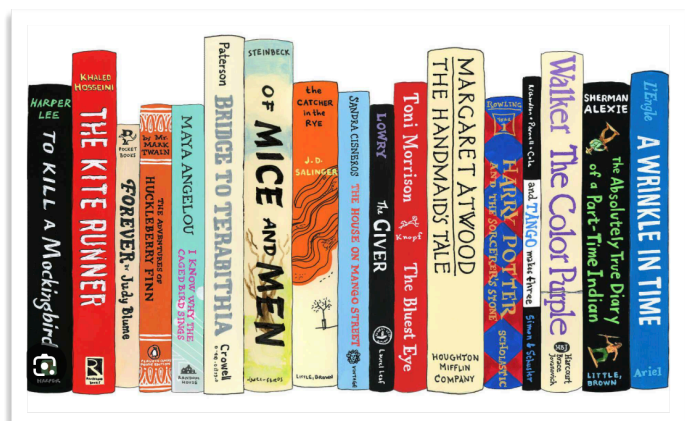
Our website will show you everything you need to know about our Pleasant Hill - Martinez branch. See the pictures from our June Brunch on the **Photos** page. Check out our new board on the **About Us** page. Meet the Tech Trek and Local Scholarship girls on the **Community Action** page. See our Barbara Newacheck and Named Gift Honoree on the **About Us** 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





Book Exchange Round Robin - 2nd Call

This is your annual opportunity to join the BOOK EXCHANGE!

Read up to 12 hardbacks published in 2023 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. You can purchase 2, or potentially 3, books to join all the Exchanges and double or triple your reading pleasure or choices!

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 place in the Exchanges now. We should begin exchanging books by October 1st.

Letter from the Editor

The newsletter has a new format. I hope you like it!

I am very excited to be taking over the formatting, editing and distribution of our branch's NEWS. Thanks to Reba Siero for putting out the newsletter these many years!

The NEWS deadline will be the 25th of each month. It is best to send me the text you want in an email with any images as attachments. I can also copy and paste text from Word or Pages documents. Don't put images in a Word document, they will degrade when I change formats. I am also happy to write up articles if you send me the facts you want incorporated. Please do not send PDFs for articles as I cannot reformat them to fit the template. PDF flyers are still great for email blasts, however.

You can submit articles and comments about the newsletter to vhewgley@astound.net

~Virginia Hewgley

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

CONGRATULATIONS TO NANCY SILVA, WHO WAS THE WINNER OF OUR EARLY BIRD MEMBERSHIP DRAWING - SHE WILL RECEIVE A FREE NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP THIS YEAR.

Beyond Our Branch

AAUW happenings in our county, state and nation-wide.

The Contra Costa County IBC is a collaborative of nine local branches - Benicia-Vallejo, Clayton, Concord, Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek, Delta-Contra Costa, Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette, Pleasant Hill-Martinez, San Ramon, and West Contra Costa - which work together to offer opportunities for local advocacy, networking and joint programs to advance opportunities for women and girls. IBC meets every other month. Are you interested in learning more about what is happening with AAUW in our county? Perhaps you would be interested in becoming our branch's IBC representative. If so, contact Reba Siero.

Our state AAUW leaders have put in time this summer coming up with a strategic plan for the coming year. Last year State did a great job reaching out to branches with Zoom workshops on many different subjects, including technology and the use of social media. The state website has tools for branches

WRITING A CHECK TO OUR BRANCH FOR FUNDRAISING, PLAY TICKETS OR ANY OTHER PURPOSE?

Please make checks out to:

AAUW PLEASANT HILL - MARTINEZ BRANCH

to use including resources for fundraising, membership, and leadership.

AAUW National has also been hard at work the past year. Most recently, they have been advocates for the Pell Grant program, endorse the Gender Equity in Education Act, and are urging President Biden to finalize the Title IX Rule before the 2023-24 school year. You can read about these and other Policy Updates [here](#). The website also has an [Advocacy Toolkit](#) we can use to reach out to our local community about issues of concern.

If you have not perused the State and National websites lately, check them out! They are full of relevant information that could inspire you to become more involved with our mission!

**AAUW CONTRA
COSTA COUNTY
INTER-BRANCH
COUNCIL**

[http://ccc-ibc-
ca.aauw.net](http://ccc-ibc-ca.aauw.net)

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PHM AAUW Calendar

JUL 21	Mah Jongg, 12:30 pm, Brookview Clubhouse
AUG 9	Board Meeting, 7 pm, TBD
AUG 18	Mah Jongg, 12:30 pm, Brookview Clubhouse
AUG 11	Wine and Cheese Gathering, 3-5:30 pm, Sandy Wolfe's
AUG 21	Lunchin' Ladies, 12:30 pm, Crescent Bistro
AUG 25	Sept. NEWS deadline
SEP 6	Morning Books, 10 am, Janice Walker's
SEP 16	Welcome Back Brunch, 10 am, Marilyn Thelen's
SEP 18	Lunchin' Ladies, 12:30 pm, The Cooperage
Sep 22	Ways and Means, 11 am, Brookview Clubhouse

Grand Slammers

For information,
contact:

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



MORNING BOOKS

Morning Books will not meet in July or August. The list of books chosen for the 2023-24 year has been sent to all of you and many of you have volunteered to be hostesses and discussion leaders. Thank you! Our first meeting will be on Wednesday, September 6th, 10 am, at Janice Walker's. We will be discussing Kate Morton's *Homecoming*. We still need a discussion leader for that book. Please plan to join us for an exciting year of reading and discussing great books.

LUNCHIN' LADIES

Lunchin' Ladies is taking a break in June and July. We will resume our outings on August 21 at 12:30 PM at Crescent Bistro, downtown Pleasant Hill. Reservations must be in by the Monday before, which is August 14th. In September, Lunchin' Ladies will travel to The Cooperage in Lafayette, 12:30 PM. Reserve by the Monday before, which is September 11th. 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, July 21st at the Brookview Clubhouse, 12:30 PM. We will meet next on Friday, August 18th 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)

2023-24 Leadership Team

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