



# NEWS

NOW/EVENTS/WOMEN/SUCCESS

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



## Presidential Postings

### Looking forward to fall activities!

Marilyn Thelen’s lovely home was the venue for our amazing 2023 Welcome Brunch on Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to everyone who made it happen, led by our great Membership VPs, Diane Peterson and Karen Winters. The food was delicious, the company was lively, and our guests were charming. The annual member

directories were handed out and we learned about upcoming events within and beyond the branch.

There is no scheduled meeting in October, but reserve the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday in November for an interesting program arranged by our Program VP, Carlyn Obringer. Enjoy the ongoing Interest Sections, and other smaller group gatherings. The calendar listing in each newsletter will tell when and where various meetings take place.

If we are to have a Holiday Party, now is the time for a committee to take on its planning. Let me know if this is something you and your group might like to do.

And we need a Parliamentarian to guide the formation of our Nominating Committee that will find the leadership for our next program year. Please let me know if you can help with this.

Thanks for all you do locally and on a broader scale for AAUW.

~Reba Siero

Writing a check for Fund, DVC plays, or events? Please make it out to AAUW of Pleasant Hill - Martinez.

### Board Vacancies



Open Appointed Positions

### AAUW Fund



Kinder’s cards are back!

### Community Action



SAM is returning to Fair Oaks in February

## September Welcome Brunch

Membership team organizes a very successful event!!

The September 16th Welcome Brunch was a great event! A total of fifty-seven people attended, including three Tech Trek girls and their families. The girls reported on their experiences with smiles and enthusiasm.

A big "thank you!" to all who helped to make this a fun event. And a HUGE thanks to Marilyn Thelen for hosting the event again. Special thanks to George March, Jennifer and Jeff Apkarian, and Helen Pereira who literally did the "heavy lifting" to get everything set up.

The Welcome Brunch is organized by our Membership Chairs. Karen Winters and Diane Peterson did a great job this year, and we may have a few new members join as a result! Do you have friends who weren't able to make it to the brunch but are interested in joining? Have them contact Karen or Diane.



## NOVEMBER PROGRAM - JONATHAN LEE

Mr. Lee will talk about his work with the Contra Costa County Bar Association's Port Chicago Task Force, which is comprised of member attorneys as well as non-attorneys from the community with an interest in the Port Chicago 50. The Port Chicago Task Force was formed with two goals - to raise awareness of this injustice in the broader community and to advocate for setting aside the mutiny convictions of the Port Chicago 50. Join us November 15 at 6 pm to learn more about this bit of local history and its repercussions.

## OPEN APPOINTED POSITIONS

There are still several open Appointed Positions that need to be filled.

A **HISTORIAN** is needed to collect and organize all the important objects such as programs, photos, brochures, important notices, newsletters, etc., that reflect the year's activities. If you're a scrap-booker, this position is for you!

Obtaining the funds we need to make our programs, such as Tech Trek, successful may need a **MAJOR FUNDRAISING** event to obtain those monies. One or two of you who like to plan fun and successful events are needed by our Branch.

Lastly, we need a **PARLIAMENTARIAN**. Not only does this person make sure that meetings are held in a proper manner, but she is also the head of the Nominating Committee, which makes sure that we have all the elected officers required to conduct the business of our organization.

If you would like to fill any of these open positions, please contact President Reba Siero.

Thank you for your help,

~Helen Pereira



## AAUW Fund

[Kinder's gift cards are here!](#)

Kinder's Gift Cards in \$20 denominations will be available November 1 to December 13, 2023. We receive \$4 for each gift card sold, and the proceeds fund a scholarship for a local DVC student. These always sell fast, so contact Gayle Miner or Claudia Bass soon if you want to purchase one or more.

The annual solicitation letters for AAUW Fund were given out at the Welcome Brunch. If you did not attend and you haven't received your letter yet, please contact one of the Fund VPs and they will get one to you. Thank you for your generosity!

Our next Fund meeting will be on November 13, 2:30 pm at Gayle Miner's home.

~Carolynn Barcklay & Gayle Miner

### SAVE THE DATE !

PH-M AAUW ANNUAL LAYETTE SHOWER

Mark your calendars! Wednesday, January 10, 2024. More info to come.

~Janice Walker



## Tech Trek Tidings

Special guests at Welcome Brunch recount their experiences.

The Tech Trek Committee would like to thank Trekkers Ivy Kohn, Tarra Massollo, and Maggie Kramschuster and their families for taking the time to attend our Welcome Brunch. Our members enjoyed getting a chance to talk with the girls. They all showed a lot of composure when they got up to speak about their experiences at Sonoma State. One common thread was how powerful it felt to be surrounded by other girls who are also interested in STEM! Trekkers also enjoyed building Jiggy Bots, Learning about Astronomy, and making structures for Build It! Night.



Ivy Kohn, Tarra Massolo, and Maggie Kramschuster recount their Tech Trek experiences.

Tech Trek will be putting on a raffle at the Soup Supper again this year. Think about what you would like to donate! We made \$400 last year and hope to do at least as well this year.

Don't forget! Half of the proceeds for *All Shook Up!* at DVC on Nov. 5th will also go toward Tech Trek scholarships.



## SAM At Fair Oaks

Join us for another session of art and music in February and March.

Would you like to be a SAM volunteer? We are creating a curriculum for our SAM (Study Art and Music) Program for Fair Oaks Elementary School in February/March. Our lesson plan always includes an artist and a composer.

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 19 volunteers on our list. It is lots of fun and rewarding.

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



## International Soup Supper

Save the date!!

Our annual Soup Supper will be held at St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church in Pleasant Hill on January 17th at 6 pm.

Enjoy hearty homemade soups, breads, and desserts while socializing with your AAUW friends and participating in a raffle to support Tech Trek’s 2024 Camp at Sonoma State. Cherise Pound will be speaking about her experiences living abroad for our program.

You can bring a pot of soup, bread, or dessert, or if you don’t feel like cooking, pay \$10 at the door. This is a wonderful opportunity to bring friends, as well, so they can learn what our organization is all about!

The Soup Supper Committee is accepting items for the raffle. Contact Sherrie Moore, Diane Coventry, Suzanne Salter, or Claudia Bass if you have questions.

Corrections to 2023-24 Directory - Gail Soldivani’s address is 2141 Wilmington Dr., Walnut Creek. Elva Valli’s email is [vallielva@gmail.com](mailto:vallielva@gmail.com). Please make corrections to your copy.

**WEBSITE:**

[www.aauw-pleasanthill-martinez.org](http://www.aauw-pleasanthill-martinez.org)

**FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK:**

AAUW Pleasant Hill/Martinez - CA Branch

**FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM:**

@phm\_aauw

**NEXTDOOR:**

PHMAAUW

**EMAIL :** [PHMAAUW@ICLOUD.COM](mailto:PHMAAUW@ICLOUD.COM)



### RESERVE YOUR TICKETS FOR ALL SHOOK UP BY OCTOBER 20!

Join us for the first DVC play of the season, *All Shook Up!* This musical features the music of Elvis Presley, and we will be attending the November 5th matinee at 2:30. The play will be performed in the large Performing Arts Center. Parking in the DVC lot is free on Sundays. Tickets are \$30. Contact Virginia Hewgley at (925)768-4417 or [vhwgley@astound.net](mailto:vhwgley@astound.net) if you are interested in joining us.



## PHM AAUW Website

Our website will show you everything you need to know about our Pleasant Hill - Martinez branch. See the pictures from our September Welcome Brunch 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](mailto:rebasiero@yahoo.com) or 925-917-1061



## CA AAUW Public Policy

### Advancing Gender Equity is Advancing Environmental Sustainability (and vice versa)

After a year of wild weather in California, many of us may be thinking more about climate, environment, and sustainability. How does our concern with the weather relate to AAUW California's [Public Policy Priorities](#)? Advancing gender equity is directly related to environmental sustainability. The inverse is also true.

[The United Nations sustainable development goals](#), adopted in 2015, seek to push all countries to act to protect the planet, ensure widespread prosperity, and promote peace. Achieving gender equality, goal number five, is a crucial element in this overall strategy.

We know that [having greater gender diversity in leadership](#) improves organizations. One of AAUW California's public policy focus areas is increasing women in leadership positions. However, advancing this goal can also have positive climate impacts. [The UN has found that having greater gender diversity in climate discussions leads to improved outcomes](#) on climate-focused policies and projects. This is just one case in which we can see how sustainable development goal 5, promoting greater gender equality, alongside advancing AAUW California's public policy priorities, can be important for achieving sustainable development goal 13, creating more impactful climate action.

Data also shows us that (un)sustainable production and consumption patterns, which harm the environment, [tend to be gendered](#), with "green" choices being widely feminized. While this is a global trend, we see this in popular portrayals of more planet-friendly consumption choices in the United States, as well, such as veganism, [which tends to be marked as more "feminine"](#) and less "masculine." This example shows us that sustainable development goal 5, promoting greater gender equality, alongside AAUW California's overall public policy mission of advancing equity for women and girls, is also important for achieving sustainable development goal 12, which focuses on creating more planet-friendly and responsible production and consumption patterns.

Advancing gender equity is directly related to environmental sustainability, and vice versa. In advancing AAUW California's public policy goals, and expanding the rights of all women and girls, we can help create the conditions for greater justice and inclusion, economic parity, and environmental viability, all at the same time.

*~Written by Missy Maceyko, Co-Chair, CA State Public Policy Committee*

### NEXT BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, October 11 @ 7 PM

In person at Virginia Hewgley's home or on  
Zoom.

## Beyond Our Branch

### Book banning coming to CC County!

The Interbranch Council (IBC) is a collaborative of 9 local branches who meet 4 times a year to network, work together on local advocacy, and put on joint programs. Zoom meetings take place 7 PM Thursdays - 9/26, 11/28, 2/27, and 5/21. Responsibilities for leading the meetings and taking minutes rotate through the member branches. Reba Siero needs someone to attend the 11/28 meeting with her, and she can work behind the scenes to help when our our branch shares responsibilities with Concord January 1 - March 31, 2024.

Our neighbors in the Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek branch have a lot going on, including a panel on October 19 discussing the recent censorship challenges at the SRVUSD Board meetings. Click [here](#) to see their newsletter.

If you would like watch a recording of the CA AAUW’s webinar, “Book Banning and Curricula Censorship in California? AAUW California to the Rescue!” click [here](#).

## PHM AAUW WANT ADS

**Holiday Party Committee Members** - Do you enjoy celebrating the winter holidays with good food, pleasant company, festive decor, and seasonal music? We need your enthusiasm and organizational skills! Contact Reba Siero 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.

**Parliamentarian** - No experience necessary - we have a handbook for you and folks who are willing to offer you guidance! 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.

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## PHM AAUW Calendar

|        |                                                                                   |
|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| OCT 4  | Morning Books, 10 am, Margie Pruitt's                                             |
| OCT 11 | Board Meeting, 7 pm, Virginia Hewgley's home & Zoom                               |
| OCT 16 | Lunchin' Ladies, 12:30 pm, 3 Brothers from China                                  |
| OCT 20 | Last day to sign up for DVC play - <i>All Shook Up!</i>                           |
| OCT 20 | Mah Jongg, 12:30 pm, Brookview Clubhouse                                          |
| OCT 25 | November NEWS deadline                                                            |
| NOV 5  | <i>All Shook Up!</i> , 2:30 pm, DVC Performing Arts Center                        |
| NOV 8  | Board Meeting, 7 pm, place TBD                                                    |
| NOV 13 | Fund Meeting, 2:30 pm, Gayle Miner's home                                         |
| NOV 15 | General Meeting, 6 pm, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church (Please note time change) |

## 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, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 10 am, at Margie Pruitt's. We will be discussing Bonnie Garmus's *Lessons in Chemistry*. Evidently a movie is in the works based on this popular book. A totally engrossing book about a single mother, a chemist, and yet, the star of a cooking show! Please let Margie know if you are planning to attend. In November we will meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> for *Dinners with Ruth: A Memoir on Friendship* by Nina Totenberg. Plan to join us for great discussions on these current books.

## LUNCHIN' LADIES

On October 16, Lunchin' Ladies will head to 3 Brothers from China in Pleasant Hill at 12:30 PM. Please reserve by the Monday before, which is October 16th. In November, we will try out Katy's Kreek in Walnut Creek on the 20th .

NO EXCEPTIONS TO RESERVATION DEADLINE DATES PLEASE. To reserve your spot, contact 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, October 20th at the Brookview Clubhouse, 12:30 PM. We will meet next month on Friday, November 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

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