



NEWS

NOW / EVENTS / WOMEN / SUCCESS

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



Presidential Postings

The 2023 September Welcome Brunch will be held at Marilyn Thelen’s lovely home on Saturday, September 16th.

We will share a wonderful brunch, visit with each other, welcome guests and potential members, and hear about all the ongoing activities in the branch, as well as future

programs and special events. We will learn about the adventures at the Sonoma State Tech Trek camp in June as our 2023 Tech Trek girls and families join us. It is always great to see that our fundraising efforts make a difference for those we support.

Check out all the fun Interest Sections. There is something for everyone! Take a look at the calendar listing in each newsletter to be reminded of when and where various meetings take place.

Thanks to each of you who make our branch such a wonderful organization. Until we see each other on the 16th!

~Reba Siero

1

CALENDAR

[Click here for events and Interest Section meetings.](#)

2


WEBSITE

[See photos of our recent events and learn more about upcoming activities.](#)

3

LEADERSHIP TEAM

[Find contact information for 2023-24](#)



Proposed Budget

[Click here for update](#)



Tech Trek

[Updates about our STEM summer camp for middle school girls.](#)

Board Vacancies



[Open Appointed Positions](#)

Tech Trek Wine and Cheese Event

Socializing for a good cause.

The August Wine and Cheese fundraiser was a big success. Thirty-five people enjoyed the afternoon in Sandy Wolfe's backyard. Thanks to the people who donated wine and appetizers, we had no overhead! We were able to clear over \$800 toward Tech Trek scholarships. Thank you, Sandy, for hosting this fun event!



WELCOME BACK BRUNCH - RESERVE BY SEPT. 11!

Our annual Welcome Back Brunch is Saturday, September 16th at 10 am. Marilyn Thelen is hosting in her beautiful back yard at 5318 Stonehurst Dr., Martinez. Bring a friend who may be interested in joining so they can see what we're all about!

Cost is \$10/person. Contact Helen Pereira for reservations:
H (925) 685-0757, C (925) 285-1766, or helenmp45@aol.com





AAUW Fund Report

Welcome New Fund VP Gayle Miner

One of the Fund Committee's jobs is to raise money for National AAUW. This is why you will receive a Solicitation Letter along with your new Directory at the September 16th Welcome Brunch. The funds raised from the Fund Solicitation Letter go directly to National AAUW for National's various programs, educational grants, and fellowships. Fund Co-Chair Carolynn Barcklay is the person collecting your donations and sending them in to National. You can also donate to National directly online at www.aauw.org. You have been very generous in the past and we hope you will be generous again this year.

Our fall Kinders Gift Card Sale will be held from November 1 to December 13, 2023. During that time, Gayle Miner and Claudia Bass will have the gift cards for sale at \$20.00 each. They are good for any item at Kinders and do not expire. Think stocking stuffers at Christmas! Fund makes \$4.50 for each card sold. More detailed information about the sale will be in the October NEWS. The fall and spring Kinders Gift Card sales are Fund's major fundraisers for our branch and if successful, will enable Fund to provide a \$1,000 scholarship to a deserving DVC student going on to a 4 year college.

The Fund Committee is always looking for a few more members to help us with our various endeavors by serving on our committee. It does not require a lot of time and we only meet every other month. Won't you please join us for a meeting to learn what we are all about? Our next meeting is Monday, September 25, at 2:30 PM, at Gayle Miner's home. Please call Gayle Miner or Carolynn Barcklay if you would like to attend our next meeting.

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

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

We're off to a great start for 2024 Camp!

Many thanks to everyone who

responded to the Tech Trek fundraising letter. We have collected \$4180 from member donations so far. If you want to make a direct donation, Trinka March is still accepting tax deductible checks made out to AAUW-CA SPE. Write Tech Trek Sonoma Camp on the memo.

Thanks also to Kiwanis Club of Martinez for donating \$500 and the Rotary Club for donating \$1000. And hats off to Sandy Wolfe for putting on the Wine and Cheese event, which brought in another \$860!

Fundraising will continue the musical *All Shook Up!* at DVC on Nov. 5th.

Want to get a taste of what the girls did at camp? Follow this link to see a video of future STEM experts in action - [Sonoma Franklin Camp](#)

I am very appreciative of all the well wishes for my speedy recovery. Thank you for the cards and flowers and keeping me in your thoughts. I feel the love and support as I heal and gain my strength back week by week. I expect to be up on my feet walking by the end of September.

Feeling grateful,
Diane



David Gerson of Martinez Kiwanis presents \$500 donation check to Tarra Massollo, Ivy Kohn, and Virginia Hewgley.



Addison Young, Belle Lemesh, Kayli Wright, Tarra Massollo, Maggie Kramschuster, and Ivy Kohn pose for branch photos at Sonoma Franklin Camp.



Diane Coventry, Helen Pereira, Dylan Farrar, and Sanvi Panda present information about Tech Trek to the Rotary Club..

EXCERPTS FROM OUR TREKKERS' THANK YOU NOTES



I WAS SO EXCITED WHEN I FOUND OUT I HAD AEROSPACE ENGINEERING AS MY CORE CLASS. I LEARNED ABOUT NEWTON'S LAW, THRUST, AND GRAVITAIONAL PULL.
~ ADDISON YOUNG



...I'm so happy I found out about this amazing STEM community. I will for sure come back as a JC when I'm old enough!
~Ivy Kohn



One of my favorite nights was astronomy night and I would love to keep studying when I get home.
~Maggie Kramschuster

I've learned so much during my stay here and that makes me want to learn so much more.
~Belle Lemesb



...hearing insights from people on the same path motivates me further to continue pursuing my dreams. ~Tara Massallo



It was so amazing to be in a classroom filled with passionate, smart young ladies. I will never forget this awesome trip.
~Kayli Wright

2023 TECH TREK FRANKLIN CAMP AT SONOMA STATE





All Shook Up! at DVC November 5th

Join us for the first play of the season in the Performing Arts Center.

DVC Drama is putting on their musical extravaganza right out of the gate this year. This is the description of the play from the website:

It's 1955, and into a square little town in a square little state rides a guitar-playing young man who changes everything and everyone he meets. Loosely based on Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, this hip-swiveling, lip-curling musical fantasy will have you jumpin' out of your blue suede shoes with such classics as "Heartbreak Hotel," "Hound Dog," "Jailhouse Rock," and "Don't Be Cruel."

Sounds like a lot of fun, doesn't it? This will be a matinee show at 2:30 pm and tickets are \$30. You can contact Virginia Hewgley (vhewgley@astound.net) to reserve yours.

WANTED: CO-CHAIRS FOR THE HOLIDAY PARTY!!

Now is the time to start planning our annual holiday get together.

Contact Reba Siero if you are interested.

If you are the kind of person who likes to plan ahead, the next play will be *Radium Girls*, playing in the Arena Theater November 17 - December 2.

In the spring, March 29 - April 14, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern* will be performed in the Performing Arts Center, and the final spring play (April 24 - May 12) is still unannounced.

Proceeds from the plays are divided evenly between Tech Trek and Local Scholarship.

WEBSITE:

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

Letter from the Treasurer

I am looking forward to being the treasurer for our branch. It certainly is a learning curve. Thank goodness our previous treasurer, Trinkia March, was so organized and helpful. We need to thank her for being our treasurer for 6 years.

I would like to thank Reba Siero, Carlyn Obringer, Virginia Hewgley, Karen Winters, and Diane Peterson for helping to develop the proposed budget. Please review it, and we will vote for approval at the September Brunch.

If you want to write a check to donate to AAUW Fund, Tech Trek, Local Scholarships, or Barbara Newacheck, please indicate on the memo line of your check where it goes. Use the Deposit/Reimbursement Request Form when giving me checks/cash or requesting to be reimbursed. This assures that it will be accounted for in the correct subgroup. The form is available on our website: [Deposit/Reimbursement Form](#) This is also helpful for record keeping. Thank you,

~Claudia Bass

AAUW PLEASANT HILL- MARTINEZ BRANCH PROPOSED BUDGET 2023-2024	
REVENUE	
MEMBERSHIP DUES	\$1,768.00
ADS	\$50.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$1,818.00
EXPENSES	
DIRECTORY	\$225.00
HOSPITALITY	\$50.00
INSURANCE *	\$500.00
MEMBERSHIP	\$100.00
PROGRAM	\$778.00
WEBSITE *	\$115.00
SUNSHINE	\$25.00
STATE RAFFLE REGISTRATION *	\$25.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,818.00

WRITING A CHECK TO OUR BRANCH FOR FUND, PLAY TICKETS OR LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP?

Please make checks out to:

AAUW PLEASANT HILL - MARTINEZ BRANCH

NEXT BOARD MEETING

SEPTEMBER 13, 2023 @7 PM

HELEN PEREIRA'S HOME OR ZOOM



Book Exchange Round Robin - Last Call

We need additional members to make BOOK EXCHANGE worthwhile!

This is your annual opportunity to 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 hope to have two Exchanges where you can purchase two books to join each Exchange - there is no duplication of titles. Joining one Exchange is also welcome. Please call with any questions.

Please contact Mary Hanlon @ [925/934-3528](tel:9259343528) (Home) or [925/286-2223](tel:9252862223) (Cell) or mkhbibliophile@aol.com with your selected title and author **PRIOR** to purchasing your book. **DEADLINE** for reserving your titles - and your place in the Exchanges - is **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18th**. We should begin exchanging books by October 1st.

OPEN APPOINTED POSITIONS

As our Branch is beginning a new year of meetings and activities, we find ourselves not yet fully equipped to operate at the fullest level.

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

An **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 is 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



PHM AAUW Website

Our website will show you everything you need to know about our Pleasant Hill - Martinez branch. See the pictures from our August Tech Trek Wine and Cheese event 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



Beyond Our Branch

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

AAUW National has been working to address the Supreme Court's June 30th decision to support the six states challenging President Biden's Student Loan Forgiveness Program. Gloria L. Blackwell, AAUW's Chief Executive Officer, released a statement on June 30th urging the Biden Administration to provide solutions to the student debt problem and to expand loan repayment programs. Student loan debt disproportionately affects women, and especially women of color. To read more about women and student loan debt, click [here](#).

At the state level, Kathi Harper, outgoing State Public Policy Chair, announced that AAUW California is partnering with the organization Equality California. The goal is to keep California schools free from book banning and curriculum censorship. They are also recruiting candidates for nonpartisan school board positions to run against candidates backed by groups outside the local community who would deny student access to diverse

curriculum and historically accurate information. Learn more about Equality California by clicking [here](#).

Locally, the Orinda Moraga Lafayette Branch has been working hard to further AAUW's mission. They were instrumental in making Tech Trek Johnson Camp at Sonoma State a success. The July camp included many branches who historically went to Stanford for Tech Trek, and are located in the South Bay Area, making it more difficult to recruit volunteers. OML did a wonderful job of stepping up to fill in the gaps! In addition, they put on an annual STEM conference for girls at St. Mary's College, give local scholarships to high school girls and undergraduates in the High Potential Program at St. Mary's College, and donate time and materials to the library at Burckhalter Elementary in Oakland.

At their first General meeting September 19th, speaker Teli Thayer will be talking about a local organization to promote entrepreneurship among girls, [Girls Crushing It](#). You can learn more about this branch at <https://oml-ca.aauw.net/>

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

<http://ccc-ibc-ca.aauw.net>

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Suite 100, Sacramento,
CA 95833

**AAUW NATIONAL
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800-326-2289

connect@aauw.org

<http://www.aauw.org>

PHM AAUW Calendar

SEP 6	Morning Books, 10 am, Janice Walker's
SEP 15	Mah Jongg, 12:30, Brookview Clubhouse
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
Sep 25	Deadline for October NEWS
Oct 4	Morning Books, 10 am
Oct 11	Board Meeting, 7 pm, Helen Pereira's
Oct 16	Lunchin' Ladies, 12:30 pm, 3 Brothers From China
OCT 20	Mah Jongg, 12:30, Brookview

Grand Slammers

For information, contact:

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



MORNING BOOKS

Morning Books will meet at 10 am Wednesday, September 6th, at Janice Walker's house. We will be discussing Kate Morton's *Homecoming*. This book is set in Australia and is an epic novel that spans generations. It asks what we would do for those we love. Please let your hostess know if you plan to attend.

In October, we will be discussing Bonnie Gamus's *Lessons in Chemistry*. Plan to join us for great discussions on current books!

LUNCHIN' LADIES

On September 18, Lunchin' Ladies will travel to The Cooperage in Lafayette, 12:30 PM. Reserve by the Monday before, which is September 11th. In October, we will make an outing on the 16th to Three Brothers From China in Pleasant Hill.

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, September 15th at the Brookview Clubhouse, 12:30 PM. We will meet next on Friday, October 20th 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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