



NEWS

NOW / EVENTS / WOMEN / SUCCESS

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



Presidential Postings

We will be having a general meeting this month!

Program VP Carlyn Obringer has arranged for another wonderful program on March 20. Logan Robertson, director of Home Match Contra Costa, will address affordable housing in our county. We are going back to 7:00 for our meeting, but feel free to come ahead of time for fellowship.

Carlyn also submitted information about the Port Chicago program for consideration as an outstanding program. Winners will be featured at this year's AAUW California Annual Event on April 27, 2024.

Hospitality Chair Pat Harris would like a volunteer to shadow her to see what the job entails. Drinks and snacks make our meeting special, so if you can help out, please give her a call.

Please be ready to say "YES" when the Nominating Committee gives you a call. We absolutely must have a president, secretary and treasurer for our branch to continue operating.

The next Board meeting will be on March 13th at my home.

~Nancy Hobert

WE HEARD YOU!

Although it is too late to change dates and times for this year's speakers, next year we will be planning to offer some Saturday and daytime General Meetings.

March Program



Home Match of Contra Costa County

Game Day



Annual fundraiser

Public Policy



From CA AAUW

Membership Alert



A call to action!

Beginning April 3rd to May 15th, all members will be able to vote on a proposed National Bylaws change to Open Membership. This would open membership to those without a degree, but who support our efforts for inclusion and equality. AAUW's National Board supports this change.

Why the change? This will enable us to include members with diverse backgrounds and perspectives. Those without degrees fight for gender equity just as we do.

AAUW has been viewed as discriminatory, and as such not qualified for other grants or funds.

Our standing as a national organization that advances gender equity with a value of inclusion is at risk if we do not allow all who support our mission to join us.

Our Branch has had to turn away interested potential members because of the degree requirement.

How to Vote: Those with an email on file will receive an email from vote@simplyvoting.com. The email will not come from AAUW but from a company hired to conduct the voting.

Check your email and spam/junk mail folders around April 3rd. You will receive a unique Elector ID and Password to vote.

If you do not have an email on file, you will be sent a paper ballot by mail.

PLEASE VOTE! A two-thirds affirmative vote is required to change the Bylaws.

~Karen Winters & Diane Peterson Membership Chairs

MARCH PROGRAM - LOGAN ROBERTSON OF HOME MATCH CONTRA COSTA

Please join us Wednesday, March 20th, at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church to learn about Home Match, a program that is helping to address the affordable housing challenge in Contra Costa County. Home Match connects homeowners seeking a housemate with individuals seeking an affordable housing opportunity. See the attached flyer for more information, or go to <https://covia.org/programs/home->





A successful SAM workday

Thank you, SAM volunteers!

Eleven volunteers met with us at Fair Oaks on February 13th when we reviewed our PowerPoint presentation of composer Sergei Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf* and artist, Charley Harper. We cut out all different shapes for the students to use in their pictures and discussed the volunteer jobs – to hold up pictures, pass out supplies, clean up, and ogle over the students' pictures.

We accomplished a lot and are ready for the art and music lesson in every classroom, including TK and Special Ed, the last week of February and the first week of March. More to come next month in the Newsletter.

~Sherrie Moore, Barb Minneman, and Helen Pereira



Save the date!

Our next DVC play is coming up in April.

We will be heading to the Performing Arts Theater at DVC to see *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* on April 14 at 2:30. This comedy takes two minor characters from Shakespeare's *Hamlet* and brings them to the fore.

The deadline for ordering tickets from Virginia Hewgley (925-768-4417, vhwgley@astound.net) is March 29th.

We hope you can join us! Tickets are \$30 each and proceeds are divided between Tech Trek and Local Scholarship.





Tech Trek applications are in!

Interviews will be held in March.

We received 13 completed applications in total, and all four middle schools in our area are represented this year.

As you know, the price per camper is \$1300. We are able to send 5 campers this summer, with some money left in reserve. If we are to continue to send campers we desperately need a fundraising committee for Tech Trek, reaching

beyond our membership for sponsors. Thank you to both Rotary and Kiwanis for their continuing support for our branch. We are applying for a grant from Kiwanis to sponsor one camper for 2025.

We are also still looking for someone to be a TTAG (Tech Trek Alumni Group) Advisor so we can keep in touch with our Tech Trek girls and have them involved in our branch and local STEM Programs. This is also a great way to expand our membership to include Tech Trek families and the girls once they enter college.

~ Diane Coventry & Virginia Hewgley

GAME DAY IS COMING!

THURSDAY, APRIL 11

12:00 PM - 2:30 PM

BROOKVIEW CLUBHOUSE

\$10 PER PERSON

Come join us for an afternoon of playing MAH JONGG, BRIDGE, or MEXICAN TRAIN.

Snacks and beverages will be provided. Proceeds will benefit LAF, AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund.

LetCarolynn Barcklay (925-323-8229 or cbarcklay@hotmail.com) know if you can join us and which game you will be playing. Bridge players need to reserve in groups of four.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!



Message From the Nominating Committee

AAUW members, we need you!

Our PHM branch is looking for two or three women to share the job of president for our 2024-25 year. All of our other board positions have been filled. We must have the president position filled in order to continue to be a branch under the National AAUW Organization. Perhaps you and a friend or two could help us out. Many members have served as president already, some more than once. Please do your part and serve your AAUW branch as president. It sounds scary, but it really isn't. Contact Gayle Miner, Nominating Committee Chair, if you are able to serve.

~Gayle Miner, Nominating Committee Chair,
925-788-3272 or cell gayle.miner@yahoo.com



Coffee Klatch

As the days pass by, we continue to receive donations

from our generous members.

To date, there have been 31 contributions for a total of \$2,770. Again, we appreciate your participation in this important fundraiser. On March 22, the deadline for turning in applications

NOMINATIONS FOR 2024-25

We have nominees for the following positions:

Program Vice President - Carly Obringer

Membership Vice Presidents - Diane Peterson & Nancy Hobert

AAUW Fund Vice Presidents - Carolyn Barcklay and Gayle Miner

Secretary - Helen Pereira

Treasurer - Claudia Bass

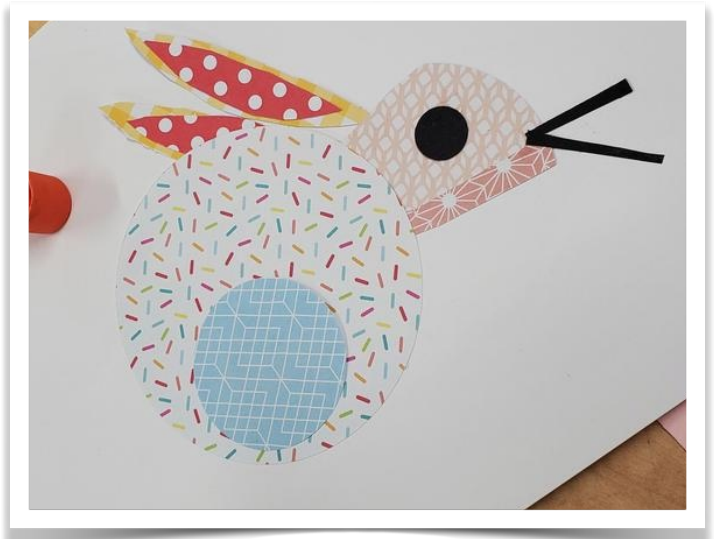
WE STILL NEED A PRESIDENT - PLEASE CONSIDER SAYING "YES" WHEN THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE CALLS SO WE CAN CONTINUE OPERATING OUR BRANCH!

will have been reached, at which point the committee will read and study them individually, and then meet to make decisions as to which students will receive the \$1000 scholarships. We still hope to award these scholarships to two college-bound Senior girls at both College Park and Alhambra High Schools.

~Helen Pereira, Local Scholarship Chair

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

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



PHM AAUW Website

Our website will show you everything you need to know about our Pleasant Hill - Martinez branch. See photos from our SAM (Study Art and Music) Program on the **Community Action** 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, Webmaster



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

The role of California School Boards

AAUW California is concerned about the censorship of classroom material, the heightened enforcement of board policies rejecting diversity, and providing discriminatory policies against gay and minority students. This concern now leads me, as a former school board member, high school teacher/department chair and adjunct college professor, to reflect on the role of school boards in California and their limitations.

The State Board of Education (SBE) is the controlling structure for K-12, and is the governing and policy-making body of the state for public education. Among its duties is the adoption of statewide academic standards for content and of curriculum frameworks. These inform and guide the local school boards in the development and implementation of specific curricula for K-12 students, and serve as the basis for the adoption of instructional materials. School board members represent districts within the school district boundaries.

In 2023 AB1078 was passed, which requires the California State Department of Education to assess if school boards are in compliance with state laws requiring public schools to provide diverse and comprehensive education. It requires local school districts with insufficient instructional materials to

correct this and authorizes the department to purchase (at district expense) adequate curricula if the district restricts students from learning about important topics like racism, sexism, and gender-based marginalization.

AAUW branch members play a critical role in ensuring all California school boards are governed by board members who will follow AB 1078, and who oppose policies that infringe on the civil rights of LGBTQ+ students.

AAUW Morgan Hill members are attending meetings of the Morgan Hill Unified School District board to monitor both the board and the public for threats to AB 1078 and the rights of all students to an equitable education. If you would like to join the public policy team to attend MHUSD meetings, contact Public Policy Chair Susan Rife.

~Seena Trigas, Member AAUW California Public Policy Committee School Board Project



SAM volunteers at Fair Oaks Elementary

PHM AAUW Calendar

Mar 6	Morning Books, 10 am, SarahJoy Haynes's house.
Mar 11	Fund Committee Meeting, 2:30 pm, Carolynn Barclay's house.
MAR 15	Mah Jongg, 12:30 pm, Brookview Clubhouse.
MAR 15	Wine Tasting Group, 4 pm, Diane Peterson's house.
MAR 18	Lunchin' Ladies, 12 noon, Ristorante Amoroma, 360 Park St., Moraga.
MAR 20	General Meeting, 7 pm, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church.
APR 3	Check for an email from vote@simlyvoting.com
APR 15	Lunchin' Ladies, 12 noon, The Hideout Kitchen, 32 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette.
APR 19	Mah Jongg, 12:30 pm, Brookview Clubhouse.

Grand Slammers

For information,
contact:

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



MORNING BOOKS

MORNING BOOKS will meet on Wednesday, March 6th, 10 am, at SarahJoy Haynes's home. We will discuss *Someone Else's Shoes* by Jojo Moyes. An innocent mistake of picking up the wrong bag results in big changes in 2 lives. Please let SarahJoy know if you plan to attend.

On April 3rd we will be discussing Julia Kelley's *The Last Garden in England*. Plan to join us for great discussions on these current books.

LUNCHIN' LADIES

Lunchin' Ladies will meet on Monday, March 18 at Ristorante Amoroma, 360 Park Street, Moraga at 12:00 PM. NOTE TIME. Then, on April 15, we plan on going to The Hideout Kitchen, 32 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette at 12:00 PM. As always, reservations are due to Gayle Miner by the 2nd Monday of the month.

Gayle Miner (925) 788-3272 by cell or
gayle.miner@yahoo.com by email.

MAH JONGG

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

2023-24 Leadership Team

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