



Pleasant Hill-Martinez (CA) Branch

# N.E.W.S.

**Now/Events/Women/Success**

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

Volume 57 Issue 3

November 2014

## A Conversation with Our School Superintendents

Education, both locally and statewide, will be the topic at the November Branch Meeting when Superintendents Rami Muth and Dr. Nellie Meyer talk about the successes and the issues facing Martinez Unified and Mt. Diablo Unified school districts.

The meeting will be held on **Thursday, November 13th at 7 p.m.** to accommodate the schedules of the busy district leaders. The Martinez Unified School District board room at 922 Susana Street will be the location. The talk will begin at 7:15 after a short business meeting. The public will be invited to attend.

Each superintendent will give a brief survey of the successes and challenges in their districts and the transition to the common core state standards and the impact this has for teaching and learning. There will be time for questions on these and other issues in education including those strongly supported by AAUW members.

"I am truly looking forward to this event and sharing information about the exciting work we are doing," Ms. Muth said recently, noting that she and Dr. Meyer have a very good working relationship and talk quite often.

Directions: From Alhambra Avenue, turn right on Jones at the fire station, drive two blocks and turn left on Estudillo and then right on Susana. The building is on the left beyond the park.

From Pacheco Boulevard, drive north past the S curve when Pacheco becomes Pine Street and take the first left which is Susana Street. The building will be on the right in the second block.

From 680, take the Marina Vista off ramp and turn left. At the bottom of the hill overlooking downtown Martinez, turn left on Court Street and follow the street past the jail where it becomes Pine Street and turn right on Susana. If you reach the S curve, you've gone too far.

SAVE THE DATE  
ANNUAL SOUP SUPPER  
January 15, 2015

(Look for full details in the next Newsletter)





## Presidential Postings

Co-Presidents Katrinka March & Gayle Miner

A wonderful evening was enjoyed by those of you who attended Festa Italiana on Saturday, October 4 at Viano Winery in Martinez. Hats off to Carole Larson and Elena Noble for being outstanding Co-Chairs of this great fundraising event. BUT, we want you to know that they had a tremendous amount of help and support before, during and after this event. The people who work behind the scenes, from the original planning committee to those who shopped for paper products and silverware, to those who shopped for lasagna, oil, balsamic vinegar, bread and salad items, to those who made fantastic appetizers and salad at home and transported all of it to the winery, to those who served the dinner, made the coffee, and made the biscotti, to those who lugged extra tables, the coffee pot, and warm lasagna to the event, to those who were there at 10:00 AM to set up tables, pop-up shade covers, and decorate tables, to those who printed and sold tickets, to those who checked people in and sold raffle tickets, to those who cleaned up afterwards, down to the very last paper napkin, and to our friendly winemaker, Mr. Viano and his delicious wine tasting table, these people are the backbone of our Festa event and we say a tremendous THANK YOU for helping to make Festa a success. As you can see, it takes a huge amount of people working together to put on an event such as Festa for everyone to enjoy. What is special about the members of Pleasant Hill Martinez Branch of AAUW is that they say "YES!" when asked to participate in the behind the scenes part of an event. It takes a village to raise a child, it takes a willing community of AAUW members to host a fantastic event that raises funds for our various endeavors. Thank you one and all for being so generous with your time, energy and talents. One or two people cannot do it alone. Please consider saying "YES" when asked to work behind the scenes at an AAUW event. As you can see, you are really needed and will work with remarkable people!

A huge THANK YOU goes to Janet Sullivan for agreeing to be our Community Appointed Officer for Pleasant

Hill. We appreciate her willingness to serve on the board for this year.

Trinka and Gayle

## In Memoriam

### Jean Hambleton

We recently lost a dear friend and AAUW member. Jean Hambleton, mother of Kit DeGear, passed away. Jean was President of our Pleasant Hill Branch from 2009-2011. She was also a Named Gift Honoree in 1994-95 and again in 2009-10. Please keep her family in your thoughts and prayers.

Jean was a very involved member of PHM AAUW. Over the years, she worked on almost every AAUW branch committee with professionalism and enthusiasm and enjoyed many interest groups. Up until a few months before her passing, Jean attended Morning Books, one of her favorite activities. She was always very articulate in giving her impressions of the book being discussed, and when she spoke, everyone listened. Often, she would bring up a point that hadn't occurred to others. She loved discussing and analyzing books with others.

EF was dear to Jean's heart and she worked on the EF Committee for many years as the education of young women was very important to her. Jean loved Festa Italiana and enjoyed providing appetizers for that event over the years, at times working alone on this project.

Jean's love of travel took her to many places throughout the world, traveling with friends. She had the uncommon ability to remember the names of the smallest villages that she visited.

Jean was a very gracious, welcoming, and proper lady. She hosted a Christmas Tea every year for her neighborhood, using her china teacups and accessories, everything properly served and presented.

Jean Hambleton promoted and participated in AAUW activities to help achieve the National goals of AAUW. She was a strong member and will be greatly missed by everyone.

Celebration of Life Memorial Service

for

Jean Hambleton

Saturday, November 8, 2014

At 2:00 P.M.

Hillcrest Congregational Church

404 Gregory Lane

Pleasant Hill, CA

Donations may be made in Jean's memory to :

Pleasant Hill Martinez AAUW

Local Scholarship Fund



## *Festa Italiana 2014*

Carol Larson and Elena Noble, Co-Chairs

**We want to thank everyone who helped make**

**The Festa such a success this year.**

**If you cooked, shopped, decorated, cleaned, hauled furniture, sold tickets, advertised, took pictures, wore a silly hat, or just came to enjoy the food and drink the wine, thank you.**

**We especially want to thank our host Viano Winery and those who generously donated to our raffle with gift certificates and gift baskets.**

**This year after expenses we hope to realize plus or minus \$3K for our efforts.**

**Not bad for a lovely fall afternoon in the vineyards of California.**

**See you next year!**

### **MARTINEZ COMMUNITY** Nancy Hobert

**Nov. 12-15** Alhambra High School drama department will be putting on "To Kill a Mockingbird". Curtain is at 7 o'clock. Ticket prices: students/seniors \$8 presale, \$10 at the door. Adults are \$10 presale, \$12 the door. Tickets can be purchased online at <https://ahsbulldogstore.myschoolcentral.com>

**Armando's** features the best of LIVE music including jazz, blues, bluegrass, folk. Cash only, serves beer, wine and soft drinks on Thursday through Monday nights. Check out [www.armandosmartinez.com](http://www.armandosmartinez.com) for details.

**Thursdays at Roxx on Main:** - 7 to 10 p.m. Open mike. .slots are 3 songs/15 minutes . . .stop by to participate or enjoy bites, bevies and local music.

**The Martinez Historical Society** Quarterly Meeting on Sunday, November 16 from 1-3pm at the Martinez Veterans Hall, 930 Ward Street, presents "Remembering Martinez World War II Veterans". The featured speaker is Chuck Kohler, a Pearl Harbor Survivor. In addition, local author, Rhonda Lomeli will be signing her recently published book "Semper Fi" about her father, Al Lomeli and his brother Raul Lomeli's WWII experiences. Light refreshments will be served.

### **SAVE THESE DATES**

**Nov 8** Jean Hambleton Memorial Service

**Nov 13** A Conversation with our School Superintendents, Branch meeting open to the public

**Nov 16** Tech Trek fundraiser, Tahoe Joe's, lunch or dinner

**Nov 18** CCC IBC Meeting

**Nov 27** Thanksgiving Day

**Dec 12** Holiday Party, reservations by Dec 8

**Jan 15** Soup Supper

## INTEREST GROUP MEETINGS



**\*\*MORNING BOOKS** will meet on Wednesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, 10 am, at Ginny Hargrave's. PLEASE let the hostess know you are planning to attend! We will be discussing *Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. The story involves a young couple from Nigeria ~ one comes to the U.S. and the other goes to London. The experiences they have in each country are very revealing about racial prejudices ~ among all races. In December, we will be discussing M. L. Stedman's *The Light Between the Oceans*. Please join us for great discussions!



**\*\*EVENING BOOKS** will meet on Monday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm, at Marlene Maksel's. Please let the hostess know if you are planning to attend. We will be discussing *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown. The book is about the rowing (crew) team from the University of Washington, which went to the 1936 Olympics. Please join us for the discussion.



**\*\*MATINEE IDLE** will go to the movies on Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. Because Thanksgiving and Christmas both fall on our 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday, we are combining the two months and going early in December. We usually attend a matinee at a local theatre. Call Marlene (689-5439), if you are planning to attend, or if you have any suggestions for a movie. We always discuss the film after over coffee or other liquid refreshment.



**\*\*CULTURAL CONNECTION** will not meet in November or December due to very full calendars! Watch your January N.E.W.S. for a tour in January.



**\*\*IN INDELIBLE INK** will meet on Wednesday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, 10 am, at Marlene Maksel's. Our topic will be to write about a story about a photo, which was exchanged at the October meeting. Interpretations of the photos will be compared with the "real" story. If you weren't present in October, bring a photo of your own and tell the story. We love oral versions, too. Please come and share your story!



**\*\*LUNCHIN' LADIES** will go to The Nantucket in Crockett on, Tuesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, at 1 pm. Please let Marlene know if you are planning to attend, so reservations can be made ~ cut-off date will be November 14<sup>th</sup>. This restaurant has been around for a long time and has always had good seafood. It is a very casual place. If you have a restaurant you would like to try, please let Marlene know ~ we need some unique suggestions.



**\*\*MAH JONGG** is a new interest group – Friday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, 1:00 at the Brookview Clubhouse. \$2.00 per person. Bring your set, if you have one, and remember your card. Contact **Sherrie Moore** if you would like to play. 229-4177 or [moresherrrie@comcast.net](mailto:moresherrrie@comcast.net)



**\*\*NIMBLE FINGERS** is a revived interest group – won't be meeting in until January. Look for information about the meetings in the January newsletter. Bring your sewing, knitting, mending or any craft. If you like, bring a bag lunch. Everyone is welcome. Contact **Suzanne** for more information at 283-3050 or [gmasm39@yahoo.com](mailto:gmasm39@yahoo.com)



**\*\*MONDAY NIGHT BRIDGE** will play November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7 pm at Brookview Clubhouse. Call Gayle Garrison and Elizabeth DiPietro ( call Elizabeth after Oct 28). Gayle 798-7528

# AAUW PH-MTZ Winter Wonderland



Happy  
Holidays



Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup> 6-9 pm

1201 Monument Blvd.

Brookview Clubhouse, Concord

Appetizers, drinks, catered dinner, and entertainment

**\$32 per person, checks to PHMAAUW**

By December 8<sup>th</sup>, RSVP and send your check to:

Marlene Maksel

1201 Monument Blvd. #12

Concord, CA 94520

Bring your spouse and/or friends  
Seating is limited, reserve early

George March's Clarinet Fusion



## AAUW FUNDS

Laurel Gaiser and Marlene Maksel  
AAUW Funds Co-Chairs

Did you know that AAUW has been empowering women as individuals and as a community since **1881**? How many organizations do you know which have that longevity in their list of accomplishments?

One of the newer roles AAUW has been sponsoring is The National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). Your Funds committee (Chairs: Laurel Gaiser and Marlene Maksel, Members: Muriel Fry, Georgette Armstrong, Patricia Harris and Ginny Hargrave) is in the beginning stages of finding a woman student at DVC who might be eligible to attend the conference.

The successful applicant would join with 1,000 other campus leaders for a truly transforming experience on the University of Maryland campus at the end of May 2015. This is one way we can build leaders for the future ~ in our communities, in local and national politics, and as role models for young girls.

As the application process continues, your Funds committee will keep you informed of the progress towards our goal.

## TECH TREK TIDINGS Janice Walker

Thanks to all who attended our October Game Day. It was a lovely afternoon of fun and games! Your support was greatly appreciated! More details regarding our fundraising efforts will be in next month's newsletter.

### **Tech Trek Fundraiser**

Tickets are still available for our Tech Trek Fundraiser at Tahoe Joe's on Sunday, November 16. This is an easy and fun way to support our efforts to send four seventh grade girls to STEM camp next June. For only \$20 you can enjoy a three-course meal with entree choice of steak, chicken breast, or ribs for either lunch, dinner or take-out along with earning an \$8.00 contribution for Tech Trek. So do plan to join us for this event. Contact me, Janice Walker, for tickets - 925-827-3374 - [sandjwalk@comcast.net](mailto:sandjwalk@comcast.net)

## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Alana Macdonald and Claudia Bass  
Membership VPs

It is always hard to lose a member due to their passing. Jean Hambleton will be missed and our thoughts go out to her family.

Welcome to our new member Caren Lucich. Please add her information to your directory.

Caren Lucich  
421 Beatrice Rd  
Pleasant Hill, CA 94553-3822  
925 946-0506  
[clucich@comcast.net](mailto:clucich@comcast.net)  
San Diego State University  
B.A. English and Teaching Credential

### **Changes or corrections:**

Sherrie Moore's email address has changed to:  
[moresherrie@comcast.net](mailto:moresherrie@comcast.net)

Debbie Weibe's correct email address:  
[Deborah Wiebe@comcast.net](mailto:Deborah_Wiebe@comcast.net)

AAUW National has a program called Shape the Future Campaign which assists branches in recruiting new members. What that means is, if a person turns in an application to join at an AAUW branch sponsored public event they attend, they would have their national dues reduced by 50% with a savings of \$24.50. The stipulation is that they need to be brand new to AAUW. So those of you who bring a guest to an event or meeting (which are open to the public) you might want to tell them of the opportunity to save on their dues if they turn in their application "on the spot". Every bit helps. We all are part of the membership team.





## EMERITUS COLLEGE ANNUAL HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Tickets are going fast for the Holiday Luncheon on December 6<sup>th</sup> from 11:30-1:30 in the Food Court on the DVC Campus. The menu includes appetizers, two pasta dishes, salad, and dessert. There will be entertainment, raffle prizes, a silent auction, and handmade items for sale. The luncheon provides an opportunity to relax with friends, enjoy good food, and do some holiday shopping in the process. Tickets are \$25 and help support Emeritus College whose mission is to provide affordable classes for people 50+. Call (925) 969-4316 to reserve your seat. If you wish to sit with friends, please register together. Tickets will not be available at the door.

Priscilla Tudor  
Emeritus College  
(925) 969-4315

**OCTOBER BOARD MEETING:  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2014**

**7 PM**

***Home of Trinkka March***

**Copy deadline for the December 2014 N.E.W.S. is:**

**November 21st**

Please email copy to:

Reba Siero [rebasiero@yahoo.com](mailto:rebasiero@yahoo.com)

## EDUCATION

Ilene Linssen

### ***WHERE DO YOU STAND?***

This past June a group of students and parents, backed by a Silicon Valley millionaire, filed a suit against the state of California (Vergara v. California). The suit stated that the laws governing tenure deprived students of a decent education by leaving bad teachers in place. Judge Rolf Treu of Los Angeles Superior Court ruled that teacher tenure laws deprive students of their right to an education under the State Constitution and violates their civil rights. In his ruling he wrote "The evidence is compelling. Indeed it shocks the conscience."

The decision struck a blow to teachers' unions who maintain that tenure is a necessary protection for teachers. They plan to appeal the judge's ruling. Governor Brown and other state officials who are named in the suit have already filed their appeals.

While both sides are working to present their evidence when the case again comes to court, the California ruling has reverberated in other parts of the country with groups in New York, Connecticut, Oregon, and states that have similar tenure statutes, planning to mount their own attacks.

Currently the law in California remains unchanged, pending the out come in future court actions.

It seems certain that more will be heard of this controversy as we face the November election. In the one debate agreed to by Governor Brown and his opponent Neel Kashkari, Mr. Kashkari attacked the Governor's backing of the status quo, saying that Governor Brown was siding with the unions at the expense of students. It remains to be seen how big a role the tenure fight will play in the election and it will be interesting to see how the sides stack up; who will be for the current tenure law and which of our elected officials will be against.

*Where do you stand?*





WAGEPROJECT.ORG



Elena Noble

The Big News this year is that **\$tart \$mart** Classes will now be run through **AAUW** in Washington DC.

**Annie Houle and Dorrie Sieburg**, formerly of **The WAGE Project**, will continue to head up the program that offers salary negotiation classes to graduating college students. **Evelyn Murphy**, the founder of WAGE will become a consultant for the project.

We have been told except for a few changes, such as Logo, some job titles, and a tweaking of the PowerPoint, **\$tart \$mart** Classes will retain the same format.

In the past 3 years **\$tart \$mart** has been offered to colleges in all 50 states. Here in Northern California, we have seen our AAUW members teach and present the classes to well over 15 local colleges. When licensing cost was a factor, branches help

pave the way. Last month **Elaine Groen of AAUW Concord** and I met with **Inter Branch Council, (IBC)** to propose that the nine branches in **Contra Costa County** combine to purchase a three year license for the **Contra Costa Community College District, (CCCCD)**. After meeting with **AAUW member, Chancellor Helen Benjamin**, we determined that one license could be used to accommodate students at the three main campuses of **DVC, Las Lomas and West Contra Costa**. The cost to each branch would be about \$63 a year or \$189 over three years,

We pointed out several reasons to take on this challenge.

- The students were more likely to be from our local high schools and our friends and neighbors.
- In the near future, some community colleges are looking to give four year degrees.
- AAUW would have a new presence in the community supporting Equal Pay for Equal Work.
- AAUW membership could benefit through the College Partner online membership program.

IBC members are going to talk to their branches and let us know at the November 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. So far three branches have said yes.

If you have any questions about this proposal, please feel free to contact me at [enoble4@astound.net](mailto:enoble4@astound.net)



## Pleasant Hill - Martinez AAUW Website



Our website will show you everything you need to know about our Pleasant Hill- Martinez branch. See photos from the Festa when you scroll down the **Community Action Page**. Check out the pictures from our October meeting on the **Photos Page**. Also, enjoy photos from the SAM (Student Art Music) Program at Fair Oaks Elementary School on the **Community Action Page**.



Just go to <http://www.aauw-pleasanthill-martinez.org> for all of this and more. Forward any questions or comments that you may have to the webmaster, located on the **About Us page**.

**Sherrie Moore, webmaster**

## Nominating Committee 2014-2015

The nominating committee for 2014-2015 will be elected at the general meeting in November.

The nominees from the board are:

Ilene Linssen  
Janet Sullivan  
Nancy Hobert, alternate

The nominees from the general membership are:

Georgette Armstrong  
Charlotte Liniger  
Judy Hamberg  
Diane Peterson, alternate

Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the General Meeting in November before the vote.

## 2014-2015 LEADERSHIP TEAM

### Presidents:

Trinka March 372-8420 [drtrinks@sbcglobal.net](mailto:drtrinks@sbcglobal.net)

Gayle Miner 349-6795 [gayle.miner@yahoo.com](mailto:gayle.miner@yahoo.com)

### Vice Presidents - Program:

Harriett Burt 372-8038 [hjburt1940@comcast.net](mailto:hjburt1940@comcast.net)

SaraJoy Haynes 372-9211 [plumleather@aol.com](mailto:plumleather@aol.com)

### Vice Presidents - Membership:

Claudia Bass 372-8679 [cbasslancer29@aol.com](mailto:cbasslancer29@aol.com)

Alana Macdonald 933-4427 [alanam88@gmail.com](mailto:alanam88@gmail.com)

### Vice Presidents - AAUW Funds

Laurel Gaiser 322-8676 [lagaiser@comcast.net](mailto:lagaiser@comcast.net)

Marlene Maksel 689-5439 [marlene@maksel.us](mailto:marlene@maksel.us)

### Secretary:

Helen Pereira 685-0757 [helenmp45@aol.com](mailto:helenmp45@aol.com)

### Treasurers:

Jennifer Apkarian 228-2027 [apkarian1@att.net](mailto:apkarian1@att.net)

Kathy Heath 228-1976 [Kmamh1894@gmail.com](mailto:Kmamh1894@gmail.com)

### Newsletter Editor:

Reba Siero 228-8211 [rebasiero@yahoo.com](mailto:rebasiero@yahoo.com)

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**Copy deadline for December 2014 N.E.W.S. is**

**November 21st** Please email copy to: **Reba Siero**  
[rebasiero@yahoo.com](mailto:rebasiero@yahoo.com)

### Webmaster

Sherrie Moore 229-4177

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

### AAUW C C C Inter-branch Council Chair:

Position currently vacant

### California State office of AAUW:

1331 Garden Highway, Suite 100  
Sacramento, CA 95833

<http://aauw-ca.org/>

## PH-M AAUW N.E.W.S. SPONSORS

### Montecito Animal Clinic



5280 Pacheco Boulevard  
Pacheco, CA 94553  
925/686-0683  
FAX 925/686-4754



Katrinka March D.V.M.  
Karen Shore B.V.M.S.  
Cindy Pieper D.V.M.



# November 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2	3 Monday Night Bridge 7 pm 	4	5 Morning Books 10am 	6	7	8 Jean Hambleton Memorial Service 2 pm
9	10	11	12 In Indelible Ink 10am Board Meeting 7pm 	13 General Meeting 7pm Conversation with School Superintendents	14	15
16 Tahoe Joe's Tech Trek Fundraiser 	17	18 Lunchin' Ladies 1pm  CCC IBC meeting	19	20	21 Mah Jongg 1pm  December N.E.W.S. Deadline	22
23	24 Evening Books 7pm 	25	26	27 Thanksgiving Day 	28	29
30						

Save the Dates: December 12 - Holiday Party; January 15 - Soup Supper