



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 9

May/June 2015

## A Festive End to a Successful Year

May 30 Brunch – 10 a.m.

Brookview Community Room

It doesn't seem possible. The 2014-15 Pleasant Hill-Martinez Branch year is already drawing to a close with our annual Spring Brunch featuring the proof of our hard work and dedication: the presentation of scholarships to four Tech Trekkers from Sequoia and Pleasant Hill Intermediate and Martinez Junior High and four seniors from Alhambra and College Park High Schools. We will also get to meet their proud families.

Also on the agenda will be the installation of our 2015-16 officers by our own Kit Hein, twice president of Pleasant Hill Branch and last year's co-president of Pleasant Hill-Martinez Branch. Long active in Inter-Branch Council and in AAUW-GA during the time she and her family lived in Atlanta, we are confident that moving to the coast will not mean we won't ever see her. And we do know where to find her: [bythebeach15@gmail.com](mailto:bythebeach15@gmail.com). Thanks, Kit, from all of us for your years of service in the Branch and the AAUW world beyond, your enthusiasm and commitment to AAUW goals and issues and your willingness to work hard on any project, event, issue of our Branch, not to mention your sense of humor!

But we can't have a celebration without some of the great food our members are known for (Tech Trek Tea is just the most recent example). SarahJoy says after the sign-up at the April 22 meeting, we need three more egg dishes and at least more two fruit salads or platters. Baked goods are covered and three people are bringing juice. Pat Harris will make sure the coffee and tea are hot. We are expecting around 70 people counting our guests.

The deadline for reservations is **Friday, May 22** – to make them contact :

Harriett at 925-372-8038 or 925-209-0800 or [hjburt1940@comcast.net](mailto:hjburt1940@comcast.net).

**Also it's important to carpool** as the Brookview guest parking will largely be reserved for our award-winning guests and their families. Marlene Maksel will help arrange available spaces. Contact her at 689-5439 or [marlene@maksel.us](mailto:marlene@maksel.us). The Program VPs thank her for all she does to help us .... There would be no programs without a good, reasonably priced place to hold them and Marlene's efficient and dependable work to make it possible.



## PRESIDENTIAL POSTINGS

Co-Presidents Katrinka March & Gayle Miner

As our AAUW year comes to a close we want to thank everyone on the board, both elected and appointed officers, for their year of service to our branch. From planning events, attending board meetings, and contributing their ideas, to working together to make sure everything runs smoothly for our members, our board has worked tirelessly to ensure we had informative events, successful fundraisers and a bit of fun along the way.

We must not forget to thank all of the many volunteers and committee members who worked throughout the year to help make ideas into reality, be it fundraisers, programs or social occasions.

Although the board will have some new people next year, many board members will be returning for another year, some in different positions. However, there are still some important appointed positions that need to be filled. They are as follows: Local Scholarship (1 filled, need 1 more), Soup Supper Co-Chairs (2), Tech Trek fundraising (1 or 2), and Community person to represent Pleasant Hill (1).

Please think about what you can do to help AAUW in the coming year and consider one of these positions. If you have questions or want more information, contact Trinkka March, Gayle Miner, or any board member. We would be happy to explain the position to you. If a board position isn't for you, consider volunteering for one of the many committees that form throughout the year for special programs and events. Joining the board or working on a committee is a great way to meet people, make new friends and most importantly, help women and girls achieve their goals in life through advocacy, education, philanthro-

py, and research.

We hope you all have a happy, rewarding and safe Summer. We will see you at the brunch on September 19<sup>th</sup> to kick off our new year and hear what our Tech Trek girls have to say about their camp experience. Watch for information in the July/August newsletter

Trinka and Gayle

## YOUR VOTE COUNTS

Voting at the National and State levels has begun. Please take a minute or two to vote in these elections. It is important to AAUW and so easy to do. It is your organization. Have your say in how things are done.

The National election information can be found here:

[AAUW National Election](#)

The polls are open online now through June 19<sup>th</sup> at 9 p.m. PDT.

The State election information can be found on the home page:

[AAUW State Election](#)

You should have received personal voting information via email. The online polls close at 5 p.m. on May 8<sup>th</sup>.

***MAY BOARD MEETING; WEDNESDAY, MAY 13***

**7 PM**

***Home of Trinkka March***

**Copy deadline for the July/August 2015 N.E.W.S. is:**

**June 20th**

Please email copy to:

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

## TECH TREK TIDINGS

Janice Walker

Last September I asked for your help and support in our efforts to raise \$3600 to send four girls to our June Tech Trek camp. I am delighted to report that you answered the call in amazing fashion! Tech Trek received over \$4500 in profits from our four fundraisers along with donations from members and friends. This covers the camp cost of 4 girls and gives us some start-up money for the following year! Thank you so much for your contributions that enabled us to reach our goal!

This year the Tech Trek committee has selected four enthusiastic seventh grade girls who all come with impressive scholastic records and a love for science and/or math. They are Sierra Dabby and Anja Groess from Martinez Junior High School, Emma Janssen from Sequoia Middle School and Samantha Reitzes from Pleasant Hill Middle School. I look forward to introducing them to you at the May Brunch. I hope you'll plan on attending so you can see for yourself the potential they hold for the future.

Before I end this column I do need to apologize to Georgette Armstrong whose name I incorrectly published last month. Georgette was the one who made and donated all those delicious cucumber and date and nut sandwiches for the tea, so she definitely needs to be correctly acknowledged!

### *SAVE THESE DATES*

- Apr 15 - June 19** AAUW National Election
- Apr 18 - May 8** AAUW CA Election
- May 9** Art/Wine/Beer Walk - Concord AAUW  
Carquinez Century Ride  
Studio on the Streets 2015
- May 30** PH-M AAUW Continental Brunch 10 am  
Installation, meet our Tech Trek and  
Scholarship recipients  
Brookview Clubhouse
- Jun 18-21** AAUW National Convention - San Diego
- Sep 19** Kick off the New Year Brunch

## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Alana Macdonald and Claudia Bass  
Membership VPs

Membership renewal time has arrived. Thank you to the many members who have already sent in their renewal membership dues. For those that haven't, here is a gentle reminder that **dues are due on June 1**. You may pay by sending a check for \$87, made out to PH-M AAUW, to either Alana Macdonald (233 Western Hills Dr., Pleasant Hill 94523) or Claudia Bass (1706 Endriss Dr., Martinez 94563). You may also pay online with a credit card. Feel free to contact us with any questions.

Also, when filling out the information sheet, if there are no changes just put your name on it and write "no changes." Only fill in the blanks if there is a change or an addition of information. Thanks.

The following members have information changes so please make a note in your directory.

Kit Hein  
1126 Sutherland Drive #3  
Capitola, CA 95010  
Home Phone: 831-854-2165  
Email address: [bythebeach15@gmail.com](mailto:bythebeach15@gmail.com)

Rachel Harris  
Address: 1546 Azalea Ave, Martinez 94553

Also, there is a correction for Deloris McDonald's cell phone number. It is 925-408-7038.

On April 23<sup>rd</sup> we had a fun and successful Happy Hour for new members at Alana's home. It was full of good food, wine and conversation. The attendees were a new group than those who attended in the fall. It was a nice way to get to know each other. Thank you to Gayle Miner, Sherrie Moore and Marie Cattalini for bringing delicious food to share.

Alana Macdonald, [alanam88@gmail.com](mailto:alanam88@gmail.com)  
Claudia Bass, [cbasslancer29@aol.com](mailto:cbasslancer29@aol.com)



## INTEREST GROUP MEETINGS



**\*\*MORNING BOOKS** will meet on Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 10 am, at Sherrie Moore's . PLEASE let your hostess know if you are going! We will be discussing Alan Paton's *Too Late the Phalarope*. This is a story of South Africa and life before the ending of apartheid. Please join us for great discussions!

**Morning Books** will have its last meeting until September on Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 11:30 am, at the Brookview Clubhouse. This will be our annual salad luncheon ~ reservations and food assignments will be made at the May meeting. We will not be discussing a book, but we might have a Quiz! Hostesses are Ish Mendonsa and Marlene Maksel ~ contact either for reservations.



**\*\*IN INDELIBLE INK** will meet on Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 10 am, at Marlene Maksel's. The topic assignment will be "If You Were in High School Today, Which Sport Would You Participate In". We welcome oral versions as well as written and we do NOT critique your writings.

We will not meet in June.



**\*\*LUNCHIN' LADIES** will go to lunch on Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 1 pm, at the Plate and Vine in the Concord Hilton Hotel. We started our Interest Section there a couple of years ago, so we'll see how it has fared! Call Marlene for reservations before Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. If you have a restaurant you would like to try, please let Marlene know ~ we need some unique suggestions.

We will not meet in June.



**\*\*EVENING BOOKS** will meet on Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 6 pm, at a restaurant TBA. The change in date is due to the Memorial Day weekend. Call Marlene before Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup> for reservations. We will be discussing *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Frye* by Rachael Joyce. This is a beautiful story about a retired man who writes a letter to an old friend, and then decides to deliver it by hand ~ walking 600 miles to do so. Please join us for the discussion.

We will not meet again in June.



**\*\*MATINEE IDLE** will go to the movies on Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup>. 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.

**Matinee Idle** will go to the movies on Thursday, June 25<sup>th</sup>. We will go to a matinee at a local theatre. Call Marlene (689-5439) if you are planning to attend, or if you have suggestions for a movie. We usually discuss the film after the movie over coffee or other liquid refreshments. Depending on the show time start, we sometimes have lunch, too.



**\*\*MAH JONGG** Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 at the Brookview Clubhouse. \$2.00 per person. Bring your set, if you have one, and remember your new card. Snacks are welcome. Just to let you know, we'll take a break for the summer. Contact **Sherrie Moore** if you would like to play. 229-4177. [mooresherrie@comcast.net](mailto:mooresherrie@comcast.net)



Our website will show you everything you need to know about our Pleasant Hill - Martinez branch. See pictures on the **Photos Page** from our **April Program** with Alicia Hetman. To view all of our newsletters, go to the **Newsletter Page**.

Just click on this link: <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**

## Art and Music Experiences for Elementary Children at Lakeside Apartments

Can you give an hour of your time to do something creative with elementary school children living at a low income apartment complex off Monument Blvd? An art project? Story telling? A game?

Please contact Susan Lawson at 925-285-4430.



## BOOK EXCHANGE - 1st CALL

This is your annual opportunity to join the BOOK EXCHANGE! Read up to 12 hardbacks published in 2015 for the cost of only one! You buy one book; then each month you receive a new selection from another member of the Exchange.

Please contact Mary Hanlon @ 934-3528 or [mkhbibliophile@aol.com](mailto:mkhbibliophile@aol.com) with your selected title and author **PRIOR** to purchasing your book.

There have been 2 to 3 Exchange Groups for the past few years. Don't miss out! (You can purchase 2 or 3 books to join all the Exchanges and double or triple your reading pleasure!) Reserve your Titles - and your places in the Exchanges - now. We should begin exchanging books by October 1st.

## MARTINEZ COMMUNITY

Nancy Hobert

### May 9 - Carquinez Century Ride

100K or 40K bike ride

Sponsored by the Martinez Rotary Club. Rides begin and end at the Martinez Waterfront Park. Check out [www.martinezrotary.org](http://www.martinezrotary.org) for more details.

### May 9 - Studios on the Streets 2015

12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

500-900 blocks of Main Street and vicinity

The Martinez Chamber of Commerce will be producing Studios on the Streets. It will be unique from other events in the area as it will encompass not only the works of visual artists but will have working visual artists. There will be mimes, music and vocalists interspersed amongst the visual artists.



Check out [armandosmartinez.com](http://armandosmartinez.com) to find out what groups are performing when. Armando's offers any kind of music you can imagine. One of their best is the **Lowell Trio**. Three musicians from the San Francisco Opera Orchestra perform – oboe, English horn, cello and piano. 4-6 on Sunday May 10<sup>th</sup>. Bring your mother to celebrate the day. \$15

### Sundays 10 am to 2 pm

Farmers' Market – every Sunday, marketplace full of fresh California-grown fruits and vegetables.

### Martinez Museum

Tuesdays and Thursdays – 11:30 am to 3 pm First four Sundays of each month – 1 pm – 4 pm, 1005 Escobar Street

## EDUCATION

Ilene Linsen

Just a Little More About Testing...

For the many of you who followed up on last month's education article and actually took a practice test, here is further edification. Hopefully everyone else will now be tempted to see what the new Smarter Balanced Test is like. (Who came up with that name? The first test question is, "Tell what 'Smarter Balanced' means".)

If nothing else, you may want to be prepared for telephone pollsters who are asking Californians if they know about the new tests. So far, 55 percent of parents are not "in the know". The California Department of Education said that state and local school officials are trying hard to raise awareness and to inform parents.

There is considerable concern among educators regarding the new exams, perhaps because it's difficult to conceptualize them from the information that's available. We know students will be taking the tests via computer. Also, the new tests are said to be "adaptable", meaning that students who do well on the questions are asked increasingly more difficult ones, while students who struggle with answers are asked fewer.(???????) School districts are concerned about the students who don't have computers at home, who have less familiarity with computers and who don't have keyboarding skills. These students will likely have a disadvantage and may not do well on the tests even if they are competent with the subject matter. That doesn't sound good for narrowing the "achievement gap".

I don't plan to say any more about the new State Testing Program...that is unless I find out what Smarter Balanced means.

## Game Day for LAF

We had 16 players and three extra donations for LAF. Thank you to all who participated and especially Georgette Armstrong and Kay Schaefer for providing delicious treats.

Patrica Harris

## AAUW FUNDS

Laurel Gaiser and Marlene Maksel  
AAUW Funds Co-Chairs

I hope you all read about the 2014-15 Fellow and Grantees in the latest issue of Outlook. All of them have inspiring and diverse stories, which really point out the value of our AAUW Funds program.

In a follow-up to an International Fellow, do read the story of Justine Rukeba Mbabazi who was awarded an IF in 2003-04. She lost her parents and husband in the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. She became involved in local politics and became an international human rights leader. She is currently a senior legal adviser for the U. S. Agency for International Development for South Sudan. She has also developed a non-profit organization that provides mentorship to young women in Rwanda and connects those women with scholarship resources like her own AAUW fellowship.

Thank you for your continued support of AAUW Funds! You are truly creating miracles!

## 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

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

### Secretary:

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### Treasurers:

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

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**Copy deadline for May/June 2015 N.E.W.S. is**

**April 20th** 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

Email: [office@aauw-ca.org](mailto:office@aauw-ca.org)

Website: <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.



# May 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	10 am Morning Books 6	7	8	9
10	11	12	10 am In Indelible Ink 13 7 pm Board Meeting	14	1 pm Mah Jongg 15	16
17	18	1 pm Lunchin' Ladies 19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	Matinee Idle 28	29	10 am Continental Brunch - Installation 30
31						

# June 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	7 pm Evening Books 1	2	11:30 am Morning Books Annual Salad Luncheon 3	4	5	6
7	8	9	7 pm Board Meeting Joint Board 10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	Matinee Idle 25	26	27
28	29	30				

**Save the Dates:** May 30, 10 am – End of Year Brunch; April 18 to May 26 – AAUW National Election; April 18 to May 8 – AAUW CA Annual Election; Sep 19, 10 am – Begin the Year Brunch