



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 61 Issue 4

December 2018

PLEASANT HILL-MARTINEZ AAUW



Candy Cane Lane

Friday, December 7, 2018

6:00 social time

6:30 dinner

Brookview Clubhouse, 1201 Monument Blvd, Concord

\$50 per guest

Red and white attire optional

Please send your check made out to AAUW Pleasant Hill-Martinez Branch to Bea Ball, 94 Rolling Green Circle, Pleasant Hill, 94523 by December 1.

Your check is your reservation. Attendance limit is 72. Please car pool.

Enjoy appetizers, wine, sparkling cider, dinner, dessert, from Catering by Cynthia, and entertainment



PRESIDENTIAL POSTINGS

The year has flown by quickly and the holiday season is in full swing. It is a time of sharing and caring, a time to celebrate with those we hold dear, a time to reflect on the past year and a time to look to the future. It is also a time to think about ways to provide service to others, whether it is helping out in a soup kitchen, distributing food to the hungry, providing a toy to a child in need, or furthering AAUW's cause to advance equity for women and girls.

On Sunday, November 4, Tech Trek held a fundraiser which was also a "funraiser", and gathered together members and friends to see "Footloose" at DVC Theatre. What a group of amazing talents we have at DVC! They created a stellar production.

On Wednesday, November 7, 167 AAUW members and the general public congregated in the St. Andrews church sanctuary for a very special program. Famous National Park Ranger **Betty Reid Soskin** read from her autobiography *Sign My Name to Freedom* and discussed her fascinating 97-year life. She was very engaging as she answered numerous questions from the audience. It was a very inspiring afternoon. Many thanks to Program Co-Chairs **Harrriett Burt** and **Nancy Hobert** for bringing this event to fruition.

On November 9, a group of women met at **Sandy Wolfe's** home for a wine and cheese social. It was a lively afternoon and everyone enjoyed catching up with one another while raising funds for Local Scholarships. We are grateful to Sandy for organizing such a lovely get together. More events like these are planned for the future with different themes each time. Keep an eye out on your newsletters for more information.

On Saturday, November 17, AAUW Fund and Tech Trek held a joint fundraiser with members and friends for a Bowling Blast at Paddock Bowl in Pacheco. There were strikes and spares galore, along with a good amount of gutter balls. Everyone really did have a blast, with the winners of team Alley Cats winning the grand prize which was a bottle of wine for each player. Much appreciation goes to **Helen Pereira** and her committee for organizing this fun and active event.

We have an exciting new fundraiser coming up on December 1. A group of past presidents and members will be modeling Eileen Fisher and INC clothing at Macy's Broadway Plaza in Walnut Creek. While doing your holiday shopping, bring your friends and family to cheer on these wonderful women as they walk the runways. Tickets are \$10 and include light refreshments, the fashion show and a Macy's goodie bag. Many thanks to **Elena Noble**, **Sherrie Moore** and **Kathleen Woulfe** for organizing this event.

Don't forget --- our annual Holiday Party will be held at Brookview Clubhouse in Pleasant Hill on December 7. The theme is Candy Cane Lane so red and white might be appropriate attire to wear to the affair. Plan to attend and catch up with friends over a lovely catered dinner. Tickets may be purchased from **Bea Ball** by December 1. We are grateful to **Margi Alkire**, **Marlene Maksiel** and their committee for organizing such an elegant evening.

On Wednesday, December 12 at 10 am we will meet at **Susan Rheingruber's** home for our annual Layette Shower benefitting new mothers and babies in need in Contra Costa County. Bring lightly used or new baby clothes and items as unwrapped gifts. Our members look forward to this fun event every year and enjoy displaying their gifts to one another.

We will kick off the New Year on Wednesday, January 16, 2019 with our ever-popular Soup Supper. Don't miss out on hearty and delicious homemade soups, prepared and introduced by our members. Sign up by contacting co-chairs **Margie Pruitt** or **Donna DiBetta** - to bring soup, bread, dessert, or to help in other ways. Budd MacKenzie will speak on his experiences in Afghanistan after founding *Trust in Education* to help Afghans rebuild their lives and country. It should be an inspiring talk from a true visionary.

As I sign off, I want to wish you all a wonderful holiday season surrounded by loved ones and filled with peace and joy! See you next year!

Jennifer

NO DECEMBER BOARD MEETING

**Copy deadline for the
January 2019 N.E.W.S. is:
Friday, December 28th**

Please email copy to:
Reba Siero rebasiero@yahoo.com
925-228-8211

INTEREST SECTIONS MEETINGS



****MORNING BOOKS** will meet on Wednesday, December 5, 10 am, at Kathleen Woulfe's. We will be discussing our classic, *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*, by Thomas Hardy. The story is rather cruel and unhappy and describes the plight of women in the 19th century. In January, we will be reading *Before the Poison* by Peter Robinson. Plan to join us for great discussions!



****IN INDELIBLE INK** will not meet in December. In January, the theme will be "Christmas Decorations." How you decorated in the past, how you're decorating now ~ and what about the future? Are we discarding unused decorations, or can we not bear to part with them ~ use your imagination. Please join us! We would welcome some new writers! We like oral versions, too.



****LUNCHIN' LADIES** will not meet in November or December due to the holidays. Please give Marlene suggestions for some restaurants it would be fun for us to try.



****EVENING BOOKS** will meet not meet in December due to the holidays. In January we be reading and discussing Delia Owens' *Where the Crawdads Sing*. Please join us!



****MATINEE IDLE** will go to the movies on Thursday, December 6th ~ a combo for November and December. We will resume our regular 4th Thursday in January. Call Marlene (689-5439), if you have any suggestions for a movie. We always discuss the film after over coffee, other liquid refreshment, or frozen yogurt ~ sometimes, lunch!

Please, write any checks to the branch:
AAUW Pleasant Hill-Martinez Branch

OTHER GROUPS



****MAH JONGG**

COME PLAY MAH JONGG!

Mah Jongg meets at 12:30 PM on Friday, December 21st, at Brookview Clubhouse. New 2018 cards will be used.

There is a \$2.00 per person charge for the clubhouse rental. If you don't know how to play Mah Jongg, but would like to learn, we will be happy to teach you.

Reservations are a must each month. Contact: Suzanne Salter at 925-935-0861, seabear2@msn.com

Gayle Miner at 925-349-6795, gayle.miner@yahoo.com

We play on the 3rd Friday of the month. We would love to have you join our group.





PH-M AAUW ANNUAL LAYETTE SHOWER

Benefiting new mothers and babies in need in Contra Costa County

Susan Rheingruber's home

14 Pillon Real, Pleasant Hill

Wednesday, December 12th at 10 AM

Bring lightly used or new baby needs as gifts (do not wrap)

Have some fun with your friends



Cider and Cookies with a Purpose

In November we raised \$150 for scholarships and had a wonderful time with our Wine and Cheese with a Purpose. We hope you can join us on Friday, January 11, 2019 for Hot Cider and Cookies with a purpose. A \$10 donation to scholarships will be collected at the door. This is a fun place to relax, ward off the winter chill and chat with old and new members. Be sure to R.S.V.P. so we have enough cider and cookies.

Hope to see you in January to have a good time for a good cause.

Date: January 11th

Time: 3:00-5:00

Where: 156 Elderwood Drive, Pleasant Hill

RSVP: Sandy Wolfe

925-228-2633

Rfwolfeman@sbcglobal.net

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Claudia Bass and SarahJoy Haynes, Membership VPs

The November program was well attended and we had 6 people join our branch. We welcome all of them and look forward to seeing them at our various activities. Our membership count is currently 113.

Unfortunately we lost Elizabeth DiPietro as a member due to her passing. She was a wonderful member and contributed much to our branch. She led the bridge groups for many years and was always volunteering to bring food to our brunches. She certainly will be missed.

Remember to welcome our new members at our activities and programs. Their name tags will have a dot on them.

The following is a list of our new members and please add them to your directory.

Kellie Collins

763 Slater Ave, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

925-932-5507 home

kellie.collins@comcast.net

Diablo Valley College - General AA and Art History AA

St. Mary's College - Paralegal Certification

Andree Kelly Moran

23 Rolling Green Circle, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

925-825-8614 home

andreemor4@comcast.net

Holy Names College - BA English

Elementary Education Teaching Credential

Catherine Owen

711 Carquinez Way, Martinez, CA 94553

925-324-1074 cell

oneravnmd@gmail.com

Cornell University- BA Russian Language and Literature

Stanford Medical School - MD

Robin Kokemor Ranzel

50 Willowbrook Ln. Walnut Creek, CA 94595

925-408-0549 cell

rkokemor@mac.com

UC Berkeley- BA History

San Jose State University -

Masters in Library and Information Sciences

Elaine Seawell

1025 Arlington Way Martinez, CA 94553

925-890-0890 cell

mtzfnp@aol.com

Syracuse University- BSN Nursing

University of Miami- Family Nurse Practitioner

Credentials: RN and Family Nurse Practitioner

Karen Winters

2184 Westward Place, Martinez, CA 94553

925-408-5721

karen.winters@sbcglobal.net

University of Maryland- BS Electrical Engineering

Claudia Bass at 925-372-8679, cbasslancer29@aol.com

SarahJoy Haynes at 925-372-9211, plumleathr@aol.com





Elizabeth DiPietro

Nov. 6, 1929 - Nov. 15, 2018

Resident of Pleasant Hill

Elizabeth was born in Bluffton, IN, on November 6, 1929 and lived on a small farm in rural Petroleum, IN, with her parents, William O'Neill and Lucy Maynihan O'Neill (native of Ballyorgan, County Limerick, Ireland). The family moved to Camden, MI, in 1939, where she lived her formative years on a large dairy farm. She graduated with honors from Central Catholic High School in Ft. Wayne, IN. 1947.

Elizabeth's parents moved to Grand Island, NE the summer of 1947. She graduated from a Technical School in St. Louis, MO, in a 2-yr program for Laboratory Technicians and interned 1 year in St. Francis Hospital Miami Beach, FL, in 1949. While in St. Louis, she met her first husband, Salvador Renteria, and they were married in Tucson, AZ on January 4, 1950. The couple moved to Los Angeles in March of 1950, where all three children, Robert S., Thomas B., and Barbara D., were born in Queen of Angels Hospital in LA.

In 1953, they moved to Calexico, CA, where Sal worked at the Calexico Hospital and Elizabeth worked in a small Clinic owned by Dr. John Pinnell, along with three other physicians. Sal and Elizabeth divorced in 1957, and Elizabeth and the three children moved to San Diego in 1960.

Elizabeth graduated (with highest honors) from San Diego City College with an Associate Degree in Science, in 1963. She graduated (with honors) from San Diego State University with B.S. Degree, in 1965, with majors in Medical Microbiology and Clinical Chemistry.

She worked as a Chemistry Supervisor at the UC Medical Center, San Diego from 1966 to 1972. She set-up the Chemistry Laboratory in the new VA Hospital in La Jolla, CA in 1972, and served as Chief Supervisor until 1977. In 1977, she applied, and was selected for, the position of Laboratory Manager at a large 700-bed facility in Tampa, FL. She lived in Tampa until 1988. She married retired hospital administrator, Joseph DiPietro in 1980. In 1988 Elizabeth and Joseph returned to California, with Elizabeth taking the same position at the VA Hospital in Martinez.

Elizabeth was preceded in death by her parents, husband Joseph, sister Mary O'Neill Falcone, infant brother William (Billy), and brother John Bernard O'Neill.

Hobbies: Bridge, gardening, cooking, dancing, exercising, golf, and most social activities.

Elizabeth held a California License as a Clinical Laboratory Scientist issued by the California Public Health System. She volunteered as an usher at Christ the King Catholic Church in Pleasant Hill, and enjoyed working at events and was an honored member of AAUW (American Association of University Women), coordinating marathon bridge and monthly bridge.

A Memorial Mass for Elizabeth was held at Christ the King Catholic Church on Tuesday, November 27, 2018 at 12:00PM. In lieu of flowers please make donation to Christ the King Catholic Church at 199 Brandon Rd., Pleasant Hill, Ca 94523.

AAUW FUND REPORT

Gayle Miner and Diane Coventry, AAUW Fund VPs

A big THANK YOU to all of the generous members and supporters of AAUW Fund. You have contributed a grand total of \$4,494 to the various entities of AAUW Fund as a result of the annual solicitation letter.

We are winding down our Kinder Coupons fundraiser. All tickets sales should have been completed and accounted for by Dec. 1. As of Nov 19, Jennifer Apkarian reported that \$1080.00 had been turned in so far. With each ticket sale of \$12 our branch profit is \$5. These coupons are good until February 28, 2019.

Bowling Blast, our most recent fundraiser was lots of fun with 4 teams participating. We had \$400.00 in registration fees and a 50/50 raffle bringing in \$195.00, giving us a \$380.00 profit. The Trek and Funds split the profit, so each received \$190.00. Thank you to all participants and congratulations to the winning team. The Alley Cats were the winning team, which consisted of Helen Pereira, Lorraine Wieder, Jean Wood, and Shirley Swan. Jennifer Apkarian won the 50/50 raffle in the amount of \$97 plus a bowling ball that was donated to us by Paddock Bowl!

Our Fund Committee is actively working on the NCCWSL applications process, more updates on this in the months ahead.

The next Fund meeting is Monday, January 21, at 2:30 PM at the home of Ginny Hargrave. If you would like to join us, please call Gayle Miner 925-349-6795 or Diane Coventry 510-912-9306.

International Soup Supper

Our Pleasant Hill-Martinez Branch will hold its Annual International Soup Supper on Wednesday, January 16, 2019 followed by our speaker, Brad MacKenzie. Thirteen years ago Brad MacKenzie decided to *do something* for Afghanistan. He became a global citizen activist who realized he could make a difference in what was then the fifth poorest country in the world. MacKenzie, a 71-year-old lawyer, relates the remarkable story of his work helping Afghans rebuild their lives and country. He recently published a book, ***Off the Couch, Into the War for Hearts and Minds***. It is available on Amazon.com and the website www.trustededucation.org.

Please join us for hearty, homemade soups, breads, and desserts. Coffee, tea, and water will be provided but be sure to **bring your own soup bowl and spoon**. Dinner starts promptly at 6 PM and remember that spouses, mates, and friends are most welcome. Each AAUW attending member may provide a crockpot of soup serving 10-12, bread, dessert, or pay \$10 at the door.

Wednesday, January 16, 2019 at 6 PM

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

1601 Mary Drive, Pleasant Hill

Thank you to those who have already committed to bringing a soup (with ladle), bread, or dessert. However, we do need more individuals to provide soup, bread, or desserts. Contact Donna DiBetta or Margie Pruitt if you would like to bring one of these items.

Co-chair – Donna DiBetta (228-5606) ddibetta@sbcglobal.net

Co-chair – Margie Pruitt (372-8789) mlpruitt@comcast.net

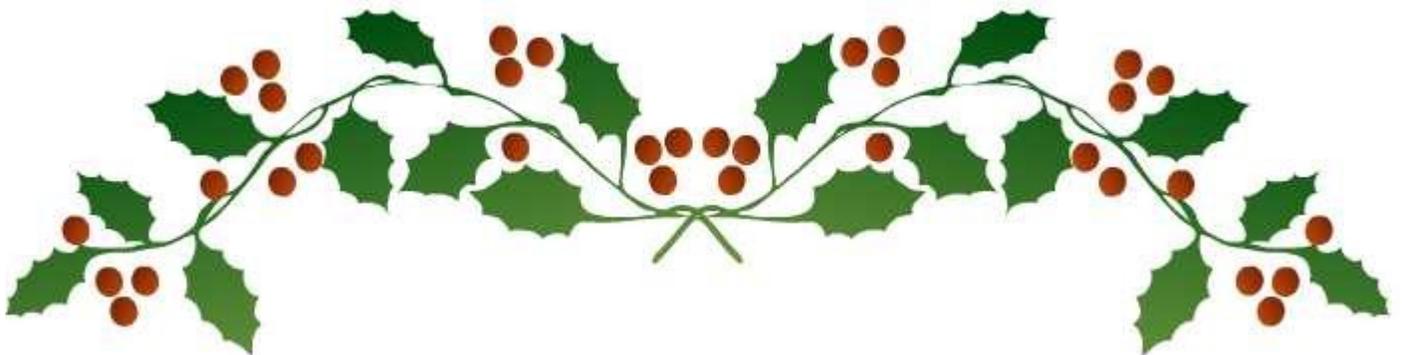


Pleasant Hill - Martinez AAUW Website



Our website will show you everything you need to know about our Pleasant Hill - Martinez branch. Check out the pictures of our November Program and the Bowling Fundraiser on the **Community Action Page**.

Just go to <http://www.aauw-pleasanthill-martinez.org> for all of this and more. 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, located on the **About Us Page**.



Betty Reid Soskin Program Round-up

Harriett Burt, co-VP Programs

When Betty Reid Soskin walked into the Sanctuary of St. Andrew's where she would speak on Wednesday, November 7, she gasped. "It's beautiful!" she exclaimed as she took her hand off her mouth while gazing around. Saying she had never spoken in such a lovely room, she walked slowly up the aisle taking it all in. Then she sat down and focused on her talk while accepting politely interruptions by the gathering crowd eager to say hello and tell her how inspiring she is.

By the time the program started, on time by the way, nearly all of the 167 people in the audience had arrived and settled in. They included Branch members and their friends and families, members of the congregation and over 100 members of the Pleasant Hill and Martinez communities who had read about it in the Community Focus or the Martinez News-Gazette or heard about it on the street or from friends.

Ms. Soskin's talk was a combination of fascinating and inspiring stories of her life. She welcomed many questions providing even more galvanizing stories of her 97 years, 91 of which have been spent in various parts of the East Bay, before concluding her talk and moving outside to autograph many books for eager attendees.

Many people in the area have heard her talks and taken her tours at the Rosie the Riveter National Historic Site. However, few of us have heard and then read the story of her near century of living as a black woman in the United States with its challenges and the rewards that a strong and determined woman can achieve.

Admission was free. Many copies were sold of "Sign Me Up for Freedom" tracing her life from New Orleans to the Bay Area. Every penny of the proceeds goes into a trust fund Betty has established for her youngest child, a daughter who was born very severely handicapped. If you want to learn more about Betty in her own words, go to her blog, *CBreaux Speaks*.

Program co-vice presidents Harriett Burt and Nancy Hobert thank those who helped with this event, particularly Branch and church member Marge Munger who not only spent hours herself on the project but arranged for help from members the congregation's volunteer maintenance team. Pastor Ernie Hess and Secretary Diana Nevares were very helpful also.

By the way, Claudia signed up six new members and we had a meeting without refreshments and survived. I must admit I missed them!

Here are a couple of photos from Betty's extraordinary life:



Betty at the Reid's Records counter in Berkeley
Multi-talented Betty Reid Soskin's first husband introduced the top black jazz bands and performers to the Bay Area and beyond in the 1940s and 50s. Betty helped out early on while raising a family. She reorganized and ran the successful business in the 1970s and 80s.



Although her formal education stopped when she graduated from McClymonds High School in Oakland in the late 1930s, Betty's education has never stopped whether in business, government, art, music, or writing. She is shown here being awarded an honorary Doctor of Arts and Letters from Mills College in 2017.

2018–2019 LEADERSHIP TEAM

December 2018 and beyond

- Dec 1** Macy's WC Fashion Show Fundraiser, 1 pm
Dec 5 Morning Books, 10 am, Kathleen Woulfe's
Dec 6 Matinee Idle, Marlene Maksel
Dec 7 Candy Cane Lane Holiday Party, 6 pm
Brookview Clubhouse
Dec 12 Layette Shower, 10:00 am, Susan Rheingruber's
Dec 21 Mah Jongg, 12:30 pm, Brookview Clubhouse
Dec 28 January 2019 N.E.W.S. deadline to Reba
Jan 11 Wine & Cheese Social, 3 pm, Sandy Wolfe
Jan 16, 2019 International Soup Supper,
6 pm, St Andrew's
Budd MacKenzie from TIE to speak



PH-M AAUW N.E.W.S. SPONSOR

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.

President (October, November & December 2018)

Jennifer Apkarian 228-2027 apkarian1@att.net

Vice Presidents - Program

Harriett Burt 372-8038 hjburt1940@comcast.net

Nancy Hobert 228-7271 nhobert@aol.com

Vice Presidents - Membership

Claudia Bass 372-8679 cbasslancer29@aol.com

SarahJoy Haynes 372-9211 plumleathr@aol.com

Vice Presidents - AAUW Fund

Diane Coventry 293-4699 diane.coventry@yahoo.com

Gayle Miner 349-6795 gayle.miner@yahoo.com

Secretary

Barbara Minneman 229-1827 blminneman@comcast.net

Treasurer

Trinka March 372-8420 drtrinks@sbcglobal.net

Newsletter Editor

Reba Siero 228-8211 rebasiero@yahoo.com

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rebasiero@yahoo.com

Webmaster

Sherrie Moore 229-4177

www.aauw-pleasanthill-martinez.org

AAUW C C C Inter-branch Council

Cindy Alpert, Chair (925) 829-7813

alpert@pacbell.net

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

California State Office of AAUW

1331 Garden Highway, Suite 100

Sacramento, CA 95833

office@aauw-ca.org (916) 448-7795

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

AAUW National Office

connect@aauw.org (800) 326-2289

<http://www.aauw.org/>