



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 62 Issue 4

December 2019



SILVER BELLS HOLIDAY PARTY



Saturday, December 7th, 2019

6:00 pm social time, 6:30 pm buffet dinner served
Brookview Club House, 1201 Monument Blvd, Concord

Dinner with wine and non-alcoholic beverages

Passed hors d'oeuvres, Filet Mignon, Salmon Filet, two types of salad, and dessert
\$50 per person, checks payable to "AAUW Pleasant Hill-Martinez Branch"

By Monday, December 2nd, send your check to:

Bea Ball, 94 Rolling Green Circle, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523 (925) 890-0202

Reserve early. Your check is your reservation. Limit: 64

Please carpool, parking is limited.

Bring your spouse and/or friends



Special entertainment featuring "Any Wednesday" quartet





PRESIDENTIAL POSTINGS

As the days grow colder and wetter, I always look forward to the various holiday gatherings for the many groups I am fortunate to be part of. Of course, that includes this wonderful PH-M branch of AAUW.

Our Silver Bells Holiday Party on December 7 is the first one on my calendar! Please note that the RSVP date has been moved out one day to December 2. Let Bea Ball know you are coming and send in your check!

The Layette Shower, hosted by Susan Rheingruber, is scheduled for Wednesday, December 11, at 10 am.

The Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek branch is hosting their 14th Annual Holiday Home Tour on December 13 & 14. It is a fundraiser for Tech Trek. See the included flyer for details.

Though the holiday season brings joy and celebrations, it has brought great sadness this year as well. Our own Muriel Fry passed away on November 14th, at 84. Hers was always the smiling face and kind words at our gatherings. Her life-long support of AAUW and its ideals is the standard we can all attempt to achieve. Deepest condolences to Roger and her family and friends from all of us.

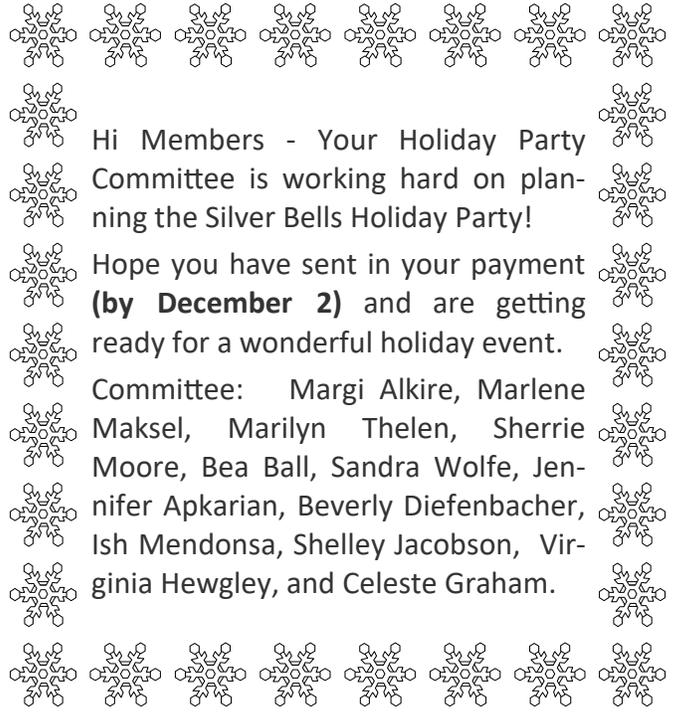
Branch member, Judi Hamberg, lost her mother, Elaine Yeates, on November 11th, at age 96. What a wonderful life she had. You and your family are in our thoughts, Judi.

Please see pages 4 and 5 for Memorial and Celebration of Life service details.

I'll sign off with best wishes for this holiday season.

Reba

rebasiero@yahoo.com



Hi Members - Your Holiday Party Committee is working hard on planning the Silver Bells Holiday Party!

Hope you have sent in your payment **(by December 2)** and are getting ready for a wonderful holiday event.

Committee: Margi Alkire, Marlene Maksel, Marilyn Thelen, Sherrie Moore, Bea Ball, Sandra Wolfe, Jennifer Apkarian, Beverly Diefenbacher, Ish Mendonsa, Shelley Jacobson, Virginia Hewgley, and Celeste Graham.



From Ginny Hargrave:

My most sincere thanks to those who sent cards, "inscriptions", made phone calls, and those who made personal visits to my rehab for a most unexpected hip surgery. A very Merry Christmas to all.

NO DECEMBER BOARD MEETING

**JANUARY BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2020**

7:00 PM

Trinka March's home

**Copy deadline for the
January 2020 N.E.W.S.**

Sunday, December 22nd

Please email copy to:

Reba Siero rebasiero@yahoo.com

(925) 917-1061

INTEREST SECTIONS MEETINGS



****MORNING BOOKS** will meet on Wednesday, December 4, 10 am, at Susanne Rheingruber's. We will be discussing *Mary Coin* by Marisa Silver. This fictional story traces the life of "Migrant Mother," the subject of Dorothea Lange's famous photo. In January, we will be discussing *Becoming* by Michelle Obama. Plan to join us!



****IN INDELIBLE INK** will not meet in December ~ instead, go to the Layette Shower!



****LUNCHIN' LADIES** will not go to lunch in December. Please call Marlene (925) 689-5439 OR marlene@maksiel.us with suggestions for restaurants in the new year.



****EVENING BOOKS** will not meet in December. In January, we will be discussing *Becoming* by Michelle Obama. Join us for great discussions.

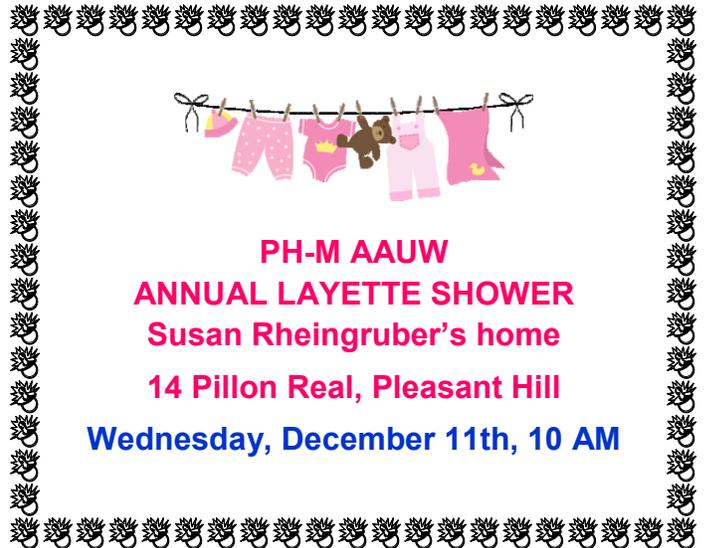


****MATINEE IDLE** will not go to the movies in December, due to the holidays. We will meet again in January. Details will come by email the Monday prior ~ our scheduled date is the 4th Thursday. Call Marlene - (925) 689-5439, if you have any suggestions for a movie. We always discuss the film after over coffee, other liquid refreshment, or frozen yogurt ~ sometimes, lunch!



Pleasant Hill-Martinez (CA) Branch

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through advocacy, education, philan-
thropy and research**



**PH-M AAUW
ANNUAL LAYETTE SHOWER
Susan Rheingruber's home
14 Pillon Real, Pleasant Hill
Wednesday, December 11th, 10 AM**

OTHER GROUPS



****MAH JONGG**

COME PLAY MAH JONGG!

Mah Jongg will meet at 12:30 PM on Friday, December 20th at Brookview Clubhouse. 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.



****GRAND SLAMMERS**

, a social bridge group, plays on the second Monday of each month at 12:30 at the Brookview Club House. This month we meet on Monday, December 9th.

Each player pays \$5, which covers \$3 for our Local Scholarship Fund and \$2 for facility use. All player levels are welcome, members and non-members.

Contact Marlene DeLaurenti at mdl@astound.net or (925) 934-4171 if you are interested in playing.

In Memoriam - Muriel Fry



Muriel Knox Fry

October 11, 1935 - November 14, 2019

Lafayette

Muriel (Mickey) Knox Fry, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and friend, died peacefully at home on November 14, 2019. Muriel lived a full and blessed life for 84 years.

Muriel was born to Orval and Leota Knox, and grew up with her two siblings on the family farm in Chandler, Arizona, where she attended school, and was elected the first woman Student Body President of Chandler High School. She attended college at [Arizona State College](#) (now Arizona State University) then transferred to the University of California Santa Barbara where she earned her Bachelor Degree in Home Economics. During her first two years of teaching in San Jose, she attended a church retreat where she met Roger Fry who was to later become her husband. The young couple made their first home in Vacaville, CA where Roger was a civil engineer and Muriel continued her love of teaching young people. With the arrival of their first son, Craig, they moved to Lafayette where they raised him and their second son, Keith, and became active dedicated members of their church, the community, and numerous charitable groups and activities. Muriel described her own life's "calling" as a homemaker, mother, volunteer, and a guiding influence for young people. Throughout her life, she was active with church, 4-H, PTA, public schools, and various other organizations at home, or when living or traveling abroad. High on her list of priorities were girls and women's education (American Association of University Women - AAUW scholarships) and the plight of women around the world.

Family and friends describe her as kind, loving, caring, inspirational and generous among other accolades. All who knew her agree that she connected with people of all ages, origins, backgrounds and faiths everywhere she went – in the neighborhood, at church and while traveling. Further, she connected people with other people. When she saw one person with a need that another person she knew could fulfill, she connected them. Muriel was an organizer and leader wherever she saw the need. She loved to organize events such as school and family reunions, conventions, and to help family and friends with wedding plans and birthday parties. She enjoyed planning her 60th wedding anniversary party for Roger and herself this past July. Muriel loved flowers, gardening, travel, history, and learning new things every day. She was generous with her talents, time and her heart. She cherished her own children, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews and the many other children and young families who came into her life. We all benefited from her loving mentoring. Muriel loved and was well loved by the hundreds of lives around the world that she touched during her lifetime. She was an example to all who knew her by the way she lived her life.

Above all else, she was a woman of great faith who strongly believed that there were many paths to finding God.

A memorial service is planned for Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church (LOPC) on Jan 11, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the LOPC Children and Youth Ministry, the LOPC Congo Team, or the AAUW Tech Trek Special Project Fund.

AAUW FUND REPORT

Claudia Bass and Gayle Miner, AAUW Fund VPs

Happy Holidays from AAUW Fund Committee! We want to give a huge thank you to everyone who bought or sold Kinder's Coupons to support our Fall Fundraiser. We are currently determining our profit, so will have a report for you in the January Newsletter. This endeavor helps us send a DVC student to The National Conference for College Women Student Leaders.

The AAUW California Convention is April 17 -19, 2020. The theme is "Remember The Past, Rockin' The Future." It will be held at the Westin San Francisco Airport Hotel, 1 Old Bayshore Highway, Millbrae, CA. Program and Registration information will be forthcoming, but mark your calendars so you can plan to attend.

The deadline for submitting contributions to National AAUW Fund is December 31, 2019. If you wish to contribute and haven't done so (solicitation letter you all received in your new directory in September) there is still time. Donations need to be in to Gayle Miner by December 15, so she can process them in time to meet the deadline. A grand thank you to those who have already generously contributed. We have raised \$2,455.00 for National Fund so far.

Did you know that the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) is America's premier annual conference for college women and prepares attendees to be campus and community leaders? Our local AAUW branch sends a DVC student to this conference every year. Our cost to do this is about \$1400.00 yearly, hence the Kinder's coupon sales to raise money for this worthwhile experience.

The National Student Advisory Council are AAUW Ambassadors that advise staff about college student needs, lead on-campus gender equality projects, and help to plan NCCWSL.

The PHM AAUW Fund Committee is seeking new members! If you would be interested in learning more about this committee or serving on this committee please call Claudia Bass at (925) 372-8679 or Gayle Miner at (925) 349-6795. We would love to have you join us. We meet every other month. Our next meeting is January 20, 2020 at 2:30 PM at the home of Claudia Bass. Please join us!

In Memoriam - Elaine Yeates



Elaine Francis Yeates - mother of branch member, Judi Hamberg
October 4, 1923 - November 11, 2019

She often said she wanted to go out by age forty while she could still dance and her hair was still dark. She did not get her wish, she went out at age 96, on November 11, 2019, with a razor sharp wit, fabulous sense of humor and still a force to be reckoned with. Her family is heartbroken and also acutely aware of how lucky she was to have feasted at the banquet of life for all of her 96 years. A Celebration of Life will be held at 11:00 on Friday, December 6, 2019 at the Shephard Garden and Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd. Sacramento, CA. Remembrances may be made to a charity of your choice.



Pleasant Hill - Martinez AAUW Website



Our website will show you everything you need to know about our Pleasant Hill - Martinez branch. Check out the photos from our **November Program** on the **Photos Page**. Take a look at our upcoming **Programs and Events** on the Program 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**.

Sherrie Moore, webmaster

INTERNATIONAL SOUP SUPPER

Our Pleasant Hill-Martinez Branch will hold its Annual International Soup Supper on January 15, 2020 followed by our speaker, Hiro Okawachi. Many of you will remember Hiro as a biology teacher at Alhambra High for many years. He was a child living in Martinez when World War II began. Hiro and his family were relocated to the Santa Rita Camp in Topaz, Utah. His memories of that time are not only vivid but very interesting. You won't want to miss it!

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. Each AAUW member may provide a crockpot of soup serving 10-12 or pay \$10 at the door. (We have enough bread and desserts!)

Spouses, mates and friends are most welcome.

Wednesday, January 15, 2020 at 6 pm

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

1601 St. Mary's Drive, Pleasant Hill

Reservations are required! Contact Nancy Hobert or Marilyn Thelen to reserve a spot!

TECH TREK TIDINGS

Diane Coventry

Thank you for all your contributions to Tech Trek Special Project Fund (CA-SPF) this year. We appreciate your support, and please note that some donations are tax deductible.

As Camp Co-Director I have begun preparations for Camp Sonoma 2020. We are looking for professional women to present at our Professional Women's Night, class monitors to participate in our core classes and assist in the workshops, and possibly one or two dorm moms. I will keep you posted as we proceed in our planning. Our committee will be contacting our local middle schools in January. We look forward to sending 6 girls to camp. The 2020 date is June 21-27. We will be hosting the Ice Cream Social June 7.

On another note, I have been attending the Inner Branch Council (IBC) meetings. One of our goals is to inform and encourage our local branches to attend other branch events and programs. The Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek Branch is having their 14th Annual Holiday Home Tour, December 13th and 14th. The proceeds provide scholarships and Tech Trek camperships. Please see attached flyer. Hope to see you there.

diane.coventry@yahoo.com

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

SarahJoy Haynes and Kathleen Woulfe,
Membership VPs

Our membership committee depends on each of you to help us recruit new members. One of the best ways to interest your friends in joining our Pleasant Hill-Martinez AAUW branch is to bring them as guests to one of our events. Please consider inviting friends to our Holiday Event and/or our January Soup Supper meeting. Thank you.

SarahJoy Haynes, (925) 586-9493,

plumleathr@aol.com

Kathleen Woulfe, (925) 372-7726,

kathleendwoulfe@aol.com

SUNSHINE

Gayle Garrison

Sunshine likes to send cards to members, however, I do not always know who is ill or might just need a "thinking of you" card. Please call and let me know, as several calls are better than none.

Gayle Garrison

tarheel61@yahoo.com or (925) 798-7528



2019–2020 LEADERSHIP TEAM

December 2019 and beyond

- Dec 4 Morning Books, 10 am, Susanne Rheingruber's
Dec 7 Holiday Party, 6 pm, Brookview Clubhouse
Dec 9 Grand Slammers Bridge, 12:30 pm,
Brookview Clubhouse
Dec 11 Layette Shower, 10 am, Susan Rheingruber's
Dec 20 Mah Jongg, 12:30 pm, Brookview Clubhouse
Dec 22 January 2020 N.E.W.S. deadline to Reba
Jan 8 Board meeting, 7 pm, Trinka March's
Jan 15 International Soup Supper, 6 pm, St Andrew's
Mar 31 AAUW Fund Game Day (tentative)
Jan 28, Mar 24, May 26 CCC IBC meetings



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Helen Pereira 685-0757 helenmp45@aol.com

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Copy deadline for the January 2020 N.E.W.S. is December 22nd. Please email copy to:

rebasiero@yahoo.com

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www.aauw-pleasanthill-martinez.org

AAUW CCC Inter-branch Council

Debbie Cummings, Chair

debbie94565@yahoo.com

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

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

Montecito Animal Clinic



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FAX 925/686-4754



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

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