

Presidential Postings



Though we didn't have a general meeting in October, several small groups met to enjoy time together. If you haven't joined one of the interest sections or other small groups, give one or more of them a try. There is quite a variety! From Morning Books to Mah Jongg, Wine Club, Lunchin' Ladies, and Nimble Fingers, you may find a wonderful group of folks to share conversation and laughter.



The November 8th meeting is on a Saturday at 10 am. Kirstin Connelly, our County Registrar, will talk with us about voter outreach and the mapping prejudice project, as well as the November election. We will meet at the First Congregational Church of Martinez, 1229 Court St, Martinez.



If you haven't already done so, please vote in the November 4th election. My ballot has been received and counted, according to BallotTrax. It is quite cool to know that my vote was counted!! I know each of you appreciate what a privilege it is to have the right to vote and that you consider it your public duty.

Sharon Wilson is heading up the committee that is planning our Holiday Party. Look for more details from Sharon. This is another lovely time spent with our AAUW friends.

November Program

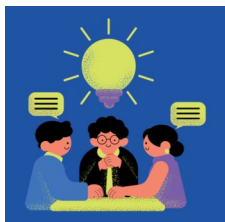


International Soup Supper



Public Policy





Presidential Postings (cont.)

In the New Year, Janice Walker is hosting the Layette Shower. For those who knit, crochet, or quilt (or any other creative craft), now is the time to be thinking of what you might make as a contribution. Other baby items are also needed. Get in touch with Janice for ideas.

Thank you for being a part of our fantastic AAUW branch!

~ SarahJoy, Sherrie, and Reba

AAUW Fund Report

Thank You to all those who supported the Kinder's Gift Card event. The money raised will go to funding a scholarship for a woman student from DVC going on to a 4-year college. Again, we appreciate all the support.

Donations for the annual drive for AAUW National Fund that supports fellowships and grants can be made until mid-December. The Solicitation letter was in the new directory you received at the Welcome Brunch. You can also donate to the DVC Scholarship given to a woman continuing on to a 4-year college. We appreciate and thank you to all those who have already donated.

~ Gayle Miner and Carolynn Barcklay, Co-VPs



Tech Trek Tidings

Save the date for the Soup Supper February 18, 2026.

We will be having our annual Tech Trek raffle. Thank you to all who donated baskets in the past, especially from our wine and book interest groups. We appreciate members who do the same, and even solicit gift certificates from local businesses and restaurants. I have a donation letter ready for anyone going into the community to solicit item or gift certificates. Please let me know by late January if you have basket ideas and items to donate. We raised \$700 last year. Our goal is \$1300, which is enough for one camper scholarship. Our Tech Trek Alumni will be selling tickets. We always look forward to checking in with them and hearing how they are doing in school.

~ Diane Coventry

SUNSHINE

If you know of any member who needs a bit of sunshine, please let me know!

Marti Martin

richmar1016@sbcglobal.net or

925-229-3574





SAM at Fair Oaks in February/March

Would you like to be a SAM volunteer?

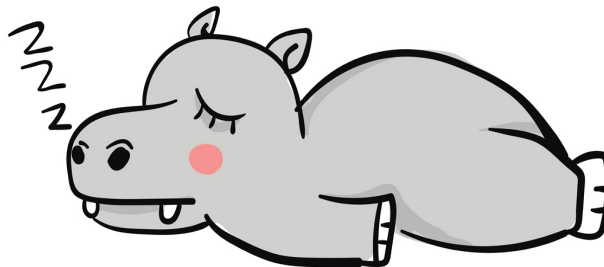
We are creating a curriculum for our SAM (Study Art and Music) Program for Fair Oaks Elementary School for February/March 2026. Our lesson plan always includes an artist and a composer. This year we will be studying the artist **Piet Mondrian**, and **George Gershwin** will be our composer. The music we will be studying is **Rhapsody in Blue**.

Your duties will be pretty simple — help us set up and clean up and then admire the work of the students. We will teach TK (Transitional Kindergarten) thru 5th grade, and 3 Special Ed classes (SDC).

We are planning a workday in February, where we will prepare the materials for the students and get familiar with the PowerPoint.

Please let us know if you would like to volunteer. So far, we have 15 volunteers on our list. It's lots of fun and rewarding.

~ Sherrie Moore, Barbara Minneman, and Helen Pereira



SAVE THE DATE

PH-M AAUW ANNUAL LAYETTE SHOWER

Mark your calendars! Wednesday, January 21st, 2026, 10 A.M.,
at the home of Janice Walker. More info to come!



Morning Books

Morning Books will meet on Wednesday, November 5th, at 10 A.M. at Janice Walker's house. The

book we will be discussing is *The Grey Wolf* by Louise Penny. This book is the 19th installment in Louise Penny's acclaimed Chief Inspector Armand Gamache series. The stakes are high as murder and sinister plots threaten both the small village and major cities. This was a page turner and may have you coming back for more with the next installment, *The Black Wolf*, due out soon.

Our December book is *Crow Talk* by Eileen Garvin. Our meeting will take place on Wednesday, December 3rd, at 10 A.M. at Sandy Wolfe's house. *Crow Talk* is about more than birds—it is a beautifully crafted story that intertwines the lives of its characters through the lens of nature, ultimately leading to healing through love and connection. Please join us for discussion on these great books.



Lunchin' Ladies

Lunchin' Ladies will meet on Monday, November 17, at 12:00 noon at Saneh Bangkok Restaurant, 2634 Pleasant Hill Road, Pleasant Hill.

This is a Thai Cuisine restaurant with vegetarian options located just past the Arco gas station.

Reservations must be in by November 10th to Gayle Miner, 925-788-3272 or gayle.miner@yahoo.com. NO EXCEPTIONS PLEASE.



Nimble Fingers

Nimble Fingers will meet on Monday, November 24, at 2:30 P.M. at Margi Alkire's home.

Join us for a fun afternoon of crafting, chatting, admiring each other's work, and possibly learning a new skill.

Please let Janet or Karen know you're coming.

Janet: 925-387-8039

janetsullivan218@aol.com

Karen: 925-408-5721

karen.winters@sbcglobal.net



Mah Jongg

Mah Jongg will meet on Friday, November 21, at 12:30 P.M. at

Brookview Clubhouse. Newbies are welcome too!

Be sure to let Suzanne Salter

(seabear92020@outlook.com or 925-988-0322)

know if you are coming.



Grand Slammers

Bridge Club — for information, contact Marlene De Laurenti:

mdl@astound.net or 925-934-4171

Writing a check for donation or event?

**Please make it payable to
AAUW Pleasant Hill—Martinez Branch.**

Nominating Committee

At the November 8 meeting of the branch, there will be a vote to ratify the members of the nominating committee. They will guide the selection of next year's branch officers. Board members who have agreed to serve on the nominating committee are Penny Harris and Gayle Miner, with Carolynn Barcklay as alternate.

Other branch members who have agreed to serve are Kathleen Woulfe, Trinkia March, and Marilyn Thelen, with Helen Pereira as alternate.

Parliamentarian Marylee Taylor will chair the committee.



Wine Appreciation Group

The Wine Appreciation Group met on Friday, October 17th, at Sandy Wolfe's house. The group

learned about and tasted Pinot Grigio wine and decided to revisit Pinot Grigio and Pinot Gris in November. Thank you to Sandy for hosting and to Carolynn, Janet, and Gayle for providing the wine.

The next meeting will be on Friday, November 21st, at 4 P.M. at Diane Peterson's house. We will revisit Pinot Grigio/Pinot Gris (white wines). Please let Diane know if you would like to attend.

~ Diane Peterson



Holiday Celebration

Save the Date!

Mark your calendars for our Holiday Celebration!

This year we are going to make it a lunch affair and hold it on

Saturday, December 13th at noon

at the Brookview Clubhouse.

Details to follow!

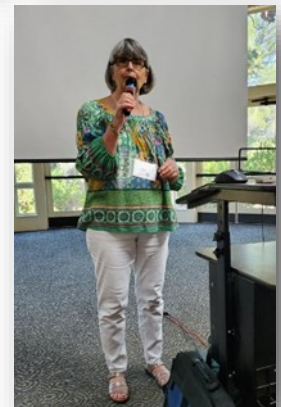


AAUW Pleasant Hill— Martinez Branch Website

Our website will show you everything you need to know about our Pleasant Hill — Martinez branch. Check out our Programs and Events on the **Program Page**. As always, read the latest newsletter on the **Newsletter Page**.

Just go to <http://www.aauw-pleasanthill-martinez.org>. 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



PHM AAUW NEWS is sponsored by Montecito Animal Clinic

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Public Policy

Investing in Our Democratic Future: Non-Partisan Voter Education Around Proposition 50 in California

We are currently seeing and experiencing creeping authoritarian efforts to undermine fair representation, trusted information, and democratic norms in our country. This unprecedented condition, paired with overwhelming federal encroachment, presents a significant threat to many of the things that we care about, including AAUW's mission of advancing equity for women and girls. Although California continues to maintain strong protections for women and girls, marginalized peoples, free speech, accurate history, sound science, and democratic norms, we are still subject to the laws, rules, and enforcement actions of the federal government. As such, as part of this year's GOTV campaign, AAUW California will be providing information-centered messages on the potential benefits of Proposition 50 for all Californians.

The approval of [Proposition 50](#) by California voters in November 2025 will approve redistricting efforts in California for the next election cycles (until maps are redrawn after the next census in 2030). With the passage of Proposition 50, we will experience a short-term loss of state democratic and people-centered control of an important aspect of democracy: redistricting. This effort will also seemingly have partisan benefits.

However, a short term loss of people-centered redistricting can also be seen as an investment in a demo-

cratic future in the long term, one in which we can have more, not less, of the will of the people recognized — all of the people, regardless of who they are. Furthermore, partisanship may be seen as a reductive label when the choice has become one of supporting authoritarianism or preserving functional democracy.

Redistricting should be in the hands of the people. Gender equity should be a consistent priority so that the dreams of a pluralistic democracy are one step closer to being realized. None of this is possible if our state is operating in a federal system in which democracy is no longer functional, listing instead toward an authoritarian system that puts troops in our streets, that censors our speech, that erases historical facts, that does not rely on sound science in decision-making, that directly endangers the wellbeing of women and girls, and that dehumanizes important and valued members of our communities.

Our goal in this campaign is to provide reliable information as a trusted resource to voters in California, and the wider public, about the potential ramifications and potential benefits of Proposition 50's passage and dispel misinformation about partisanship and redistricting in this political moment. We will also encourage and assist voters to go to the polls for this special election to vote as individuals on whether the proposed redistricting should be approved. Providing this encouragement to get out and vote and information about Proposition 50, including about potential benefits, is acting in alignment with our mission and our nonpartisan commitments, as we are advancing a pro-democracy message: we seek to support any and all efforts to

Public Policy (cont'd)

preserve and advance democracy and our public policy priorities in the face of a growing authoritarian threat.

Let's all join in working together to advance our public policy priorities in moving California forward.

~ Sue Miller, AAUW California Public Policy committee member

School Boards — The Overlooked Frontline of Democracy

Last month, Seena Trigas from the Public Policy School Board Project team, submitted an excellent article reminding members of the crucial role that public education plays in our democracy. The current – and seemingly never-ending – assaults on that institution gave rise to the School Board Project, which is now entering its third year.

When we started this project, our main focus initially was to encourage members to actively participate in identifying, recruiting, and supporting candidates to run for school boards whose education values were in line with ours at AAUW California. For a number of reasons, our focus shifted to an emphasis on encouraging and training members to attend school board meetings and let us know what they are seeing in their districts. We had a remarkable response, and we want to thank all our members who have answered that call.

As we enter our 3rd iteration of the project, we want to continue that momentum, but narrow the scope to watching for and speaking out against violations of California's protective laws; add a new component of learning how to make a greater impact by working in coalition with other public education supportive organizations; and swing back to where we started with re-engaging and increasing our efforts to ensure district board majorities that support **all** students and the free flow of ideas. In this last regard, we have recently discovered an organization called the School Board Integrity Project, and I can't say it better than their Executive Director, Kyrstin Schuette, as stated in an Op-Ed she wrote on September 3, 2025, in *The Courier*:

"The redistricting battle is important and we shouldn't minimize it, but it's equally important that we pursue local pathways to power to protect our families and our neighbors from the extremism sweeping our country. The solution lies in recruiting, training, and electing school board members who will practice good governance, pursue academic freedom and excellence, and foster schools where every student belongs."

You can read Kyrstin's full article here: [Kyrstin Schuette: The Overlooked Frontline of Democracy](#), and learn more about her organization here: [School Board Integrity Project](#). Front and center on their webpage you will find their tagline:

"The future we choose for our public schools is the future we choose for our country."

~ Kathi Harper, Chair, Public Policy School Board Project



International Soup Supper
Wednesday, February 18th, 2026, 6 P.M.
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
1601 Mary Drive, Pleasant Hill

**Please join us for hearty, homemade soups, breads, and desserts at our
Pleasant Hill-Martinez Branch Annual International Soup Supper**

Coffee, water, and tea will be provided. Be sure to bring your own soup bowl and spoon.

Dinner starts promptly at 6 P.M., and remember that spouses, partners, and friends are most welcome.

**Let us know if you would like to bring a pot of soup serving 10-12 people
or bread or dessert OR pay \$15. All guests pay \$15.**

Contact Suzanne Salter 925 988-0322 or seabear92020@outlook.com

Reservation deadline and payment by February 15th

Please indicate number of guests. You must pay in advance!

Make checks payable to **AAUW Pleasant Hill-Martinez Branch**

Mail to: 275 Appalachian Drive, Pleasant Hill 94523

Our speaker for the evening is Cherise Khaund

She will talk about her experiences growing up in Saudia Arabia and Venezuela

We are having a raffle to support Tech Trek

Raffle - 1 ticket for \$3, 2 for \$5, 5 for \$10, 12 for \$20

So bring some cash and have some fun!

**Let Diane Coventry know by February 12th if you would like to donate
any raffle items. Indicate estimated value of items.**

Hope to see you there!



AAUW Pleasant Hill-Martinez November 2025 Program

Saturday, November 8th, 10:00 A.M.

Place: First Congregational Church of Martinez
1229 Court Street, Martinez

Speaker: County Registrar Kristin Connelly



Kristin will discuss voter outreach, the mapping prejudice project, and the November election.

Light refreshments and coffee will be provided.

Parking is easy. Ample parking in the School Admin Building lot, a half block down Susana Street from the church (toward the park).



Pleasant Hill-Martinez (CA) Branch

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

PHM AAUW Calendar

- Nov 5** Morning Books, 10 A.M., Janice Walker's
- Nov 8** General Meeting, 10 A.M.,
First Congregational Church of Martinez,
1229 Court St., Martinez
- Nov 12** Board Meeting, 7 P.M., at Helen Pereira's
- Nov 17** Lunchin' Ladies, 12:00 noon, Saneh Bangkok Restaurant, 2634 Pleasant Hill Road, Pleasant Hill
- Nov 19** December NEWS deadline - **EARLY!**
- Nov 21** Mah Jongg, 12:30 P.M.,
Brookview Clubhouse
- Nov 21** Wine Club, 4 P.M., Diane Peterson's
- Nov 24** Nimble Fingers, 2:30 P.M., Margi Alkire's
- Dec 3** Morning Books, 10 A.M., Sandy Wolfe's
- Dec 13** Holiday Celebration, 12 noon,
Brookview Clubhouse

2025–26 Leadership Team

President 1 (Board Meeting Chair):

SaraJoy Haynes

President 2 (General Meeting Chair):

Sherrie Moore

President 3 (National & Newsletter):

Reba Siero

Vice President—Program:

Carlyn Obringer

Vice Presidents—Membership:

Nancy Hobert & Diane Peterson

Vice Presidents—AAUW Fund:

Carolynn Barcklay & Gayle Miner

Secretary: Sue Greenfeld

Treasurer: Claudia Bass

Webmaster: Sherrie Moore

Newsletter Editor: Karen Winters

Social Media: Carlyn Obringer

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Copy deadline for December NEWS is November 19 (Note the earlier date!). Email copy to

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