

Presidential Postings



The months of July and August are a bit quieter for the branch. Several Interest Groups carry on through the summer, though a few take a vacation!

Our June 13th End of Year Brunch was held at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, when we met several of our Tech Trek and Local Scholarship recipients and introduced our AAUW Fund DVC scholarship winner. Thank you to the various committees who spent the time and effort to choose the recipients for these scholarships.



We installed our officers for the coming year and honored our 50-year honorary lifetime members, our Named Gift Honorees, and our Barbara Newacheck Award recipient.

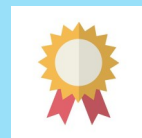
The Joint Board meeting was held on July 1st, at Nancy Hobert's home. We had a delicious potluck supper. We continue the planning for our upcoming programs. The Welcome Back Brunch, which will most likely be in October, is the first event of the 2026-2027 year. It is a great kick-off program! More information will be available soon.



Thanks to each of you who make the work of the branch possible.

~ Trinko, Sherrie, and Reba

June Brunch



Local Scholarship Recipients



Tech Trek



AAUW Fund Report

June End-of-Year Brunch

We had a lovely June End-of-Year Brunch on Saturday, June 13th. We met the Tech Trek girls and one of the Local Scholarship recipients. Our AAUW Fund DVC Scholarship winner, Julianna Amaya, was just delightful. We thanked our previous Board, and Suzanne Salter installed our new 2026-2027 Board.

Co- Presidents: Reba Siera, Sherrie Moore, Trinka March

Program Vice President: Carlyn Obringer

Membership Vice President: Bobbi Horack

AAUW Funds Vice Presidents: Gayle Miner and Carolynn Barcklay

Secretary: Sue Greenfeld

Treasurer: Claudia Bass

Thank you, Carlyn Obringer, for organizing the lovely Brunch and thanks to all of those who helped. Katheen Woulfe, your table flower arrangements were beautiful.

Karen Winters was awarded the Barbara Newachek award and Sherrie Moore, Barbara Minneman, and Helen Pereira received the Named Gift certificate for SAM. Marie Smithousen was awarded an honorary life-time membership.

Enjoy the summer months, and we will see you in the Fall. Our Fall Brunch will be held in October this year at St. Andrews Church. More information will be available soon.



Tech Trek Tidings

Five of our seven campers were able to attend the brunch. It was wonderful to meet them and hear their introductions and excitement about Tech Trek. The photo below shows those five Tech Trekkers, left to right, Dariia Rychahivska, Allison Mo, Rayann Marazzani, Dior Nguyen, and Lily Elrod.

After hearing our DVC scholarship recipient, Julianna, present, Claudia and I knew she would be a great candidate to help at Tech Trek, with all her experience and involvement in STEM education. She graciously accepted the volunteer position on the Aerospace Engineering team. Julianna was a substitute teacher for Thursday afternoon and Friday morning classes. We are looking forward to her continuing support of Tech Trek and our alumni

group.

I visited camp on Thursday and Friday. I was able to observe Julianna Amaya in action during Aerospace Engineering core class and Rocket launch lesson with Lily Elrod (see photo on next page). I think theirs may have ended up on the roof! Great flight! Stay tuned for a short video at the Brunch in September.

Campers were very excited, enthusiastic, and engaged in all the aspects of camp: core classes, workshops, Bite of Reality activity, and Professional Women's Night. Our branch campers were spread out, at least one in each core class. I am looking forward to hearing their feedback about their experiences at the Welcome Back Brunch in September. We will also have more pictures to share.

Thank you again for your support of Tech Trek, which made it possible for us to send all seven campers this year.

~ Diane Coventry



A couple of Tech Trek Summer Camp 2026 photos...





Local Scholarships

At our June 2026 Brunch, college scholarship awards were presented

to four local High School Seniors. These deserving girls were recognized for excelling in their high school years, not only with excellent grades, but also in community service and leadership ability. They were each awarded a \$2,000 AAUW scholarship in recognition of their achievements. This year's scholarship recipients are Andrea Garcia and Tilda Saelao from College Park High School, and Letizia Torres Del Valle and Addison Cooley from Alhambra High School.

In the Fall, Letizia will be attending DVC and will be on a pre-vet track, and Addison will go to Oregon State and will major in early childhood education. Tilda is headed to U.C. Berkeley and is majoring in Comparative Literature (Law). Andrea is majoring in Biomedical Engineering at Cal Poly. Our branch is proud to award these young women our 2026 scholarships. As a branch, we strongly support the Local Scholarship Fund through several fundraisers including our Silent Koffee Klatch, as well as individual member donations and Grand Slammer Bridge.



AAUW Fund Report

Named Gift Honorees

It is with great pleasure that we present this year's Name Gift Honoree award to Sherrie Moore, Barbara Minneman, and Helen Pereira, for their contribution to the mission and goals of AAUW. Sherrie, Barbara, and Helen have given extraordinary time and talent to various AAUW programs. This award recognizes their dedication and leadership for the SAM program. A sincere THANK YOU to Sherrie, Barbara, and Helen, for all you do for AAUW.

~ Gayle Miner and Carolynn Barcklay, Co-VPs



DVC Scholarship Recipient

Our DVC scholarship recipient for 2026 is Julianna Amaya. She will be transferring to the University of California, Berkeley, where she will major in mechanical engineering.

Her passion for engineering was developed in high school when she constructed an automatic door for her grandparent's chicken coop. The door is still working today.

As a student at DVC, she was the founder and president of the 3-D printing club. The club was recognized with both New Club Success and Financial Excellence awards. Julianna was an active member of the Math, Engineering, Science Achievement Program (MESA). Also, she was treasurer for the Women in Science and Engineering group.



DVC Scholarship Recipient (Cont,d.)

In order to earn money, she was a tutor in physics and math at DVC. Many times, she would go beyond scheduled hours to make sure her student understood what was being taught.

Outside of DVC, Julianna was part of Stanford Science Small Groups in which she conducted research on a question. She also participated in NASA's L'Space Academy where she was part of a team designing a lunar rover mission to explore the Moon's South Pole. In addition to the academy, Julianna was a speaker at the MESA's NASA Community College Aerospace Scholars conference. Her favorite activity was an internship at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

With Julianna's knowledge of science, it is important for her to share science with others as she states, "I have strongly believed that hands-on science is one of the most important ways to inspire curiosity and confidence in STEM." She accomplished this by organizing a booth at the Tinkers and Thinkers STEM Faire in Pleasant Hill where participants built rockets under her guidance. At Valhalla Elementary School STEAM Night, she demonstrated 3D printing by showcasing functional objects such as a 3D-printed wrench. Through these activities she learned how to take science concepts and make them doable for younger children. When she gets settled at UC Berkeley, she will look for opportunities to work with school children.

An instructor at DVC summed up Julianna's attributes as "she embodies academic excellence, leadership, service, and dedication."

Julianna's long-range goal is to continue her education in mechanical engineering and to contribute to the medical device industry. Also, she will continue to pursue opportunities to impart her knowledge of science and engineering to others.

We wish her the best as she starts this new chapter in her educational journey.



Barbara Newacheck Award

Barbara Newacheck was a dynamic member of the Pleasant Hill Branch who embodied the values of AAUW. She passed away in 2004, and in 2005 the Barbara Newacheck Memorial Award was established to honor a member who, like Barbara did, advances the mission of AAUW through her contributions to the Branch and beyond.

This year's recipient of the Barbara Newacheck award is Karen Winters, the editor of our Newsletter. She was born and grew up in Pennsylvania. For college she attended the University of Maryland, obtaining a BS in electrical engineering. She became a technical writer, which combined her communication skills with her science background.

She joined this branch in 2019. During her membership she has contributed much to our branch and continues to do so. For three years, she was membership VP. Unfortunately, when she took on the job National changed their website and membership processing procedures drastically. As with any changes there are many glitches along with frustrations. She persevered and got a handle on things and did an excellent job with membership. When our newsletter editor moved, she graciously took on the task and has produced an excellent newsletter. She is also willing to send out blasts when needed.

Other branch activities that she participates in are local scholarship committee, morning books, SAM volunteer, wine appreciation group, and the Nimble Fingers (co-coordinator). For the past few years, she has let some of our members raid her kitchen to cut up fruit for our brunches. For the

year 2023-2024 she was a named gift honoree.

Karen is an exceptionally talented knitter. You can always see her hands flying as she knits. She also weaves, and considers herself a fiber artist. Currently she is treasurer of her knitting guild.

She also gardens as a hobby, growing vegetables and herbs, which she uses in cooking; her dishes are healthy and tasty. Another activity that she loves is yoga. She is very excited to have found a new yoga home in downtown Martinez, where she now takes classes regularly.

Congratulations, Karen!



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



Morning Books

We're taking a break for the summer but for those of you who would like to take this time to do some reading, our next book discussion meeting will be on September 2nd, and our discussion will focus on ***Theo of Golden*** by Allen Levi, which we selected at our recent luncheon. This book is about giving and receiving, seeing and being seen. It is an unforgettable novel about the power of generosity, the importance of connection, and the quiet miracles that happen when we choose kindness and wonder. Margie Pruitt offered to host at her place and Sharon Wilson will lead the book discussion. We meet at 10:00 in the morning for our book meetings. Happy reading!



Nimble Fingers

Nimble Fingers will meet on Monday, July 27th, at 2:30 P.M., at Nancy Hobert's home.

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

Please let Karen or Nancy know you're coming.

Karen: 925-408-5721

karen.winters@sbcglobal.net

Nancy: 925-228-7271

nhobert@aol.com



Wine Appreciation Group

The Wine Appreciation Group will not meet in July or August.

The next meeting will be Friday, September 18th, at 4 P.M. at Diane Peterson's house. We will be learning about and tasting three red wines from Argentina.



Mah Jongg

Mah Jongg will meet at 12:30 P.M. at Brookview Clubhouse Friday, July 17th and Friday, August 21st. Newbies are wel-

come too!

NOTE: We will use new 2026 cards from now on.

Be sure to let Suzanne Salter know if you are coming:

seabear92020@outlook.com or 925-988-0322



Lunchin' Ladies

Lunchin' Ladies WILL NOT MEET in June, July, or August. We will resume meeting for lunch in September. Enjoy your Summer!



Grand Slammers

Bridge Club — for information, contact Marlene De Laurenti:

mdl@astound.net or 925-934-4171



AAUW Pleasant Hill— Martinez Branch Website

Our website will show you everything you need to know about our Pleasant Hill—Martinez branch. Read about our June brunch on the **Photos Page**. Check out the Tech Trek and Local Scholarship girls on the **Community Action Page**. See the Barbara Newacheck and Named Gift Honoree winners on the **About Us Page**. Look at our AAUW Fund - DVC Scholarship Winner and the New Executive Board on the **About Us 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



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Karen Shore, BVMS

Rebecca Horn, DVM

PHM AAUW Calendar

- July 17** Mah Jongg, 12:30 P.M., Brookview Clubhouse
- Jul 27** Nimble Fingers, 2:30 P.M., Nancy Hobert's
- Aug 12** August board meeting, 7 P.M., Trinkia March's
- Aug 21** Mah Jongg, 12:30 P.M., Brookview Clubhouse
- Sept 2** Morning Books, 10 A.M., Margie Pruitt's
- Sept 18** Wine Club, 4 P.M., Diane Peterson's
- Oct** Welcome Back Brunch — date TBD



Writing a check for donation or event?

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

2026–27 Leadership Team

President 1 (Board Meeting Chair):

Trinka March

President 2 (General Meeting Chair):

Sherrie Moore

President 3 (National & Newsletter):

Reba Siero

Vice President—Program:

Carlyn Obringer

Vice President—Membership:

Bobbi Horack

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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