AAUW 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 69 Issue 2 **October 2026**



Presidential Postings

As we begin our new year, the various interest groups of the branch have had their first meetings with wonderful conversations and enjoying shared interests. Look for the meeting dates and join the fun!



Saturday, October 24th, will kick off our general meeting year with our Welcome Back Brunch. We will begin a little earlier than in the past, at 9:30 A.M., at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Pleasant Hill. Get your check to Claudia Bass by October 16th to reserve your place. Details are included in the flyer.

Let's go to the theater on Sunday, November 1st, at 2:00 P.M. We will be seeing "Clue: The Play", which will be a fundraiser for Tech Trek and Local Scholarships. The cost is $30 per ticket and the deadline to get your payment to Trinka March is October 18th. See the flyer for additional information.



Cindy Darling, who is a past Mayor of Walnut Creek, a current Walnut Creek Councilmember, and who had a strong STEM career, will join us for a luncheon meeting at El Tapatio in Pleasant Hill. The cost for lunch buffet is $30, with your reservation check going to Claudia Bass by November 16th. Again, the details are in the included flyer.

Sharon is planning our Holiday Party luncheon in December. Please let her know how you can help! Janice is hosting the Annual Layette Shower in January, and the International Soup Supper is set for February.

Fall Brunch



DVC Play Fundraiser



November Meeting Flyer



Public Policy: Midterm Elections





Presidential Postings (cont.)

As always, thanks to each of you for being a part of our amazing branch.

~ Trinka, Sherrie, and Reba

AAUW Fund Report

One of the Fund Committee's responsibilities is to raise money for National AAUW. You will receive a solicitation letter in your new directory at the Welcome Back Brunch. These funds raised go directly to National AAUW for various programs, educational grants, and fellowships.

You will also have the opportunity to donate to the DVC scholarship for a women continuing to a four-year college or university. Any donation to the DVC scholarship will be awarded to a DVC student.

You will receive two letters explaining the goals of each program. Please send your donations to Carolynn Barcklay in the envelope provided. You can also donate to National online at AAUW.org. **Thank you** for your generous support as you have always been very generous with your donations.

The Fund Committee will be selling Kinder's gift cards this spring, from February 22nd until March 31st.
Also, Game Day will be March 31st. More information will be coming regarding these events.

~ Gayle Miner and Carolynn Barcklay, Co-VPs

Update on Previous DVC Scholarship Recipients

Our 2024 recipient, Marlene Gomez, has completed her studies at UC Berkeley. She was admitted into the Teach for America Corps and spent the summer training for the program. She will be teaching K-12 as she continues her journey in becoming an educator.

Our 2025 recipient, Tara Lanoie, has finished her first year at CSU, East Bay. Tara also passed her state exam, and she is now a Certified Substance Abuse Counselor.

It is so nice to see that our recipients have been successful and to know that we contributed toward their education.

~ Claudia Bass



Clue: The Play at DVC November 1st

Join us at the DVC Performing Arts Center for a madcap comedy based on the screenplay and board game.

This will be a matinee show at 2:00 P.M., and tickets are $30. RSVP by October 18 to Trinka March. See the flyer for more information.

Proceeds from the plays are divided evenly between Tech Trek and Local Scholarship.



November Speaker

From STEM to Service

Cindy Darling received her bachelors of science from UC Davis in 1981 in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology. In her twenties she worked as a field biologist. Assignments included reintroducing captive bred peregrine falcons into the wild, monitoring salmon populations in the rivers of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River System, and controlling the spread of introduced fish species in that system. In her thirties, Cindy moved indoors, giving up field work to ensure that the needs of fish and wildlife were considered in the development of land and water projects as they were developed or, in some less common cases, as the courts or regulators reconsidered the balance between development and conservation on existing projects. In her forties she worked on the long running conflicts in the Delta between the needs of salmon, steelhead, and other native fishes and California's ever-increasing need for water. These negotiations have been a standing feature of California politics for decades and the 90s and early 2000's were a period of hopefulness where it looked like there might be space for a comprehensive settlement. As the hopefulness faded, Cindy took early retirement in 2009 to spend more time with her kids and husband. As a way to give back to her community, she volunteered for ten years on Walnut Creek's Planning Commission and has served on the City Council since 2020, including one year as mayor.

Meeting Date: Saturday, November 21st
Meeting Time: 11:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M.
Meeting Location: El Tapatio, 40 Golf Club Road, Pleasant Hill
Cost: $30

Please reserve your spot by November 16th by sending a check made out to AAUW Pleasant Hill-Martinez Branch to Caludia Bass, 1706 Endriss Drive, Martinez, CA 94553

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

Public Policy

Gearing Up for the 2026 Midterm Election

The November 2026 midterm election will soon be here. Before Vote by Mail ballots appear in the mailbox on October 5, it's time to engage and educate the community. Speaker Emirata Nancy Pelosi reminds us that vision and policy goals are meaningless unless steps are taken to prepare voters.

AAUW has a growing collection of nonpartisan resources with clear messaging that reflects AAUW California's Public Policy.Priorities. These resources equip branches to mobilize Get Out the Vote (GOTV) efforts, providing voters with objective information about candidates and propositions.

Before messaging and mobilizing, members should be aware of recent developments at the federal level that could have significant implications for voting rights and representation:

- Louisiana v. Callais: In its April 2026 decision, the U.S. Supreme Court narrowed the scope of Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, making it more difficult to challenge voting maps that dilute the voting strength of communities of color.
- SAVE America Act: The proposed legislation would establish new federal documentation requirements related to voter registration and voting. If passed, the legislation would affect voters who do not have the required documentation. It is important for voters to understand the requirements and stay informed about federal voting rules.

Watch for further results after the August 24, 2026 U.S. Supreme Court decision based on the timing of the Postal Service lawsuits, not the merit of Trump's executive order about mail-in ballots. The Court found that because the new Postal Service regulations weren't yet final, they couldn't yet be legally challenged. The U.S. Postal Service formally published its mail-in ballot rules on August 26, and they are now open to legal challenges. California and other states have announced they will re-file their lawsuits.

This article series by Missy Maceyko will also explain in further detail the many voter suppression efforts now underway and offer ways for you to mobilize and push back against them.

The AAUW California Public Policy & Advocacy Committee is developing a collection of Voter Education resources to support informed participation in the 2026 midterm election, including

- Candidate Comparison: California Gubernatorial race
- Candidate Comparisons: California Congressional Swing Districts - CA-22, CA-48, CA-13, CA-45, and CA-47
- Candidate Comparison: California Superintendent of Public Instruction
- California Ballot Propositions

These resources are available on the AAUW California Voter Guides and Information page: https://www.aauw-ca.org/voter-guides-and-information/.

If branches are interested in developing a Candidate Comparison Guide for their own Assem-

Public Policy (cont'd)

bly, State Senate, or local race, they can do so by researching the candidate's positions and using AAUW's voter guide template: https://www.aauwaction.org/voter-education/voter-guides/

In addition, AAUW National has provided several resources to support GOTV and voter education work:

- AAUW Election Resources
- 2026 Civic Engagement Guide
- It's My Vote! Sign — Download and display at events and activities.
- Advocacy Materials Request Form — Request stickers, signs, and other materials.

The above described resources will be valuable for branches planning voter registration and voter education programs, presentations, and community outreach. Please consider using them to engage branch members, support candidate forums and community town halls, and share with voters throughout your community.

The hour is imminent to mobilize and Get Out the Vote**.** The 2026 election will bring important decisions for voters at the federal, state, and local levels.

Educate and engage to participate in the election.

Check back regularly as new resources are added to the AAUW California Voter Guides and Information page.

~ Claire Noonan and Amy Hom, AAUW California Public Policy & Advocacy Committee

Want More Public Policy Information?

The AAUW California public policy newsletter is updated regularly, and you can access it here: https://www.aauw-ca.org/public-policy-committee-policy-news/



December Holiday Cookie Exchange

We are looking for a few more cookie bakers who would bring a dozen or so ***homemade*** (not store-bought) cookies to exchange. Depending on the number of people who participate, each person would bring one or two dozen cookies and go home with an assortment of one or two dozen cookies (2 per each participant). The date is to be determined. If you might be interested, please contact Diane Peterson.



Nimble Fingers

Nimble Fingers will meet on Thursday, October 22nd, at 2:00 P.M., at Karen Winters' 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



Morning Books

Our October book is ***American Dirt*** by Jeanine Cummins. This controversial book is about the harrowing experience of Latin American migrants fleeing to refuge in the North. It is a rare exploration into the inner hearts of people willing to sacrifice everything for a glimmer of hope. Jan Cooper has offered her backyard for us to meet on **October 7th** at 10:00 A.M. An email will be forwarded to all who regularly attend with the details of the location. However, if you are reading this and would like more information, please contact Sharon Wilson at 925-330-3391. We accept newcomers at any time.

Looking ahead, our November book is ***The Light We Carry*** by Michelle Obama. She shares practical wisdom and powerful strategies for staying hopeful and balanced in today's highly uncertain world. "When we are able to recognize our own light, we become empowered to use it," writes Michelle Obama. This book promises to be inspiring, and I look forward to discussing it with all of those who attend our discussion. We'll be meeting on **November 4th** at Kathleen Woulfe's home. Happy reading!



Mah Jongg

Mah Jongg will meet on Friday, October 16th, at 12:30 P.M., at Brookview Clubhouse. Newbies are welcome 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



Wine Appreciation Group

The September Wine Group was rescheduled to October 16th at 4 P.M. at Diane Peterson's house. We will learn a little about wines from Argentina and blind taste three red wines. Please let Diane know if you would like to attend. Space is limited.



Lunchin' Ladies

Lunchin' Ladies will meet on Monday, October 19, at 12:00 P.M., at Maguey Mexican Restaurant, 3168 Danville Blvd., Alamo.

Reservations must be in to Gayle Miner by Monday, Oct. 12th.

Gayle Miner, 925-788-3272 or gayle.miner@yahoo.com

NO EXCEPTIONS PLEASE.



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.







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 upcoming 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

2211 Morello Avenue, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

925-686-0683 Fax 925-686-4754

Katrinka March, DVM

Karen Shore, BVMS

Rebecca Horn, DVM

WELCOME BACK BRUNCH

Please join us

Saturday, October 24th 9:30 – 11:30

Note new time.

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

1601 Mary Drive, Pleasant Hill

Hear our Tech Trek girls relate their adventures at Sonoma State camp.

Preview this coming year.

Bring friends who are interested in becoming members so they can see what we're all about!

Price: $15

Make a reservation by October 16th by sending a check,
made out to **AAUW Pleasant Hill-Martinez Branch,**
to **Claudia Bass, 1706 Endriss Dr., Martinez, CA. 94553**











SAVE THE DATE: November 1st, 2026

We are heading to the Performing Arts Theater at DVC to see



Clue: The Play

Fundraiser for Tech Trek and Local Scholarships

Based on the Screenplay & Board Game

It's a dark and stormy night, and our cast of oddball characters has been invited to a very unusual dinner party. Each of the guests has an alias, the butler offers a variety of weapons, and the host is, well, dead. So whodunit? Join the iconic oddballs known as Scarlet, Plum, White, Green, Peacock, and Mustard as they race to find the murderer in Boddy Manor before the body count stacks up. Based on the cult classic film and the popular board game, Clue is a madcap comedy that will keep you guessing until the final twist.

Based on the Screenplay by Jonathan Lynn, the Paramount Motion Picture,
and the Hasbro Board Game CLUE
Written by Sandy Rustin, Directed by Reed Martin

Join us Sunday, November 1, at 2:00 P.M.

Tickets are $30. RSVP by October 18th

Send your check to
Trinka March
650 Linden Lane
Martinez, CA 94553

All proceeds will be split between Tech Trek and Local Scholarships

AAUW Pleasant Hill-Martinez November Program

Please join us

Saturday, November 21st from 11:30 A.M. – 1:30 P.M.

Our Speaker will be

Cindy Darling, Past Mayor of Walnut Creek

Current Walnut Creek Councilmember

Cindy will discuss her pathway from

a fulfilling STEM career to public service



Place: El Tapatio

40 Golf Club Rd, Pleasant Hill

All inclusive buffet is $30 per person, including tax and tip

Chicken and beef tacos, chicken and pork burritos,

cheese and chicken enchiladas, rice and beans,

chips and salsa, and a nonalcoholic drink






Make a reservation by **November 16th** by sending a check

made out to **AAUW Pleasant Hill-Martinez Branch**

to **Claudia Bass, 1706 Endriss Dr, Martinez, CA 94553**

Capacity is 42, so please reserve early.

The parking lot gets full, so you may want to carpool.

PHM AAUW Calendar

Oct 7 Morning Books, 10 A.M., Jan Cooper's

Oct 14 September board meeting, 7 P.M., Trinka March's

Oct 16 Mah Jongg, 12:30 P.M., Brookview Clubhouse

Oct 16 Wine Club, 4 P.M., Diane Peterson's

Oct 19 Lunchin' Ladies, 12:00 noon, Maguey Mexican Restaurant, 3168 Danville Blvd., Alamo

Oct 22 Nimble Fingers, 2:00 P.M., Karen Winters'

Oct 24 Welcome Back Brunch, **9:30** A.M., St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Pleasant Hill

Nov 1 Clue: The Play, 2:00 P.M., at DVC Performing Arts Center

Nov 21 General Meeting, 11:30 A.M., El Tapatio, 40 Golf Club Road, Pleasant Hill



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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AAUW California:

www.aauw-ca.org

PO Box 160067, Sacramento, CA 95816-0067

916-389-0220

Office Hrs: Mon-Fri 9 A.M.—2 P.M.

webteam@aauw-ca.org

askusfirst@aauw-ca.org

AAUW National:

www.aauw.org

1310 L Street NW, Washington, DC 20005

202-785-7700

Office Hrs: Mon-Fri 7 A.M.—2 P.M. Pacific Time

connect@aauw.org