



**Pleasant Hill Branch
N.E.W.S.**

Now/Events/Women/Success

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

VOLUME 53 ISSUE 4

DECEMBER 2010

Toyland

Pleasant Hill AAUW

Holiday Party

Friday, December 3, 2010

6 p.m.

**Brookview Club House
1201 Monument, Concord**

**Hearty Hors d'oeuvres
Drinks
Dessert
Entertainment**

Attire: Holiday casual

Cost: \$12 per person

**Send your checks (made out to PH AAUW) by December 1 to
Margi Alkire, 51 Rolling Green Circle, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
Spouses, friends, prospectives, WELCOME!**

Please bring small toys for the student store or library books for Fair Oaks School



See page 4 of this issue for a list of book titles.



Presidential Duo Report

What does AAUW mean to you? Do you accept that “AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research”? Or, do you think of AAUW as your opportunity to interact with other women sharing the same ideals as yourself? Or, do you feel pride in belonging to an organization with policies respected throughout the nation? Or, do you consider AAUW as a place to learn leadership skills and how to implement them?

AAUW is all of these things. Many of us have forged friendships that have lasted for decades; we have worked hard to promote Fellowships and Research Grants, we have followed litigants in their legal battles to gain equality; we have been awed by our Local Scholarship awardees and their educational goals; and we have watched rising 8th grade girls be “turned on” to science and math.

Where do you fit in all of these AAUW purposes? Hopefully, you feel fully integrated in all of the aims and goals of AAUW. Are you thinking of assuming a leadership role in the branch? The Nominating Committee might be calling you within the next two months for 2010-2011 officers. Please be prepared to say “yes.”

But more importantly, don’t lose sight of the bigger picture that is AAUW. Plan to attend state conventions ~ even the national convention where the emphasis will be on our 130th year anniversary. Look at our organization on a larger scale and commit yourself to furthering AAUW’s purpose to advance equity for all women and girls.

Happy Holidays to all of you!

The Duo

At the November general meeting the following **Nominating Committee** members were elected: **Jean Hambleton** and **Ginny Hargrave** with **Marilyn Tubbs** as alternate from the board. **Ish Mendonsa**, **Reba Siero** and **Alana MacDonald** with **Shelley Jacobson** as alternate from the general membership.

Please contact any of the committee members with suggestions for next year's officers.

Shirlee Thompson, Parliamentarian

See page 5 for Board Notes

2009– 2010 Leadership Team

Presidents:

Jean Hambleton 798-2344
Ginny Hargrave 798-2370
Marlene Maksel 689-5439

Vice President Program:

Waiting for volunteer

Vice President’s – EF:

Alana MacDonald 933-4427
Lynn Murphy 935-2109
Suzanne Rheingruber 945-0347

Vice President’s Membership:

Margi Alkire 827-2940
Suzanne Salter 935-0861

Vice President – LAF:

Victoria Maat 933-4432

Secretary:

Gayle Garrison 798-7528

Treasurer:

Marilyn Tubbs 939-6220

Newsletter Editor:

Kit Hein 228-7503

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AAUW Help Line: 800/326-AAUW

Copy deadline for January N.E.W.S. is Dec. 15th.

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INTEREST GROUP MEETINGS



** **MORNING BOOKS** will meet on Wednesday, 1 December, 10 am, at Ish Mendonsa's. We will be discussing *The Book Thief* by Marcus Zusak. This story is set in the WWII era and the protagonist steals books ~ beginning as a little girl. She is haunted by the death of her brother and others. In January we will be reading *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett. Please join us for great discussions.



** **BRIDGE**

The Grand Slammers



will play the second Monday, Dec. 13, 12:30 at the home of Gayle Garrison.....please call or e-mail if you would like to play.



** **IN INDELIBLE INK** will meet

on Wednesday, 8 December, 10 am at Kay Ernst's. Our topic will be "Miracles." Have you experienced a miracle, know someone who has, or do you believe in miracles?? Come and hear what others have written, if you don't want to write anything yourself. We hope to see you!



** **MATINEE IDLE** will go to the

movies on Thursday, **16 December**. Normally we go on the 4th Thursday, but in December, that is just 2 days before Christmas. So, we will try one week earlier. Call Marlene (689.5439) if you are planning to attend, or if you have any good suggestions for a movie. We always discuss the movie after over coffee or other liquid refreshment.



** **EVENING BOOKS** will not meet in December. We will meet next on Monday, 24 January, 7 pm, at Marti Martin's. We will be discussing *Nefertiti* by Michelle Moran. Make a New Year's resolution to start attending Evening Books!!



** **NIMBLE FINGERS**

You are invited to a

Layette Shower

Thursday, December 9

51 Rolling Green Circle, Pleasant Hill

10 a.m.



This is our 4th annual PH AAUW layette shower! The baby items will go via Hillcrest Church to needy moms in the County. You might want to make or buy a blanket, set of booties, baby hat, sleeper, stuffed animal, or whatever you think a new baby might need.

Bring your gift, unwrapped, to the party, and enjoy snacks, the gifts, and games. Open to all members and friends. Just come!



FAIR OAKS **STUDENT ART & MUSIC CLASSES** **(SAM)**

The SAM program has just completed its *Peter & the Wolf* story & music program culminating in the

student's learning to draw a wolf.  Thanks to Mary McGhee who produced and taught the program and the following AAUW members who assisted:

Margi Alkire, Susan Freeman, Muriel Fry, Shelley Jacobson, Alana MacDonald, Marlene Maksiel, Suzanne Mesetz, Ish Mendonsa, Lynn Murphy, Kathy Searles and Marilyn Tubbs.

Mary is planning the next program to be held between January 18th and 28th. Save the dates to help. It will focus on Egypt.

Thanks to members for the donations of items for the student store.

Students are absolutely thrilled at their choices to spend their "pats" (pat on the back for being good)

scrip money on.  See Page 4 for a list of book titles to donate to the Fair Oaks Library.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Marti Martin & Suzanne Salter

ATTENTION NEW AND PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS:

Save the Date

Tuesday, Dec. 7 – 5:30pm-6:30pm

Or

Thursday, Dec. 9 – 5pm-6pm

Margi Alkire will be hosting a gathering for new members and potential members. Her home is at 51 Rolling Green Circle, off Gregory Lane in Pleasant Hill (telephone: 827-2940).

We invite all new members and prospective members to join us for this short, informational and social session to get acquainted with each other and to learn more about Pleasant Hill AAUW.



If you know anyone who has considered joining our group, please extend this invitation to them. We will be meeting at Margi's home for an hour or so. We will have some light refreshments and will be ready to answer questions and spend a little time getting to know each other.

We will do this twice so that people can choose the day that works best for them. We will meet on Tuesday, December 7 from 5:30-6:30 and/or on Thursday, December 9, from 5:00 – 6:00. Contact one of us for more information or if you have any questions.



(Marti at 229-3574 or Suzanne at 935-0861)

Of course, current members are welcome to come with their guests. We look forward to seeing some of you at one of these sessions.



Adeline Gunnerson, a former Branch member, is doing well at her home in Rossmoor at the age of 96. Adeline told Margi Alkire that she did not rejoin this year as she has given up driving so has no way to attend PH Branch meetings. She is as busy as ever--she goes out to eat two times a week with a friend, and at her church, she is organizing a group of people over 90 years of age. Adeline is delighted with her 8 great-grandchildren.



FAIR OAKS BOOK DONATIONS

Here are some elementary school books suggested by the librarian at Fair Oaks School. You might want to bring one of these to the Holiday Party.

However, if you want to buy another children's book, that is fine, too!

Thelonius Monster's Sky-High Fly Pie - Judy Sierra

It's Christmas, David - David Shannon

I'm Not a Super Mouse - Geronimo Stilton



Peculiar Pumpkin Thief - Geronimo Stilton

I'm & Won't, They're & Don't: What's a Contraction? - Brian Cleary

Moose Tracks - Karma Wilson

Tacky's Christmas - Helen Lester

Amulet 3: The Cloud Searchers - Kazu Kibushi

Junkyard Wonders - Patricia Polacco

Any Biscuit Books - Alyssa Capucilli



The Local Scholarships Chairs want to thank 4 of our members -Margi Alkire, Marilyn Tubbs, Pat Harris, and Marlene Maksiel plus 3 spouses-Jim Alkire, Clint Tubbs, and George Mendonsa for volunteering to work at the polls on election day. We adopted a Pleasant Hill polling place and, although busy, we had time to visit and enjoy each other's company. Thanks to their time and generosity Local Scholarships has one student scholarship already paid for! Maybe more of you will join us at next year's election.

✂ SNIPPETS ✂

BOARD NOTES

- ✚ Membership reported that we have 97 paid members
- ✚ Profit for Festa Italiana was \$2120.54 – Voted to distribute \$1,000 to local scholarship, \$373.50 each to Tech Trek, LAF, and Educational Opportunities
- ✚ Joint branch IBC event is tentatively scheduled for March. Volunteers for a steering committee are needed from each branch

"Women Pass Men in Ph.D.s" (from the CCTimes) "Women were awarded more doctorates than men for the first time last year, according to a study released by the Council of Graduate Schools. The achievement—women received 50.5 percent of the doctorates in the US in 2008-09—means women dominate every level of higher education from bachelor's degrees to Ph.D.s"

Paycheck Fairness Act Defeated in Senate

On November 17, the Paycheck Fairness Act was defeated as it failed to clear a procedural hurdle in the Senate. AAUW led the coalition to pass the bill, and we condemn the Senate vote that flew so obviously in the face of overwhelming public support.

YOU'RE INVITED BY OTHER BRANCHES

[BENICIA: Bunko Night](#) Saturday, January 22, 2011 - 7 pm contact Mary at: 707-745-0808 or s.m.hammonds@att.net
[The Best Intentions-A Motown Tribute Band March 12,2011 – 8pm](#)

[DANVILLE-ALAMO: Holiday Home Tour](#) Friday and Saturday, Dec. 11 & Dec. 12

Call Ingrid at (925)788-1698 with questions or
e-mail: holidaytour@aauw-da.org



AAUW Action Network

President John F. Kennedy once said, "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." With that in mind, the American Association of University Women would like to pause this Thanksgiving to give thanks for the many wonderful opportunities and advancements for women and girls during 2010. Here are just a handful of them:

- We're thankful for Equal Rights Advocates in California fighting on behalf of female UC Davis students for increased opportunities in sports, and for the ACLU of Louisiana for contesting sex segregation in public schools. These Title IX advocates are increasing opportunities for girls and women everywhere.
- We're thankful that the U.S. Department of Education closed a loophole that allowed schools to evade Title IX compliance in athletics. And we're thankful for each and every one of the 38 investigations by the Education Department's Office of Civil Rights to identify and address all forms of inequality in public schools.
- We're thankful for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's effort to combat the growing public health issue of teen dating violence, which included the release of an interactive web-based training for educators and others working with teens. We're also thankful for AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund's Campus Sexual Assault Program in a Box, which provides information on the prevalence of sexual assault as well as tools to end it.
- We're thankful that AAUW was able to attend a White House Forum on Workplace Flexibility, put on by the White House Council on Women and Girls, President Obama, and First Lady Michelle Obama in March. We're equally thankful the AAUW attended the first ever White House Summit on Community Colleges, hosted by Dr. Jill Biden.
- We're thankful for the 90th anniversary of the 19th amendment. We wish more women - especially younger women - exercised it in November.
- We're thankful for AAUW members and supporters who put their money where their mouths are by generously giving to help women advance their educations and develop leadership skills.

From all of us at AAUW, best wishes for a happy and healthy Thanksgiving and a joyful beginning to your holiday season.



December 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1  Morning Books	2	3 TOYLAND –  HOLIDAY PARTY	4
5	6	7 New/Prospective Member Meeting 	8 In Indelible Ink 	9 Nimble Fingers Layette Shower New/Prospective Member Meeting	10	11 Danville-Alamo Home tour
12 Danville-Alamo Home tour	13 Grand Slammers 	14	15	16 Matinee Idle 	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Save the Date: January 18-SAM begins; January 19 – Annual Soup Supper Meeting; January 22 – Benicia Bunko Night; January 24 – Evening books



Pleasant Hill Branch
533 Roanoke Dr.
Martinez 94553

Membership – AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research. AAUW is open to all graduates of two year accredited colleges with AA degrees and/or accredited four year colleges or universities. In principle and practice AAUW values and supports diversity. There shall be no barriers to full participation in the organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class.