



VOLUME 54 ISSUE 5

Pleasant Hill Branch N.E.W.S.

Now/Events/Women/Success

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

JANUARY 2012

CHINA INSIDE OUT



*Tuesday, January 17, 2012
6:30 - 9:00 pm*

Our speaker for the January International Soup Supper will be Dr. Tom Scovel, who taught, published, and pursued research in various areas of language study for 47 years before retiring from San Francisco State University two and a half years ago. Tom was born and raised in China, and will speak of modern China, describing how its history and geography as well as the Communist Party's 53 year rule have combined to create the nation we see today. He will try to show how the current trappings of modernity and globalization often hide a worldview quite distinct from not just the "West" but also from China's Asian neighbors.

Come and grow in your understanding of this powerful new political and economic force. Savor an array of amazing soups, and bring your husband and any guests along. It promises to be a most enjoyable and rewarding evening!

Plus our

Annual Soup Supper



Hillcrest Congregational Church
404 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill, CA

*Spouses, significant others and friends are invited
Please bring your own soup bowl and spoon
Bread and drinks will be provided*

Each attendee may choose to provide one of the following:

- A pot of soup to serve 8 to 10 people
- A dessert to serve 6 to 8 people
- A \$5 donation at the door

Please RSVP to Kit DeGear by Sunday, 1/15/11 (609-8150) or kdegear@gmail.com



HUMAN TRAFFICKING

What Is It? How Can You Make a Difference?

When: **Sunday January 29, 2-4 pm**

Where: **Lafayette Library and Learning Center**

Sponsored by: AAUW Contra Costa Interbranch Council and Contra Costa County Commission for Women

Come and hear three government and non-profit sector experts from our area: **Jennifer Alderete, special agent with Homeland Securities Investigations, Cindy Liou, staff attorney with Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach , and Ms. Caritas Foster with the Holy Family Sisters organization.** They will discuss the scope of the problem (nationally and locally), suggest ways to combat human trafficking, and inform attendees of non-profit and government resources. This program advances education and advocates effective action that can be taken on these issues by AAUW members and the local community.

A “continuation of/addition to” the program our branch held last year, this is a topic that needs to remain in the forefront of everyone’s minds. For this reason CCC IBC chose it as our joint branch - community outreach program. Invite your spouses, friends, neighbors.

TAKE ACTION WITH AAUW

Bullying and sexual harassment have, unfortunately, made big headlines in recent months. After several tragic suicides, new initiatives aimed at preventing bullying and harassment, and AAUW's groundbreaking report on sexual harassment in school, the public and the media are finally paying attention to the critical issue of bullying. Now is the time to pass strong, meaningful anti-bullying and harassment legislation.

Take action: Ask your senators to cosponsor the Student Non-Discrimination Act (S. 555)!

All students deserve a safe and nurturing environment in which to pursue their educational goals. Yet currently, there is no federal law that explicitly protects students on the basis of their actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity.

The Student Non-Discrimination Act (SNDA) would do just that. SNDA, which is modeled after other civil rights laws such as Title IX, would protect students from various forms of bullying and harassment, such as sex stereotyping and bullying based on their actual or perceived gender identity, and would give students the ability to enforce protection from discrimination and harassment. AAUW believes it is past time for such a law.

To send a message asking your senators to cosponsor SNDA, visit AAUW Two-Minute Activist. Visit aauw.org and click on the “Say No to Bullying” article.



Il Messaggero

Pleasant Hill-Martinez AAUW is full of exciting happenings and wonderful people. Our membership is at 106 and climbing. We have many interests groups for you to participate in: Books, Movies, Indelible Ink, etc, etc. We have something to offer everyone.

I took my first bridge lesson at Marlene DeLaurenti's 2 weeks ago. Marlene and her husband were very patient with us as they monitored 3 tables of beginning bridge players. Everyone really enjoyed the experience. We didn't leave before we had delicious treats. I look forward to returning for Lesson 2 in January. Look elsewhere in the newsletter to find the date, time & place. Come and join us!!

Our Layette Shower was another huge success with 30 ladies in attendance at Susanne Rheingruber's beautifully decorated home. Jean Hambleton gave us the history of our Layette Program that has been in operation since 1950. Jean has provided leadership in this program for the last 20 years. Kudos to Jean!! A large bundle of baby supplies was donated and delivered to Contra Costa Co. Social Services. Nibble Fingers provided lovely brunch food.

Our SAM (Student Art & Music) Program at Fair Oaks Elementary School is off to a good start. We have many members volunteering but they can always use more. Call Mary Mc Ghee or Marilyn Tubbs and get involved. We are certain you will find it a very rewarding experience.

We hope to see everyone at our International Soup Supper on January 17th and again at the CCC Interbranch Council on January 29th for the Program on Human Trafficking.

We hope you had a very Merry Christmas and look forward to a happy and healthy New Year.

Ciao and Amore,
Kathy and Marilyn

Ways and Means Committee

The Branch Ways and Means Committee will meet on Saturday, January 7, 2012, 10:00 a.m. at the home of Margi Alkire.

This is to see how the fund-raising has gone so far this year, make disbursements, and schedule any new projects.

2011- 2012 Leadership Team

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Pleasant Hill AAUW N.E.W.S. is published ten times a year by and for the American Association of University Women. May/June & July/August are combined issues.

Copy deadline for February N.E.W.S. is Jan. 15th.

Please send copy to Kit Hein

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INTEREST GROUP MEETINGS



** **MORNING BOOKS** will meet on Wednesday, January 4th, 10 am, at Ilene Linssen's. We will be discussing *Finding Nouf* by Zoe Ferraris. This mystery takes place in Saudi Arabia and gives a lot of insight into the culture of the Saudi's ~ especially the women's world. In February, we will be reading our classic for the year ~ F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*. Please join us for great discussions!



** **MATINEE IDLE** will go to the movies on Thursday, January 26th ~ back to our regular schedule! We usually attend a matinee at a local theatre. 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 meet on Monday, January 23rd, 7 pm, at Marti Martin's. We will be reading *The Persistence of Memory* by Tony Eprile. This is a fascinating story about the waning years of apartheid in South Africa. Come for a very interesting discussion.



** **IN INDELIBLE INK** will meet on Wednesday, January 11th, 10 am, at Margi Alkire's. Our theme will be "Choices." Maybe you've made a good/bad choice; maybe you know someone who has made a good/bad choice; or maybe you have a terrific fictional story about that topic. We'd love to hear your story and we like hearing oral versions, too! We don't critique your writings, so there is no pressure. Please come!



** **NIMBLE FINGERS** will meet at 10 AM on Thursday, January 12th at Janet Sullivan's house, 28 Carpenter Ct. Pleasant Hill.



** **GENEOLOGY** Section is a field trip group and does not have regular meetings. Call Kay Ernst (937-0526) if you have interest and/or ideas. Meanwhile, be sure to read Kay's essay about searching for her roots which she wrote for our In Indelible Ink section.

COMMUNITY

Marlene Maksiel – Pleasant Hill

Wednesday, 18 January ~ the monthly Chamber Mixer will be at Tahoe Joe's on Contra Costa Boulevard, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Call 687-0700 to make a reservation. We are members, so you are invited to attend.

Thursday, 19 January ~ the 41st Annual Community Awards Night at Back Forty Texas

BBQ.  Social hour begins at 5:30 pm, dinner at 6:30 pm and the program at 7:15 pm. Awards given will be for Citizen of the Year, Business Person of the Year, Teen of the Year, Community Plus Award and Educator of the Year. Tickets are \$40 each and can be purchased by calling Katrina Hunn at 682-0896 x12.

Saturday, 21 January ~ P. H. Lions Club 39th annual  Crab Feed at Big "C" Athletic Club on Galaxy Way in Concord at 5:30 pm ~ dinner at 7:15 pm. Benefits community charitable organizations. Tickets available at \$45/each from Phil Madruga ~ 933-8061.

Mayor's Breakfast will be January, but no date is available at this time. Watch your newspaper, Outlook, and Community Focus publications for more info.

Membership Matters

Marti Martin and Reba Siero

We put the incorrect e-mail address for new member Susan Loustalet in the last newsletter. Her correct e-mail address is: donsusan1715@att.net. Please make this correction in your directories.

Do you know anyone who has been thinking about joining our branch? The spring would be an ideal time to bring them to an event or interest section. If they join before March 15, there is a 50% discount on the dues for a total of \$41.50 for membership through June 30, 2011. Or, if they join after March 15, they can get up to 15 months for the regular 12 month dues of \$83 (their membership would then expire on June 30, 2013.) Think about it and invite someone to join you at your next AAUW activity or give their contact information to Reba or Marti. We will be happy to contact them.

A REPEAT REQUEST

Last year members of Pleasant Hill AAUW volunteered their time to help with the *Poetry Out Loud* program at Mt Diablo High School. This year our program is expanding and coming to College Park High School. The contest will be held at 6pm on Thursday, January 19.

If you have an interest in poetry recitation and would like to be a judge or help in some other way, please contact Kit Hein at 925-305-6301 or 925-228-7503 as soon as possible.

Poetry Out Loud is a national competition sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts and The Poetry Foundation. You can read more about the program at poetryoutloud.org

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS
and
POETRY FOUNDATION
present



Silent Tea Party



Tea is always a welcome treat during these cold winter days. So, you will be receiving an invitation to a very unique tea party in January. You will not even have to leave your home!

It is a benefit, so think of local scholarships. Our branch will be offering these to young women attending College Park High School and Alhambra High School. Your contributions will help fund these scholarships. The invitation you receive will explain exactly what you can do to achieve our branch's goal.

HEALTH CARE FOR ALL???

Save the date:

As elections approach in our still struggling economy, health care is going to be a topic discussed by all candidates. One of the possible options is single-payer health insurance, but do we really know what that is and how it might work? Possibly not, maybe just some vague feelings or ideas either positive or negative, or perhaps even a blank... But what we all do recognize is that our current health programs are not meeting the needs or resources of far too many people.  Regardless of our political bent, we all need to be more informed on this complicated issue in order to make intelligent choices and decisions.

This is not a general meeting.....it is a special opportunity to educate yourself with a speaker and open discussion! Call Gretel Holit for more information.

DATE: Saturday, February 25

TIME; 9:30 am

PLACE: Kit Hein's home

OUT AND ABOUT

Benicia-Vallejo Branch

BUNCO NIGHT



Saturday, January 28, 2012

Doors open 6:30

BUNCO starts @ 7 PM

Benicia Senior Center

187 East L Street

REFRESHMENTS...PRIZES

No experience necessary to enjoy this fun game of chance!

Tickets \$15

For advance tickets, mail check to

Mary Hammonds, 902 Bradford Way, Benicia, CA 94510

Make check payable to "Benicia-Vallejo AAUW"

For more information or to carpool, contact Kit Hein 228-7503

A fundraiser for AAUW's Tech Trek science camp
scholarships, community projects, and educational programs.

Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek Branch

On February 7 at 5:30 PM meet to hear Yalda Asmatey, a refugee from a war-torn country and now a 2011-2012 AAUW American Fellows recipient for the annual Educational Fellowship dinner.

This year's dinner is presented as a partnership of the Pleasant Hill-Martinez AAUW, Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek AAUW, and Delta Kappa Gamma-ZetaZeta key women teachers.

Scott's Seafood Restaurant

1333 N. California Blvd.

Walnut Creek.

Ms. Asmatey, who is studying anthropology at UC Berkeley, will discuss her doctoral dissertation of Kettleman City, California home of the largest Class I toxic waste dump in the Western United States and home to a poor Hispanic community. Through ethnographic and archival research, her case study, "How Green is My Valley," examines the catastrophic transformations in California's San Joaquin Valley on people, flora and fauna in the face of toxic contamination and scientific uncertainty. Yalda Asmatey is an informed and articulate speaker.



Please indicate a choice of Grilled Salmon or Chicken Parmesan and Send \$34.00 for Reservations which should be mailed to DKG Reservations, P. O. Box, 551, Alamo, CA 94507.

Written as an "assignment" for In Indelible Ink Section, the following essay shows member Kay Ernst's deep interest in genealogy. Let her know if you share the same passion. As usual, the clip art is inserted without permission © editor

Nathaniel Scott
By Kay Ernst

Do you have any family stories that have been handed down to you from your parents and wondered if they were true? One of my family stories is about my Father's grandfather, Nathaniel Scott. Through research I do know that he was born in Indiana on October 22, 1837, married Margaret Basye October 5, 1859 in Dekalb, Oklahoma, died September 7, 1897 in Stone Co., Missouri and is buried in Oak Grove, Arkansas.

After many years hunting for his grave site I found  it. It is about a two hour drive from Eureka Springs, Arkansas - were some of my family still live. It is a lovely country cemetery on the top of a gently rounded hill with one large, old oak tree in the center. Finding the cemetery was an adventure in itself. It took several years and gave me an opportunity to have a good look at the hills and back roads of Arkansas. While there I took some photos of grave sites around my great grandfather's grave. Something a genealogist should do. A year or so, while emailing a cousin in Arizona, she mentioned that she had been looking for her great grandparents' grave site. I remembered the other names on the tombstones and one of them was her family.

The family story that I have long wondered about is: My  grandfather, Arthur Chester Scott, would often brag about his father fighting in the Civil War on the Union side. When my Dad became interested in genealogy he thought it would be nice to get the war records of Nathaniel Scott, his grandfather, and give them to his father. He hired a professional genealogist to do the research.

My Mom said he was so excited  when the long awaited envelope finally arrived. Well, guess what? Nathaniel Scott was a Confederate! Dad was so upset he tore the papers up and never told his father.

For several years I have tried to verify this story without any luck. Every Nathaniel Scott I could find who fought in the Civil War was on the Union side. Could this professional genealogist have been wrong? At long last, about eight months ago while doing research at the Genealogy Library in Salt Lake City, I found him.

I decided to join the heritage/lineage society, United Daughters of the Confederacy, because this is the 150th year of the beginning of the Civil War. I thought it appropriate to honor my family

This is what genealogy is all about. It as an adventure where you are trying to solve a mystery. You need to know history, geography, be familiar with research techniques, be highly tenacious and have an undying curiosity. It will lead you on some fantastic trips full of unexpected surprises.

January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 Morning Books 	5	6	7 Ways & Means 
8	9	10	11 In Indelible Ink 	12 Nimble Fingers 	13	14
15	16	17  Soup Supper	18 Chamber Mixer	19 CPHS Poetry PH Comm Awards	20	21 PH Lions' Crab Feed
22	23  Evening Books	24	25	26 Matinee Idle 	27	28  Benicia-Vallejo Bunko
29 Human Trafficking 	30	31				

SAVE THE DATES: Feb. 7 – Delta Kappa Gamma Dinner; Feb. 25 – Single Payer Health Care



Pleasant Hill – Martinez Branch
533 Roanoke Dr.
Martinez 94553

Membership – AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy 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.