



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 58 Issue 2

October 2015

Festa Italiana 2015

Saturday, October 10th

3:30-6:30

Viano Winery

150 Morello Avenue, Martinez

Wine Tasting & Appetizers 3:30-4:45

Italian Dinner and Raffle 4:45-6:30

Ticket Donation \$40.00



A Benefit for Pleasant Hill-Martinez AAUW

Providing Scholarships for Women

For Tickets Call:

Gayle Miner 925-349-6795

Marlene Maksel 925-689-5439

Joy Barden 925-935-7118

Marilyn Thelen 925-228-2600

Co Chairs: Elena Noble and Marlene DeLaurenti



PRESIDENTIAL POSTINGS

Co-Presidents Katrinka March & Gayle Miner

If you want something done right- give it to this amazing group of women that we call our branch of AAUW! Another beautiful brunch to officially start off our AAUW year! We all thank Marilyn and Jim for graciously hosting this year's brunch in their own back yard. And many thanks to all who organized, set up, provided wonderful muffins and frittatas and iced tea, and more! The Tech Trek girls impressed us with their tales of camp and not only shared what they did, but how impressed they were with themselves. Their experiences opened new doors for each and every one of them! And you make this possible.

You are never wanting for something to do around here. We have book groups, writing, bridge, movies, mah jongg and friends to enjoy them all with. All interest groups are happy to add your name to the next event if you want to join them!

Our big fundraiser is coming up quickly. Tickets for Festa are already selling. This is always a fun time and there are many good programs including AAUW funds, Tech Trek and local scholarships that benefit while you enjoy the company of your friends, and the latest from our local Viano winery. The Festa committee has been gathering gift cards for raffle prizes to be had as well.

As AAUW members we are always involved in the community in so many ways and we try to stay connected and informed. If you missed the sign-up sheet for the SAM program and might even have an hour to help out (no experience necessary) contact Ish Mendonsa. The program committee is also working hard to come up with some new ideas and has a very thought provoking program coming up. Later this month is the Northern California Funds Luncheon- are you going? View the reservation form and register online, or to access the form to mail in your reservation, you can go to the

AAUW CA website and click AAUW Funds in the left column then click on Fall Funds Luncheons. Deadline to register is October 13th.

Thank you Marlene Maksel once again for your production of the directory- if you don't have yours yet, please see the membership duo of Claudia Bass and Alana Macdonald. We value each and every one of our members and know that you each have something unique to bring to the group. Enjoy our programs; support our funds to provide opportunities in education and legal support for women. Lend a hand for something you believe in. We hope to see a lot of you this year!

Trinka and Gayle

OCTOBER BOARD MEETING:
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2015
7 PM
Home of Trinka March

Copy deadline for the November 2015 N.E.W.S. is:
October 20th

Please email copy to:
Reba Siero rebasiero@yahoo.com

FOUND AT BRUNCH

1 straw visor with red heart pin attached
1 white plastic pie server

If you are missing these items, contact
Gayle Miner at (925) 349-6795. She has them.

REQUEST FROM THE TREASURER

Joan Foster

Please download the deposits/disbursements form from the web when you are sending me cash, checks or requesting a reimbursement. It is imperative I have that form. Thanks for your cooperation.



Festa Italiana 2015

Oct. 10th Viano Winery

Co-Chairs:

Elena Noble & Marlene DeLaurenti

Festa is almost upon us. We are looking forward to a great turnout from our members and their friends and families.

Contact Co-Chairs if you can help:

Lasagna:

Suzanne Salter 925-935-0861
seabear2@msn.com

Biscotti:

Marlene Maksel 925-689-5439
marlene@maksiel.us

Give it a try!

This year we are looking for **Gift Certificates** from local merchants. It is surprising how generous business owners are when approached by regular customers like **YOU**. We have a tax exempt letter thanking them for their contribution.

Contact Co-Chairs:

Penny Harris 925-229-1493
pennyharris820@gmail.com

Claudia Bass 925-372-8679
cbasslancer29@aol.com

Into the Woods is a musical with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim and book by James Lapine. The musical intertwines the plots of several Brothers Grimm and Charles Perrault fairy tales, exploring the consequences of the characters' wishes and quests. The main characters are taken from "Little Red Riding Hood", "Jack and the Beanstalk", "Rapunzel", and "Cinderella", as well as several others. The musical is tied together by an original story involving a childless baker and his wife and their quest to begin a family, their interaction with a witch who has placed a curse on them, and their interaction with other storybook characters during their journey.

DVC is taking us Into the Woods this fall and we are planning a fundraiser on November 7th. \$30 will get you a ticket for an entertaining musical where all your wishes come true... or don't. **Proceeds will go to support the Tech Trek program.**

RSVP by October 30th to Trinka March: 650 Linden Lane, Martinez, CA 94553



October 20, 2015 Program

Keynote Speaker

Honorable Ellen Tauscher!

By Jan Coe

The Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette (OML) Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) will feature the Honorable Ellen Tauscher, the U.S. Representative for California's 10th congressional district from 1997-2009, on Tuesday October 20, 2015 at the Holy Trinity Serbian Cultural Center, 1700 School Street, Moraga. Coffee will be served at 9:00.

Ellen has been asked to address how we, as individuals, can advocate for AAUW's priorities such as public education, women in the workforce/equal pay, affordable health care, the right to privacy, freedom from violence, and choice in determination of one's reproductive life. Drawing on her unique experiences and background, Tauscher will share insights from her time of government service and her current endeavors.

The Honorable Ellen O'Kane Tauscher is a former Democratic Member of the U.S. House of Representatives, representing California's 10th Congressional District. She was elected on her first run for any elected office in 1996 and served until her resignation to join the Obama Administration in her seventh term on June 26, 2009. Tauscher served as Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security Affairs until February 6, 2012. She then served as special envoy for Strategic Stability and Missile Defense at the State Department until her resignation from government service on August 31, 2012.

INTEREST GROUP MEETINGS



****MORNING BOOKS** will meet on Wednesday, October 7th, 10 am, at Susanne Rheingruber's. PLEASE let your hostess know if you are going! We will be discussing *Clara and Mr. Tiffany* by Susan Vreeland. Behind every great man, it is said, is a great woman. Read this book to see how Clara Driscoll persevered against the power of Louis Comfort Tiffany. In November, we will discuss *The Fall of Marigolds* by Susan Meissner. Please plan to join us for great discussions!



****EVENING BOOKS** will meet on Monday, October 27th, 7 pm, at Jeanne McGinnis's. PLEASE inform your hostess that you are attending! We will be discussing *A Star for Mrs. Blake* by April Smith. The story is about Gold Star Mothers who travel to France to say a final goodbye to their fallen sons, American casualties of WWI. Please plan to join us for the discussion.



****MATINEE IDLE** will go to the movies on Thursday, October 22nd. We usually attend a matinee at a local theatre. Call Marlene (689-5439), if you are planning to attend, or if you have any suggestions for a movie. We always discuss the film after over coffee or other liquid refreshment.



****MAH JONGG** We're starting again! Friday, October 16th, 1:00 at the Brookview Clubhouse. \$2.00 per person. Bring your set, if you have one, and remember your card. Snacks are welcome. Contact **Sherrie Moore** if you would like to play.

229-4177 mooresherrie@comcast.net



****IN INDELIBLE INK** will meet on Wednesday, October 14th, 10 am, at Ginny Hargrave's. The topic assignment will be "Do You Remember When . . ." We welcome oral versions as well as written and we do NOT critique your writings. Please come and try out this Interest Section.



****LUNCHIN' LADIES** will have lunch at on Tuesday, October 20th, 1 pm, at Dana's in Danville at 416 Sycamore Valley Road. Please let Marlene know by October 17th if you are planning to go so reservations can be made. If you have a restaurant you would like to try, please let Marlene know ~ we need some unique suggestions.



****MARATHON BRIDGE** If you are interested please call or email Elizabeth DiPietro, Chairperson at (925) 451-0188 (cell) or (925) 210-0281 (home) or email at bokeyd1106@gmail.com

SAVE THESE DATES

- Oct 10** Festa Italiana, Viano Winery, Martinez 3:30 to 6:30 pm
- Oct 20** OML - Ellen Tauscher to speak, Moraga 9 am
- Oct 25** Annual Northern California Funds Luncheon, noon to 3 pm, Crow Canyon Country Club, Danville
- Nov 7** Into the Woods, Tech Trek fundraiser, DVC
- Nov 15** Tech Trek/AAUW Funds joint fundraiser, Tahoe Joe's, lunch or dinner, 11 am to 9 pm
- Nov 18** Presentation by Margaret Zhao, 7 pm
- Dec 11** PH-M AAUW Holiday Party, 6 to 9 pm, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Concord



SAM Program at Fair Oaks Elementary
Student Art and Music Program
Can you volunteer?
Starting this Fall
Call Suzanne Mesetz for details 939-2132



Pleasant Hill - Martinez AAUW Website



Our website will show you everything you need to know about our Pleasant Hill- Martinez branch. See pictures from our September Brunch on the **Photos Page**. Find photos of all of our members on the **Members Page**. Do you want to retake your picture? Check out our upcoming Programs, Fund Raisers, and Events on the **Program Page**.

Hint: To see the latest on each page, you may have to press the F5 key.

Just go to <http://www.aauw-pleasanthill-martinez.org> for all of this and more. Forward any questions or comments that you may have to the webmaster, located on the **About Us page**.

Sherrie Moore, webmaster

TECH TREK TIDINGS

Janice Walker

Due to a family emergency, I was unable to attend the September Brunch, but if you were there you heard about the fantastic experiences our Tech Trek girls had at camp last June, all made possible by your donations to Tech Trek and your support of our fundraisers. As we begin the year, once again there will be opportunities for you to support this “amazing experience” as one parent described her daughter’s week at Tech Trek camp.

In early November there will be a play night when we attend DVC’s performance of “Into the Woods”. Look for detailed information in this newsletter. Then on November 15, Funds and Tech Trek will join together for your November day out of the kitchen! Join us for lunch or dinner at Tahoe Joe’s for only \$20 of which \$8 will be shared among Funds and Tech Trek. Mark the dates on your calendar and plan to join us for these events. Contact Trinkia March for the play tickets, and Harriett Burt, Helen Pereira or myself for tickets to Tahoe Joe’s. Looking forward to seeing you then!

AAUW FUNDS

Harriett Burt and Helen Pereira
AAUW Funds VPs

Fun and Inspiring Funds Luncheon Almost Here!

Thanks to all who have starting sending in your tax-deductible contributions to AAUW Funds. Helen’s mailbox is beginning to fill up. Of course, Funds comes even closer to home for PH-MTZ Branch now that we have sent a local young woman to the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders. We were all sorry we couldn’t meet Brenda Ruiz in person at the Fall Brunch but Muriel read her very informative and touching letter of thanks to us for what may well be a life-changing opportunity for her. NCCWSL is one of the Funds you can choose for your donation. Your Funds Committee has already decided to sponsor another DVC student this coming year. For those not able to attend the fabulous Fall Brunch, your Funds contribution letter will be arriving in the mail. Thank you in advance for your contribution.

There’s nothing more moving than hearing a graduate fellowship or grant recipient talk about what she is doing and what the support of thousands of women she doesn’t even know means to her as she meets the challenges of a rigorous course of study to achieve an advanced degree often in a field not typically open to women in the past. So pack your tissues and come to the Northern California AAUW Funds luncheon on Sunday, October 25 from 12:00 to 3 p.m. It will be at the Crow Canyon Country Club and among the attendees will be our own Kit Hein bringing a car load from Santa Cruz County Branch. Sign up at the AAUW CA website either electronically or the old fashioned way with a check in the mail. The links are all right there on the home page. The deadline is October 13.

Muriel Fry belongs to the AAUW CA State Funds committee so keeps us up to date on activities in California and in the larger world we are all a part of. That includes passing on information including the very interesting history of Funds. Brunch attendees were promised a bit of Funds history each newsletter so here goes:

AAUW’s first fellowship was awarded in 1888 -- \$350 to American scholar Ida M. Street, an University of Michigan alumna. Since then, AAUW has awarded nearly \$100 million to 12,000 fellowship, grant and award recipients from more than 130 countries. The first International Fellowship was established in 1917 after Laura Puffer Morgan attended the Women’s Auxiliary Conference of the second Pan American Scientific Congress held in Washington D. C. The International Fellowships program has grown to support more than 3,300 women from more than 130 nations.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Alana Macdonald and Claudia Bass
Membership VPs

The September Brunch was a huge success! The weather was warm and balmy, the setting at Marilyn's house was beautiful as always, and lots of wonderful people came! We had 75 people in attendance: 53 of our members, 14 Tech Trek people (kids and parents), and 8 prospective members. Two of the prospective members joined immediately. Four others are planning to join.

We are always impressed by the great number of members who are willing to make time in their busy lives to help out on our AAUW projects. Many thanks to those of you who provided food for this event: Jennifer Apkarian, Georgette Armstrong, Joy Barden, Harriet Burt, Diane Coventry, Elizabeth DiPietro, Vicki Enderle, Joan Foster, Muriel Fry, Gayle Garrison, Pat Harris, SarahJoy Haynes, Nancy Hobert, Gretel Holit, Susan Lawson, Beth Madruga, Marlene Maksel, Trinka Marsh, George Marsh, Gayle Miner, Marge Munger, Elena Noble, Ish Mendonsa, Susanne Mesetz, Sherrie Moore, Lynn Murphy, Helen Pereira, Margie Pruitt, Carol Tinsley, Priscilla Tudor and Janice Walker.

Thanks also to those who helped with preparations, set up and take down: Jennifer Apkarian, Trinka Marsh, George Marsh, Gayle Miner, Margie Pruitt, Priscilla Tudor, Marilyn Thelen and Jim Thelen.

A very special thanks to Marilyn and Jim Thelen for hosting this event!

We apologize if we've forgotten anyone. Know you and all you do are very much appreciated!

Alana Macdonald, alanam88@gmail.com

Claudia Bass, cbasslancer29@aol.com

Here is the information for our two new members who joined at the Brunch:

LAURA FEBUS

31 Corte de la Canada
Martinez, CA 94553
Home: 925-229-3907 Cell: 925-989-6396

lfebus@comcast.net

Laura attended the University of the Redlands majoring in English Lit. She has a Masters from UC Berkeley.

DANA GUZZETTI

1032 Palm Avenue
Martinez, CA 94553
dguzzetti10@gmail.com

Dana attended Cal State East Bay majoring in Political Science and has a Television Arts certificate.

In addition, here is the information for a renewing member:

FREDETTE PARDINI

3914 Euclid Avenue
Martinez, CA 94553
925-370-6789
fredini3@att.net

San Jose State
BA Education

Here are the new members who have joined since the Brunch and we welcome them.

GINA ZAGOTTA

510 Haven Street
Martinez, CA 94553
925-370-2420
Purdue University, IN
BA Communications/ Psychology

CHERYL BUSCAGLIA

132 Stonehurst Court
Martinez, CA 94553
925-957-6391
San Jose State University/ DVC
Business/ Home Economics

SUZANNE DABBY

1930 Berrellesa Street
Martinez, CA 94553
American College in London
BA Interior Design



PH-MTZ AAUW RAZZLE DAZZLE HOLIDAY PARTY



Friday, December 11th 6-9 pm

**Crowne Plaza
45 John Glenn Drive, Concord**

Sit down dinner (no-host bar) and entertainment

Choose turkey, potatoes and stuffing OR chicken, asparagus and rice pilaf dinner
Meal includes a glass of wine, water, ice tea, salad, rolls and butter, and dessert and coffee
Vegetarian meal available upon request

\$50 per person, checks to PH-M AAUW
By December 7th (no exceptions), RSVP and send your check to:

**Marlene Maksel
1201 Monument Blvd. #12
Concord, CA 94520**

Reserve early
Bring your spouse and/or friends, plenty of parking



UPCOMING PROGRAM

Margaret Zhao To Share Her Journey to Freedom

On Wednesday November 18th, from 7:00PM-8:00PM, the Pleasant Hill-Martinez branch of AAUW will proudly host Margaret Zhao, our own Bay Area award-winning author, inspirational speaker, teacher and humorist. Margaret's memoir **Really Enough; a True Story of Tyranny, Courage and Comedy** gained national recognition as the winner of the Sharp Writ Book Award for Best Memoir/Biography in 2012.

This astonishing, intimate memoir charts her daunting struggle for survival, freedom and forbidden love while exposing the shocking lives of the Enemies of the State under the tumultuous rule of Chairman Mao. Despite growing up in brutal poverty and being excluded from society because of her family background, Margaret manages to create a life of love and laughter and self-fulfillment in the midst of it all. With heart, humor, conviction, and the uplifting power of learning, Margaret's journey to freedom will embolden you. Margaret's natural sense of humor has led her to be a Stand-Up Comedian and Motivational Speaker applauded by audiences of all ages. Most recently she was the Keynote Speaker for The Assistance League of Amador Valley's Spring Tea and she was specially requested by the Pastor of Lynnewood United Methodist Church in Pleasanton to give the Mother's Day sermon for both services.

Margaret is a resident of the East Bay. She actively shares Chinese culture and Buddhist philosophy as a teacher of free Qigong and Buddhist Meditation Classes. She recently published her second book, **Humor Haiku, Vol. 1**, a collection of short poems touching on subjects such as relationships, the seasons and new discoveries, with profundity and wit.

Contact: Laura Navarro: Publicist for Margaret Zhao
laura@reallyenough.com (925) 285-5193

Really Enough video trailer: www.ReallyEnough.com

Recent TV Interview: www.HumorHaiku.com

PH-M AAUW N.E.W.S. SPONSOR

Montecito Animal Clinic



5280 Pacheco Boulevard
Pacheco, CA 94553
925/686-0683
FAX 925/686-4754



Katrinka March D.V.M.
Karen Shore B.V.M.S.
Cindy Pieper D.V.M.

2015-2016 LEADERSHIP TEAM

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Priscilla Tudor 790-4095 ptudorlcsw@sbcglobal.net

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Alana Macdonald 933-4427 alanam88@gmail.com

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Copy deadline for November 2015 N.E.W.S. is October 20th. Please email copy to: **Reba Siero**
rebasiero@yahoo.com

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sandykirkpat@earthlink.net

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<http://www.aauw.org/>

October 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	10 am 7 Morning Books Susanne Rheingruber's	8	9	3:30 pm 10 Festa Italiana Viano Winery
11	12	13	10 am 9 In Indelible Ink Ginny Hargrave's 7 pm Board Meeting Trinka March's	15	1 pm 16 Mah Jongg Brookview	17
18	19	1 pm 20 Lunchin' Ladies Dana's in Danville	21	Matinee Idle 22	23	24
Noon 25 Nor Cal Funds Luncheon, Crow Canyon CC, Danville	26	7 pm 27 Evening Books Jeanne McGinnis's	28	29	30	31

November 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 <i>Into the Woods</i> at DVC, Tech Trek fundraiser
8	9	10	7 pm 11 Board Meeting Trinka March's	12	13	14
11-9 15 Tahoe Joe's Tech Trek/Funds fundraiser	16	7 pm 17 IBC Meeting Atria, PH	7 pm 18 PH-M AAUW Meeting Margaret Zhao	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Save the Dates: December 11 – Holiday Party