



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 8

April 2016



From Physicist to Mystery Writer

Camille Minichino

7:00 pm

Wednesday, April 20, 2016

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

1601 Mary Drive, Pleasant Hill

Camille Minichino is a scientist, teacher, and writer. She has a B.A. in Mathematics from Emmanuel College, Boston, and an M. S. and Ph.D. in physics from Fordham University, New York City. She has done research in experimental spectroscopy and high-temperature physics. When her first book, Nuclear Waste Management Abstracts, was not a bestseller, she turned to mystery fiction. She has written more than 20 novels and many articles and short stories under her own name and pen names, Margaret Grace, Ada Madison, and Jean Flowers. She is currently on the faculty of Golden Gate University, San Francisco and teaches writing throughout the Bay Area.

Camille will discuss her experience at Fordham as a physics major at a time when very few women pursued careers in science and talk about the discrimination she endured from an unlikely source. She will tell us about her transition from scientist to mystery writer and discuss the creative process. Please join us to hear Camille describe her fascinating journey. She will also have books for sale which she will be happy to autograph.

IT'S ELECTION TIME

Reba Siero, Nominating Committee Chairperson

Our annual election will be held at the April General meeting. Nominations may be made from the floor with the prior approval of the nominee. Here is the slate of officers for the 2016-2017 program year, presented by the Nominating Committee.

President: Jennifer Apkarian and Claudia Bass

VP Programs: Gayle Garrison and Nancy Hobert

VP Membership: Bea Ball and Elva Valli

VP AAUW Funds: Harriett Burt and Helen Pereira

Secretary: Gayle Miner

Treasurer: Joan Foster

Trinka March has agreed to be the treasurer in waiting for 2016-2017 and then the real one from 2017-2018.



PRESIDENTIAL POSTINGS

It has felt like spring off and on for a while now- but it is now official and the flowers are coming out to prove it! Many of us have elections on our minds and, regardless of how things seem to be turning out, the most important thing is to get out there and vote, and encourage all of your family and friends to join you. Our AAUW branch elections, too, are coming up this month and supporting your branch members who are willing to take on jobs to keep the organization running smoothly is also important. Everyone's voice is needed to make changes for the better.

We continue to champion making our community a better place and we should be proud of this. The SAM Program at Fair Oaks Elementary is bringing Art and Music to kids who may not otherwise get much exposure to the classics and we are making that happen. The Tech Trek applicants have done the very brave thing to interview for the coveted camp positions and now have been selected to attend camp. Many young women are writing essays for your generous scholarships upon acceptance to college. A DVC student has been selected to attend NCCWSL in June. We definitely don't want to overlook all the good things your generous donations are doing to support AAUW Funds and women continuing their education and contributing to academia in order to make the world in which we live a better place.

With so many good things happening, you all make a difference. Thank you for your involvement. Thank you to the members going to state convention this month, and representing our branch. Some of you have found the time to take on jobs within the branch and have put in many hours of work, others have had the time to attend meetings and hear some of the fabulous programs this year. It does take all of us.

Don't miss the next fabulous program on April 20th at St. Andrew's Church, and our branch officer elections!

Gayle and Trinkia

Thank you to those that have already renewed their membership dues.

VERY IMPORTANT!!!

Your membership dues checks must be payable to: AAUW Pleasant Hill – Martinez Branch

Checks have to be written EXACTLY as above or the bank will not accept them. Abbreviations are not accepted.

Treasurer's Note

Joan Foster

Members have asked for balances of our accounts. As a result, I will publish them each month. However, should you ever want to know something specific, do not hesitate to call.

Fund Balances as of 3/26/16:

General Fund:	\$5,439.86
AAUW Fund:	\$2,390.39
Tech Trek:	\$6,790.16
Local Scholarships:	\$7,056.45
Barbara Newachek:	\$ 613.80
Conferences and convention:	\$ 683.79

Budget account balances: I will list these only if there are changes in the future.

Directory:	-\$ 34.99
Hospitality:	\$ 30.00
IBC dues:	\$ 00.00
Insurance:	-\$ 26.11
Membership:	\$ 50.00
Newsletter:	\$200.00
Misc:	\$ 16.00
Program:	\$889.31
Website:	\$ 90.00

ALL checks made out to the Branch

MUST be payable to:

AAUW Pleasant Hill – Martinez Branch

Checks have to be written EXACTLY as above or the bank will not accept them. Abbreviations are not accepted.

INTEREST SECTIONS MEETINGS



****MORNING BOOKS** will meet on Wednesday, April 6th, 10 am, at Sherrie Moore's. PLEASE let your hostess know if you are going! We will be discussing *The Buddha in the Attic* by Julie Otsuka. The story is about a group of young women brought from Japan to San Francisco as "picture brides." It is a spellbinding novel about identity and loyalty. In May, we will be discussing Annie Burrows' *The Truth According to Us*. Please plan to join us for great discussions!



****IN INDELIBLE INK** will meet on Wednesday, April 13th, 10 am, at Ginny Hargrave's. Our topic assignment is "Fads" ~ do you have a favorite one, or one you especially hated? These Fads can be from your past, or something that is current. 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 not meet in April. Please let Marlene (marlene@maksel.us) know if you are interested in this section ~ also if you have an idea for a great restaurant that would be fun for us to try.



****EVENING BOOKS** will meet on Monday, April 25th, 7 pm, at Cheryl Berger's. We will be discussing *The Boston Girl* by Anita Diamant. The story is about one woman's life through a period of dramatic change. Please plan to join us for the discussion.



****MATINEE IDLE** will go to the movies on Thursday, April 28th. 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.



OTHER SMALL GROUP GATHERINGS



****MAH JONGG** Friday, April 15th, **NEW TIME: 12:30** at the Brookview Clubhouse. \$2.00 per person. Bring your new 2016 card. If you have a set, please bring it. Snacks are welcome.

Contact **Sherrie Moore** if you would like to play.
925-229-4177 moresherrie@comcast.net

APRIL BOARD MEETING:

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2016

7 PM

Home of Trinka March

Copy deadline for the May/June 2016 N.E.W.S. is:

April 24th

(This will be for two months, so plan accordingly!)

Please email copy to:

Reba Siero rebasiero@yahoo.com

REQUEST FROM THE TREASURER

Joan Foster

If you need a check, it must have all of the information before I issue the reimbursement or pay the vendor's bill. Also, I will not process any receipt or disbursement without the required Deposits or Reimbursements form from our web site. That form **MUST** be filled out completely. If you need a check quickly, I am usually in Martinez every Thursday in the late afternoon. If you are sending me money, please email me that you have sent it and I will acknowledge it when I receive it. When you receive my check, please email me or leave me a message.

VERY IMPORTANT: Our bank says that all checks written to the branch must say, **AAUW Pleasant Hill-Martinez Branch**. From now on, they **WILL NOT** accept them. Then, I will have to return them to you to rewrite.

Thanks.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Alana Macdonald and Claudia Bass
Membership VPs

Dues are due for 2016-2017! Our dues are \$87 - the same as last year! \$49 goes to national, \$20 to state, and \$18.00 to our branch. \$46 of your national dues is tax deductible. You will be getting a letter in the mail about this soon.

If we receive your renewal by April 15th, you will be eligible for a drawing to be reimbursed for your national dues. This means you will actually pay only state and local dues - a total of only \$38!

There will be three winners for this drawing, so if you get your dues in by the 15th, you have a good chance of winning!

We hosted a Happy Hour get-together in March for our new members. The wine and appetizers were delicious, and the conversations were lively and interesting! Many thanks to those "older" members who volunteered to help us with the food for this event - Jennifer Apkarian, Sherrie Moore, Lynn Murphy and Priscilla Tudor. They also stayed and visited with our new members. A good time was had by all!

Thank you to those that have already renewed their dues.

VERY IMPORTANT!!!

Your dues checks **MUST** be payable to:

AAUW Pleasant Hill – Martinez Branch

Checks have to be written EXACTLY as above or the bank will not accept them. Abbreviations are not accepted.

Alana Macdonald, alanam88@gmail.com

Claudia Bass, cbasslancer29@aol.com

For those members who do not drive and would like to come to the meetings or events, the following is a list of volunteer drivers. Please contact them if you need a ride. If you would like to volunteer to be a driver please let Claudia or Alana know.

Helen Pereira: 925-685-0757; 925-285-1766, Martinez

Trinka March: 925-372-8420, Martinez

Suzanne Salter: 925-988-0322, Pleasant Hill

Muriel Fry: 925-937-4709, Lafayette

Priscilla Tudor: 925-798-4095, Martinez

Claudia Bass: 925-372-8679, Martinez

Thank you to those who have volunteered to be drivers.



Girls Expand Their Horizons at St. Mary's College STEM Conference

By AAUW-OML Branch Member Marty Schimbor

One hundred twenty-five (125) middle school girls, 40 parents, and a host of AAUW-OML and Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Club volunteers, former Tech-Trekkers, and Saint Mary's College students spent Saturday, March 19 learning about STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) at Saint Mary's College, Moraga, CA.

After an inspiring keynote address by Pixar's Director of Photography for Lighting **Danielle Feinberg**, students participated in twelve workshops on FBI crime scene technology, bridge building, hands-on computers, vacuums, computer coding, and iPad videos. In the closing session, **M J Marggraff** talked about her career in aviation, space exploration and robotics.

At the end of the day, students commented on the day in their evaluations:

"I liked seeing how passionate the speakers and professors were about their jobs."

"The FBI workshop was amazing and so was the Pixar speaker"

"I loved coding Star Wars!"

"I loved the speakers. They really showed how important it is to stick with what you love."

"Meeting amazing women who have great careers that include math and science"

"I loved learning and meeting new people. I also like the pen and the brownie."



FBI Crime Scene Investigation

(continued on next page)

(from previous page)

"The hands-on computers because it was just so hands on and I actually got to take the computer apart."

OML member Stacia Cragholm said she felt badly that the OML branch could only send six students to the Stanford Tech Trek program each summer, so in conjunction with OML branch member Heidi Mayer, Saint Mary's Adjunct Math and Science Computer Professor Kristen Beck, and Roy Wensley, Dean of Saint Mary's School of Science, she undertook the task of organizing an Expanding Your Horizons (EYH) Conference. The Conference was highly successful!

EYH is a national organization whose goal is to promote STEM by holding conferences for middle school girls at local colleges. There are over 100 conferences nation-wide. Conference co-sponsors included Chevron and Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary among others. For more information, visit the AAUW-OML website: oml-ca.aauw.net.



Former TT girls help out



Building Bridges that work!



Hands on computer building



Pleasant Hill - Martinez AAUW Website



Our website will show you everything you need to know about our Pleasant Hill - Martinez branch. Women's right to vote was the topic at our March Program. See more pictures on the **Photo Page**.

Find paintings from the recent SAM (Student Art and Music) Program from Fair Oaks Elementary on the **Community Action Page**.

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

No Fuss Fundraiser

Tahoe Joe's
Contra Costa Blvd
Sunday, April 24

A \$20 ticket gets you
Steak, Chicken Breast or
Ribs

Dine-In or Take-Out

Benefits Funds and Tech
Trek

Contact: Harriett Burt, 372-8038,

Helen Pereira, 685-0757,

Janice Walker, 827-3374

Make checks out to:

AAUW Pleasant Hill-Martinez Branch

TECH TREK TIDINGS

Janice

Walker

As I write this the Tech Trek committee is in the middle of selecting our four campers for this year's Tech Trek experience. We have received 30 applications from our four middle schools, all from girls highly recommended by their teachers and eager to explore the STEM world! It is a difficult process to narrow the field down to four when all the applicants are accomplished and have much to offer.

Once again Funds and Tech Trek are joining together to ask your support in an easy fundraiser at Tahoe Joe's on Sunday, April 24. All you need to do is buy a \$20 ticket and then arrive at Tahoe Joe's for lunch, dinner or take out! No prep, no fuss, no cleanup! An easy day in the kitchen! See the flyer above! We hope to see you there!

AAUW FUNDS Harriett Burt and Helen Pereira AAUW Funds VPs

The Funds Committee met our National College Women Student Leaders Conference attendee and her mother in a delightful meeting March 10 at DVC.

Zuhal Rahmani is in her second year at DVC and will be attending UC Davis next fall where she will major in psychology and pursue a career in teaching. Coincidentally, our Gayle Miner was Zuhal's first grade teacher.

"It's wonderful to see her again. As a teacher you always wonder how your students will turn out," Gayle said. "Very well" was the verdict of all of us who met her.

Zuhal has maintained a grade point average just under 4.0 while carrying a full class load and working as a student representative in the campus Financial Aid Office. There she has been outstanding, according to her supervisors, at providing excellent customer service and developing new outreach strategies. She leads the hiring and training process of new student representatives.

In her application statement Zuhal writes "School has always been very important to me, because I come from a country where education is limited, especially to women. My family is from Afghanistan and I have grown up hearing about the pitiful education system that is plaguing the nation. Attending this leadership conference would aid me in my goals of education by putting me in contact with women from all over and establish networks to better our communities and bring awareness to topics that affect women everywhere."

In a related AAUW Funds history note, in 1958, the AAUW Educational Foundation was established to administer the fellowship and grants program. In addition to maintaining a library, the foundation sponsors symposia, institutes, conferences, and related educational activities. (ed. note: Hooray for Nickwhistle!)

APRIL ANNUAL AWARDS MEETING
SUNDAY, APRIL 17 Branch Meeting
The Holy Trinity Serbian Church Cultural Center
1700 School Street, Moraga, CA

with Keynote Speaker, MARY FETTIG, Musician, Teacher

SOCIAL TIME: 3 pm

PROGRAM: 3:30 – 5 pm

MUSIC: Mathematics in Action!



Can studying and playing music contribute to learning about Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math? Can it enhance one's ability to excel in academics? On April 17, at 3:00 pm we honor middle school girls who will be spending a week at Tech Trek Camp. We will award scholarships to high school girls and one young woman college student and hear about their community service. How does music fit into this?

Come and hear our dynamic speaker, Mary Fettig, talk about her experiences and benefits to her life from studying and playing music. Here's a clue. She minored in math at U.C. L.A., majored in music and has a Masters Degree in Flute from Cal State at Hayward. She also plays saxophone and clarinet. Her accomplishments include touring with such jazz greats as Stan Kenton, Marian McPartland, Tito Puente, Flora Purim and Airtio, playing jazz festivals including Concord, Monterey, Playboy, Chicago, Detroit, Buffalo, Montreaux and North Sea. Her popular music performances include concerts with Lady Gaga, Tony Bennett, Kevin Spacey, Aretha Franklin, Natalie Cole, the Temptations, Four Tops, Gladys Knight and many more. She has many studio credits in film, television, video games and radio and regularly performs with the San Francisco Symphony. Now retired from the faculty at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, she teaches local youth.

There is a definite parallel in her life with women in the STEM fields. She often has been the only woman in the music ensemble with whom she played, facing comments like "Now we're in trouble!" Developing a positive, can do attitude has helped her forge ahead in a field she describes as a man's world.

From her observations with students, she sees a connection between students good in math and those who have studied and performed music. Her experience has confirmed that students applying to universities and medical schools fare better when they list music experience such as playing an instrument. It shows they have discipline.

For Mary, playing music is a hyper-alert experience, a source of pleasure. She has recorded several jazz CDs. Come and hear her latest one entitled "Brazilian Footprints."

"Tech Trek Scholarship Winners on Technology's Leading Edge"

Six Lamorinda middle school girls, winners of full scholarships to this year's Tech

Trek camp at Stanford, will tell us about their passions for math and science and their enthusiasm for future STEM careers. Their aspirations include engineering a solution for worldwide solar energy, inventing a holographic phone, designing green buildings, creating machines to help fix or replace parts of the body as a surgeon, and designing robots to clean up the trash in the ocean. In March, the Tech Trek committee interviewed 37 incredible girls who love science and math.

"Scholarship Winners Lead with Dedication and Courage"

Four women graduates from our three high schools and St. Mary's college, winners of this year's OML Branch Scholarships, will speak on the importance of community service and how this commitment has influenced their future choices in education and careers. *Plan to attend this special program on Sunday, April 17.*

For more information, visit the AAUW-OML website: oml-ca.aauw.net

SAVE THE DATE

Please join Terry O'Neill, president of the National Organization for Women, and members of Contra Costa NOW for an evening

Celebrating Sisterhood

**50th Anniversary National Organization for Women
45th Anniversary Contra Costa NOW**



**Friday, May 6, 2016 | 7:00 - 9:00 pm
Hacienda de las Flores, Moraga, CA**

Please clip and return

Sponsorship Levels

_____ **Betty Friedan**
Men \$1000 / Women \$840

_____ **Aileen Hernandez**
Men \$500 / Women \$420

_____ **Molly Yard**
Men \$250 / Women \$210

_____ **Elenor Smeal**
Men \$150 / Women \$126

Sponsor _____

Contact Name _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Price difference based on current California pay differential of 84¢ on the dollar.

Send your check payable to "CC Now" to P.O. Box 4794, Walnut Creek, CA 94596.

***Celebrating Sisterhood* awards will be presented to:**

Congressman **Mark DeSaulnier**
Terry O'Neill, president NOW
Selma King, past president CC NOW

Former Assemblywoman **Joan Buchanan**
Linda Joplin, past president CA NOW
Lesley Hunt, past president CC NOW

General Admission: \$75.00 per person in advance or \$90 at the door.

For more information, contact Phyllis Bratt at POBratt@aol.com or Mary Davis at mary.davis.consultant@comcast.net

2015–2016 LEADERSHIP TEAM

April 2016

- Apr 6** Morning Books, 10 am, Sherrie Moore
- Apr 13** In Indelible Ink, 10 am, Ginny Hargrave
- Apr 13** Board meeting, 7 pm, Trinka March
- Apr 15** Mah Jongg, 12:30 pm, Brookview Club house, Sherrie Moore
- Apr 17** OML Annual Awards meeting, Keynote speaker, Mary Fettig: MUSIC-Mathematics in Action
- Apr 20** **From Physicist to Mystery Writer**
Camille Minichino
7 pm, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Pleasant Hill
Annual Election
- Apr 24** N.E.W.S. deadline, Reba Siero
- Apr 25** Evening Books, 7 pm, Cheryl Berger
- Apr 28** Matinee Idle, Marlene Maksel
- May 6** Celebrating Sisterhood, 50th Anniversary celebration of NOW, 45th Anniversary of CC NOW, Hacienda de las Flores, Moraga

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