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 3 **November 2026**



Presidential Postings

A wonderful Welcome Back Brunch was attended by many of you as well as our lovely Tech Trek girls, their families, and two of our former Tech Trek girls who are now involved in the program as counselors. Their presentation was great. We are so blessed to help our local young ladies to attend this amazing program each year.



A huge thank you goes to Bobbi Horack and all her assistants who made the day special with a lovely brunch. The food was great, the presentation was beautiful, and the table decorations were superb. Thanks to all.

By the time you read this, our theater fundraiser, "Clue: The Play" will have happened. Thanks go to everyone who participated. We raised money to support Tech Trek and Local Scholarships. Well done!



Our November meeting is on November 21st and is a luncheon at El Tapatio in Pleasant Hill, near DVC. Cindy Darling, who is a Walnut Creek City Council member (and past Mayor of Walnut Creek) will speak to us about her path from a STEM career to public service. Your reservation check for $30 is due to Claudia Bass by November 16th. The food is good, the conversations even better, and the talk by Cindy will be inspiring.

[SAM Program](#)



[Holiday Party](#)



[November Meeting Flyer](#)

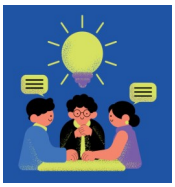




[Layette Shower](#)



[Ceramic Art Fundraiser](#)



Presidential Postings (cont.)

We will also be approving our Nominating Committee so they can begin their work in January.

Our Holiday Party is a luncheon this year at Brookview Clubhouse. The date is Saturday, December 12th, and Sharon has provided more details in the flyer here.

The new year brings our annual Layette Shower at Janice's in January, as well as our Soup Supper in February.

It is a pleasure to be a part of this wonderful AAUW branch.

~ Trinka, Sherrie, and Reba

Membership Report: Welcome Back Brunch

The brunch to open our season was very enjoyable on Saturday, October 24. Of special note is the enthusiasm of our Tech Trek campers and guests!

Thank you to all of our members who helped to make the event a very nice Saturday morning experience!

Looking forward to our year!

~ Bobbi Horack, Membership VP

AAUW Fund Report

The annual solicitation letters for AAUW Fund were given out at the Welcome Brunch. As always, thank you for your generous support for National Fund, promoting education for women working towards a graduate degree.

The Fund Committee is accepting donations to the DVC Scholarship program that awards a $1,500 scholarship to a DVC student who is continuing to a 4-year college. The information is included in the envelope given out at the Welcome Brunch.

Kinder's gift cards will be available for purchase from February 22nd until March 31st. Game Day will be on March 31st. More information will be coming regarding these events.

Thank you for your generous support of these important programs.

~ Gayle Miner and Carolynn Barcklay, Co-VPs



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

SAM Program
Student Art & Music

The SAM program (Student Art and Music) was created and presented for many years at Fair Oaks Elementary with the assistance of the Pleasant Hill-Martinez AAUW members—you! It focuses on a hands-on art project, inspired by a famous artist and a major composer, during the school year for students in grades TK through 5 plus Special Ed.

We are making some modifications to our program this year. For over 20 years we have presented at Fair Oaks Elementary, and we are changing our venue to Las Juntas Elementary on Pacheco Boulevard in the Martinez Unified School District. We will be in the art teacher's room, so we do not need to move our cart from classroom to classroom.

We've had over two dozen volunteers each year. The good news is that Martinez does not require fingerprinting or a TB test, because we are in the classroom at all times with the art teacher in her room.

We'll be signing up volunteers for our next classes in February/March for TK through 2nd grade and then again in May for 3rd through 5th grade. We haven't yet decided on the artist or composer. Please let us know if you would like to volunteer. It's a very rewarding experience working with these students.

~ Sherrie Moore, Barbara Minneman, and Helen Pereria



Nominating Committee Report

At the November 21st meeting at El Tapatio, a vote will be taken to ratify the members of the new nominating committee. The committee will guide the selection of next year's branch officers.

Board members who have agreed to serve on the nominating committee are Helen Pereira and Gayle Miner, with Bobbi Horack as an alternate. Other branch members who have agreed to serve are Nancy Hobert, Penny Harris, and SarahJoy Haynes, with Kathy McCarthy as an alternate. Thank you, everyone, for your service!

Parliamentarian, Lorrie Osborn, will chair the committee.

~ Lorrie Osborn, Nominating Committee Chair

Public Policy

The Marriage Trap? Voting Issues for Married Women, Past and Present

In the United States, the history of voter suppression is inextricably linked to the long struggle for equal rights. Voter suppression efforts have targeted a wide range of marginalized communities, from black voters to Native American voters to Latinx voters to student voters to voters with disabilities.

While women have been among the groups disenfranchised in the past, common narratives around voting rights and voting access for women in the United States today indicate that voter suppression is no longer an issue. Since passage of the 19th amendment in 1920, there have been a series of positive changes that have provided greater voting access for women. This access has only expanded since the feminist movements and civil rights wins of the 1960s. Positive upward trends bear out in the numbers: since the 1980s, women in the United States register to vote and turn out to vote at a higher rate than men.

However, contemporary voter suppression efforts should be a concern for women in the United States. Heterosexual marriage, in particular, has been (and continues to be) a hurdle for women's voting access.
Since the founding of the United States, ideas about gendered citizenship (alongside race, ethnicity, and class) have influenced when and how voting rights and voting access has been granted to women.

Historically, women's citizenship in the United States has been socially and legally limited and complicated by marriage. During the 18th and 19th centuries, women in the United States who were married had fewer rights than their unmarried counterparts and no legal identity, which was taken over by their husband. Married women could not own property or sign contracts (until the mid-to-late 19th century), nor could they retain control over their own money (until 1974). And women who might assertively speak out in favor of having greater rights could be legally committed to mental institutions by their husbands. Between 1907 and 1922, women citizens could also just outright lose their U.S. citizenship if they married a man who was not a U.S. citizen (the same was not true of men who married a woman who was not a U.S. citizen).

It is unsurprising, then, that women citizens have also had to grapple with limited voting rights.

While the 19th Amendment, ratified in 1920, constitutionally guaranteed women the right to vote, this did not apply to all women equally. Until 1940, many women citizens' voting access still depended on the nationality of their husbands—it wasn't until passage of the Nationality Act of 1940 that women's citizenship rights were no longer lost through marriage.

While the gender-based trends in voter turnout and voter registration since 1980 make it seem like the impact of marriage on voting may be an issue of the past—it is not. Romantic relationships and marriage remain a relevant consideration in voting—for women more than men. For instance, in a data set made up of 98% heterosexual couples, marriage emerges as a factor that impacts turnout as divorced and never married women turn out at a noticeably higher rate than married women. Survivors of domestic

Public Policy (cont'd)

violence and intimate partner violence, who are overwhelmingly women, also turn out at far lower rates than the national average.

In addition, marriage conventions that impact women, namely the expectation that women who marry men will socially and legally change their last name, continue to be a hurdle for voting access in 2026. Legal name changes can make voting more complicated under new voter identification (ID) laws. This is especially true of the voter ID laws that require verification or re-verification of citizenship, which further requires a voter to have access to original documents like birth certificates or social security cards. Do you have these documents in-hand? If not, under some of these laws, you will need to go find them (and more) to provide an unbroken chain of paperwork that connects a current name to a past name via an entire series of documents in order to vote. The documentation process is potentially time consuming and costly. And if you do not do it, you may be purged from voter rolls.

To ensure that a positive trend of voting expansion continues, and continues to apply to greater numbers of women, we can and should take the first step to simply recognize voting access issues that impact women in 2026. And, to ensure that a positive trend of voting expansion continues, and continues to apply to greater numbers of women, we can and should continue the long fight that seeks to remove barriers for anyone who should have the right to vote in the United States.

Note: This is an excerpt from the second installment of Missy Maceyko's Voter Suppression Series on Substack. To read the full piece, entitled "Gender, Citizenship, and Voter Suppression: Positive Trends in Voting Expansion Among Women", click here.

For more information about how to approach potential Voter ID changes, see this guide from Shari Simon, member of AAUW California's Public Policy team.

~ Missy Maceyko, Co-chair AAUW California Public Policy & Advocacy Committee



Holiday Cookie Exchange

Last Call for Holiday Bakers November 6 Deadline

If you would like to participate in the holiday cookie exchange, please let Diane Peterson know by November 6th. There are nine people who have expressed an interest in baking and sharing homemade cookies. If all nine participate, each person will bring 16 cookies and go home with 16.

The date and time of the exchange will be determined by a survey after November 6. The exchange will likely take place the week of December 7.

~ Diane Peterson



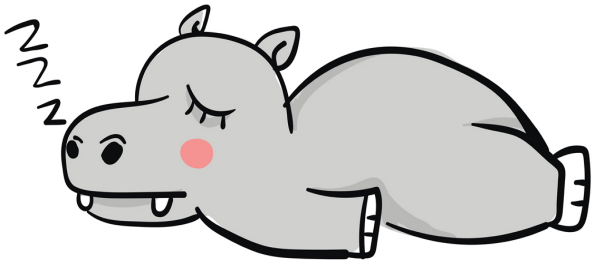


Morning Books

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 is 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. See you there!

Our December book is The Correspondent by Virginia Evans. Sybil Van Antwerp, a retired lawyer, wakes up each morning and writes letters. That's her life. She corresponds with her best friend, her brother, her estranged daughter, a troubled young boy named Harry, several authors she admires, and even customer service departments. Through these letters, we learn who Sybil really is: sharp, funny, private, and deeply wounded. She is losing her eyesight but refuses to admit it fully. Then one letter arrives from her past and changes everything. This is not a fast book. But it is a deeply honest one. We'll meet again at Margi Alkire's home on December 2nd.

~ *Sharon Wilson*



SAVE THE DATE

Pleasant Hill–Martinez AAUW

Annual Layette Shower

Wednesday, January 20, 2027, 10:00 A.M.

At the home of Janice Walker

Handmade or purchased items, other than newborns, will be appreciated.

More information coming in December



Wine Appreciation Group

The Wine Appreciation Group met on October 16th. We learned a little about the wines and the wine-growing regions of Argentina. We blind-tasted three excellent red wines. Thank you to Claudia, Gayle, and Jennifer for providing the wines.

The next meeting will be on November 20th at 4 P.M. at Diane Peterson's house. We will be tasting American sparkling wines. Please let Diane know if you would like to attend. Space is limited.



Lunchin' Ladies

Lunchin' Ladies will meet on Monday, November 16, at 12:00 P.M., at Bamboo Garden, 1155 Arnold Dr., Ste. D, Martinez.

Reservations must be in to Gayle Miner by Monday, November 9th.

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



Nimble Fingers

Nimble Fingers will meet on Thursday, November 19th, at 10:00 A.M., at SarahJoy Haynes' home.

Join us for a fun morning of crafting, chatting, admiring each other's work, and possibly learning a new skill.

Note: This month's meeting is on a different day and time than usual due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Please let Karen or Nancy know you're coming.

Karen: 925-408-5721;
karen.winters@sbcglobal.net
Nancy: 925-228-7271;
nhobert@aol.com



Mah Jongg

Mah Jongg will meet on Friday, November 20th, 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

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. Check out photos from our Fall Brunch on the **Photos Page**. 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

You're invited to our Holiday Party

Seasons of Gratitude

Saturday, December 12, 2026
11:30 AM

Brookview Clubhouse
1201 Monument Blvd, Concord, CA 94520

$50 per person

MENU

Hors d'oeuvres
Chicken Marsala, Mashed Potatoes
Mixed Seasonal Vegetables
Spring Mix Salad, French Bread
Coffee, Refreshments & Dessert
Bring Your Own: Wine & Glass (Optional)

Note: Your check serves as your reservation.
Friends or spouses are welcome,
so feel free to invite them!

Reservations required by 11/27/26

Please send your checks to:
Claudia Bass
1706 Endriss Dr., Martinez, CA 94553

Make checks payable to:
AAUW Pleasant Hill–Martinez








AAUW Pleasant Hill-Martinez Ceramic Art Fundraiser

Event for Tech Trek and Local Scholarships

Please join us

Sunday, January 31, 1:00 – 4:00 P.M.

Place: Thought Balloon Art Studio

670 Gregory Lane #G, Pleasant Hill

Across from Zio Fraedo's in the strip mall

Cost: $40





Have fun painting something ceramic
You paint, they put it in the kiln
You pick it up from us when finished, about a week later
Refreshments, a great afternoon
Bring your Grandkids (5+), your friends, your neighbors
Make a reservation by January 25th by sending a check for $40
made payable to AAUW Pleasant Hill-Martinez Branch
to Claudia Bass, 1706 Endriss Dr, Martinez, CA 94553
Capacity is 30, so please reserve early.
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

Nov 4 Morning Books, 10 A.M., Kathleen Woulfe's

Nov 11 September board meeting, 7 P.M., Trinka March's

Nov 16 Lunchin' Ladies, 12:00 noon, Bamboo Garden, 1155 Arnold Dr., Ste. D, Martinez

Nov 19 Nimble Fingers, 10:00 A.M., SarahJoy Haynes'

Nov 20 Mah Jongg, 12:30 P.M., Brookview Clubhouse

Nov 20 Wine Club, 4 P.M., Diane Peterson's

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

Nov 21 November newsletter deadline - **EARLY!**

Dec 2 Morning Books, 10 A.M., Margi Alkire's

Dec 12 Holiday Party, 11:30 A.M., Brookview Clubhouse

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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Copy deadline for December NEWS is **November 21**. Email copy to karen.winters@sbcglobal.net

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