



## DECEMBER HOLIDAY GET-TOGETHERS



### COFFEE at DIANE'S!

Friday, December 5  
10-noon

with Judy Helder  
on the piano  
leading us in holiday songs

Join us at the home of **Diane Bell-Rettger, 27 Harrington Road (Sanders Ranch) in Moraga.** Please RSVP to Diane: [dianebell@rettger.com](mailto:dianebell@rettger.com), 925-376-5584 by December 3.



*Would you like to make a donation to Burckhalter Elementary School? Consider bringing a new book that would be of interest to the students. We will add to their library through your generosity. Please turn to page 4 for a partial list of recommended books.*

*Thank you!*

### COCKTAILS at INDIGO & POPPY!

Wed., December 10  
4-6 pm

with hors d'oeuvres provided  
by Herbs & Spices Catering  
& wine from Mary Leigh  
Miller's private vineyard.

One of our newest advertisers will host a get-acquainted event, catered by Herbs & Spices and featuring the latest in holiday decorating ideas and upcoming design trends for 2015. **Address: 1009 Oak Hill Road, Lafayette (located in the former Blockbusters Store).** Plenty of onsite parking available.

Please RSVP to **Mary Leigh Miller:** [mlmiller602@gmail.com](mailto:mlmiller602@gmail.com), 925-631-9694 by Dec. 8. We need to know how many OML members and guests to expect!

Please read more about **Indigo & Poppy** and **Herbs & Spices Catering** on page 4



## JANUARY 2015 GENERAL MEETING

The Many Stories of  
**ROSIE the RIVETER**  
with Ranger Raphael Allen

TUESDAY,  
JANUARY 20

- What questions did the "War Jobs For Women" Program of WWII raise about 'the place of women' in society?

- How would our own elders have chosen to respond to all the wartime propaganda messages?

- How did women who were already in the paid workforce feel about the housewives who signed up just to 'bring the boys home'?

- What do we see now when we regard these many women side by side?

*These topics and more will be presented next month. Come prepared to share your own family's war stories.*



### PLEASE NOTE:

There is no regularly scheduled General Meeting in December. The Holiday Get-Togethers are planned with all of you in mind, however. Plan to attend one or both! *Bring a friend, too!* ☆

All meetings of the OML Branch, unless otherwise noted, are held at the HOLY TRINITY SERBIAN CHURCH CULTURAL CENTER  
1700 School St., Moraga

**PIPINGS from the PRESIDENT**

***Fa La La La La and Greetings to you all!***

Thank you to **Jan Cushman** and to **Alison Mackenzie** for a fabulous program on **“Smart Giving”** featuring Maureen Richardson, a financial planner, at our November General meeting.



December brings two social gatherings: a Coffee on Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at **Diane Bell-Rettger’s** home from 10-noon and a late afternoon get-together on Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at **Indigo & Poppy** in Lafayette from 4-6 pm. Please find further details in this Triad. *Please note*, we will be collecting childrens’ book to be donated to the Burckhalter Elementary School in Oakland at the December 5<sup>th</sup> Coffee.

Final details are being ironed out for our 2015 Winter and Spring General meeting programs. From the notes I have received thus far they all sound exciting and very worthwhile. Stay tuned.

The Scholarship Committee has asked us to *Save the Date* of **February 12<sup>th</sup>** for their annual **Valentine Party**, from 1-3:30 pm. Details to follow. I highly recommend this party...champagne and chocolate...need I say more!?

**Best Regards of the Season,  
Karen Mankowski**

**DISTINGUISHED WOMAN**

There are many distinguished women in our AAUW OML branch, and next year we will be honoring one of our branch members who has demonstrated leadership, creativity, and dedication to the OML mission.

Our 2015 Distinguished Woman will be selected based solely on members’ nominations, so please look around and start thinking about a devoted AAUW OML member whom you would like to nominate.

Send all nominations to me by email to [fox-sohner@comcast.net](mailto:fox-sohner@comcast.net), or by regular mail to 27 Williams Drive, Moraga, CA 94556. Thank you!!

**Sandy Fox-Sohner**

**Board Meeting Highlights ~ November**

The financial report shows that we’ve surpassed our budget goal of \$3500 in dues. That translates to 146 members to date. If you haven’t renewed yet, don’t wait a minute longer!

Stacia Cragholm reported that our Tech Trek committee is working on a one day Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math – “STEM” program for middle school girls and their parents. Their goal is to involve between 100 and 200 girls in 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades. The target date is spring 2016.

Mary Ann McLeod announced that Scholarship brought in \$3,200 with its very successful Princeton Review Assessment program held in October. Congratulations! Also, stay tuned for information on their second annual Valentines Day party coming up in February.

Sister to Sister’s Mentoring Program for Girls will be held at the Orinda Community Church in January, February, and March. Laura Wittenberg reported that there are 25 high school facilitators and asked for members’ help to recruit middle school girls.

The board passed several motions to disperse unallocated funds held by the Community Outreach Fund, Inc. A one-time transfer of \$250 was made to the Sister to Sister program. The remaining \$500, which was brought in a couple of years ago from the screening of the movie, Miss Representation, was split equally among our five priorities: Tech Trek, Scholarship, Sister to Sister, Burckhalter, and Start Smart.

**Judy Hammon, Secretary**

**Save the Date  
for our February  
12th, 2015**

**VALENTINE  
PARTY!**



**The Scholarship Committee is hosting a “fun” raiser at Marla Schroeder’s beautiful home in Sander’s Ranch, Moraga. The suggested donation for an afternoon celebrating friendship, music and dessert is \$15.**

**The [oml-ca.aauw.net](http://oml-ca.aauw.net) website has more information. Download a reservation form and mark your calendar. Join us for our second annual Valentine’s Party.**



## FOCUS ON ...

## MEMBERSHIP MEMOS

## NEW MEMBERS COFFEE

A coffee for new members was hosted by **Bonnie Gallogly** in early November. A new members' coffee provides an opportunity for persons new to OML to meet with current members (including some board members) to gain further information about AAUW, to ask questions, to get to know each other in an informal small group setting. The event took place in Bonnie's lovely home high in the Orinda hills, and was much appreciated by all those who attended. *Thanks to Bonnie for an event well planned and executed.*

## MEMBERSHIP CAN BECOME FRIENDSHIP

As members interact with other members, helping to advance branch priorities, or exploring personal interests, you will discover like-minded individuals whose acquaintance you will come to know and appreciate. What a rewarding experience! The OML branch offers a wide array of interest groups and study opportunities. While participating in enjoyable activities, you will also further the mission of AAUW to promote equity for women, a reward in itself.

**Carine Archer, Membership VP**

## NEWS from OTHER AAUW BRANCHES

• **10th Annual Holiday Home Tour**, sponsored by the Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek Branch, **Friday & Saturday, December 12 & 13, 2014**. Festive homes are open for tours. Tickets: \$35. To purchase tickets, go to: [daw-ca.aauw.net/hht2014](http://daw-ca.aauw.net/hht2014). Proceeds benefit local scholarships and Tech Trek.

• **Save the Date!** Participate in AAUW Concord's Third Annual **Art and Wine (and Beer) Walk, Saturday, May 9, 2015, 1:00 to 4:00 pm**. All proceeds will go toward educational scholarships for local girls and women.

**Give Smart!**

Did you know that the Federal Tax Code is written to enable giving and reward those of us who make charitable donations? Maureen Richardson, Certified Financial Planner™, shared some tips on how to take advantage of the numerous ways to reduce your taxes and enjoy the satisfaction of supporting your favorite charities - including AAUW Funds!

The strategies range from giving a direct gift (tax deductible, of course) to a charitable bequest at death to more complicated strategies. Depending on your personal situation, you may want to use a donor-advised fund to contribute stocks and receive an immediate tax deduction and reduce your capital gains. Or use a wealth replacement trust that pairs a substantial donation with a life insurance policy that benefits your heirs. In some cases you may want to consider a tax-exempt charitable remainder trust that can generate income interest for your lifetime followed by passing on the remainder interest to a qualified charity or family foundation. See your financial planner and your tax attorney for details!!

Here are several websites that you may want to explore:

\* [www.charitynavigator.org](http://www.charitynavigator.org) or [www.guidestar.org](http://www.guidestar.org) - These sites evaluate and rate hundreds of 501c3 charities.

\* [www.charitabletrust.com](http://www.charitabletrust.com) - The firm behind this website partners with donors and financial planners to create a variety of sophisticated individual charitable plans.

\* [www.dmachoise.org](http://www.dmachoise.org) - Developed by the Direct Marketing Association to help you start or stop receiving mail from a specific company or a category (donation requests, credit offers, catalogs, etc.).

To donate to AAUW Funds, make your check out to "AAUW funds", with the fund number or name of the specific fund in the memo line. Send your check to **Ruth Balsdon**, 202 Paseo Bernal, Moraga, CA 94556.

**Jan Cushman, Co-VP, AAUW Funds**

## SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

## AAUW-OML Scholarship Applications are Online

If you know an Acalanes, Campolindo, Miramonte, or St. Mary's senior woman who has a GPA of 3.0 or more and is committed to community service, direct her to our [oml-ca.aauw.net](http://oml-ca.aauw.net) website. Our merit-based scholarship applications are on line. We will award two \$5000 scholarships, one to a St. Mary's student and one to a Lamorinda High School senior woman. Two additional \$1000 scholarships will be given Lamorinda High school women. The deadline to file an application is February 18, 2015.



**Maureen Richardson provides tips for making the most of your charity giving at our November General Meeting.**

**SPOTLIGHT ON OUR ADVERTISERS**

**INDIGO & POPPY**  
Fine California Living

Owner Thad says, "Home should be celebrated." Indigo & Poppy, located on Oak Hill Road in Lafayette, is his store's interpretation of California Living. Home accessories, lighting, window, furniture and floor treatments, and a line of top quality furniture fill the shop with an attractive array of possibilities. Several interior designers are available to help you with personal decisions and they will be on hand at our December Get-together Cocktail Party.

OML appreciates Indigo & Poppy's support by placing an ad in the current Directory, thanks to Ad Team member, Laura Wittenberg, who recently purchased a living room suite for her daughter.



**HERBS & SPICES**  
Full Service Catering

Wendy Shay, daughter of OML Member Laura Wittenberg, was raised in the Bay Area where she grew up eating a wide variety of foods and culturally diverse cuisines. After years of cooking for her family and friends, she decided to become a professional chef.



Wendy received her culinary certificate from Tante Marie's Professional Culinary School in San Francisco. In 2002, she founded Herbs & Spices Catering and since then has built a fabulous team of catering experts. All Wendy's custom menus feature the freshest ingredients, a pinch of creativity, and a passion for cooking.

**Phone #s & Websites**

- **Indigo & Poppy**  
925-96209201  
[indigoandpoppy.com](http://indigoandpoppy.com)
- **Herbs & Spices**  
415-816-3334  
[herbsandspiceschef.com](http://herbsandspiceschef.com)

**2014-15 AAUW OML SPONSORS/ ADVERTISERS**  
\*AAUW members

**ALAMEDA**

Herbs & Spices Catering

**ALAMO**

Minoo's Aesthetics

**LAFAYETTE**

- Asian Accents – Original Designs in Jewelry by K. de Groot\*
- Creative Alterations – Josef Jamkochain Della Faulkner, DC
- DIABLO FOODS
- Indigo & Poppy – Fine California Living
- Matthew McLeod, Realtor – Dudum Real Estate Group
- Open Sesame Natural Foods
- P & L Framing
- Persons Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery – Barbara Persons, MD FACS
- Ware Designs – Fine Jewelry

**MORAGA**


- AAAAA Rent-A-Space home/made kitchen café & bakery
- Goodwill Industries of the Greater East Bay
- King Florist & Gifts
- National Assoc. for Advancement of Female People – Diane Bell-Rettger\*
- Neighborhood Computers
- New Delhi Bistro
- Royal Siam Thai Cuisine
- ShopMORAGAFirst.com – Moraga Chamber
- Terzetto Cuisine Café
- ViaVienté – Lana Reichick\*

**ORINDA**

- Joan Evans\* & Angie Evans Traxinger, Village Associates Real Estate
- Soraya Golesorkhi\*, Realtor – Coldwell Banker
- Morrison's Jewelers
- Redwood Cottage
- Sea Ranch Vacation Rental – Elaine Gallaher\*
- Piccolo Napoli

**WALNUT CREEK**

- Hearing Science of Walnut Creek
- Maxine Christison Interior Design – Maxine Christison\*

 **BOOKS for BURCKHALTER ~ Suggested Donations**

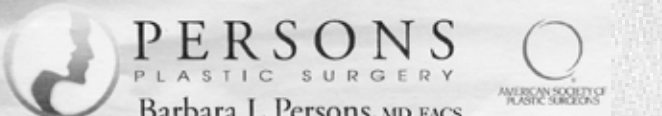
- "Bad Kitty" series by Nick Bruel (any in the series)
- From Capstone Press: "Cool Biology (also: Chemistry, Engineering, Physics) Activities for Girls"
- "Dog days for Delaney", by Jen Jones
- From Raintree Press: "Get Inventing!" by Mary Colson
- "Who Was" – any biography in the series from Penguin Press

Suggestions: Frederick Douglas, Susan B. Anthony, Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King, etc.

Address information was inadvertently left out of the two advertisements below when they appeared in the 2014-15 Directory. The Directory editor apologizes for this omission.

 **10% OFF**  
to OML Members on a first time order up to \$100

1005 Oak Hill Road • Lafayette • Across from Millie's Kitchen  
M-F 9:30 am to 5 pm Sat. 10 am to 5 pm 925-283-4668

 **PERSONS PLASTIC SURGERY**  
Barbara L Persons, MD, FACS  
Board-Certified Plastic Surgeon

911 Moraga Road, Suite 205 • Lafayette, CA • (925) 283-4012

## SISTER-to-SISTER

### S2S: Nurturing Healthy Relationships

Every Sister-to-Sister training has two parts: a one-hour leadership meeting, which includes only experienced facilitators, followed by the three-hour skills and issues training for all girls. The leadership group makes decisions, sets the direction for the training, and assigns roles to assist in leading the training that follows.



With the change in format from one day – the Summit – to three two-hour sessions beginning in January, there were many decisions to be made concerning what elements to keep and what parts to let go. In a brainstorming session, the girls reconfirmed their goal of empowering all participants and discussed ways of achieving it. The new format will provide the opportunity to make deeper connections with their “little sisters,” expand on topics and have richer and more meaningful discussions. In between meetings, things will settle, allowing thoughts and ideas to percolate. New things will come up to be talked about. There will be opportunities to apply learning and share insights and as well as time for self-reflection.

To prepare them for the important topic of dating abuse, S2S leaders invited Bryanna Rivera of STAND for Families Free of Violence to present. Girls listened with rapt attention as she shared that one in three teens will experience violence from a significant other, even in an exclusively online relationship where they have never met face-to-face. Abuse happens in all sorts of teen relationships, but few tell anyone, even their best friend. Some suspect that the one-in-three statistic is more likely to be higher. She talked about a three-phase cycle of violence: tension building, an abusive incident, and a honeymoon period, which is characterized by the batterer being apologetic and promising change.

Through listening to the talk, one of the facilitators discovered that the behavior she was experiencing in a relationship was abusive. She knew she was unhappy and finally had the words and context to understand what was happening to her.

S2S is living up to its mission empowering girls to take care of themselves. *Knowledge is power.*

**Lynda Leonard  
for S2S**



*Tia Waters, Miramonte junior, records ideas for the new format in the leadership group.*

## MUSEUM MAVENS



**Tuesday, December 9  
ASIAN ART MUSEUM  
ROADS of ARABIA  
Archaeology and History of  
the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.**

This show will give us an exciting look at some of the archeological treasures that exist in the Arabian Peninsula, spanning years from the Paleolithic times to 1932 — the birth of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It presents 120 ancient artifacts of cultural exchange, many of which have been excavated in recent years. We will see how the interchange of ideas through trade influences civilization and how Saudi Arabia became a bridge between East and West, from 4 million BCE to the present.

*You will not want to miss this trip!*

We'll take BART from Lafayette at 8:40 am, passing through the Orinda station at 8:45 am. General admission is \$15; seniors are \$10. Contact Maryellen if you are interested in carpooling and plan to be at Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church ready to LEAVE for BART by 8:15 a.m.

**Contact: Maryellen Judson  
thjudson@aol.com.  
925-283-2387**

## DECEMBER AT A GLANCE

*Note: Some groups may not meet in December because of the holidays. Consider checking with the Special Interest Group coordinators.*

1 MON – CRITICS CHOICE/BESTSELLERS  
BOOK GROUP Pass along your book

1, 4, 8, 11, 15, 18, 22, 29 – MON & THURS – TENNIS  
8:15-10 am – Contact Tory Courtney 376-1295

2 TUES – #1 BRIDGE GROUP  
12 noon – Joyce Dickey 825-7991

3 WED – GALS ONLY GOURMET  
11:30 am – Mary Leigh Miller's home  
Contact Mary Leigh Miller for more info

4 THU – #2 BRIDGE GROUP  
12 noon – Virginia Semrau 283-8056

5 FRI – Holiday Coffee at Diane's  
10-noon– Diane Bell-Rettger's home  
(See front page for details)

8, 22 MON – GOLF  
Contact Jan Gee for t-time and venue, 938-1316

9 TUES – #3 BRIDGE GROUP  
12 noon – Joyce Dickey, 825-7991

No BOARD MEETING this month

9 TUES – MUSEUM MAVENS TRIP  
to the Asian Art Museum (see page 5 for more details)

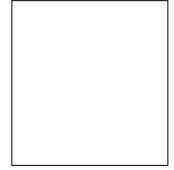
10 WED – HOLIDAY PARTY  
4-6 pm, Indigo & Poppy  
(See front page for details)

16 FRI – ANYONE WHO HAS READ THE BOOK  
*Quiet, The Power Of Introverts In A World That Can't Stop Talking*, by Susan Cain  
Orinda Book Store, 10 am – Contact Susan Wilson 376-0606

17 WED – MEMOIRS & MUSINGS  
Contact Carol Messinger 283-8741

18 THURS – #4 BRIDGE GROUP  
12 noon – Jessie Doleman 826-5116

AAUW-OML  
Database Coord.  
3537 Springhill Rd  
Lafayette, CA 94549



19 FRI – LET'S GO TO THE MOVIES  
*Groups 1, 2 & 3*  
Contact Mary Leigh Miller 631-9694

21 MON – BIKE GROUP  
Contact Ellen Beans, ellen.beans@gmail.com

23 TUES – #5 BRIDGE GROUP  
12 noon – Patricia Bentley, 284-2936

24 WED – DECEMBER TRIAD DEADLINE  
Send items to mlmiller602@gmail.com

## JANUARY 2014

(look for more listings in the JANUARY issue)

13 TUE – BOARD MEETING  
1 pm – Holy Trinity Cultural Center

20 TUE – GENERAL MEETING  
*The Many Stories of Rosie the Riveter*  
9 am (Social time & Breakfast) 9:30 -11:30 am (Program)  
Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School St., Moraga

## IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL SPECIAL INTEREST COORDINATORS:

*If your group decides to meet on a different day or time than normal, please contact our Calendar Coordinator, JEANNE MELAUGH, so she can update the website calendar.*