

## OUR COMMUNITY • OUR YOUNG WOMEN THEIR EDUCATION

The Scholarship Committee presents an opportunity for you to help benefit Lamorinda's extraordinary women graduates by selling **RAFFLE TICKETS** for this fabulous September event!



## HARVEST LUNCH for SIX in a MORAGA VINEYARD

Raffle committee members Sally Swanson (left) and Ksenija Soster-Olmer raise a glass of Bare Ash wine, estate grown by OML member, Mary Leigh Miller and produced locally by winemaker, Bill English (center of photo)

Invite your friends and family to a delectable five-course lunch for six held in a beautiful Moraga home setting. Enjoy a pre-lunch tasting of local wines and learn about the wine-making process from local winemaker, Bill English.

**EVENT DATE:** Your choice of September 19<sup>th</sup> or September 26<sup>th</sup>  
**RAFFLE DRAWING DATE:** Friday, August 21<sup>st</sup>  
**Suggested Donation:** \$20 or 3 tickets for \$50

Send your ticket stubs and donation to  
**Mary Ann McLeod**  
100 Greenfield Dr. Moraga, CA 94556  
For more tickets or information  
call Mary Ann at 376-5207



*Special thanks to members who support our branch scholarships and have purchased tickets!*

## UPCOMING BRANCH EVENTS

**THURSDAY,  
AUGUST 27**  
5 ~ 7 pm  
**COCKTAILS &  
CONVERSATIONS**  
*Join the comaraderie  
in Theater Square, Orinda!*



## SHOWCASE Tuesday, September 15

- Bring a friend and socialize with other AAUW members.
- Learn about AAUW's **\$mart \$tart** program and how it is improving pay equity for women.
- Get an update on our work with Tech Trek, Scholarship, Sister to Sister and Burckhalter School.
- Enjoy short presentations about our interest groups.

*Hope to see you there!*

## ANNUAL RESTAURANT WALK FUNDRAISER for TECH TREK OCTOBER 6

Buy your ticket books from AAUW OML and join your friends for a delightful evening tasting food from over 20 Downtown Walnut Creek Restaurants held on **Tuesday, October 6<sup>th</sup>** from 6 pm to 9 pm.

Ticket Books will be available for purchase at SHOWCASE, or call **Jan Cushman** for details.

**PREZ SEZ...**

One might think that summer months pass with no activity at the OML branch. The truth is that there have been lots going on.

Four of us went to the National Convention in San Diego (Gail C, Laura W, Pat L, and Diane B-R). The workshops were quite valuable – Tech Savvy discussion by experienced women, digging into online remote conferencing, ... The daily opening speeches were inspiring and eye-opening. There'll be more discussion during our general meetings.

The Programs folks (**Judy Helder** and **Diane Bell-Rettger**) have gotten the year nearly planned out – amazing at this early point – with the convening of two committee meetings and the follow-up work that comes along with those plans. A third meeting comes in early August.

Two of us were dorm moms for the Tech Trek camps at Stanford (**Jan Cushman** and myself). It's fun to help the 8th grade girls have the best time they can, and the events of camp draw us in as well. Ask me about the Virtual Reality Lab – wheel Membership (**Allison Mackenzie** and **Mary Levey**) worked our table at the Orinda July 4th parade – with other helpers, too. Good discussions with passersby – some interest. And they convened a very productive committee meeting.

The Funds folks (**Leslie Pfeiffer** and **Kelly Clausen**) have met in transition with the out-going pair and are making plans for an interesting general meeting in November. "Anyone Who Has Read the Book" continues through the summer with monthly discussions. Next is August 21 "How the Scots..." Check it out with Susan Wilson or Mary Hake (see your directory).

"Critic's Choice – Best Selling Books" will meet in September to choose this year's selections. Looking for some new members so that we can add a month to the list. Think about it – all are welcome. (**Mary Smith**)

"Happy Hour" was a pleasure at El Charro in June and Piccolo in July. We're going back to Piccolo on August 27th (5 to 7pm). Please join us.

I probably left something out – let me know. See you at the General Meeting on September 15th or sooner!

**Gail Chesler**

**Board Meeting Happenings ~ June 9**

President Karen Mankowski called the group to order as all enjoyed a potluck.

Program Co-chairs Dianne Bell-Rettger and Judy Helder had already met with interested members and were making plans to focus on the AAUW mission.

Sandy Fox-Sohner reported an ice cream social had been held with last year's campers and this year's Tech Trek campers. Sandy also reported a 7<sup>th</sup> scholarship had been awarded for camp this summer. A new Tech Savvy activity was discussed with Stacia Cragholm taking the lead.

Scholarship awarded \$11,000, including \$5000 for last year's St. Mary's College winner for medical school this fall. Awards for the 2015 recipients will be over \$6,000. Great plans for our Luncheon in the Vineyard fundraiser are being made. Mary Ann is hoping every member of AAUW will support Scholarship by buying a raffle ticket.

Sister-to-Sister is pleased with its new format and is looking forward to further developing it in the fall.

Burckhalter School Outreach will be co-chaired by Pat Beckner and Carol Messinger. The program has been operating for 22+ years, and this year we welcomed 12 library volunteers along with classroom tutors.

Pat Lopker is ready for the advertising campaign this summer.

Cocktails and Conversation will take place at Piccoli Napoli. The Orinda 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration booth has been reserved and ready to welcome interested community residents.

The gavel was passed to Gail Chesler, and the meeting was adjourned.

**Maryellen Judson, Secretary**

**ELLEN TAUSCHER  
KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT OUR OCTOBER MEETING**

The Honorable Ellen Tauscher will be the featured speaker at OML's October 20th meeting. She was the U.S. Representative for California's 10th congressional district from 1997 until her resignation in 2009 when she joined the State Department as the Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security Affairs.

**Be sure to join us for this very special event!**

**TECH TREK SUMMER CAMPS at STANFORD a HUGE SUCCESS!**

Stanford hosts two tech trek camps. **Camp Grace Hopper** ran from July 5 to 11, and our OML girls went to this camp. **Camp Curie** followed from July 12 to 18. **Gail Chesler** was a dorm mom at Grace Hopper as well as serving as camp treasurer. **Jan Cushman** was a dorm mom at Curie.

The girls experienced the joy and newness of being with a lot of other smart girls and worked with hands-on projects in several STEM areas. They had many opportunities to be creative – especially at the week’s end “build it” night. They learned a lot of science, of course, plus what living on a campus is like and how to make new friends. This year, core classes in coding and cyber sleuthing were added to the long list of other engaging and cool science projects due to generous donations that funded new computers. Both camps were a big success, as usual.



*(photo above)  
“Build It Airplane” from Camp Curie was pretty intricate – Four of the seven campers from OML were in the dorm group that built this bi-plane. It won the award for best “structure”.*



*(above) The seven girls our branch sent to Summer Camp (below) Results from a Mouse Trap Car project*



*(above) Taking a computer apart – a first time project this summer*

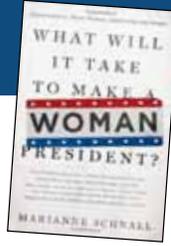
*(below) Checking out a solar car – awesome new car built by Stanford undergrads, which will be raced in Australia*

*(at right)  
Working with robots – teams of two girls built and programmed their robots*



## AAUW NATIONAL CONVENTION

June 18 ~ 21 • San Diego



Notes from attendee, **Pat Lopker**: “For me personally, it was fun to be part of the moving forward experience with AAUW. There were excellent speakers, emceed by AAUW Executive Director Linda Hallman. One of the highlights was Marianne Schnall, author of a new book, *What Will It Take To Make A WOMAN President?* Her words, “We must not think like a minority,” was met with roaring applause in the convention hall. The author listened to her 8-year old daughter’s query about why haven’t we had a woman president and decided (a few years later) to ask this book’s question. Having interviewed some of the most influential journalists, activists, politicians, and thought leaders of today, she enlarged our understanding of not only how it was, but also how it can and will be. She encouraged women to act as change agents in their own lives.

This year’s convention (held bi-annually) was also attended by **Gail Chesler, Laura Wittenberg, Diane Bell-Rettger** and **Peggy Cabaniss**.

Next month, read about **TECH SAVVY** – a day-long program for 7th through 9th grade girls with hands-on STEM activities (science, technology, engineering and math) and accompanying workshops for parents. The day is designed to encourage and excite young women about opportunities and the wonders of studying and potentially pursuing STEM careers. OML is currently exploring the possibility of conducting a Tech Savvy day in March 2016 in collaboration with St Mary’s.

## 2015-16 ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN Kicks-Off

### *Together we can make a big difference!*

The OML Advertising Campaign is underway with new and renewed ads beginning soon. Annually, while appreciating our many advertisers who continue with OML, we seek new businesses and hope you will personally make great suggestions to help increase this campaign!

Advertising is sold for the Membership Directory and the OML website. Ad Team Members buying and selling ads are: K deGroot, Elaine Gallaher, and Lana Reichick. In addition to the OML members who advertise, the Ad Team members renewing or selling new ads are **Diane Bell-Rettger, Valarie Burgess, Stacia Cragholm, Bonnie Gallogly, Maryellen Judson, Pat Lopker, Mary Leigh Miller** and **Laura Wittenberg**. Other members who purchased 2014-15 ads are **Maxine Christison, Joan Evans** and **Soraya Golesorkhi**. *Thank you to all.* Together we make a big difference! Money raised helps secure excellent program speakers and lends extra assistance to Branch Priorities.

OML editors deserve kudos for their ongoing, expert work. Directory Editor Mary Leigh Miller designs the directory display ads, and **Jeanne Melaugh** edited the 2013-15 website listings, which also provide links to individual advertiser’s businesses. Their expertise is largely responsible for the excellent presentation of the ads and lists.

The 2015-16 OML Member Directory will be available at the October General Meeting. As you do business with the advertisers, please thank them for promoting the AAUW mission. *Please call Pat Lopker, Advertising Coordinator, at 376-5155 with any and all suggestions, questions or new client names.*

## 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\*

The above listing includes advertisers currently found in the 2014-15 OML Directory. This list will be updated for the October issue.

## MEMBERSHIP

As of July 18, we had 114 paid members and 44 procrastinators who had not yet paid. Please pay your dues immediately, if you have not done so, or your name will appear on the *Wall of Shame*.<sup>\*</sup> If you do not have a renewal form, you can download one from the branch's website. If you are not able to download a form, you can contact **Alison Mackenzie** or **Mary Levey**, both in the directory, and we will mail you one!

The membership table at the Orinda 4th of July parade was a success. We had a lot of interest and activity at the table and had eight people sign up to get further information. We also sold two tickets for the Lunch in the Vineyard raffle. Thanks to **Mary Levey**, **Gail Chester** and **Laura Wittenburg** for staffing the table.

Are you interested in getting more involved in AAUW, but don't want a big job? The membership committee is looking for new members to help with some smaller jobs, most of which can be done from home. We are looking for some help in coordinating new member coffees and or socials (not to exceed two per year); someone to coordinate participation in 2016 4th of July table and maybe a volunteer table (not to exceed twice per year); and someone with an artistic bent to do the new member poster. *Any interested members are welcome at the membership committee meeting on Thursday, August 13, at 5 pm at the home of Alison Mackenzie, 106 Scenic Dr. in Orinda.* Maybe after a few glasses of wine we can get you signed up with a new mini-job.

**Alison McKenzie & Mary Levey, Membership VPs**

<sup>\*</sup> There is currently no Wall of Shame...but maybe there should be.

## OML'S FANTASTIC SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS . . .

Our Burckhalter School library volunteers have been reading stories to the visiting classes and providing orientation lessons for several years, but over the past couple of years they have truly become "teaching librarians".

Teachers let the volunteers know their current curriculum so the volunteers can "pull" books on that subject and prepare a lesson for the students when they come for their library visit. Some recent examples:

- Showing a video and leading a sing-along for the Special Ed. Students' "Letter of the Day"
- Selecting a few science books to show and discuss with a class studying "cells"
- Reading the Kipling story, "The Elephant Child" as an example of a fable and a discussion on the "moral of the story"

Each class is signed up to visit the library each week, and our volunteers prepare stories and lessons, often including a power point presentation prepared by one of the volunteers.

If you are interested in volunteer opportunities at Burckhalter School in Oakland, please let us know. The new school year will begin on August 24, and we would love to have some new library volunteers as well as tutors for the classrooms.

**Carol Messinger & Pat Beckner, Co-chairs  
OML's Burckhalter School Project**

## OML PROGRAM NEWS

**Judy Helder** and **Diane Bell-Rettger** are program co-chairs for the OML branch this year. The program committee has met two times so far, and many interesting presentations are in store for our members.

After our informative showcase meeting in September, we will have a public policy themed meeting in October with featured speaker, Ellen Tauscher.

Our November meeting will focus on AAUW funds. Stay tuned for information about our speaker. Our annual marketplace will also take place in November when our creative members sell their wares. Holiday coffees are sure to put you in the spirit of the season in December!

In January, 2016, we are planning a program around the film, *The Hunting Ground*, concerning the subject of campus sexual assault. We are also planning to have an expert on title IX speak about how victims and colleges are using title IX as a way to prosecute perpetrators.

Our program committee is working hard to provide informative presentations that inspire us to continue to work on AAUW's mission: advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.



**Maryellen Judson volunteers  
in the library**

## AUGUST AT A GLANCE

2 SAT – INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL GROUP

*Not meeting this month*

Contact Ksenija Soster-Olmer for more info

3, 7, 10, 14, 17, 21, 24, 28, 31 – MON & THURS – TENNIS  
8:15-10 am – Contact Tory Courtney, 376-1295

4 TUES – #1 BRIDGE GROUP

12 noon – Joyce Dickey 825-7991

4 TUES – PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING

1 pm – Home of Laura Wittenberg, 788-0901

6 THU – #2 BRIDGE GROUP

Contact Virginia Semrau for more info, 283-8056

10, 24 MON – GOLF

Contact Jan Gee for t-time and venue, 938-1316

11 TUES – #3 BRIDGE GROUP

12 noon – Joyce Dickey, 825-7991

11 TUES – BOARD MEETING

1 pm – Holy Trinity Cultural Center

13 THURS – MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

5 pm – Home of Alison MacKenzie, 683-0538

19 WED – MEMOIRS & MUSINGS

Contact Carol Messinger 283-8741

20 THURS – #4 BRIDGE GROUP

12 noon – Jessie Doleman 826-5116

21 FRI – ANYONE WHO HAS READ THE BOOK

*How the Scots Invented the Modern World:* by Arthur Herman

10 am – Orinda Book Store, Contact Susan Wilson, 376-0606

21 FRI – DRAWING for LUNCH in the VINEYARD

5 pm Contact Mary Ann McLeod for more info

21 FRI – LET'S GO TO THE MOVIES

*Note: Group # 1 is not meeting this month*

Contact Mary Leigh Miller, 631-9694

24 SUN – SEPTEMBER TRIAD DEADLINE

Send articles to Mary Leigh Miller; mlmiller602@gmail.com

25 TUES – #5 BRIDGE GROUP

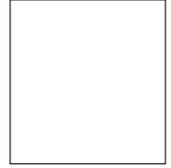
12 noon – Patricia Bentley, 284-2936

AAUW-OML

Database Coord.

3537 Springhill Rd

Lafayette, CA 94549



27 THURS – COCKTAILS & CONVERSATIONS

5 - 7 pm – Piccolo Napoli, Theater Square, Orinda

31 MON – BIKE GROUP

Contact Ellen Beans, ellen.beans@gmail

## SEPTEMBER

Look for more listings in the September Triad

8 TUES – BOARD MEETING

1 pm – Holy Trinity Cultural Center

15 TUES – SHOWCASE

9 am – Holy Trinity Cultural Center

## FOCUS ON : CRITICS CHOICE BOOK GROUP

*Do you like to read?* Here's an opportunity to read ten to twelve bestselling books between October 1, 2015, and August 31, 2016, for a total cost of \$20!

In the Critic's Choice Book Group, we buy several copies of recent fiction and non-fiction books in September and circulate them through a neighborhood reading group of ten to twelve members. You read one book each month, beginning in October, then deliver it to your assigned neighbor on the first of the following month. Your last selection of the year is yours to keep. We meet once a year to discuss the past year's selections and to choose books for the coming year.

You can reserve a spot in the group by sending a check for \$20, payable to Mary S. Smith, 1096 Sanders Drive, Moraga. Sign-ups for this fun and entertaining group will also be taken at SHOWCASE