

October 2014 Program Tuesday, October 21

9:30 to 11:30 am
Social Time begins at 9 am
Holy Trinity Serbian Church

**It's Not Alzheimer's ...
Propositions are Confusing
for Everyone!**

Join the Round Table Discussions

Overwhelmed by the language of the propositions on this year's election ballot? In this year of drought, the Water Bond is an important proposition, but is it getting as much publicity as Propositions 45 and 46?

If you strive to be an informed voter, you will want to attend our October Program. At this meeting, **Kay James** and **Lee Lawrence** of the *League of Women Voters* will present the Pros and Cons of the Propositions that are on the ballot, and provide materials with more specific information about each issue so you can make an informed choice at the polls.

You will be able to participate in lively small group discussions and clarify (or change) your opinion. This meeting is open to the public, so invite your friends and neighbors!




Coming on
November 18
**Giving
Smart**

How many solicitations do you get each week to donate your money? How do you decide what to donate to? Does your giving satisfy your desire to make an impact? Are you "Giving Smart"?

Join us to hear **Maureen Richardson, Certified Financial Planner™** share tips and tricks on being generous, making a difference, and maximizing the monetary and emotional benefits of timing your giving strategy.

Plus... MARKETPLACE
Turn to page 6 for more details

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

ANNUAL RESTAURANT WALK FUNDRAISER for TECH TREK

"A Taste of Walnut Creek 2014"
17th Annual Restaurant Walk

The Original Walking Tour of Downtown Walnut Creek Restaurants

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2014
6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

\$30.00

Proceeds Benefit OML's **TECH TREK Summer Camp Scholarships**

THERE'S STILL TIME!

Last minute books are available
by contacting Sandra Fox-Sohner
925 631-0668 • fox-sohner@comcast.net

Make your check for \$30 out to:
**AAUW OML Community Out-
reach Fund, Inc.**

Send checks to **GAIL CHESLER**
before **Sept. 30:**
2914 Fyne Dr., Walnut Creek,
CA 94598

PIPINGS from the PRESIDENT

Greetings to you all,

Many thanks to the chairs and their committees of our Branch Priorities who shared with us at the September General Meeting all the wonderful work that they do! I've heard (attending as many meetings as I do!) about a lot of it, but somehow these presentations really made it so clear to me. Several other attendees mentioned the same to me too. So, THANK YOU again!



Speaking of our Priorities, while shopping in the Orinda Safeway this week, I ran into one of this year's Tech Trekkers shopping with her Dad. I thought I recognized her but was not absolutely sure at first. So after walking up and down several aisles, I approached her and said, "Are you...?" She laughed and said, "Yes, I thought I recognized you too!" Her Dad joined us and went on about what a wonderful experience Tech Trek camp had been for their whole family. So nice to hear! Laura Wittenberg told me about one of the Sister-to-Sister graduates, who was also a Scholarship recipient 2 years ago, who came back over the summer vacation and helped on a marketing project for S2S using skills she had learned at college this past year. How great is that!?

October brings with it a chance to clarify for ourselves how we feel about the State of California's propositions and ballot measures. Diane and Ksenija have been working and planning with the League of Women Voters to have an informative round table discussion at our General Meeting on Tuesday, October 21st. I hope to see many of you there.

In November, Jan Cushman and Alison Mackenzie are preparing a program for AAUW Funds. Maureen Richardson will speak to us about charitable giving entitled "Giving Smart". I'm looking forward to this informative talk!! We'll close out 2014 with two Holiday Coffees in members' homes; dates, times and locations TBA. See you soon!

**Best Regards,
Karen Mankowski**

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2014-2015**

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Ksenija Soster-Olmer
- Membership VP Carine Archer
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AAUW Association Website: <http://www.oml-ca.aauw.net>
California AAUW Website: <http://www.aauw-ca.org>

FOCUS ON ... BURCKHALTER ~ An OML Branch Priority

Volunteers *DO* make a Difference!

"I am impressed and delighted with our students' improvement in reading scores," beamed Mrs. Geathers, the principal of Burckhalter Elementary School, as she talked with a group of OML library volunteers last spring, *"And I believe that the volunteers in the library and in the classrooms are making big difference in our students' achievements."*

If **YOU** have been looking for a volunteer opportunity, now is the time to talk to us about the rewards of working at this wonderful, but underserved school, conveniently located in East Oakland, just one block off of Highway 13. You will be warmly welcomed by the teachers & the students!

OML's Burckhalter Project has been a Branch Priority since 1994. Yes, for 20 years we have staffed the all-volunteer library and provided tutors in the classrooms. Our volunteers commit to ½ or one day a week. Our tutors are matched with a teacher and grade level, and then a schedule is worked out that is convenient for all. With 12 dedicated volunteers on hand, the library will be open 3 days a week this year: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. This is a very enthusiastic, creative and congenial group and they will be happy to welcome some new helpers for the 2014-15 year. **Ruth Balsdon, Pat Beckner, Arlene Downes, Callie Gilbert, Mary Ellen Judson, Mary Levey, Alison Mackenzie, Mary Olowin, Therese Tamaro** and **Kanan Shah** would all love to talk to *YOU*.

Returning to tutor for her 20th year, **K. de Groot** writes, *"... it's 'my kids' and their affectionate and positive responses that keep pulling me back. When they succeed and feel good about themselves... I'm on a high!"*

Carrol Foxall, who has tutored for 16 years, writes that she is excited about the influx in recent years of students from the Middle East, Africa, South-East Asia and the Pacific Islands and has noticed how easily our predominately African American and Hispanic student body accepts other cultures. She adds, *"My hope is that this diversity will lead us to a more peaceful world."*

Our tutors also include **Jan Coe**, who returns yearly to work with the first grade teacher, and two who do double duty with the library: **Therese Tamaro**, who tutors 5th grade students in Math, and **Ruth Balsdon**, who tutors in reading and social studies. All of our volunteers will be happy to talk to **YOU** about the rewards of working with our delightful students.

Please let us know if you would like more information about our "Burckhalter Project." We hoped some of you dropped by our table at *Showcase* to learn more.

**Carol Messinger, Chair,
Marilyn Budge, Library Recruitment,
OML Burckhalter Project**

(photos from top) Ruth Balsdon reads to a class in the library; Pat Beckner at the computer; Ceil Ogorzelec in the portable library; Judy Helder, last December, surrounded by kids & ornaments



TECH TREK CAMPERS RELEASE THEIR “INNER SCIENTIST”

Since 1998, our AAUW OML branch has granted a total of 59 scholarships to Tech Trek camp, a science and math camp for local middle school girls. Statewide this year, about 800 middle school girls attended 10 Tech Trek camps and the program has now expanded to seven additional states.

Our six 2014 Tech Trekkers attended the Grace Hopper Tech Trek Camp at Stanford University: Jane Fong and Dara Kazmierowski from Orinda Intermediate School, Ally Scarpitti and Sharon Yuan from Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School, and Sofia Elise West and Claire Gallagher from Stanley Intermediate School. The camp was kicked off by an inspiring speech by Ellen Le, a former Tech Trekker who graduated from Stanford in Chemical Engineering last year, and works for a startup perfume company. She challenged the girls to celebrate their interest in STEM classes (embrace your inner nerd!). The girls, returning from the Tech Trek camp this summer, spoke of fabulous “hands on” experiences at a recent reception held in their honor:

- Constructing a robot with sensors and programmable actions (like turning a figure 8 or slamming a golf ball)
- Learning how to suture from a veterinarian--dissecting a squid
- Creating a group machine during an improv session
- Going on impressive field trips, including a visit to see a solar-powered full-size automobile
- Constructing balloon-powered and mousetrap-powered car models designed for long travel or for speed
- Extracting DNA from strawberries
- Visiting NASA with a behind-the-scenes tour including the astronaut training simulators and a wind tunnel
- Touring the Stanford Blood Lab
- Building the Golden Gate Bridge with newspapers
- Experiencing another world through a virtual reality headset
- Viewing the planet Saturn and other phenomena in huge telescopes after dark
- Listening to a researcher with current experience in Antarctica
- Staging a murder mystery in the dorm after a forensics session.

The girls also participated in Professional Women’s Night – sort of like “speed dating” for the girls to meet and ask questions of 12 women with STEM-related careers. OML dorm mom **Jan Cushman** kept very busy with the six OML campers and six additional girls (from other districts) in her dorm group – facilitating the girls’ week so they optimized their learning and their adventure. **Gail Chesler** served as dorm mom at the UC Davis Tech Trek Camp, which offered comparable classes and field trips for similarly wonderful girls.

Everyone left camp with huge smiles on their faces, many unique experiences and a world of promise.

Sandra Fox-Sohner
Tech Trek Coordinator

(Photos from top) Our 2014 Tech Trekkers; Chemistry lab; Making robots; Learning how to suture



BRANCH PRIORITY NEWS

AAUW &

The Princeton Review

Helping Students Master the Fundamentals of Test Taking

The Scholarship Committee has moved quickly to help high school students prepare for the SAT and ACT college entrance exams. Member **Lisa Geary** is working with Miramonte High School and the Princeton Review to host practice test/assessment workshops for sophomore students and their parents.

On October 25th students will take the practice test at Miramonte. They will return with their parents on December 11th to learn of their strengths and areas of focus for each test. Explanations for every question are also included during this presentation.

Our committee arranges for the classrooms and provides proctors for the test. The Princeton Review pays for the rooms and donates \$25 to AAUW for each registered student. At this time over 80 students have signed up!

Students who are graduating in the Class of 2017 and beyond are taking the new redesigned SAT. If you know someone who falls into this category be sure to have them go to oml-ca.aauw.net, and look under Scholarships for more information and to sign up for the practice test.

Contact **Mary Ann McLeod** for more information.



MEMBERSHIP MEMOS

September brings OML new members who have been involved with AAUW in the past. **Eldene Lucchese** originally joined OML in 1976. She has a background in education and has a teaching credential from California State University in San Francisco. She is retired and we hope to tempt her with the numerous interest groups available through the branch.

Pauline Nolte recently moved from San Ramon to Orinda; she has a dual membership in OML and San Ramon. She works part time as a program assistant. Pauline is interested in several of OML's interest groups including International Travel, Movies, Museum Mavens and Gals Only Gourmet. We welcome her to OML.

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2014/2015?

Our new membership year began July 1st, and most of you have filled out your paperwork and sent your renewals to our membership treasurer Shelly Drasin. If you have not yet done so, please take a moment to prioritize this task. Information on membership is available at our web site <http://oml-ca.aauw.net>. Under the membership tab you can find a PDF copy to print. It saves so much time and extra effort if reminders and phone calls are not necessary. The work of AAUW relies on your participation.

Do you have friends or neighbors who might support the mission of AAUW and enjoy the many activities of our branch? Please invite them to join you at OML meetings and events. We look forward to seeing you there.

Carine Archer, Membership VP

2013-14 AAUW OML SPONSORS/ ADVERTISERS

*AAUW members

ALAMEDA

Herbs & Spices Catering

LAFAYETTE

AMARIN Thai Cuisine

Asian Accents ~ Original Jewelry

Design by K. de Groot*

The Bloom Space

Creative Alterations,

Josef Jamkochain

Della Faulkner, Chiropractor

DIABLO FOODS

Glamorous Boutique

Open Sesame Specialty Foods

Persons Plastic & Reconstructive

Surgery, Barbara Persons, MD

Ware Designs – Fine Jewelry

MORAGA

AMOROMA Ristorante

Café Hacienda/home/made café & bakery

GOODWILL Industries, East Bay

King Florist & Gifts

National Assoc. for Advancement of

Female People,

Diane Bell-Rettger*

Neighborhood Computers

New Delhi Indian Bistro

Royal Siam Thai Cuisine

SHOP MORAGA FIRST

Terzetto Cuisine Café

Total Clean

ViaVienté – Lana Reichick*

ORINDA

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Village Associates Real Estate

Gary's Handyman Service

Soraya Golesorkhi*, Realtor

Caldwell Banker

McDonnell Nursery

Morrison's Jewelers

Redwood Cottage

Sea Ranch Vacation Rental,

Elaine Gallaher*

Piccolo Napoli

WALNUT CREEK

Maxine Christison Interior Designs,

Maxine Christison*

Board Meeting Highlights ~ September ~

Pat Lopker's Advertising Committee is working hard to get ads in for this year. The ads help pay for our Directory and Triad newsletter. It would be a great help if members could thank our advertisers when patronizing them. Tech Trek's Sandy Fox-Sohner, Gail Chesler, and Jan Cushman are taking their story to a local Rotary Club in hopes of a sponsorship. Mary Ann McLeod said that the Scholarship committee is getting ready to roll out its first fundraiser, a Princeton Review Assessment workshop to be held at Miramonte on October 25. The word is that signups are going well. Also, it's good news that Carrol Foxall has taken on the job of Public Policy chair, which has been vacant for years; and that Nancy Kornfield will be assisting her. Membership's Carine Archer reports that we have five new members as our year gets underway.

At the September General Meeting, the membership approved a new budget for 2014 – 2015 and also approved revisions to our Branch Standing Rules.

MarketPlace Returns!

A few of our members are artisans who design their own jewelry, pottery and other creative items. At the November meeting you will have an opportunity to purchase some of these handmade items for yourself or as gifts.

If you are a member interested in being part of MarketPlace (there's no entrance fee or commission taken), please contact Mary Leigh Miller (631-9694) for more details. We'd love to have you take part in this November event.

FOCUS ON ... SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

MUSEUM MAVENS



THE ASIAN ART MUSEUM

Our first trip this fall will be to the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco.

Date: Friday, October 3

Time: Departing around 10:30 a.m. on the same BART train from either Walnut Creek, Lafayette or Orinda.

(Contact Elaine Gallaher for more info)

Cost: \$15. or \$10 for seniors (free if you are a member), plus cost of lunch at the Museum afterwards.

ABOUT THE EXHIBITS

The current exhibit is called *Tradition on Fire*. You will see exquisite contemporary Japanese ceramic pieces from the Paul and Kathy Bissinger Collection. Twenty different artists created these pieces with an appreciation for Japanese ceramic tradition but departing from convention in search of the new. For a preview, look on the Museum website asianart.org.

In addition there is another interesting exhibit called *Enter the Mandala*. View different beautiful mandalas and



learn how they are used by Himalayan Buddhists as mental maps for a voyage to wisdom.

Please RSVP by Wednesday, October 1 to Elaine Gallaher at eegal@pacbell.net or 925-254-3618.

WHO ARE THE MUSEUM MAVENS?

The Museum Mavens group welcomes any OML members who love to attend art exhibits, participate in Bay Area cultural experiences and (last but not least) top off the morning with an enjoyable lunch.

This group depends on its members to be involved by taking turns recommending, planning and organizing the various outings, generally held on a monthly basis.

If you would like to be part of this group, contact Maryellen Judson or Elaine Gallaher. They will put you on the Museum Mavens email list.

GALS ONLY GOURMET

First Wednesday of the Month
Beginning November 5

Do you have a favorite cookbook or recipes that you love make? This lunchtime group has finally organized and is ready to start warming up the front burners!

The format is as follows: each member of the group picks a month to host a lunchtime get together. The hostess prepares the luncheon and provides the rest of the group with printed recipes.

If you are interested in joining this group, please contact Mary Leigh Miller. The group will try to limit its size to no more than 8. Currently there are 5 members.

SISTER-to-SISTER

SISTER-TO-SISTER EMPOWERS GIRLS

Sister-to-Sister is a six-month commitment annually for OML's trainers and their team of high school girls. It is important that we put to rest the notion that it is only a one-day event that happens in March. From recruitment as school begins in August, seven meetings of three hours each are held to prepare girls for their leadership role at the Summit.

Our goal, which we have been fulfilling for fifteen years, is to empower them on many levels, in their personal as well as public lives. They learn listening and questioning skills to take conversations deeper. They learn to manage groups and different personalities. They present ideas and make a case to have them adopted, lead decision-making discussions and practice facilitating small groups. Through many games and activities, they get to know each other and become an enthusiastic and caring team.

The girls quickly realize these skills can be applied in many arenas of their lives, and they become better daughters and friends. One of the most important gifts they receive is the opportunity to share their stories, their tragedies and triumphs. They are heard, seen and acknowledged. This is the gift they are able to pass on to the younger girls each March, as well as their wisdom and insights.

In addition, returning girls who want to take on more responsibility become part of the leadership team, gaining even more enriching experiences. It is our privilege to offer this empowering experience to teens in our communities. The generosity of AAUW members and community organizations make all of this possible; our donors are partners in empowering generations of young women.

Favorite quote from Morgan, Campolindo senior:

"People told me I shouldn't go into engineering because I would be sexually harassed. I've done S2S! I know how to handle it."



NEWS from OTHER AAUW BRANCHES

**AAUW DANVILLE-ALAMO-
WALNUT CREEK BRANCH
AAUW SAN RAMON BRANCH**

CANDIDATES' FORUM

**NOVEMBER 4TH GENERAL
ELECTION CANDIDATES**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2014

9:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon

**Shadow Hills Cabana 1001 El
Capitan Drive, Danville**

Light Refreshments Provided

Members of the Public Invited

**Contact Information:
ashakiran@gmail.com**

16th State Assembly District — Candidates' Forum Moderated by the League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley

Catharine Baker (R) & Tim Sbranti (D)

11th Congressional District — Meet the Candidate Moderated by the AAUW-Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek Branch

Tue Phan-Quang (R) Mark DeSaulnier (D) (invited, but unable to attend due to a prior commitment)

An AAUW-Sacramento member over-seeing the move of a hospital facility in Santa Rosa has multiple floors of furniture in excellent condition for anyone willing to come and collect it. For details or more information, including photos of what is available, please contact **Margaret Leonard** at 916-847-7554 or email her at ml-acupuncture@sbcglobal.net

IN MEMORIAM Marie Therese Wagon

Marie Therese Wagon, a member of AAUW until June 2013, died Monday, September 15th, at the age of 87. She lived in Moraga for many years and for the past three years was a resident at Aegis. A memorial mass will be said for her at St. Monica's Church, Moraga, on October 14th at 10:30 A.M.

OCTOBER AT A GLANCE

2 THU – #2 BRIDGE GROUP

12 noon – Virginia Semrau 283-8056

2, 6, 9, 13, 16, 20, 23, 27, 30 MON & THURS – TENNIS

8:15-10 am – Contact Tory Courtney 376-1295

3 FRI – MUSEUM MAVENS TRIP

to the ASIAN ART MUSEUM (*see page 6 for more details*)

4 SAT – INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

Contact Ksenija Soster-Olmer for info

7 TUES – #1 BRIDGE GROUP

12 noon – Joyce Dickey 825-7991

13, 27 MON – GOLF

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

14 TUES – #3 BRIDGE GROUP

12 noon Joyce Dickey, 825-7991

14 TUES – BOARD MEETING

1 pm – Holy Trinity Cultural Center,
1700 School St., Moraga

15 WED – MEMOIRS & MUSINGS

Contact Carol Messinger 283-8741

16 THURS – #4 BRIDGE GROUP

12 noon – Jessie Doleman 826-5116

17 FRI – ANYONE WHO HAS READ THE BOOK

The Big Burn: Teddy Roosevelt & The Fire That Saved America, by Timothy Egan

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

(*Note: The December meeting of the Book Group will be held on the 16, not on the 23 as written in the Sept. Triad*)

17 FRI – LET'S GO TO THE MOVIES

Groups 1, 2 & 3

Contact Mary Leigh Miller 631-9694

21 TUE – **GENERAL MEETING**

Round Table Discussions of the Propositions

9 am (Social time & Breakfast) 9:30-11:30 am (Program)

Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School St., Moraga

24 SAT – APRIL TRIAD DEADLINE

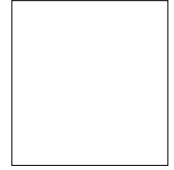
Send items to mlmiller602@gmail.com

AAUW-OML

Database Coord.

3537 Springhill Rd

Lafayette, CA 94549



27 MON – BIKE GROUP

Contact Ellen Beans, ellen.beans@gmail.com

28 TUES – #5 BRIDGE GROUP

12 noon – Patricia Bentley, 284-2936

NOVEMBER 2014

(look for more listings in the November issue)

11 TUES – BOARD MEETING

1 pm – Holy Trinity Serbian Church

18 TUE – **NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING**

Giving Smart • MarketPlace

9 - 11:30 am

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.