

MARCH 17 GENERAL MEETING

Living on a Dollar a Day Keynote Speaker: Thomas Nazario



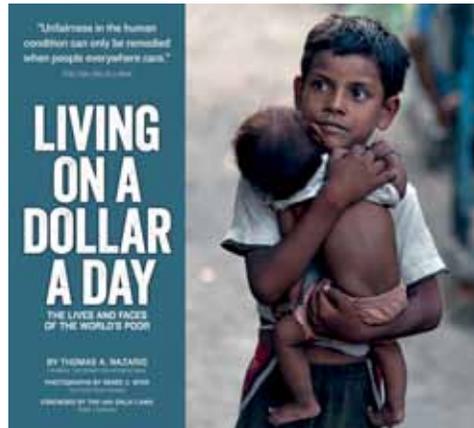
SOCIAL TIME: 9 am

BUSINESS MEETING: 9:30 ~ Announcement of Distinguished Woman and Election of Executive Board for 2015-16

PROGRAM: 9:45 - 11:30

A picture is worth a thousand words, especially when trying to describe a challenging subject like crushing poverty. How do you do this without making readers utterly depressed or even worse, disrespecting the subjects of your photography?

Thomas A. Nazario is the founder and president of *The Forgotten International*, who teamed up with Pulitzer Prize winning photojournalist Renée C. Byer in creating a book *Living on a Dollar a Day*. In making this beautiful and moving book a team traveled to four continents, took thousands of photographs, conducted numerous interviews, and researched information on the agencies around the world that strive to help the destitute. The resulting stories and photographs offer a heartrending glimpse into the everyday realities of individuals and families facing extreme poverty. Personal profiles give voice to their experience, and research about the root causes of global poverty is shared along with information on how those in more fortunate circumstances can get involved.



Don't miss the chance to see the vivid images, ask probing questions and purchase your own signed copy of the book.

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Who will be the AAUW OML Distinguished Woman of 2015?

Be sure to attend the March 17 AAUW meeting when the identity of our 2015 Distinguished Woman will be revealed! She is a branch member who has demonstrated leadership, creativity, and dedication to our AAUW mission. Do you know who she is? Come to the March meeting and celebrate this remarkable lady.



Tech Trek and Scholarship Awards Meeting
SUNDAY, APRIL 19
at 3 pm

Tips from Space – for Teens

MJ Marggraff, keynote speaker for OML's Award Ceremony of 2015, will share her work and stories of what makes the 'New Right Stuff' from her world of aviation, sub-orbital space flight preparation, and from recent interviews of astronauts from the International Space Station (ISS). MJ is a commercial pilot, flight instructor and has several roles in mission support for space managers of Virgin Galactic. "I am vitally interested in ways risk and fear can work to our advantage to dream and explore." She will talk about the 'Right Stuff' needed today to make astronauts on the ISS successful and how it is similar to what aviators and even those who work in STEM fields on earth need to do their jobs. MJ is currently working on what it will take to make long-term space flights a success.

This afternoon meeting will also honor the OML Branch annual Tech Trek and Scholarship winners. Six 7th grade girls will be awarded Tech Trek scholarships to the Grace Hopper Camp at Stanford University. Four scholarship winners, chosen from local high schools and St. Mary's College, will also be honored.

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

PIPINGS from the PRESIDENT**Greeting One & All!**

My thanks to Maria Roden, new owner of Orinda Books, for a lovely talk on how she got started as a bookseller. A rather round about journey to be sure! She was absolutely delightful to listen to and to chat with later. I hope that you will patronize her shop, as she is one of our newest branch members!



Commercial Interruption Time: 3/15, Sister-2-Sister Get-together, the third of three, a new format, at Orinda Community Church. Can you help? Call Valarie Burgess if you can. 3/17, *A don't miss* General Meeting regarding surviving on the International Stage on \$1 a day. 5/16, Tech Trek's **Shred Fest**, being held at the 5A Rents in Rheem from 9-1. \$5 per file box! Wow! What a deal! See you there.

AAUW National Convention, June 18-21, Sheraton Hotel and Marina, San Diego, CA. Gail Chesler is attending as our new incoming President. She'd love to have you join her!

Tech Trek is getting ready to interview and choose their 6 "trekkers" for camp, and I've been following the email trail of the Scholarship Committee, who are poring over applications and interviewing many deserving candidates as well. Can't wait to meet all of the winners at the April 19th General Meeting. I'm always so awed by these young ladies!

Thank you, All, for being a part of this worthwhile organization. Together we do great things!

Best Regards, Karen Mankowski

Board Meeting Highlights February

Treasurer, Therese Tamaro, reminded anyone with receipts for money spent on branch business to send them to her with an expense voucher for reimbursement. Vouchers can be found on our website, oml-ca.aauw.net. Click on "members" and scroll down the page.

Members are reminded that \$46 from their dues can be deducted on their taxes.

Donations totaling \$2,000 have been received from Chevron Humankind on behalf of former employees Jan Cushman and Marie Bonilla. Of that amount, \$500 goes to AAUW Funds and \$1500 to Tech Trek. Chevron Humankind will donate \$500 to former employees' charities for every 20 volunteer hours worked, up to a maximum of 40 volunteer hours per year.

The board voted to give free memberships to Angela Galipeau and Jessie Burgess, two young women who have helped with Sister to Sister for several years.

Board members will honor past branch presidents at the Past Presidents' Luncheon on March 10 at Uncle Yu's. The board meeting that day will start at 10:00, and the luncheon will begin at noon.

PROPOSED SLATE of ELECTED OFFICERS FOR 2015-2016

President: Gail Chesler

President Elect:
Laura Wittenberg

Program VPs:
Diane Bell-Rettger
Judy Helder

Membership VPs:
Alison MacKenzie
Mary Levy

AAUW Funds VPs:
Leslie Pfeifer
Kelly Claussen

Finance VP: Therese Tamaro

Recording/Corresp. Secretary:
Maryellen Judson

These 10 impressive women will be presented at the March 17 meeting for your vote of acceptance.

SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday, March 10th
PAST PRESIDENT'S LUNCHEON
Noon - 2:00 PM

Uncle Yu's, 999 Oak Hill Road
Lafayette

Please note: The March 10th Board Meeting will be held at 10 am (instead of 1 pm).

Please RSVP by February 28, 2015 with a check for \$26.00 made out to AAUW-OML. Mail to Karen Mankowski, 80 Silverwood Dr., Lafayette, CA 94549.

All Board Members are invited and encouraged to attend!

FOCUS ON ... BURCKHALTER and OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS

In the library: Alison MacKenzie, new to the library this year, enthusiastically reports, *"I am amazed at the educational content that we volunteers bring to the library program. I work with a Special Ed class and we do a different letter in the alphabet each week. Next week the letter is "S" and the book I read to the children will be "Split, Splat." We also will use a video song, which we downloaded, and also books we selected about "S" words: spiders, snakes, the sun, and more. With the first grade class I work with, after listening to some of Aesop's fables, the students were led to discover the 'moral' of the story. That was a very popular lesson."* Alison continued, *"I was not a teacher. I was a lawyer but I like teaching and that's what I am doing, only instead of the classroom, it is in the library, and I find it to be a really rewarding volunteer job."*

During Black History Month, the volunteers created eye-catching displays of appropriate books and read excerpts from biographies of not-so-well-known figures, such as May Jemison and Medger Evans, as well as the more famous ones. The ever resourceful (and fun) Pat Beckner did a wonderful presentation of Condoleezza Rice to a responsive 4/5 class. Pat has also created a video, which focuses on sight-word recognition. *"We love to teach children to read,"* Pat says, *"but showing them the joy of reading is even more exciting."*

In their 'spare' time, volunteers weed out old, unused books and replace them with bright new ones, more likely to grab a student's attention. The library is always a busy place, often behind the scenes, as well as when interacting with students. This year we have 10 OML volunteers and the library is open three days a week! For an all-volunteer library, Burckhalter is truly amazing!

In the classroom: Carrol Foxall who has been a tutor at Burckhalter for 17 years, is working with five third graders this



year. *"The new Common Core curriculum is challenging,"* she reports, *"and while I see my students improve their reading skills and increasing their vocabulary, the real challenge is to take information and reach a valid conclusion. As I have each year, I am enjoying helping my students reach their goals."*

K. de Groot, a 20-year veteran of our Burchhalter Project, loves to work with challenging students! She writes, *"I had a 'breakthrough' with a very difficult and reluctant first grader last week. From not being in the least interested or attentive in the weeks before, when I presented him with some new books and approached him in a different way and tried to make it fun for him, he really got into it and was actually laughing! In previous sessions I barely got a word from him! As we were leaving the tutor room, he asked, 'Are you coming back tomorrow?' I almost fell down the stairs!"* she said. *"'You can go first next week,' I promised, and he gave me a big smile. That was a happy day for me! That's why I come back year after year."*

Jan Coe (photo at right, with Vanessa Crews), who is back for her 16th year as a tutor, is eagerly looking forward to doing her gingerbread project with her first grade class next week. This always popular activity ends with a colorful picture book and descriptions of their houses in the children's own words. Jan publishes the book online and gives copies to the teacher and the library. Jan also shared an article in the



New York Times about how important to young learners it is to have one on one tutoring. The personal & caring attention a child receives helps him/her to learn more effectively and to develop confidence and self esteem. We have six tutors in the classrooms this year.

Yes! Our OML volunteers do amazing work!

**Carol Messinger, Chair
OML Burckhalter Project**

GOOD TIMES – GOOD MUSIC and ENCOURAGING YOUNG WOMEN!



Over 40 members and guests sang their hearts out for good cause—raising \$850 for scholarships benefiting young women attending our local high schools and St. Mary’s College at the February Valentine Day Party.

Marla Schroeder (photo at right) opened her beautiful home so we could enjoy singing along with pianist **Gail Burnett** and her friend, flautist **Sara Newell (photo, lower right)**. “*Oh What a Beautiful Morning*” and “*Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head*” were just two of the songs we sang. Gail and guests shared information about the songs and composers.



Cayo Marschner & Lynda Leonard enjoy a donated boutique item

Committee members created a delicious dessert buffet. Our special thanks go to Vanessa Crews, Barbara Harbuck and Gail Burnett for donating our raffle prizes. Lynda Leonard chose and displayed items from our “boutique.”

Thank you to all who participated in our afternoon “sing a long.” We wish to thank our committee members who joined together to plan this delightful afternoon.

**Barbara Harbuck
Mary Ann McLeod
Scholarship Co-Chairs**



Photos provided by Sandy Fox-Sohner

FEBRUARY MEETING WRAP-UP



Maria Roden, new owner of the Orinda Books, (photo at left) was a lively and interesting speaker at our February meeting. With so many book lovers in our group many thoughtful questions were posed and equally thoughtfully answered. Our introductory table activity was appropriately centered on books, more specifically around literary heroines. We talked about our favorite childhood books and what were the most interesting and appealing characteristics of the heroines.

As a special thank you, Ms. Roden was given a membership to our group. She has decided to donate her \$100 speaker’s honorarium to the nonprofit she supports through her bookstore *Reach Out and Read*, where pediatricians’ offices give out baby books to underprivileged new mothers so they can start reading to their babies.

If you have not seen the newly remodeled bookstore yet, do make a point of stopping there. Orinda Books also hosts our branch’s book group each month on the third Friday at 10 am. Check the back page for more information.

Photos provided by K. De Groot



Maryellen Judson sings praises of the Valentine Fundraising Party, which raised over \$800 for local scholarships.

AAUW FUNDS

Thank you to everyone who donated to AAUW Funds in 2014! Our total branch donations in 2014 totaled \$7314. Our branch ranked 47th out of the approximately 1,000 branches nationally.

Don't forget to plan your 2015 donation to your favorite AAUW fund or AAUW Funds in general! Please send your donations to **Ruth Balsdon, AAUW Funds Treasurer, 202 Paseo Bernal, Moraga, CA 94556.**

The What??!

A meeting of the Gift Honoree committee was held recently to select the **AAUW Funds OML Branch-Named Gift Honoree**. That's a mouth-full! The Named Gift Honoree program honors a member of OML who has given outstanding service to the branch and to AAUW Funds. This year's Honoree will be announced at the May 19th luncheon (it's a secret until then).

Here are the people who have received this honor in the past:

2014 - Lana Reicheck

2013 - Jenny Offringa

2012 - Carol Messinger

2011 - Valerie Burgess

2010 - Gloria Weston

2009 - Pat Lopker and Berniece Patterson

2008 - Mary Stephens Smith

2007 - Jo Harberson

2006 - Mary Helene Tietz and Ruth Voll

Jan Cushman, AAUW Funds VP

A Very Special Thanks to Our Hospitality Committee!

Janet Thibault (*photo at right*) arranges the flowers for the refreshment table. She does a wonderful job for each meeting.

The Hospitality Ladies: (*left to right, below*) Sandra Smith, Janet Thibault, Robin Spencer Holmes, and Jan Coe, chair.

I think it is important we recognize the great job they are doing for us at each general meeting. Thanks!!



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Marjorie Singler is a new dual member who is also a member of the Danville/Alamo branch. She has been practicing acupuncture and Chinese herbal medicine for over 28 years in both Walnut Creek and Lafayette. She was formerly a microbiologist and worked in that field for several years, and from time to time has taught Microbiology at DVC, Contra Costa College and Los Medanos.

Marjorie's emphasis is in women's health, which includes ob/gyn, internal medicine, and chronic pain. Her office is in Lafayette. Further information can be found at her website – <http://msingler.com/bio.htm>. Marjorie's practice includes a wide range of diverse acupuncture techniques using French, Korean, Japanese, needleless treatments and Chinese acupuncture methods. She also offers NAET allergy treatments, nutritional and dietary consultation.

OML is also pleased to welcome **Heidi Mayer**, whose professional experience is in the field of technology. Heidi has worked in the computer field and has experience in coding and programming. She is interested in the Tech Trek program and, because of her experience, she will assist the branch in interviewing girls applying for Tech Trek scholarships. Heidi also wishes to participate in many of the interest groups including international travel, computer help, program planning and bridge.

On another topic - *It's tax time again!* For members who itemize their tax deductions, don't forget that \$46 out of the \$89 annual dues we pay to AAUW is deductible. AAUW is recognized as an IRC 501(c) 3 charity because of its work on behalf of women and girls, so a major part of the National dues amount is deductible. Optional additional donations to AAUW funds are fully deductible, and greatly enhance the mission of AAUW.

Carine Archer, Membership VP

UPCOMING OML EVENTS

DEVELOPING THE LEADER IN YOU
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA LEADERSHIP DAYS
SATURDAY, MARCH 21
9:30 AM to 3:30 PM
Hayward City Hall, Hayward, CA
\$60 – includes lunch
Deadline to register: March 12
Register at www.aauw-ca.org/.
Questions? email vbeck@aauw-ca.org

2014-15 AAUW OML SPONSORS/ ADVERTISERS
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Soraya Golesorkhi*, Realtor – Coldwell Banker
Morrison's Jewelers
Redwood Cottage
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Piccolo Napoli
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Hearing Science of Walnut Creek
Maxine Christison Interior Design – Maxine Christison*

Shred.

SHRED on SITE! MAY 16, 2015
@ 5A Rent-A-Space • 455 Moraga Road
Rain or Shine • Just \$5 per file box.
9:00 AM -1:00 PM • Keep your file boxes.

Orinda~Moraga~Lafayette
MAY LUNCHEON
TUESDAY, MAY 19
Watch for more details...



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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2014-2015

President: Karen Mankowski
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Vice-Presidents, AAUW Funds: Jan Cushman, Alison McKenzie
Vice-President, Finance: Therese Tamaro
Recording Secretary: Judy Hammon

AAUW Association Website: <http://www.oml-ca.aauw.net>
California AAUW Website: <http://www.aauw-ca.org>

Address information was inadvertently left out of the two advertisements below in the 2014-15 Directory.



10% OFF
to OML Members
on a first time order
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AAUW NEWS OF INTEREST

The Power of Leaving a Legacy

Making a planned gift to AAUW is a simple way to support our mission and leave a lasting impact.

Benefits of Estate Giving

- Estate gifts allow you flexibility to provide for your family and support AAUW.
- Bequests do not affect your cash flow during your lifetime.
- Certain planned gifts may reduce estate or capital gains taxes.
- There is no minimum gift requirement, and every gift can be tailored to suit your specific wishes.

For more information and giving options, please call AAUW's planned giving office at 877-357-5587.



AAUW Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek will celebrate International Women's day on March 7th

by showcasing four cultures and recent grassroots movements in India, Chile, Africa and the Middle East. Please join us for an informative and entertaining morning.

Light refreshments will be provided. Address: 1001 El Capitan Dr., Danville from 9:30am to 12pm. Please RSVP to ashakiran@gmail.com.

International Women's Day will be celebrated worldwide on March 8 in honor of working women and women's struggles everywhere. It should be a real source of pride and inspiration to American women that this special day originated in honor of two all-women strikes in the U.S.



Start Smart Elena Noble Facilitator

The news is very good for those interested in helping women learn about the *Wage Gap, and Equal Pay for Equal Work*. Thanks to our nine member IBC Council, we will be presenting our first **Start Smart** Class at Diablo Valley College.

The class will be presented in the **Business and Foreign Language Community Conference Room Thursday, April 23rd, from 1:00-4:00pm.**

Catherine Franco, Career Counselor at DVC, has been instrumental in helping us bring this workshop to The Contra Costa Community College District.

AAUW has also been invited to attend **The Woman's History Event**, on **MARCH 18TH** also at **DVC**, in the **Diablo Room at 12:30 pm**. The event will highlight *New York University Professor Linda Gordon, author of Dorothea Lange: A Life beyond the Limits*. This book won the **Prestigious Bancroft Prize in 2010**.

Becoming a community partner with our local schools and universities has been the corner stone of AAUW involvement in education

Many thanks to all the branch members who made this possible. We hope to see some of you at these events.



MARCH AT A GLANCE

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

2, 5, 9, 12, 16, 19, 23, 26, 30 – MON & THURS – TENNIS
8:15-10 am – Contact Tory Courtney, 376-1295

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

4 WED – GALS ONLY GOURMET
11:30 am – Contact Mary Leigh Miller for more info

4, 11, 18, 25 WED – GREAT DECISIONS
2 pm – Hacienda de las Flores, Moraga

5 THU – #2 BRIDGE GROUP
Contact Virginia Semrau for more info, 283-8056

7 SAT – INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL GROUP
Contact Ksenija Soster-Olmer for more info

9, 23 MON – GOLF
Contact Jan Gee for t-time and venue, 938-1316

10 TUES – BOARD MEETING
10 am – Holy Trinity Cultural Center

10 TUE – PAST PRESIDENTS LUNCHEON
Noon-2 pm – Uncle Yu's, 999 Oak Hill Road, Lafayette

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

15 SUN – SISTER-to-SISTER SUPER SUNDAY SESSION
2 - 5 pm – Orinda Community Church

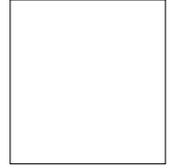
17 TUE – **GENERAL MEETING**
LIVING ON A DOLLAR A DAY
9 am (Social time); 9:30 -11:30 am (Program)
Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School St., Moraga

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

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

20 FRI – ANYONE WHO HAS READ THE BOOK
The Gift of Rain, by Twan Eng Tan
Orinda Book Store, 10 am – Contact Susan Wilson, 376-0606

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



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

21 SAT – LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
9:30 am-3:30 pm - Hayward City Hall
Deadline to register: March 12 (*see page 6 for more info*)

24 TUES – MARCH TRIAD DEADLINE
Send items to mlmiller602@gmail.com

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

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

APRIL 2015 (look for more listings in the April issue)

10 TUES – BOARD MEETING
9 am – Holy Trinity Cultural Center

19 SUN – **GENERAL MEETING**
Tech Trek & Scholarship Awards
3 - 5 pm
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.