

**TUESDAY,
MARCH 21
GENERAL MEETING**

Orinda Community Church
10 Irwin Way, Orinda
Social Time 9:30 am
Program starts at 10 am

Guest Speaker:

DR. BOBBIE PRESTON

No One Left Behind
**Assisting Special Visa Holders
and Their Families**

Read more about Bobbie Preston on page 4.



In 2008 Captain Matt Zeller's life was saved by his translator, Janis Shinwari. Janis killed two Taliban fighters who were about to execute Matt during an ambush in Afghanistan; Matt promised Janis he would honor the US Government's promise of safe haven in the U.S. for those Afghans and Iraqis who served the U.S. government. After three years of red tape, Matt was able to bring Janis to the safety of the U.S. Together with Matt, Janis was the co-founder of *No One Left Behind* in 2013.

The mission of *No One Left Behind* is to insure our interpreters and ground support are treated like the heroes and veterans by:

- Providing assistance in obtaining special immigrant visas,
- Assisting in resettlement by providing household goods, employment and educational support, social service support and acculturation,
- Enabling long-term relationships with local community volunteers and veterans, and
- Providing a 5-year organizational commitment to each family.

More about No One Left Behind

There are eight chapters: DC, San Francisco East Bay, Upstate New York, Boston, Chicago, Omaha, Denver and San Diego. The SFEB chapter has served over 200 refugee families in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties since its inception in August 2015 and has over 140 active Refugee Client Families. Local chapters provide services using caring circles of 3-6 volunteers that work with a single family. Clients include both newcomers and refugees who have been in the area for some time but have not received all the services they need from traditional sources.



**The 2017 OML
DISTINGUISHED
WOMAN**

*will be announced
at the March General
Meeting!*

**Tech Trek &
Scholarship
Awards Meeting**

**Sunday, April 23
3 pm**

**Orinda Community
Church**

**Guest Speaker:
Dr. Kristen Beck
Professor of Mathematics
at Saint Mary's College.**

**The 2017
MAY LUNCHEON
will be held this year on
Tuesday, May 23
(Please note: 4th Tuesday)
at the Moraga
Country Club**

**More details in
next month's Triad**

...From LAURA'S DESK



*Photo from March General Meeting:
(l to r) Judy Helder, Laura Wittenberg,
guest speaker, Beth Burnside and
Vanessa Crews*

Greetings

There is much happening behind the scenes for AAUW-OML committees. Scholarship had a wonderful event at Amphora and a super fun raffle drawing at our General Meeting. Applications are being accepted for both Scholarship and Tech Trek. This is very exciting and challenging when there are so many eligible candidates. The members of these committees will be making some tough choices in the coming days. I served on the scholarship interviews at Miramonte last year and felt it was an inspiring experience to witness how

professionally and structured our selection process was and how wonderfully qualified these young women who apply are. If you ever want to learn the value of these branch priorities volunteer to participate at their meetings and selection process.

The EYH-STEM committee is wrapping up final preparations for the conference at Saint Mary's on March 18th. What an endeavor! **Stacia Cragholm** had a dream and now we have this exciting and meaningful event. Again an amazing group effort of talented women and girls, yes girls. We have five high school girls who are acting as our Ambassadors. They have played an integral part in the planning and preparations for the day. These young women have written the articles for publicity, created application forms and spreadsheets for tracking, and written job descriptions for the volunteer activities. They have also recruited 18 high school volunteer classroom monitors for the day and much more. These young women will be running the volunteer training day. We are very proud of the work they have done to help the committee make the day run smoothly. I highlight these girls because giving them the opportunity to develop their leadership skills is part of our vision for education and mentoring young women.

Thank you also to all of our members who are volunteering to participate in these branch activities. Each and every one of us brings value to these groups with our support or as an active committee member. There is much to do, but the tasks are made easy when we have so many willing to say Yes!

**Laura Wittenberg,
President**

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS FEBRUARY 14, 2017

The Board met on Valentine's Day at the Orinda Community Church and will do so for the remainder of the 2016-2017 year as Atria in Lafayette is no longer available for our board meetings.

The EYH-STEM Conference, which will be held at Saint Mary's College on March 18, is completely full with 160 middle school girls signed up. While two-thirds of the girls are from Lam-orinda, the remaining one-third comes from Oakland, Hayward, Brentwood and Richmond. Please talk to Stacia Cragholm if you can help out on this wonderful undertaking by our branch.

OML members donated a total of \$7,915 to various AAUW Funds last year—that does not include donations made to our Tech Trek program!

Applications are being received by the Scholarship and Tech Trek committees. They will have their work cut out for them deciding on winners for these scholarships supported by our branch.

Nominations for our Distinguished Woman are being considered by the committee charged with making this selection. Who will she be this year?

**Judy Hammon for
Maryellen Judson,
Secretary**

AAUW California Leadership Days 2017

Saturday, April 1st – East Bay/Central Valley
CSU East Bay, Concord Campus

<http://www.aauw-ca.org/aauw-california-leadership-days-2017/>

Leadership Days are for everyone – board officers, incoming officers, as well as those who are considering taking a leadership position in a branch but are not quite confident that they have the skills to become a leader. The workshops planned should provide you with the necessary tools.

Contact Laura Wittenberg for more details.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

4th Annual Tech Trek

SHRED•FEST

at 5A Rent-A-Space

OCTOBER 14, 2017

9 am-1 pm

\$7 per file box

Secure paper shredding.

FOCUS ON ... EHY-STEM

Final plans are being made for AAUW-OML Branch's 2nd EYH-STEM Conference, to be held Saturday, March 18th, co-sponsored by Expanding Your Horizons Network and hosted by Saint Mary's College of California School of Science. Enrollment is up from 120 last year to 160 girls this year!



Besides the two keynote speakers, Jessica Ma (CEO of inDinero) and Christina Cragholm (Business Development Leader in Mobile and Internet of Things), the girls will choose to attend three from among 18 workshops offered. Workshop choices include *Build a Better Battery*, *Design and Build Bridges*, *Flying Machines: An Intro to Aerospace Engineering*, *Help Catch a Cyber-Thief*, *Understanding the Developing Embryo* and 13 additional fun and interesting hands-on workshops.

It takes a village to conduct this conference. In addition to the keynote speakers and parent workshop presenters, there are 43 speakers and other professionals involved in presenting the workshops, 28 teen volunteers (some from our Sister-to-Sister and Tech-Trek girls), and 49 volunteers from our AAUW family. All of this is organized by our fabulous STEM conference committee, led by **Stacia Cragholm** and **Heidi Mayer** who have worked tirelessly to make this happen.

Denise Burian, President-Elect

TECH TREK NEWS

We have more than 40 nominations submitted by 7th grade girls from Orinda Intermediate, Stanley, and Joaquin Moraga for our Tech Trek camp scholarships. During March the committee will conduct interviews with each one of these girls.

The Tech Trek leaders organizing the interviews are **Jan Cushman** and **Christine Walwyn** at Orinda Intermediate, **Elaine Davis** (new member and Mom of former Tech Trekker) at Stanley and **Lana Reichick** at Joaquin Moraga.

Our keynote speaker for the April Awards Meeting is **Dr. Kristen Beck**, who has been instrumental in helping organize and run the EYH-STEM Conference. The Tech Trek committee will work with **Mary Ann McLeod** and the Scholarship committee for this Meeting.

Sandy Fox-Sohner,
Tech Trek Committee Co-Chair

AAUW PUBLIC POLICY



Cabinet confirmations continue despite ardent opposition

After a historic tie-breaking vote by Vice President Mike Pence, Betsy DeVos was confirmed as education secretary. Two Republican U.S. Senators, Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Susan Collins (R-ME) voted against DeVos' nomination, along with all Democratic and Independent senators, citing her lackluster confirmation hearing performance.

Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-AL) was confirmed as attorney general after facing an all-night battle by Senate Democrats in opposition to his nomination. Using a rarely invoked rule, Senate Republicans voted to rebuke Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) after she read a 1986 letter from Coretta Scott King that criticized Sessions for his record on voting rights

and civil rights. AAUW has been a vocal opponent of both Secretary DeVos' and AG Sessions' nominations.

Recently, Andrew Puzder withdrew his nomination to the position of U.S. Secretary of Labor amid doubts that he'd have enough votes to be confirmed. AAUW raised concerns about Mr. Puzder's record of disregard for women's and low-wage workers' rights and, because of AAUW advocacy, Senators took a hard look at his nomination and qualifications.

When you speak out, your elected officials listen.

AAUW believes the U.S. Senate has few constitutional duties more significant than providing advice and consent for cabinet level positions. That's why thousands of AAUW members and supporters shared concerns with their senators

about those nominees who stand to exert great influence over the lives of women and families. Now more than ever, we must hold our legislators accountable for votes they cast and demand that they protect the rights of women and girls.

President Trump issued an executive order aimed at prohibiting citizens from seven Muslim-majority countries from entering the United States. AAUW signed on to a letter of support for the "Protect American Families Act," which would prohibit a federal registry on the basis of race, national origin, religion, and/or ethnicity. Four states and the city of San Francisco are suing the Trump administration over its recent executive order banning refugees and immigrants from certain majority-Muslim countries.

Jan Coe and Laura Monin,
Public Policy Co-Chairs

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

New Member

This month's new member, **Sharon Doi**, lives in Lafayette and currently works in property management. She has a BA from UC Berkeley with a major in PEIS/International Relations. Sharon's favorite prior occupation was as a software localization program manager. She has a special interest in our EYH-STEM conference in March and wants to encourage STEM programs and careers in computer science for young women. Welcome, Sharon.



Come Join Us for Wine and Conversation

We are back to our smaller group gatherings this month. This one will be at Ristorante Amoroma at 360 Park Street (next to the Rheem Theater off Rheem Boulevard) in Moraga on Thursday, March 23 from 5-7 pm. The restaurant does a tasting every Thursday evening, which includes four wine tastings and light appetizers. **The branch will pay the \$5 tasting fee for you on March 23.** Additional wine and appetizers will be available for purchase. We especially encourage new members to come join us and meet others in a less formal environment than a monthly meeting. Hope to see you there.

Bring a Guest (with a checkbook) to the March Meeting

We encourage you to bring a guest to the March 21 meeting. The topic of refugees is very much in the news right now and the speaker and questions should be especially interesting. Why the need for the guest to bring a checkbook? Any guest who becomes a member at the March meeting will get membership for 18 months (March 2017-June 2018) for the discounted price of \$68.50. That is half of the \$49 National dues, plus the state dues of \$20, plus the branch dues of \$24. Now that's a bargain!

**Mary Levey and Alison Mackenzie,
Membership VPs**

MARCH GENERAL MEETING

More about our March Guest Speaker: Dr. Bobbie Preston

Bobbie Preston, a Moraga resident, became involved in *No One Left Behind* when she responded to a NextDoor appeal from Jewish Family and Community Services – one of nine US Refugee Resettlement agencies – for household goods. After volunteering for two years to deliver goods to JFCS refugee clients, she was recruited by *No One Left Behind* as the Chief Operating Officer for the new San Francisco East Bay chapter.

Dr. Preston graduated from the University of Texas, Baylor College of Medicine and did her internship at San Francisco General Hospital and residency at UCSF Med Center. She practiced Radiology in the Bay Area for 41 years, retiring in 2013. Her area of specialty was women's imaging.

She was the first and founding president of Mt Diablo Habitat for Humanity and sat on the boards of the local American Cancer Society and Hospice of the East Bay. In retirement she has been active with the Moraga Garden Club, as a tutor for Contra Costa Interfaith Housing as well as the COO of No One left Behind, San Francisco East Bay Chapter. Bobbie and her husband started "Cycle Recycle" 20 years ago and since have gathered over 3,000 bikes and distributed them to various Bay Area charities. She enjoys kayaking, gardening, time with her six grandkids a great husband, movies and reading. She does not enjoy ironing!

2016-17 AAUW OML
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– Barbara Persons, MD FACS
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WALNUT CREEK & Beyond

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Maxine Christison Interior Design –
Maxine Christison*

Please refer to your current
membership directory for complete
advertising information.

AAUW-OML BRANCH SCHOLARSHIPS NEWS

The Scholarship Committee hosted its annual Valentine party at Amphora in Lafayette. **Bonnie Fend**, chairperson of the event, greeted everyone at the door. Thirty-five members braved the storm and had a delightful time sampling amazing infused olive oils and balsamic vinegars in this small, inviting shop. Amphora owner, **Nate Bradley** gave us an overview of virgin olive oils and guests sampled various combinations of oils and vinegars throughout the store.

It was a treat for our committee to have **Naya Olmer**, a former AAUW-OML Scholarship recipient, participate in our event. Naya, a Program Associate on the Marine Team, focuses her work on marine vessel efficiency and pollutant emissions. She obtained her bachelor's degree from UC Berkeley in Environmental Earth Sciences in 2014 and finished a master's degree there in Energy, Civil Infrastructure and Climate in 2016.

Naya brought along some friends. One of them, **Jean Eberhard**, is also a Miramonte graduate with a master's degree in electrical engineering. She will join Naya on the panel at the EYH-STEM Conference at Saint Mary's College. These young women are continuing to volunteer and be leaders in our community.

The scholarship committee extends our deepest appreciation to all who attended the party or purchased raffle tickets. We look forward to our April Meeting where we will again introduce you to outstanding young women in our community.

Mary Ann McLeod,
Scholarship Committee Co-Chair



At left: Amphora owner, Nate Bradley and Laura Wittenberg with members of the Scholarship committee (lower row, l to r): Ksenija Soster-Olmer, Mary Ann McLeod and Bonnie Fend.



At right: Karen Mankowski, Elaine Gallaher, Pat Beckner, Alison Mackenzie and Denise Burian enjoy the appetizers and olive oil offerings.



The Scholarship Committee would like to acknowledge and thank our community donors for contributing to the February fundraiser.

- Amphora, Lafayette
- All in the Cut, Moraga
- Anna Nails, Moraga
- (Donated by Sally Swanson)
- Home/made kitchen, Moraga
- Loard's Ice Cream, Moraga
- Moraga Garden Center
- Orinda Books, Orinda
- (Donated by Lynda Leonard)
- Robin Nicole Beauty Bar, Lafayette
- Safeway, Moraga
- Service Outlet, Lafayette
- Steve Ware Jewelry Designs, Lafayette
- Suite 102 Hair Design, Lafayette
- Trader Joe's, Lafayette

- WINE DONORS**
- Mary Leigh Miller
 - Cayo Marschner
 - Ksenija Olmer



Getting a better understanding of how olive oil is produced.

MARCH 2017 at a GLANCE

1 WED – CRITICS CHOICE BOOK GROUP
Pass along your book.

2, 9, 16, 23, 29 THUR – GREAT DECISIONS
9:30-11 am – Hacienda de las Flores
2100 Donald Drive, Moraga

3 FRI– BIKE GROUP
Contact Ellen Beans, ellen.beans@gmail.com

4 SAT – INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL GROUP
Egypt, part 2 at the Gallahers
Check with Ksenija Soster-Olmer for more info

7 TUES – BRIDGE GROUP
12 noon – Joyce Dickey 825-7991

12 SUN – STEM Conference Volunteer Training
11:30 am-2:30 pm – Saint Mary's College
Check with Stacia Cragholm for more info

13, 27 MON – GOLF
Contact Jan Gee for t-time and venue, 938-1316

14 TUES – BOARD MEETING
1 pm – New location for board meetings:
Orinda Community Church
10 Irwin Way, Orinda

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

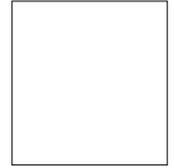
17 FRI – ANYONE WHO HAS READ THE BOOK
10 am – Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, Orinda
The Quartet, by Joseph J. Ellis
Contact Judy Peak, 376-0540, for more info

17 FRI – LET'S GO TO THE MOVIES
Contact Mary Leigh Miller, 631-9694, for more info

18 SAT – EYH-STEM CONFERENCE
8 am-3 pm – Saint Mary's College

21 TUE – GENERAL MEETING
International Program: *No One Left Behind*
Guest Speaker: Dr. Bobbie Preston
9:30-12 noon – Orinda Community Church
10 Irwin Way, Orinda

AAUW-OML
Database Coord.
52 Wandel Drive
Moraga, CA 94556



23 THUR – WINE & CONVERSATION
5-7 pm – Ristoranté Amoroma, 360 Park Street, Moraga
(Read more on page 4.)

24 FRI – APRIL TRIAD DEADLINE
Send articles to Mary Leigh Miller, mlmiller602@gmail.com

APRIL 2017

Look for more listings in the April Triad.

11 TUES – BOARD MEETING
1 pm – New location for board meetings:
Orinda Community Church

23 SUN – ANNUAL AWARDS MEETING
Guest Speaker: Kristin Beck
3-5 pm – Orinda Community Church
10 Irwin Way, Orinda

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL SPECIAL INTEREST COORDINATORS

If your group decides to meet on a different day or time than normal or if you are no longer meeting, please contact our Calendar Coordinator, BONNIE GALLOGLY, so she can update the website calendar.