

OML APRIL PROGRAM

SUNDAY APRIL 27 at 3 PM

Tech Trek & Scholarship Awards Meeting

“A Career in Science: Determination and Drive Make the Difference”

Dr. Marinda Wu, keynote speaker at the OML awards ceremony will talk about her own determination, drive, and a passion for science and how young girls interested in science might achieve a successful career in a STEM field. Dr. Wu is truly an ambassador for science. She has a Ph.D. in inorganic chemistry and recently served as the elected President of the American Chemical Society, one of only a few women to have a high-level position in that society. She also holds seven U.S. patents, has published several scientific articles and texts and founded the “Science is Fun” program in Orinda. A local Orinda resident, her children attended OIS and Miramonte High School.



Dr. Wu has also reached out to the community by adopting and promoting local Science Cafés, where expert scientists initiate non-technical discussions with interested individuals with topics ranging from “The Chemistry of Chocolate,” to “Earthquakes in the Bay Area.” She will tell us about her incredible career path and her work to encourage young women to enter STEM careers.

Tech Trek winners take center stage

This year, 36 7th-grade girls were nominated for Tech Trek by their science and math teachers at the three Lamorinda Middle Schools. The six winning girls will tell us why they are passionate about science and math and will be awarded scholarships to the Grace Hopper Camp at Stanford University to learn more about science, math and technology during their one-week stay there.

Our Community Service/Academic Scholarship winners shine

Also honored will be four branch scholarship winners from our local high schools and St. Mary’s College. These young women demonstrate an unbelievable passion for community service and academic achievement. This year OML will give two \$5,000 Gayle Uilkema scholarships, one to an outstanding high school student and the other to a St. Mary’s student to be used towards graduate education. \$800 scholarships, raised through member donations, will be given to two additional high school women. All these young women will tell us about themselves, their interest in community service and future plans.

Plan to attend this special program to honor these extraordinary women! You will be amazed.

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

COMING UP NEXT MONTH

**THE MAY LUNCHEON
TUESDAY, MAY 20
11:30 AM ~ 1:30 PM**

The Orinda Country Club

**Honoring the 2014 Distinguished
Woman of the Year**

SANDRA FOX-SOHNER

This year’s Distinguished Woman has demonstrated a passion and commitment to equity for women and girls throughout her life. Putting herself through college, raising 3 children, teaching in the local schools, volunteering in the community, returning to college for an MBA, starting her own company, and contributing to AAUW has certainly “distinguished” this year’s winner.



Sandy Fox-Sohner joined AAUW in the 80’s, supported the branch in many ways, and held the position of educational equity chair. She rejoined in 2007 and immediately became involved.

Read more about Sandy on page 7

PIPINGS from the PRESIDENT

Greetings One & All!

As I sit here to write my letter for the Triad, I'm reflecting on the morning activities presented at the 15th annual Sister-To-Sister Summit that I have just attended. Yes, it's Saturday, March 22nd; lead time for publishing the Triad is about a week out. The Keynote Speaker, Stefana Serafina, spoke about body image and confidence. During part of her presentation she asked five or six questions to which the audience members were to stand up if the question was true for them. The questions were of the "Have you ever felt..." variety. Seeing so many participants, young and not so young (me included), standing up at just about every question, I concluded that no matter our age, we ALL have insecurities and we ALL crave to be loved and appreciated. I feel that AAUW OML strives to value all women and girls. I hope you do too. Congratulations to **Valarie Burgess, Laura Wittenberg** and their outstanding team on another phenomenal summit.



While I'm at it, I'd also like to thank **K. de Groot** and **Audie Protiva** for organizing our March General Meeting speakers. It was a wonderfully informative program and well attended concerning issues that women face internationally, from clean drinking water and food preparation to wearing a veil or not wearing a veil. Surely makes one appreciate our lives here in Lamorinda!

The April General Meeting is always one of my favorites! I'm a bit biased I admit, after heading the Scholarship Committee last year. On Sunday, April 27th, we will be awarding six Tech Trekkers and four Scholarship recipients. Each young lady will have a chance to speak (they are always so impressive!) about her experiences and goals. I hope as many of you who can attend, will. These young women are the future. They give me lots of hope!

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

**Best Regards,
Karen Mankowski**

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Tax season is upon us. A reminder that \$46 of your annual AAUW membership dues (\$89) is tax deductible. Other contributions that you have made for AAUW programs also have tax advantages so be sure to include these donations on your 2013 tax returns.

In April everyone will receive member renewal forms in the mail. Your membership is important. Joining AAUW helps to further the advancement of women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research. Your membership dollars provide a **strong voice** for critical women's and civil rights issues. With your membership you receive communications of **relevant information** on issues that affect your life and public policy. Your continuing membership **supports our activities and local projects** and provides wonderful interest group forums and friendships. Please return your renewal forms ASAP.

Bonnie Gallogly Membership VP

**PRINCETON REVIEW TEST
MAY 3**

Do you know someone preparing for college? Tell them about The Princeton Review Assessment program. The PRA combines the SAT and ACT tests, helping the student to determine which test they would score higher on. Enrollment is limited.

Sally Swanson and Lynda Leonard will be serving as proctors. This is sponsored, arranged, and setup by the scholarship committee. Proceeds from this event will benefit the OML Scholarship fund.

Questions? Email Lisa Geary at lisageary@comcast.net.

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AAUW Association Website: http://www.aauw.org California AAUW Website: http://www.aauw-ca.org	

FOCUS ON ... *The AAUW Websites*

Upcoming AAUW-CA Voting

On April 12 your ballot for State officers and the AAUW-CA \$4 dues increase proposal goes out. Read the *Frequently Asked Questions on the Proposal to Increase Dues* at www.aauw-ca.org/index.cfm/go/pages.view/page/dues-increase-proposal for more information about the dues increase.

In recent days, our data folks have been checking to confirm that the National AAUW database holds the correct email addresses for our Branch members. Where the National database had it wrong (misspelled or what appeared to be obsolete), we've fixed it. There remain a very few of us with no email address. If anyone wants help in getting an email address, Gail Chesler has said she's glad to help. If you have questions or concerns about the cleanup, contact Shelly Drasin. The end result is that email sent by National and by the State should get to you...and the link to vote will be sent to you! To follow that link and vote online, you will need your Member ID. *See below for instructions if you don't know your Member ID.*

AAUW State and National Websites

If you have not already done so, take the time to explore the AAUW newly redesigned national and state websites. Webpages on AAUW and AAUW-CA issues, Public Policy, Mission-based Programs, research, news, and more demonstrate why we value what AAUW offers us and all women and girls. To gain access to the members-only portions of the state and national websites, you will need to login with your AAUW Member ID.



If you do not know your Member ID or have forgotten your password go to www.aauw.org/login/.

- If you have forgotten your password, click on “*Forgot Password*,” enter your Member ID, and reset your password.
- If you have registered but don't remember your Member ID, click on “*Forgot AAUW Member ID?*”
- If you have never registered on the national site, click on “*need to register.*”

In each instance, here's what you will need to do:

Enter your first and last names, state, 5-digit ZIP Code, and the last 4 digits of your home phone number. If you cannot gain access, contact **Shelly Drasin**.

What will you find on the members-only area of www.aauw.org?

Click on “*Login*” at the top of the screen to the left of the “*Join/Give*” buttons. Once you are logged in, click on “*Membership*” on the navigation menu. Of most interest, click on the “*Take Action*” choice in the left column to see a screen full of issues of importance to AAUW members and all women and girls. Click on any of the issues to make your voice heard in Congress! To join the AAUW Action Network, click on the button at the bottom of the screen. Most of the website is accessible to everyone. But you will need to login to look at most of the “*Forms & Documents*” (a menu choice in the left column).

Contributed by **Jeanne Melaugh** and **Gail Chesler**

Slate of Elected Officers for 2014-15

Voted on at the March General Meeting

President:
Karen Mankowski

President Elect:
Gail Chesler

Program Co-Directors:
Diane Bell-Rettger and Ksenija Soster-Olmer

Membership Director:
Carine Archer

AAUW Funds Co-Directors (EF and LAF):
Jan Cushman and Alison Mackenzie

Secretary:
Judy Hammon

Finance Director:
Therese Tamaro

These women will be officially installed at the May Luncheon on Tuesday, May 20



BURCKHALTER UPDATE



Carol Messinger with Muwazu, holding her writing portfolio

“To acquire the habit of reading is to create a refuge from almost all the miseries of life.” This quote from Somerset Maugham was sent by OML volunteer, **Mary Olowin**, who added, “This must be why the Burckhalter library is such a happy place.”

All the students at Burckhalter visit the library each week and our all volunteer staff present age-appropriate lessons: February was African American month, with a focus on biographies of Jesse Owens, Olympics Champion, Mae Jemison, astronaut and physicist, Alice Walker, author, and Langston Hughes, poet; in March, the focus was on Women in history. On the lighter side, OML volunteers **Ruth Harteneck** and **Joanie**

Jump introduced St. Patrick’s Day by telling the legend of Lir, showing a lively video of children dancing Riverdance style and then teaching an Irish ballad to the children with the volunteers singing along with them.

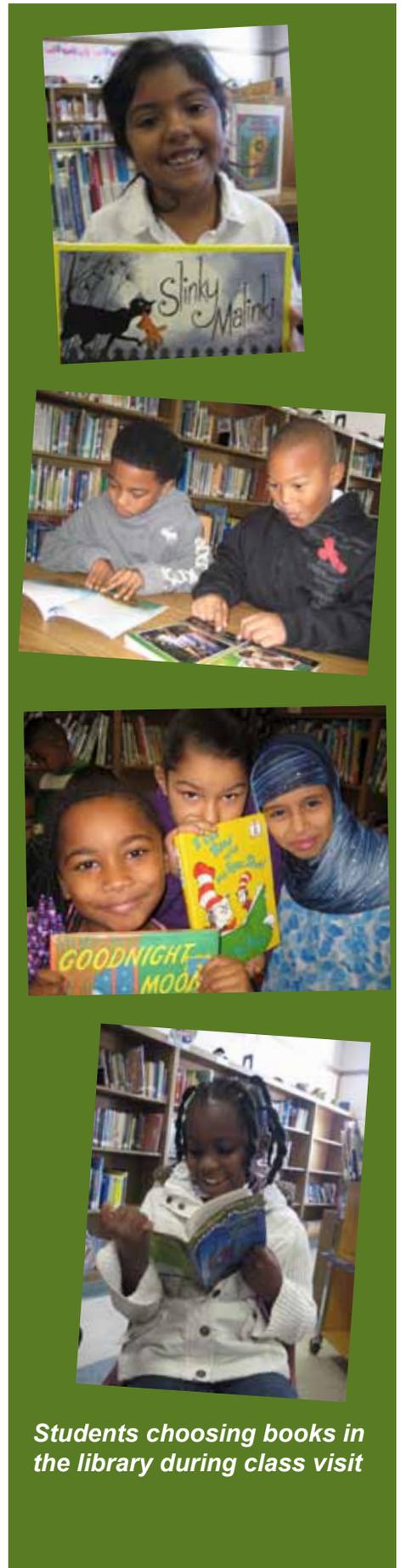
After the activity, students are helped to find a book that matches their skill level and will be fun to read, too. There are also contests to encourage students to return their books – so they learn many skills as well as expand their horizons with each library experience. And while working with students is the most fun, the volunteers also accomplish all the ‘nuts & bolts’ tasks that keep a library humming.

In the classroom, **Therese Tamaro** reports that the 5th graders she tutors in prealgebra, three girls and one boy, are all bright and delightful to work with. They are learning to work with prime numbers, solve equations and do some drills, and she says, “It is very rewarding to see their progress.” **Ruth Balsdon** is also tutoring some students in math and one girl, a non-reader who needs to be in a special class, but instead struggles in the 5th grade. “It is very sad to see this child be denied the resource help she needs,” Ruth says, “especially as, if she is passed on to middle school in the fall, she will truly get lost in the system.”

All of our volunteers at Burckhalter are dedicated and enthusiastic and they DO make a difference every day that they work with students! Please let me know if you would like to join our volunteers at Burckhalter School, located in Oakland just a block off of Highway 13 at the Edwards exit. You will find it a most rewarding – and fun – experience!



Carol Messinger, Chair Burckhalter Project



Students choosing books in the library during class visit

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Board met at its regular monthly meeting on March 11, 2014. The Board considered the following reports:

Finance: Treasurer Judy Hammon circulated the AAUW-OML balance sheet and income expense statement for February. Judy provided the Board with a quiz on the branch's tax-exempt 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations and gave an explanation of each entity. The 501(c)(4) is our operating organization (for dues and expenses); the 501(c)(3) is our charitable outreach organization (for example, Tech-Trek, Scholarships, Sister-to-Sister, Burckhalter library and tutors). Judy emphasized that all donations for charitable outreach be directed to AAUW-OML Branch Community Outreach Fund Inc.

Tech-Trek: It was reported that interviews are scheduled for Tech Trek candidates at the three local intermediate schools. The branch will be sponsoring six 7th grade girls at the Stanford camp this summer.

Sister-to-Sister: Laura Wittenberg reported on the registrations for the Summit to be held on March 22, 2014.

Membership: Bonnie Gallogly reported that renewal forms for 2014-2015 will be mailed in early April, and members are urged to send in their renewals by June 30.

Parliamentarians: Jan Coe discussed the proposed changes to Branch Policies and Procedures for 2014-2016. Marie Bonilla discussed proposed changes to Branch Bylaws. Marie stated that the proposed changes to the bylaws will be presented for a vote by the general membership on March 18, 2014.

Nominations for Officers for 2014-2015: Sandy Fox Sohner reported on the nominating committee's proposed slate of officers to be presented for a vote at the general meeting.

Distinguished Woman: Marie Bonilla reported that the award for 2014 would be presented at the general meeting.

Program: Nancy Brewer reported on the program for the next general meeting, a three-member panel focusing on international women, coordinated by K. De Groot and Audie Protiva.

The Board regularly meets on the second Tuesday of the month, one week prior to the general meeting.

Therese Tamaro, Recording Secretary



SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

MUSEUM MAVENS
Does ROSIE THE RIVETER

TUESDAY, APRIL 29

Museum Mavens has scheduled a visit to the **Rosie the Riveter WWII Home Front National Historical Park** in Richmond on Tuesday, April 29. A docent appointment is planned at 1:30,



with lunch at *Salute* before the museum visit. Contact **Stacia Cragholm** for more details, staciawater@hotmail.com.

NEWS from OTHER AAUW BRANCHES

AAUW Garden Tour
Hosted by the
Danville-Alamo Branch

May 9 and May 10
10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

The Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek Branch of AAUW is hosting its 14th annual Garden Tour on Friday, May 9, and Saturday, May 10 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Begin your Mother's Day weekend by treating your mothers and daughters to this self-guided tour of five of the loveliest gardens in the Alamo and Danville area. From the calm serenity of an artist's studio garden to an exquisite entertainment garden featuring expansive lawns, terraced hillside and multiple patio areas, you will be inspired by the creative elegance of each of these unique gardens.

Tickets go on sale April 2 and can be purchased online at <http://daw-ca.aauw.net/garden/>. Tickets are \$35 for adults and \$30 for seniors before May 3. Light refreshments will be provided. All proceeds from the tour benefit scholarships, research and grants for aspiring women scholars.

SISTER-to-SISTER SUMMIT ~ MARCH 22



It was an enchanted day, a day of sisterhood like no other. Our twenty-five high school girls, trained in leadership and facilitation skills since last September, welcomed seventy-five middle school girls in a joyous celebration of being a girl. Then there was the record number of parents staying for the parent-education session, including many fathers! They asked questions, listened, and asked more questions.

Many volunteers helped make this extraordinary day possible from setting up Friday night, directing traffic Saturday morning, to serving food and handing out T-shirts. Official photographer, **K. de Groot** with her trusty camera, documented the event. Thank you all.

Thank you to **Laura Wittenburg, Karen Wolfe** and **Angela Galipeau** who guided the high school girls through training sessions, beginning in September. And with gratitude it must be said that Sister-to-Sister is **Valarie Burgess's** mission, and she is the heart and driving force of the program. I think, however, today she would say that on March 22 it was the high school girls who were the heroes of the day, who radiated joy and lit the spark of sisterhood in their little middle school sisters.



(above) Adult Leaders, (l to r) Laura Wittenburg, Angela Galipeau, Karen Wolfe & Valarie Burgess

*Reported by Lynda Leonard
Photos by K. de Groot*

DISTINGUISHED WOMAN, continued from front page

She hosted holiday parties, organized our fall restaurant walks, helped organize our Garden Tour Fundraiser, and for the last three years has chaired Tech Trek. She has used her skills to bolster our Tech Trek efforts and further its reach. And this year she enthusiastically chaired our nominating committee.

Nomination letters mentioned many of the qualities we admire about Sandy. One stated “her leadership is organized, thorough, thoughtful, and pleasant”. Others wrote “she has the admirable qualities of grace, kindness, encouragement and enthusiasm for any task”. “She’s a mentor, is creative, has a keen intellect, and has fabulous ideas”. “She makes people feel good about what they are doing.” “She has a warm personality and a soft spoken direction.”

As one person stated “Sandy has the ability to bring everyone together into a comfortable zone of common purpose”. This skill and ability served her well when she started her own biotech market research company, High Tech Business Decisions, after returning to UC Berkeley for an MBA. As one of her daughters said “she set a wonderful example to her children about what you can achieve when you work hard and go for your dreams.”

Sandy has always had a passion for inspiring young women. She was an elementary and junior high school teacher. In her early 20’s she was tasked with teaching Sex Ed to her junior high school biology class the first year it was allowed ... while seven months pregnant. She was one of the first teachers to teach evolution in her class and one of only a few women that taught math and science.

Sandy has also been active in her community. As a young mother she discovered the community we live in was a natural laboratory, yet no one knew of the area’s resources. So she pursued and won a seat on the Parks and Rec Board of Directors. She researched area parks, photographed them, wrote descriptions, and published a booklet for the community. She’s also been active in the Child Abuse Prevention Council.

Sandy has certainly distinguished herself in terms of leadership, creativity, initiative, friendship, and a commitment to equity in her every endeavor in her community, profession, and AAUW.



The Distinguished Woman Committee (l to r): Tory Courtney, Bonnie Gallogly, Maryellen Judson and Marie Bonilla join Sandy (at center) after the announcement at the March meeting

Come celebrate and honor our 2014 Distinguished Woman, Sandra Fox-Sohner at our May 20th Luncheon at Orinda Country Club, 11:15 social time/no host bar and noon luncheon!

2013-14 AAUW OML SPONSORS/ ADVERTISERS

*AAUW members

ALAMEDA

Herbs & Spices Catering

LAFAYETTE

AMARIN Thai Cuisine

Asian Accents ~ Original Jewelry

Design by K. deGroot*

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

Joan Evans* & Angie Evans Traxinger,

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*

APRIL AT A GLANCE

1 TUES – CRITICS CHOICE/BESTSELLERS
BOOK GROUP

Please rotate your book

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

2 WED – GREAT DECISIONS
2 pm – Hacienda de las Flores

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

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

5 SAT – INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL
Contact Ksenija Soster-Olmer for info

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

8 TUES – BOARD MEETING
1 pm – 80 Silverwood Drive, Lafayette

14, 28 MON – GOLF
Contact Jan Gee for t-time and venue, 938-1316

16 WED – MEMOIRS & MUSINGS
1-3 pm – Hostess: Jennifer Cook
RSVP Carol Messinger for details, 283-8741

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

18 FRI – ANYONE WHO HAS READ THE BOOK
The Distant Land of My Father by Bo Caldwell
10 am – Contact Susan Wilson 376-0606

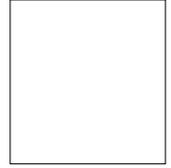
18 FRI – LET'S GO TO THE MOVIES
Groups 1, 2 & 3

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

23 WED – WISE WOMEN
1 pm – Contact Carrol Foxall

24 THU – APRIL TRIAD DEADLINE
Send items to mlmiller602@gmail.com

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



27 SUN – **GENERAL MEETING**
Annual Tech Trek & Scholarship Awards
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Marinda Wu,
3 pm (Social time) 3:30 - 5:00 pm (Program)
Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School St., Moraga

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

29 TUE – MUSEUM MAVENS
Trip to Rosie the Riveter Museum in Richmond
Contact Stacia Cragholm for more info.
Read more about this trip on page 5

MAY 2014

(look for more listings in the MAY issue)

13 TUES – BOARD MEETING
1 pm – 80 Silverwood Drive, Lafayette

20 MAY – MAY LUNCHEON
Honoring the Distinguished Woman of the Year
11:30 am - 2:00 pm – Orinda Country Club

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.