



★ DECEMBER HOLIDAY GET-TOGETHERS ★

Mark your calendars now
and let us know you're coming!



TUESDAY,
DECEMBER 8
10-noon

MORNING COFFEE

at Kelly Claussen's
Rossmoor Home:
867 Terra California, #1

RSVP to: 378-7102 or
kwclaussen@aol.com

Bring a tasty
holiday-themed dish
and the recipe to share!

PLEASE NOTE
There is no regularly
scheduled General
Meeting in December!

TUESDAY,
DECEMBER 15
3-5 pm
COCKTAILS, CHEESE
and MUSIC

at Leslie Pfeiffer's
Moraga home:
9 Williams Drive

RSVP to: 376-1946 or
L.pfeifer@comcast.net

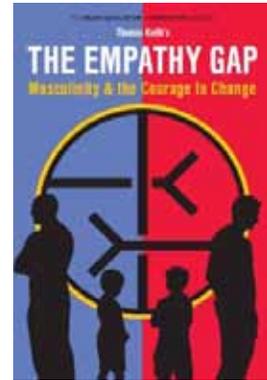
Judy Helder will make
cheese fondue and lead us
on the piano in singing
holiday songs.
What can you bring to
share? Surprise us!



JANUARY MEETING Tuesday, January 19

Do men lack empathy?

At our General Meeting on January 19, 2016, we will be showing a new thought-provoking film,
The Empathy Gap.



This 70 minute film examines the "masculine script" that boys and men are taught by popular culture and suggests ways to help men think of women as equals. Hopefully this film will lead men to break with regressive gender norms to live happier and healthier lives.

**Bring a friend and join in
the discussion!**

Our Community – Our Young Women – Their Education

Save the
Date!

Thursday, February 11, 2016
The Third Annual Scholarship Committee

VALENTINE
PARTY

Read more
on page
4

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

NOVEMBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The AAUW Fund November meeting featured a skit performed by Judy Helder, Diane Bell-Rettger and Laura Wittenberg, the OML Players, which highlighted the contrast between the 1950's and present day with women and careers. AAUW Fund co-chair, Kelly Claussen, introduced the skit and co-chair, Leslie Pfeifer, made a presentation on the multiple funds under the AAUW Fund. Speaker, Graciela Tiscareno-Sato, gave a spirited presentation on the effect receiving an AAUW grant had on her life and career.

Before and after the meeting, eight OML members had hand-crafted items for sale during the branch's annual "MarketPlace" event.



Photos by Jan Coe

WORDS from GAIL ...



We have so much for which to be thankful. I, personally, am thankful for the warmth and energy of your company. I enjoy our programs and was inspired by the November presentation by Ms. Sato and was so pleased to hear the ways in which the AAUW grant that she received those years ago made a difference for her. The short skit performed by our Acting Troupe once again scored a winner! This could get to be a habit.

I look forward to the two December get-togethers at Kelly's and at Leslie's (December 8th – 10-noon & December 13th – 3-5 pm). More details can be found on the front page. Our program meetings are great, and it's also true that just hanging out and letting the conversations go where they will is good. We are a wonderful, stimulating assembly of folks.

The team that is planning the one-day STEM conference has recently had some great news. Be sure to read their article in this Triad. I'm excited and looking forward to that March day of energizing workshops and a keynote speaker worthy of standing in line for, but we won't need to.

By the way, if you are looking for more involvement in our local AAUW branch and need some hints on the places where your skills and energy could be invested, feel free to phone or email me – I bet I can help <grin>.

**All the best,
Gail Chesler**

FOCUS ON ... SISTER-to-SISTER

Girls, Girls, and More Girls It's Time for Super Sundays and Girl Talk!

Oh, to have the energy of a teenage girl! Our thirty-plus high school girls have been meeting once a month, honing their leadership and facilitation skills in preparation for Sunday Super Sessions on February 7 and 28 and March 13. *Such excitement!*

Activity is ramping up in our final campaign to recruit middle school girls. **Valarie Burgess** and **Mary Leigh Miller** worked feverishly on recruitment brochures (*examples at right*), and the website is being updated by webmaster **Bonnie Gallogly** in time for the girls to sign-up online. We've worked with our publicity chair, **Chris Laszcz-Davis**, in our effort to get the word out, submitting articles to local newspapers. Additionally, notices appear in the middle school parent club newsletters, and the final pieces will go out January 4.

We thank you—OML members—for your ongoing support of Sister-to-Sister. This program does make a difference in the lives of the girls who participate in it. They discover that they are not alone and have much in common with the other girls. They discuss issues and strategize solutions. They make friends.

One of the things that the girls love is the chance to just hangout and eat the “free food.” Thank you, **Elaine Gallaher**, for the cheese, crackers and salami—a huge favorite. Then there are **Trudy Barron's** brownies. Wow! What can I say? And thank you for the grapes, too—another favorite. *We appreciate donations of food.* If you would like to contribute, call **Lynda Leonard** at 254-6254. You might even see your name in the Triad.

Consider Making a Donation

December is the month when we make decisions about tax-deductible donations. If you make a donation to AAUW-OML you can earmark it for Sister-to-Sister if you choose. We thank those of you who do so.

Lynda Leonard, S2S Adult Team Member

What is Sister-to-Sister?

Beginning in 2000, our branch has annually hosted S2S programs for the Lamorinda and Walnut Creek communities. With the guidance of research and data, as well as input from the hundreds of girls who have participated, we have developed a unique and empowering program for young, suburban girls. Originally taking place at a Saturday “Summit,” the program now takes place over the course of the school year on Sunday afternoons.

AAUW-OML has created a program that addresses the needs of a middle school girl by pairing her with a high school girl whose memories of that difficult time are still fresh. The high school girls, motivated with the desire to help others avoid pitfalls and disappointments that they might have experienced, learn the value of what they have learned and what they have to offer others. *Read more about Sister-to-Sister on the OML website.*

The Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette Branch
of AAUW presents



SISTER-to-SISTER FACILITATOR TRAINING for all high school girls



Join Our Community of Girls
Celebrating Friendship and Sisterhood!

JOIN OUR S2S TEAM of FACILITATORS to . . .

- Gain leadership skills
- Build friendships
- Mentor middle school girls
- Strengthen your college applications
- Develop references for job opportunities

APPLY NOW!!!

Go to <http://oml-ca.aauw.net/s2s>
Registration closes September 27
Only \$75 for the entire program!

The Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette Branch
of AAUW presents



SISTER-to-SISTER SUNDAY SUPER SESSIONS



Join our community of girls
celebrating friendship and sisterhood!

SIGN UP NOW!

Go to: oml-ca.aauw.net/s2s
Registration closes 2/1/16
Only \$45 for all sessions!

*“Sister-to-Sister is a place where you
can go to meet super nice girls
and just hang out.
S2S will be a lot of fun with you in it!”*

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

Our 2016 Scholarship Information is available on oml-ca.aauw.net. We offer one \$5,000 and two \$1,000 scholarships to senior girls at Acalanes, Campolindo and Miramonte high schools and one \$5,000 scholarship to a senior woman at St. Mary's College who will attend graduate school. Each student must have a GPA of 3.0 or better and be committed to community service.

The deadlines for applications are February 17 for St. Mary's students and March 2 for the high school students. Help us find deserving young women who are dedicated to the ideals of AAUW and show a commitment to community service.

**Mary Ann McLeod, Co-chair,
Scholarship Committee**

AAUW OML Scholarship Committee Invites You
to Celebrate Friendship, Hearts, Flowers & Desserts

VALENTINE PARTY!

Join us for Chocolate & Bubbly, Ikebana Flower Arranging,
Brownie Tastings, Raffle Prizes... and so much more!

Bring a friend • Be with friends • Celebrate Valentine's Day
• Raise much-needed funds for scholarships awarded
to young women from Lamorinda – our girls who are
dedicated to community service and academic achievement.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2016

1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

At the home of PEGGY CABANISS
743 Crossbrook Drive • Moraga

Suggested Donation of \$15.00 in advance
This donation is not tax deductible

Look for an RSVP form online soon!

MEMBERSHIP MEMOS

New Members Coffee

Alison Mackenzie, Membership VP hosted a coffee for new members at her home in Orinda on Saturday, November 14, at 10:00 am, day and time chosen to try to better accommodate new members who work during the week. **Gail Chesler**, AAUW President, was able to join the group. Discussion was lively, ranging in topic from pay equity for women to robotics.



Welcome to Four New Members

We welcome four new members this month. **Liz Corbett**, who lives in Lafayette with her spouse, Conrad, has a BA from UC Berkeley in Communications and Public Policy. She works currently as a substitute teacher in the Lafayette school system and plays tennis and beginning bridge in her spare time. She is very enthusiastic about joining AAUW and looks forward to participat-

ing in any number of areas of social and personal growth.

New member **Bonnie Fend** has her BS and teaching credential in Early Childhood Education from Cal State University, Haywood, and currently works as a teacher in the area. She and her husband Rick live in Moraga. Bonnie is interested in the scholarship program and a number of interest groups and says she will give a hand where needed, including help with fund raising and hospitality.

Man-Li Lin Kelly is currently employed part time as a legislative affairs and policy manager with United Contractors, a construction trade association. She and her husband, Dennis, live in Orinda. Man-Li has a BA in International Relations from the University of Pennsylvania and a JD from Villanova Law School. She, too, is interested in a number of AAUW priorities and interest groups and would especially like to

involve her 16-year-old daughter in the Sister-to-Sister program.

Ibis (pronounced E-bees) Schlesinger is a widow and lives in Orinda. She has established a non-profit that helps local widows and also is employed full time as a CEO/President. Her BA and MA are from St. Mary's. Her special interest is in Start Smart.

That makes 14 new members this year for a total of 152 AAUW-OML members—pleasing numbers! *Happy Holidays to all members.*

**Mary Levey and
Alison Mackenzie,
Membership Co-Chairs**



TECH TREK NEWS



The Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary welcomed three of our 2015 Tech Trek girls at their Friday morning meeting on November 13. **Chris Laszcz-Davis**, member of both our branch and Rotary, introduced Samantha Swan, Madeline Wilson and Sophia Kofoed along with **Gail Chesler** and **Jan Cushman** to the Rotarians, who immediately put us at ease with their camaraderie and humor.

The girls each talked about what they especially liked at Tech Trek, including the “crossing the river” exercise, coding, virtual reality lab, testing blood, a Pixar presentation, and a “build-it” night. Being on campus, of course, and making friends with so many like-minded girls were also highlights of their experience. Samantha and Madeline shared that they have “paid it forward” by starting an all-girl “Maker Club” at Stanley Intermediate. Teams of club members are designing and making vending machines.

The Rotarians showed us the prosthetic hand that they are donating to the “Give A Hand Project” in our honor, presented by Donovan Jenkins (*in photo at top right*). We were delighted to share our Tech Trek girls and program with the Rotarians, and everyone in the Tech Trek group thanked them for their generous donation of \$1,000 to our 2015 Tech Trek program and the committed donation of \$1,000 to the March 2016, **Expanding Your Horizons STEM Workshop**. *Thank you, Chris, for making all this possible!*



(from left to right): In the back row: Chris Laszcz-Davis and Ron Melvin (president of Rotary). In the front row: Jan Cushman, Sophia Kofoed, Samantha Swan, Madeline Wilson and Gail Chesler.

**Jan Cushman,
Trek Tech Coordinator**



SIX BAGS FULL!

Chris Laszcz-Davis and the Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary would like to thank the OML members who generously brought in donations of warm clothing for the Monument Crisis Center at our November meeting.

EXPANDING YOUR HORIZONS (EYH)

**AAUW OML S.T.E.M. CONFERENCE
for MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS
SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE
MARCH 19, 2016**

We are very excited to announce that even though AAUW-OML did not receive funding for the Tech Savvy conference, we still have an opportunity to reach the girls who would benefit from a day-long conference (Tech Trek experience) and encourage them to turn their love of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) into a career path. We will partner with **Expanding Your Horizons**, *expandingyourhorizons.org* (EYH), a non-profit organization in Oakland that has been providing STEM workshops for girls for many years. We will offer a day-long program for 120 middle school girls in the Lamorinda area as well as a few school districts in Walnut Creek and Pleasant Hill. Our conference is made possible by the generosity of the **Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Club, Chevron, and Saint Mary's College** as well as private donations.

The conference will be held on Saturday, March 19, 2016, at Saint Mary's College. The day will begin with a keynote speaker, followed by three sessions with about 10-12 workshops, which will cover a broad range of STEM topics, including engineering, biology, forensics, computers, environment and chemistry. The day will include lunch and snacks, and then close with an inspirational speaker and message for the girls at the end of the day.

The one-day Saturday conference will provide 120 young girls with:

- Motivational presentations and inspiring discussions with professional women in several types of STEM careers
- Hands-on workshops to foster excitement in STEM fields (10-12 classrooms will be in use with various engaging STEM activities)
- A chance to interact with other young girls also interested in STEM fields and to form friendships and support circles in the workshops and over lunch.
- A college campus experience that will excite them about college opportunities.

We are looking for workshop presenters who can provide hands-on, fun and educational activities for the girls and inspire them to want to pursue STEM further.

We are also asking for volunteers to help with planning the conference over the next few months, and then, later on the day of the conference, to guide the girls between classes, assist the presenters, and handle registration.

If you know of someone who might be interested in presenting a workshop, or if you are interested in helping with the conference, please contact **Stacia Cragholm** or **Heidi Mayer**.

Heidi Mayer
S.T.E.M. Conference Co-Chair

**OML BOARD of DIRECTORS
2015-2016**

President: Gail Chesler

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Diane Bell-Rettger
Judy Helder

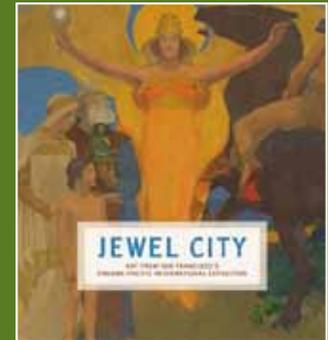
Membership VPs:
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AAUW Funds VPs:
Leslie Pfeifer
Kelly Claussen

Finance VP: Therese Tamaro

Recording/Corresp. Secretary:
Maryellen Judson

**MUSEUM MAVENS
HEAD to the
DE YOUNG**

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4**

Take the BART into the city to see an exhibition of art from the Panama-Pacific International Exposition of 1915, with lunch afterwards.

There's still time to sign up!

If you are interested, RSVP to:

- Maryellen Judson
thjudson@aol.com
- Elaine Gallaher
eeegal@pacbell.net

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**SANTA COMES to 5A RENT-A-SPACE
FREE WRAPPING ROOM TOO!**

The Holiday Season is one of the busiest times of the year. 5A Rent-A-Space can ease your stress and provide a little joy along the way.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5th ~ 11am – 3 pm



Santa will be at 5A with free photo ops, hot cocoa, cookies, games and crafts.

Through December 24th, 5A provides a Free Wrapping Room with all the supplies. Just bring in your gifts and wrap away! It's an excellent way to hide gifts so other members of the family don't see them before Christmas.

It's also a good way to get things ready to ship, and 5A has boxes in all sizes to facilitate your shipping.

5A Rent-A-Space has given back to our communities for over 45 years. Drop by during the holiday season to see what they're up to, or visit their website at www.5Aspace.com

2015-16 AAUW OML SPONSORS/ ADVERTISERS
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Please refer to your current membership directory for complete advertising information.

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9:00 am • 1:00 pm • Keep your file boxes

3rd ANNUAL TECH TREK SHRED-FEST: MAY 21, 2016

Save the Date:

Mark your calendar to securely shred personal papers **ON SITE**

SATURDAY, MAY 21, 2016, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Just \$7 per file box

DECEMBER AT A GLANCE

1 TUE – CRITICS CHOICE BOOK GROUP
Pick up your book for October at Mary Smith's home
1096 Sanders Drive, Moraga

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

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

4 FRI – MUSEUM MAVENS TRIP
to De Young Museum (*Read more on page 6*)
For info, contact Maryellen Judson, 283-2387

5 SAT – INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL GROUP
CANCELED THIS MONTH
Contact Ksenija Soster-Olmer for more info

8 TUES – HOLIDAY PARTY
10 am-noon – Home of Kelly Claussen,
867 Terra California, #1 Rossmoor, Walnut Creek
(*See info on front page*) 

8 TUES – BOARD MEETING
1 pm – Home of Kelly Claussen,
867 Terra California, #1 Rossmoor, Walnut Creek

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

15 TUES – HOLIDAY PARTY
3-5 pm – Home of Leslie Pfeifer,
9 Williams Drive, Moraga
(*See info on front page*) 

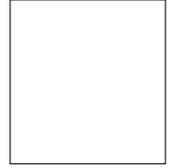
16 WED – MEMOIRS & MUSINGS
Contact Carol Messinger 283-8741

20 FRI – ANYONE WHO HAS READ THE BOOK
The Dog Stars, by Peter Heller
10 am – Orinda Book Store, Contact Susan Wilson, 376-0606

20 FRI – LET'S GO TO THE MOVIES
Contact Mary Leigh Miller, 631-9694

24 THU – DECEMBER TRIAD DEADLINE
Send articles to Mary Leigh Miller; mlmiller602@gmail.com

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



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

JANUARY 2016 Look for more listings in the January Triad

12 TUES – BOARD MEETING
1 pm – Location TBA

19 TUE – GENERAL MEETING
9 am – Holy Trinity Serbian Church
THE EMPATHY GAP

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.