

HOLIDAY PARTIES

**TUESDAY,
DECEMBER 5**
9:30-11:30 am

**HOLIDAY
COFFEE TIME**

at the home of
SARA LAUTENBACH
Multipurpose Room, first floor
1800 Alma Drive
Walnut Creek

RSVP to:
sara@lautenbachs.com
or 378-5234



**THURSDAY,
DECEMBER 7**
4:30-6:30 pm

**HOLIDAY
HAPPY HOUR**

at the home of
PEGGY CABANISS
743 Crossbrook Drive
Moraga

RSVP: to:
pcabaniss7@gmail.com
or 708-5178

*You are welcome to
attend both parties!*

... Just be sure to RSVP to
the hostesses and please
consider bringing a break-
fast treat or an appetizer
to share.

Plus – Basics for Burckhalter is back!

Because the “Basics for Burckhalter” Supply Drive at Sep-
tember Showcase was such a success, we are asking for the
same assistance again at the December Holiday Parties.

Donations of PAPER TOWELS, TISSUES, HAND SANITIZER
and WIPES would be greatly appreciated. The Burckhalter
School thanks you for your support!

Bring your donations with you to either Holiday Party!

Coming on
JANUARY 16, 2018
OML General Meeting
9:30 ~ 11:30 am
Orinda Community Church

Keynote Speaker
KATH DELANEY
*Moving Women's
Leadership Forward
in 2018*

How can we best support women's
leadership in these tumultuous times?
We have a historic opportunity to
shape the next generation of leaders in
the workplace, on community boards,
in the halls of Congress and in the
classroom.

**Don't miss this informative
talk and workshop.**

Kath Delaney is a
long time Bay Area
social impact ad-
vocate, a non-profit
expert in high-level
strategy, leadership
development and revenue generation.
Kath is the founder of Madera Group,
a social impact agency dedicated to
moving mission-minded leaders and
organizations forward. She has been
in the forefront of growing women's
business and leadership networks for
over twenty years. Kath has a passion
for supporting and advising women
who are running for political office.



PLEASE NOTE:
*There is NO December
General Meeting.*

... from LAURA'S DESK

**Holiday Greetings,**

This is the time of year that we take a break, making time to play a little and share some holiday cheer with one another. The two parties are always a fun time to relax and visit with our OML friends. I hope to see you there.

By now you have received a letter asking you to consider making an end-of-the-year donation to AAUW Fund or to one of our local OML Community Outreach Funds by choosing a specific project or making an undesignated donation. In my letter I inadvertently did not list Burckhalter as one of our Community Outreach options. I apologize for the error. We appreciate your consideration and encourage you to send your donations in early. Our work is possible due to your generous support.

Our committees are busy at work getting ready to begin receiving applications for Scholarships, Tech Trek Camp Awards or to participate in our OML/EYH/Saint Mary's College STEM Conference. Our wonderful volunteers at Burckhalter continue to give many hours of support to the school. All these activities occur because of your willingness to join together with the OML Board to help make things happen. Please be sure to contact the committee chairs if you would like to learn more about their work. Many hands make the work more fun and so much easier for all.

I encourage all of you to go to our new FACEBOOK page by searching your browser for: www.facebook/AAUWOML. Our page is a work in progress so if you have something you would like added or think supports our mission, send it to either Denise Burian or myself to post. Presently we are limiting who can post. Let us know you have visited by "adding your name to the team" as well as giving us a like and inviting your friends and contacts to visit as well.

Wishing you a safe and joyous holiday season,

Laura Wittenberg, President

Nomination Committee Begins Its Work

The makeup of the nomination committee was finalized at the November general meeting. The membership approved two members of the Branch, Sally Swanson and Cayo Marschner to serve on the committee. They will join members of the board, Marie Bonilla, Lynda Leonard, Mary Levey and Pat Beckner. Our 2018-2019 slate of elected officers must be presented to the membership in March.

Please think about the skills you have, and the skills you would like to develop, and agree to serve in an elected or appointed position. It is a great opportunity to give back to the Branch and support and grow our initiatives on behalf of women and girls. More than that, it is a great experience to work with and get to know committed and interesting members and make new friends. Be open to the possibilities when a member of the nominating committee comes calling. I did two years ago and yes, it is work...but it's rewarding work. I've met and gotten to know many members and enjoy your company. I ask you to join me next year, let's do the work together.

Denise Burian, President-Elect

Board Meeting HIGHLIGHTS Tuesday, November 7

It's that "holiday season," and parties will replace the December General Meeting. There are plans for a coffee on December 5 and for a happy hour on December 7. Please bring donations for Burckhalter School if you attend. The teachers need such basics as paper towels and hand sanitizer. Program Co-Chairs, Jill West and Janette Maher are working on the January program which will highlight the process of running for political office.

Unfortunately, the Appointments Training event, sponsored by our Inter-branch Council, had to be cancelled due to the fire emergency. AAUW Funds Co-Chair, Marie Bonilla, will look into the possibility of rescheduling for spring 2018.

Kudos go to Pat Lopker and her Advertising Committee who raised a total of \$4,400 for our general operating funds, part of which covered the costs of printing the Directory. Great job!

Thanks also go to board members who volunteered to be on the Nominating Committee to set up next year's board. Additional volunteers from the membership stepped forward at the November 14 general meeting to round out the committee.

Our Community Outreach priorities are humming along: Stacia Cragholm reported that 17 workshops are set for the STEM Conference in March. The goal is to sign up 200 middle school girls this year! Tech Trek Co-Chair, Jan Cushman, announced that they have enough funds to sponsor seven girls. Stanford so far has promised room for at least six. Scholarship Chair, Mary Ann McLeod is working to streamline the application process online.

Judy Hammon, Secretary

FOCUS ON ... The OML STEM CONFERENCE**Saint Mary's/EYH STEM Conference
March 17, 2018****Save the Date**

Plans for the STEM Conference, to be held on Saturday, March 17, 2018, are moving full steam ahead. Our major partner, Saint Mary's College, is providing the Soda Center this year as well as classrooms needed for the workshops. Dr. Kristen Beck is an important member of our committee and is now a member of our branch too. EYH is a registration partner and Chevron has returned as a major sponsor, as well as Sunrise Rotary. We are also reaching out to other local Rotary Clubs for sponsorship. Please let Stacia or Peggy know if you are members of Rotary and can help get their support. We are also reaching out to local businesses for donations.

**Keynote Speaker - Eve Phillips**

Eve Phillips, mayor of Orinda and MIT grad, is our keynote speaker. A Miramonte graduate, she will be addressing the trials and tribulations of being a techie.

20 Workshops

We hope to offer 20 workshops to 200 middle school girls this year, including some girls from Title I schools in the area. Some of the workshops offered: "Get to Know Your Brain," with Dr. Barb Puder from Samuel Merritt; "Heartfelt: The Cardiovascular Exam," with Tara Summers of Samuel Merritt; "Climate Change: Past, Present & Future," with Danielle Touma from Stanford; "Bottle Rockets - an Introduction to Aerospace Engineering," with Erin Bussoni from Sandia Natl. Labs in Livermore; and "Learn to Design & Build Bridges," with our very own Sheila Apte. A new workshop we expect will be popular is "Moving to the Center of the Story," with Corrine Cueva from Camp Reel Stories – a Media Camp for Girls. Other workshops are "Experiments in Space," "FBI CSI," "Coding," plus two workshops on Nanotechnology – and many more.

Ambassadors

Our successful ambassadorship program is continuing this year, with six high school girls volunteering to help plan and facilitate logistics at the conference. Returning ambassadors: Ally Scarpitti, Sophia Scipi and Alex Shandalovtov recently met with new members Isabel Liu, Cat Acuff and Molly Mudgett to plan the upcoming conference. They have proved to be instrumental in its past success. We will also have Saint Mary's students assisting with the conference again this year.

Volunteers Needed

Last year we had over 40 AAUW volunteers on the day of the conference. We will need up to 50 volunteers on March 17, 2018, as we are increasing the number of participants to 200 this year. **Save the Date of Sunday, March 11th, for volunteer training from 11 am to 1 pm** followed by lunch provided by Saint Mary's. We will be signing up volunteers at the January and February meetings. At that time we will tell you about additional tasks for which we need volunteers prior to conference day, March 17.

**Stacia Cragholm and Heidi Mayer,
Co-Chairs, EYH-STEM Conference**



Photos taken at the 2017 STEM Conference.

The Ambassador Program

The STEM Conference committee introduced this program last year to provide leadership opportunities for high school girls, especially our former Sister-to-Sister facilitators and Tech Trekkers.

The ambassadors are responsible for training volunteers and overseeing the logistics of the conference. Last year, they were well-received and deserve recognition for enhancing our volunteer community.

PUBLIC POLICY



California Legislative Update

At the conclusion of the 2017 California legislative session, two important measures supported by AAUW were signed into law, and a third was vetoed by Governor Jerry Brown.

The State of Equal Pay

In 2017 a whopping 42 states, Puerto Rico, and Washington, D.C., offered legislative solutions to the gender pay gap. While not all of these bills passed, this growing activity shows that red, blue, and purple states realize that the pay gap is real and that something needs to be done about it. In 2017 AAUW members actively worked to pass strong pay equity legislation across the country and we were successful in five states including California.

California Expands Paid Leave Programs

California expanded its existing paid leave program, increasing the number of workers eligible to receive paid parental leave. Now 2.7 million more California employees will have access to 12 weeks of job-protected parental leave. AAUW of California members advocated for the bill and helped it across the finish line by urging Gov. Jerry Brown to sign it into law.

Governor Brown Vetoed an Important Title IX Guidance Bill

AAUW supported Senate Bill, SB169, which would have helped to prevent and end sex discrimination in our schools. The bill would have enshrined into California law Obama-era Title IX directives on school sexual assault that had recently been rolled back by U.S. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos. The legislation would not only have enacted in California the Obama-era directives but also have extended some of the provisions beyond colleges to K-12 schools as well. The legislation was supported by a wide variety of stakeholders besides AAUW including Janet Napolitano, the president of the University of California system, and was approved by the legislature overwhelmingly with broad bi-partisan support. But at the last minute Governor Jerry Brown vetoed the bill. Despite this setback, AAUW will not be deterred from rigorously defending Title IX and analogous state laws when it comes to protecting students.

**Laura Monin & Jan Coe,
Co-Chairs, Public Policy**

National Update

Trump Ends DACA Program

In September President Donald Trump announced the end of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, which benefits immigrants who were brought to the United States as children, also known as Dreamers. One quarter of DACA recipients are enrolled in postsecondary education and another third are high school students. The future of these Dreamers now lies with Congress, which has the opportunity to pass the bipartisan, bicameral DREAM Act. AAUW supports the DREAM Act, and Action Network advocates have been reaching out to their representatives to urge them to pass a bill. As of the end of November, lawmakers have not agreed on a course of action. They have until early 2018 to come up with an agreement. If they fail to do so, hundreds of thousands of immigrants who are currently undocumented would be at risk of being deported.

White House Halts Pay Data Collection

The White House Office of Management and Budget in August halted the implementation of the revised Employer Information Report (EEO-1) salary data collection. This collection of high-quality data would provide the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and the federal government as a whole with access to crucial transparency to fight the gender and racial pay gaps; the EEO-1 is a necessary tool in that fight.

The decision is a loss for workers who rely on data to identify the gender pay gap in their workplaces. AAUW urges the EEOC to stand strong in its commitment to helping workers combat pay discrimination by shedding much-needed light on employer pay practices.

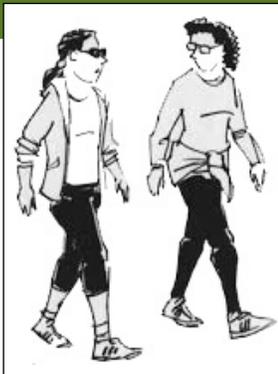
TECH TREK

Tech Trek Committee Meets to Prepare for 2018!

On Friday, December 8, at 11:30 am the Tech Trek Committee and anyone else who wants to join us will meet at Jan Cushman's house for lunch and preparations for selecting girls for the 2018 camp. We will be discussing modifications to the interview questions and confirming interview teams. We plan to send at least 6 local rising 7th graders and have asked to send seven girls. If you would like to join us, please let Jan know: jancushman@comcast.net or call on 253-1958.

Jan Cushman, Chair, Tech Trek

MEMBERSHIP



How to Ask Someone to Join AAUW

All of our monthly programs are open to the public and everyone is encouraged to ask friends, neighbors, acquaintances, or colleagues to come to a meeting. But once you have recruited someone to come to a meeting, how can you best ask someone to join? The Ask, Inform, Involve and Thank cycle (adapted from the Sierra Club by AAUW National) provides four steps for branch recruitment:

ASK: The first step is to get to know the person you are talking to. What are their interests, values, passions? How do they spend their time?

INFORM: Next, share with them what this branch (or National) does with a focus on what the individual has related about their interests.

INVOLVE: Third, ask them to become involved, such as “I’d love for you to be a part of what our branch does with STEM education for middle school girls. Would you be interested in joining our branch?”

THANK: Whether they say yes, no, or maybe, always thank them for coming to the meeting and taking the time to talk to you. Ask if they would like to be kept in the loop about the branch’s future work.

New Member Dues Amount Effective January 1, 2018

Don’t forget that effective January 1, new members can join paying only the half yearly amount. This is a good deal for those who want to give AAUW a try with less financial commitment. The 18-month membership amounts will be effective in mid-March.

Coffee and Wine Get-Togethers

Coffee and conversation and/or wine and conversation will resume in January. Please attend the AAUW holiday parties to better get to know old and new members.



Directories Have Been Sent

All of the annual directories have been mailed or picked up by December 1. If you haven’t received your copy and can’t figure out who might have picked up your copy for you, give Alison a call or email in a few days.

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

MARILYN LONBAKEN

Marilyn Lonbaken, a longtime AAUW member, passed away on September 22, 2017 at the age of 89. She joined the OML Branch in 1961 and had been a 50-year member for several years. Marilyn had moved away from Moraga several years ago to be closer to her family.



NEW INTEREST GROUPS

Four new interest groups were started this year. These are not closed groups – all members are invited to participate.

The first is the First Friday Film Group. A group of women meet at a theater on - the First Friday of the Month - to see a movie, then go immediately afterward to a cafe nearby for drinks and snacks to discuss the movie. Judy Helder is coordinating the January event which will be on Friday, January 5. She, as the coordinator for the month, will select the movie, theater, and movie time. Please contact Judy if you are interested for January.

The “Evening Salon” will meet on Thursday, January 4 at 7 pm with plans to discuss political, social and cultural issues of the day. Laura Monin will host at her home. Contact her to be added to the email list if you are not yet on it.

We started a walking group, which has already met five times. We have not settled on a specific day and time yet that is good for several people. Contact Denise Burian if you want to be added to the email list to be notified when a group walk is scheduled.

Finally, there has been a big interest in starting a wine tasting group. Natalie Fay will chair this group and plans to organize an initial get together in early January. Contact Natalie if you are interested in spending an evening on a monthly or every other monthly basis to taste wines and enjoy appetizers with other like-minded members. This event also can include husbands.

**Denise Burian,
President-Elect**



SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

The Scholarship Committee is showcasing our 2017 awardees by highlighting their developing leadership skills and including a quote from their application.

Community Service was instilled in Valeria Martin at an early age. Her high school and college experiences focused on community service. The Saint Mary’s College theme, “Enter to Learn, Leave to Serve,” has inspired her in many different ways: she learned the importance of accessibility to resources, to serve those in the world, and the meaning of community service and altruism.



**LEADERSHIP SKILL:
BY WORKING TO EMPOWER OTHERS,
YOU ALSO EMPOWER YOURSELF**

**VALERIA MARTIN
Saint Mary’s College Graduate
Attending University of Texas, Austin**

“I spent a month in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico volunteering at a daycare for single mothers called Casa do Los Angeles. I was inspired by the drive and determination of these women, working to provide the best lives possible for their children. . . . My purpose is not to change the world, but rather to serve those within it because only through serving others will change truly ensue. To do good for the sake of doing good, not for any sort of compensation other than personal growth and human connection. . . . I hope to study Higher Education Administration and Student Affairs in order to encourage students to reach beyond their limits and leave their mark on the world. To encourage female students to be strong members of their community like the ones I met at Casa.”

**Mary Ann McLeod
Chair, Scholarship Committee**

DISTINGUISHED WOMAN for 2018

Our AAUW-OML branch includes many distinguished women. In May 2018 we will honor one of our branch members who has demonstrated leadership, creativity and dedication to the OML mission.

Our Distinguished Woman is selected solely on members’ nominations, so please consider a devoted AAUW-OML member whom you would like to nominate.

Please send nomination letters to Mary Ann McLeod at mabill100@comcast.net or 100 Greenfield Drive, Moraga, CA 94556. *Thank You.*

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the previously planned GAMES DAY EVENT in February, benefiting the Scholarship Fund, has been cancelled. A new date, probably in the fall of 2018, will be announced soon.

**2017-18 AAUW OML
SPONSORS/ ADVERTISERS**

*AAUW members

LAFAYETTE

- Asian Accents – Original Designs in Jewelry by K. de Groot*
- Creative Alterations – Josef Jamkochain
- Diablo Foods
- The Image Studio
- Jill West Nutrition Consulting*
- Matthew McLeod, Realtor – Dudum Real Estate Group
- Open Sesame Natural Foods
- Persons Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery – Barbara Persons, MD FACS
- Ware Designs – Fine Jewelry

MORAGA

- AAAAA Rent-A-Space
- Goodwill Industries of the Greater East Bay
- National Assoc. for Advancement of Female People – Diane Bell-Rettger*
- Neighborhood Computers
- New Delhi Bistro
- Royal Siam Thai Cuisine
- The UPS Store
- ViaVienté – Lana Reichick*

ORINDA

- Joan Evans* & Angie Evans Traxinger, Village Associates Real Estate
- Piccolo Napoli
- Redwood Cottage Sea Ranch
- Vacation Rental – Elaine Gallaher*
- Shelby’s Restaurant
- Soraya Golesorkhi*, Realtor – Coldwell Banker

WALNUT CREEK & Beyond

- Bay Alarm Company
- Hearing Science of Walnut Creek
- Herbs & Spices Catering, Alameda

Please refer to the new membership directory for complete advertising information.



AAUW FUND

SEEING YOUR AAUW FUNDS DOLLARS IN ACTION

AAUW has been awarding Fellowships and Grants since 1888, with \$100 million in Fellowships and Grants awarded. In the 2017-18 academic year, \$3.7 million was awarded to 250 women. There are 26 recipients in California, with **19 studying in Northern California**. On Oct. 29, we heard from six of these women at the Funds luncheon in Danville. These women were so impressive and accomplished! *(See the photo below.)*

These women are funded by the **interest earned from AAUW endowments**. Because only the interest generated from the endowments is used to fund the Fellowship and Grant recipients, **the endowments are robustly healthy and will last in perpetuity**. Following are details on several of these women:

Alani Hicks-Bartlett is studying at UC Berkeley working on her post doctorate. Her undergraduate degree is from Bryn Mawr in romance languages, medieval studies, and gender studies. She is fluent in nine languages. Her post-doctoral work is on sexual violence and how this has evolved from medieval times to today!!

Kim Long is a U. of Indiana graduate and is getting her PhD from UC Berkeley in neuroscience. Her research is focusing on how severe stress can bring on anxiety. She hopes this will lead to understanding who is vulnerable to stress and who and how people can recover from it. She has already shown that women are two times more susceptible to PTSD and more sensitive to stress.

Kara Leong received her undergraduate degree from Davis in science and for 15 years has been a landscape designer. She is now going back for a second master's degree in enology (wine making). Her research project is focused at looking at the impact of location and soil microbials on grape variatels in California.

Next year please consider going to the Northern California Fund luncheon to see how well your donations are being utilized!

Marie Bonilla and Lynda Leonard, Co-VPs, AAUW Fund



NOVEMBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Karla J. McAvoy, a senior financial advisor and principal of HC Financial Advisors, Inc. in Lafayette, was our keynote speaker at the November AAUW Fund meeting.



(l to r) Laura Wittenberg, Karla McAvoy join Marie Bonilla and Lynda Leonard, AAUW Fund VP's.

Aided by a PowerPoint, she highlighted key financial considerations for each life stage. Some apply to us now or in our future or might apply to our children, grandchildren and friends. The areas she discussed included early career, established in a career, house and kid stage, later part of your career and retirement, the big retirement threats, assisted living care options, and access to your accounts/documents.

Look for Karla's PowerPoint on the OML website as well as other photos taken at the November meeting highlighting some of our MarketPlace participants like Elaine Gallaher *(below)*, selling her handmade scarves.



DECEMBER AT A GLANCE

Please note: There is no December General Meeting

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

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

2 SAT – INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL
6:30 pm at the home of Mary Leigh Miller
Contact Sara Lautenbach for info

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

5 TUE – DECEMBER HOLIDAY PARTY
9:30-11:30 am – Home of Sara Lautenbach
(See front page for more details)

7 THUR – DECEMBER HOLIDAY PARTY
4:30-6:30 pm – Home of Peggy Cabaness
(See front page for more details)

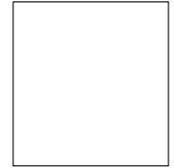
8 FRI – Tech Trek Meeting and Lunch
11:30 am – Home of Jan Cushman
(Refer to page 3 for more info.)

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

12 TUES – BOARD MEETING
1 pm – Orinda Community Church

14 THUR – STEM CONFERENCE Meeting
1 pm – Home of Stacia Cragholm

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



15 FRI – ANYONE WHO HAS READ THE BOOK
Souls at Night by Kent Haruf
10 am – Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, Orinda
Contact Mary Hake, 254-1435

17 FRI – LETS GO TO THE MOVIES
Contact Mary Leigh Miller, 631-9694, for more info.

22 FRI – DECEMBER TRIAD DEADLINE
Send items to Mary Leigh Miller, mlmiller602@gmail.com
(Please note earlier deadline due to the holiday.)

JANUARY 2018

(look for more listings in the JANUARY issue)

9 TUES – BOARD MEETING
1 pm – Orinda Community Church

SAVE THE DATE – January 23 6:30 pm ~ Walnut Creek Library

Join *California Women Lead* and State Assemblywoman Catharine Baker to learn the process that one should take to be appointed to a board/commission/committee at the local and state level. *More to details to come next month about this AAUW sponsored event.*

THE TRIAD Staff

Editor
Mary Leigh Miller, 631-9694
email: mlmiller602@gmail.com

Copy Editor
Lynda Leonard, 254-6254
email: lyndaeleonard@gmail.com

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2017-2018

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