

FEBRUARY 20, 2018 OML GENERAL MEETING

9:30 ~ 11:30 am
Orinda Community Church

The #MeToo Movement and the State of Women in Higher Education

Guest Speaker:

MONICA FITZGERALD
Professor of History, Saint Mary's College



With recent changes from the Department of Education on Title IX regulations on campus sexual assaults and the strength of the emerging #metoo movement, Professor Fitzgerald will talk about the issues facing women on college campuses, including faculty, staff and students.

- How are institutions responding?
- What are the unique challenges for women faculty?
- How are faculty, staff and students creating alliances?
- What is the responsibility of colleges to be leaders?
 - What role does curriculum play in addressing gender inequity?

Monica Fitzgerald is a professor of history in the Justice Community and Leadership program at Saint Mary's College. She studies American history and women's history, and writes about early America and second wave feminism.



Photo at top: Judy Hammon at the Women's March in San Jose. Turn to page 6 to see how other branch members participated in this event.

MARCH 20 OML General Meeting



Confronting Poverty
through Holistic
Education
with guest speaker
ASHLEY HOLMER



Red Sweater Project is a non-profit organization that collaborates with developing communities in rural Tanzania to create affordable, accessible and innovative opportunities for secondary education where it currently does not exist for the majority of children. Founded by **Ashley Holmer** in 2011, the organization has become a model for other international development programs, seeking to create partnerships that honor tradition and local leadership, encourage sustainability and recognize education as a crucial step in interrupting the cycle of generational poverty.

INSIDE:

STEM Conference updates, page 3

Distinguished Woman, 2018 request for letters, page 3

Meet some of the STEM high school ambassadors, page 4



... from LAURA'S DESK

Greetings:

We are now in the final stages of planning and organizing for our STEM Conference on March 17, accepting applications for Tech Trek Camp and preparing to accept our scholarship applications. Each of our committees has worked tirelessly throughout the year. To all of you thank you for your commitment to our worthwhile projects. We do however need additional volunteers to help the day of the STEM Conference, so check you calendars and sign up to come enjoy a few hours or the day with us.

I have been looking over our Strategic Plan to see how we have been doing. It is amazing how much we can accomplish when one makes a plan. Outreach to the community has been a high priority. The Scholarship Committee has done an amazing job of sponsoring ACT/SAT testing at the high schools, which raised over \$5,000 for scholarships. Another action item was to work on rebuilding a relationship with Saint Mary's College as partner of AAUW. To this end we have worked toward identifying who our branch should be working with and how. Dr. **Kristin Beck** has been helping me to figure out the best approach to formalizing the relationship. With Kristen's help we now have an intern working with us from Saint Mary's – **Sabrina Nguyen**, an engineering major in her junior year. Read about her in next month's Triad. Student members on our STEM committee have been volunteering with the Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary by helping with some of their activities. **Marie Bonilla** organized the Women in Leadership training held last week in partnership with AAUW Contra Costa Branches and the Lamorinda Junior League (*See photo below*). These projects are just a few of the activities of our membership that are helping to create community awareness of AAUW-OML and our mission. More is to come as we wrap up our final few months of activity for the year.

Laura Wittenberg, President

Committee to Review and Update Policies and Procedures

The Board has established a committee to review and update our Branch "Policies and Procedures" and "Standing Rules." Committee members are Jan Coe, Gail Chesler, Judy Hammon, Therese Tamaro, Pat Lopker, Marie Bonilla, Laura Wittenberg and Denise Burian. Current versions are available on our website under "members." If you are interested in participating and/or have recommendations or changes, please contact **Denise Burian**.

APPOINTMENTS TRAINING WORKSHOP

One hundred women attended the California Lead Appointments Training sponsored by AAUW Contra Costa Branches, Junior League Oakland East Bay, and Assemblywoman Catharine Baker. Women learned the application process for state boards, committees and commissions.



JANUARY 9, 2018 BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

First some business news: Program Co-Chair Janette Maher reported that Saint Mary's professor Monica Fitzgerald will address issues facing women on campus at the February 20 general meeting. Mary Ann McLeod is looking for recommendations for this year's Distinguished Woman. Have someone in mind?? Membership Co-Chair Alison Mackenzie noted that they will resume "Coffee on Us." Watch for these coffees and plan to attend and bring a friend. Jan Coe will be the coordinator for our branch's participation in the Walnut Creek Women's March on January 20. Also, the board decided that special invitations will be sent to OML's past presidents encouraging them to attend our luncheon this May.

"All is well" at Tech Trek reported committee member, Gail Chesler. Applications for attending Tech Trek camp are due by the end of February, and interviews to select this year's scholarship winners begin in March.

Fundraising kudos go to Scholarship committee members Bonnie Fend and Maryellen Judson who coordinate SAT "boot camp" training and testing at area high schools. Our participation in the program has brought in \$5,628 so far this fiscal year! Scholarship's Game Day fundraiser has been postponed until early November 2018. Chair Mary Ann McLeod announced that applications for scholarships are now on our website.

The STEM Conference at Saint. Mary's College is fast approaching. Co-Chair Stacia Cragholm reported that there are 18 workshops set up. Please let Stacia or Heidi Mayer know if you can help out on March 17.

As always, there's lots going on!

Judy Hammon, Secretary

The OML/SAINT MARY'S/EYH STEM CONFERENCE MARCH 17, 2018

Two Workshop Presenters for March 17 STEM Conference

We welcome **Corinne Cueva** and **Kendal Sager** as workshop presenters at our March 17 STEM Conference at Saint Mary's College in Moraga.



Corinne is an independent media maker and educator originally from NYC and now based in the Bay Area. She is dedicated to using media as a vehicle for social change and empowerment for those on the periphery of mainstream media. Her most notable work, *Why We Rise*, received the Loni Ding Award for Social Issue Documentary at CAAM-Fest 2014. Corinne received her B.A. in Communication Media and Media Management from SUNY New Paltz and her graduate certificate in Documentary Studies from

The New School. She has been a media educator for over six years, and was an adjunct lecturer at City College of New York.

Today, Corinne is Program Coordinator at *Camp Reel Stories*, a non-profit Oakland based organization that empowers 13-18 year old young women with the skills to create their own media, to view current media critically and thoughtfully, and to aspire to leadership in their field. *Camp Reel Stories* fulfills its mission through a combination of workshops and camps for girls and women who want to learn how to make movies in the new digital media era. In our workshop, Corinne will use accessible technology to show girls how to create short videos that tell stories that are meaningful to them.

Kendal is the founder of Sager Family Farm, a Bay Area based nature education company which specializes in bringing critters into classrooms. At our conference, Kendal will be conducting a workshop about the importance of honeybees in agriculture. These pint-sized pollinators are crucial to our agricultural system – one third of our food supply is produced with help from honeybees. In California, it takes almost two million beehives to pollinate our almond orchards! Throughout the workshop, students will brainstorm some of the reasons why bees are dying and what we can do to help them recover, stepping through some of the same concepts that leading scientists are currently investigating.



From 2008 to 2016, Kendal worked at DreamWorks Animation, where she received credits on films such as *Kung Fu Panda 2*, *The Croods*, and *How to Train Your Dragon 2*. Kendal studied computer science at the University of Washington, where she specialized in computer graphics and also took numerous dance courses to better understand human movement and anatomy. Both engineering and art were crucial to her role as a Character Technical Director at Dream Works.

**Christine Walwyn,
STEM Conference Committee**

Conference Planning Update

Registration for our third annual Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) conference opened on January 19 and quickly filled. This year we have expanded our program to include over 200 girls and 20 workshops. Our day runs from 8 am to 3 pm beginning with a keynote address by Eve Phillips, a Google Group product manager and City of Orinda council member. Each of the middle school girls will then attend three small, 70 minute hands-on workshops and also enjoy lunch in Saint Mary's student cafeteria. A complete list of our workshops and presenters can be found on our conference website: <http://www.expandingyourhorizons.org/conferences/AAUWSAINTMARYS/>.

We are also offering a separate morning program for parents, *Negotiating the Maze: How to guide your daughter through choosing her academic electives in high school and college to ensure academic and professional success in the pursuit of her dreams*. Following this program, and brief remarks from our conference host, Dr. Roy Wensley, Dean of Saint Mary's School of Science, parents will be offered a tour of the campus.

Volunteers needed

We will need about 50 AAUW volunteers on the day of the conference and this can involve either working all day or for specific time slots from 8 am to 3 pm. We provide volunteer training and lunch at Saint Mary's on Sunday, March 11. Members interested in volunteering can sign up at the February general meeting or by calling Stacia Cragholm (925) 989-6226 or Heidi Mayer (925) 698-1739.

Featured at left are two of our workshop presenters. On page 4, read about three of the STEM Ambassadors.

FOCUS ON ... The STEM AMBASSADORS**Cat Acuff**

I am **Cat Acuff**, a high school sophomore, and I am so grateful to be a part of this program as an ambassador. STEM has given me so many opportunities that

have allowed me to explore science and fall in love with it. I am an ambassador because I believe every girl deserves the opportunity to explore what she loves. Before my first STEM Conference I did not realize how many different fields there were in STEM. It opened my eyes and now science and math are my favorite subjects. I believe STEM empowers girls to be leaders and be strong, as individuals and together.

Molly Mudgett

Hi, I'm **Molly Mudgett**, a senior at Acalanes High School. My favorite subjects have always been STEM related, and next year I'll be studying mechanical engineering at Northwestern University in Chicago. My desire to pursue a STEM subject was solidified when I attended Tech Trek in 7th grade, and as one of only four girls in my school engineering class of about 30, I understand how important it is to get women involved in math and science. Last year I worked at the STEM conference as a classroom volunteer, but this year I will be an ambassador. I have a passion for helping young girls in STEM, and realize that I would not be in the same place today without the guidance of so many fantastic female mentors over the last few years.

Isabelle Liu

I am **Isabelle Liu** and I am a sophomore at Acalanes High School. I had the amazing opportunity to volunteer at the STEM conference this past March. This experience was incredible and I wanted to contribute more to the next conference.

When the opportunity to become an ambassador came up, I was very excited to get involved. I would be able to make a great impact on middle school girls in my community through this STEM conference. I look forward to playing a bigger role in the planning process of the conference. I am glad to be working with people who have the same mission to empower girls in STEM, and I'm looking forward to making this upcoming conference a success.

What is the Ambassador Program?

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

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

We will be featuring this year's high school volunteers in this issue as well as in the March Triad.

DISTINGUISHED WOMAN**Help Choose OML's 2018 Distinguished Woman!**

The Distinguished Woman Award is among the highest honors the OML Branch presents one of its members. Any member of our branch who has made a significant contribution to her community, profession and AAUW may be honored. You can help recognize a member by writing a letter on her behalf and asking her friends and colleagues to do the same.

In your letter please include the reasons why your nominee should be recognized for her contributions. The following are suggestions:

- **AAUW Leadership**
- **Community Leadership**
- **Professionalism, Professional Growth**
- **Commitment to Equity for Women**
- **Creativity, Initiative**
- **Personal Growth, Friendship**

The nominations are confidential as the award is intended to surprise the honoree and will be announced at the March General Meeting.

Deadline: March 6

Send or email letters to:

Mary Ann McLeod,
100 Greenfield Drive,
Moraga, CA 94556
Email: mabill100@comcast.net

February STEM Committee Meeting Dates

- February 1 – 1 pm
 at Stacia Cragholm's home
 3975 S. Peardale Dr., Lafayette
- February 15– 1 pm
 at Saint Mary's College
 Room to be announced

MEMBERSHIP

National dues increase for 2018-2019

As all current members know, your annual dues amount for AAUW consists of dues to the National organization, the State AAUW organization and dues for the local OML branch. The dues year runs from July 1 to July 1 each year, although dues for the upcoming year can be paid as early as March 15.

The AAUW National board has authorized an increase in the National portion of the dues from the current \$49 per year to \$59 per year effective with the March 15, 2018 dues payments. Of this amount, \$56 is a tax deductible charitable contribution. Three dollars of the National dues is used for lobbying and get-out-the-vote activities and therefore is not deductible. It is noted that with the change in federal tax law increasing the standard deduction, fewer people will be itemizing their deductions (including charitable contributions) in 2018 so check with your tax preparer.

National explained the increase by noting that the last dues increase was in 2008. Since then, costs have increased for AAUW programs such as salary negotiation workshops, research, advocacy efforts, campus leadership programs and more. The Board felt that a dues increase would result in more stable funding than relying on charitable contributions.

There will be no increase in the State or Branch dues.

Therefore, the dues for non-life members next year will be \$103, consisting of the \$59 National dues, \$20 State dues and the \$24 Branch dues. Of this amount, \$56 will be tax deductible.

Benefits for new members joining now

Now is a great time to have a friend or neighbor join our branch. The half-yearly dues with Shape the Future discount: For someone joining at the February 20 meeting, the total cost for the remainder of the fiscal year is \$34.25. A great opportunity to find out what we do with a small financial investment. **The 18 month dues with Shape the Future discount:** For someone joining at the March 20 meeting, the total cost would be \$73.50 which would give them an 18 month membership from March 2018 through June 2019.

So bring a friend or neighbor to a meeting!

**Alison MacKenzie and Mary Levey,
Co-Vice Presidents, Membership**

2018 NOMINATING
COMMITTEE
REPORT

One of the most amazing things about AAUW-OML is the incredibly high level of member participation in leadership roles within the organization. Many AAUW branches are struggling to fill just the basic elected board positions. We have 28 women currently serving on our Board in elected and appointed positions. This is about 20 percent of our total membership, and does not include the leaders of our interest groups or members of committees. That is what makes being chair of this year's nominating committee both challenging and exciting.

So far the committee has identified members willing to serve for the first time and members returning for another year. But we are still attempting to fill a few key positions. If you have an interest in membership, programs or general branch management, please contact one of the members of the nominating committee listed below. There is no better way to get to know people, form lasting relationships and serve the cause of women's equality, education and empowerment.

Nominating Committee 2018:

**Pat Beckner, Chair
Marie Bonilla
Mary Levey
Sally Swanson
Lynda Leonard
Cayo Marschner**

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES HIGHLIGHTS

**Attention Wine Lovers and
Potential Wine Lovers**

The first meeting of the OML wine tasting will be held on **Friday February 9 at 7 pm.** at the home of **Natalie and Dennis Fay, 6 Jack Tree Knoll, Orinda 94563.**

Bring a bottle of of your favorite wine you would like to share. Couples need only bring one. We will provide appetizers, cheese and good company. This group is opened to singles and couples – anyone who enjoys wine is welcome. We envision meeting once a month to rate various wine vintages from around the world.

For more information, email or call Natalie Fay at fay.natalie@gmail.com or 935 330-9293. We will discuss the format and regular meeting dates at our first group get together.



SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

Our 2018 Community Service Scholarship applications can be found at oml-ca.aauw.net. The deadline for the High Schools is March 6 and Saint Mary’s College is March 12. We welcome applications from senior women from Acalanes, Campolindo, Miramonte High Schools and Saint Mary’s College

Our final 2017 awardee, **Cara Wolfe**, has been involved in many of our OML Branch programs for girls. She has attended Tech Trek, participated in our Sister-to-Sister program and joined our STEM Conference last year as an ambassador. *(Read more about the Ambassador Program and some of this year’s volunteers on page 3)*



**LEADERSHIP SKILL:
BUILDING LASTING AND MEANINGFUL
FRIENDSHIPS**

CARA WOLFE
Acalanes Graduate
Attending University of California, Berkeley

The Peer Tutoring program at Acalanes is comprised of juniors and seniors who tutor four sessions a week. One student had missed a significant amount of school and was daunted by the task of having to make up all the work. We quickly bonded over shared experience as I helped teach her the material she had missed. I was able to help her academically, but it was also an important realization that my experience could help someone else.

Peer Tutoring is a great place for me to use my academic and mentoring skills to help other students. Over the last two years, Peer Tutoring has become a second home for me. I’m there every single day, even when I’m not signed up to tutor because it’s my favorite place on campus.

Mary Ann McLeod, Chair, Scholarship Committee



**Women’s
March
Walnut Creek**



*It’s selfie time! Jan Coe,
Carol Messinger and Pat
Beckner*

**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.



PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE



Paid Leave Laws and Minimum Wage Hikes Go into Effect on January 1

Many state laws successfully passed in previous legislative sessions are going into effect now that the calendar has turned to 2018. Paid family leave protections—new to New York and expanded in California—began on January 1, while Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington residents now earn paid sick days. With last week's vote to override Gov. Larry Hogan's (R-MD) veto of a paid sick days bill, Maryland workers will also see changes in the coming months. And on April 1, pregnant workers in Massachusetts will have greater access to on-the-job accommodations. Additionally, 18 states instituted minimum wage hikes to start the new year.

Both Abortion Restrictions and Proactive Protections Surged in 2017

Last year brought more abortion restrictions in the states than any year since 2013. In total, 19 states adopted 63 new laws restricting access to abortion services. At the same time, many states fought back with 21 states approving 58 measures to expand access to reproductive services, protect reproductive rights, or institute comprehensive sex education. With a significant increase in abortion restrictions since 2011, the Guttmacher Institute now qualifies 6 states as hostile to abortion rights and 23 states as extremely hostile. Approximately 58 percent of American women of reproductive age live in one of those states, while only 30 percent live in a state that has supportive abortion laws on the books.

UPDATE: Courts Weigh-in on Redistricting Cases

Recently a federal court ruled that North Carolina's congressional districts had been unconstitutionally drawn to give Republicans a political advantage. The ruling ordered the state legislature to redraw the districts by January 24. This is the first time federal courts found a congressional map, as opposed to a state legislative map, unconstitutional based on partisan gerrymandering. The next day, federal judges in Pennsylvania upheld their state's congressional districts, finding that the challenge to partisan gerrymandering was not for the courts to decide. The plaintiffs can appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court. The highest court heard arguments in a case out of Wisconsin dealing with similar issues last October. A decision is expected by June.

AAUW will be listening for these priorities in the State of the Union Address January 30:

- Education: Protect Title IX and its commitment to equity in education
- The Federal Budget: Support programs that are critical to women and families' economic security, education and civil rights
- The Economy: Close the gender pay gap and ensure that all workers receive equal pay for equal work
- Immigration: Stand up for the rights of young immigrants
- Workers: Enact policies that protect American workers and bolster our economy
- Health Care: Guarantee access to quality, affordable health insurance for all Americans

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

BURCKHALTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Thanks to everyone who has made a contribution to our Burckhalter Elementary School Project. The school is so grateful for your support. We currently have 10 volunteer librarians, a math tutor, two reading tutors and an assistant to the computer lab teacher.

New Volunteers

Diane Bell-Rettger is joining our library crew on Mondays and Marilyn Evans joined us in October.

Basics for Burckhalter

The supplies our members donated at the Holiday Parties were distributed just before the winter break and will come in particularly useful now during a very bad cold and flu season. While the Oakland Unified School District continues to struggle with budget issues, the children at Burckhalter have a team of talented, caring volunteers looking out for their educational interests. Thanks again to all of you!

**Pat Beckner,
Community Projects**



All Smiles – new Burckhalter volunteers, Diane Bell-Rettger (on left) and Marilyn Evans.

FEBRUARY 2018 AT A GLANCE

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

1 THUR – STEM COMMITTEE MEETING
1 pm – home of Stacia Cragholm
3975 S. Peardale Dr., Lafayette

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

2 FRI – DAYTIME MOVIE GROUP
Contact Judy Helder, judyhelder@gmail.com,
for info on this month's movie

3 SAT – INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL
6:30 pm at the home of Joy Elkinton-Walkter
Contact Sara Lautenbach for info

6 TUES – BRIDGE GROUP
12 noon – Joyce Dickey, 825-7991

8 THU – GREAT DECISIONS
9:30-11:30 am – Hacienda de la Flores, Moraga
Conference room

8 THUR – EVENING SALON
7 pm – home of Mary Leigh Miller
631-9694, mlmiller602@gmail.com

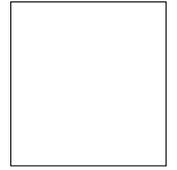
9 FRI – OML WINE TASTERS
7 pm – home of Natalie Fay
(Turn to page 5 for more details.)

12, 26 MON – GOLF
Contact Jan Gee for t-time and venue, 938-1316

13 TUES – BOARD MEETING
1 pm – Orinda Community Church

15 THU – GREAT DECISIONS
9:30-11:30 am – Hacienda de la Flores, Moraga
Conference room

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



15 THUR – STEM COMMITTEE MEETING
1 pm – Saint Mary's College, room TBA

16 FRI – ANYONE WHO HAS READ THE BOOK
Animal Dreams, by Barbara Kingsolver
10 am – Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, Orinda
Contact Mary Hake, 254-1435 for more info.

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

20 TUES – GENERAL MEETING
Keynote Speaker: MONICA FITZGERALD
THE #METOO MOVEMENT
9:30-11:30 am – Orinda Community Church

22 THU – GREAT DECISIONS
9:30-11:30 am – Hacienda de la Flores, Moraga
Conference room

24 SAT – MARCH TRIAD DEADLINE
Send items to Mary Leigh Miller, mlmiller602@gmail.com

MARCH 2018

(look for more listings in the MARCH issue)

13 TUES – BOARD MEETING
1 pm – Orinda Community Church

20 TUES – GENERAL MEETING
Confronting Poverty Through Holistic Education
9:30-11:30 am – Orinda Community Church

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, BONNIE GALLOGLY, so she can update the website calendar.