

MARCH 20 OML General Meeting ~ International Program ~



9:30 ~ 11:30 am
Orinda Community Church

Confronting Poverty Through Holistic Education

with guest speaker
ASHLEY HOLMER

Red Sweater Project, founded by Ashley Holmer in 2011, 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.



★
ALSO at the MARCH MEETING

★ **ANNOUNCEMENT of the 2018 Distinguished Woman**
Turn to page 3 for complete info.

★ **ELECTION of the 2018-19 Slate of Executive Officers**
Turn to page 2 for list of candidates.

SUNDAY, APRIL 22 *Tech Trek and Scholarship* **AWARDS MEETING**

3 ~ 5 pm
Orinda Community Church

Help celebrate young women in our community. Listen to their voices and hear our guest speaker, **SAMANTHA STUBER.**

Samantha Stuber is a Lamorinda native who currently is the College & Career Director at Miramonte High School. She is a Miramonte alumni who went on to get a degree from California State University Fullerton in Business Entrepreneurship with a minor in English. Samantha has worked in several small businesses but eventually found her passion helping students during the monumental and high-pressure time in their life.



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- STEM Conference countdown – page 4
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... from LAURA'S DESK



Greetings:

Thank you to all the individuals who have volunteered to help out the day of the AAUW-OML STEM Conference at Saint Mary's College on March 17. The committee broke down the tasks so that volunteers could work fewer hours if they prefer.

As my term as President begins to wind down I continue to re-build our relationship with Saint Mary's College as a partner of AAUW. I met this past week with Monica Fitzgerald, co-director of Saint Mary's Justice, Community Action and Leadership Department as well as Student and Faculty Development, regarding AAUW-OML's scholarship for a graduating female student. She should be committed to community service and have a plan for how her future will include a passion for community service. Monica was excited about the scholarship award and offered to post the information to all departments and faculty, who would encourage students to apply.

Monica told me about Saint Mary's community partnership program and directed me to the faculty member who could assist with our partnership applications. We discussed the benefits of developing this partnership with the college, as all students there are required to do a minimum of 20 hours of community service.

Dr. Kristin Beck continues to promote AAUW to her peers. Recently she invited me to the next meeting of the **SMC Faculty Women's Group** on March 16 to tell them about the benefits of becoming AAUW members.

I see this partnership as mutually beneficial to AAUW-OML and SMC students. They are able to help us with developing our media presence, supporting the STEM committee with much needed manpower at the conference and assisting with our fundraising efforts while getting their much needed community service hours.

Developing community partnerships with Saint Mary's College, Sunrise Rotary events and other volunteer organizations increases our visibility, while providing much needed resources to our branch in dollars and manpower.

Laura Wittenberg, President

PROPOSED OML EXECUTIVE BOARD 2018-19

PRESIDENT
Denise Burian
PRESIDENT ELECT
still open
PROGRAM VPs
Laura Wittenberg
Marielle Boortz
MEMBERSHIP VPs
Maryellen Judson
Carrol Foxall

AAUW FUND VPs
Lynda Leonard
Diane Bell-Rettger
SECRETARY
Judy Hammon
FINANCE VP
Peggy Cabaness

*Voting will take place at the
March 20 General Meeting*

FEBRUARY 13, 2018 BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

At the February 13 board meeting, it was apparent that our branch is "taking care of business!" Finance VP Gail Chesler reported that our budget is on target. The AAUW national organization, however, will be raising its dues \$10 in the next fiscal year. As Membership Co-Chair Alison MacKenzie explained, even though the state dues stay at \$20 and our branch dues at \$24, this will naturally push our individual dues higher.

Marie Bonilla reported that the Appointments Training held January 23 in Walnut Creek was a success with about 100 participants. This program, which we supported through the Inter-Branch Council, aims to get more women into government. The Distinguished Woman committee, chaired by Mary Ann McLeod, is receiving letters and hopes to hear from you. And, the hardworking Nominating Committee, Co-Chaired by Pat Beckner and Marie Bonilla, has come up with an excellent slate for next year's board. We are still looking for a President Elect.

Although it's only February, our end game is already in sight. Scholarship and Tech Trek are gearing up to interview and select candidates for scholarships. Winners will be announced and celebrated at the special Awards Meeting on April 22 – it will be here before you know it! This is such a major part of our mission. Meanwhile, the EYH/STEM Conference is just around the corner. Co-Chairs Stacia Cragholm and Heidi Mayer have outdone themselves with over 200 middle school girls signed up from 29 different schools coming to learn about Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.

**Judy Hammon,
Secretary**

FOCUS ON ... The # ME TOO MOVEMENT

Monica Fitzgerald, Professor of History at Saint Mary’s College, began her talk at our February 20 general meeting by discussing the passage of Title IX in 1972. and how it changed the landscape in our schools. Here’s what it says:

No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

This new law changed education in ways that were unexpected, from new courses and new text books, to women and girls being included in sports. This more-equal access has led to empowerment. We have, indeed, come a long way. For one quick example: In this year’s winter Olympics, the US Women’s hockey team took the gold medal, while the US Men’s hockey team didn’t make it that far. Could those who passed Title IX ever have imagined this?

However, as Professor Fitzgerald clearly laid out, there is much more work to be done. Although women are entering college in increasing numbers, we are not even close to equity in board rooms or in government ... and then there is the issue of equal pay for equal work. Moreover, studies still shockingly show that one in five women is sexually assaulted on college campuses. Clearly, more needs to be done! It is encouraging that young women today are much more likely to speak out about abuse and unfairness than in the past. There is hope that the #MeToo movement will be a tipping point – that it will shine a harsh light on inappropriate male behavior.

She pointed out the need to constantly push back against the culture that still leads to boys being called upon more even in elementary school; that still sees about 90 percent of elementary school teachers being women; that still excuses “toxic masculinity” in college men. One member noted that right here in Lamorinda, very few girls get into robotics or high-level math classes.

Many of us have daughters and granddaughters who can benefit from AAUW’s mission. And, we should not forget that our sons and grandsons also need to hear the message about gender equity and respect for women and girls. Professor Fitzgerald surely gave us our marching orders!



Article submitted by Judy Hammon

Monica (second from left) with Laura Wittenberg, Janette Maher and Laura Monin.

DISTINGUISHED WOMAN

The Distinguished Woman Committee is looking forward to choosing our 2018 Distinguished Woman!

We are waiting to hear from you!

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

Distinguished Woman Committee:
Mary Ann McLeod
Elaine Gallaher
Judy Helder
K. de Grioot
Kelly Claussen

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

Recently, 10 of us – six ambassadors, one Saint Mary's College intern and three AAUW members – met to continue planning the STEM Conference. We reviewed the schedule and assigned roles for the upcoming training on March 11, from 11 am to 1 pm at Dryden Hall on the Saint Mary's College campus. *Please remember it will be daylight savings time so be sure you set your clocks ahead an hour.* Our ambassadors and intern will share with you the plans for March 17.

*We are expecting over 200 6th through 8th grade girls
and are presenting 19 workshops!*

Volunteer-wise, we are doing well. We will be sending an email notifying you of your assignments and reiterating the time and date of the training session. Thanks to all the OML members as well as others in our community who are planning to help on the day of the conference.

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

MEET the STEM CONFERENCE AMBASSADORS



Hi, I am **Sophia Scipi** and I am a junior at Acalanes High School. I participated in the AAUW STEM Conference last year as an Ambassador. From this

experience, I have learned to follow through on tasks given to me, handle stressful situations, and to manage my time in order to get everything completed. This year, being able to be an Ambassador for a second time has given me the opportunity to further enhance my ability to help plan the STEM Conference and I couldn't be more excited. STEM is continuing to play an influential role in my life as I explore possible colleges and career options. I couldn't be more thankful for this program and I can't wait to partake in this year's conference.

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.



Hi, my name is **Alex Shandalov** and I am a senior at Miramonte High School. This is my second year as an ambassador for the Expanding Your Horizons STEM Con-

ference. I believe that this program is extremely important for young girls in the Lamorinda area and beyond. Early exposure to the STEM field gives girls the confidence and motivation they need to pursue a career they may not have thought was possible. As a young female who one day wishes to become a pediatrician, I believe that gender should not be a disadvantage when pursuing our dreams.

STEM Committee Meetings

• March 1 – 1 pm

• March 15 – 1 pm

at Stacia Cragholm's home
3975 S. Peardale Dr., Lafayette

Training Workshop for Volunteers

• March 11 – 11 am-1 pm

at Saint Mary's College
Dryden Hall

PUBLIC POLICY

DEEPER IN DEBT:

WOMEN and STUDENT LOANS

Women take on more student debt than men ... and are paid less after college.

Between 1976 and 2014 the price of college attendance more than doubled, but household incomes barely budged. Today most students must bridge the gap between income and cost with student loans – followed by student debt. Women take on more loans, take longer to repay their debt and hold almost two-thirds of the outstanding student loan debt in the United States.

Following graduation, women repay loans more slowly than men, in part because of the gender pay gap. They are also more likely to struggle economically during repayment. This means women may have to put off saving for retirement, buying a home or starting a business.

Student debt is a systemic and national problem that disproportionately impacts women. AAUW members can help make changes to reduce women's student loan debt burden by encouraging officials to support the following:

- **Congress:** protect and expand Pell Grants for low-income students to reduce the amount of student loan debt they must take on to complete a degree.
- **State and federal legislators:** increase funding for public colleges and universities and support efforts to move toward tuition- and debt-free options.
- **The department of education and lawmakers:** make it easier for students to enroll in income-driven repayment options to help mitigate some women's financial difficulties.
- **Institutions:** address the academic and financial needs of traditional and nontraditional students, such as access to child care.

Learn more and take action at: <http://www.aauw.org/research/deeper-in-debt/>

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

MEMBERSHIP

National Dues Increase

Effective March 16, 2018, AAUW National annual dues will increase from \$49 to \$59. This, together with \$20 for state dues and \$24 for branch – neither of which is increasing – totals \$103. Unfortunately, it is a fact of life that all expenses go up eventually. But, **this increase is the first in nearly a decade** for national and doesn't even keep up with the rate of inflation! Increases are always difficult, but this one is necessary for AAUW to sustain and grow important programs. Costs for all programs have increased and **our support is needed to continue the fight for equity for women and girls** through salary negotiation workshops, research, policy and advocacy and fellowships and grants. Revenue from dues results in more stable funding for these programs than relying on charitable contributions. Remember, too, that \$56 of the \$59 is a tax deductible charitable contribution. If you want more information about the increase, check the national website (www.aauw.org) to watch a video on the subject, featuring AAUW's Board Chair, Julia Brown and Chief Executive Officer, Kim Churches.

Come Join Us for Wine and Conversation, Thursday, March 22

Join us for **Wine and Conversation** on Thursday, March 22 at Ristorante Amorama in Moraga (360 Park Street next to Rheem Theater), 5:30 - 7:30 pm. Please note the time – we got it wrong last time! Sample a flight of four hand-selected regional and Italian wines accompanied by light appetizers. **The branch will pay the \$5.00 tasting fee for you that evening.** How's that for a deal? Hope to see you there.



50-Year Member Awarded Certificate and Pin at February Meeting



Gail Chesler, AAUW Treasurer, presented **Marion (Molly) Boyd** (at right in photo), our latest 50-Year/National Honorary Life Member with a certificate and pin at the February branch meeting. Present at the meeting were two other of our 50-Year members, **Joan Armstrong** and **Joyanne Elkinton-Walker**. Congratulations, Molly and our thanks and best wishes to all of our 50-Year, Life-Time and Charter Members. *Where would we be without all of you?*

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

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
COMMITTEE UPDATES

The committee reviewing branch policies and procedures has met and is making some revisions. Due to the changes in bylaws last year, some changes are necessary, along with some additional clarifying language.

The committee members are **Jan Coe, Gail Chesler, Laura Wittenberg, Judy Hammon, Therese Tamayo, Mary Ann McLeod, Pat Lopker** and **Denise Burian**. Please contact one of the committee members if you have any questions or suggest changes.

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES
HIGHLIGHTS

AAUW Wine Tasters

March 18th, 7 pm

We're looking forward to our second Winetaster Evening at the home of Trudy and George Barron, 175 Draeger Drive, Moraga! Please join us for wine, cheese and friendship. We will be tasting both white and red wine. Cost will be between \$15.00- \$20.00 per person. Please bring 6 wineglasses for tasting and lots of smiles! Please RSVP 376-9404 or trudyLbarron@gmail.com.

NEWS FROM OTHER
BRANCHESART, WINE and BEER WALK
Saturday, May 12, 1-4 pm.

Concord AAUW is sponsoring this fun event to raise money for AAUW scholarships. The walk takes place at Todos Santos Plaza in Concord where you get to enjoy fine wines, craft beer and appetizers from local restaurants while viewing art from local artists. Cost is \$25.00 in advance or \$30.00 at the door. (Last year it sold out!!) **Trudy Barron** is selling tickets or you can purchase tickets at <http://concord-ca-aauw.net>

AAUW ANNUAL ART CONTEST

Please view the AAUW Art Contest page to see works submitted by our fellow AAUW members and vote for your favorites. You can vote for up to 10 entries. Six winners will be announced in late March. The voting period ends March 4th.

- Go to www.aauw.org/contests
- Click "vote Now" and follow instructions to view the pieces and vote.

Happy Browsing!



AAUW Mission • AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research. **Value Promise of AAUW** • By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

It is very rewarding to receive an affirmation that our OML-AAUW goal of supporting local young women is valued. Tory Courtney received this note from Valeria Martin, one of our 2017 Saint Mary's scholarship awardees.

Hello Tory,

I hope you are doing well. This is Valeria Martin, the 2017 recipient of the AAUW Leadership Scholarship. I just wanted to check in with you and the organization to thank you all once again for granting me the scholarship.

I am now in my second semester of my graduate program at the University of Texas at Austin in Educational Leadership and Policy. I have had an incredible experience so far and feel grateful to the women of AAUW for providing me with a means to continue my education. This is a wonderful organization, filled with incredible women and I am working hard to make my scholarship worth more than its monetary value.

Once again, thank you.

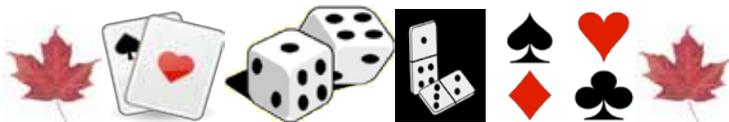
*Best,
Valeria Martin*

Our 2018 Scholarship applications are on our website www.oml-ca.aauw.net.

High School Deadline March 6 Saint Mary's Deadline March 12

Mary Ann McLeod, Chair, Scholarship Committee

Save the Date Lunch-Bridge-Bunco-Dominos



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2018

A FALL GAME DAY

WITH CATERED LUNCH

MIRAMONTE GARDENS CLUBHOUSE

11:30 am ~ 3 pm

Proceeds to benefit the OML Scholarship Fund

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 REPORT

Our Donated Dollars at Work Shaping the Next Generation of Leaders

The development of leadership skills is critical to the empowerment of women. Last summer we all enjoyed meeting Laura Wittenberg's granddaughter, Denise Sallee, who had attended AAUW's **National Conference for College Women Student Leaders** (NCCWSL) in May. Laura wrote about Denise's experience in her September 2017 Triad article:

"When she headed off to the conference, she didn't know what to expect. Once there she found herself surrounded by bright young women who were involved in their communities and eager to make a difference. 'It was so exciting to be amongst like-minded women, who were standing up and becoming engaged in improving their campus and their communities,' she said. The program addressed important leadership issues of the day for women and girls. They were coached on working with difficult people, creating a resume that gets attention and gaining the knowledge and skills to negotiate salaries and benefits. They discussed the importance of establishing relationships with local AAUW branches and leading campus events to build on-campus communities for women. The skills she acquired at NCCWSL she brought to her internship and to several of the board members of AAUW-OML who met with her to learn about NCCWSL."

Each year, AAUW's six campus initiatives programs shape the lives of thousands of college women to be the next generation of leaders. The initiatives include:

- **Campus Ambassadors** who represent AAUW at their schools and are the first to know about AAUW campus pro-

grams. They receive monthly emails with leadership tips.

- **Campus Action Projects** that are annual, grant-funded student-led projects that enable students to take action on women's issues on campus,

- **National Conference for College Women Student Leaders** (NCCWSL) that assembles college women from across the country to address important leadership issues of the day,

- **The National Student Advisory Council**, which is a year-long leadership program for 10 college women who serve as AAUW ambassadors on their campuses. These students build relationships with local AAUW branches, lead campus events that promote women's equity, and help plan and implement NCCWSL activities,

- **Start Smart** salary negotiation workshops that provide college women who are approaching the job market the knowledge and skills to negotiate salaries and benefits, and

- **Student Organizations** that receive free resources and support to create campus programming around women's issues, build on-campus feminist communities, and join a global network of more than 170,000 AAUW members and supporters.

Laura concluded, "Our work at AAUW and AAUW-OML is important. Reaching out to our young women through mentoring and by supporting them, directly or indirectly, transforms their lives." When we donate to AAUW Fund we are supporting the campus initiatives program that serves to build empowering leadership skills in the women who will become the leaders of their generation.

**Lynda Leonard,
Co-VP, AAUW Fund**

AAUW FUND DONORS for 2017

Thank you to the following members and friends who donated so generously to AAUW Fund in 2017.

Your donations totaled \$7,041!

Joan Armstrong
Trudy Barron
Ellen Beans
Patricia Beckner
Diane Bell-Rettger
Marie Bonilla
Valarie Burgess
Denise Burian
Peggy Cabaniss
Jan Coe
Ann Collins
Jennifer Cook
Victoria Courtney
Stacia Cragholm
Janette Cushman

Joyce Dickey
Joyanne Elkinton-Walker
Marna Eyring
Bonnie Fend
Jill Fernald
Sandra Fox-Sohner
Bonnie Gallogly
Janet Govan
Judy Hammon
June Howe
Sara Lautenbach
Mary Levey
Patricia Lopker
Alison Mackenzie
Janette Maher

Nomala Marcus
Carolyn Marschner
Mary Ann McLeod
Janet Mendenhall
Mary Leigh Miller
Laura Monin
Jennifer Offringa
Judith Porta
Lana Reichick
Janet Rosefield
Laura Sawczuk
Fay Schoenberger
Mary Smith
Robin Spencer-Holmes
Janet Thibault

MARCH 2018 AT A GLANCE

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

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

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

1 THUR – EVENING SALON
7 pm – home of Laura Monin
For more info: lamonin@pacbell.net

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 Sara Lautenbach

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

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

11 SUN – STEM TRAINING WORKSHOP
11 am - 1 pm – Saint Mary's College, Dryden Hall

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

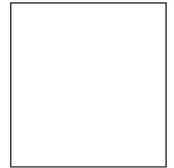
13 TUES – BOARD MEETING
1 pm – Orinda Community Church

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

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

16 FRI – ANYONE WHO HAS READ THE BOOK
Deep South by Paul Theroux
10 am – Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, Orinda
Contact Mary Hake, 254-1435 for more info.

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



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

17 SAT – **STEM CONFERENCE**
8 am - 3 pm – Saint Mary's College

18 SUN – OML WINE TASTERS
7 pm – home of Trudy Barron
(Turn to page 5 for more details.)

20 TUES – GENERAL MEETING
RED SWEATER PROJECT
Keynote Speaker: ASHLEY HOLMER
9:30 - 11:30 am – Orinda Community Church

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

22 THU – WINE & CONVERSATION
5:30-7:30 pm – Ristorante Amorama
(Turn to Membership on page 5 for more details.)

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

APRIL 2018
(look for more listings in the APRIL issue)

10 TUES – BOARD MEETING
1 pm – Orinda Community Church

22 SUN – AWARDS GENERAL MEETING
3 - 5 pm – Orinda Community Church