



JANUARY 15, 2019 OML GENERAL MEETING

6:30 - 8 pm

Lafayette Library and Learning Center Community Hall

Please Note: Special Time and Venue!

PREPARING GIRLS for a CAREER in STEM



with Guest Speaker BUNMI ESHO

California Executive Director of Techbridge Girls

We kick off 2019 with a focus on the AAUW-OML priorities regarding education and STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics). A STEM graduate herself, **Bunmi Esho** will speak on the importance of STEM education and the essential elements needed to prepare girls for a STEM-related career in a field where women continue to be under-represented – an area with growing opportunities and above-average paying jobs. There will also be information tables on OML's upcoming STEAM Conference, AAUW's Tech Trek Camp and OML's local scholarships. We encourage you to invite parents, their daughters and teachers of girls interested in STEM to join us.

Read more about Bunmi Esho on page 4.

We would love to see a full audience of OML members at this evening General Meeting. If you would like us to arrange a ride for you to and from the Lafayette Library, please contact Marie Bonilla (878-6966 or edmarie.bonilla@comcast.net). She has offered to arrange a carpool for members uncomfortable with driving in the evening.

FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 19

9:30-11:30 am Orinda Community Church Fellowship Hall

Hear longtime AAUW member, leader and women's rights activist

KATHLEEN CHA

bring us up to date on current AAUW state and national programs including the Start Smart and Work Smart initiatives.

Kathleen Cha has served public, private and nonprofit sectors for more than thirty years as a strategic communications professional, specializing in community outreach, media-governmental affairs, and crisis communications regarding community issues, public safety, housing/transportation and the environment. As a member and leader of the American Association of University Women, she is past national director and past AAUW California state president.

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... from DENISE'S PERSPECTIVE



I am really excited because we have an awesome general meeting planned in January. Our guest speaker is **Bunmi Esho**, the CA Executive Director of Techbridge Girls. She has a great personal story and I hear she is an outstanding and motivating speaker. The topic is "**Preparing Middle and High School Girls for an Education/Career in STEM-Related Fields."** TechBridge Girls provides STEM programs for girls

and supports teachers and others with training and STEM resources, so Ms. Esho knows her topic well.

Because we want to get the word out to parents and girls about this program, as well as provide information to middle and high school girls about our annual STEAM Conference at Saint Mary's College on March 23 (registration opens on January 24), AAUW's Tech Trek camp, and to local public high school senior girls about our college scholarships (application deadline March 1), we are going to present this program at night. It is our first evening meeting in at least five years. It will be held on our regular third Tuesday meeting day — **Tuesday, January 15, from 6:30 to 8 pm.** *Please help us get the word out about this to your daughters, grand-daughters, friends and neighbors*. We will have a link on our website to a flyer you can print out and give to them, or forward to them via email or text. While we are scheduling this meeting in the evening so women who work can attend it, we also want all of our members to attend. We will pick up any member who would like a ride to and from the meeting. Please let Marie Bonilla know either by a phone call or email, and she will coordinate rides. I am looking forward to seeing you there, as well as many parents and girls.

We took time out to enjoy the holiday spirit at our holiday parties. Each event was fun and the conversations were enjoyable. It is nice to get together just to socialize sometimes. Having said that, our Community Outreach groups are very busy right now. The STEAM Conference committee is finalizing the list of program presenters, and it is an awesome list again this year. The EYH enrollment tool will open on January 24. The two months between January 24 and March 23 will be extremely busy. If you want to help, please let **Stacia Cragholm** or **Caroline Friedman** know (Caroline is volunteer coordinator for the STEAM Conference). I am very happy to inform you that our members will be session monitors this year. This means that we will have an AAUW member posted in each break-out session to monitoring the activity inside the room, making sure the girls who signed up are in the class and notifying others if the presenters need anything. If you haven't signed up yet for this opportunity or for other assignments, contact Stacia or Caroline.

Scholarship and Tech Trek committees have been meeting with school administration and teachers to get out the word on the application process for these programs. The deadline for high school senior girls to apply for a college scholarship is March 1. If you know of a senior girl from one of the three public local high schools who may qualify, please let them know about it.

We have a lot planned for 2019. I look forward to seeing you on January 15 and the rest of our meetings and activities coming up in the new year. From our board of directors, we wish you a very Happy New Year.

Denise Burian, President

December 11, 2018 BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Although our board doesn't always meet in December, we did this year as there was much to attend to. Cleverly, we met directly after the Holiday Party at Mary Leigh Miller's house. Denise Burian even brought us sandwiches plus we enjoyed lots of leftover goodies from earlier in the morning!

The main topic of discussion was our first 2019 general meeting on the evening of January 15, which will be held in Community Hall at the Lafayette library. We hope that changing the time of the meeting to 6:30 p.m. will help us attract parents and daughters from Lamorinda for a talk about the importance of girls in science.

But there was other news: The STE(A)M committee has 18 workshops set up for their conference on March 23 – seems like it is just around the corner! It's not too late to sign up to help. Tech Trek is also gearing up and getting ready to interview applicants for summer camp. OML has been guaranteed six campers, and a seventh if there is room. Mary Ann McLeod thanked everyone who helped out on Scholarship's first Game Day, with special thanks to Laura Monin who led the committee. Finally, thanks go out to those who brought supplies for the teachers of Burckhalter School.

Judy Hammon, Secretary

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.

FOCUS ON ... The UPCOMING STEAM CONFERENCE

2019 AAUW-EYH STEAM CONFERENCE at Saint Mary's College: MARCH 23, 2019

Workshops are the heart of the STEAM Conference. Each girl will enroll in three interactive workshops, focused on science, technology, engineering, art and math-related activities.

Conference Goals

- To ignite girls' passion for STEAM through handson experiences
- To provide young women with opportunities to meet and interact with positive role models
- To foster awareness of STEAM careers

Following is the first of our profiles of the STEAM Conference workshops.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is made up of 29 agencies and offices with nearly 100,000 employees who serve the American people at more than 4,500 locations across the country and abroad, providing leadership on food, agriculture, natural resources, rural development, nutrition, and related issues. As part of its scientific work, the USDA-ARS Research Project, 'Domestic Production of Natural Rubber and Industrial Seed Oils,' addresses specific technical challenges of developing commercially-viable domestic supplies of natural rubber from crops grown in the U.S

This year's AAUW STEAM conference is delighted to welcome **Dr. Colleen McMahan** as a workshop presenter on this topic. She is a Research Chemist and the Lead Scientist of the USDA's Agricultural Research Service project on "Natural Rubber Producing Industrial Crops" in Albany, California. She completed her undergraduate Chemistry and M. S.



Polymer Science degrees at The University of Akron, Ohio, and her Doctorate in Physical Chemistry at l'Université de Haute-Alsace in Mulhouse, France. At the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company, she worked in rubber compound science and later management of Physical Test Laboratories in support of tire compound development. At Advanced Elastomer Systems, L.P., an ExxonMobil company, Colleen led global product development of thermoplastic elastomers. Since joining ARS her research interests include bio-based rubber and industrial oils, and the new and established crop plants that produce them, with emphasis on the biochemistry and molecular biology of rubber biosynthesis.

Natural rubber is a strategic biobased material essential to

medicine, defense and industrial manufacturing in the United States. The U.S. relies on imports to meet domestic needs. Natural rubber was formerly produced by U.S. agriculture, but critical issues denied sustainability. The USDA-ARS Research Project 'Domestic Production of Natural Rubber and Industrial Seed Oils' addresses specific technical challenges of developing commercially-viable domestic supplies of natural rubber from crops grown in the U.S.

Successful completion of this research will

- 1. Advance commercialization of secure, safe and sustainable sources of natural rubber in the U.S.,
- 2. Contribute to rural development and green jobs,
- 3. Replace petroleum-based rubber and oils in medical, industrial, and consumer products, and
- 4. Transfer technology through dissemination of research results.

The middle school girls attending the March STEAM Conference will participate in a hands-on activity in which latex will be collected from rubber-producing plants. Students will use molds and pre-compounded latex to prepare gloves or booties. The chemistry involved will be discussed at each step. Each student will leave the workshop with a small rubber article they have prepared, and with an increased awareness of the types of STEAM careers available in government service.

Pat Beckner, Conference Committee Member

ISABELLE LIU 2018 STEM Conference Ambassador

I am Isabelle Liu and I am a junior at Acalanes High School. I had the amazing opportunity to be an ambassador at the STEM Conference last March. This experience opened my eyes to the dedicated planning process that goes



into putting on a great conference. I am thankful to be able to make a great impact on middle school girls in my community again through this upcoming STEAM Conference. As an ambassador, I am able to learn so much about the STEAM world and also learn many life skills such as collaboration and leadership. This conference has allowed me to enjoy taking more STEAM-related classes at school and also has provided me opportunities to work with other organizations such as the Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary. I am glad to be working with people who have the same mission to empower girls in STEAM and I'm looking forward to making this upcoming conference a success.

PUBLIC POLICY YEAR END UPDATE

• The Federal Commission on School Safety led by Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos released a report detailing their recommendations for schools. The report provides few suggestions for directly addressing gun violence. Instead it now includes provisions for the training of school personnel in the use of firearms. In addition, the



Trump administration rescinded Obama-era school discipline guidance that aimed to address disproportionately high disciplinary rates for students of color. AAUW urges the administration to reverse this action and instead reaffirm their commitment to supporting equal rights and opportunity for all.

- President Donald Trump rejected a bi-partisan Senate budget proposal leading to a partial federal government shutdown at midnight December 21.
- Last week, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas ruled in favor of a group of Republican attorneys general who argued that the Affordable Care Act (ACA) is unconstitutional. Weakening or removing the protections of the ACA would eradicate years of progress in expanding women's access to health care, and AAUW is committed to fighting against any such attempts.

One thing AAUW asks of us:

Every two years, AAUW members vote on revisions to our Public Policy Priorities. Now through January 11, 2019, you can comment on and indicate support for the changes recommended by the AAUW Public Policy Committee. Be sure to take advantage of this opportunity to submit feedback on AAUW's 2019-2021 Public Policy Priorities!

Laura Monin, Co-Chair, Public Policy

DISTINGUISHED WOMAN 2019

Being your Distinguished Woman 2018 for AAUW-OML has made an exciting year for me.

Our OML branch is privileged to count many distinguished women amongst our members. We will celebrate one of these women at our May Luncheon meeting. The woman is a woman of leadership and dedication to the goals of AAUW.

Who will she be? That decision is solely up to your nominations. Please consider a devoted AAUW-OML member whom you would like to name.

Send your letter of nomination to Maryellen Judson 825 Reliez Station Rd, Lafayette, 94549 or at *thjudson@aol.com*. Thank you.

Maryellen Judson, Distinguished Woman 2018

MORE ABOUT BUNMI ESHO and TECHBRIDGE GIRLS continued from front page

Bunmi Esho has 20 years experience in the corporate, non-profit and education sectors. Prior to joining Techbridge Girls, she lived in Southeast Asia leading education programs and managing teams with local nonprofits, schools and most recently, the first and only science center in Cambodia as Program Director. In her career she has also worked in the software industry, taught chemistry and science, and sat on several nonprofit boards.

Bunmi is a first generation American who has lived in the United States, Nigeria and Cambodia. She has a BS in chemical engineering from the University of Texas and an MS in education from the University of Arizona.

"Find your tribe – girls like you, those younger and those older, and stay connected," she says. "Celebrate your victories with your tribe but also share your challenges." Bunmi believes that all women need a support system and it's a support system that will carry them through the good and the bad.

Techbridge Girls is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to excite, educate and equip girls by delivering high-quality STEM programming that empowers girls to achieve economic mobility and better life chances.

With locations in California, the Pacific Northwest and the Washington, D.C., Metro Area, Techbridge Girls is an award-winning leader and innovator in informal STEM education.

To scale its impact across the U.S., Techbridge Girls trains educators who are working in marginalized high poverty communities to deliver its unique brand of gender and culturally relevant curriculum.



HIGHLIGHTS from the HOLIDAY PARTIES



Thank you to Kathy, owner of Flower Theory in Danville, and Lyssa of Alex Rose Interiors in Lafayette for demonstrating three beautiful holiday place settings (photo at top left).













Holiday Parties were held at the homes of Mary Leigh Miller and Mary Ann McLeod. Thanks to all who brought wonderful food and friendship to share!

BURCKHALTER NEWS

A big *Thank You* to our very generous members who donated cases of paper towels, tissues and hand sanitizer during our Holiday Parties. It required three of our Burckhalter volunteer elves to carry it all in to a very happy principal, **Carin Geathers.**

Burckhalter School volunteers did their holiday book give away this month. The kids were very excited to get two books that they get to KEEP. Our amazing volunteers work all year to provide each Burckhalter Elementary School student with two books they can take home.

Pat Beckner, Chair, Burckhalter Project



Second and third graders celebrate AAUW's annual Holiday Book Giveaway with their teacher and OML members, Linda Bochte and Alison MacKenzie.

2018-19 AAUW OML SPONSORS/ ADVERTISERS

*AAUW members

LAFAYETTE

Asian Accents – Original Designs in Jewelry by K. de Groot* Alex Rose Interior Design

Creative Alterations – Josef Jamkochain Diablo Foods

The Image Studio – Marjory DeRoeck & Carolyn Woodworth

Persons Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery

- Barbara Persons, MD FACS

The Service Outlet – Marc Harvey The UPS Store

Ware Designs – Fine Jewelry

MORAGA

AAAAA Rent-A-Space
Amoroma Ristorante
Goodwill Industries of the Greater East Bay
National Assoc. for Advancement of
Female People – Diane Bell*
Neighborhood Computers
Royal Siam Thai Cuisine
Town Bakery and Cafe
The UPS Store
ViaVienté – Lana Reichick*

ORINDA

Angie Evans Traxinger & Joan Evans*

- Village Associates Real Estate
Casa Orinda
La Piazza Pizzeria
Nails by Vivian
Piccolo Napoli
Redwood Cottage Sea Ranch
Vacation Rental – Elaine Gallaher*
Shelby's Restaurant
Soraya Golesorkhi*, Realtor –
Coldwell Banker
The UPS Store

WALNUT CREEK & Beyond

Bay Alarm Company
Hearing Science of Walnut Creek
Herbs & Spices Catering, Alameda
– Wendy Shay
The Service Outlet – Marc Harvey,
San Ramon
Superior Carpet and Window Cleaning

Please refer to the membership directory for complete advertising information.

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Cut out the listing below and paste it into your OML Directory on page 40.



DIRECTORY ADDITIONS

EBERHARD, Jill (Gilles) 254-5589 5/14 (c) 451-7908 jill@gemed.com 90 Tara Road Orinda, CA 94563 Stanford Univ.

EDWARDSON, Antonia (Bryan) 247-5268 (c) 651 242-9201 antoniaedwardson@msn.com 5 Bershire street Moraga, CA 94556 Marist College

HASANIAN, Lubna (Syed) 254-4636 7/26 (c) 899-9197 lubnahasanain@hotmail.com 270 Moraga way Orinda CA 94563 DOW Med Univ.

WHITTING, Connie 510 658-7102 11-27 (c) 510 541-3690 cwhitting22@sbcglobal.net 317 Howard Ave. Piedmont, CA 94611 San Jose State Univ.

DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS

Please use this phone number for **Mary Stephens Smith** (925) 708-5240

DONATIONS

Do you want to make a contribution to the STEAM Conference, Tech Trek, Scholarship, Burckhalter, or AAUW Fund? OML now accepts donations to your favorite Community Outreach Project online. Fewer people are writing checks these days, and many of us prefer to donate online via a credit card.

It's Easy! Just go to our website and click on the DONATE button on the top right hand side of the page. You will be directed to a form that asks for your name, address, phone and email. Once complete, click on SUBMIT. That directs you to a page on which you choose the project to which you want to donate. Click the name and you will be directed to add the amount and credit card information. It is as easy as that. When we receive the payment, we will credit the project and note that the donation is from you.

You can also use your PayPal account if you have one, but it is NOT required. We use PayPal to service the payment so you may receive a confirmation from them. But they just act as the payment processor for the credit card, so our Branch does not have to have accounts with all of the credit card companies. You can make a note on the payment if it is for a ticket to an event. And you can even make it an automatic monthly contribution.

Thank you to **Heidi Mayer**, **Peggy Cabaniss** and **Bonnie Gallogly** for setting this system up for our branch.

MEMBERSHIP



NEW MEMBERS COFFEE

The membership committee is planning a coffee to

welcome new members of the last two years. The party will take place on

From 2 to 4 pm at the home of Carrol Foxall, 112 Alta Mesa Court, Moraga

Our Board of Directors plans to welcome you and introduce some of the many activities offered in our OML Branch. The afternoon will be fun and informative. Please note the date on your calendar.

All directories not already picked up have now been mailed. If you have not received yours, contact Carrol or Maryellen.

Carrol Foxall & Maryellen Judson, Co-VPs, Membership

SPECIAL INTEREST UPDATES

Daytime Movie Group and Evening Salon

The next film will be on Wednesday, January 2. Meet at the Walnut Creek Theater at 12:15 pm to see the 12:45 showing of *The Favorite*, with socializing to follow at the Cheesecake Factory. Contact Denise Burian for more information.

The next **Evening Salon** will also be on Thursday, January 3. We will meet at the home of Denise Burian and Pat Beckner, from 7 to 9 pm. We discuss whatever topics attendees bring up, usually a social or cultural issue of the day or week. Whatever the topic, it is always an interesting discussion and everyone has time to share their thoughts and opinions. All members are welcome to attend.

THE TRIAD Staff

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Lynda Leonard, Diane Bell

Vice-President, Finance – Peggy Cabaniss Recording Secretary – Judy Hammon

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2018-2019

President – Denise Burian Presidents-Elect – Marielle Boortz, Alison MacKenzie Vice-Presidents, Membership Maryellen Judson, Carrol Foxall

Maryellen Judson, Carrol Foxall Vice-Presidents, Program Laura Wittenberg, Marielle Boortz

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

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS ~ HONORING OUR 2018 RECIPIENTS ~

Promoting Education for Girls

Our branch scholarship committee echoes the voice of National AAUW by supporting young women graduates from our three high schools and two undergraduates from Saint Mary's College. The high school seniors receive college scholarships. The Saint Mary's students are given scholarships to AAUW's National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) in Baltimore, Maryland. We search for girls who learn self-awareness and leadership skills through their desire to help others and make a difference in their community. This is the third of four articles showcasing our 2018 awardees.

Madeline Kalil Acalanes High School University of Pennsylvania



As a member of the California Academy of Sciences Teen Advocates for Science Communication Program, Madeline engaged with the academy's scientists and staff to develop and facilitate science content and deliver education programs for the Academy's visitors. Women in this program, along with members of the Lawrence Hall of Science, encouraged and inspired Madeline to become an advocate for younger girls and STEM.

While at Acalanes Madeline maintained a 4.6 GPA and was a member of the Volleyball and Track and Field Teams. She was a member of the Student-Athlete Advisory Board and participated in the Girls Who Code Club.

Madeline's community service included STEM-related activities. She was a volunteer member of the California Academy of Sciences: TASC Force and participated in the global platform Maker's Faire. In the summer of 2017 Madeline designed, organized and taught a class for middle school girls to help them become comfortable with and interested in coding. For two summers she participated in the University of California, Berkeley, Girls in Engineering Camp as a counselor and at the Lawrence Hall of Science as a lab instructor.

In the summer of 2017 Madeline was the first high school Scholar at Brainstorm, the Stanford Laboratory for Brain Health and Entrepreneurship. The founder and director wrote a glowing letter of recommendation for her. One of Madeline's projects at the laboratory was to mentor a Stanford masters degree student who pitched *Brainstorm*, her dissertation work, a mobile app to educate undergrads about depression and suicide. "Madeline's mentorship of this student nearly a decade older than her is a clear testament of her brilliance; she was able to help the graduate student understand the problem from a unique perspective . . ."

Madeline is attending the University of Pennsylvania where she will major in computer science. She states: "I have been fortunate to have my women mentors who have supported and encouraged my interest in STEM, so as a college student, and as a leader in industry or academia someday, I intend to do the same."

Mary Ann McLeod, Co-Chair, Scholarship Committee

Join the Scholarship committee and meet some very interesting young women as you read their applications and participate in interviews.

The interviews are conducted in February and March.

Contact Mary Ann McLeod at mabill 100@comcast.net for more information.



OML EXECUTIVE BOARD • 2018-19

PRESIDENT

Denise Burian

PRESIDENTS-ELECT

Marielle Boortz & Alison MacKenzie

PROGRAM VPs
Laura Wittenberg

& Marielle Boortz

MEMBERSHIP VPs

Maryellen Judson & Carrol Foxall

AAUW FUND VPs

Lynda Leonard & Diane Bell

SECRETARY

Judy Hammon

FINANCE VP

Peggy Cabaniss







JANUARY 2019 AT A GLANCE

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

1 TUE – CRITICS CHOICE BOOK GROUP Pass along your books

1 TUE – BRIDGE GROUP

No meeting this month.

Contact Joyce Dickey, 825-7991, for more info

2 WED – DAYTIME MOVIE GROUP 12:15 pm – Walnut Creek Theater Contact Denise Burian at denburian@gmail.com Read more about this special interest activity on page 6

3 THUR – EVENING SALON 7 pm – at home of Denise Burian Contact Denise Burian at *denburian@gmail.com*

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

5 SAT – INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL GROUP 6:30 pm – at home of Laura Wittenberg Ksenjia & Mirek's Travel Adventures

8 TUE – BOARD MEETING 1-3 pm– Orinda Community Church

10 THUR – STEAM CONFERENCE MEETING 1 pm – at the home of Stacia Cragholm Contact Heidi Mayer, *himayer@aol.com*, for more info

14, 28 MON – GOLF GROUP Contact Jan Gee for t-time and venue, *jgee17@yahoo.com*

15 TUE – PREPARING GIRLS for a CAREER in STEM Featuring Keynote Speaker, Bunmi Esho 6:30-8 pm – Lafayette Library Community Hall Please note change of time and venue! Check it out!

16 WED – MEMOIRS & MUSINGS 1-3 pm –We meet every month, in members homes. Contact Carol Messinger – messingerd@aol. com or 891-4201

18 FRI – ANYONE WHO HAS READ THE BOOK 10 am – Orinda Books, Orinda Book to discuss: *Dispatches from Pluto* by Richard Grant

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18 FRI – LETS GO TO THE MOVIES Contact Mary Leigh Miller, mlmiller602@gmail.com

24 THUR – DEADLINE for FEBRUARY TRIAD Send all articles to **Mary Leigh Miller** *mlmiller602@gmail.com*

24 THUR – STEAM CONFERENCE MEETING 1 pm – at the home of Stacia Cragholm Contact Heidi Mayer, *himayer@aol.com*, for more info

27 SUN – NEW MEMBER COFFEE 2-4 pm – at the home of Carrol Foxall, 112 Alta Mesa Court, Moraga Read more about this event on page 6

31 THUR – GREAT DECISIONS 9:30 am – Hacienda de las Flores, Moraga Contact Judy Helder to pick up your booklet, judyhelder@gmail.com

FEBRUARY 2019
(look for more listings in the February issue)

12 TUE – BOARD MEETING 1-3 pm– Orinda Community Church

19 TUE – GENERAL MEETING with KATHLEEN CHA 9:30-11:30 am– Orinda Community Church