

SUNDAY, APRIL 14

**Tech Trek
and Scholarship
AWARDS MEETING**

3 ~ 5 pm

Orinda Community Church

(please note the Sunday afternoon date and time)

*Join in the Celebration of
Young Women in Our Community*



*Listen to Their Voices and
Hear Our Guest Speaker*

DR. CLAIRE DORMAN

Dr. Claire Dorman is an astrophysicist and ballet teacher who currently is a Senior Data Scientist and the Radio Science Lead at PANDORA MEDIA in Oakland. She will share her personal journey and how she has grown both her academic and analytical skills while also pursuing her passions for dance and partnering with schools to introduce students to math and science. At Pandora, she uses both listener feedback and audio content to develop strategies for music recommendations. She will share how these strategies are used to create personalized playlists and radio stations for every listener.



Dr. Dorman is from the Bay Area. She earned a B.A. in Physics at the University of California at Berkeley where she was the top student with a GPA of 4.0 and gave the Physics Department commencement speech. Her Ph.D. in Astrophysics in 2015 is from the University of California at Santa Cruz where she studied the evolution of the Andromeda Galaxy. She has been dancing since she was eight years old, including ballet, jazz, modern, hip hop and choreography. In addition to working at Pandora, she teaches ballet to adults and children at Ballet Petit in Hayward.

**TUESDAY,
MAY 21, 2019**



**MAY
LUNCHEON**

**Celebrating Our
Distinguished Woman
GAIL CHESLER**

**Announcing the AAUW
Fund Branch Named Gift
Honoree for 2018**

**and Installing
The Elected Officers
for 2019-2020**

View the list on page 6

**Moraga Country Club
Dining Room
1600 St. Andrews Drive**

11:15 am

**Check-in and Socializing
12:00-2:00 pm
Luncheon and Program**

\$34 per person

*Look for your invitation
coming in the mail soon.*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**Focus on our 2019
Distinguished Woman
~ Gail Chesler ~ Page 3**

**Photos from the STEAM
Conference ~ Page 4**

NCCWSL Update ~ Page 7

... from DENISE'S PERSPECTIVE



What a month it's been! Busy and exciting. I'm writing this having spent the day at our fourth annual AAUW-OML STEAM Conference along with 200 middle school girls, a bevy of AAUW member volunteers, volunteers from Sunrise Rotary and local high school "ambassadors" from our year-round mentoring program. If you see Stacia Cragholm or Heidi Mayer, congratulate them on a fabulously successful event. They work all year on this along with their committee. I saw several of the workshops this year and each one was very interesting. It is a real gift to the community and impacts the lives of the middle school girls who attend.

And of course there was our fabulous keynote speaker, Danielle Feinberg. She demonstrated some of the technological challenges of making animated characters come to life in a movie. And then shared experiences on her path to becoming Director of Photography and Lighting at Pixar, which included being the only girl in a mechanical repair class, being willing to work hard, and to not follow the crowd, but follow her dream. Danielle has generously spoken to Tech Trek campers, our Tech Trek/ Scholarship Awards ceremony and our first STEM Conference. After the presentation she told me AAUW holds a special place in her heart and appreciates what we do to encourage young girls to pursue a career in STEM. It may be because in 2013 Sandy Fox-Sohner nominated Danielle for the fifteenth Assembly's Women of the Year Award to women who made significant contributions to STEM, and she won.

Elsewhere in the Triad you will find the announcement of our 2019 Distinguished Woman. Gail Chesler has quite a story too. Past president, finance VP, involved in Tech Trek statewide and for our branch, along with a myriad of other contributions to our branch. And, of course, she isn't just resting on her laurels. She was a major background contributor to the STEAM Conference, using her considerable computer skills to make sure the workshop registrations went smoothly. She was also a workshop monitor, assisting our bridge-building engineer, member Sheila Apte.

Our March general meeting speaker was Audrey Goins Cormier. She challenged us to think about diversity in new and diverse ways – especially in how we use our time, talent and philanthropy. The topic is usually presented as dealing with race, gender and culture. But we diversify all the time, and there are great and multiple opportunities for diversification in our activities and commitments as we enter retirement. There's lots to do in AAUW, so don't be surprised if a board member approaches you with an opportunity to "diversify."

So, what's next? April brings the opportunity for all branch members to meet and hear from the middle school girls chosen for this summer's TechTrek camp and the high school girls receiving our AAUW college scholarships. Two young women from Saint Mary's College will be receiving scholarships to attend National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) The meeting will be on Sunday, April 14th at Orinda Community Church Hall.

In May we will enjoy a Moraga Country Club lunch, meet the new Board of Directors and hear from our Distinguished Woman. Mark your calendars. You don't want to miss a thing!

Denise Burian, President

MARCH 12, 2019 BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Branch business is humming along smoothly as we pass the spring equinox heading for warmer days ahead. Programs are laid out for the next two months, and President Denise Burian noted that she will be contacting Marla Schroder soon about the May Luncheon, which is only two months down the road. Denise thanked the Nominating Committee, chaired by Peggy Cabaniss, and congratulated new officers who were approved by membership at the March general meeting. Congrats also go to **Gail Chesler**, our new Distinguished Woman for 2019. As membership renewal time approaches in June, please keep in mind that you can now renew online at our OML website. Just click on JOIN.

March is a very busy month for our community outreach projects. STEAM is 'steaming' along with volunteer training for the STEAM Conference set for March 16. Final plans for the conference on March 23 are well underway. Co-chair Stacia Cragholm reported that 215 middle school girls have registered, with the majority being from local Lamorinda schools. Meanwhile, Jan Cushman and her committee will start interviewing the 30 girls nominated by local middle schools for our seven available Tech Trek Camp slots. At the same time, the scholarship committee is interviewing high school seniors for college scholarships. And, this year for the first time, OML has awarded scholarships for two Saint Mary's College students to attend the AAUW National Conference for College Women Student Leaders, which is held in University of Maryland at the end of May.

Judy Hammon, Secretary

FOCUS ON ... GAIL CHESLER ~ DISTINGUISHED WOMAN, 2019



If you missed the March general meeting, you missed the big news: OML’s Distinguished Woman for 2019 is **Gail Chesler!** **Maryellen Judson**, Distinguished Woman for 2018, led us on a tantalizing list of clues to keep us guessing who was selected from an outstanding group of nominees. When she got to the birdhouses, Gail knew for sure. (Wait, birdhouses? More on that next month!)

We learn more about Gail’s character in looking beyond the AAUW community. Recently she served as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for a teenage boy living in a group home. This was challenging. “She stuck with him for several years until he recently turned 18,” said a nominator. Gail taught mathematics to people studying to become wastewater operators. (Gail was an engineer for the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District.) In her professional life, she also taught high school and college students – undergraduate and graduate. She taught coding class at Camp Hopper and was a dorm mom there for at least five years.

It is her friendship that we treasure most. “On a personal level, I know how much Gail has done for me and for others. She is the person many of us call on when we need assistance and reassurance,” writes one. “With infinite patience, Gail guided me . . .” says another, “always with a kind and generous manner.”

How fortunate we are! Congratulations, Gail.

Lynda Leonard, Committee Member



Distinguished Woman Committee:
Maryellen Judson,
2018 Distinguished Woman
Linda Bochte
Marie Bonilla
Bonnie Fend
Lynda Leonard

It’s hard to imagine a more qualified woman for this honor. Gail’s unwavering support of the AAUW mission and the OML Branch has left its mark on every aspect of our organization. She served as president-elect, president and treasurer. Next year she returns to the board as programs vice president.

Her devotion to branch priorities led her to establish the online application process for scholarship, to participate at Camp Hopper at Stanford for Tech Trek each summer and to work at the STEAM Conference at Saint Mary’s every March. Oh yes, and she also volunteers as needed at Burckhalter school. And more . . .

But these are just facts, a recording of activities that don’t represent the humanity of the woman we call Gail. Those who nominated her for this honor write of a warm, generous woman endearing herself in friendship and sharing her talents and expertise in support of the AAUW mission. It’s the way she goes about her activities that sets her apart. “Gail has always a cheery greeting and smile for me when I see her,” one said. “We are lucky to have her and her quiet, efficient way of sharing her skills and knowledge,” wrote another nominator.

When she joined AAUW, “she took the time to learn about all of the priorities, the interest groups, the operations of the branch, as well as the members. She wanted to know everyone and everything that was going on,” one noted. “Gail has worked for years behind the scenes to effect positive change in our branch operations,” said another. “She is always a pleasure to work with.”

STEAM CONFERENCE WRAP-UP



The fourth AAUW-OML STEAM Conference on March 23 at Saint Mary's College in Moraga was more successful than ever. Credit for the success goes to *our village* of 36 AAUW members, 14 plus Rotary members, 11 high school ambassadors, and scores of other community volunteers. A special thanks to our host, **Dean Wensley, Dr. Kristen Beck** and the Saint Mary's College community who enable and enrich this conference.



Nineteen AAUW members were directly involved in the actual workshops, introducing the presenters and overseeing the high school monitors taking attendance, etc. Thanks to **Pat Beckner, Denise Burian**, and the committee of 10 for streamlining the registration process. Thanks to **Lana Reichick** and the **Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary** volunteers for setting up directional signs and directing traffic. Thanks to **Caroline Friedmann** and **Kathe Mitchell** for troubleshooting and holding down the fort. While the girls were in the Soda Center, the parents were welcomed by **Laura Wittenberg** and **Pat Lopker** in Hagerty Lounge. **Sharon Doi** and **Peggy Cabaniss** graciously hosted the hospitality rooms with heavy lifting by several Rotary members. **Sara Lautenbach** and **Christine Walwyn** managed the presenters. **Sandy Fox-Sohner** captured the essence of the conference with her beautiful photos.



1. Danielle Feinburg delivering the keynote speech at the start of the day
2. Learning about bees
3. Building bridges
4. Microscopes!
5. Designing a balloon car
6. Relaxing during snack break time

Prior to the conference several others deserve recognition. **Gail Chesler** for her behind-the-scenes work balancing the workshops, **Chris Laszcz-Davis** for recruiting presenters and volunteers and **Mary Leigh Miller** for designing the STEAM Conference brochure and program.

Stacia Cragholm and Heidi Mayer, STEAM Conference Co-Chairs

MEMBERSHIP

APRIL! The first full month of spring! The beginning of a new season! This is the month we celebrate our role in mentoring the next generation of girls/women to reach their potential! It also represents the culmination of hours of effort by our branch members! To reach our goals, AAUW-OML has sponsored Shred•Fest, the Restaurant Walk, Game Day, and SAT seminars to raise money to send middle school girls to Tech Trek and to reward high school young women with scholarships. Our members spent hours reading and assessing applications and interviewing our candidates. Our combined AAUW/Saint Mary's College committee took the lead to send two women student leaders to national AAUW leadership training on the East Coast. The daylong conference at Saint Mary's College required hours of OML members' time to organize the day, find presenters and train adult volunteers. Over several months this team also trained high school students to assume leadership roles in the intergenerational event.

We have the opportunity to meet these future feminine leaders at our April meeting, Sunday, April 14. This afternoon program is one you will want to attend.

One might ask, "Is it worth all the work?" The answer is, "Absolutely."

In the February issue of the *Moraga School District News*, **Principal Joan Danilson** lauded the increased inclusion of STEAM as part of the District's curriculum. To quote Ms. Danilson, "We have girl mentor students from Campolindo High School that have been offering an after school class on coding for our JM girls for the last two years, we highlight conference opportunities such as *Expanding Your Horizons* at Saint Mary's College, and we advertise AAUW's Tech Trek program which is an exciting, weeklong residential math, science and technology camp held in July at Stanford University. ...Tech Trek began in 1998, with a single camp held on campus at Stanford. Ten camps are now held on eight California college campuses, hosting almost 1,000 girls. The project has expanded to additional states as well. Since 1998, AAUW-OML has sent 86 local girls to camp."

As we appreciate the efforts of AAUW to increase the potential for young women today to reach for the glass ceiling, it is worth noting those women who went before us and "got their foot through the door." A recent obituary paid tribute to **Margaret Alston-Garnjost, Ph.D** of Walnut Creek. Born in England in 1929, she was educated in South Africa during WWII. She returned to England to earn a Doctorate in Physics from the University of Liverpool. She moved to the United States to do research at Lawrence Radiation Lab. She co-authored several articles with Dr. Luis Alvarez, a colleague at the University of California. Dr. Alvarez won the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1968, and mentioned Dr. Alston-Garnjost in his acceptance speech. The obituary ends with these words: "In [her] memory, donations may be made to the AAUW for STEM scholarships for women or any other educational organization of your choice." *What a tribute to our efforts!*

Carrol Foxall and Maryellen Judson, Co-VPs, Membership

TECH TREK NEWS

It was tough but we did it!! Seven outstanding young seventh grade girls have been selected to go to Tech Trek Math and Science Camp at Stanford on July 14-20! Our wonderful Tech Trek teams interviewed 29 bright applicants. There are always twice as many girls that we would love to send to camp, and the final selection of the scholarship winners is the cause for much discussion and debate. It is great fun to meet all these amazing young women!

Please join us for the meeting on Sunday, April 14 at 3 pm to welcome these incredibly smart and articulate girls. A huge thank you to **Elaine Chow Davis** for heading up the interviews at Stanley Middle School along with **Therese Tamaro and Sheila Apte, Lana Reich- ick** for heading up the interviews with **Sandy Fox-Sohner, Laura Halvorsen** and **Pam Dougherty** at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School and **Christine Walwyn, Nancy Kornfield** and **Laura Monin** for interviewing at Orinda Intermediate School! And thanks to everyone who has donated money for the scholarships. *We could not have our program without your support!*

Interested in being a Dorm Mom?

Tech Trek Camp at Sonoma State University needs Dorm Moms and Class Monitors, June 23 -29. It's a great opportunity to support rising eighth grade girls interested in STEM. Contact the camp director, Diane Coventry at diane.coventry@yahoo.com, or cell/text 910-912-9306. You can also contact Jan Cushman for the dorm mom job description at jancushman@comcast.net.

**Jan Cushman,
Tech Trek Coordinator**

How can I renew my AAUW-OML Membership? Let me count the ways ...

1. **BY MAIL** Renewal notices will be sent out in April
2. **AT A MEETING** Bring a check or credit card
3. **ONLINE** Go to our webpage and click the renew membership button on the right or follow this link:
<https://oml-ca.aauw.net/oml-branch-member-profile/>

AAUW FUND FINANCES: Part IV

The Financial Challenges for AAUW Vision Versus Reality

Organizations are led by their vision and mission which point them toward what they want to accomplish, what they want their future to be and how they want to affect their members and community. There is no doubt that AAUW excels in their vision and their mission to advance gender equity for all women and girls. Their Strategic Plan and the Public Policy Priorities lay out the vision of what they want to accomplish in the coming years.

The Strategic Plan calls for four major areas of work:

1. Education and Training – Champion equal access to all levels and fields of education, ensure education at every level is free from sex discrimination
2. Economic Security – Achieve pay equity by 2030, create inclusive career pathways for women to attain economic security, deepen women’s retirement security and quality of life
3. Leadership – Bolster the participation of girls and women in leadership roles, advance the number of women in leadership (particularly in education and nonprofit organizations)
4. Governance and Sustainability – Implement best practices in governance, inclusion, and organizational functioning. **Enhance financial sustainability by increasing and diversifying revenue.**

In addition to the Strategic Plan, the AAUW Public Policy Priorities for 2017-19 set forward an impressive and grand vision of how AAUW wants to implement its mission. The list of priorities encompasses almost every aspect of a woman’s life, from education to health to finances to equal rights.

For the past several years, AAUW has operated under a budget calling for \$21M of revenue in order to meet the expenses associated with implementing their strategic plan. Revenue was anticipated to come from three primary sources – membership fees, grants and contributions and investment income. The budget set a lofty goal of \$8M each year from grants and contributions, a target which has not been met, despite the hard work of staff and AAUW members. Each year the deficit has been met by drawing on unrestricted assets to the point that these assets are nearly depleted.

AAUW’s current predicament reminds me of situations I encountered in my career as a financial planner/investment advisor. It was not unusual for a client (normally a couple) to come in with a long list of lofty and admirable goals (pay

down their mortgage, pay for college for their children, fund their retirement, donate to charity in their community, buy new cars, take lovely vacations each year, help their elderly parents, invest in their brother-in-law’s startup business, remodel the kitchen, etc.) There was nothing wrong with their goals/vision; they simply did not have the income to accomplish more than three or four of their goals. As a result, they were not achieving financial security, they were always in debt, were always stressed about how to afford the many things they wanted, and were never happy with what they had (versus what they didn’t have). By establishing a more limited set of goals and aligning their income with their expenses, they were able to develop a plan that allowed them to be financially successful. As the years went by, and if they had greater income, they could add a few more goals to their overall financial plan.

The situation with AAUW can be approached in a similar manner to the couple’s problem described above. Goals can be realigned and prioritized as to what can be accomplished and what needs to be eliminated or postponed. Expenses can be reduced to match realistic income expectations. It will take changes like this at the national level for AAUW to align their vision/goals with the reality of their income. Change is hard, especially when an organization wants to accomplish so much but doesn’t have sufficient resources to do everything. The important thing for AAUW is to develop a plan that allows them to grow reserves, ensure sustainability of the organization, and meet a list of achievable goals.

Peggy S. Cabaniss
VP of Finance, OML
Finance Committee Member,
AAUW National

OML EXECUTIVE BOARD for 2019-20

PRESIDENT – *Denise Burian*
PRESIDENTS-ELECT – *Marielle Boortz*
& *Alison MacKenzie*
PROGRAM VPs – *Gail Chesler*
MEMBERSHIP VP– *Marie Bonilla*
AAUW FUND VPs – *Lynda Leonard*
& *Martilyn Evans*
SECRETARY – *Linda Bochte*
FINANCE VP – *Peggy Cabaniss*

This slate of officers was voted in at the
March General Meeting and will be installed
at our May Luncheon.

NCCWSL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

AAUW-OML has selected two young women from Saint Mary’s College for our College Leadership award, which includes an all expenses paid trip (up to \$2,000) to AAUW’s **National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL)** at the University of Maryland at the end of May. Alondra Mendoza and Samantha Nieves are both sophomores at Saint Mary’s, currently enrolled in the *Living Lasallian Program of Study*. Members of this program live together in the dorms and participate in multiple volunteer opportunities on campus as well as working in community service programs off campus for marginalized community programs.

Samantha Nieves is part of the *Gael Sisterhood*, an inclusive women’s club on campus and a volunteer at the Center for Women and Gender Equity. As a first-generation Latina, coming to Saint Mary’s has given her the opportunity to learn she can help change the lives of others through community advocacy and action, while getting to know and assist others. She’s inspired by her engagement in community at Saint Mary’s and wants to be a strong woman leader to show that women are powerful and that our future is in us.



Alondra Mendoza is also a volunteer the Center for the Women and Gender Equity and an intern instructing children for JUMP START in Oakland. She has also helped with two large events on campus: *Take Back the Night* to honor sexual assault victims/survivors and *Do What You Love and Make Ends Meet*, a panel of alums sharing stories about what they love to do and how they survived in the Bay Area. She states that she has learned through her volunteer activities to be stronger and more persistent and that she is capable of accomplishing change to make this world a better place. She hopes by going to NCCWSL she will learn more about herself, social change and women’s roles, and will be able to further develop her voice for change.

The scholarship committee is excited to watch these girls grow as college women student leaders. AAUW-OML has created a continuum of support and mentoring of girls from middle through high school, and now through college with the NCCWSL leadership award program and partnering with Saint Mary’s.

We will welcome Samantha and Alondra back in the fall to share their NCCWSL experiences, and will be working to build a stronger relationship with the college in order to share the benefits, resources and tools available as a college/university partner member. Our branch will support and mentor these young women and future women students in their lifelong journey towards leadership in their communities as a way to fulfill our mission of bringing equity and opportunity for all women and girls.

**Laura Wittenberg,
OML Scholarship Committee**

**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.

APRIL 2019 AT A GLANCE

1 MON– CRITICS CHOICE BOOK GROUP
Pass along your books

2 TUE – BRIDGE GROUP
12 noon Contact Joyce Dickey, 825-7991, for more info

4 THUR – EVENING SALON
7 pm – at the home of Laura Wittenberg
7 Mariposa Lane, Orinda
ALL MEMBERS WELCOME!
Contact Denise Burian at denburian@gmail.com

5 FRI – DAYTIME MOVIE GROUP
Time and theatre TBA
Contact Janette Maher, kidlitlvr@hotmail.com

6 SAT – INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL GROUP
6:30 pm – Multi-Purpose Room of Sara Lautenbach's condo;
Regent on the Park, 1800 Alma Avenue, Walnut Creek
Contact Sara at sara@lautenbachs.com
Janette Maher's trip to Vietnam

8, 22 MON – GOLF GROUP
Contact Jan Gee for t-time and venue, jgee17@yahoo.com

9 TUE – **BOARD MEETING**
1-3 pm– Orinda Community Church

12 FRI – DAYTIME GAME GROUP.
1:30-4 pm – at the home of Trudy Barron
175 Draeger Drive, Moraga
RSVP to Laura, Laura.wittenberg.mft@gmail.com

14 SUN – **AWARDS GENERAL MEETING**
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Claire Dorman
3-5 pm– Orinda Community Church

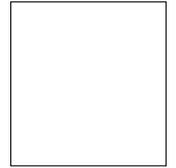
17 WED – MEMOIRS & MUSINGS
1-3 pm –We meet every month, in members homes.
Contact Carol Messinger – messingerd@aol.com or 891-4201

19 FRI – ANYONE WHO HAS READ THE BOOK
10 am – Orinda Books, Orinda
Book to discuss: *The Undoing Project* by Michael Lewis

24 WED – DEADLINE for MAY TRIAD
Send articles to Mary Leigh Miller mlmiller602@gmail.com

26 FRI – BIKE GROUP
Contact Ellen Beans, ellen.beans@gmail.com
Note: this activity is now on the last Friday of the month.

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



26 FRI – LETS GO TO THE MOVIES
Contact Mary Leigh Miller, mlmiller602@gmail.com
Note date changed to fourth Friday, this month only

MAY 2019
(look for more listings in the May issue)

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

21 TUE – MAY LUNCHEON
11:15 am-2 pm – Moraga Country Club

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.



GAME DAY
is returning in November!

A date will be announced soon inviting you to another day of FOOD, GAMES and FUN!



Proceeds will benefit the
OML SCHOLARSHIP FUND

