

IMPORTANT CHANGE!
This month only

The February General Meeting

will be held at the

**LAFAYETTE LIBRARY
and LEARNING CENTER**

Don Tatzin Community Hall

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23
2 ~ 4 pm



Get \$mart about
WORK SMART

Co-Sponsored with the
Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek Branch

Negotiating a salary can be intimidating, but it's critical for future raises and retirement. *Knowing your own worth is pretty important no matter where you are in life.* AAUW's Start Smart and Work Smart programs are designed to empower women with the skills and confidence to successfully negotiate their salary and benefits packages.

Yes, it's true that many of our members are happily retired. This meeting, however, will be an exciting opportunity to learn about the negotiating skills that we want for our children and grandchildren.

We might find a use for these negotiating concepts for ourselves as well.

**Find out how this is done at our Sunday afternoon meeting.
Guests are encouraged to attend.**

MARCH 17 General Meeting

Orinda Community Church
Fellowship Hall

9:30-11:30 am



In March, we will present a panel
of immigration authorities.

Immigration as an issue continues to rise in importance. Plan to hear a panel of experts knowledgeable about the current policies of the United States who might be able help us understand the ramifications.

**We'll also be announcing the
2020 DISTINGUISHED WOMAN.**

**Deadline for entries: March 6
Please read more on page 7.**

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... from DENISE'S PERSPECTIVE



Greetings. I am writing to you after attending the fourth Women's March in Walnut Creek, getting re-energized by the event to continue our work for equity. At 100 years after women won the right to vote, the theme was "Voting Is Our Super Power." We partnered with Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek, Pleasant Hill-Martinez, and Vallejo-Benicia branches to staff an AAUW booth. There was a lot of interest in AAUW from march attendees. Thank you **Laura Monin** and **Jan Coe** for organizing the booth and working with the other branches.

We have another opportunity to partner with another branch. Danville/Alamo/Walnut Creek (DAW) were planning on presenting a program on Work Smart this spring. They heard about our Work Smart event already scheduled for the Lafayette Library on Sunday, February 23 through **Alison MacKenzie** and **Marielle Boortz**, our president-elects who attend the Interbranch Council and encourage finding shared opportunities among the branches. DAW contacted **Gail Chesler**, our Programs VP, about being a joint sponsor for our February Work Smart afternoon event. Gail is working with their branch to make this a reality. I am very excited about the shared efforts to advertise the February 23 general meeting and to reach as many women in the community as possible to attend. I hope many of our members will attend to support our outreach efforts.

While many members do preparation and organization work throughout the year, February and March are our busiest months. Tech Trek and Scholarship committees are busy reviewing applications and will select scholarship and camp recipients by the end of March. If you can help with interviews and have not volunteered yet, contact **Mary Ann McCleod** or **Jan Cushman**. And the Burckhalter volunteers commit their time every week to work with kids in the library and tutoring.

The STEM committee is planning the fifth annual STEM conference at Saint Mary's College on Saturday, March 21. Registration opens on January 24 so by the time you read this, all of the slots may be reserved. We now have half of the adult workshop monitors, registration volunteers, and other positions filled, so we may call on you to volunteer from 7:30 am to 3 pm, (as workshop monitors and registration), or from 7:30 am to 9 am (for registration and to assist Bio-Rad with a special DNA exercise with the girls). Contact me now if you can volunteer on March 21.

The AAUW CA convention will be at SFO Airport Westin Hotel on April 17-19. I encourage as many members as possible to attend. Several have expressed interest. You can stay at the conference site, or travel back and forth since it is so close. More information to come.

CEO **Kim Churches** sent out a notice that instead of a national convention, AAUW National will host a "2020 Convening Series," which will be (in summary): (1) A series of online webinars on mission-driven topics of our "Gender Agenda," election priorities for 2020, and AAUW's recognition of the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment and 55th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act; and (2) profiling stories for a "Your Story. Our Legacy." series, helping us recognize and celebrate our accomplishments to make the world a more equitable place.

See you at a meeting!

Denise Burian, President

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS January 14, 2020

A very full agenda for January 14 Board meeting had lots of information. Jan Coe reported that she and Leslie Pfeifer have contacted all current board members regarding next year. There are several open positions: President(s) Elect, Program VP, Finance VP, Photography Chair and Hospitality Chair. Several positions are looking for a co-chair: Membership VP, AAUW Fund, STEM Project and Publicity. Members interested in any position are encouraged to contact Jan, Leslie or Denise Burian.

Gail Chesler asked for nominating letters for Distinguished Woman. Members can nominate more than one person.

A WorkSmart presentation is scheduled for February 23, at the Lafayette Library. Plans for the March and April general meetings are in place.

Linda Bochte, Secretary

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

OML's Nominating Committee is at work!

There are a number of opportunities to serve on the 2020-2021 board. Members of the nominating committee will be reaching out to you OML members in the next month to ask about your particular interests and how you would like to serve our branch. OML is strongest with everyone's participation.

Please thoughtfully consider various board positions when you are called. Or better yet – call one of us and volunteer! Thank you.

**Jan Coe, Leslie Pfeifer,
Pat Beckner**

FOCUS ON ... THE WOMEN'S MARCH 2020



Thousands took to the streets across the Bay Area on Saturday, January 18 for the fourth annual Women's March, joining thousands more at an estimated 180 Women's Marches nationwide. Rallies focused on issues such as voter registration, climate change, education, pay equity, reproductive rights and immigration.



Bobbie Dodson-Nielsen, Marilyn Evans, Judy Helder and Mary Olowin. Additional members who were unable to attend helped us make posters to take to the event at our "Poster Party" following the Tuesday board meeting.

In addition, for the first time we sponsored a booth distributing our literature, answering questions and collecting email addresses from those wanting additional AAUW contact. We were joined by two other AAUW branches, Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek and Benicia-Vallejo who matched us with 11 of their members participating.



The march was preceded by a rally which included keynote speeches from Shannon Watts, Founder, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America; from our congressman, Representative Mark DeSaulnier (photo at left); and from our assembly member, Rebecca Bauer-Kahan. The rally was followed by a walk through downtown Walnut Creek complete with a variety of homemade signs. Those marching included women dressed as suffragettes, who commemorated the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment which granted women the right to vote.

All in all, the march was a great success. It was gratifying for us to represent our branch in a nationwide women's movement in this important election year. Stay tuned for more opportunities to become involved as we move toward November.



PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE



Women May Finally Be Declared Equal

The Virginia Legislature voted Wednesday, January 15, to become the 38th of the 38 states needed to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). If implemented this would make women's rights explicit in the Constitution. The ERA was first introduced in both houses of Congress in 1923, but 96 years later, the US Constitution still does NOT explicitly declare that women have equal rights under the law.

This historic vote will kick off a battle over whether it has effectively amended the constitution. Hurdles still exist, but advocates, including AAUW, are celebrating. Adding it to the Constitution will affect everything from pay equity to pregnancy discrimination to domestic violence and sexual harassment.

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



STEM CONFERENCE REFLECTIONS

Two of my favorite things are coming to the STEM Conference: fast cars and honey bees. On Saturday, March 21, 250 middle school girls will descend on Saint Mary's College for the fifth annual day of science, technology, engineering and math. Each girl will choose three hands-on workshops presented by leaders with exceptional knowledge who understand that "doing" makes learning fun.

One workshop will be led by **Carla Fillippone**, a self-described "backyard hobby beekeeper." She is on the board of Mt. Diablo Beekeeper's Association. Her current project involves placing beehives on local golf courses and in vineyards and private gardens to provide a sanctuary where bees can live and thrive in a natural, healthy environment. The girls will help Carla set up an organized system of wooden boxes to house 60,000 honey bees. Live bees will not be included but the girls will have the opportunity to observe them in an enclosed observation hive and take notes on the different jobs being performed in the highly organized social structure of a bee colony. And then of course there is the honey. Do you know how much effort it takes a bee to make just one twelfth teaspoon of honey? The girls will prepare to get a little sticky as centrifugal force is used to extract honey from the hive. Students get to take home a small jar of the honey they bottle.

But if speed is more their thing, girls can choose the balloon car challenge, presented by **Christine Haswell** from Chevron. Christine graduated with a B.S. in Chemical Engineering with Honors from the University of Washington and began her career at Chevron in 1997. She is currently Refinery Business Manager in the Hydroprocessing area of the Richmond refinery. In this workshop the students will choose materials, then design and build competitive vehicles. After an initial trial run, improvements to design and adjustments to construction will be made in preparation for the non-polluting Grand Prix of balloon cars. And of course, the students will take home their own vehicles.

If you would like to volunteer for this year's conference, contact **Caroline Friedmann**, cmfriedmann1@gmail.com.

Pat Beckner, Member

BURCKHALTER REPORT

BOOKS! BOOKS! BOOKS!

\$1,000 worth! For the second year in a row Burckhalter Library has won the Friends of the Oakland Public School Libraries (FOPSL) "Elaine Wells Books Kids Want to Read" grant. This grant is designed to help libraries replace lost & worn books, and to buy books students request as well as new books from popular series. With this grant Burckhalter will also be updating its non fiction collection and replacing older, outdated books with more current and attractive informational texts.



FOPSL is a strong supporter of our library and a great resource for our volunteers. Should you wish to take a look at the FOPSL web site here is the link: <https://fopsl.org>.

Joan Jump, Burckhalter Coordinator

TECH TREK UPDATE

The Tech Trek team is eagerly awaiting the nominations of seventh grade girls from the science, math, robotics and computer teachers at the Lamorinda intermediate schools. Once the nominations are in, the nominated girls will be invited to apply for the Tech Trek scholarships.

Thank you to the branch members who will be reviewing the applications and interviewing the girls in March:

Orinda Intermediate School – Nancy Kornfield, Laura Monin and Christine Walwyn

Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School – Sandy Fox-Sohner, MJ Marggraff, and Pam Docherty, and organizer, Lana Reichick

Stanley Middle School – Therese Tammaro, Sheila Apte and Diane Bell

We're looking forward to another group of outstanding young women to send to camp in the summer of 2020!

Other Tech Trek News



Our branch donated \$750 from the Tech Trek budget to Camp Hopper to pay for new soldering irons, batteries, LEDs and circuit boards for the workshop where every girl learns to solder and makes a flashlight. **Gail Chesler** teaches this workshop. She and **Jan Cushman** will be dorm moms at camp again this summer.

**Jan Cushman,
Chair, Tech Trek**

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS



ON THE ROAD to LEADERSHIP

2019 Scholarship Award Recipient

JENNIFER GIRON

Miramonte High School, Class of 2019
Seaton Hall University

Jennifer flourished as a member and captain of Miramonte’s volleyball and softball teams. She has received a volleyball scholarship to Seaton Hall University. Jennifer participated in campus clubs and prepared a video for a school assembly on the topic of the dangers of teenage drinking and texting while driving.

“I’ve been taught through my upbringing how giving is important to everyone, so volunteering and helping others comes as a part of who I am.” Jennifer has volunteered through her church, Girl Scouts, 4/H, Alzheimer’s Association Walk, Meals on Wheels, Toys for Tots and aiding her elderly and frail neighbors.

Jennifer’s high school counselor writes: “Her leadership, empathy, all around kindness and determination, authenticity and integrity are uncanny for a high school student.” She also states: “Jen has engaged herself deeply into helping those around her as well as using community service as a way to dive deeper into her interests.”

Lisa Toomy, Teen Program Coordinator at her church remarks that “Jennifer is a kind person who has a strong moral compass . . . She is a capable leader and someone who follows through with all of her commitments.”

Jennifer is a freshman on the Seaton Hall Pirates women’s volleyball team.

Our OML Branch Scholarships are nearing their deadlines.

If you know of a graduating senior at our three high schools or a sophomore or junior at Saint Mary’s let them know about our awards. The high school deadline is **February 12** and the college deadline is **March 9**. The applications are available on our website: oml-ca.aauw.net.

Mary Ann McLeod, Co-Chair, Scholarship Committee

IN MEMORIAM

Jo Harberson It is with a profound sense of sadness that we announce the passing of Jo Harberson. She was truly one of a kind to her family and to all in AAUW. A Celebration of Life is scheduled on February 8, at 2 pm in the Diablo Room at 3400 Golden Rain Road, Rossmoor, Walnut Creek. Memorial gifts can be made to AAUW. Jo was one of the three originators of the Mooneen Lecce Giving Circle, AAUW Fund #4229, a great way to honor Jo’s AAUW Legacy.



Barbara Harbuck Longtime OML branch member, Barbara Harbuck passed away in November. Barbara was a past president and Distinguished Woman. A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, February 1 at 1:30 pm at the Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church. Contributions in Barbara’s memory can be made either to AAUW Fund or to AAUW-OML to support women’s education.

Choose Your Prize SILENT RAFFLE

A fundraiser benefitting
High School and NCCWSL
Scholarships

February 23 ~ March 17

The scholarship committee will be holding a special raffle to benefit the high school and Saint Mary’s AAUW NCCWSL scholarships.

We will be selling raffle tickets at the February and March meetings. The cost of the tickets will be:



1 for \$5
4 for \$10
10 for \$20

You can then place your tickets in any of the boxes representing the prize of your choice. At the March meeting we will pick a winning ticket from each box.

Some of the items that you can win are:

- **Four Oakland A’s tickets (two sets)**
- **Nine holes of golf for two with a cart at Diablo Hills**
- **A beautiful bowl of Succulents**
 - **\$50 gift certificate for Shelby’s in Orinda**
 - **Three yoga classes at Yoga with Elaine in Orinda**
- **A gift basket with olive oil and balsamic vinegar from Amphora**

Other prizes may be added. Contact **Bonnie Fend** for tickets and information.

Please support our young women’s scholarships and buy raffle tickets! Tickets will be sold at our February and March branch meetings.

**Bonnie Fend, Co-Chair,
Scholarship Committee**

MEET OUR ADVERTISERS

The Image Studio

invites you to a
special workshop
exclusively for OML members!
Saturday, February 8
10:30 – 12:30

*“How to Be the Boss
of Your Closet”*

*A solution packed workshop to help you develop a
well-organized closet that welcomes you with open arms!*

Limited to 15 people - only \$29

To register, email Marjory DeRoeck at
marjory@theimagestudio.biz
or call 925-518-1155
(Please respond by Feb. 5)

The Image Studio,
3483 Golden Gate Way #15, Lafayette, CA
Plenty of free parking close by

The Image Studio is one of our longtime directory advertisers. Co-owner, Marjory DeRoeck made a special presentation at one of our holiday parties in December. *This upcoming workshop is only for OML members and their guests. Please put it on your calendar and plan to attend. Contact Pat Lopker with any questions, 330-1743, califpal@aol.com.*

Look for future articles on our 2019-20 advertisers by members of the OML advertising team. Please support our advertisers by frequenting their businesses and availing yourselves of the services they provide. Let them know you saw their ads in the OML Membership Directory.



RESTAURANT | CATERING

2 Theater Square • Suite 152 • Orinda
925-254-9687 • shelbysorinda@sbcglobal.net
www.shelbyseatbetter.com

Shelby's ad was inadvertently left out of the current OML Directory, so we will be featuring them each month in the Triad instead. Please plan to frequent this restaurant and be sure to tell them you appreciate their continued support of our branch.

2019-20 AAUW OML
SPONSORS/ ADVERTISERS

*AAUW members

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Alex Rose Interior Design
Asian Accents – Original Designs in
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Persons Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery
– Barbara Persons, MD FACS
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Todd Bunch, Lamorinda's Handyman
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Hearing Science of Walnut Creek
Herbs & Spices Catering, Alameda
– Wendy Shay
Milner's Jewelers, Countrywood
Shopping Center, Pleasant Hill
The Service Outlet – Marc Harvey,
San Ramon

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

AAUW FUND UPDATE

Fund Donation Campaign Successful

At a critical time for AAUW, members responded generously to the drive for 2019 yearend donations. In her January letter, AAUW CEO Kimberly Churches revealed that on Giving Tuesday alone, we brought in 250 percent of our donations from the same time last year. Additionally, we far exceeded the matching gift challenge. Great news! Thank you OML donors for the generous role that you played.

Since OML members become aware of the need for unrestricted funds, you have donated exclusively to the Greatest Needs Fund. Your response is greatly appreciated. The unrestricted fund allows AAUW to address new needs when they arise in addition to the ongoing support of existing programs that don't benefit from restricted funds.

National has reached out beyond the membership to the corporate world to help support our work as well. AAUW received its largest corporate donation ever of \$500,000 from The Coca-Cola Foundation, which enabled us to train more than 102,000 women in salary negotiation skills in 2019 with our Work Smart and Start Smart programs. This grant also enabled the development and launch of AAUW Work Smart Online tool, making the program free to any woman interested in honing her negotiation skills.

In addition to The Coca-Cola Foundation, AAUW partnered with these corporations, foundations and groups that provide invaluable support: alliantgroup, Arconic Foundation, BAE Systems, GEICO, IE University, Junior League of Wichita, LinkedIn, Mooneen Lecce Giving Circle, Morgan Stanley, PPG Industries, Starbucks and the U.S. Secret Service.

As 2020 unfolds with events such as the census, the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, the 55th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act, and the election, unrestricted funds will be essential to meeting new needs such as National's new project called "Every Voice. Every Vote," which will focus on ensuring that every voice is heard and every vote is counted. We have serious work to do this year. Roll up your sleeves!

Lynda Leonard and Marilyn Evans, Co-VPs, AAUW Fund

DISTINGUISHED WOMAN 2020

YOU are going to make this selection process work!

We need your help in finding this magnificent woman amongst our dedicated members. We'll be looking for your nominating letters – **by Friday, March 6**. The selection will be announced at the General Meeting in March. *March is pretty soon.*

So many members have contributed greatly to the success of our branch. We want to celebrate our hard workers, thank them for their commitment to our mission, and recognize their dedication. Please send a message of any length (brief or long) with your nomination(s) to: gailchesler@gmail.com or by regular mail to: Gail Chesler, 2914 Fyne Dr., Walnut Creek, CA 94598. **Now is the time** to submit names of those members whom you recommend for Distinguished Woman 2020.

We are ready to take on all of your praise-filled nominations. Thank you!

The Distinguished Woman Committee

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

GREAT DECISIONS

**Eight Wednesdays
beginning February 5**

9:30-11:30 am

Hacienda de las Flores, Moraga

If you are interested in joining us for discussions about international issues, please call, text or email Judy Helder: judyhelder@gmail.com; 925 980-0151

EVENING SALON

Thursday, February 6 • 7-9 pm

Home of Denise Burian

This is an open discussion group talking about cultural and social issues of the day. To get on the email list, contact Denise Burian, denburian@gmail.com.

GIG

(Games Interest Group)

Friday, February 14 • 1:30-4 pm

Hostess to be announced

If you would like to join us on the second Friday in February (or want to get your name added to the GIG list), email Laura Wittenberg at laura.wittenberg.MFT@gmail.com. She will contact you with where to meet this month.

ANYONE WHO HAS READ THE BOOK

**Friday, February 21
10 am • Orinda Books**

Anyone Who Has Read the Book meets at Orinda Books at 10 am on the third Friday of the month. This month, the book is *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson. Contact **Jill Eberhard** (254-5589) or **Marilyn Evans** (376-3484) for more information. For a list of books for the coming year: <https://oml-ca.aauw.net/interests/anyone/>.

Please refer to the back page for complete information on all upcoming events and monthly special interest activities.

**FEBRUARY 2020
AT A GLANCE**

1 SAT – CRITICS CHOICE BOOK GROUP
Pass along your books.

1 SAT – INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL GROUP
6:30 pm – Home of Maryellen Judson
Topic: Vancouver, BC and the First Nations

5 WED – GREAT DECISIONS
9:30-11:30 am – Hacienda de las Flores
See page 7 for more details.

6 THUR – STEM CONFERENCE COMM. MEETING
10 am – Home of Stacia Cragholm
Contact Stacia for details, staciawater@hotmail.com.

6 THUR – SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING
2 pm – *Contact Mary Ann McLeod for more details.*

6 THUR – EVENING SALON
7 pm – Home of Denise Burian

7 FRI – DAYTIME MOVIE GROUP
Movie, Time and Theater TBA
Contact Bonnie Fend, brfend@sbcglobal.com to get on the email list. Open to all members.

8 SAT – HOW TO BE THE BOSS OF YOUR CLOSET
10:30 am-12:30 pm – The Image Studio, Lafayette
Read more about this event on page 6.

10, 24 MON – GOLF GROUP
Contact Jan Gee for time and venue, jgee17@yahoo.com.

11 TUE – BOARD MEETING
1 pm – Orinda Community Church

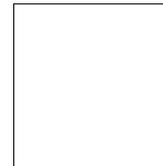
12 WED – GREAT DECISIONS
9:30-11:30 am – Hacienda de las Flores

14 FRI – GAMES INTEREST GROUP (GIG)
1:30-4 pm – Venue TBA
See page 7 for more details.

19 WED – GREAT DECISIONS
9:30-11:30 am – Hacienda de las Flores

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

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



21 FRI – ANYONE WHO HAS READ THE BOOK
10 am – Orinda Books
Book to discuss: *Just Mercy*, by Brian Stevenson
For more info, contact Jill Eberhard or Marilyn Evans.

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

23 SUN – GENERAL MEETING
Special Start Smart • Work Smart Program
2-4 pm – Lafayette Library and Learning Center
*Mark your calendars and note the change of date and venue!
Read more on the front page.*

24 MON – DEADLINE for MARCH TRIAD
Send all articles to **Mary Leigh Miller**, 631-9694
mlmiller602gmail.com.

26 WED – GREAT DECISIONS
9:30-11:30 am – Hacienda de las Flores

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

MARCH 2020
Look for more listings in the MARCH issue.

10 TUE – BOARD MEETING
1 pm – Orinda Community Church

17 TUE – GENERAL MEETING
9:30-11:30 am – Orinda Community Church

