



PUBLIC POLICY GENERAL MEETING WEBINAR TUESDAY OCTOBER 13 at 7 pm

Representatives from the League of Women Voters will lead a nonpartisan presentation about the pros and cons of the propositions on this year's ballot.

**YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE!
LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!**

YOU MUST REGISTER IN ADVANCE 
FOR THIS ZOOM WEBINAR

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_j54__dplQKKYBjbTD--Pxx

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Turn to page 3 to read about the ballot measures that AAUW supports.

**This meeting is open to the public.
Invite your friends and neighbors.**

Help them be informed!

**TUESDAY
NOVEMBER 17
GENERAL MEETING
via ZOOM
will feature a recently
Awarded AAUW
Fellow Recipient**

Look for information in the November Triad.

SEPTEMBER ZOOM MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



AAUW National President **Kimberley Churches** congratulated the OML Branch on completion of the 5-Star program. She explained how

one of her goals is bringing the organization into the twenty first century. Actions to facilitate that involved restructuring and staffing changes as well as trimming and refocusing the budget. She reminded us there are many wonderful recorded webinars on the National website. It was wonderful to hear her expression of hopefulness and enthusiasm for our organization and its future.

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... PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

For those of you who didn't catch Kim Church's presentation to our branch on September 15, check out the audio recording on our website. She had some interesting things to say particularly with regard to the degree requirement for membership. She feels that we are losing out on corporate donations, which might keep dues down, because we are an organization that discriminates based on education. She also

believes we will not be able to attract younger members, even with great programming, and therefore has started a new non-membership option. The recording is less than an hour long and worth your time.

Speaking of webinars, did you know you can access all of the webinars offered by the state AAUW at aauw-ca.org? From the drop down menu, there is a tab for all the 2020-2021 webinars on topics including fundraising during covid, cultural diversity, racial injustice and how to get out the vote, among others. Check it out.

Of course, on the topic of webinars, there is our own webinar coming up on October 13 at 7 pm from the League of Women Voters giving the pros and cons on every proposition. This is important information for all voters in California. Please note that our October meeting will be on the second Tuesday, October 13, and not the third Tuesday as usual. It will be at 7 pm so all working people can attend. Also, as it is a webinar, everybody (members and non-members) must go to our website to register and you will be sent an email with the Zoom log-in. You can get to our website by just googling AAUW-OML or you can enter our website address, oml-ca.aauw.net. This program is open to absolutely everybody so encourage your neighbors, friends and California relatives to register. Even if you are not comfortable with Zoom, perhaps you can have someone in your covid bubble come over and watch it with you.

Can't make October 13 at 7pm? You can also register for the same League of Women voters program given by the Danville/Alamo/Walnut Creek (DAW) branch on Tuesday, October 6 at 5pm. You will need to go to the DAW website by googling aauw-daw or their website address of daw-ca.aauw.net to register in advance for their session.

If you feel you can't do Zoom and have no one to help you log on, please reach out for help. The bigger the screen, the easier it is, but if you only have an iPad, it is doable so give me a call, and I can practice with you. We want as many members as possible participating so we don't lose touch with anyone. Take care.

Alison MacKenzie, Co-President

Linda Bochte, Secretary

**BOARD MEETING
September 8, 2020**

A review of the program calendar was very informative. Our September general meeting will feature AAUW National President Kim Churches. October will have a timely presentation about the propositions on the California ballot. In November we hope to have a recently awarded AAUW Fellow recipient. Maryellen Judson shared some ideas for our December virtual holiday party. In January we hope to have Rebecca Bauer-Kahan as the speaker for the general meeting. Preliminary plans for February and March feature a focus on women. April will have a presentation by our new interest group BLM Allies.

Denise Burian has started a Social Media group under our Branch Communications. We are getting more hits on our Facebook page. A new project Girls 4 STEM has started using social media.

A donation to AAUW Fund was made in memory of Margaret DePriester, a long-time member who died recently.

September General Meeting

Three items requiring a vote from membership were presented. All items were published in the September Triad. The vote was taken via poll on Zoom. The poll was sent to 24 participants and all motions passed unanimously.

Read about the September General Meeting presentation by Kimberley Churches on the first page.

2020-2021 BRANCH DIRECTORY

Is all your information in the current OML Directory correct? If you have moved or changed your email address, for instance, please contact Sheila Apte, our database coordinator at sheila.apte@gmail.com, so she can bring her files up to date.

Expect to receive your new directory in mid to late October.

FOCUS ON ... The CALIFORNIA PROPOSITIONS

AAUW Reviews the November Ballot Measures

There are 12 measures on the November ballot covering a variety of issues. The AAUW California Public Policy Committee reviewed the propositions and have determined that seven address issues in AAUW’s Public Policy Priorities. Propositions 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21 and 25 have a bearing on AAUW’s principles and have received AAUW support.

AAUW has taken a NO position on Propositions 19, 20, 22, 23 and 24.

The Public Policy Committee came out in SUPPORT of the following Propositions:

14: Stem Cell Research. (access to quality health care) This bond measure would continue research in developing cures for and treating diabetes, Alzheimer’s, HIV/AIDS, stroke, etc.

15: Property Taxes/Split Roll (funding for education) This will ensure that corporate properties worth more than \$3 million pay their fair share of property taxes.

16: Opportunity for All/Affirmative Action (educational opportunity) This would reverse the 1996 ban and allow race, ethnicity, national origin and gender as considerations for school admittance and government employment. Equal opportunity programs are a time-tested way to fight systemic racism and gender discrimination.

17: Voting for Parolees (expansion of voting rights) This would restore voting rights to Californians who have completed their prison term and is a matter of justice, equity, and fundamental fairness.

18: Voting Rights for 17-Year Olds (encouraging voting) This would allow 17-year olds to register and vote in a primary

election and special elections if they will be 18 by the general election.

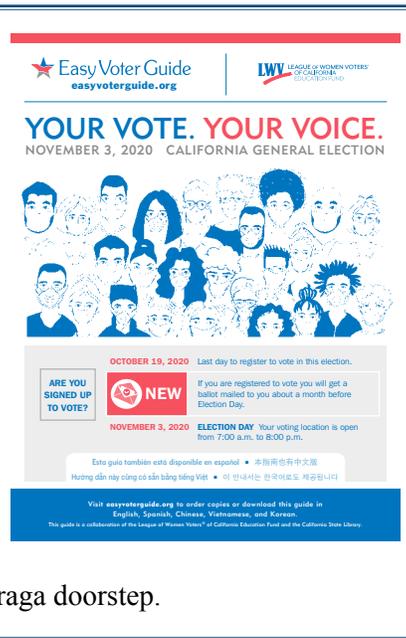
21: Local Governments and Rent Control (affordable housing) This authorizes local governments to place rent control measures on housing that is more than 15 years old. Single family homes are exempt. Landlords are guaranteed fair financial returns.

25: End Cash Money Bail (social and economic justice) A YES vote is a vote to replace the money bail system with the use of pretrial risk assessment tools that focus on safety and flight risk. A disproportionate of Blacks and Latinxs are being held in jail because of their inability to afford bail.

**Laura Monin and Connie Whitting
Co-Chairs, Public Policy**

For more detailed information on the propositions and extensive information answering all your voting questions go to <http://www.easyvoterguide.org> for your 15 page Easy Voter Guide.

If you would like a paper copy, Orinda Books has copies, or contact **Laura Monin** at (925) 631-6667 to pick up one at her Moraga doorstep.



~ IN MEMORIAM ~

**CAROLYN STOKES
1925 - 2020**

Carolyn Stokes was a long time member of OML though not active for the past several years. She was president of OML in 68-69 and Distinguished Woman in 1971. A remarkable woman, she made many contributions to OML in the 70s and 80s. She is remembered as being unfailingly gracious, kind, smiling, upbeat, as well as very talented, bright and full of ideas.

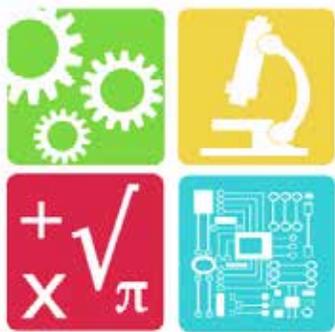
Carolyn and her family moved to Orinda in the late 1960s, becoming one of only a few black families at that

time. She was a writer, poet (published) and activist, serving as an appointed ‘senator’ to the California legislature as a consultant on the needs of seniors. She also worked with Saint Mary’s College devising a mentoring program and served as president of many Bay Area civic associations.

JOANNE KILLAM

Joanne was a longtime member of our branch and a big supporter of all that AAUW does. She passed away on August 3, 2020.

STEM CONFERENCE and GIRLS4STEM WEBINARS



The STEM Conference Committee recently heard from Saint Mary's College that they do not expect to allow outside groups to meet on campus during the spring semester. This means that we will likely not have an on-site STEM conference in 2021. The committee, led by Heidi Mayer and Stacia Cragholm, is looking at ways we can have a virtual half-day conference for middle school girls via

Zoom meetings or webinars. Heidi is reaching out to our workshop presenters about how they might present their workshop virtually. More to come.

The STEM Committee is developing a series of webinars for high school girls, called STEM4Girls, which will be presented by women in the STEM field. Thanks to Chris Laszcz-Davis and other committee members for recruiting, we have a line-up of dynamic women in exciting and interesting careers to be presenters. We've had practice sessions with two of the speakers, with two more scheduled in October. Our high school ambassadors are involved as well. They will take an active role by managing the Q&A at the end of the session. We will widely advertise these webinars once we set the date in November for our first Girls4STEM webinar offered to the public. We hope you will help spread the word to your granddaughters, nieces, neighbors, etc. We will be able to have up to 500 attendees.

To give you a sense of the webinar speakers and content, our first test presenters were Christy Tormey and Adrienne Johnson. Christy's talk, "Refinery 101," is about her path to a STEM career. She discussed having to ask for permission to take STEM classes at De La Salle because they weren't offered at Carondelet, and overcoming challenges of being one of a few girls studying engineering at Duke University. She described how she received an internship at the Richmond Chevron refinery, which led to a job, and her job duties, career, and opportunities there. She encouraged the girls to be open to opportunities and trying new things. One never knows what interesting experiences await them, one that might spark a passion for safe and sustainable refinery operations, for example. Christy was passionate about what she is doing. Our ambassadors found her presentation fascinating and asked great questions.

Adrienne Johnson, from Pleasant Hill, went to Stanford where she received a BA/MA in civil engineering. Her webinar is entitled "Engineering with a Purpose," as she is a Sustainability and Project Engineer, designing sustainable buildings. Adrienne combined her career with sports, music, scouting and outdoor activities, paving the way for young girls and minorities to make a huge difference in the outside world. She won a 2017 Leadership Award from the U.S. Green Building Council for a "Net Zero Energy" project in South Africa. At age 26, she was selected as one of the top "20 to Watch: Women in HVAC" by Engineering Systems Magazine. Adrienne also described her STEM education and career path, challenges, and what she actually does in her job.

Rosalie McGurk, an astronomer, and Jan Cushman's daughter, is another young woman eager to present to high school girls. On the heels of Rosalie is Deb Martin, a high ranking Dupont Product Sustainability Manager, who will discuss STEM, the path to her career, and the excitement surrounding pivoting science to manufacturing, customers and communities. We are very excited about this webinar program. We will let you know when we schedule the first webinar, expected to be in November, so you can get the high school girls you know to register.

**Denise Burian and Caroline Friedmann,
STEM Coordinators**

TECH TREK NEWS

Tech Trek 2021 will be a virtual camp as required by AAUW National! This decision was made due to the many unknowns and changing regulations, which are happening so rapidly that in-person events cannot be advised this far in advance.

California Tech Trek is working on alternative virtual solutions, including a virtual option created and implemented by the UC San Diego camp in 2020. So we'll see what they have to offer. In the meantime, they have asked that we not begin recruiting until we know more about their plans, likely early in 2021.

Stay tuned for more information!



Jan Cushman, Chair, Tech Trek

MEMBERS CORNER • WHAT AAUW MEANS TO ME**Trudy Barron****AAUW Member since 1976 • OML Member since 1985**

AAUW has been part of my life since 1976 when I moved to Concord. My “Welcome Wagon” lady (remember those?) told me about AAUW. I thought it sounded great, so I joined! Concord AAUW had meetings on Saturday mornings, since many of its members worked outside the home. As a mother with a tiny baby, Saturdays were perfect as my husband could watch my daughter for two hours once a month, right? I met so many wonderful people. Some of my best long-time friends came from that group. I got more and more involved as the years went by. I served as interest group chairs, Math/Science Workshop Coordinator, Membership VP, and President.

When we moved to Moraga in 1985, of course, I had to join AAUW-OML. I have continued to be a dual member with the Concord branch since then, attending meetings in Concord when I could. OML was very welcoming! I remember how Barbara Harbuck got me involved right away. She knew I liked drama and singing and had me performing some skit about our founding members of AAUW, which I came across recently when going through some files. It made me smile.

I have always enjoyed the dynamic thought provoking speakers at AAUW meetings that make me think and grow. I continue to enjoy the wonderful table discussions we have among such interesting AAUW members. Being involved with the work that AAUW does to promote women’s causes has always been important to me! I love how both of my AAUW branches work hard to raise funds for local scholarships and help select worthy recipients to further their education. I think such activities as Tech Trek and the STEM Conference workshops are invaluable in encouraging young women to pursue higher goals and education. Supporting women to gain higher pay and encouraging women to pursue non-traditional jobs is something I value as pursuits of AAUW.

When I went back to work full-time, I tried to stay as involved in AAUW as I could through the nighttime group formed for working women, fundraiser evenings, holiday gatherings, and the April scholarship award weekend meeting. After I retired, I was able to come back and be more active in general meetings and branch activities.

Why do I stay in AAUW? It is the wonderful goals, the outstanding thought-provoking meetings, but most of all, it’s the intelligent, thoughtful, hard-working women who continue to do their part to further the advancement of women and girls.

Trudy Barron, passionate about lifelong education, is a dual branch member. Active in OML since 1985, she often hosted holiday coffees and evening program meetings during the years when she was teaching full time.

MEMBERS CORNER is a new Triad feature.

How has AAUW impacted your life? What would you like to tell us?

Submit your story to Lana Reichick:

Lanasan@aol.com. Subject: AAUW Members Corner

AAUW FUND VIRTUAL PROGRAM

**AAUW Fund Luncheon
Saturday, October 10
and Saturday, October 24
Held on Zoom at 1 pm**

This year, the AAUW Fund Recipients’ Luncheon will be held via Zoom, not at the Crow Canyon Country Club. *Please note that there are two different dates for which you can sign up to attend.* When you register on the AAUW CA website, it will ask for a donation but this is optional. Here’s the link: <https://www.aauw-ca.org/aauw-fund-luncheons/>

Here’s a thought – prepare yourself a delicious lunch to eat at noon, and then have a special



dessert at 1 pm as you listen to the inspiring stories of this year’s hard-working recipients!

It’s easy. Complete your registration and learn how your much-appreciated donations are helping a new generation of professional women. We are working on getting a 2019 Fund Recipient to speak at our November 17 Zoom meeting; more details in next month’s Triad.

Diane Bell, Co-VP, AAUW Fund



**COMING in
FEBRUARY!**

**Scholarship’s
Book Fair**

**CELEBRATING
WOMEN
THROUGH
BOOKS**

INTERBRANCH COUNCIL MEETING SEPTEMBER 22, 2020

2019-20 AAUW OML SPONSORS/ ADVERTISERS

*AAUW members

The Interbranch Council (IBC) of the nine Contra Costa AAUW Branches meets five times a year to discuss and share ideas.

At the September 22 meeting, Diane Coventry from Pleasant Hill-Martinez Branch spoke about the state strategic planning committee looking toward a virtual Tech Trek next summer. UC San Diego in cooperation with Qualcomm ran a virtual camp for 40 girls in 2020, which might be used as a model. Marin County Branch also did a virtual camp for their eight campers. While there may be some branches in the state who elect not to participate in virtual Tech Trek, the Contra Costa IBC members all felt they would like to participate in some manner. There was some discussion about whether IBC could use its Tech Trek funds to provide tech support for low income girls, perhaps those without summer computer access, to attend a virtual camp. No decision was reached and the issue of the IBC budget was put over to the November meeting.

Our own **Peggy Cabaniss**, who is on the National AAUW board as the vice chair in charge of finance, spoke about the financial picture at National. Although National AAUW has assets of \$120 million, only \$2 million is unrestricted and available to pay for running the organization. The majority of the funds are restricted and can only be used for specified purposes such as fellowships or specified programs. Dues revenue only provides 20 percent of the budget. National has reduced expenses to live within the budget by laying off half the staff and renting out unused office space at headquarters. Peggy made the argument that dues would probably have to be increased to meet expenses but also argued that any donations to the AAUW Fund be unrestricted and thus available to meet ongoing expenses. Peggy pointed out that donations from corporations could help keep dues low, but that the degree requirement for membership limited contributions as the organization is seen as discriminatory.

Also speaking at the meeting was Roli Wendorf, the AAUW-CA CFO. She spoke of the new State administration and the changes which are reflected on the State website. The State newsletter, California Connection, is now being sent monthly via email to all members with an email address. Previously, it was sent quarterly. The State is now doing all training via webinars. The California Connection will list the upcoming ones, but if you miss one they are all available on the the State website. She also mentioned the “ask me first” function on the state website. As the National staff has been reduced, branches are encouraged to ask questions at a state level before trying to get an answer from National.

Any meetings or activities that other branches should be aware of should be sent in advance to Cindy Alpert (San Ramon branch) at alpert@pacbell.net and she will notify all IBC member branches.

The next IBC meeting will be Tuesday, November 17 at 7pm by Zoom. All members are welcome to attend, just let Marielle or Alison know for a Zoom link.

Alison MacKenzie, Co-President

LAFAYETTE

Alex Rose Interior Design
Asian Accents – Original Designs in
Jewelry by K. de Groot*
Bistro Burger & Grill
Creative Alterations – Josef Jamkochain
DIABLO FOODS
The Image Studio – Marjory DeRoeck &
Carolyn Woodworth, Consultants
Persons Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery
– Barbara Persons, MD FACS
TECH HELP Consulting – Steve Hall
The Service Outlet – Marc Harvey
The UPS Store
Ware Designs – Fine Jewelry

MORAGA

AAAAA Rent-A-Space
National Assoc. for Advancement of
Female People – Diane Bell*
Neighborhood Computers
New Delhi Indian Bistro
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
Meadow View Winery
Shelby’s Restaurant
Soraya Golesorkhi*, Realtor – Coldwell
Banker
Todd Bunch, Lamorinda’s Handyman
The UPS Store

WALNUT CREEK & Beyond

Bay Alarm Company
Goodwill Industries of the Greater East Bay
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.

SPECIAL INTEREST ACTIVITIES

MUSEUM MAVENS

Yes!! We are going to have free museum tours/talks virtually.

Zoom tours are begin offered October through December at several museums including the deYoung, the Asian Art, MOMA (Museum of Modern Art, NYC) and the Contemporary Art Museum of Houston. I plan to have a subsequent Zoom meeting with the mavens to discuss our impressions.

First meeting is October 7 at the de Young: *Asian Demons Creatures and Monsters* followed by October 21 at the deYoung: *Old and New Artworks*

Contact **Marjorie Singler** for information on how to sign up at msingler@comcast.net or call 925 878-5915

EVENING SALON

Every Thursday
via Zoom • 7-9 pm

Evening Salon continues to meet every Thursday night at 7 pm. via Zoom during the pandemic. All members are welcome. On October 1, we plan to discuss *The Social Dilemma*, a documentary available through Netflix Streaming. Contact Denise Burian for the Zoom link, denburian@gmail.com.

BIKE RIDING GROUP

Last Thursday of each month
9:30 am
Location varies each time
Note the change of day

Maybe Thursdays fit into your schedule better. Come join the Cycling Gals for some outdoor fun, easy social distancing, companionship and great exercise!

This group welcomes new riders! Call or email Ellen Beans, Diane Bell, or Jan Cushman with questions and to get on the group email list.

BLM ALLIES GROUP

Wednesday,
October 14 and 28
via Zoom • 10 am

This new group meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays from 10 to 11:15 am. The group is reading *How to be an Antiracist* by Kendi X. Ibram. We are reading three chapters at a time and discussing them. Contact Denise Burian for Zoom link if you'd like to join in the discussion.

Judy Helder, who is a member of this group, shared a poem that her granddaughter recites every morning in her first grade class. It goes like this ...

We are born of an old seed,
We are growing from a deep root,
We are part of strong branches,
We are the sweet fruit of the African,
Latino, Asian, European, and
Native American branches
of the human family tree.

Wherever we may go,
Wherever we may be,
I am part of you and
You are part of me.

Her teacher says, it's a great way to start the day and to acknowledge our differences. The students make themselves into a seed, then a growing tree with strong branches, their fingers are the fruit. The poem is adapted from the book, *Tamika and the Wisdom Rings* by Camille Yardbrough

Some Special Interest Groups are currently on hold but others are continuing via Zoom. Check with SIG coordinators to see if your group is "Zoom-active."

ANYONE WHO HAS READ
THE BOOK

Friday, October 16
via Zoom • 10 am

Join us to discuss *Born A Crime* by Trevor Noah on Zoom. If you do not regularly receive a Zoom invite, contact **Jill Eberhart** if you want to be added at jill@gemed.com. A complete list of books for this year is listed on the OML website under the Interest heading.

CRITICS CHOICE BOOK
GROUP

Our new book season has arrived. Books will be available for pick up at my house on Thursday, October 1 from 9 am to 5 pm. They will be on the front porch, with your names on them, identifying what to take home.

Remember to always pass on your book on the first of the month!

Andrea Green,
1210 Larch Ave, Moraga

GREAT DECISIONS

Wednesday, October 7
via Zoom • 10 am

We have been continuing our discussions through this covid time and meet the first Wednesday of each month at 10 am. A topic is chosen each month and for October we have chosen **Guyana, Suriname** and **French Guiana**, three small countries on the northeast coast of South America.

All members are welcome. Please call Judy with any questions or suggestions – **Judy Helder** 631-0156. Contact **Denise Burian** for the Zoom link, denburian@gmail.com.

**OCTOBER 2020
AT A GLANCE**

1 THUR – CRITICS CHOICE BOOK GROUP
9 am-5 pm – Pick up your books on Andrea Green’s porch
Read more on page 7.

1, 8, 15, 22, 29 THUR – EVENING SALON
7 pm – Via the Zoom app
Read more on page 7.

3 SAT – INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL GROUP
7 pm – Via the Zoom app

6 TUE – BOARD MEETING (Note: one week earlier)
1 pm – Via the Zoom app
Contact Marielle Boortz or Alison MacKenzie to be included.

7 WED – GREAT DECISIONS
10 am – Via the Zoom app
Discussion topic: Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana
Read more on page 7.

10 SAT – AAUW FUND LUNCHEON
1 pm Via the Zoom app
Read more on page 5..

12, 26 MON – GOLF GROUP
Contact Jan Gee for time and venue, jgee17@yahoo.com.

13 TUE – GENERAL MEETING
7 pm – Via the Zoom app
**Pro/Con – AAUW and the League of Women Voters
Take on the California Propositions.**
*Look for an e-blast prior to the meeting day with a link to
join the meeting. The link can also be found on the OML
website and this issue’s front page.*

14, 28 WED – BLM ALLIES GROUP
10 am – Via the Zoom app
Read more on page 7.

16 FRI – ANYONE WHO HAS READ THE BOOK
10 am – Via the Zoom app
Book to discuss: *Born A Crime*
Read more on page 7.

**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 Coord-
inator, BONNIE GALLOGLY, so she can update the
website calendar.*

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



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

24 SAT – AAUW FUND LUNCHEON
1 pm Via the Zoom app
Read more on page 5.

24 SAT – DEADLINE for NOVEMBER TRIAD
Send all articles to Mary Leigh Miller, 631-9694
mlmiller602gmail.com.

29 THURS – BIKE RIDING GROUP
Contact Ellen Beans, ellen.beans@gmail.com.
Read more on page 7.

NOVEMBER 2020
Look for more listings in the November issue.

10 TUE – BOARD MEETING
1 pm – Via the Zoom app
Contact Marielle Boortz or Alison MacKenzie to be included.

17 TUE – GENERAL MEETING
9:30 am – Via the Zoom app
AAUW Fund program



RESTAURANT | CATERING

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