

January General Meeting TUESDAY JANUARY 19, 2021 7 pm via a Zoom Webinar

➔ **Please note: This is an evening meeting and you must register in advance to attend.**

California Assemblywoman REBECCA BAUER-KAHAN



Rebecca Bauer-Kahan was elected to the State Assembly in 2018 to represent the 16th Assembly District, replacing Catherine Baker.

She was selected by her colleagues to serve in the Assembly leadership as Assistant Speaker pro Tempore and Chair of the Select Committee on Women's Reproductive Health – the first committee of its kind in the nation. She has passed 15 pieces of legislation, all which received bipartisan support, including bills to strengthen gun safety, protect victims of sexual exploitation, provide better access to health care, streamline government services, improve the environment and more.

Read more about Ms. Bauer-Kahan on page 8

➔ Look for an invitation to register for this meeting in an e-blast on Monday, January 18.

➔ You can also find the form to pre-register by going to the following link on the OML website:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_4GQjigGMSgyPmpTqXkKISg

We have invited other local branches to join us for this meeting.

Want to know the difference between a Zoom meeting and a webinar? Turn to page 7 to find out.

February General Meeting Tuesday, Feb 16 9:30 am via Zoom Woman Suffrage Warriors



Local historian Beverly Lane will talk about how women won the vote in California and the country. Her presentation will provide a brief history of the U.S. women's civil rights and suffrage movement.

This is a regular Zoom meeting so there will be no need to pre-register.

Beverly Lane is a Danville resident and has been active in local organizations and government for decades. She was the Museum of the San Ramon Valley's founding president and has been a past Danville town councilmember and mayor. Beverly is currently a director on the East Bay Regional Park District Board of Directors.

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... PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Happy New Year everyone! One thing we can all be sure of is that 2021 has got to be better than 2020. Although 2020 has taught all of us Zoom skills, we will be happy when we can leave those skills behind and meet in person again.

Speaking of Zoom skills, it was great to see 45 members at the December holiday party, including some who had not attended a meeting before. For those of you who missed it, we had 15 members who shared memories of holidays past. This included stories of live carp in the bathtub, Christmas morning surprises, searching for a perfect tree, holiday foods, glowing lantern displays, special handmade gifts, and caroling by horseback. Thanks to all who shared their story!

It must be acknowledged that the attendance at the December meeting was in large part to the efforts of Maryellen Judson and her helper elves who assembled and delivered a holiday bag to every member's home. Included in the bag was a wonderful hand-made mask made by Maryellen Judson, Laura Wittenberg, Bonnie Fend, Marilyn Evans, Jan Cushman and Mary Leigh Miller. Amazingly talented ladies! Thank you everyone!

Coming up in January is our general meeting with Assemblywoman Rebecca Bauer-Kahan. She lives in Orinda and represents the 16th Assembly District. Her presentation will be a webinar at 7 pm on January 19 and will cover current legislation in Sacramento affecting women and girls. You don't want to miss it! You will need to go to the OML website and sign up. You will then be sent a Zoom invite and reminders a week before, a day before, and an hour before. This is the same format used for the League of Women voters presentation in October.

Can't remember what our website address is? Easy, just Google AAUW-OML and our website will be the first result. Don't know how to use Zoom? Call me and we will do a practice session. Can't hear the sound from your computer? Make sure your computer volume is all the way up and try using headphones plugged into the computer. Don't want to get dressed for a meeting? No problem, in the January webinar format, no one will see you. No excuses, "see" you at the January meeting.

Alison MacKenzie, Co-President

NOMINATING COMMITTEE UPDATE

There is no escaping the necessity for this important part of our branch. The OML governing board shapes the branch's purpose, direction and functionality, and relies each year on a nominating committee to come up with a viable slate of candidates.

This year the committee is looking for several important positions to fill, including president and president-elect. We also need a few members-at-large to join the nominating committee.

To this end, expect to hear from us!

Mary Leigh Miller and Laura Wittenberg

BOARD MEETING
December 8, 2020

The holiday gift bags, and delivery was a success. Thanks to **Maryellen Judson** and her helpers we were able to connect with members and bring some cheer. We look forward to the holiday party in its new format. It will give members a chance to share holiday traditions and memories.

Due to the lack of spending at this time, we have a healthy bank account. The board is considering making a donation to AAUW Fund and will discuss this at the board meeting on January 12.

General meeting programs for January, February and March are planned. January will be a webinar at 7 pm with California State Representative Rebecca Bauer-Kahan. It requires registration. February will be a meeting via Zoom at 9:30 am, featuring Beverly Lane. In March member Leslie Pfeifer will be the guest speaker at 7 pm via Zoom.

Bonnie Gallogly has made some changes to the website that should make it easier to access information about upcoming events on the calendar. Don't forget to check it out!

Alison Mackenzie notified the board about the deaths of Flo Garay, Barbara Boyle, Polly Asher Troxell and Nancy Reynolds.

Mary Leigh Miller and Laura Wittenberg will be working on the nominating committee in January. If you have an interest in serving on the OML board, please contact them.

I hope everyone had a happy and safe holiday.

Linda Bochte, Secretary

FOCUS ON ... HOLIDAY ZOOMING and A SPECIAL THANK YOU



Our Holiday Program on December 15 was delightful and heartwarming.

Who ever knew that ...

- Our OML members were part of so many different parts of the world?
- St. Nicholas came to town in a boat on the canals of the Netherlands?
- San Francisco World’s Fair was a Christmas memory as her Dad’s car broke down at the end of the brand new Bay Bridge after a visit to Grandma’s?
- There were doll hospitals which could take your “worn” Shirley Temple doll and bring her back to full brightness along with a Grandma’s sewn wardrobe?
- You might leave a carp swimming in your bathtub prior to your Christmas dinner?
- In the old days, Christmas tree lights needed special care to find the “bad” light ?
- There were special rooms “off limits to all” prior to holiday gifts arrival?
- Gifts arrived by mail one at a time for a beautiful Hummel Creche?
- Holidays started on St. Nicholas Day (December 6) and lasted until feast of the Three Kings on Jan 6? (The best time to visit the Philippines!)
- Many gifts were made by hand and best of all were letters praising our special blessings which brought joy to our family?

We wished each other Feliz Navidad, Happy Hanukkah, Happy New Year, Merry Christmas, and with all our best sentiment, **Happy Holidays to all!**

To celebrate our party, some gals brought a cookie or two, and many enjoyed a sweet candy (most likely found in the special holiday gift bag delivered at the beginning of the month to all our OML members). We all enthusiastically walked memory lane.



And, most of all, a Happy 100th Birthday to **Janet Mendenhall** – caught at right by storyteller, facilitator, **Ksenija Soster-Olmer** at our Zoom Holiday Meeting.



Maryellen Judson, Hospitality

Maryellen Judson

The holiday program was truly an AAUW-OML party and so many of you helped out. From planning in September with **Sally Swanson** and **Bonnie Fend** to the entire board when we decided to include every member of OML. **Laura Wittenberg, Mary Leigh Miller** and I checked out many fantastic holiday fabrics but Joann’s Fabrics said we needed to make a choice! It wasn’t easy to do.

Home we came with major cloth and “gifted” remnants, and creating masks was assigned to our talented elves. Magic sewing machines were manned by **Marilyn Evans, Laura Wittenberg, Bonnie Fend, Mary Leigh Miller, Jan Cushman** and me.

The gifts needed assembling and delivering, so my team came forward. They were **Mary Ann McLeod, Linda Bochte, Joanie Jump, Bonnie Fend, Marielle Boortz, Valarie Burgess, Jill Fernald, Jenny Offringer, Jan Cushman, Alison MacKenzie, Sally Nelson, Tory Courtney, Laura Monin, Nan Brewer, Marie Bonilla, Cayo Marschner, Renee Ross, Mary Stevens Smith, Carol Heppenstall, Gail Chesler, Diane Bell and Connie Whitting.**

WOW what a team! That’s what makes AAUW-OML so strong and so special. Thank you all. I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday.

**~ IN MEMORIAM ~
NANCY REYNOLDS**

A long and valued member of our AAUW branch died in early December after a long battle with Cancer. Nancy Reynolds was under the care of Hospice for nine months but only shared her situation with June Howe and myself

recently. She stayed active in the Anyone Who Has Read the Book group until her last month.

Nancy was an English major at San Francisco College for Women, graduating in 1960. She went into teaching, married and raised their two children in Orinda. After the death of her husband two years ago, she moved to Ross-

moor where the OML book group enjoyed our summer luncheon meetings for the last two years.

Nancy joined AAUW in 1975, participating in the book group, Great Decisions, and graciously assisting at our general meetings.

Joan Armstrong

CELEBRATING WOMEN THROUGH BOOKS



Starting February 1 through February 28, Scholarship will be holding a book fair with Orinda Books to raise money for our scholarships. We will receive 20 percent from the books sold at our table.

At the bookstore, our AAUW table will feature the books celebrating women and highlight our AAUW-OML community projects. There are a variety of genres (fiction and nonfiction) and some beautiful books for children. You can purchase these books online, by phone or in the store. Members of the scholarship committee will deliver your books for free or you can use the store's curbside pickup.

Take a look at the featured books along with synopsis's posted on our website, www.oml-ca.aauw.net. Contact **Bonnie Fend** brfend@sbcglobal.net, (510) 219-9455 for more information or questions.

We hope you will find something of interest, enjoy learning about remarkable women, and support us!

Book List from Orinda Books

Fiction

- Euphoria* by Lily King (paperback \$16)
- Women in the Castle* by Jessica Shattuck (paperback \$16.99)
- The Huntress* by Kate Quinn (paperback \$16.99)
- The Revisioners* by Margaret Wilkerson Sexton (paperback \$16.95)
- Book of Longings* by Sue Monk Kidd (hardcover \$28)
- Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell (hardcover \$28)
- True Story* by Kate Reed Petty (hardcover \$26)

Nonfiction

- Know My Name* by Channel Miller (paperback \$18)
- Be More RBG* by Marilyn Easton (paperback \$9.99)
- The Three Mothers* by Anna Malakai Tubbs (hardcover \$28.99 on sale 2/2/21)
- Where the Light Enters* by Jill Biden (paperback \$17.99)
- Moment of Lift* by Melinda Gates (paperback \$17.99 on sale 1/21/21)
- Stories from Suffragette City* edited by M. J. Rose and Fiona Davis (hardcover \$25.99)

Children and Teens

- She Persisted in Sports* by Chelsea Clinton (hardcover \$17.99)
- 321 Awesome* by Eva Chen (Board Book \$9.99)
- Saving the Countryside* by Linda Elovitz Marshall (hardcover \$17.99)
- Bold and Brave* by Kirsten Gilibrand (paperback \$7.99)
- Around America to Win the Vote* by Mara Rockliff (paperback \$7.99)
- With the Fire on High* by Elizabeth Acevedo (hardcover \$17.99)
- No One Is Too Small to Make a Difference* by Greta Thunberg (paperback \$10)
- Book of Gutsy Women* by Hillary Rodham Clinton and Chelsea Clinton (hardcover \$35)

Click on this link to read more about each book:

<https://oml-ca.aauw.net/files/2020/12/book-list-pdf.pdf>

Bonnie Fend, Co-Chair, Scholarship Committee

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

Our OML 20-21 High School Community Service Scholarship applications are now online at oml-ca.aauw.net.

The requirements are a minimum three-point grade average and community service participation. The deadline is February 18, 2021.

If you know a senior woman at Acalanes, Campolindo or Miramonte High School who has participated in community service activities please let her know about our scholarships.

Mary Ann McLeod, Co-Chair, Scholarship Committee

BURCKHALTER REPORT

Pat Rudebusch, owner of Orinda Books has made a very generous donation to first grade students at Burckhalter in memory of **Jan Coe**. Jan worked with first grade teachers for many years and enjoyed making gingerbread houses each December.

Pat gave each student the book, *Each Kindness* by Jacqueline Woodson. Winner of many awards including the Coretta Scott King Award, the author gives readers an opportunity to learn about empathy and kindness.

Thank you Pat for honoring Jan's love of children and books.



Janette Maher, Burckhalter Coordinator

MEMBERS CORNER • WHAT AAUW MEANS TO ME



TORY COURTNEY
Member Since 1978

When I moved to Moraga in 1977, I wanted to meet women who were intelligent, committed to empowering and supporting women to further their education and professional development, to reducing gender discrimination, to supporting economic security for women, and to serving children and families. The Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette Branch of AAUW has been that organization for me! And, I have now been a member for the past 43 years!

In addition to participating in the mission of our national organization, belonging to the OML branch has provided me with opportunities to acquire leadership skills, such as being Vice-President of Programs, Facilitator of the Wise Women group, and Secretary of the Scholarship Program. In addition, I have developed meaningful relationships, continued to learn about current issues from excellent speakers every month, and enjoyed fun times with our members. In 1995, I felt honored and privileged to receive the OML Distinguished Woman Award for leadership and service to the community.

When I was young, I dreamed of becoming a teacher. I never expected the extent to which my dream would come true. I was inspired by the women I met in AAUW to continue my own education, getting a master’s and doctoral degree in Education and Counseling which led to my teaching graduate courses at the University of California, Santa Cruz and UC Berkeley for a total of 12 years prior to ultimately teaching for 32 years at Saint Mary’s College in the Graduate School of Education.

When my children were born, I wanted to balance my professional life with being a full-time mom. Fortunately, I was able to accomplish that by being a Brownie and Girl Scout leader, establishing a consulting business with flexible hours, and authoring two books for parents and teachers who had children with language and learning disabilities.

Many of the women in the OML Branch have been role models for me and have become my life-long friends, for which I will be forever grateful. I feel so blessed to know so many of you. I look forward to welcoming our new members.

Editor’s Note: Tory Courtney fulfilled her dream of teaching, reaching far beyond her own classrooms by teaching many generations of teachers. She also created a legacy within OML. Read the history of the Wise Women interest groups in OML.

THE STORY OF WISE WOMEN AT OML

In 1994, Tory Courtney was invited to be keynote speaker at a fundraiser luncheon for EF – the AAUW Fund. Tory asked: “When you grow old, do you want to be a Wise Woman or Crone?” Her topic captured the interest of many in attendance. Members requested an interest group to continue discussions about growing old with wisdom.

Member Gloria Weston, a licensed MFT, and Tory Courtney, Ed.D., co-chaired two interest groups, daytime and nighttime. Twenty plus members met for six weekly programs facilitated by Tory and Gloria. The group slowly dwindled to nine, then seven who met for dinners and discussions led by group members. Those seven Wise Women became supportive friends over two decades. In 2021, five remain to gather for dinners together.

Topics discussed: growing older gracefully, transitions into the work force, spiritual development, interpreting dreams, anger, traveling as a single, self-esteem, financial security, communication, managing the stages of life, personal power, menopause, meditation, continuing our search for fulfillment.

To Tory’s great joy, a new Wise Women group formed years ago, continuing the tradition. It remains viable to start a new group in 2021.

In Members Corner, we learn that life-long friendships are one of the most cherished benefits of membership in OML. By taking leadership roles on the Board and participating in interest groups, we get to know individual members and build lasting friendships – a meaningful asset as we “shelter in peace” during this pandemic.

Lana Reichick,
OML member since 1989

MEMBERS CORNER is a new Triad feature.
Look for more stories from our members in the next issue.

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

TECH TREK UPDATES

Tech Trek Camp will be virtual in 2021!



We wish Camp Hopper would be held on campus this summer, but safety concerns dictate that the camp be virtual. This year's Tech Trek Camp will be based on the pilot that the San Diego camp held in 2020. It is planned to be offered as three camps, starting June 21, July 12 and July 26, each five days long.

The morning session will be an engineering and C++ coding class where they will learn design and technical principles and then make a hat that includes wiring LED lights and servos to make something move. They will also learn a video program called Flipgrid so they can video themselves and their hats. There will be breakout rooms in which six girls will be working with a technical coach and a social coach – lots of time to interact and time away to work. This is a program that Qualcomm created and has implemented elsewhere as part of their educational outreach. After the morning session, there will be an inspirational presentation by a woman working in a STEM field. There will be two workshops in the afternoons consisting of hands-on experiments. Girls need to attend the first workshop and the second workshop is optional. The workshops will focus on science, technology, engineering and math. Evening sessions will be optional.

The plan is for each branch to have at least as many girls selected for camp as we had in 2019. There is a possibility we could have more. The cost per girl is expected to be \$400 – quite affordable. So we will need to contact the teachers with this new information (probably in late January), select our campers and then deliver a box of materials to each girl. We expect to interview girls nominated by their teachers in late March or early April, but don't have a firm timeline yet. Interviews could be by Zoom or possibly socially distanced outside. There are



also opportunities for adults and former Tech Trekkers to be a coach. When the call for coaches goes out, we plan to contact our former Tech Trekkers to see if they are interested in being a coach. I'm hoping that we can also plan one or two socially distanced hands-on activities so that the selected girls can meet each other in person.

Although not the ideal in-person camp, this Tech Trek camp will engage our rising eighth graders and hopefully inspire them to continue to take math and science courses and ultimately be interested in a STEM career!

Comment from a 2020 Tech Trekker who attended the San Diego camp: *"If I hadn't gone to Tech Trek, I definitely would've just sat on my bed and watched Youtube videos all summer. Luckily, I went to Tech Trek and got to DO things instead of watching other people do them. It was a really fun hands-on camp"*



Girls modeling the hats they made at camp. Such creativity!

GIRLS4STEM

The webinar series continues.

We have two webinars in January: "Let's Make a Spectroscope" on Sunday, January 10, 2021, at 4 pm. Register in advance for this webinar: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_NTY4ynZ-Srq9Hapg27_qvQ.

Presented by **Dr. Rosalie McGurk**, Astrophysicist and Instrumentation Fellow at Observatory of the Carnegie Institute for Science. (Dr. McGurk is also Jan Cushman's daughter.) Her topic is very interesting and she gives great tips to the high school girls.

The second webinar is on Sunday, January 24 at 4 pm. Topic: Refinery 101 - with **Christy Tormey**, BSME. Learn about her journey to a Mechanical Engineer career camp; her inside view of the exciting life of a Design Engineer in an oil refinery.

Register in advance for this webinar: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_thpwCdhMR3arGp18mfznyw.

Please encourage all high school girls you know to register. The registration link is available on the Girls4STEM page on our website. The presentations have been excellent. The videos of the two prior webinars are available to watch. The link to them is also on the Girls4STEM webpage: <https://oml-ca.aauw.net/girls4stem-webinars/>.

STEM Conference

The STEM committee will present a "virtual" STEM Conference this year on Saturday, March 20, 2021. It will be smaller, about 120 middle school girls, due to the technology challenge of having to manage 10 breakout sessions and figuring out ways the workshops will be interactive. We will need some volunteer help for the day of the conference so we will be reaching out to members.

**Jan Cushman,
Chair, Tech Trek**

**Denise Burian,
STEM Co-Coordinator**



PUBLIC POLICY UPDATES

AAUW California Public Policy Team Announces First Virtual Lobby Day!

On March 24, 2021, AAUW California in conjunction with our new advocacy firm, MVM Strategy Group, will be conducting a virtual Lobby Day with our legislators in Sacramento. This is a terrific opportunity for branch members to get involved in the public policy process by helping the state Public Policy (PP) Committee advance our legislative goals for 2021-22. It's also a great way to meet your local legislators and let them know how you, through AAUW, are helping their constituents in your communities.

All interested branch members must register by January 8, 2021 at:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/56JT7XF>

Finally, all participants will be given full training in a Zoom webinar on March 22, 2021, at 7 pm. To register for "How to Talk to Your Legislators" go to:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_-MBPqA7MRfmoToHJ87ZqMQ

Washington Update

Over the last month, AAUW has communicated with the Biden-Harris transition team about the actions we and our coalition partners would like to see the incoming administration take to support the economic security and education of women of girls. COVID-19 has had an unprecedented impact on women and people of color, and we must take bold steps to address economic disparities and inequitable educational opportunities that have been exacerbated by the pandemic.

We asked the Biden-Harris Administration to focus on equity issues, including increasing the minimum wage, advancing pay equity, canceling student debt, suspending implementation of the new Title IX rule, and prioritizing gender and racial equity across departments and programs. We also urged them to appoint candidates to key cabinet positions who have a deep understanding of systemic barriers to equal opportunity faced by historically marginalized communities and have a record of advocating for the civil rights of all working people and students they serve.

Check Out AAUW's New Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Resources

Our new Diversity, Equity & Inclusion toolkit includes dozens of resources to help AAUW members and others to celebrate their differences and incorporate inclusive practices into their everyday lives. These tools can help you lead branch workshops and further your own learning. There are sections defining key terms and concepts, exploring dimensions of diversity, and giving advice on how to start difficult conversations.

The toolkit was developed by AAUW's Inclusion & Equity Committee, which is led by Committee Chair Dr. Lisette Garcia and AAUW Chief Administrative Officer Sheila Amo. For more information, watch our recent webinar about how to engage with these resources, and stay tuned for more how-to sessions in 2021. Follow-up webinars will be scheduled in February and April. Meanwhile, if you have questions, please contact the Inclusion & Equity Committee at diversity@aauw.org.

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

ZOOM MEETING vs ZOOM WEBINAR

What is the difference?

Some of you may wonder why some of our meetings are Zoom webinars instead of Zoom meetings, and why you have to pre-register for the webinars. The reason is the expected attendance. If we think we will have over 100, we will do a webinar.

Zoom meetings are meant to be interactive. At 100 people, with everyone able to have audio and video activated, some of whom may have tech issues, most of whom want to talk, one has to scroll from page to page to see people, it is just too difficult to manage.

For larger meetings, with a guest speaker, we use a webinar format. In this format, only the "panelists" can see each other and chat with each other behind the scenes in order to operate the webinar. The attendees can only see the individual speaking, they cannot see each other, and their audio and video are disabled during the webinar. Attendees can participate in Q&A though a designated panelist who selects questions to forward to the speaker.

We require registration so we have an idea as to how many will attend, and this also allows us to email reminders. So people don't forget, these reminders will automatically come one week, one day, and one hour before the webinar, so you can find the webinar link easily. We can also send surveys after the webinar to the attendees if desired.

Our branch had over 260 attend the League of Women Voters webinar in October, and we hope to have well over 100 for Assemblywoman Rebecca Bauer-Kahan on January 19 at 7 pm. Turn to the front page for the link to register for this evening meeting.

Denise Burian

NEWS from OUR ADVERTISERS

Longtime AAUW-OML Advertiser Has Transformed into ZENOPS

For more than two decades, ZENOPS has been providing innovative solutions that automate success for hundreds of Bay Area clients. Originally a “Break Fix” IT shop as **Neighborhood Computers**, we focused on making a difference in our community by serving local customers with PC and Mac repairs, Anti-Virus, Patching and Update Support, Home Wi-Fi Network installations, Back-up and Recovery Services, and In-Shop Technical Services. Over the last five years we have continued to expand and grow. Our offerings now include: Cloud Services, Cybersecurity, Unified Communications, Workflow, Compliance, and much more – transforming us into a full-fledged Managed IT Services Provider.

Today, ZENOPS is a distinct managed services provider that takes a holistic approach to IT security, unified communications, and operational efficiency. We implement cloud-based infrastructures that ensure your business stays running regardless of where you are or how your business functions. The result: your business can continue to scale and operate efficiently. We examine company workflow and data policies, and verify that your IT strategy aligns with your business model so you can successfully leverage today’s technologies.

Although we have moved away from servicing the home, hourly, and technical service clients we once served, we are now able to provide local small and medium-sized businesses with the complete Managed IT Services they need, all while maintaining our original focus of creating a positive impact in our community. To learn more and find out why our clients view ZENOPS as their trusted IT resource, please call us at 925-377-5257 or visit us online at www.zenops.com. See the ZENOPS ad on the back cover of the AAUW-OML members’ directory.

By ZENOPS via Lana Reichick, Advertising Team Member

**MORE ABOUT REBECCA BAUER-KAHAB**

In 2018, Rebecca Bauer-Kahan (D) defeated incumbent Catherine Baker (R) to represent the California 16th Assembly District. That district runs through Orinda, Moraga, Lafayette, portions of Walnut Creek, Alamo, Danville, San Ramon, Dublin, Pleasanton and out to

Livermore. She was selected by her colleagues in the Assembly leadership to serve as Assistant Speaker pro Tempore and as Chair of the Select Committee on Women’s Reproductive Health – the first committee of its kind in the nation.

Before getting elected, Rebecca was an attorney during which she specialized in ensuring major corporations complied with environmental laws and regulations by leading internal investigations to improve their environmental practices, while maintaining profitability. She also oversaw and grew her office’s pro bono program to include civil rights, immigration, homelessness and domestic violence.

Rebecca is the granddaughter of refugees, who came to the United States to escape the Holocaust, and this perspective guides her public service. She is a Bay Area native, product of public schools, graduated from the University of Pennsylvania and Georgetown University Law Center. She and her husband, Darren, live in Orinda with their three young children.

2020-21 AAUW OML SPONSORS/ ADVERTISERS

*AAUW members

LAFAYETTE

Asian Accents – Original Designs in Jewelry by K. de Groot*
Bistro Burger & Grill
Creative Alterations – Josef Jamkochain
DIABLO FOODS
Persons Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery – Barbara Persons, MD FACS
SPINE & SPORTCARE ASSOCIATES – Dale Giessman, D.C.
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*
New Delhi Indian Bistro
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The UPS Store
ViaVienté – Lana Reichick*
ZENOPS

ORINDA

Angie Evans Traxinger & Joan Evans* – Village Associates Real Estate
Casa Orinda
Meadow View Winery
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Soraya Golesorkhi*, – Coldwell Banker Realty
Todd Bunch, Lamorinda 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
Superior Carpet Cleaning – Robin Hartshorn
The Service Outlet – Marc Harvey, San Ramon

Please refer to the membership directory for complete advertising information.

SPECIAL INTEREST ACTIVITIES

BLM ALLIES GROUP
 Wednesday,
 January 13 and 27
 via Zoom • 10 am

Contact Denise Burian for Zoom link if you'd like to join this discussion group, denburian@gmail.com.

EVENING SALON
 Every Thursday
 via Zoom • 7-9 pm

To join in the conversation, contact Denise Burian for the Zoom link, denburian@gmail.com.

MUSEUM MAVENS
 Every Fourth Friday
 via Zoom • 4 pm

Last quarter the museum tours were fun and interesting! We enjoyed amazing tours online with docents, and we will continue with online museum tours this quarter.

To sign up individually, go to www.covia.org or email coviaconnections@covia.org. If you are on the OML museum mavens email list, the easiest way is look for the Zoom link on the morning of the tour from **Marielle Boortz**. She will also be graciously hosting a Zoom group meeting on the fourth Friday of the month at 4 pm.

Contact **Marjorie Singler** if you have questions: msingler@comcast.net, or text 878-5915.



OML Golfers enjoy a round at the Diablo Hills course "in cognito."

ANYONE WHO HAS READ THE BOOK
 Friday, November 15
 via Zoom • 10 am

The selection for December is *Washington Black* by Esi Edugyan. If you don't usually receive a Zoom invite let Jill Eberhard know, jill@gemed.com. Mary Hake has offered to lead this month.

GREAT DECISIONS
 Wednesday, January 6
 via Zoom • 10 am

Our discussion topic for January is **Puerto Rico**. 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.

Reflections from Members of the Black Lives Matter Allies Group

The Black Lives Matter Allies Group has been meeting for several months discussing the Kendi book *How to Be an AntiRacist*. We are learning to look at our own attitudes and behaviors as we discuss race, and what we can do to respond in an antiracist manner.

I recently had a personal awakening as a result of a news story. In November, a black family in Arkansas strung lights on their home and added an inflatable black Santa this year next to their inflatable Christmas tree and a sign that read "JOY." They received an anonymous letter attacking them for their black Santa, telling this family that Santa is white, along with other racist comments. Word got out that this occurred and soon, many of their neighbors (mostly white) bought and installed inflatable black Santas in their yards, showing visible signs of support for this black family.

This got me thinking of the time I wanted to give my daughter and son-in-law the white angel we had had on our tree while my daughter was growing up. My son-in-law said no, they would use the angel his mother had given them – a black angel. Of course! His family is African American! I still didn't get the whole meaning though. I have eight black grandchildren, and have never had a black Santa in my home,

nor a black angel. Santas and angels are white to me, but not to my grandchildren. From now on, the Santas and Angels in my house will represent all members of my family.

Ellen Beans adds: I also had an awakening experience around Christmas traditions this season through my "adoption" of an eight year old girl, thanks to Salvation Army. I chose Valentina's wish list, largely because of her request for an American doll. I saw a large collection of dolls on Amazon, but decided to shop in person for Valentina's doll in Target. Then one night I had the brain storm - why not gift this eight year old with my beloved Carolyn with her wardrobe of clothes made by my mother? I looked at this lovely treasure with her long blond hair and white skin - would Valentina love her as I had? A year ago I probably would have proceeded to give my Carolyn to Valentina. However, thanks to what I have learned in the past six months, I decided that a girl with this name would likely have dark hair and brown skin. Hopefully this was the right choice!! But I am grateful I saw beyond the limits of my white world this time.

Submitted by
Mary Olowin,
Ellen Beans
and Denise Burian

**JANUARY 2021
AT A GLANCE**

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

1 FRI – CRITICS CHOICE BOOK GROUP
Pass along your books!

6 WED – GREAT DECISIONS
10 am – Via Zoom
Discussion topic: Puerto Rico
Read more on page 9.

7, 14, 21, 28 THUR – EVENING SALON
7 pm – Via Zoom
Read more on page 9.

9 SAT – INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL GROUP
7 pm – Via Zoom *Note: Second Saturday.*

11, 25 MON – GOLF GROUP
Contact Jan Gee for time and venue, jgee17@yahoo.com.

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

13, 27 WED – BLM ALLIES GROUP
10 am – Via Zoom
Read more on page 9.

13 WED – MEMOIRS & MUSINGS
1 pm – Via Zoom.

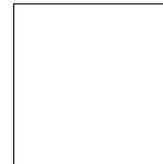
15 FRI – ANYONE WHO HAS READ THE BOOK
10 am – Via Zoom
Book to discuss: *Washington Black*.
Read more on page 9.

15 FRI – LETS GO TO THE MOVIES
7 pm – Via Zoom
Contact Mary Leigh Miller, mlmiller602@gmail.com.

19 TUE – GENERAL MEETING
Speaker: Assemblywoman, Rebecca Bauer-Kahab
7 pm – Via Zoom
NOTE: You must pre-register for this meeting.
Look for an e-blast prior to the meeting day with a link to pre-register for this meeting. The link can also be found on the OML website and on this issue's front page.

22 FRI – MUSEUM MAVENS
5 pm – Via Zoom
Read more on page 9.

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24 SUN – DEADLINE for FEBRUARY 2021 TRIAD
Send all articles to Mary Leigh Miller, 631-9694
mlmiller602gmail.com.

28 THURS – BIKE RIDING GROUP
Contact Diane Bell, dianelouise2020@yahoo.com.

FEBRUARY 2021
Look for more listings in the February issue.

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

16 TUE – GENERAL MEETING
Women Suffrage Warriors
9:30 am – Via Zoom

NEWS FROM OTHER BRANCHES

Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek Branch
Wednesday, January 27, 2021 from 5 – 6:30 pm
Race and Racism - Deepening Your Personal Understanding & Consciousness
Speaker: Dr. Lori A. Watson

This seminar is intended to introduce participants to the needed skills of anti-racism. For non-DAW Branch members, register through EventBrite by clicking on the branch link and then click on register: <https://daw-ca.aauw.net/race/>.

Benicia-Vallejo Branch
Saturday, Jan 9, 2021 - 12 noon
AAUW Career Development Grant Recipient,
Denise Mitchell
Educating Our Youth: Relevant Curriculum
Amidst a Changing Platform
For how to join the meeting, click here:
<https://beniciavallejo-ca.aauw.net>.