

**IN ~ OUT BOARD MEETING  
TUESDAY, JUNE 8  
Via Zoom 9 :30 am**

**Look for information about an August 17 General Meeting focusing on Fire Safety and Evacuation Preparedness via Zoom in the August Triad. No meeting in July.**

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE

Each member should have received her very own colorful gift bag delivered to her doorstep around May 13 by an OML elf!!! Included in this bag was an envelope with your membership renewal forms. Dues are \$106, a \$3 increase because of an increase in National dues (National \$62, State \$20, Branch \$24). This is the first National dues increase in three years and is needed because of inflation and rising expenses.

In spite of the pandemic, AAUW-OML has continued its mission. We became experts on Zoom, continued our monthly events, our priorities continued, and even our advertisers continued to support us by purchasing directory ads. Our work continued because of your support. Thank you. Your membership dollars and donations are critical to the ongoing support of our OML branch and our priorities.

### There are two ways to pay your dues:

**1. Online using a credit card:** Around May 21 you will receive an email from [memberinfo@aauw.org](mailto:memberinfo@aauw.org) titled "AAUW Membership Renewal for Fiscal Year 2022." In this email there will be a link you can click on that will take you directly to the national website where you can pay your dues via credit card. This link is individual for you and takes you to the proper location in the national website without needing your member number. If you do pay dues online, please continue to fill out and send in the branch member profile to Marie, so we have the important information requested on this sheet. You can also send along any additional donations.

**2. Traditional method:** Fill out the two-page membership renewal included in the gift bag or attached in the email sent to you from Marie Bonilla. Send in the renewal and your dues check to Marie with any additional donations you wish to make. Marie's address is shown on the form.

Together we are a strong team, providing important public services, enriching our own lives, and making new friends. This is the strength of AAUW and why so many women have enjoyed long years of commitment to AAUW. And please, encourage your friends to join our cause!

Thank you in advance for renewing your membership or for joining the first time!

**Marie Bonilla, VP, Membership**

## BUTTERFLY MEETING

**A great time on Tuesday, May 18!**

We had a delightful Zoom get-together for our May general meeting with stories of butterflies and the creation of origami butterflies by each one of us.



I want to thank all the team members who made our OML Goodie Bags a success. The beautiful monarch butterfly cookies were researched and purchased

by **Alison Mackenzie**. **Sandy Fox-Sohner** was able to locate and package the showy-milkweed seeds with the directions for us to help the seeds germinate. **Bobby Preston** was our expert from the Moraga for Monarchs project, explaining the plans for the monarch habitat at Rancho Laguna Park in Moraga and showing us the progress of the developing project.

We had almost 20 women deliver the bags to each of our members – complete with a pretty bag and a pleasant "hello."

The big success of the morning was the origami butterflies created by each of our members, thanks to **Lyn-**



**da Leonard**. The project was fun, creative, and certainly brought many butterflies to OML! We loved the suggestion to possibly have an origami interest group.

**Maryellen Judson  
Goodie Bag Coordinator**

... PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



We began the 2020-21 OML year with questions and uncertainties due to the COVID pandemic and ended it with some fun and connecting with each other. Thanks to hospitality chair Maryellen Judson and her OML elves we each received a second OML goodie bag in May. About 40 of us attended our May general meeting via Zoom at which Bobby Preston

told us about the Moraga monarch butterfly project. Lynda Leonard then guided us in making butterflies using origami paper that was in our goodie bags. So many enjoyed the activity they suggested we form an origami interest group; contact Lynda if you wish to join. If you missed the May meeting, the recording is posted on our website.

Despite this being an atypical year OML continued to live its vision: (to) make a positive impact on our local and global community by promoting education, empowering women and girls, and supporting personal and professional growth. Most of our interest groups stayed active, even during the summer. The STEM committee expanded its STEM program and outreach with Girls4STEM, a webinar series for high school girls, and held the STEM Conference for middle school girls via Zoom. Our interest group BLM Allies evolved to become a new OML priority: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI). The scholarship/awards committee increased its offerings to include a college scholarship for Saint Mary's College students, awarding two. Our Burckhalter committee couldn't work in the school library but still provided books for students and student tutoring via Zoom.

We should each applaud our resiliency and the supportive culture that exists within the branch. It was wonderful to see so many of you via Zoom or when I delivered goodie bags to your homes. I hope our now twice-canceled May luncheon can be a September luncheon this fall. If so, we can celebrate many things: being together in person, applauding our 2020-21 Distinguished Woman, and showcasing OML programs and activities that benefit the community plus nurture our individual personal growth and friendships with each other. I hope everyone enjoys a nice summer. I look forward to seeing you at the possible August general meeting via Zoom and in-person luncheon in September.

**Marielle Boortz, Co-President**

BOARD MEETING  
May 11, 2021

Voting for AAUW National board positions and by-law change is very important. Voting is open until May 17.

Goodie bags with a special butterfly cookie, tea bag, candy, membership renewal letter and origami paper were delivered prior to the May general meeting. The June In/Out Board Meeting will be via Zoom and the installation of new officers will be brief. A word of thanks to those leaving the board and a big welcome to our new board members. There will not be a general meeting in June or July. The next general meeting will be in August with a possible topic of Fire and Earthquake Safety.

The position of Chair of Tech Trek is open as Jan Cushman assumes the position of President of OML Board.

It has been a pleasure to serve as secretary during the past three years. COVID-19 provided some new twists and challenges. I look forward to a time in the future when we can be together in person.

I confidently hand over the duties, binders and files of OML secretary to Maryellen Judson.

**Linda Bochte, Secretary**

NEW ELECTED OFFICERS INSTALLED BY ZOOM

It may have been the quickest installation of new officers ever! Alison MacKenzie welcomed the new officers during the May meeting and thanked the outgoing officers for their dedication and support for the branch. We're looking forward to a more formal installation of next year's officers in person next spring!

	<b>Out with the Old:</b>	<b>In with the New:</b>
<b>President:</b>	Alison MacKenzie & Marielle Boortz	Jan Cushman
<b>President Elect:</b>	None	Peggy Cabaniss
<b>VP, Membership:</b>	Marie Bonilla	Marie Bonilla
<b>VP, Program:</b>	None	Barbara Bell & Mary Leigh Miller
<b>VP, Fund:</b>	Diane Bell & Marilyn Evans	Diane Bell
<b>VP, Finance:</b>	Peggy Cabaniss	Marielle Boortz
<b>Secretary:</b>	Linda Bochte	Maryellen Judson

## FOCUS ON ... SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE and the NCCWSL PROGRAM

### High Potential, First Generation, Low-income Program at Saint Mary's College

Four year ago, while I was president of our branch, I began to work with the scholarship committee to identify candidates for a \$5,000 graduate studies scholarship awarded to graduating women at Saint Mary's College, who had demonstrated a passion for community service. This turned out to be the last year our branch awarded this type of scholarship. The scholarship committee began to research alternative options for Saint Mary's students.

When I attended several AAUW national and AAUW California state conferences I learned about the AAUW College and University (C/U) Membership program and the AAUW sponsored National Conference for Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) held annually since 1981. Saint Mary's College was not an active C/U member at the time. I began to network through my STEM activities with various contacts at Saint Mary's, many were not familiar with AAUW nor the benefits and scholarships available to faculty and students with C/U membership. At our first STEM Conference parent workshop, I invited Roy Wensley, Dean of the Math and Science Department, to share his thoughts on supporting young adults as they choose electives preparing them for future careers in STEM related fields. Since then Roy has connected me with the faculty and deans at Saint Mary's as a champion for Saint Mary's College to join AAUW as a College and University Partner.

The AAUW-OML scholarship committee, on the recommendation of my granddaughter who had attended NCCWSL in May 2017, sent two girls from the Saint Mary's High Potential (HP), First Generation, Low Income program to NCCWSL, which aligned with the mission and goals of AAUW and our branch strategic plan. The girls found the experience life changing.

Then, due to COVID-19, the 2020 NCCWSL conference was canceled. Since we had not heard anything from National regarding a NCCWSL conference for 2021, we had the time to create a onetime scholarship designed to recognize women student leaders in the HP program. They needed to demonstrate a commitment to community engagement activities at Saint Mary's that would bring about equity for the underserved. By working with Alondra and Samantha (the two students we sent to NCCWSL in 2019) we learned of the High Potential, First Generation, Low Income program at Saint Mary's. Together we designed a one-time \$1,000 scholarship for two sophomore or junior women in the program. Alondra and Samantha created flyers detailing the criteria for the application process as well as personally promoting it throughout the program. Their efforts and support resulted in our receiving eight applications from some amazing and accomplished young women. When we learned that NCCWSL was going to take place this year as a virtual conference, the committee voted to send all the candidates to the conference along with Alondra and Samantha who had applied for and received partial scholarships from our branch's NCCWSL committee to return for the second time.

It was inspirational to hear their stories, which I will include in the next Triad issue. We were impressed to learn of the incredible experience they have had at Saint Mary's as participants in the High Potential, First Generation, Low Income program.

**Laura Wittenberg, OML Saint Mary's Liaison**

### Exciting results of a recent meeting at Saint Mary's

On May 26, Mary Ann McLeod, Peggy Cabaniss and I held a Zoom meeting with **Jane Palmer**, dean of the High Potential, First Generation Program, to get feedback that would help us determine if attending NCCWSL was seen as an enhancement of college programs already in place to support their students.

As an organization, our branch has several priorities/projects that align with this program. One of them is Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, formed to find ways that we, as privileged caucasians, can be allies through community engagement and education, and to help underserved, low income and first-generation students through this newest AAUW priority.

For over 47 years, the college has viewed social justice and education for the underserved to be critical to their mission. Its programs provide great support to students for the first two years, Jane told us, but is inconsistent when it comes to career preparation and moving out into the world. We asked if she would consider being a guest speaker at one of our general meetings, along with the scholarship recipients. The OML scholarship committee is planning to put this together for the October 19 meeting.

#### **Notes from the May 26 meeting**

Criteria for acceptance into Saint Mary's College's HP program:

1. Students must be a citizen.
2. They must demonstrate a financial need.
3. They must be a first generation student seeking a four-year degree.

The AAUW NCCWSL program would provide:

1. The opportunity for the young women to connect with other like-minded women,
2. Tools and a scholarship to enhance their participation, and
3. A mentoring experience.

MEMBERS CORNER • **MEET OUR MEMBERS**
**Stacia Cragholm**  
**Member Since 2011**  
**Part Three**

Members Corner concludes the story of synergy in the founding of our branch's successful STEM Workshops Conference. Read Parts One and Two in the April and May Triads.

**Tell us more about the ambassadors.**

The origin of the ambassadors program was in the first conference. In 2016, we had 120 middle school girls registered. We recruited high school girls, former Tech Trekkers, to be monitors, to escort the girls from workshop to workshop on campus.

Heidi, Laura, and I realized the value of working with the high school girls. We decided to incorporate concepts developed in the Sister-to-Sister program. We called them our ambassadors. Heidi, Laura, and I are firm believers in giving girls leadership opportunities. Many ambassadors were Tech Trekkers, but we welcome any high school girl who expresses an interest in joining us to plan the conference. Since 2017, girls from five local high schools have been ambassadors.

When the pandemic forced the cancellation in 2020, we shifted gears. We incorporated the ambassadors into the development of our GIRLS4STEM program, and the 2021 virtual conference. We could not have done either program without the valuable assistance of our young leaders.

**Tell us about the parents program at STEM.**

Laura Wittenberg took on the parent program from day one. It has developed into an exceptionally well received part of our conference. Attendance has doubled since the first year. We are focused on the social and emotional aspects of rearing teen-age girls. Our ambassadors love being panelists at the parents session, sharing with the parents their experiences maneuvering through middle school and high school years.

**You likely want to express thanks to many.**

When I think of all the volunteers who have been part of this, it amazes me how talented everyone is. I truly think this is another one of our conference angels. So many stepped up, making our program better. Our entire committee, the workshop presenters, and conference day volunteers do many tasks to make it run smoothly.

I want to highlight Mary Leigh Miller, our media and graphics specialist. She designed our logo and all our publications – a critical part of our team. We could never have done this without the assistance of Saint Mary's College, in particular

Dean Roy Wensley of the Math and Computer Science Department, and Dr. Kristen Beck. Laura Wittenberg's work has expanded our influence at SMC. Other departments will likely add their support.

Our sponsors and donors are fundamental to our success. Expanding Your Horizons (EYH) and Chevron—our rock of financial support every year. Our many



members who donate are equally important. Chris Lascz-Davis added her leadership and influence to bring Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary; they give both financial and volunteer support. One member has been our nurse for two years and Marty Schimbor and Kathe Mitchell are a big help with registration.

Many branch members do important tasks, starting with our super women: Heidi Mayer, Mary Leigh Miller, Laura Wittenberg, and Chris Lascz-Davis, for all the reasons mentioned. Caroline Friedmann organized our volunteers and stepped up as my co-chair in 2020. She and Denise Burian agreed to become our new Co-Chairs in 2021. I am confident that our conference is in super capable hands. Peggy Cabaniss, Treasurer and cheerleader. Pat Beckner (R.I.P.) and Denise Burian, were super cheerleaders who did anything we asked. Denise is an expert problem solver. Jan Cushman, Gail Chesler, Sharon Doi always contribute in key roles. And you, Lana Reichick, managing traffic signing and control, with Judy Helder's help.

Lastly, but most important personally, is the tremendous support I have from my own family. My husband Ells has been supportive and patient all these years, even helping me at 6 am, trekking car loads of stuff to SMC. My daughter Julie was our nurse for two years; my techie daughter Christina, who works at Zoom, was one of our closing speakers. I cannot thank them enough for supporting me as I pursued my dream.

*It took our AAUW and family village, synergy, and a few conference angels along the way. Thank you, Stacia, for your vision.*

**Lana Reichick**

**MEMBERS CORNER**

**What was your journey to AAUW? What projects or groups interest you? What was a memorable program for you? Answer a few questions or write your own narrative. Submit to Lana Reichick: [lanasan@aol.com](mailto:lanasan@aol.com).**

## CATCHING UP WITH OUR SCHOLASHIP AWARDEES

The second year of COVID-19 awards programs kept the scholarship committee on their toes! Each high school decided on a different approach to their senior awards night. We honored girls in the school counselor’s office, one school awards program, in Gail Burnett’s front yard and in my back yard. The Saint Mary’s College students all lived in the greater Bay Area, so we mailed their checks. The Saint Mary’s undergrad students will attend NCCWSL May 25-26.

One of our Campolindo scholarship awardees, **Helen Kaidantzis**, wrote the following thank you note to our committee. Helen attended Tech Trek camp and during her four years of high school Helen has collaborated with our members to plan the STEM Conferences at Saint Mary’s College. She was also instrumental in planning the STEM4Girls webinar program this year. Our scholarship is a tribute to her desire to help others in the community and we appreciate Helen’s thoughtful words of thanks to our branch.

Scholarship awards were delivered in April to the winners of our local three high schools. The photos below are of some of the girls we honored, each with a scholarship committee member who delivered the flowers.

- **Mary Ann** with Campolindo senior, **Jacqueline Artiaga**
- **Bonnie Fend** with **Chaya Tong**, from Miramonte
- **Sophie Krayna** of Acalanes with **Debbie Levy**, Acalanes College and Career Counselor and **Gail Burnett**.



### HELEN MARGRETHE K Aidantzis

Dear Mary Ann and the AAUW scholarship committee,  
 Thank you for awarding me the AAUW community service scholarship. It is such an honor and I am grateful to have been recognized by your organization. I am so proud of the work that I have done for the past 6 years in collaboration with AAUW. I have grown as a leader and as an advocate. I truly believe that AAUW's STEM programs are changing the lives of dozens of girls in Lamorinda. I know that the STEM conference and Girls4STEM webinars have connected me with a network of supportive women, who have pushed me to pursue my dreams. Again thank you so much.

Sincerely, Helen Kaidantzis

Please turn to page 7 to read an interview with Helen, which was included in the May issue of the *Lafayette Social* magazine.

**Mary Ann McLeod,**  
 Scholarship Co-Chair

### DID YOU KNOW?

Connie Whitting found this quote in *Gutsy Women* by Hillary and Chelsea Clinton (one of the books featured at the OML Book Fair). On page 363, under Elected Leaders, was a section on **Wilma Mankiller, Chief of the Cherokees.**

*Wilma is also dedicated to inspiring future generations and helping them to succeed. She took part in a program through the American Association of University Women that matched Cherokee girls with career mentors in order to help raise their self confidence and open up opportunities. “Suddenly you hear young Cherokee girls talking about becoming leaders,” she wrote. “And in Cherokee families, there is more encouragement of girls.”*

## OML BRANCH in the NEWS

**Note from Marielle Boortz:** When our AAUW members who are Lafayette residents received their May issue of the *Lafayette Social* magazine, they found it included two articles about our STEM programs. The articles look great and I have received several compliments about them! Below is one of the articles and the other, on one of our scholarship winners Helen Kaidantzis, is on the next page. *Editor's note:* Both articles have been rearranged to fit in the Triad format.

## TECH TREK GOES VIRTUAL

### Seventeen Girls Are Looking Forward to a Virtual Camp

Our 17 Tech Trek girls will be attending one of three camps on June 21-25, July 12-16 or July 21-30. The materials provided by the camp will be available for the girls to pick up a few days before it starts. Along with the kit for the robotics workshop in the morning (servos, LED lights, plug-in board, cardboard for the hat), **Qualcomm** is providing some additional "swag": t-shirt, special bag to hold items that can be used as a lunch bag, a screwdriver set with tape measure, notebook/pen plus more.

I can't wait to hear what they think of the morning and afternoon hands-on workshops and presentations by women with careers in STEM.

**Jan Cushman, Chair, Tech Trek**

## AAUW FUND WRAP UP

After a very successful year for the OML Branch AAUW Fund, we are now into the 2021 fund raising season, which runs from Jan.1 to Dec. 31 yearly.

This year's contribution to the National Fund was a \$5,000 donation from our branch based on the many generous contributions given over the past year. See last year's list of donors in the May Triad.

There are many opportunities to contribute – the beautiful note cards we all received and the chance to donate when you renew your membership as well as many other meaningful occasions. Please remember to put your membership number on any contribution so that our branch receives full credit.

Diane Bell will be carrying on in this board position. I have enjoyed working with all of you.

**Marilyn Evans,**  
Outgoing VP, AAUW Fund

# GIRLS4STEM WEBINARS

## Connect High School Students with Women in STEM

According to a 2020 report by USA Facts, women only earn 32.4% of all degrees awarded in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). While this percentage is higher than it's ever been, there's still a long road ahead before we see equal gender representation in STEM fields.

Now, Lafayette residents Marielle Boortz and Stacia Cragholm are leveling the playing field — with the help of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), they're promoting a monthly Girls4STEM webinar dedicated to helping high school girls explore opportunities in STEM.

"The webinar spotlights women professionals in STEM fields, and it has the whole gamut from women in engineering to astrophysicist astronomer types to medical doctors," says Marielle, the Co-President of the Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette (OML) branch of AAUW.

By sharing their education and career paths, discussing their work, and offering guidance, these presenters hope to give girls the information and confidence they need to take STEM classes, pursue college majors in STEM fields, and eventually apply for jobs in STEM.

"The speakers' stories are all so different, and they allow each participant to see a path for themselves," says Stacia. "I think that with these workshop leaders, keynote speakers and webinar presenters, girls are able to learn the importance of opening doors for women in STEM and for them to step through those doors themselves."

Stacia, who taught middle school for almost 30 years, joined AAUW in 2010 and helped send girls from Stanley Middle School to weeklong Tech Trek STEM camps at Stanford. Determined to further expand STEM programming for girls, she oversaw the creation of an annual daylong STEM conference that has hosted nearly 200 female students.

"I had a dream about sharing STEM with girls outside of the seven girls we can send each year to the STEM camp at Stanford," says Stacia. "As an educator, I want everyone to have that opportunity."

Last year, when COVID-19 forced the cancellation of their in-person conference and other STEM programs, AAUW OML pivoted their strategy to create the webinar series. Thanks to a generous grant from the Bettelheim Family Foundation, Girls4STEM is free and open to all high school girls. Webinars are offered 1-2 times per month on Sunday afternoons for up to 500 attendees.

"Hopefully we're opening doors where girls can find that chance to explore things on their own without being intimidated," says Marielle. "I know these girls love the idea of being able to work with other like-minded girls. They enjoy that freedom to not have to worry about being bullied or teased because they like certain things."

For more information about the Girls4STEM webinar series, go to <https://oml-ca.aauw.net/girls4stem-webinars/>.



Marielle Boortz

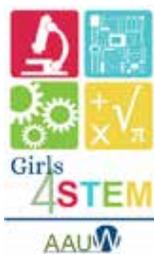


Stacia Cragholm

photos by Andree Dugan

## OML BRANCH in the NEWS, continued

# Helen Kaidantzis



**Name:** Helen Kaidantzis

**Age:** 18

**School:** Campolindo High School

**Neighborhood:** Burton Valley

## How did you learn about STEM?

I got my formal introduction to STEM subjects when I attended Tech Trek, a weeklong STEM camp, in 7th grade. I spent a lot of time messing



At Tech Trek, Helen built a model of the Golden Gate Bridge with newspaper and tape. (2016)

around on computers and tablets, coding small video games, and showing them to the rest of the girls in the class. I got to talk with amateur astronomers, attend lectures, and meet professional women in STEM fields. Learning about STEM at such a young age and sticking with it helped me mature and develop the confidence I have needed to prove myself to teachers, employers, and other older successful adults.

## What is your favorite part of STEM? Science, Math, Engineering, or Technology?



Helen at her grandparents' house in Denmark. "I love animals and environmental science, and I've always been fascinated by the tiny frogs in Denmark." (2019)

I love labs and collecting data, which is why science appeals to me the most. However, I also love solving equations and working with numbers, and I've found that chemistry has the best balance between math and science. I also love the rigor of intense math classes, and I am currently in AP Calculus BC. I took an introduction to computer science semester-long course sophomore year, and I am now in AP Computer Science A. Although it doesn't involve a lot of sampling data, it is easily my favorite class this year and has made me want to minor in a type of computer science in college.

## What events have you participated in?

For the past three years, I have been volunteering as a youth ambassador for my branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW). I help create a new STEM conference each year for 200 middle school girls, and I speak on their behalf at public events to illuminate the importance of getting girls into STEM. This past year, I have also been working with AAUW to develop Girls4STEM. It provides high school girls across the country with live webinars featuring professional women in STEM fields.

## Do you plan to pursue more education in STEM classes after you graduate?

I do plan to pursue more education in STEM classes after I graduate. I don't know what college I will be attending yet, but I know it will be in California, and I know I will be majoring in chemistry, environmental science, or some other STEM subject. I'm still exploring all of my career options, but I have my heart set on having a job where I can keep exploring. Maybe that will be in a pharmaceutical lab, in an operating room, or along the California coastline.

For more information about the Girls4STEM webinar series, go to <https://oml-ca.aauw.net/girls4stem-webinars/>.

## INTER BRANCH COUNCIL REPORT

At the May 25, 2021, meeting the Contra Costa/Solano Interbranch Council (IBC), comprised of the nine local AAUW branches, made some unanimous and significant decisions regarding the focus and operation of the IBC.

Several decisions regard IBC finances, prompted by AAUW CA recently advising IBCs in California that to facilitate compliance with tax filing/reporting requirements IBCs should either be incorporated as a non-profit, manage their finances through a member branch that is incorporated or not hold monies. Our IBC (which isn't incorporated) decided on the third option. The IBC voted to close out its checking account by July 1 (end of AAUW's fiscal year) and disperse the funds to the member branches based upon the IBC's dues allocation formula. The checking account has a balance of about \$900. With the checking account being closed, IBC then voted to eliminate the IBC Treasurer position effective July 1.

If IBC has an event/activity that costs money, the participating branches will each pay their fair share and one branch will volunteer to be the event/activity coordinator. Branches/branch members that have paid Zoom accounts will volunteer to be Zoom host for IBC meetings so IBC will not need to have a paid Zoom account. At a prior IBC meeting, it was decided that all IBC meetings will now be by Zoom/videoconference.

Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek (DAW) Branch proposed and the other branches agreed to reinvigorate the IBCs focus on public policy matters by creating a public policy committee. DAW branch will email the presidents of IBC member branches to invite their public policy representatives to attend the first committee meeting via Zoom. Main agenda item is to draft a committee charter for presentation and approval by the IBC.

During the branch round table, branches reported on some of their successful fundraising activities and whether their branch/interest groups were having in-person meetings. DAW reported that they raised about \$4,000 for local scholarships at their Ruth Bancroft Garden private tours last Friday and two more events at the Garden will be held July 28 and 29. The branch also had fundraising success with partnering with local restaurants on meal takeout orders. San Ramon branch reported they raised about \$2,000 with their shredding event. Regarding in-person meetings, branches are complying with their relevant county orders regarding indoor/outdoor meetings and wearing masks. No branches are having in-person general meetings yet but hope to soon. Some interest groups are starting to have in-person meetings if all participants are totally vaccinated against COVID.

Diane Coventry reported that she will continue as Sonoma State University Tech Trek (TT) camp co-director and that Sonoma State has Tech Trek camp on its calendar for summer 2022. She added that Stanford University has announced it will be hosting a non-Stanford camp next summer but has not yet announced whether it would host Tech Trek camps. Diane said that it is likely that some TT camp directors will resign and thereby create some 2022 TT camp director openings.

For OML Branch, I reported that our new IBC representatives will be Jan Cushman and Peggy Cabaniss and they will share the IBC Secretary duties as Alison Mackenzie and I have done this past year. Debbie Cummings of Delta Contra Costa Branch and Cindy Alpert of San Ramon Branch agreed to continue and were re-elected as IBC Chair and Vice Chair.

**Marielle Boortz, Co-President**

## PUBLIC POLICY WASHINGTON UPDATE

**Take action on the most pressing policies. In education, the plan:**

- Creates a national partnership with states to provide free universal pre-school for all three- and four-year-olds and prioritize high-need areas,
- Addresses teacher shortages, teacher preparation and teacher diversity, including preparing and developing special education teachers,
- Supports two years of free community college,
- Invests in Pell Grants, leading to a \$1,400 increase in awards and making Dreamers eligible to receive the grant, and
- Invests in Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), and Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs), including expanding and strengthening educational programs in high-demand fields.

**The care economy is further bolstered by:**

- Ensuring low- and middle-income families have access to high-quality child care, so families do not have to spend more than 7% of their income on care,
- Ensuring early childhood staff earn a \$15 minimum wage and that those with similar qualifications as kindergarten teachers receive comparable compensation and benefits, and
- Creating a comprehensive paid family and medical leave program that will guarantee 12 weeks of paid parental, family, and personal illness/safe leave by year 10 of the program and three days of bereavement leave per year starting in the first year of the program.

The AAUW Public Policy team held a webinar to note its progress and examine the outstanding needs of our nation. Watch the webinar recording here. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DXtISKVh6IA>.

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

**SPECIAL INTEREST ACTIVITIES**

**BOCCE BALL**

**A New Interest Group!**  
**Monday, June 7**  
**(and possibly June 21)**  
**Moraga Commons • 9 am**

There are two bocce ball courts at the Moraga Commons that are available on Monday mornings. Some of us from Evening Salon expressed an interest in starting a group to get together and play on the first Monday of the month (and possibly the third Monday as well). If you would like to join in the fun, let **Mary Leigh Miller** know. Contact her at 360-4443 or online at [mlmiller602@gmail.com](mailto:mlmiller602@gmail.com).

If you are feeling more competitive, you might be also interested in team play on Tuesday evenings (lasting through the end of August). Four teams play each other starting at 6 pm, usually lasting until 8 pm or so. Contact Mary Leigh for more details.

**DEI – BLM ALLIES GROUP**  
**Wednesday, June 9 and 23**  
**via Zoom • 10 am**

BLM Allies is now called Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI), a new branch priority recently created by AAUW National. We are currently reading and discussing *Caste*, by Isabel Wilkerson. Contact **Denise Burian**, [denburian@gmail.com](mailto:denburian@gmail.com), for the Zoom link.

**A long overdo shout-out to**  
**JANET MENDENHALL**  
**who we heard turned**  
**100 years old**  
**in December 15, 2020.**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**



**ANYONE WHO HAS READ THE BOOK**

**Friday, June 18**  
**Janette Maher's home • 10 am**

This group is getting organized for the coming year. Everything remains the same – third Friday at 10 am. Jill has presented the list of books that members have suggested and anyone who has ever expressed an interest will receive a copy (about 25-30 members, although at the meetings there are considerably fewer, usually around 12.) Everyone had a chance to vote on 11 out of 22 selection. The deadline for turning in the vote was May 26.

It has been fun over the years to meet at member's homes during the summer months. Janette Maher has offered to host the first such meeting in June – June 18. We will advise as to what the selection will be. Hopefully in the fall we can continue to meet at Orinda Books but are not sure yet.

**Marilyn Evans and Jill Eberhard**

**MUSEUM MAVENS**  
**Every Fourth Friday**  
**via Zoom • 4:30 pm**

We have online Zoom tours with various museums every Wednesday from 11-12 pm with a program called *Well Connected*, run by Covia, and online discussions of tours every fourth Friday of the month, via Zoom at 4:30 pm, hosted by **Marielle Boortz**.

If you would like to be on the museum mavens list to get links for the Zoom tours, email **Marjorie Singler** at [singler-marjorie@gmail.com](mailto:singler-marjorie@gmail.com) or text 878-5915.

**GREAT DECISIONS**  
**Wednesday, June 2**  
**via Zoom • 10 am**

The topic for June is *China and Africa*. For more information, call or text Judy Helder: 980-0151.

**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
- Royal Siam Thai Cuisine
- Town Bakery and Cafe
- The UPS Store
- ViaVienté – Lana Reichick\*
- ZENOPS

**ORINDA**

- Angie Evans Traxinger & Joan Evans\* – Village Associates Real Estate
- Casa Orinda
- Meadow View Winery
- Shelby's Restaurant
- 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.**

**JUNE 2021  
AT A GLANCE**

**1 TUE – CRITICS CHOICE BOOK GROUP**

Pass along your books!

**2 WED – GREAT DECISIONS**

10 am – Via Zoom

Discussion topic: China and Africa.

*Read more on page 9.*

**3, 10, 17, 24 THUR – EVENING SALON**

7 pm – Via Zoom

Contact Denise Burian for more info, [denburian@gmail.com](mailto:denburian@gmail.com)

**5 SAT – INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL GROUP**

7 pm – Via Zoom

Contact Sara Lautenbach, [sara@lautenbachs.com](mailto:sara@lautenbachs.com)

**7 MON – BOCCE BALL**

9 am – Moraga Commons bocce ball courts

Contact Mary Leigh Miller, [mlmiller602@gmail.com](mailto:mlmiller602@gmail.com)

*Read more on page 9.*

**8 TUE – IN- OUT BOARD MEETING**

1 pm – Via Zoom

Contact Marielle Boortz or Alison MacKenzie to be included.

**9, 23 WED – DEI-BLM ALLIES GROUP**

10 am – Via Zoom

*Read more on page 9.*

**9 WED – MEMOIRS & MUSINGS**

1 pm – Via Zoom

1

**4, 28 MON – GOLF GROUP**

Contact Jan Gee for time and venue, [jgee17@yahoo.com](mailto:jgee17@yahoo.com).

**18 FRI – ANYONE WHO HAS READ THE BOOK**

10 am – Janette Maher's home

Contact Marilyn Evans for book to be discussed.

*Read more on page 9.*

**19 SAT – LETS GO TO THE MOVIES**

4 pm – K. de Groot's home

Contact Mary Leigh Miller, [mlmiller602@gmail.com](mailto:mlmiller602@gmail.com).

*Note the change of day and time.*

**24 THURS – BIKE RIDING GROUP**

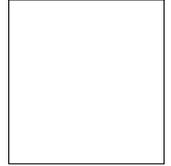
Contact Diane Bell, [dianelouise2020@yahoo.com](mailto:dianelouise2020@yahoo.com).

**25 FRI – MUSEUM MAVENS**

4:30 pm – Via Zoom

*Read more on page 9.*

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



**JULY 2021**

**24 SAT – DEADLINE for AUGUST 2021 TRIAD**

Send all articles to Mary Leigh Miller, 631-9694

[mlmiller602gmail.com](mailto:mlmiller602gmail.com).

**Please note: NO ISSUE  
of the TRIAD in JULY**

**Check with the coordinators of the special interest groups you are interested in to see if they are continuing over the summer. There will be no general meeting in June or July.**

**Look for information on a special Zoom meeting in August focusing on Fire Prevention and Evacuation Preparedness in the August Triad.**

**Our ADVERTISERS  
can use your SUPPORT**

**Although some of the businesses advertising in our directory are temporarily closed, many restaurants and food purveyors have been able to stay open by providing takeout orders. We hope you are taking advantage of this service.**

**Please go to the OML website for the complete list and contact information.**