

## OCTOBER 19 General Meeting 9:30 am ~ 11 am Orinda Community Church 10 Irwin Way, Orinda

### CONNECT, THRIVE, SUCCEED



October speaker,  
**JENEE PALMER**

Director of the High Potential  
Program/TRIO Support Services  
at Saint Mary's College.

She will be joined by several students who were part of High Potential program and have benefited from attending AAUW's National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) Conference.

This special program is brought to you by the Scholarship Committee and OML's new Diversity, Equity and Inclusion branch priority.

Read more about Jenee Palmer on page 4.



Support our Scholarship Fund.  
Eat or get take-out at Shelby's  
all day on October 19!

Read all about it on page 3!

### November General Meeting

## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16

via Zoom  
Time TBA

### Meet one of AAUW's Fellowship Recipients

• OML DIRECTORY •  
2021-22

*This coming year's edition  
will be out soon!*

Please look through the current  
issue and check the information  
we have listed for you. Do we  
need to make any changes?

- New email?
- Remove your home phone  
number and/or add your cell?
- New address?

Contact Mary Leigh Miller  
ASAP with any changes.  
[mlmiller602@gmail.com](mailto:mlmiller602@gmail.com)

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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NCCWSL and Shelby's  
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## ... PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**Son, James McGurk (on left), and husband, Bruce McGurk (on right), with Distinguished Woman, Jan Cushman at Tuesday's meeting.**

On Tuesday, September 21, it was a delight to finally meet in person for the first time since March of 2019! Over 50 current members enjoyed the wonderful food and Showcase information about branch activities outside the Orinda Community Church. Everyone had a wonderful time catching up with friends we haven't seen in person in way too long. Four new members joined the branch and were welcomed to AAUW!

We stepped inside with masks for a brief meeting to approve the budgets for the 501(c)4 branch and the 501(c)3 Community Outreach Foundation. Past President's pins were awarded to Denise Burian and Allison MacKenzie and Marielle Boortz showed her pin from when she was president of the San Ramon Branch. Congratulations and thank you to all three for your outstanding service to the branch! Awarding the pins had to wait until we could meet in person.

And then I gave my presentation as the 2020 and 2021 Distinguished Woman (unprecedented duration!). Thanks to Gail Chesler for her kind introduction. I had fun sharing some stories about my family, time in the Philippines, my education, my career as a toxicologist at Chevron and my passion for volunteering with Tech Trek and the Girl Scouts. I even snuck in a slide to illustrate a key premise of toxicology: *The Dose Makes the Poison*. Chemicals can be helpful or even essential to life, but if taken in excess could be damaging or deadly (even water!). I enjoyed introducing branch members to my husband Bruce McGurk and my son James McGurk. Thanks to Laura Wittenberg and Bruce for getting the sound system and the computer projection working. It was a challenge since it has been so long since we have used the Fellowship Hall equipment.

So next comes the search for the next Distinguished Woman! The Distinguished Woman award is presented to a woman whose work in any field – volunteer or professional – has demonstrated creativity, initiative, and outstanding achievement. Start thinking now about who meets these criteria and please send your nominations to me by the end of January. You can nominate more than one woman.

In case you haven't seen it yet, AAUW has published a new report entitled *Pandemic Inequity: Latinas and the COVID 19 Experience*. This new report examines how Latinas in the U.S. suffered disproportionate economic repercussions due to the pandemic and calls for specific policy solutions to address their needs. Stories from 41 Latinas who were interviewed dramatically illustrate the challenges these women have faced as the pandemic has exacerbated existing economic inequalities. [https://www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2021/07/Report-Latinas\\_4.0.pdf](https://www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2021/07/Report-Latinas_4.0.pdf)

**Jan Cushman, President**

**AAUW Mission** • AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

**Value Promise of AAUW** • By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

BOARD MEETING  
September 14, 2021

Highlights of OML 501c4 and 501C3 minutes

The board meeting on September 14 featured our upcoming programs. We are anticipating a good turnout as the general meeting will gather outside for refreshments and feature our Distinguished Woman, Jan Cushman.

We will meet the young women from Saint Mary's College in October who attended the AAUW-NCCWSL. Jenee Palmer, head of the program Connect, Thrive, Succeed will be our speaker.

The scholarship committee plans a fundraiser on the day of the October General Meeting. Shelby's Restaurant in Orinda will serve eating in, eating on the patio, or take out during lunch and dinner on that day and our scholarship programs will benefit..

Public Policy will be active with Sacramento this year.

We are making plans for the 2022 Stem Conference (one day) in March at Saint Mary's College.

**Maryellen Judson, Secretary**

WELCOME to OUR  
NEWEST MEMBERS

Welcome to our newest members most of whom joined at our September event:

**Sharon Flower, Libby Henry, Rashmi Shukla, Shari Simon and Liz Kennedy.**

We'll publish their short bios in the next several Triads so you can get to know them. We're so glad they have joined us in our efforts to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research!

**Marie Bonilla, VP, Membership**

**FOCUS ON ... SCHOLARSHIP, LEADERSHIP TRAINING and SHELBY'S****Connecting AAUW-OML with Saint Mary's College High Potential Program and NCCWSL**

The scholarship and DEI committees are looking forward to our October meeting where we will feature Jenee Palmer, director of the High Potential program and Saint Mary's students who attended AAUW's National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL).

At NCCWSL women gather from throughout the U.S. to discuss and learn about contemporary issues facing leaders. They attend workshops, hear from some of today's most inspirational women, and network with professionals, graduate schools, and many others. Interacting with fellow students from all over the country with their unique and various viewpoints adds to the experience of attending NCCWSL.

You may remember our first NCCWSL scholarships went to two Saint Mary's High Potential students. Working with Alondra and Samantha we learned of the value of this Saint Mary's College experience. The High Potential program ensures students in the program not only have the financial, educational, and emotional support they need to succeed in college but also develop the confidence and skills they will need to thrive in their chosen careers. The High Potential Program and NCCWSL work hand in hand. Both programs give these students support and knowledge they will need as leaders at the school and as they begin their professions.

Here are some takeaways from Saint Mary's students who attended AAUW's National Conference for College Women Student Leaders:

**Daniela:** "As I step into my new role as President of Gael women of Business at Saint Mary's, I'm reminded that what makes an organization great is not about the accolades, but the culture and community you build. My biggest takeaway from the conference was that, as women, we need to truly empower one another to be great. Too often we operate from a place of scarcity and not from a place of abundance and that needs to change."

**Alondra:** "For me the highlights were the workshops on *Marketing Yourself as Women Student Leaders* and *Social Skills for Gen Z*. . . . The speakers were very personable and engaging. Starting my career after graduation, I felt these were the most relevant and valuable. I added to my toolbox of skills/resources by learning how to prepare and launch my career. Specifically, I learned what top employers look for and how important it is to strengthen areas of weakness and to step out of my comfort zone. This summer I landed an internship at a corporate level and attending the conference beforehand helped me feel confident going into my role."

**Eisha:** "I liked the variety of topics we discussed and that the meetings spoke on current events that are relevant to women in society. One thing I specifically took away was that I should never be afraid to voice my opinion and to tend to my mental health."

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

**DINE at SHELBY'S RESTAURANT  
ANY TIME on TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19**

**10 percent of the proceeds will  
go toward OML Scholarships**

Join us for lunch, dinner and/or takeout.  
Tell you friends!  
Reservations preferred.

AAUW-OML and Shelby's are partnering to raise money for scholarships for each of the local high schools and Saint Mary's College women. Ten percent of the proceeds will be donated to our scholarships!

This AAUW-OML Branch program provides college scholarships to women seniors at Acalanes, Campolindo and Miramonte high schools for their community service.

Through the Saint Mary's College high potential program, we provide scholarships for women undergraduate students to attend AAUW's National Conference for College Women Student Leaders.

Bonnie Fend,  
Co-Chair, Scholarship



## PUBLIC POLICY

### Draconian Texas Law Given the Green Light by Controversial Supreme Court Ruling

Women in Texas are facing one of the most pernicious and forceful attacks on their right to terminate a pregnancy because of S.B. 8 law passed on September 11, 2021. (<https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/87R/billtext/pdf/SB00008F.pdf>)

This law bans abortion after 6 weeks of pregnancy, making no exceptions. It puts enforcement in the hands of private vigilantes by giving rewards (bounties) for suing any individual who assists a woman in an abortion.

The U.S. Supreme Court in a 5-4 vote permitted the law to go into effect in an unusual and controversial “shadow docket” ruling that did not address the merits of the law. By not staying the effectiveness of the law until its constitutionality could be decided, the Supreme Court’s ruling has resulted in stopping all abortions in Texas. Multiple other states are likely to follow the new Texas law.

AAUW’s reproductive rights policy is unmistakable: it supports choice in the determination of one’s reproductive life and increased access to health care and family planning services. Several local AAUW branches will be joining nationwide protest.

#### Join AAUW Members and the Women’s March Rally on October 2nd to Protect Women’s Rights to Have an Abortion

The AAUW group will join the Women’s March Organizers on 400 Front Street (Danville Green) in Danville, CA on Saturday, October 2nd at 2 PM.

RSVP on the link below to join and copy me:  
Claudia Schwarz, AAUW Membership Chair at  
[Claudiaschwarz@comcast.net](mailto:Claudiaschwarz@comcast.net)

### MORE ABOUT JENEE PALMER October Meeting Keynote Speaker

Jenee Palmer is currently the Director of the High Potential Program/TRIO Student Support Services at Saint Mary’s College of California. In her role, Jenee provides leadership, management, and strategic vision for comprehensive academic, professional, and financial support to first generation and/or low-income college students.

Prior to her current role, Jenee was the Senior Program Director of Breakthrough San Francisco for nearly a decade. During her tenure at Breakthrough, she led the organization in the development of equity-focused and student-centered college-preparation programs and a new teacher pipeline program.

Jenee received her BA in American Studies from UC Berkeley, and MA in Education (Equity and Social Justice) from San Francisco State University. Her graduate work included qualitative research on the experience of Black students attending predominantly white, private institutions. *Biography provided by Ms Palmer*

### State Legislative Update: 2020-21 Legislative Session Winding Down

How did AAUW California-sponsored bills fare? Not particularly well, as it turns out, according to Kathi Harper, Co-Chair Public Policy, AAUW California. We started the year off with 39 bills that we selected for varying degrees of support. We chose one bill to co-sponsor, AB 92, with four additional bills for top-priority attention (“A” level bills), five bills for “important” status (“B” level bills), twenty-two bills for low- (“C”) level attention, and seven bills to “watch.”

Overall, 28 of our 39 bills have been designated “two-year” bills, which means they are dead for this year and likely will be taken up again in 2022. However, several of them were converted into the Budget and Budget “trailer bills,” which will provide funding for childcare. The state budget includes \$60 million for one year of relief for all families using subsidized childcare, increased reimbursement rates for childcare providers, and funding for 206,000 new childcare slots.

We are pleased that several bills have passed and been sent to the Governor, and we are working hard to secure his signature on these bills: AB 62 and AB 367, as well as 3 of our “C” level bills: AB 123, AB 1074, and AB 1461.

For descriptions of each of these bills and/or more information on their status, visit our Bill Tracker on the AAUW California website, *Public Policy/Legislative Advocacy/Bill Tracking*.

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

HIGHLIGHTS from a TECH TREK RECEPTION and OML'S KICK-OFF MEETING

Tech Trekkers Celebrate



We honored the 17 enthusiastic eighth and ninth grade Lamorinda girls who received scholarships to attend the AAUW Virtual Tech Trek camps at a reception on the patio at the Orinda Community Church on

September 18. Many of the girls brought their "wearable tech" hats that they had constructed in the mornings of the camp. They designed and programmed their hats to turn LED lights on and off and to move objects on their hats using positional and continuous servos. Each creative hat was decorated to include their individual values, strengths and interests.

The girls said that they really enjoyed the camp workshops and presentations by women working in STEM fields. No one complained about the amount of time spent on Zoom since there were so many hands-on activities that the girls worked on alone or in break-out rooms. Branch members had a great time talking with the girls and their parents.

Overall, more than 600 girls from 60 AAUW branches in California participated in three separate camps. Over 6,000 different kits were prepared and assembled into nearly 1,000 bags with the workshop supplies. The camps were made possible by volunteers from branches across the state with the support of Qualcomm and donations from branch and community members.



Jan Cushman, Chair, Tech Trek



Photo highlights from our first in-person general meeting in one and a half years!



Over 50 members and guests enjoyed brunch treats provided by Herbs & Spices Catering on the patio outside fellowship hall.

Branch priorities and special interest group information and sign-ups were set up around the perimeter.



We signed up four new members!

SHOWCASING OUR BRANCH and HONORING OML'S DISTINGUISHED WOMAN



After we moved inside, we celebrated (at long last) Jan Cushman's Distinguished Woman award and honored some of our recent past presidents.



Photos provided by K. de Groot

**BURCKHALTER UPDATE**

We applied for a grant and received \$500 to buy new science books to replace older ones which are out of date with misinformation. Students especially love books about the solar system.

**Janette Maher,  
Burckhalter Coordinator**

**AAUW FUND LUNCHEON****Register For AAUW Fund Luncheons**

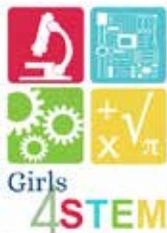
The 2021 Fund Recipients will be presenting their areas of study and personal stories via Zoom this year. Please register to attend one of these virtual luncheons at [aauw-ca.org](http://aauw-ca.org). Learn how your donations are making a difference in the lives of these talented and hard-working young women.

**Mark your calendars for the Zoom luncheons:**

- Saturday, October 23, 2021 at 10 am
- Saturday, October 30, 2021 at 10 am
- Sunday, November 7, 2021 at 1 pm

We plan to ask one of these talented women to speak at our November general meeting.

**Diane Bell, VP, AAUW Fund**

**STEM & GIRLS4STEM WEBINARS**

We are planning the first **Girls4STEM webinar** of our second year on Sunday, November 7 at 4 pm. The presenter will be Civil Engineer Sheryl Mordo, Senior Program Manager for Intuit, who is responsible for managing construction projects for their in-house real estate team. If you would like to help with publicity to various groups, please join us.

The next STEM meeting is Tuesday, October 5 at 4 pm. We will begin planning for the **STEM Conference** which will be held at Saint Mary's on Saturday, March 19, 2022.

We will need a lot of assistance this year learning the new software program being developed by our partner **TechBridge Girls**. We will be managing conference registration and outreach as we work to recruit participants from our local middle schools as well as girls from under-represented communities.

**Denise Burian,  
Chair, STEM Committee  
and Girls4STEM**

**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

**FACEBOOK**

**Did you know that OML has a Facebook page?  
It is called American Association of University Women  
Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette.**

**Add us to your "Friend" list and you will get pertinent information about OML events, links to OML zoom events.**

**By "Liking" our posts, you help to spread the word about our branch and the things we are doing. Your like will result in our event showing up on your Facebook page.**

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

## SPECIAL INTEREST ACTIVITIES

## EVENING SALON

Thursday October 7 and 21  
Via Zoom and in members'  
homes • 7 pm

We have lively discussions about issues of the day. We will meet on Thursday, Oct 7 at the home of Janette Mayer. at a special time: 4 pm. We will also meet via Zoom on October 21. Please join us. Contact Denise Burian for details and to get on the email list: [denburian@gmail.com](mailto:denburian@gmail.com).

## MUSEUM MAVENS

Wednesday, October 20  
Via Zoom • 12 noon  
(Note: new day and time)

Starting in September, join us for Zoom museum tours every Wednesday from 11 am - 12 noon with a program called *Well Connected*, run by Covia, and on-line discussions of tours every third Wednesday of the month, at noon, 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.

ANYONE WHO HAS READ  
THE BOOK

Friday, October 15  
10 am • Orinda Books  
*The Buried* by Peter Hessler

Our meetings will be held at Orinda Books if possible. Otherwise they will be either in a member's home or on Zoom. Look for this coming year's book selections on the OML website. **Jill Eberhard**: 451-7908  
**Marilyn Evans**: 915-0108



## DEI – BLM ALLIES GROUP

Wednesday,  
October 13 and 27  
Via Zoom • 10 am

We are reading *Biased: Uncovering the Hidden Prejudice that Shapes What We See, Think and Do*, by Jennifer Eberhardt, PhD. We are reading part three for our discussions in October. Contact Denise Burian for details and an email invite, [denburian@gmail.com](mailto:denburian@gmail.com).

GREAT DECISIONS  
Wednesday, October 6  
Via Zoom • 10 am

K. deGroot will lead the discussion on **The Future of Persian Gulf Security**.

Is using military force a viable foreign policy option for 2021 and beyond? The Persian Gulf remains tense as the rivalry between the regional powers of Saudi Arabia and Iran continues. What are the historical influences that have led to these tensions? Is force a viable foreign policy option for 2021 and beyond? Let's talk! Contact **Judy Helder**, [judyhelder@gmail.com](mailto:judyhelder@gmail.com), for more information.

BIKE RIDING GROUP  
Thursday, October 28 • 9:30 am

Join us for biking on the Iron Horse Trail or the Contra Costa Canal Trail. – mostly flat, few hills and a great time to get some exercise and talk. Please let **Diane Bell** know, [dianelouise2020@yahoo.com](mailto:dianelouise2020@yahoo.com).

BOCCE BALL  
Monday, October 4 and 18  
Moraga Commons • 9:30 am

There are two bocce ball courts at the Moraga Commons available on Monday mornings. If you would like to join in the fun, let **Mary Leigh Miller** know. No experience necessary! Contact her at 360-4443 or online at [mlmiller602@gmail.com](mailto:mlmiller602@gmail.com).

NEW INTEREST  
GROUPS!HIKING EAST BAY  
REGIONAL PARKS  
October 9 and 23  
10 am - noon

These Saturday strolls are twice a month starting at 10 am. Each stroll will explore a different park. Hikes are around three to four miles on mostly flat terrain at an easy pace. Just a fun thing to do together. Contact Janette Maher, [kidlitivr@hotmail.com](mailto:kidlitivr@hotmail.com) to be added to the email list for these local hikes and to find out where to meet.



## ORIGAMI ANYONE?

Do you want to learn how to make beautiful origami lotus flowers to use as decorations for holiday packages? (Very easy to make!) Or fold cranes in lovely washi paper to hang on a tree? Or maybe you would like to learn basic folds and make simple animals and flowers. An origami interest group is being considered. To be placed on a contact list for a Zoom planning meeting email **Lynda Leonard** at [lyndaeleonard@gmail.com](mailto:lyndaeleonard@gmail.com).

## NON-FICTION BOOK CLUB

There has been an expressed interest in forming a non-fiction reading group. Contact **Peggy Cabaniss** to sign up, [pcabaniss7@gmail.com](mailto:pcabaniss7@gmail.com).



*Celebrating Judy Helder's birthday on August 30 at the bocce ball courts.*

**OCTOBER 2021  
AT A GLANCE**

**1 FRI – CRITICS CHOICE BOOK GROUP**

Pick up your book at the home of Andrea Green.

**2 SAT – INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL GROUP**

7 pm – Via Zoom

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

**4, 18 MON – BOCCE BALL**

9:30 am – Moraga Commons bocce ball courts

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

*Read more on page 7.*

**5 TUES – STEM and Girls4STEM PLANNING MEETING**

4 pm – Via Zoom

Contact Denise Burian for more details.

**6 WED – GREAT DECISIONS**

10 am – Via Zoom

*Read more on page 7.*

**7 THUR – SCHOLARSHIP PLANNING MEETING**

1:30 pm – Home of Mary Ann McLeod.

**7, 21 THUR – EVENING SALON**

7 pm – Via Zoom and possibly in a member's home on the third Thursday. *Note: October 7 meeting will start at 4 pm.*

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

*Read more on page 7.*

**9 SAT – HIKING GROUP**

9:45 am – Meet at Rite Aid parking lot in Orinda for carpooling. Hike three miles in local East Bay Regional Park.

*Read more on page 7.*

**11, 25 MON – GOLF GROUP**

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

**12 TUE – BOARD MEETING**

1 pm – Via Zoom

*Contact Jan Cushman to be included.*

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

10 am – Orinda Books.

*Read more on page 7.*

**15, FRI – LETS GO TO THE MOVIES**

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

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

**19 TUE – SPECIAL PROGRAM with SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE**

**9:30 am – Orinda Community Church**

*Connect, Thrive, Succeed*

**20 WED – MEMOIRS & MUSINGS**

1 pm – Via Zoom

Contact Carol Messinger.

**20 WED – MUSEUM MAVENS**

12 noon – Via Zoom

*Read more on page 7.*

**24 SUN – DEADLINE for NOVEMBER 2021 TRIAD**

Send all articles to Mary Leigh Miller, 631-9694  
[mlmiller602gmail.com](mailto:mlmiller602gmail.com).

**28 THURS – BIKE RIDING GROUP**

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

*Read more on page 7.*

**NOVEMBER 2021**

**9 TUE – BOARD MEETING**

1 pm – Via Zoom

*Contact Jan Cushman to be included.*

**16 TUE – NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING**

**9:30 am – Orinda Community Church**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL  
SPECIAL INTEREST COORDINATORS:**

*If your group decides to meet on a different day or time than normal, please contact our Calendar Coordinator, BONNIE GALLOGLY, so she can update the website calendar.*