

General Meeting
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15
9:30 am • *Via Zoom*

State Senator Steven Glazer



Representing Senate District 7
Based in Contra Costa and Alameda Counties.

Glazer will present a Sacramento Legislative Update.
Don't miss this interesting and informative meeting!

Please turn to page 3 to read more about our Senator Glazer.

Last Chance to Submit Your Nomination for the 2022 Distinguished Woman!! *I need your help by February 15!!*

I'm still looking for nominations for our next Distinguished Woman! Please nominate candidates that you believe have made a significant contribution to their community, to their profession and/or to AAUW.

The main qualities we look for are:

**Achievement,
Leadership,
Initiative and
Creativity.**

Please send your letters of nomination to Jan Cushman, jancushman@comcast.net or to 143 Meadow View Road, Orinda, CA 94563.

Remember: all information is confidential. Please call me at 925-253-1958 if you have any questions. **Jan Cushman**

**GENERAL MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 15**
Orinda Community Church
9:30 am

A Conversation with **BONNIE SPINDLER**

Bonnie Spindler's entrepreneurial spirit has made her a recognized name in San Francisco. She has appeared on HGTV, been interviewed on numerous news and entertainment shows, and is a regular contributor to American Dream TV.

Treat Yourself to a new book!



Stop in anytime this month
at **ORINDA BOOKS**
Support Scholarship's annual
BOOK FAIR

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Read more about Steven Glazer
plus Public Policy Updates
Page 3
- Book Fair News
• DEI Update
Page 4
- Meet our NCCWSL Students
Page 5
- STEM Conference Update
Page 6
- Special Activity Groups
Page 7

... PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Our mission: To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy.

The presentation by Bernard Coleman at our January meeting by Zoom was engaging and informative. He spoke about how his company, Gusto, provides a human resource application for businesses and works to create more diverse, equitable and inclusive workplaces. I appreciated his summary of the life-cycle of an employee, from being recruited to being on-boarded, learning/development, recognition and rewards, job performance to retention or exiting. Certainly reminded me of the progression of people I hired as well as my own working career. When asked about his personal experience, he said that he, his wife and his children were happy to live in Orinda.

Last year the 140th anniversary of AAUW was a very productive one. Some successes include 188,000 women who trained to negotiate their salaries and benefits, two-minute activists sent 68,271 letters to elected officials, and \$5 million awarded to 260 fellows and grantees.

Four new research reports on women's issues were published. You can find them at <https://www.aauw.org/research/#reports>:

Systemic Racism and the Pay Gap, outlines how the wage gap is the result of centuries of intentional structural economic inequalities, exploitation, segregation and implicit bias.

Factory Flaw: The Attrition and Retention of Women in Manufacturing, explores the dearth of women in well-paying jobs in manufacturing and outlines ways employers and policymakers can recruit, retain and advance women in this field.

The Power Gap Among Top Earners at America's Elite Universities, examines women's leadership among the country's 130 research universities. It reveals that few women are among the highest paid professionals at each school.

Pandemic Inequity: Latinas and the COVID-19 Experience, part of AAUW's Latina Policy Initiative, assesses the economic and health impact of COVID-19 on Latinas, particularly those who are essential workers and in low-wage occupations.

Tech Trek Update: We do not yet have confirmation from Stanford about camps for next summer. Apparently, they have not made any decision about youth residential camps. All the paperwork asking for the weeks of July 3 and 10 for Camp Hopper and Camp Curie has been submitted and we are waiting to hear.

AAUW California has made the decision that the Tech Trek program also will include a state-wide virtual camp option with a standardized curriculum. In 2022, the traditional program will be dependent on campus availability and, of course, the state of the pandemic. The curriculum of the virtual camp is still being developed and they will be looking for volunteers to help deliver a quality experience.

**Stay safe,
Jan Cushman, President**

BOARD MEETING
January 11, 2022

Report of 501c4 and 501c3 minutes

Welcoming the New Year, Jan Cushman called the board meeting to order. Marielle Boortz reported that the Holiday Wine and Cheese event added \$1,198 to our treasury. The issue was to whom should we send funds. After Peggy Cabaniss contributed \$2 to even up the sums, Denise Burian moved that \$300 be each given to Tech Trek, Scholarship, STEM Conference and Burckhalter.

Due to the local rise of COVID and county and state restrictions, OML will have its January and February membership meetings on Zoom. Burckhalter, although library furniture is in place, is not welcoming OML yet and Tech Trek is having difficulty finding universities that will host the summer camps. The STEM Conference is planned to take place, but it is possible Saint Mary's College campus might be closed.

OML is looking forward to an outstanding speaker Bernard Coleman for our January 18 meeting on ZOOM. We will reach out to other branches and local groups to partake in Mr. Coleman's presentation.

Senator Steven Glazer, at our February membership Zoom meeting, will report from Sacramento about legislation that is in line with our AAUW priorities.

March, an international program, will feature a Lamorinda resident who has traveled the world and is now part of the East Bay. We hope to meet in person.

Scholarship's Book Fair, in collaboration with Orinda Books, takes place for the whole month of February. All the featured books are listed in our OML website.

Maryellen Judson, Secretary

FOCUS ON ... PUBLIC POLICY & STEVEN GLAZER**AAUW SUPPORTS THE BUILD BACK BETTER BILL**

Submitted by Kathleen Harper, Director, and Sue Miller,
Public Policy Committee Co-Chair, publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org

The Build Back Better Bill (H.R. 5376) has passed the House and is now in the Senate. This bill has three provisions that are critical to our mission:

- Universal paid family and medical leave up to 12 weeks,
- An extension of the child tax credit through 2022, and
- Affordable childcare.

The expanded **Child Tax Credit** expired in December after Congress failed to extend it. That means the families of more than 23 million children are again experiencing economic instability in the new year. Americans also continue to be forced to choose between their lives and their livelihoods because they lack access to paid leave and affordable child care. It is inexcusable that the Senate has not yet voted on the Build Back Better Act.

The final version of the Build Back Better Act will be smaller than the nearly \$2 trillion legislation that passed in the House last year, a massive bill that addressed health care, childcare, education, and climate while overhauling the nation's tax policy. Senator Tim Kaine told *The New Republic* on Thursday that Congress needs to focus on "the core of what's most important," citing provisions on universal pre-kindergarten and affordable childcare. "They're the noncontroversial ones. Those have not been the ones that have been holding anybody up." But if the provisions Kaine mentioned are not controversial, one issue related to childcare is: the child tax credit. Biden acknowledged that the measure, which lifted 3.7 million children out of poverty in December and cut child poverty rates by nearly 30 percent, might fall out of the final bill.

Here are ways you can help get this important legislation through the Senate:

If you have friends or family in Arizona or West Virginia, urge them to put pressure on their senators to vote "yes."

- Marking the first anniversary of the January 6 insurrection, AAUW joined more than 40 gender equity organizations and leaders in a statement pledging to fight for our democracy. In the face of bigotry, disinformation and anti-democratic violence, urge your members of Congress to support the Voting Rights Advancement Act and the Freedom to Vote Act today!
- In December, members of the policy team hosted the first in a series of webinars, "Exploring Tough Policy Issues Through an AAUW Lens: Political and Non Partisan." Watch the recording to learn about highlights of our proud non-partisan, yet very political, history.
- On December 22, President Biden announced an extension of the federal student-loan freeze through May 1, 2022. AAUW has advocated for student-loan relief before and during the pandemic, and we won't stop until the government delivers.
- As we begin the 2022 midterm election year, the Center for American Women in Politics shared an assessment of 2021 state elections and how some data may foreshadow gender trends.
- Stay engaged this year with our Two-Minute Activist tool! You can also check out our letters, comments, testimony and legal briefs to learn more about AAUW's positions and advocacy efforts.



Elected to the California State Senate in a special election in 2015, **Senator Steve Glazer** won re-election to a full four-year term in 2016 and again in 2020.

Representing Senate District 7 based in Contra Costa and Alameda counties, he has consistently voted to support women's issues and has a 100 percent lifetime record of voting with Planned Parenthood. Education is a top priority for Senator Glazer, who has voted to provide higher education opportunities for more students by opening up thousands of new slots at the University of California and the California State University systems. He also has consistently supported the needs of the vulnerable, voting to raise the minimum wage and to ensure financial support to infants born while their families are receiving CalWORKs grants.

Please send **Connie Whitting** any questions you would like Senator Glazer to be asked. (cwhitting22@sbcglobal.net)

Laura Monin and Connie Whitting
Co-Chairs, Public Policy

2021-2022 EXECUTIVE BOARD

PRESIDENT: Jan Cushman

PRESIDENT-ELECT:

Peggy Cabaniss

AAUW FUND VP: Diane Bell

PROGRAM CO-VPs:

Barbara Bell

Mary Leigh Miller

MEMBERSHIP VP:

Marie Bonilla

FINANCE VP:

Marielle Boortz

SECRETARY:

Marlyellen Judson

SCHOLARSHIP'S BOOK FAIR



Treat your shelf

Are you interested in a dramatic story of a humble bookseller who fought against incredible odds to bring one of the most important books of the 20th century to the world (*The Paris Bookseller*)? Or maybe a charming novel of second chances, about three women, one dog, and the narrowboat that brings them together will captivate you (*Narrowboat Summer*)? Maybe you would be fascinated in reading about the Vignes twin sisters who will always be identical. But after growing up together in a small, southern black community and running away at age sixteen, it's not just the shape of their daily lives that is different as adults it's everything: their families, their communities, their racial identities (*Vanishing Half*)? Or you might be interested in a non-fiction book called *About How the Word Is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America* by Clint Smith? These are just a few of the books featured at Scholarship's Book Fair.

Go to Orinda Books during the month of February (orders can also be made online or by telephone) and see our Scholarship's AAUW book table. Our table features an array of books and highlights of our AAUW-OML community scholarships. Many of the books are recently released in paperback, are a variety of genres and are recommended by some of our AAUW members.

We hope you will find something of interest, something to enjoy and add to your bookshelf! A list of the featured books with brief synopsis can be found on our website <https://oml-ca.aauw.net/files/2021/12/Scholarships-book-fair-2022.pdf>.

Bonnie Fend, Co-Chair, Scholarship



Blind Date With a Book

I'm so sorry your date couldn't make the January meeting because of health reasons. But your book is getting ready and hopes to appeal to your curiosity or intellect at the March meeting. Be sure to attend so that you can finally make this date happen!

BURCKHALTER UPDATE

Work days rescheduled for Wednesday Feb 9, 12-3 pm. This is a minimum day and students leave for home after lunch. Another work day is scheduled for Friday February 11, 9-12 pm.

Janette Maher, Burckhalter Coordinator

DEI UPDATE

DEI & White House Gender Policy Council.

I sometimes attend webinars presented by the White House Public Engagement Office. At a recent webinar, we heard from a staff member of the White House Gender Policy Council, established by President Biden in March, 2021 to advance gender equity and equality in both foreign and domestic policy development and implementation.

Sound familiar? AAUW Advancing Equity for Women and Girls! The Gender Policy Council is an official Council, with similar status as the White House Council of Economic Advisors, Office of Science and Technology Policy, Office of the US Trade Policy and others. This office developed a national strategy for gender equity and equality. This strategy includes increased access to healthcare, child care access, child tax credits and gender equity based policy throughout the government. And indeed we do see the focus on those issues in the budget and legislation the Biden administration has or is trying to get passed. They recently sponsored the first White House "Maternal Day of Action" focusing on maternal health issues, especially black maternal health outcomes, which lags outcomes of other groups.

I was very encouraged by the focus of so many staff in the White House responsible for developing policy, strategies, and legislation to advance equity.

Please turn to page 7 for an update on what our own branch is doing in the DEI arena.

**Denise Burian,
Chair, DEI Committee**



SCHOLARSHIP • YOUNG WOMEN WITH VISION • SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE

The scholarship committee had to adjust the Saint Mary's scholarship program in 2021 due to COVID issues. We used our funds to award three \$1000 scholarships to young women in **The High Potential Program/TRIO Support Services**. (Jenee Palmer, the former director, spoke at our October branch meeting.) Since the NCCWSL program later went online at a very reasonable price, we were able to assist nine Saint Mary's applicants to participate in the program. AAUW also instituted a Social Change Ambassadors Certificate Program, and we were able to send another High Potential student to that program. We'd like you to meet these students.

SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE RECIPIENTS



Daniela Catubig, Class of 2022

To Daniela community means "a sense of belonging, trust and a shared common goal." Contributing to her school and local communities fills her with hope and a sense of purpose. As a first-generation college student of color, Daniela feels the Gael Women in Business Club has supported her and that is why she takes such pride in the organization. She is president of the

GWIB, a peer mentor for the School of Economics and Business Administration, and a Guyette Leadership Fellow. Daniela volunteers locally at the Saint Francis Living Room in San Francisco; serving breakfast, organizing food drives, as well as creating and distributing care packages for the homeless.



Maleena Guido, Class of 2022

As a first generation, Latina college student Maleena developed a passion for social justice and community engagement. She is a member of CILSA (Catholic Institute for Lasallian Social Action) who honors the mission to work towards "the day when all people collaborate to enact social justice, inclusion, and sustainability in every aspect of life." For three years Maleena has

participated in Jumpstart, an early education program that is committed to breaking the cycle of poverty by providing equal education opportunities. She is now the team leader for the program. Maleena is currently studying to become a Special Education teacher in low-income communities.



Maya Patel, Class of 2022

Maya's goal was to become involved in the Saint Mary's community. She did so by working at The Center for Women and Gender Equity, joining the Intercultural Center Street Team, creating the Southern Asian Society, volunteering for the Career Center, and becoming chair of the Associated Student Senate. Maya desires to be known as a High Potential program student

who wants to make a change in the Saint Mary's community and inspire other High Potential students to become proud, vocal members of the college. "I am a minority that made my face known and is here to advocate for those who cannot be heard and don't know where they can find resources to help them."

The following Saint Mary's students received scholarships to AAUW's National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL): Eisha Ahmadi, Daniele Catubig, Andrea Diaz Garcia, Maleena Guido, Alondra Nieves, Lizette Navaro, Samantha Nieves, Maya Patel and Anahi Torres.

This student received a scholarship to AAUW's Social Change Ambassadors Certificate Program: Stephanie Ramirez.

THE 2022 NCCWSL PROGRAM

The Scholarship Committee learned that NCCWSL will again be held virtually this year. Therefore, the committee voted to redirect those funds to the Saint Mary's High Potential students in the form of three \$1,000 scholarships honoring community engagement and leadership.

Our OML 21-22 High School Community Service Scholarship applications are now online at <https://oml-ca.aauw.net>. The requirements are a three-point grade average and an ability to demonstrate their participation in community service. **The deadline is February 15, 2022.**

Scholarship applications for young women in the Saint Mary's High Potential Program are also available on our OML website. These awards validate the leadership roles and accomplishments of young women who maintain academic excellence and demonstrate a passion for community engagement. **The deadline is March 8, 2022.**

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

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

Be sure to read about our **BOOK FAIR** at Orinda Books on page 4.

This is an important fundraiser for OML's Scholarship Program.

STEM CONFERENCE & GIRLS4STEM WEBINARS

March 19, 2022 STEM Conference Registration Begins February 1st



The 2022 STEM Conference for middle school girls will be held on Saturday, March 19, 2022 at Saint Mary's College. Registration opens February 1st so let the middle school girls in your life know about it. The registration link, as well as details and a link to the list of workshops being offered, are on our OML STEM Conference website page. <https://oml-ca.aauw.net/stem-conference/>

CALL for VOLUNTEERS

Every year our members step up to volunteer to help with morning registration/check-in, to be a workshop monitor or both. And there are other jobs, such as helping with the pizza lunch we are having this year, prepping for snacks and hosting

the hospitality rooms. **We cannot present this conference without your help on the day of the conference.**

Please note, everyone associated with the conference will be required to verify that they are fully vaccinated (including the booster shot). We are also requiring masks be worn during all indoor activities, including the workshops. **Laura Monin** and **Stacia Cragholm** are our volunteer coordinators. Please contact them via phone or email if you can volunteer for any of the following jobs on Saturday, March 19th (check all that apply):

- Workshop Monitor (8:30 am to 3:00 pm)
- Registration/Check-in & hand out t-shirts (7:30 am to 8:45 am)
- Lunch – prep outside tables for pizza delivery, put out plates, napkins, drinks. (11:00 am to 1:00 pm)
- Hospitality Room (9:00 am to 2:00 pm – we can also do a morning shift and an afternoon shift so tell us what times you can be available)
- Traffic and directions as parents arrive (7:30 am to 8:45 am)
- Help Prep Snacks (Fill snack bags a few days before the conference)
- Help fill the girl's folders and bags they receive at morning Reg./Check-in (Also a few days before the conference – production line process)

We try to make it fun and it is for a good cause. The STEM Conference does make a difference in the girl's lives. It takes a village to present it and we are very grateful for our OML village.

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



The first Girls4STEM Webinar is Sunday, February 6, 2022. The speaker will be **Maritza Sanchez**, the AAUW Fellowship recipient who spoke at our November meeting. We think the message she shared with us will be interesting to high school girls who are trying to figure out what they want to do.

Her talk is entitled *Why Studying Materials Science is Like Playing Tetris*. Maritza has a BS and MS in Mechanical Engineering and is a PhD candidate at UC San Diego.

The next webinar is on Sunday, March 6. The speaker will be **Sheryl Mordo, P.E., B.S. Civil Engineering** and her presentation is *A Career Path Unplanned: From High School*



Math Class to Civil Engineer to Global Real Estate Projects. Sheryl went from loving math at Deer Valley High School in Antioch to Senior Project Manager for real estate construction projects at Intuit, the premier tax processing software. I know Sheryl personally and worked with her. She is a very impressive and accomplished project manager and will talk about her career journey and the challenges she faced over the last 12 years in a career in which women are definitely the minority.

Please help get the word out.

Registration for these webinars is available on our Girls4STEM webpage:

<https://oml-ca.aauw.net/girls4stem-webinars/>

SPECIAL INTEREST ACTIVITIES

DEI – BLM ALLIES GROUP
Wednesday, February 9 & 23
Via Zoom • 10-11:15 am

The DEI group will be reading *Waking Up White* by Debby Irving in February and early March, then *The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander. This last book is part of the OML Scholarship fundraiser at Orinda Books in February. Please support scholarship, and learn about how some laws do have bias in how they are written and implemented. You will also be supporting our local bookstore. Contact Denise Burian for the Zoom link for the meeting.

GREAT DECISIONS
Wednesday, February 2
Via Zoom • 10 am

Great Decisions starts our new year with: *Changing Demographics in the World*, facilitated by Denise Burian. A Zoom invitation will come to you on February 1 from Marielle Boortz.

MUSEUM MAVENS
Wednesday, February 16
Via Zoom • 12 noon

Join us for Zoom museum tours every Wednesday from 11 am - 12 noon with a program called *Well Connected*, and online discussions of tours every third Wednesday of the month, at noon, hosted by **Marielle Boortz**. For more information, email **Marjorie Singler** at singlermarjorie@gmail.com or text 925 878-5915.

ORIGAMI ANYONE?
Monday, February 7 & 21
Via Zoom • 1 pm

Because of COVID we may still be meeting via Zoom. Please tell **Lynda Leonard** if you plan to attend, lyndaeleonard@gmail.com, and she will send you a Zoom link or let you know where we will be meeting in person.

EVENING SALON
Thursday February 3 & 17
Via Zoom or in a member's home • 7 pm

This discussion group will meet via Zoom this month. Contact Denise Burian for details and to get on the email list: denburian@gmail.com.

ANYONE WHO HAS READ THE BOOK
Friday, February 18
10 am • via Zoom
Deacon King Kong
by James McBride

Contact Marilyn Evans for the Zoom link, marilynbevans@att.net.

BIKE RIDING GROUP
Thursday, February 24 • 9:30 am

Our group bicycles on the last Thursday morning of each month. We ride on trails (not the street). If you enjoy exploring on your bicycle, there are many interesting rides in the Bay Area! We do not ride in the rain and will pick another day that works for most riders. Please contact Diane Bell for information about this month's ride: dianelouise2020@yahoo.com.

HIKING EAST BAY REGIONAL PARKS
1st & 3rd Saturdays
10 am - noon

Feb 5 – Robert Crown Park Alameda. Elsie Roemer Bird Sanctuary. Meet Rite-Aid parking lot at 9:15 am for carpooling. This is a flat terrain 3.3 mile trail along the bay shoreline.

Feb 19 – Meet at St. Mary's Road staging area near Rheem Blvd at 10 am for 3.25 mile hike. This is a small parking lot so carpool recommended. Come to hear what the naturalist will tell us about where we live including a waterfall! Contact **Janette Maher** for more information, kidlithvr@hotmail.com.

2020-21 AAUW OML SPONSORS/ ADVERTISERS

*AAUW members

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AAAAA Rent-A-Space
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 Meadow View Winery
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WALNUT CREEK & Beyond

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 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.

**FEBRUARY 2022
AT A GLANCE**

1 TUE – CRITICS CHOICE BOOK GROUP

Pass your book.

1, 15 TUES – STEM and Girls4STEM PLANNING MTG.

4 pm – Via Zoom

Contact Denise Burian for more details, denburian@gmail.com

2 WED – GREAT DECISIONS

10 am – Via Zoom

Changing Demographics in the World,

Contact Marielle Boertz for the Zoom link.

Read more on page 7.

3, 17 – THUR – EVENING SALON

7 pm – Via Zoom or in a member’s home

Read more on page 7.

5, 19 SAT – HIKING GROUP

Read more on page 7.

5 SAT – INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL GROUP

Contact Sara Lautenbach, sara@lautenbachs.com

7, 21 MON – BOCCE BALL

9:30 am – Moraga Commons bocce ball courts

Contact Mary Leigh Miller, mlmiller602@gmail.com

7, 21 MON – ORIGAMI ANYONE

1 pm Via Zoom – Contact Lynda Leonard

Read more on page 7.

8 TUE – BOARD MEETING

1 pm – Via Zoom

Contact Jan Cushman to be included.

9, 23 WED – DEI-BLM GROUP

10 am – Via Zoom

Read more on page 7.

9 WED – BURCKHALTER WORK DAY

12 noon -3 pm – Burckhalter Elementary School

Contact Janette Maher for more information.

11 FRI – BURCKHALTER WORK DAY

9 am-noon – Burckhalter Elementary School

Contact Janette Maher for more information.

14, 28 MON – GOLF GROUP

Contact Jan Gee for time and venue, jgee17@yahoo.com.

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

15 TUE – GENERAL MEETING

Public Policy Program with Steve Glazer

9:30 am – Via Zoom

16 WED – MUSEUM MAVENS

12 noon – Via Zoom

Read more on page 7.

16 WED – MEMOIRS & MUSINGS

1 pm – Via Zoom

Contact Carol Messinger.

18 FRI – ANYONE WHO HAS READ THE BOOK

10 am – Via Zoom.

Read more on page 7.

18 FRI – LETS GO TO THE MOVIES

Contact Mary Leigh Miller, mlmiller602@gmail.com.

24 THUR – DEADLINE for MARCH 2022 TRIAD

Send all articles to Mary Leigh Miller, 925 360-4443

mlmiller602gmail.com.

24 THURS – BIKE RIDING GROUP

9:30 am

Contact Diane Bell, dianelouise2020@yahoo.com.

Read more on page 7.

MARCH 2022

8 TUE – BOARD MEETING

1 pm – Via Zoom

Contact Jan Cushman to be included.

15 TUE – GENERAL MEETING

A Conversation with Bonnie Spindler

9:30 am – Orinda Community Church