THE



WEBSITE: oml-ca.aauw.net • EMAIL: oml.aauw@gmail.com



JUNE 2022 IN~OUT BOARD MEETING

This important meeting will be scheduled for sometime later in June in order to avoid scheduling conflicts with some of the officers.

Look for an email regarding the day and time.

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... PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We celebrated our 11 Tech Trek winners and the high school and Saint Mary's scholarship winners on Sunday, April 24. How wonderful to meet these outstanding young women! The Tech Trek girls received a Tech Trek bear, Tech Trek water bottle, a flower and a certificate (see their photo below). We heard from the scholarship winners who received a certificate and flowers, and the scholarship money will be delivered

soon. Dr. Rosalie McGurk, who is a staff astronomer at the Keck Observatory on the Big Island of Hawaii, shared her story about how she became interested in astronomy, her education and what it is like to be a professional astronomer. She presented many illustrations in her talk "Building a Spectroscope to Map Galaxies" via Zoom. The girls were very engaged and interested and asked great questions afterwards. She graciously stepped in when our original speaker, Christy Tormey, was required to live at the Richmond Refinery six days a week to help with operations during the strike.

Did you join us for the AAUW California Annual Event on Saturday, April 30 at 9:00 am? Writing this on April 25, I'm looking forward to hearing from Gloria Blackwell, AAUW CEO, and learning about updates on the year's accomplishments and advocacy efforts, honoring the Named Gift Honoree, Equity Champion and Top 10 Branch Contributions. Along with many other topics, there are breakout rooms planned with interesting topics, including "The Branch of 2040 – What Does It Look Like," "Cultural Competency, the First Step to Understanding," "Start a Branch Tech Trek Alumnae Group (TTAG)" (I'm definitely listening to this one!) and another seventeen topics! So many excellent topics to learn from and enjoy! I hope you have voted for the National Board of Directors and two amendments to the By-Laws. If not, there is still time – voting ends May 16 at 5:00pm (Eastern Time). Search for "AAUW National Election" to find more information and a link to the voting page. We are very proud that our President-Elect, Peggy Cabaniss, is running for a second term on the National Board of Directors! Go Peggy!

The bipartisan majority of U.S. Senators have confirmed Ketanji Brown Jackson as associate justice to the Supreme Court of the United States! As the first Black woman in this esteemed role, she will add to the breadth of insights, perspectives and life experiences on the bench. Amazing role model for all young women!

AAUW California has confirmed that our branch has achieved three-star status, based on completing the requirements for Program, Public Policy and Research, and Governance and Sustainability. We expect to meet the last two categories of



Advancement and Communications and External Relations to earn the remaining two stars.

Hope to see you at the luncheon at the Holy Shepherd Church on May 17. Please be sure to send in your reservation.

Jan Cushman, President

BOARD MEETING April 12, 2022

Everyone was interested in the awards meeting Sunday April 24 at OCC. The Sunday afternoon gathering will introduce young students from Lamorinda middle schools, high schools, and a Saint Mary's College young woman. They are all recipients of OML's mission to encourage education among women and girls.

The Club's May Luncheon honoring our Distinguished Woman of the Year will be Tuesday, May 17, 11:30 am at Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, Orinda. We look forward to getting to know Stacia Cragholm, our Distinguished Woman. A delicious luncheon will feature chicken, salmon, wonderful salads, and dessert. We will thank the existing board members and "invest" the new board for the 501(C4) and 501(c3) organizations during the coming year.

An in-and-out potluck lunch will take place at OCC June 14. We understand how important programs are for all our members and will be looking for new ideas from members. Barbara Bell and Nicola Longmuire will co-chair programs next year. Existing board members will bring an entree-type dish and new members will share desserts.

Public Policy members attended Lobby Week with our California legislators and our Burckhalter volunteers are opening the library for the children. If you have an interest in young students, please volunteer for the last few weeks of school. You will be appreciated.

The STEM Conference, March 19 was very successful. Thanks to all who helped!

Maryellen Judson, Secretary

FOCUS ON ... OUR 2022 DISTINGUISHED WOMAN

Stacia Cragholm - Teacher Supreme!



Our 2022 Distinguished Woman, Stacia Cragholm, is a local girl — born in San Francisco! She grew up in a family that valued education, but her father Richard Horn was denied a college degree when he left school early upon the death or his father to take responsibility for the support of his mother and siblings. Stacia's mom, however, was a 1933 UC Berkeley gradu-

ate, and so the groundwork was laid for Stacia to become a teacher supreme!

Her upbringing wasn't all about books, though. Her parents met on a tennis date, and a few years later Stacia followed them onto the court, eventually becoming good enough to play in the San Francisco Wightman Cup League at Golden Gate Park. Her athleticism wasn't confined to tennis, however. Her family built several boats in their basement, and if she wasn't on the courts, she was out sailing the bay.

Stacia attended UC Berkeley, playing on the tennis team for two years and trying out several majors, including math and biology and then settling on history. Sadly, her father died just before graduation in 1968. She completed a minor in elementary school physical education, while attending San Francisco State's credential program. Opting to skip two semesters of student teaching, she took a paid internship at Mill Valley Middle School and launched her teaching career.

She married Ells Cragholm in 1970 and moved to Missoula, Montana, his home state, where he went to graduate school and Stacia taught fifth grade, seventh and eighth grade girls PE, and after-school sports. In 1972 they moved to Oakland.

In 1973 Stacia began teaching in Lafayette, subsequently working at Vallecito, Montecito, Happy Valley, and Burton Schools. Their daughter, Christina, was born in 1975. In 1977 they bought their home in Lafayette. Julie was born in 1979 and Stacia left full-time teaching to be with her growing family.

In 1989 she returned to teaching where she repeatedly demonstrated a creativity that set her apart from others. She was hired by the West Contra Costa Unified School District. There she enjoyed her best assignment ever as a math seminar teacher:

taking half a class for 90 minutes, introducing a topic, testing, reteaching, and retesting. The children who achieved mastery focused on enrichment activities – a very effective program.

Two schools later, at Highland Elementary in San Pablo, Stacia experienced her most challenging assignment. The school was broken into three times and had five principals in two years. By capitalizing on Berenstain Bear stories and the help of an art teacher, she was able to transform an unruly class into a well-behaved fourth grade.

In 1994 she took a job teaching in Hercules where she enjoyed the last 16 years of her 30-year career. At Ohlone Elementary she managed seven years of science fairs with over 400 projects per year. The Ohlone staff worked collaboratively, fostering the study of their creek. She retired from teaching in 2009.



Stacia with her daughter, Julia Stacia joined AAUW-OML at the 2017 STEM Conference

in 2011. She liked our Tech

Trek program and assumed responsibility for the Stanley interviews from 2013 to 2015. It was during this time that the idea for a one-day conference, exposing hundreds of girls to STEM activities developed. She met Dr. Kristen Beck and Roy Wensley, Dean of Saint Mary's School of Science who supported what has become OML's STEM Conference. In total over 800 girls have attended the conferences from 2016 through 2019, virtually in 2021, and in-person again in 2022. Now that's success! And it didn't stop there. High school girls who participated in Sister-to-Sister and Tech Trek are recruited each year to hone their leadership skills as ambassadors to the conference.

Stacia's idea has become a powerful reality, introducing the STEM world to over 800 girls – a life-altering experience for them and for Stacia a legacy to be proud of! We are privileged to celebrate Stacia Cragholm's commitment to young women and the mission of AAUW as our Distinguished Woman of 2022!

For more details see the Triad issues for April, May, and June of 2021.

Jan Cushman, Distinguished Woman, 2020-21

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS RECAP

A Delightful Sunday Afternoon!

Future Tech Trek campers, scholarship awardees, their families, and our members thoroughly enjoyed our in-person awards program on Sunday. The Tech Trek girls were amazing as they asked Dr. Rosalie MGurk very thoughtful questions about astronomy and the galaxies after her fascinating presentation.

Next, we heard from our scholarship awardees:

Maristella Heo Emma Bonardi Caroline Hoskins Miramonte High School Angela Garcia

Acalanes High School Campolindo High School Saint Mary's College

A common subject matter among our recipients this year was a search for ways to connect with others. They launched many efforts and inspired others to join them. Each, in her own way, found the power of connecting to the wider community and beautifully voiced what she learned. Look for individual profiles in future Triad articles!



Special thanks to Maryellen Judson for organizing our treats, Bonnie Fend for the colorful centerpieces and the ladies of the origami group (taught by Lynda Leonard) for the beautiful butterflies!

And thank you to the Scholarship Committee! I truly appreciate the dedication of the members of the committee throughout the year. Bonnie Fend and her fundraising committee worked endlessly to plan and implement several fund raisers. Jill Fernald, Maryellen Judson, Linda Bochte, Bonnie Fend, Gail Burnett, Jill Eberhard and Laura Wittenberg interviewed students. Our group discussions broadened our perspectives and helped us make meaningful decisions. Thanks goes to those who helped from home, writing letters and publicity articles.

Mary Ann McLeod, Co-Chair, Scholarship

KUDOS to SANDY FOX-SOHNER

Many of you may have seen the article appearing in a recent issue of the Lamorinda Weekly: Moraga resident wins Best Screenplay in film festival competition. OML member, Sandy Fox-Sohner was the recipient of an award from the Vancouver International Women in Film Festival for a script that tells the inspiring story of a self-taught mathematician in the late 1800s who made a daring escape from Russia, where women were denied education, to the west where she ultimately became a university professor – becoming the first in her field.

You can read the full article by clicking here: https://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue1603/pdf/Page%2012.pdf

BURCKHALTER UPDATE

The library is closing for the school year May 25. We are asking for help in finishing the inventory of the collection. Let Janette know if you can help on either Wednesday, May 25 or Thursday, May 26.

With the generous donations we have received, we are purchasing a 46-volume set of biographies on the US presidents. The fifth grade teacher is very happy to have a complete set for student reports!

The photos below give you a sense of the tasks that were before us! Some of the following members helped just one day and others almost every time. We had 10 work days before classes restarted. Many thanks to Alison Mackenzie, Joanie Jump, Linda Bochte, Marilyn Evans, Libby Henry, Mary Levey, Laura Wittenberg and Rashmi Shukla.

School starts again August 8. Please consider volunteering next year.

Janette Maher, **Burckhalter Coordinator**





PUBLIC POLICY ~ AAUW LOBBY WEEK TAKE-AWAY



Report from Connie Whitting

I, along with JoAnne Quijano and Ogie Strogatz, members of the Alamo-Danville-Walunt Creek Branch, met with Rebecca Bauer-Kahan's aide, Kate Keeshen, on April 12 by Zoom to discuss three of the 30 bills AAUW is supporting this year.

The first bill we discussed was *AB1968*, *Guidance for Sexual Survivors on CA Campuses*. It will provide information of survivor services more clearly and uniformly. It passed in the Assembly the Thursday before our meeting with 64 ayes, zero nays and 12 NBRs. Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, unfortunately, did not get to vote as she had been exposed to COVID. This bill may be expanded in the State Senate to include community colleges, which would mean more expense involved.

Our next bill was *AB92*, *Child Care-Family Fees*. AAUW is a co-sponsor of this bill. It calls for the renewal of \$187 million to extend waivers for this coming year to help working parents through COVID setbacks so many low income families have experienced. The current bill runs out in October.

Our last bill for discussion was one that Rebecca Bauer-Kahan sponsored, *AB1666*, *CA Abortion Access*. It is to provide protection for women coming to California for an abortion and for Californians providing help to those women from a lawsuit. (This is mainly in response to the current Texas law.) The Women's Caucus in Sacramento is conversing with the governor on making California a reproductive freedom state. Reproductive freedom is in the state constitution.

I found it to be an uplifting pleasure to meet with such a gracious young woman representing Rebecca Bauer-Kahan. It was also a learning experience. I recommend it to you for next year.

Report from Denise Burian

The annual AAUW-CA Lobby Day was held on April 13. It was exciting to be part of the all-branch effort to lobby our California senators and assembly members. I was part of a team that met in person with Tim Grayson, Assemblyman for *AD 14*. I live in *AD14*, as does Lisa Simone, a member of the Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek Branch. Mr. Grayson was very kind and receptive to the discussions of the bills we lobbied for, all of which he is supporting. We informed him that AAUW has 600 members in Contra Costa County and Vallejo/Benicia (his District), and that 300 of those are in his district. He was very impressed with that.

We discussed *AB 1968*, which had just passed the Assembly and is being considered by the Senate. This bill instructs the UC and CSU systems to establish consistent policies and procedures related to handling sexual harassment cases for all campuses. *AB 92, the Child Care Family Fees bill*, which seeks to waive family fees for childcare for lower income families through September 2024 was also discussed, as was *AB 1666*, authored by Assemblywoman Rebecca Bauer-Kahan: "Protection for Reproductive Health Providers and Patients." This bill seeks to prohibit a resident from Texas for example, to file a suit in CA to seek penalties allowed in Texas against those who provide abortion services or assist a patient in seeking abortion services in CA. And it prohibits the satisfaction in a CA court of a judgement rendered in another state under that state's law.

We told Mr. Grayson about Tech Trek, Scholarships, and the STEM Conference at Saint Mary's and he wants to support our programs. Assemblyman Grayson requested information about fundraisers any branch in his district are having and he will attend if he can, and provide financial support. He would like to sponsor a Tech Trek camper so please contact him about our fundraisers. Grayson's district is currently Benicia-Vallejo, Concord, Clayton and half of Walnut Creek. As of January 2023, he will lose Benicia-Vallejo and Walnut Creek, and gain all of East County.

DID YOU KNOW?

AAUW California's Public Policy Priorities are consistent with national AAUW public policy principles, which can be found on the website. www.aauw.org, and are updated every two years with input from membership.

Legislative activism has a long history in AAUW. Members first lobbied for women's suffrage in 1892 and have continued to be responsive to the critical issues of the times.

The AAUW California Public Policy program supports AAUW's mission to advance equity for women and girls though advocacy, education and research.

UPDATE on OUR PARTNERSHIP with SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE

As president of our branch from 2016-2018, I led our board in an update of our strategic plan. At the time as members of AAUW we recommitted to being a community of women who seek to break through educational and economic barriers so that all women and girls have a fair chance. We recognized the importance of making a positive impact on our local community of girls and women by reaching out and promoting education and supporting their personal and professional growth. We identified the desirability of a relationship with Saint Mary's College, joining with them in our mutual goal to create a diverse and thriving community that promotes equity.

Today, through our scholarship awards, the STEM Conference, and programs at our general meetings featuring speakers who help educate our members and the public of the opportunities within the Lamorinda and greater East Bay communities, we are providing support as allies through education and philanthropy. I can report that we are now networking with faculty and students at Saint Mary's.

Recently, I was invited by two of our 2021 scholarship awardees to assist them in planning and producing a conference for women students on Redefining Confidence, Designed by Women for Women, which was held on April 5. They wanted to secure a keynote speaker who would appeal to the students and draw on a larger audience. Through my connections in identifying speakers for the AAUW-OML programs, I was able to recruit entrepreneur, Rozanne Christophe, founder, and CEO of Girls Crushing It. Roxanne and I helped them refine the focus of the program, covering cultural and societal influences impacting a young woman's self-confidence and perceived readiness to secure the job of her dreams. The conference registered approximately 40 students, including several young men. I was able to distribute information on the benefits of joining AAUW as a C/U Partner Student member along with an application to join AAUW as an E-member. I registered our first 14 new student members, including two men! I also spoke to two faculty members and a guest who were also interested in learning more about AAUW.

Our scholarship committee awarded four \$1,000.00 scholarships for High Potential, First Generation Women students. I have also identified additional needs of the students, including food for the student pantry, help paying for internships, housing (at times), transportation, and help purchasing books (textbook fees approach \$500 per term).

I am currently networking with Roy Wansley, Dean of Math, and Science, and have a commitment from him to begin discussions with faculty and administration to include in their programs opportunities for students to actively engage in the planning of and participation in the STEM Conference as technical support staff and presenters. Along with the Sunrise Rotary Club participation, AAUW-OML would be able to ensure the ability for the branch to continue the program with these community partners.

The visibility of AAUW-OML in the Lamorinda community continues to grow through these many partnerships and the ongoing commitment of our members.

Laura Wittenberg, Chair, Saint Mary's Partnership Program

OML BRANCH MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

As I wrote last month, it is membership renewal time. At the national level, there is a change in how a member logs into their AAUW membership account and how membership is being tracked. Fortunately for you, this mostly affects the membership vice president. National is completing this roll out and I am learning the system.

You will be getting a membership letter later in May detailing how to join online or send in your check to the OML Branch. Dues are \$111 (Natl. \$67, State \$20, Branch \$24; \$63 tax deductible), a \$5 increase due to an increase in National dues. This increase is needed because of inflation and rising expenses.

Welcome to our newest member, **Ling Yan**. She is an accounting major and current works as a VP of Tax. Her daughter attended our recent Saint Mary's STEM Conference. Ling was so impressed with the program that she wanted to join our organization!!! She is interested in Burckhalter, scholarship, Tech Trek, and the STEM Conference.

Her interests include bike riding, the Great Decisions program, Diversity Equity and Inclusion, and international travel. She said she can help the branch with snacks, program planning, coordinating publicity with others, communications, and leadership.

Marie Bonilla V. P., Membership



SPECIAL INTEREST ACTIVITIES

DEI – BLM ALLIES GROUP Wednesday, May 25

DEI/BLM group will start meeting fourth Wednesday mornings at 10 am. We will be reading The New Jim Crow by Michelle Alexander. We just started it so there is time to start reading and join the discussion. Contact Denise Burian for details and an email invite.

BOCCE BALL 1st & 3rd Mondays Moraga Commons • 9:30 am

We meet for fun but also to hone our skills for competion! Beginning this month, our team will be joining the Tuesday evening Bocce Ball league. Contact Mary Leigh Miller at 925 360-4443 or online at mlmiller602@gmail. com for more information.

GREAT DECISIONS Wednesday, May 4 Via Zoom • 10 am

The launch of Sputnik 1 in October 1957 marked the beginning of the space era and the space race between the United States and the Soviet Union. In the twenty-first century, there are many more participants in space, including countries such as India and China as well as commercial companies such as SpaceX. How will the United States fare in a crowded outer space? A Zoom invitation will come to you from Marielle Boortz. Joanie Jump is facilitating. Contact Judy Helder for more information.

BIKE RIDING GROUP Thursday, May 26 • 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! Please contact Diane Bell for information about this month's ride: dianelouise2020@yahoo.com.

EVENING SALON Thursday May 19 Denise Burian's home • 7 pm

This discussion group will start meeting once a month. Contact Denise Burian for details

ORIGAMI ANYONE? Monday, May 2 & 16 At Mary Leigh Miller's Home 1 pm



Please contact Lvnda Leonard at lyndaeleonard@gmail.com if you'd

like to join us.

ANYONE WHO HAS READ THE BOOK Friday, May 20 Mary Mlynek's home 10:30 am

Our May meeting will be at the home of Mary Mlynek, 125 Warner Ct., Lafavette at 10:30 am. We will select our books and choose next year's meeting location. Bring a sack lunch. Please RSVP directly to Mary at ml mlynek@ vahoo.com or 937-5169. If you have any questions about the group, you can contact her or Susan Wilson at schnappsmom@sbcglobal.net or 376-0606.

schnappsmom@sbcglobal.net

HIKING EAST BAY REGIONAL PARKS Saturdays • 10 am - 12 noon

May 14: Anthony Chabot Bort Meadow in the Oakland hills. Mainly flat three mile hike. Meet at RiteAid Orinda 9:15 for carpooling.

May 21: Anthony Chabot Clyde Woolridge entrance Oakland. 2.5 miles with some elevation. Meet at RiteAid Orinda for carpooling.

Bring your friends and family!

2022-23 AAUW OML SPONSORS/ ADVERTISERS

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Bay Alarm Company Herbs & Spices Catering, Alameda - Wendy Shay Milner's Jewelers, Countrywood Shopping Center, Pleasant Hill

Please refer to the membership directory for complete advertising information.

MUSEUM MAVENS Wednesday, May 18 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. Note: Marjorie is looking for a new chair to take over her job.



MAY 2022 AT A GLANCE

1 SUN – CRITICS CHOICE BOOK GROUP Pass your book.

2, 16 MON – BOCCE BALL 10 am – Moraga Commons bocce ball courts Contact Mary Leigh Miller, mlmiller602@gmail.com

2, 16 MON – ORIGAMI ANYONE 1 pm at Mary Leigh Miller's home *Read more on page 7*.

4 WED – GREAT DECISIONS 10 am – Via Zoom Contact Marielle Boortz for the Zoom link. *Read more on page 7*.

7 SAT – INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL GROUP Contact Sara Lautenbach, sara@lautenbachs.com

9, 23 MON – GOLF GROUP Contact Jan Gee for time and venue, *jgee17@yahoo.com*.

10 TUE - BOARD MEETING

1 pm – Via Zoom Contact Jan Cushman to be included.

14, 28 SAT – HIKING GROUP *Read more on page 7.*

17 TUE – MAY LUNCHEON
3-5 pm – Holy Shepherd LutheranChurch
Honoring Stacia Cragholm, Distinguished Woman

18 WED – MUSEUM MAVENS 12 noon – Via Zoom Read more on page 7.

18 WED – MEMOIRS & MUSINGS 1 pm – Via Zoom Contact Carol Messinger.

19 – THUR – EVENING SALON 7 pm – Denise Burian's home *Read more on page 7.*

20 FRI – ANYONE WHO HAS READ THE BOOK 10:30 am – at the home of Mary Mlynek. *Read more on page 7.*

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

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

24 TUE – DEADLINE for JUNE 2022 TRIAD Send all articles to Mary Leigh Miller, 925 360-4443 *mlmiller602gmail.com*.

24, 25 TUE, WED – BURCKHALTER LIBRARY Contact Janette Maher to help out.

25 WED – DEI-BLM GROUP 10 am – Via Zoom Read more on page 7.

26 THURS – BIKE RIDING GROUP 9:30 am Contact Diane Bell, *dianelouise2020@yahoo.com*. *Read more on page 7*.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL SPECIAL INTEREST COORDINATORS:

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