



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

Sunday, April 16 Tech Trek and Scholarship AWARDS MEETING

3-5 pm Orinda Community Church

Join in the Celebration of Young Women in Our Community.

Listen to Their Voices and Hear Our Guest Speaker MOLLY MUDGETT



The annual awards program will showcase our Tech Trek campers and high school and Saint Mary's scholarship awardees. Please join us to meet and honor these outstanding young women. We are celebrating the 25th anniversary of Tech Trek!

From Tech Trekker to Engineer

Our guest speaker will share her journey from attending Tech Trek camp at Stanford in 2013 and volunteering as a counselor and dorm mom to earning her bachelor and master degrees in mechanical engineering at Northwestern.

Molly currently is working on the acoustics hardware team at Apple as a prototyping engineer where she designs, builds and tests acoustic and audio concepts.

Molly Mudgett is a Tech Trek success story!

Read more about the scholarship and Tech Trek selection process on page 5.

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 Distinguished Woman!
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Don't miss our TUESDAY, MAY 16 LUNCHEON

Honoring OML's 2023 Distinguished Woman

DENISE BURIAN



Held this year at SHELBY'S RESTAURANT

Theatre Square, Orinda.

Look for your online invitation coming to you soon.

Turn to page 8 to see highlights of our March meeting and read more about Denise.

... PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Vitality Versus Lethargy

Our March general meeting was titled "From Fit to Frail: Balance Training is for Everyone." It was an inspirational meeting that encouraged all of us to stay active, stay fit, and avoid the problems that plague many older women and men. It made me think of the same message being applied

to our branch and to AAUW at the national level.

Our branch works hard at being "fit and vital." Many thanks to all the members and groups who have made such an impact on this year's programs:

Membership: Under the leadership of Linda Bochte and with help from Marie Bonilla, we have increased membership this year and have worked hard to get these new members engaged and working with other community outreach projects or special interest groups.

Fundraising: Laura Wittenberg and her committee (Mary Leigh Miller, Barbara Bell, Bonnie Fend, Mary Ann Mcleod, and others) took on the task of the first general branch fundraiser. They successfully raised over \$12,000 which will be shared by the various community outreach projects. And they brought us all together as branch members for an evening of celebration and fun. In addition, Diane Bell headed up our support of AAUW Fund at the national level.

Programs: Barbara Bell and her committee have put together an amazing set of programs for our general meetings. These meetings include the skills of our tech team (Laura Wittenberg, Denise Burian, Mary Leigh Miller) and our Hospitality committee (different members for each month's meetings).

Policy and Advocacy: Laura Monin and Connie Whitting have helped educate all of us on the importance of voting, of understanding the state propositions, of participating in Lobby Days along with AAUW California, and of meeting with our local elected officials. They introduced our branch to the brand new program from AAUW CA called "Gov Trek" which encourages young women to go into politics and legislative roles (elected or professional staff)

Finances: Marielle Boortz continues to do an amazing job as our treasurer, but she has been joined this year by others (Marie Bonilla, Gail Chesler, Denise Burian, and Sheila Apte) to review the finances, reserves, and impact of our branch activities (the 501c4) as well as the community outreach projects (501c3).

Special Interest Groups: How can we acknowledge the importance of 15 groups regarding the "vitality" they bring to our members? These groups and their leaders are the ones who keep us from getting sluggish or frail, who keep us engaged, learning and youthful, and welcome new and old members into their groups.

Community Outreach Projects: It is impossible to thank each of these projects, their leaders and committee members for what they accomplish during the year. March was incredibly busy for our branch groups as you will see by reading the rest of the Triad. The STEM Conference for approximately 170 young middle school girls, held on March 25, involved over 75 additional adults and high school girls who supported the day's activities. The Tech Trek committee has completed their interviews and selection process this month and will be sending six young women off to a one week camp at Sonoma State. The scholarship committee also has completed their interviews and selection of both high school and Saint Mary's students to receive scholarships. The Burckhalter leaders and their committee can proudly look back to a year of running the library several days a week throughout the entire school year. All of these groups have reached out warmly to our new members and are grateful for their participation in these programs.

Backbone Leaders: Behind the scenes are all the members who keep this branch working. Mary Ellen Judson faithfully records the minutes of board meetings. Mary Leigh Miller produces the most beautiful monthly newsletters of any branch, our Triad. Bonnie Gallogly, Heidi Mayer, and Denise Burian keep the website, social media, and publicity up to date and informative for our whole community. Pat Lopker and her committee continue to raise advertising dollars which support our branch expenses.

To all of you and to anyone that I forgot to mention, thank you for your energy, your vitality, your fitness and your engagement in this year's branch activities.

The Challenges of Not Being Fit and Vital:

Our branch is fortunate to be among the larger branches throughout all of AAUW to be in the category of "fit and vital." Many of the smaller branches throughout the country are unfortunately "frail and failing." AAUW's challenge is how to engage more women in our mission and our programs. AAUW faces the same threats as other membership organizations that used to offer social engagement, community service, and purpose throughout the 60s, 70s, and 80s. Let's hope our branch can be a beacon of hope and inspiration to other branches around the country as to how to thrive, be fit and healthy, and continue to grow.

Peggy S. Cabaniss, President

STEM CONFERENCE 2023 WRAP-UP



The seventh annual AAUW-OML STEM Conference was held March 25, 2023, at Saint Mary's College, where high school STEM Ambassadors welcomed 170 middle school girls (6th through 8th grade) from Lamorinda, Richmond, Walnut Creek, Castro Valley and other East Bay communities.

Modeled after AAUW-California's legendary Tech Trek Science and Math Camp (founded in 1998), AAUW-OML's local STEM event is designed to give all young girls interested in learning about STEM the opportunity to participate in three out of fourteen interactive "hands-on" science workshops. They meet professional women in STEM careers, hear dynamic speakers, and network with likeminded students who love learning about science, technology, engineering, and math. Part of the experience is spending a day and attending workshop classes on a beautiful college campus.

Many thanks to our dozens of branch and Rotary volunteers who work many months to make this exciting experience happen, broadening the horizons and giving new vision to many young STEM students.

We could not do it without the support of our generous members, donors, and dedicated sponsors: Saint Mary's College, Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary, Rossmoor Rotary Foundation, Rotary Club of Lafayette, Diablo Foods, Noah's Bagels and Peet's

Coffee. When shopping in those stores, tell the managers we are grateful for their support of AAUW-OML's STEM Conference. A little thanks goes a long way.

AAUW was into STEM before it was an acronym. Celebrating 25 years of Tech Trek, AAUW-OML has selected 128 local teacher-nominated girls to attend Tech Trek camp. Many of those Trekkers became role models and mentors



Danielle Feinberg delivers the keynote address on the morning of the conference

STEM sisters who attended Tech Trek Camp and our STEM Conferences in middle school often choose to become junior monitors and STEM ambassadors in high school, learning leadership skills while working with AAUW-OML mentors as they work together to plan the annual workshop conferences.

through the STEM ambassadors program (a legacy of our Sister-to-Sister project), inspiring a thousand young STEM sisters who have attended science workshops at AAUW-OML's STEM Conferences at Saint Mary's College since 2016.

Lana Reichick, STEM Committee Member Photos by Sandy Fox-Sohner



(above) High school ambassadors in training for the day of the conference. At right, OML members and volunteers prepare for the big day.



More photos on the next page.

STEM CONFERENCE 2023 WRAP-UP, continued









(top row, l to r) Girls are led by a junior monitor to their first workshop. Learning about nutritian. Three of our many volunteers.

(left) Putting together a beehive. (right) Fun with Math workshop.

(lower left) Preparing for an earthquake.

(at right) 3-D modeling with Tinkercad.

(bottom) Our 2023 high school ambassadors!









TECH TREK and SCHOLARSHIP

Come meet middle school Tech Trek campers and Lamorinda High School, and Saint Mary's College awardees at Orinda Community Church from 3-5 pm on Sunday, April 16!

Success in Selecting Six Outstanding New Tech Trekkers!

Thanks to our dedicated Tech Trek team members, we have successfully read the 25 applications from 7th grade girls nominated by their math and science teachers, interviewed them, and selected our six Tech Trek scholarship winners.

Special thanks to Lana Reichick who organized the interviews at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School and interviewed with Sandy Fox-Sohner, Pam Docherty and Marielle Boortz. And thanks to Christine Walwyn, Marcy Place and Laura Monin who interviewed at the Orinda Intermediate School and Joanie Jump and Karen Feeney who interviewed with me at Stanley Middle School.

It's a challenging job to pick just two girls from each school, when we have so many outstanding 7th graders to choose from! Please join us to celebrate these girls at our April meeting!

Jan Cushman, Chair, Tech Trek

March was a busy month for the scholarship committee.

We interviewed 17 girls for our high school and Saint Mary's scholarships. We are in the process of making our final decisions

Our applicants were studious, hardworking, and passionate about their community service. You will learn about these projects in future Triad articles, but it is also noteworthy and fun to learn about their other interests and hobbies. During interviews we ask the girls to share their interests, accomplishments and where they find inspiration. Here is a sample list: Sports activities, dog walking, poetry, reading, many forms of music such as choir and orchestra (also an aspiring opera singer and a former member of a girls' band), baking, world affairs, cultural festivals, equity, and roller skating.

It is a pleasure to talk with these young women and we look forward to introducing our awardees at our April 16 awards program. Thank you to the following members who participated in our interviews: Gail Burnett, Maryellen Judson, Bonnie Fend, Jill Eberhard, Karen Feeney, Linda Bochte, Joan Foster, and Jill Fernald.

GOT SNEAKERS UPDATE



Scholarship has made \$469.75 in our sneaker collection so far! We expect another check for the 12 bags collected at Campolindo

next month! Miramonte is working on getting approval.

We are looking for a new location for a drop-off site for April. A gym would be ideal. Please contact me if you have any connections that would help us!

These places still have collection containers.

- Lafayette Veterans Memorial Building
- 5A Rent-A-Space in Moraga
- Lafayette Community Center by the Pickle Ball Court
- Orinda Community Center

Bring your sneakers to our April meeting! Thank you for helping to make a difference for our environment and helping to fund scholarships for our local high schools and Saint Mary's College High Potential Program women.

Our sneaker collection will end in May, until then keep collecting those shoes!

Mary Ann McLeod and Bonnie Fend, Co-Chairs, Scholarship Committee

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Another new member, **Renata Sos** just joined. She's interested in Best Seller book group and Evening Salon. Talents include program planning and "give a hand" where needed

I spoke with Angela Cooper at National regarding some membership questions. She was very helpful and hopefully the issues will soon be resolved.

Linda Bochte, VP, Membership

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BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS March 14, 2023

The OML Board convened at the home of President Peggy Cabaniss. Of major interest was the report from the sub-committee entitled *Purpose of Reserve Policy*, which encouraged discussion. The committee researched past history as well as current situations. Some of our AAUW-OML priorities require minimal operating budgets while others are costly and require extensive time, talent and treasury. For years OML has considered individual group fund raising or possibly a large event which would support all OML's projects. The committee studied present and past policies and is now charged with defining how we operate as an organization of 125 women with multiple priorities and interest groups and limited resources. Burckhalter, Scholarship, STEM conference, Tech Trek, and DEI are our mission strongholds. Social gatherings and great friendships, however, are encouraged through Memoirs & Musings, reading and discussing books, Great Decisions and evening salon all which stimulate our minds; golf, bocce, hiking, bike riding, the museum and gardens group plus international travel get us "up and out," origami, which challenges the brain and fingers in new ways, and movies are just plain fun. All are vital to our branch. The groups' findings were interesting to all and we plan to continue with study and call to action.

We were excited to see the slate of officers for next year – all wonderful women with many jobs to do. Voting will take place online. Mark your calendars for Sunday, April 16, to meet six extraordinary young girls from our intermediate school who will be attending Tech Trek camp at Sonoma State. You will also meet three high school women who spread service throughout our communities gaining leadership skills as they helped others and two undergraduate young women from Saint Mary's College High Potential Program, who will be awarded funds to help them to continue their education.

Maryellen Judson, Secretary

BURCKHALTER UPDATE



Diane Bell dressed the part for reading the book *Bold and Brave*, a story about 10 women suffragists who fought for the right to vote. Written by Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, this book highlighted the work done by these brave and bold women so we can vote today and be heard.

A STEM book also read to classes this month was *A Computer Called Katherine*. about Katherine Johnson the mathmetician highlighted in the movie Hidden Figures. March isn't long enough for all the terrific books about Women's

Janette Maher, Chair, Burckhalter

2023-24 ELECTED BOARD NOMINATIONS

Each year, the Board of Directors of the OML Branch of AAUW appoints a nominating committee. The goal of this committee is to populate the board offices for the coming year. That means two things (1) to reaffirm with existing board members who want to continue to serve and (2) to find ways to bring new members to the board.

The fun part of being on that committee is talking with the branch members and finding out what they are interested in doing to make our branch run smoothly, efficiently, and enjoyably.

This year, our nominating committee of Linda Bochte, Judy Helder, Marilyn Evans and Gail Chesler, called lots of you to solicit your willingness or your suggestions on behalf of others. We are proud to present the following slate for your consideration and for your electronic vote.

You'll be receiving a Mailchimp link on April 14. Please be sure to vote.

The nominees for branch elected office for July 2023 through June 2024 are:

President
Gail Chesler
President-Elect – open
Secretary
Barbara Bell
Treasurer
Marielle Boortz
Membership
Linda Botche
AAUW Fund
Peggy Cabaniss
Programs
Chris Laszcz-Davis
and Michele Jacobson

PUBLIC POLICY in ACTION ~ LOBBY DAYS



AAUW chose 30 bills from the more than 1,000 bills submitted for consideration in this year's Sacramento legislature to actively support. Of the 30 bills

three were chosen for AAUW-CA branch members to bring before our local representatives in person (or on Zoom) during Lobby days. It was a wonderful opportunity to see and to participate first hand in our government. I am so proud of our Bay Area as all three bills were proposed by our representatives, **Buffy Wicks, Nancy Skinner** and **Rebecca Baur-Kahan.**

I think I can best share with you some of what I learned by trying to summarize each of the three bills. This is not an easy task as they are long, multi-faceted and changing as they move from committee to committee. Let's consider each bill through the topics: the problem, the bill, and the enforcement.

If any of these summaries catch your attention there is much more information available online or from your state representatives. You will be able to follow each bill as it makes it way through the legislature.

AB1394 California Social Media Platform Liability for Sexual and Trafficking.

I got to hear Buffy Wicks (my representative in District 14) in person. She wants more protection for girls. Buffy has two girls of her own, ages 2 and 6. She wants to make the companies' platforms more responsible in the way they write and the choices they make in writing their logo rhythms.

The Problem – Since 2,000 traffickers have recruited 55 percent of sex trafficking victims online, usually through social media. Social media platforms are aware that sexual abuse, exploitation and trafficking of children are originating on their platforms, yet they continue to rely on inadequate self-policing.

The Bill – will provide incentives for social media platforms to better police their designs. It allows victims of child exploitation to sue social media companies:

- 1) if they can prove the company knowingly, recklessly or negligently facilitated, aided, or abetted child exploitation,
- 2) and/or if the platform refuses their request to make "invisible" any images posted of them on the platform.

The Enforcement – Can sue for damages of up to \$1 to \$5 million for each act.

SB287 Holding Social Media Accountable

(proposed by Nancy Skinner)

The Problem – Our youth are experiencing an unprecedented mental health crisis and researchers attribute a significant part of the cause to social media use.

The Bill – This bill would prohibit social media platforms from knowingly or negligently using design, algorithm, or feature that causes a child to:

- 1) inflict harm on themselves or others,
- 2) purposely take their own lives,
- 3) develop eating disorders or engage in dangerous dieting,
- 4) receive content facilitating the purchase of fentanyl, and
- 5) experience addiction to the social media platform.

The Enforcement – provides a penalty up to \$250,000 for each violation. Also included – A social media platform is not in violation of the bill if it institutes and maintains a program of quarterly audits and corrects with in 30 days of the audit any design, algorithm, or feature discovered that presents risk of violation.

AB 549 The California Elimination of Discrimination Against Women Act

(proposed by Rebecca Baur-Kahan and Lisa Calderon)

The History – CEDAW is California's version of an International Treaty adopted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly. In effect it is a "Bill of Rights for Women." (187 of 194 nations have ratified this treaty. The USA has not.)

The Problem – Women, including women in California, continue to face discrimination in health care, employment, economic development, education, and gender-based violence. This has been magnified by the Covid Pandemic.

The Bill – This bill seeks to eliminate discriminatory acts against women by requiring ALL state agencies to conduct an evaluation of all their departments to insure the state does not discriminate against women including:

- 1) the implementation of policies and programs,
- 2) allocation of funding, and
- 3) delivery of services.

The Enforcement – This bill requires agencies to report their findings by January 2025 and every two years after that.

Connie Whitting, Co-Chair, Public Policy

2023 DISTINGUISHED WOMAN ~ DENISE BURIAN CONGRATULATIONS!



I was lucky when I chose Mary Leigh, Nancy, Trudy and Judy for the 2023 distinguished woman committee. Our decision was unanimous, the workload is being shared, and we are having fun.

Mark your calendars for May 17 so we can all celebrate together and honor the 2023 Distinguished Woman, Denise Burian. Denise has taken on more responsibilities in a shorter period of time than any other member. She kept Salon going during the pandemic, created the DEI project, and keeps all of us Zooming, all the while with a smile on her face. She's the perfect DW candidate.

Stacia Cragholm, Distinguished Woman, 2022

FROM FIT to FRAIL ~ MARCH MEETING WRAP-UP



Balance Training Is For Everyone: This was the heart of the message Dr. Christian Thompson and Roberto Melani brought to us at our March meeting.

As we move through life it is extremely important to maintain the highest possible level of function. Unfortunately, it also becomes more difficult and any ill-fated event risks becoming a catastrophe. However, we can reduce the risk by choosing the correct exercise components to improve joint mobility, muscle strength and balance.

Chris has put together a program which will get you the desired results. Check out his website at: www.mobilitymatters.fit If you are interested in buying his program don't forget to use code *Orinda15* for a 15 percent discount.

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SPECIAL INTEREST ACTIVITIES

DEI – BLM ALLIES GROUP Monday, April 10 Via Zoom • 3-4:15 pm

We are reading *How the Word Is Passed* by Clint Smith. We will discuss the fourth and closing chapters. and choose the next book we will read. Bring your book preferences. Contact Denise Burian to be included. *denburian@gmail.com*.

GREAT DECISIONS Wednesday, April 5 Via Zoom • 10 am

Energy Geopolitics, led by Marielle Boortz. For more information, contact Judy Helder at judyhelder@gmail.com

ANYONE WHO HAS READ THE BOOK Friday, April 21 Via Zoom • 10 am

Book: *The War Orphan* by Kelly Rimmer, Historical Fiction, 416 pages. This book is inspired by the real life heroine who saved thousands of Jewish children during WWII, smuggling them out of the Warsaw ghetto. From the Nazi occupation to the threat of a Communist regime, *The War Orphan* is an unforgettable story of Elizibeta and Roman's attempt to reclaim the love and life they once knew.

We'd like to hear your suggestions for books to read. Email the book title, the author, number of pages and type of book, along with a brief synopsis. to **Susan Wilson**, schnappsmom@sbcglobal.net or **Mary Mlynek**, ml mlynek@yahoo.com

ORIGAMI ANYONE? Monday, April 3 & 17 At Mary Leigh Miller's home 1-3 pm

Contact Lynda Leonard if you want to join the group. *lyndaeleonard@gmail.com*.

Wednesday, April 19 11 am • Saint Mary's College Museum of Art

We will be having a docent led tour of the works of two artists. The first is an exhibition featuring 31 color prints created by the celebrated artist Jacob Lawrence between the years of 1983 and 2000. The second exhibition unearths and contextualizes over fifty years of landscape paintings by the Oakland artist Louis Siegriest (1899-1980). Following the tour, we will go to lunch at a local Moraga restaurant. Museum cost is free. Please RSVP to Trudy at trudyLbarron@gmail.com by Monday, April 17. Hope you can join us!

Friday, May 5 10:30 am • Rosie the Riveter World War II Exhibit Homefront Museum Richmond Marina

This exhibit is dedicated to the individuals who stepped up when needed to keep our defense industries producing during World War II. Many female defense workers were hired as riveters and welders and the "Rosie the Riveter" icon and song were a central part of the campaign to recruit women and persuade men to accept them.

Our AAUW group is going to this museum on a Friday, as we hope to be able to meet one of the original "Rosies" who come only on Fridays. We will also see the many posters designed during World War II to promote these causes, watch several short movies concerning these events, view the Rosie the Riveter Memorial, and lunch at "Assemble" adjacent to the museum. Museum cost is free. We will send information on possible carpooling once I have a list of interested participants. Please RSVP to Trudy at *trudyLbarron@gmail.com* by Monday, May 1.

EVENING SALON Thursday, April 13 At K. de Groot's home • 7 pm

All members are welcome for appetizers and wine. We have an open discussion about issues of the day - social, cultural, important news stories. We will also meet by Zoom on Thursday, April 27. Contact Denise Burian at denburian@gmail.com.

HIKING EAST BAY REGIONAL PARKS Saturday, April 15 & 29

These are both wildflower, ranger-led hikes through East Bay parks, The first is at Vargas Plateau just south of Sunol – a beautiful area and quite new in the system. It will be four miles on fairly flat terrain and will require a different carpool arrangement which will be sent out via email to all who have signed up for hiking. The other hike will be at nearby Redwood Park, around three miles and we will meet behind Canyon Brewery. Contact Marilyn Evans to get on the email list: marilynbevens@att.net.

BOCCE BALL 1st & 3rd Mondays

We will meet again once it stops raining! Team play on Tuesday evenings at the Moraga Commons will be starting up at the end of April or in early May. Contact Mary Leigh Miller at 925 360-4443 or online at *mlmiller602@gmail.* com to join the group.

BIKE RIDING GROUP Last Thursday of the Month

Our group bicycles on the last Thursday morning of each month. We ride on trails (not on streets). Please contact Diane Bell, *dianelouise2020@yahoo.com*. for information about this month's ride.



APRIL 2023 AT A GLANCE

1 SAT- CRITICS CHOICE BOOK GROUP Please pass your book.

3, 17 MON – ORIGAMI ANYONE? 1 pm – Mary Leigh Miller's home Read more on page 9

5 WED – GREAT DECISIONS 10 am – Via Zoom Read more on page 9.

10, 24 MON – GOLF GROUP Contact Jan Gee for time and venue, *jgee17@yahoo.com*.

10 MON – DEI-BLM ALLIES GROUP 3 pm – Via Zoom Read more on page 9.

11 TUE – BOARD MEETING 1-3 pm – Via Zoom Contact Peggy Cabaniss for the link.

13 THUR – EVENING SALON 7 pm –Denise Burian's home *Read more on page 9.*

15, 29 SAT – REGIONAL PARK HIKES *Read more on page 9.*

16 SUN – GENERAL MEETING ANNUAL AWARDS MEETING 3-5 pm– Orinda Community Church

19 WED – MUSEUM & GARDEN GROUP 11 am – Saint Mary's Art Museum Tour Read more on page 9.

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

21 FRI – ANYONE WHO HAS READ THE BOOK 10 am – Via Zoom Read more on page 9

21 FRI – FRIDAY EVENING MOVIE GROUP 6:30 pm – Contact Mary Leigh Miller for more information.

AAUW-OML Database Coord. 3537 Springhill Rd. Lafayette, CA 94549	

24 MON– DEADLINE for MAY, 2023 TRIAD Send all articles to Mary Leigh Miller, 925 360-4443 *mlmiller602gmail.com*.

27 THURS – BIKE RIDING GROUP 9:30 am – Meeting place TBA Contact Diane Bell, *dianelouise2020@yahoo.com*.

MAY 2023 Look for more information in the May Triad

9 TUE – BOARD MEETING 1-3 pm –Location TBA

16 TUE – MAY LUNCHEON Honoring Distinguished Woman, Denise Burian 11:30 am-2:30 pm – Shelby's Restaurant, Orinda

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.