

TUESDAY JUNE 13

11:30 am - 3 pm

IN/OUT BOARD MEETING

- **Place: 743 Crossbrook Drive, Moraga (home of Peggy Cabaniss)**
- **Time ~ 11:30 am - 1 pm ~ Potluck lunch and social time for both old and new board members**
- **1-3 pm ~ Board meeting for old and new board members**

Note there are only four new board members, so Peggy is expecting about 20-25 people at this luncheon. We will notify everyone to bring their “position notebook” to the meeting if they are turning over that position to a new person. It is also a time to welcome members who have not served on the OML board before.

~ INCOMING PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE ~

Thank you for giving me another turn as your president of the branch. I hope you find me worthy. This month feels like the beginning of a new school year, though with lots more under our own control. You and I are at the beginning of a new year and there are many new ideas and new realities circulating in the real world that we want and need to be aware of, learn about, evaluate, react to, get out ahead of. That’s what smart women do, right?

I am so pleased with the activities that we have been a part of this past year, and the branch has every right to be proud of all we have accomplished. Forgive me for not listing them all here again; Peggy does a beautiful job with her President’s Message each month. I am grateful for the leaders who steered us and the workers who brought the big and important events to fruition. They also gave us the small and intimate discussion groups and reading groups and giving occasions (scholarships and camperships and hands-on learning experiences) and trips around the Bay Area and some sporting activities, too. Who says we’re too old to play (grin)?

We’ll have another good year coming up. I look forward to participating. I hope you do too. And if you think of something that will make us better, please share your creativity and your energy. You can phone or email me; please do. I look forward to seeing the old and new board members at the In & Out Board meeting on June 13th and as many members as possible at the September 19 Showcase meeting.

Big hug to you all, **Gail Chesler**

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE ~ RENEWAL TIME ~

Peggy Cabaniss, Gail Chesler, Marie Bonilla and Linda Bochte have worked on a membership renewal letter with details about renewing on the National, State and OML Branch levels. This letter with information on how to renew will be posted on the OML website. Members whose membership expires in June of this year have probably started receiving email notices from National.

AAUW National shows we added 14 new members to our branch. That means we have three free memberships for the coming year! We currently have 127 members and I am waiting for information from an interested Tech Trek parent who attend Awards Sunday in April.

The Yellow Postcard!

There is a question about the yellow postcard members are receiving from AAUW National. National is updating our information and launching a project creating an AAUW Oral History. *There is no need to respond unless you are interested.*

Linda Bochte, VP, Membership

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- **Nay Luncheon Highlights**
Page 3
- **Tech Trek Ice Cream Social**
Page 4
- **Scholarship Report**
Page 5
- **OML Policies & Procedures Review**
Page 6

... PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Awards for the Year!**

Early in March I received an email from the AAUW California Program Directors asking us to submit applications for the **Branch Activity of the Year Award**. This award recognizes a signature branch project that was unique, inspiring and mission-based during the past year. They were looking for something that was:

Novel – did you do something really unique, such as a play?

Inspirational – did people leave your event inspired to take action on something, such as launching a new branch project?

Reproducible – can another branch realistically do a similar event? Would they need a panel of nuclear scientists to do it?

Reflective of AAUW's mission and image – did the event promote one of AAUW's initiatives, such as gender equity, economic security, advocacy or other?

Diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) – did the event contain at least one element related to DEI?

Naturally I could think of many activities and projects in our branch that qualified for this award and after consulting with several board members, we decided to submit an application for our STEM Conference. I then found out we could submit multiple applications so we submitted another form for the Burckhalter project. The state convention was held in April and the three top winners were announced for Branch Activity of the Year, each with very unique projects. Then suddenly this week we received notice that our branch was among the 15 finalists for this award! We have been asked to submit a short video and description of both our STEM Conference and the Burckhalter project! We will be putting together our presentations for the state program committee and will be participants in the AAUW California Webinar on July 17, 2023 at 7 pm. **Mark your calendars to watch this special event, to celebrate our branch's projects, and to see what other branches are doing to make a difference.**

We have had a great year that recently culminated with our May luncheon at Shelby's in Orinda where we featured this year's Distinguished Woman, Denise Burian. What a treat to hear from Denise's daughter Mariah Phillips on her mother's journey as a feminist starting at age 12! And then to hear more from Denise about her upbringing in South Dakota, her move to California, her career with the California State Compensation Fund, and her many contributions to our branch. We also honored this year's AAUW Fund recipient Barbara Bell, our outgoing VP of Programs and incoming Recording Secretary. Our luncheon also included thank yous to our outgoing board and the installation of officers for next year's board.

My thanks to each and every one of you for making this such a special year for me as your president. I'm particularly glad that we have had time to review our branch as a whole, to look at the finances of our entire branch, and to recognize the impact that we are making in the community to promote AAUW's mission. Our programs, community outreach projects, and special interest groups make us a meaningful and fulfilling branch. We are in good hands with next year's board and leadership under Gail Chesler.

My final message to all members is the following – join us, stay involved, participate in something new next year, keep inspiring the next generation of young women, and keep up your passion for equality and opportunity for women!

Peggy S. Cabaniss, Outgoing President

AAUW National Budget Realities A report from Peggy Cabaniss, National Board Member, Finance VP.

The finances of AAUW National are complicated and challenging due to the nature of the assets and how they can be used. Whereas total assets of \$120M might sound extraordinarily high for a non-profit organization serving approximately 700 branches and 36,000 members, the assets have the following restrictions:

- **\$75M - Permanently Restricted Assets** – treated as an Endowment in that a limited amount (called a spending rate) can be withdrawn each year to be used for fellowships and grants for post graduate work.

- **\$15M – Accumulated Earnings on Restricted Assets** – can only be used for fellowships and grants.

- **\$25M – Temporarily Restricted Assets** – can only be used for certain projects specified by the donor (ex. STEM, Start Smart/Work Smart, projects in NYC, etc.)

- **\$5M – Unrestricted Assets** – can be used for anything to help run the organization (many would call this Operating Reserves).

- **\$120M – Total Assets**

With declining membership numbers, there has been a decline in dues revenue over the past years. Total revenues to the organization have been flat at approximately \$15M per year. Even if expenses stay at the same level, inflation increases those expenses by at least three percent per year. In developing a balanced budget, AAUW will need to cut expenses or find a way to increase revenue. These cuts might easily affect certain programs and/or member services. We cannot expect dues and member donations to provide the revenue needed to maintain the current programs. The staff and board are working to develop plans for sustainability that will address these problems. These plans are expected to be presented to the board in October and implemented in the following year.

~ MAY LUNCHEON HIGHLIGHTS ~



Denise with her daughter, Mariah

Dear OML Members, Thank you for the recognition of my contributions to AAUW-OML by choosing me as the 2023 Distinguished Woman. The luncheon was very nice. I found in AAUW-OML an organization that fit with my public policy beliefs and allowed me to promote equity for

all women through being public policy co-chair for several years, president for two years, starting a Black Lives Matter group (now DEI) which was one of the first in AAUW nationally, and present mission focused programs that helped us achieve 5-Star Status, also one of the first AAUW branches to do so.

We didn't skip a beat during the pandemic by meeting on Zoom for all of our groups, helping our members to feel less isolated. And we started Girls4STEM during the pandemic, a webinar series to encourage high school girls to consider STEM careers. Pat Beckner and I started the interest group Evening Salon, and I participated in many other community project activities and interest groups which resulted in making many friends for which I am very grateful.

What I learned in OML, is that I can work to promote equity for all women, with friends! Yes, we do lots of work, but the burden of any work is light when doing it with such great people.

Thank you to the DW Committee, led by Stacia Cragholm, and the luncheon committee led by Marla Schroeder.

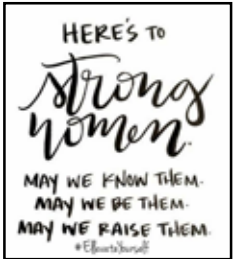
Denise Burian



Photos by K. de Groot



Top photo: The Distinguished Woman committee presents Denise with an engraved tray. Photo #2: Denise surrounded by her family members. Lower left: Family photos and memorabilia collected by Denise during her 10-year OML membership.



AAUW FUND NAMED GIFT HONOREE ~ BARBARA BELL ~



Barbara with AAUW Fund VP, Diane Bell.

Every year, our branch AAUW Fund Committee honors a branch member who has done outstanding work in supporting the AAUW Fund as well as programs and goals of the Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette branch. This year we awarded **Barbara Bell** with the Named Gift Honoree certificate, pin and our grateful thanks. This award is our special way to pay tribute to Barbara for her exceptional service to the branch and to AAUW.

**TECH TREK ICE CREAM SOCIAL
~ MEET OUR OML TREKKERS ~**



2023 Tech Trek Campers, and their STEM Ambassador Sisters, gathered at the ice cream social.

After four years with no Tech Trek camps held at Stanford University, our Lamorinda seventh graders are headed to a residential STEM camp at Sonoma State University in July. The Tech Trek committee invited the 2023 girls and parents to meet in May for a casual ice cream social in the Miramonte Gardens clubhouse.

Seven girls from three different middle schools quickly gathered on big leather sofas in the middle of the room where they began to chat and build new friendships as part of our ever growing Tech Trek circle.

Past years' Tech Trekkers Liesel Hilkemeyer, Bella Stratford, and Nicole Hui – all STEM Ambassador leaders who worked on the March STEM Conference – joined the conversation along with 2013 Tech Trekker and Apple engineer Molly Mudgett, who was our recent keynote speaker at the awards celebration. Molly has served as both a junior counselor and dorm mom at previous Tech Trek camps. This year, she will join the camp teaching staff as the core teacher for the Robotics class.

Parents got questions answered at the social while chatting with Tech Trek committee leaders. All enjoyed seeing an informational slide show and glimpse of the Sonoma State campus where our Lamorinda campers will attend camp for the first time. As Tech Trek Chair Jan Cushman showed slides, she shared details about a typical camp week's schedule of activities, including busy, exploratory days ending with 10 pm "Lights out!"

The social ended with the girls gathered in front of the fireplace for photos, as Trekkers past and present continue their TT journeys. Since 1998, AAUW-OML has selected 129 local STEM girls to attend Tech Trek science camps, thanks to the generous, loyal support of members like you. We thank you.



AAUW-OML Tech Trek committee members welcomed 2023 Tech Trek campers and their parents to the social.

**Lana Reichick, Tech Trek Committee Member
Photos by Sandy Fox-Sohner**

PUBLIC POLICY

ERA Update

With 98 of 100 senators present, the majority voted in favor of the ERA, including every Democrat and two Republicans (Murkowski and Collins). All other Republicans voted no but none of them rose to speak against the ERA. Thanks to Majority Leader, Chuck Schumer there will be additional opportunities to vote again in this legislative session of Congress.

We can close the nine vote gap!

This is the time to send your views to friends and relatives and advocate for the ERA. Notifying our senators is good too. Their offices take a tally of our views and may use those counts.

- The ERA will provide the constitutional basis to stop attacks on abortion and birth control.
- The ERA will enable passage of stronger laws for survivors of gender based violence.
- The ERA will support economic equality for women.

Let's do our part to help make the ERA the law of our land.

The fight for putting the ERA into the constitution has been in progress since 1923. A joint resolution in Congress would remove the time barrier that is now the major stumbling block to passage after Virginia ratified it in 2020. In February of this year President Biden gave support to the resolution proposed by US Senators Ben Cardin (D-MD), Lisa Murkowski (R-AL), Congress Woman Jackie Speier (D-CA) and Congressman Tom Reed (R-NY).

Therefore, we have a recent vote to remove the time restriction and get a Equal Rights Amendment that would put protection for women and other marginalized genders directly into the United States Constitution.

**Connie Whitting, Co-Chair,
Public Policy**

SCHOLARSHIP SPECIAL DELIVERY!

Bonnie Fend, Gail Burnett and I (Mary Ann) spent time at our four Lamorinda schools as we handed out our scholarship checks. Each of us attended a Senior Awards Program at the three high schools. Seniors receive scholarships from the community and awards chosen by the faculty to honor students in each of the academic departments – from art to technical education. Since teachers hand out most of the awards the atmosphere is casual and relaxed. Gail wrote, “My biggest pleasure ALWAYS is witnessing the great supportive and enthusiastic response of all the seniors on stage as each award/scholarship is announced.”

Two students who worked on our branch STEM projects received awards. In addition to receiving our scholarship, Liesel Hilkemeyer received a Campolindo family scholarship. She received an English award and a science award from the faculty. Liesel was also recognized as a National Merit Scholar. At Miramonte, Jada Hembrader received an Orinda Rotary Science and Technology Award, an Excellence in Community Service Award and Highest Academic Honors.

We agree that it is truly encouraging to see the students and hear of their accomplishments. These ceremonies also highlight the close connection between the teachers and their students. Bonnie added, “I even saw some of my previous kindergartners that have grown up to be very successful seniors!”

I also delivered the Saint Mary’s scholarship checks to the High Potential Program offices on campus. I was greeted in a cozy and comfortable lounge area where a celebratory lunch was held to honor the thirty graduating seniors in the program. I met with Senior Coach Joy Aburquez and the new Outreach and Engagement Success Coach, Gabriela Bermudez. We reviewed this year’s application process and made plans for next year’s AAUW scholarship application.

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

SNEAKER UPDATE

Scholarship has made another \$144.00 from our sneaker collections which brings our total to a little over \$600.00.

Many thanks to Joan Foster for assisting and taking the lead with this fundraiser. We were also fortunate enough to host some SAT & ACT events through Tried and True Tutoring and we made \$1,230.90 from a percentage of fees collected. Jill Fernald helped me with the staffing. Thanks Jill! We hope this partnership will continue next year as it is a great resource that does not require much work or our member’s donations.

We have had two extra special helpers that have been collecting sneakers for us. Jo Patrick from the Assistance League (Lafayette) and Candace Olsen from Rescued Treasures (thrift store in Walnut Creek) which benefits Community Concern for Cats (CC4C). We thank them and hope you will consider donating to their organizations.

We were going to end our sneaker collection in May, but since the sneakers continue to pour in, we have decided to keep it going for now, so keep collecting those shoes!

Look for Our Sneaker Containers

- We have a new container at the Oakwood Gym!
- Lafayette Veterans Memorial Building
- Lafayette Community Center by the Pickle Ball Court
- Orinda Community Center will be moved to the tennis courts soon.

BURCKHALTER UPDATE



We were so happy to return to the library before the school year ended. We had over 300 books donated as a giveaway for summer reading and Linda Bochte (*in photo at left*), dressed in a Dr. Seuss hat, is helping students choose two books to have as their own.

We return the first week of August and welcome any AAUW members and their friends at Burckhalter. Contact Janette Maher for more info on how you can join us in providing these really terrific students with good books and a positive library experience.

Janette Maher, Chair, Burckhalter



OML POLICIES and PROCEDURES UPDATE

Part of “best practices” for organizations is to have sufficient reserves to run their organizations. You don’t want reserves to be too low, but you also don’t want excessive reserves. For several years the board has discussed the appropriate level of reserves. We have decided that three years of operating reserves is prudent for our branch. At the April board meeting, we adopted the following policy regarding branch reserves.

NEW OML BRANCH POLICY

After looking at income and expenses for our branch as well as for the community outreach projects, we discussed the issue of reserves for each of these groups.

“AAUW-OML will maintain a three (3) year reserve for the branch assets based on a slightly increased normal expense budget for the branch of \$7,000.00. Funds above the reserve level will be distributed over a maximum of five (5) years to either or both of the National AAUW Fund or our branch’s Community Fund’s Undesignated category.”

Current balances for the branch accounts are over \$30,000. Based on the new policy, we will discuss distributing \$9,000 to the AAUW Fund and/or to our own branches community fund.

AAUW CA PUBLIC POLICY

AAUW California Public Policy Program for 2023-25 establishes policy directives that will guide our members, inform our legislative priorities, serve our mission to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, and are consistent with our values of achieving fair and equitable opportunities for our diverse society. Toward that end, AAUW California advocates policies that promote, enhance and ensure:

Economic Security for All Women, including:

- Equity in the workplace,
- Enforcement of workplace anti-discrimination statutes,
- Security in retirement,
- Access to job training for career development, and
- Work-life balance, including access to quality affordable childcare and paid sick and care-giving leave.

Equal Access to Quality Public Education for All Students, including:

- Vigorous enforcement of Title IX,
- Adequate and equitable funding at all educational levels, including pre-school and post-secondary,
- Removal of barriers for girls to access instruction in STEM fields,

- Civics instruction in all California high schools,
- Access to diverse staff and curriculum that represents historically accurate information,
- Funding adequate to support a strong infrastructure, and equitable access to resources, including technology, and
- Opposition to the use of public funds for nonpublic and charter schools that do not meet public school civil rights and accountability standards.

Social and Racial Justice for All Members of Society, including:

- Self-determination in reproductive health,
- Equal access to quality affordable health care, housing and a healthy environment,
- Freedom from violence in all its forms and wherever it occurs, including violence against historically marginalized groups, and support for policies that reduce or prevent gun violence,
- Guarantee of civil and constitutional rights for all, including all forms of gender identity and expression, and all family structures,
- Protection and expansion of voting rights, and
- Support for United Nations sustainable development goals which address human rights and women’s and girls’ concerns.

Increased Representation of Women in Leadership Roles, including:

- Proportional appointment to publicly-held corporate boards,
- Access to leadership skills training, and
- Access to programs that promote participation in public service careers.

Peggy S. Cabaniss, Outgoing President

THE TRIAD Staff
<p>Editor Mary Leigh Miller, 631-9694 email: mlmiller602@gmail.com</p> <p>Copy Editor Lynda Leonard, 254-6254 email: lyndaeleonard@gmail.com</p>
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2023-24
<p>President – Gail Chesler Vice-President Membership – Linda Bochte Vice-Presidents, AAUW Fund – Peggy Cabaniss Vice-President, Program – Chris Laszcz-Davis & Michele Jacobson Vice-President, Finance – Marielle Boertz, Recording Secretary – Barbara Bell</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AAUW Association Website: http://www.oml-ca.aauw.net California AAUW Website: www.aauw-ca.org EMAIL: oml.aauw@gmail.com</p>

SPECIAL INTEREST ACTIVITIES

DEI – BLM ALLIES GROUP
Monday, June 12
Via Zoom • 3-4:15 pm

We will continue discussing our next book, *There There*, by Tommy Orange. Please read up to page XXX.

Contact Denise Burian to be included. denburian@gmail.com.

GREAT DECISIONS
Wednesday, June 7
Wednesday July 5
Via Zoom • 10 am

We have decided to switch the June and September topics. Luckily **Climate Migration** (#8) led by Connie Whitting, is a great follow-up to our May topic on Global Famine.

July 5 - Topic is War Crimes led by Lana Reichick.

August 2 - Topic is Iran at the Crossroads led by K. deGroot.

September 6 - Topic is Politics in Latin America led by Barbara Bell.

For more information, contact Judy Helder at judyhelder@gmail.com or text the number in the directory.

ANYONE WHO HAS READ THE BOOK
Friday, June 16
At Susan Wilson's Home
25 Waterloo Place, Moraga
10:30 am

Book: *Mudlark, In Search of London's Past Along the River Thames*, by Lara Maiklem. Mudlarking is exploring the riverbank at low tide looking for artifacts. This book describes some of her mudlarking experiences, London's history and some of the artifacts she has found going back to Roman times. 2020 Indie Award for Nonfiction. Contact Mary Mlynek for more information, ml_mlynek@yahoo.com.

EVENING SALON
Thursday, June 8
At Barbara Bell's home
7 pm

All members are welcome for appetizers and wine. We have open discussions about issues of the day: social, cultural and important news stories. We also meet on Zoom, Thursday, June 22. Contact Denise Burian at denburian@gmail.com.

HIKING EAST BAY REGIONAL PARKS
Saturday, June 3 & July 1

June 3: Ranger led Pride Hike in Tilden (starting at Quarry Picnic site) 9-noon, four miles. Meet at Orinda Rite Aid at 8:15-8:30 am.

July 1, Redwood Park - We'll walk into the cool redwood forest and discover the plants and animals that live there, learning from an EBRPD naturalist. Hike/stroll two miles up the hilly Bridle trail and back along the flat Stream Trail. Meet behind the Canyon Club Brewery at 8:45 am to leave with 9 am carpool.

For more information, contact Marilyn Evans, marilynbevans@att.net.



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.

2022-23 AAUW-OML SPONSORS/ ADVERTISERS
 *AAUW members

LAFAYETTE

- Asian Accents – Original Designs in Jewelry by K. de Groot*
- Creative Alterations – Josef Jamkochain
- DIABLO FOODS
- Lamorinda's Handyman
- Persons Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery – Barbara Persons, MD FACS
- The Service Outlet – Marc Harvey
- The UPS Store
- Ware Designs – Fine Jewelry

MORAGA

- AAAAA Rent-A-Space
- Casa Turing – Cal-Mex Dining
- E's Auto Service & Repair
- National Assoc. for Advancement of Female People – Diane Bell*
- Town Bakery and Cafe
- The UPS Store
- ViaVienté – Lana Reichick*

ORINDA

- Angie Evans Traxinger & Joan Evans* – Village Associates Real Estate
- CASA ORINDA
- Meadow View Winery
- Shelby's Restaurant and Catering
- Soraya Golesorkhi* – Coldwell Banker Realty

WALNUT CREEK & Beyond

- Bay Alarm Company
- Goliath Water Heater & Plumbing
- East Bay – Jayme Perez
- Milner's Jewelers – Countrywood Shopping Center, Pleasant Hill

Our ADVERTISERS would love your SUPPORT. Tell them you saw their ad in our Directory!

BOCCE BALL
1st & 3rd Mondays
Moraga Commons • 10 am

We meet for casual play on Mondays and team play on Tuesday evenings at the Moraga Commons. Contact Mary Leigh Miller at 925 360-4443 or online at mlmiller602@gmail.com to join the group.

**JUNE and JULY 2023
AT A GLANCE**

1 THU – CRITICS CHOICE BOOK GROUP

Please pass your book. (And don't forget to pass your June book on Saturday, July 1)

3 SAT – REGIONAL PARK HIKE

In July: 1 SAT

Read more on page 7.

5,19 MON – BOCCE BALL

10 am – Moraga Commons

Read more on page 7.

6, 13, 20, 27 TUE – BOCCE BALL LEAGUE GAME

6 pm – Moraga Commons Bocce Ball Courts

In JULY: 4, 11, 18, 25

Read more on page 7.

7 WED – GREAT DECISIONS

In JULY – 5 WED

10 am – Via Zoom

Read more on page 7.

8 THUR – EVENING SALON

7 pm – Barbara Bell's home's home

Read more on page 7.

12, 26 MON – GOLF GROUP

In JULY – 10, 24 MON

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

12 MON – DEI-BLM ALLIES GROUP

3 pm – Via Zoom

Read more on page 7.

13 TUE – IN/OUT BOARD MEETING

11:30-3 pm – At the home of Peggy Cabaniss

21 WED – MEMOIRS & MUSINGS

1 pm – Via Zoom

Contact Carol Messinger.

16 FRI – ANYONE WHO HAS READ THE BOOK

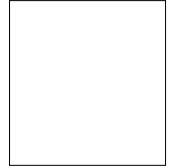
10:30 am – Susan Wilson's home

Read more on page 7.

21 JULY, MON – DEADLINE for AUGUST, 2023 TRIAD

Send all articles to Mary Leigh Miller, 925 360-4443
mlmiller602gmail.com.

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



27 THURS – BIKE RIDING GROUP

9:30 am – Meeting place TBA

Contact Diane Bell, dianelouise2020@yahoo.com.

AUGUST 2023

Look for more information in the August Triad

8 TUE – BOARD MEETING

1 pm – Location to be announced

**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.