

*Mark Your Calendars!*

## TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 SHOWCASE

9:30 - 11:30 am • Fellowship Hall  
Orinda Community Church • 10 Irwin Way, Orinda

**Guest Speaker: TELI THAYER,**  
Community Partner Coordinator for **GIRLS CRUSHING IT.**



*Girls Crushing It* empowers girls ages 8-18 through rich entrepreneurial experiences that cultivate confidence, leadership skills and financial acumen.

Teli will tell us all about the program's workshops, pitch fests and pop-up shops (*photo at left*). She is looking forward to speaking at our September meeting and sharing more about the past, present, and future of *Girls Crushing It*. Teli can't wait to meet you!

Look for lots more information about *Girls Crushing It* in the September Triad and read about what our branch will be offering its members this coming year through our many branch priorities and special activity groups. Breakfast and meet and greet time will be on the patio. *We are looking forward to seeing all of you again!*

### MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

Renewal of membership is continuing through the summer. Linda has sent our reminders and will call remaining members. *It's never to late to renew and support our OML branch as well as National and State.*

A new members' meeting was held at Marie Bonilla's house on Sunday, July 30 at 2 pm. It was a chance for new members to meet leaders of our OML interest groups. Look for a detailed article and photos in the September Triad.

Another new member added! **Kim Lockett** is a graduate of UC Berkeley with a bachelors in integrative biology and environmental science and a masters in education. She is currently working as a Senior Training Specialist at Stanford Health Care. Tech Trek and STEM are her priorities of interest. Kim was part of the Tech Trek registration team (with Lana Reichick, Judy Helder & Linda Bochte) on Sunday July 23 at Sonoma State University. Kim is also interested in international travel, has computer skills and will give a hand where needed.

**Linda Bochte, VP, Membership**

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### Hello Branch Members!

The directory of all our contact information for branch members is in process. We plan to have it ready for distribution at Showcase!

If you need corrections to your entry in the directory, please click [edmarie.bonilla@comcast.net](mailto:edmarie.bonilla@comcast.net) to send that correction to the right person.

*Thanks for your help in getting our directory out.*



## ... PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What a great year we're getting set for! We've been actively getting ready – doing all kinds of prep work. Several new board members have come on, bringing energy and fresh eyes and ideas. Thanks again so much for the work done by those leaving the board, if only leaving for a year or two.

Program co-chairs Chris L-D and Michele J started right out with a Zoom get-together to reach agreement on some of the same kinds of topics and some new kinds of topics and some efficient ways to handle the behind-the-scenes important work. One example of a possible new topic is Artificial Intelligence. Some of it sounds scary, and it's clear we all need to know more about the ways it will help and the ways it will challenge us. I know one thing and that is that I don't know enough.

**About our General Meetings ...** Straight out the shoot comes Showcase on September 19th – with enhanced refreshments and a chance to wander around getting reacquainted with old friends and meeting the more than 14 new members joining in the past year or so. If you spot a person with name tag showing “bubbles” – please add extra warmth in your welcome. Introduce yourself and another member standing nearby. Make this friendly. Look for the folks running Special Interest groups – look for the folks chairing our Branch Community Outreach Projects – find one or more to connect with and contribute to. They are all worthy and will engage your enthusiasm and skills.

Some of the events to come will seem familiar – in October our public policy cochairs, Laura Monin and Connie Whitting, will share the new Public Policy member-adopted priorities. The meeting will emphasize one of them – let's see which one. November brings a focus on AAUW Fund. Peggy Cabaniss knows lots from her roles in the National AAUW organization.

There will be a dynamite social event – fundraiser – early in December. More in future columns, as well as our meetings in the new year. We'll hear from DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion) in January, followed by two new topics in Feb and March. Then all of a sudden we're in the spring with Awards and May luncheon including the Distinguished Woman.

Hoping to see you at the General Meeting at Orinda Community Church on September 19th – show up at 9:30am! We'll get this new year started well.

**Gail Chesler, President**



*That's me, showing Tech Trekkers how solder while making a flashlight.*

## IN / OUT BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS ~ June 13, 2023

The In and Out Board Meeting was held on June 13 at the home of out-going President Peggy Cabaniss. A pot-luck luncheon was held prior to the meeting and an enjoyable time was had by all. Peggy introduced new board members Joan Foster, Karen Feeney and Lou Williams and thanked all outgoing board members for their service.

As Marielle Boortz, Finance VP was travelling, Peggy described the functions of the two organizations. The 501(c)(4) operating budget currently has a balance of \$27,678.03. She discussed the formal strategic planning session held at Saint Mary's College last August.

Gail Chesler, our new president, mentioned that we are starting the new year with tremendous momentum. Laura Wittenberg reported that on reviewing the calendar, January through April are extremely busy for our branch, necessitating a November/December period for a fundraiser. A discussion ensued and Denise Burian moved that we sponsor a fundraiser for the first weekend in December for the benefit of the community outreach projects. The motion was seconded and passed.

Linda Bochte reported that membership renewal was going well. It was suggested that flyers be placed around Lamorinda to generate interest in AAUW.

The scholarship committee held its wrap-up meeting on June 1. Three \$1,500 awards were granted to students at the local high schools and three \$1,000 awards went to members of the High Potential Program at Saint Mary's College.

The 501(c)(3) meeting immediately followed the close of the 501(c)(4) meeting. The budget for the Community Outreach Programs was discussed and. Gail added that a more robust discussion regarding finances needs to occur. Board members are being asked to read the Strategic Plan prior to the next board meeting.

Jan Cushman reported that everything was ready for the July Tech Trek conference and that Gail Chesler would be teaching soldering. Jan requested an additional \$13,000.00 to cover fees for the seven girls attending. At the time of the board meeting, there is no date set for the STEM Conference next year. Burkhalter ended the year on a positive note with the completion of the inventory was completed

Gail Chesler thanked all board members for serving so well and gave a special thanks to Peggy for her year as president.

**Barbara Bell, Secretary**

## FOCUS ON ... OML'S FUNDRAISING PLANS

### Open Your Mind

Take a moment to think about why you joined the OML Branch. Most likely a good friend encouraged you. Or maybe you got involved in one of our branch priorities, like STEM or Tech Trek because of your daughter's interest, and then decided to become a member. Or perhaps you recently retired and were looking for something new and meaningful to fill your days.

Whatever drew you in, we are so glad you decided to become part of the AAUW organization. Our branch, which has been in existence for over 60 years, offers a lot of special interest groups, mind-stimulating activities and community outreach opportunities. Plenty of things to keep you busy – not to mention the wonderful friendships you are making along the way!

### Open Your Mind ... *and Your Pocketbook*

**Advocacy for women and girls is our main goal, but it takes funds to support these programs.** A lot of our members seem to forget this. The local programs that we support, such as STEM, Tech Trek, Burckhalter and scholarships, cannot exist without financial support. Sadly statistics show that only around 50 OML members this past year have made a donation to our various outreach funds. With a membership of over 125, this represents less than half of the branch.

**How can we encourage you to get involved financially?** Our branch has formed a fundraising committee and is currently working on an exciting December event – **Jingle and Mingle** with the plan to raise funds to equitably support all of our community outreach projects.

### How OML Handles Your Donations

Our branch has two government-approved designations that allow us to raise and distribute money without tax implications: 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4).

#### What is a 501(c)(3)?

501(c)(3) organizations are nonprofit groups with a dedicated mission. Most people are familiar with them as churches and charities, but they also include private foundations. As long as they operate to support their mission, they receive favorable tax treatment, such as avoiding federal income and unemployment taxes.

**When you give a donation to one or more of our community outreach programs, your donation is tax exempt.**

#### What is a 501(c)(4)?

A 501(c)(4) is a tax code identifier used by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for specific types of non-profit organizations within the U.S. whose purpose is for social welfare causes as well as civic organizations not organized for profit but operated exclusively for the promotion of social causes.

**Our branch operates under a 501(c)(4) umbrella, which allows us to raise money without filing a tax return.**

### Our Community Outreach Projects Depend on Your Donations.

Some of our project needs are greater than others, which is why your non-designated funding will be distributed equitably.

#### Burckhalter Library:

OML has staffed and provided much-needed materials for students and teachers at this Oakland elementary school library for over 25 years. Our volunteers have been stimulating the minds and inspiring a love of reading and learning for hundreds of young students most of whom come from underserved communities.

#### Scholarship Project:

Our branch awards scholarships for community service and academic excellence to young graduating women from our local high schools. We also award scholarships for women at Saint Mary's College from underserved communities who are part of a First Generation, High Potential program.

#### Tech Trek:

AAUW-California is celebrating 25 years as sponsors for this weeklong program for girls, designed to stimulate interest in science, technology, engineering and math. Our branch chooses and awards camper-ships to young women every year to Tech Trek. Over 130 raising 8th grade girls have benefited from our sponsorship.

#### STEM Conference:

OML has designed and developed a day-long conference to encourage the interest of middle school girls in science, technology, engineering and math, held at Saint Mary's College. Over 900 curious girls have chosen to participate in this program.

#### DEI Program:

A developing project seeks to educate, advocate and discuss the meaning of diversity, equity and inclusion within us, our branch, and our community.

**TECH TREK CAMP at SONOMA STATE**

**Tech Trek Camp at Sonoma State University! In person!**

As I write this, I am at Tech Trek camp with our seven girls sponsored by OML and my dorm group of ten girls from various branches. We are finally back at a residential Tech Trek camp on a university campus! My dorm junior counselor is past OML Tech Trekker Giorgia Stankus. Past OML Tech Trekker Bella Stratford was a counselor during the June Tech Trek camp.



*OML volunteers welcomed more than ninety Tech Trek campers on the first day of camp. (l to r) Judy Helder, new member Kim Lockett and Linda Bochte.*

Thanks to our branch members who volunteered to assist during registration and the week's other camp activities. Our branch looks really good to camp management! Kudos to Gail Chesler, Renee Rosado, and Laura Monin for helping during camp week, and to Linda Bochte, Judy Helder, new OML member Kim Lockett (a former JMIS science teacher who nominated many of our past Tech Trekkers), and Lana Reichick for working registration check-in at Sonoma State.



*Making a flashlight. "Of course, it works! I soldered it myself."*

Night" on Friday, where each dorm group will build a structure of their own imagination and design based on engineering principles. The week is simply packed with activities and opportunities to make friends with like-minded girls!

**Jan Cushman,  
Chair, Tech Trek**

*It's so nice to be back on a beautiful campus – Sonoma State University in Rohnert Park, in the heart of Sonoma wine country.*



**STEM UPDATE**

**Save the Date for our Eighth STEM Conference, Set for March 16, 2024.**

The Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley Foundation recently identified our STEM Conference for an Impact Donation of \$5,000.



We are grateful to the Kiwanians and especially to Leslie Engler who championed our program for this generous donation. Laura Wittenberg, Renee Rosado, and Stacia Cragholm gratefully accepted this donation at the July 6 Kiwanis meeting at the Moraga Presbyterian Church. We are honored to be recognized by the Kiwanis club whose mission is to serve children, families, and seniors in Lamorinda, other areas of Contra Costa and northern Alameda County. We look forward to working with members of the Moraga Kiwanis Club.

**News from Saint Mary's College:**

Dean Roy Wensley is taking a sabbatical for 2023-24. Members of the STEM committee met with him recently and were introduced to **Dr. Alice Baldridge**, a geology professor, who is the interim Dean of the Science Department.

Dr. Baldridge is looking forward to working with us in 2024. In addition, **Karen Cresci** has recently taken on the position of the event planner at the college. Renee Rosado and I had the pleasure of meeting with her to plan for our eighth conference to be held on March 16, 2024.

Volunteer training will be held on March 10, 2024 – the week before. Karen is energetic and a firm believer in providing camps and conferences for youth. We look forward to working with her.

**Stacia Cragholm, Chair,  
STEM Conference**

## SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

The highlight of the scholarship committee is meeting and connecting with the young women who apply for our scholarships. Everyone loves to feel appreciated. It makes us feel good and we can feel the impact of our efforts. I am happy to share these letters of gratitude with you.

Here are some short snippets from emails and letters that we received from the six students who were awarded our scholarships this year:

Thank you so much for the opportunity to speak about my community service and for the scholarship award. **LaReina Torres**

The event was amazing, and I absolutely loved getting to meet so many amazing women in our community! **Nilab Ahmed**

Thank you so much for the good news! It was nice to meet you all!! **Briana Alexander**

I am thrilled and grateful to be given this scholarship. **Liesel Hilkemeyer**

I am so grateful for this opportunity and that you all took the time to get to know me! **Tess Gundacker**

I am honored to hear that I have received this award. I sincerely appreciate your program for giving me this opportunity. **Sophia Gonzalez**

The committee meets the first Thursday of the month at 1:30 pm, usually at Mary Ann McLeod's house. We read applications and interview students in late February and March. **Please contact me if you are interested in joining our committee for our September 7 scholarship meeting.** We look forward to signing on new members at our branch Showcase meeting September 19.

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



*The scholarship winners at our annual Awards Meeting in April 2023. From left to right: Tess, Nilab, Liesel, LaReina, Briana and Sophia.*

## SNEAKERS!



**Scholarship is continuing its sneaker collection.**

We earned over \$600 last year that went towards our high school and Saint Mary's College scholarships. Assistance League and Community Concern for Cats continue to share their shoes with us. Gail Burnett and Joan Foster have been amazing helpers!

If you have sneakers to donate they can be dropped off at the following locations:

- 24 hour fitness on Rheem Blvd in Moraga
- Oakwood Gym in Lafayette
- Veterans Memorial Center in Lafayette
- Lafayette Community Center pickle ball court
- Orinda Community Center by the tennis courts

We are always looking for new locations and would love new suggestions! If you have a large quantity of shoes to donate, please contact me for a pickup.

*Thank you for your continued support of our sneaker collection!*

**Bonnie Fend,  
Co-Chair, Scholarship**



## AAUW PUBLIC POLICY NATIONAL & CALIFORNIA UPDATES

**The following is a statement made on June 30th from Gloria L. Blackwell, AAUW's Chief Executive Officer:**

Today's decision by the court's conservative majority leveled a devastating blow against student borrowers. This decision deals an even heavier hit to the nation's millions of women borrowers — particularly Black and brown women, who face a disproportionate financial impact from student loan debt. Undoubtedly, this misguided decision will have a snowball effect on women's economic security and that of their families.

While we encourage Congress to actively pursue measures to lower the student debt burden on women and their families, we recognize that in today's highly charged political environment, Pres. Biden has a vital role to play. To make a meaningful difference for American women—who hold nearly two-thirds of the nation's student-loan debt—his administration must provide permanent solutions to canceling student debt and expanding loan-repayment programs.

Between June 29's affirmative action rulings and June 30th decision on student debt, AAUW is committed to fighting for women and communities of color to have equal access to the affordable, quality higher education necessary for an equitable, diverse, and inclusive society.

**The following is a statement made by Kathi Harper, outgoing State Public Policy Chair:**

AAUW California is partnering with Equality California to address concerning trends on local school boards.

AAUW CA Public Policy has launched our new project, in which we'll be collaborating with Equality California to help ensure California schools remain free from book-banning and curriculum censorship.

A survey to assess what's going on in our state was sent to all branch public policy chairs on May 1 and the results are in. We received 61 responses from 50 of our branches from across the state, representing over 200 school districts. Fourteen chairs reported that this is, or might be, an issue in their districts, with another 29 projecting that it will, or could be, an issue in the future.\*

Equality California is seeking our help in recruiting qualified progressive candidates for nonpartisan school board positions. The purpose is to counter the effects of outside groups and money backing candidates who do not share AAUW California's values of providing all students access to diverse curriculum and materials that represent historically accurate information. Forty-seven of our survey respondents reported that they are, or might be, willing to assist in this effort, and 57 felt that their boards would, or might be, willing to endorse qualified candidates.

The School Board Project subcommittee presented a webinar with representatives from Equality California to more fully explain the project and discuss next steps.

**Learn more about Equality California by clicking here:**

<https://www.eqca.org/>

*\* OML Public Policy Chair, Laura Monin, was one of the fourteen who reported that this is an issue in our district.*

## BURCKHALTER UPDATE ~ IT'S SCHOOL TIME!

**There are several options for participating at the school library.**

- You can help with opening the library at the start of school on one of these days: August 9, 10, 16, and/or 17.
- You can come very week on Wednesday and/or Thursday. Classes start Aug 23 and 24.
- You can come twice a month or just once a month.



**Please join us for a meeting on Friday, August 4 at 9:30 am at Janette Maher's house.**

Library duty is fun and rewarding! Classes, grade K-5, visit the library once a week to hear a story and check in/check out books. *No library experience needed.* Just enjoy kids and books. And don't worry if you have travel/family plans, we can adjust our schedule. Contact Janette at [kidlitlvr@hotmail.com](mailto:kidlitlvr@hotmail.com) to RSVP for the meeting or find out more about volunteering at Burckhalter Elementary School in Oakland.

**Janette Maher, Chair, Burckhalter**

## SPECIAL INTEREST ACTIVITIES

### CRITICS CHOICE BOOK GROUP ANNUAL MEETING Wednesday, August 23 At Andrea Green's home 10:30 am

Calling all avid readers who want to read 10 recent best sellers for a total cost of \$30! There are a few spaces left in the Critics' Choice pass-around book group. You read one book each month from October through July or August, and then pass it on at the beginning of the next month. Plus, you keep the last book. We will have a meeting on August 23 at 10:30 am to select books for this year. All are welcome to attend at the home of Andrea Green, 1210 Larch Ave, Moraga. Any questions, call Andrea at 925 376-7087.

### ANYONE WHO HAS READ THE BOOK Friday, August 18 At Judy Peak's home, 102 Coral Dr., Orinda, 10:30 am

Book to discuss: *Personal Librarian*, by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray, 341 pages, non-fiction. The remarkable and little known story of Belle da Costa Greene. As J. P. Morgan's personal librarian she pursued and curated a collection of rare books, manuscripts and art that became world-renowned despite the dangerous secret she kept in order to make her dreams come true as she was passing as white. Contact Mary Mlynek for more information, [ml\\_mlynek@yahoo.com](mailto:ml_mlynek@yahoo.com).

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

We are reading "There There" by Tommy Orange, and will finish our discussion of the book at the September meeting. Contact Denise Burian to be included. [denburian@gmail.com](mailto:denburian@gmail.com).

### HIKING EAST BAY REGIONAL PARKS Second and fourth Mondays and second Saturday

On August 14 and 28 we will be meeting at Vallee Vista staging area at 9 am. On Saturday, August 12, East Bay Parks will have a hike at Roberts in Oakland. For this one meet at the Canyon Brewery in Moraga at 9 am to carpool.

**Change of plans:** We will not be hiking on the same days as we did this summer as we did not realize the golf group met at the same time. We will need to select another morning to avoid an AAUW conflict. Let us know your ideas and we will work on changing it. Until then the twice monthly hikes at least through September will be suspended while we decide on new dates. Contact Marilyn, [marilynbevans@att.net](mailto:marilynbevans@att.net) or Ellen at [ellen.beans@gmail.com](mailto:ellen.beans@gmail.com).

### 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](mailto:mlmiller602@gmail.com) to join the group.

### EVENING SALON Thursday, August 10 At Janette Maher's home 7 pm

Our next meeting is Thursday, August 10 at the home of Janette Maher, 31 Kent Court, Moraga. All members are welcome for appetizers and wine. We have an open discussion about issues of the day- social, cultural, important news stories. We also meet by Zoom on the fourth Thursday, August 24. Contact Denise Burian at [denburian@gmail.com](mailto:denburian@gmail.com) for more information.

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

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### 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](mailto:dianelouise2020@yahoo.com) for information about this month's ride.

**AUGUST 2023  
AT A GLANCE**

1, 8, 15, 22, 29 TUE – BOCCE BALL LEAGUE GAME  
6 pm – Moraga Commons Bocce Ball Courts  
*Read more on page 7.*

2 WED – GREAT DECISIONS  
10 am – Via Zoom  
*Read more on page 7.*

12 SAT & 14, 28 MON – REGIONAL PARK HIKES  
*Read more on page 7.*

4 FRI – BURCKHALTER MEETING  
9:30 am – Janette Maher’s home  
*Read more on page 6.*

7, 21 MON – BOCCE BALL  
10 am – Moraga Commons  
*Read more on page 7.*

10 THUR – EVENING SALON  
7 pm –Janette Maher’s home’s home  
*Read more on page 7.*

**8 TUE – BOARD MEETING**  
**1 pm – Orinda Community Church**

14, 28 MON – GOLF GROUP  
Contact Jan Gee for time and venue, [jgee17@yahoo.com](mailto:jgee17@yahoo.com).

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

18 FRI – ANYONE WHO HAS READ THE BOOK  
10:30 am – Judy Peak’s home  
*Read more on page 7.*

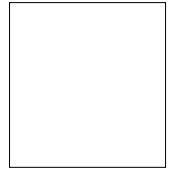
23 WED – CRITICS CHOICE BOOK GROUP  
10:30 am – Andrea Green’s home.  
*Read more on page 7*

24 THU – DEADLINE for SEPTEMBER TRIAD  
Send all articles to Mary Leigh Miller, 925 360-4443  
[mlmiller602@gmail.com](mailto:mlmiller602@gmail.com).

24 THUR – EVENING SALON  
7 pm – via Zoom  
*Read more on page 7.*

31 THURS – BIKE RIDING GROUP  
9:30 am – Meeting place TBA  
Contact Diane Bell, [dianelouise2020@yahoo.com](mailto:dianelouise2020@yahoo.com).

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



**SEPTEMBER 2023**

*Look for more information in the SeptemberTriad*

**12 TUE – BOARD MEETING**  
**1 pm – Orinda Community Church**

**19 TUES – SHOWCASE!**  
**Kick-off General Meeting**  
**9:30-11:30 am – Orinda Community Church**

All our special interest groups will be showcased at our first general meeting of the upcoming year on September 19.

You will have the opportunity to sign up and get more information on each activity.

**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.*