

TUESDAY, JUNE 11 In-Out Board Meeting

held at the home of Mary Ann McLeod
starting at 11:30 am with a potluck lunch.

All current board members,
plus all incoming board members
are highly encouraged to attend this
end-of-the-year meeting.

This includes all officers,
and chairs of all of our priorities.

At this meeting, we will approve all financial reports, complete any end of the year items and discuss the AAUW National required bylaws revision. We will also approve the 2024-25 calendar, discuss the budget and planning process and review the 2024 fundraiser. All incoming and outgoing VP's and chairs of branch priorities will have a short, break-out time to discuss their respective jobs.



Incoming board members at the May Luncheon

2024-25 BOARD

Elected Positions:

President

Denise Burian

President-Elect – Vacant

Assistant to the President

Barbara Bell

Secretary

Marcy Place

Finance VP

Peggy Cabaniss

AAUW Fund VP

Marilyn Evans

Program VPs

Chris Laszcz-Davis & Gail Chesler

Membership VPs

Laura Wittenberg & Ling Yan

Appointed to the Board (voting members):

Public Policy

Laura Monin & Connie Whitting

Tech Trek

Jan Cushman

Scholarship

Bonnie Fend

STEM Conference

Kim Lockett (need 2nd co-chair)

Community Projects

Janette Maher

Publicity

Renee Rosado

Newsletter Editor

Mary Leigh Miller

Website Coordinator

Bonnie Gallogly

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... Last WORDS from the PREZ



As I wrote nearly a year ago...
What a great year we're getting set for!

And I was correct; it has been a really great year! I'll have an easy time walking through the application for our repeat evaluation as a five star branch. Our programs were laudable, well-attended, educational, and enjoyable. We've accomplished lots; we've had fun together; we've learned things; some (a lot) of money to fund our Community Out-reach projects was raised for our (c)(3). Our Special Interest groups operated and good times were had there, too. Our hospitality has been delicious and welcoming. Our advertisers helped our (c)(4) move forward as well.



We've endured some not-good news as well. We've mourned the loss of three beloved members. We've privately watched our democracy increasingly become at risk. We don't talk about that much, but it worries many of us. And many of us were saddened by the failure of the change to the National bylaws that welcomed others to our mission.

What will the new year hold – hmmm? For one thing the old year leads into the new year with the In & Out board meeting on June 11. And in July, the Program co-chairs will Zoom with many in leadership positions to refresh the guidelines and layout the year.

Of late happenings... I so enjoyed our May luncheon (yum, the meal; so pleasant, the location and the service) and the talk by our Distinguished Laura Wittenberg, and the award to our Named Gift Honoree, Linda Bochte, and the installation of the new year's officers by our clever Judy Helder (see my rose in the photo above). It was an honor to say thanks to the out-going officers – thanks that are so richly deserved. By the way, for those who wonder what gift (in metal) I got, see the picture on the right. Those brass bars provide really accurate spacing in my woodshop projects – projects for which I will have a little more time this year (grin.)



It's been busy being your president. I've been glad to serve and so pleased to work with you. Welcome to the new president, Denise Burian.

**Gail Chesler,
 Outgoing President**

**BOARD MEETING
 HIGHLIGHTS
 May 14, 2024**

December Fundraiser Success and Windfall Distribution to Projects: Due to a lot of hard work by our Membership, the December fundraiser made approximately \$12,600 to be deposited into the unallocated category of our balance sheet. With this windfall, the board voted to distribute a portion of the unallocated funds (\$15,000) to our Community Outreach Projects, as follows: \$1,000 to DEI and the remaining portion divided evenly to the remaining four projects. A little over \$5,000 remains unallocated as a reserve This was unanimously approved by the board and will be reflected in the May financial statement.

Scholarship: Five girls will receive a \$2,000 scholarship each. An additional \$590 will be awarded to LaReina Torres. This is a one-time award so that she can attend the NCCWSL.

Burckhalter: The school year is ending with very few lost/late books. All children were treated to ice cream as they learned and celebrated the African American man, Augustus Jackson, who discovered the benefit of using rock salt to keep ice cooler while making ice cream.

STEM Conference: Will be held next year on March 8 at Saint Mary's. This years event was a booming success with more Saint Mary's students involved than any other year.

Tech Trek Next year's camp will be held at Santa Clara again.

In & Out Board Meeting: June 11 (Tuesday) at Mary Ann McLeod's house, 100 Greenfield Drive, Moraga. Potluck...bring what you want.

**Marcy Place (incoming secretary)
 for Barbara Bell, Secretary**

AAUW Mission • AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

Value Promise of AAUW • By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

FOCUS ON ... LAURA WITTENBERG FETED at OUR MAY LUNCHEON



You can tell Laura is well loved by the turnout at her Distinguished Woman luncheon at La Finestra. A whopping 16 family and non-AAUW friends came to the luncheon to join her many AAUW-OML friends to celebrate her accomplishments.

Her son, August and two or three daughters (Wendy and Julie), introduced her by sharing family stories about Laura.

(photos below) Some were funny, but most were about how she raised them to be confident and independent, making sure they lived as normal a life as possible during the long illness of their father, and always being there for them, her grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews. She is the respected and loved matriarch of her extended family.

Laura shared stories of her childhood that even being the middle child of 10, she was the matriarchal sidekick with her mother, and was greatly missed when she left Saint Louis, MO., for San Francisco, CA to discover who she is and live an independent life. Her father was a big influence in her life. He demonstrated what a life of service looks like by founding a children’s hospital and creating a teaching program in pediatrics. Laura’s daughter Heidi, who could not be at the lunch, is a doctor and the medical director at the Danis Pediatric Center, started by Laura’s father.



After receiving a BA degree at St. Louis University, she was on a quest for self discovery and moved to San Francisco. She met Werner, who helped her get a job at PG&E. She started out as a secretary but was soon given a Fortran manual and was taught to program, building her skills and knowledge to later excel in the computer sales industry. When her kids were school age, Laura went back to work. With her programming background, and inherent sales personality, she excelled and was usually the top sales person in the office, moving up to Sales Manager. She worked at Businessland where Chevron and Lucky Stores were among her clients. She became an Administrator and executed a business plan for a new business concept, Businessland

Rentals – renting computers to small companies who couldn’t afford to purchase, and large companies who wanted flexibility with computer inventory. This business was very successful, allowed her to use her sales acumen, and develop administrative and management skills and experience.

Laura’s beloved husband, Werner, was a hemophiliac requiring periodic blood transfusions. As a result, he contracted AIDS early on, and left her a widow at age 45. Off course this really impacted her life trajectory. She profoundly understood the meaning of family and people in one’s life. She was looking to reduce the stress of a corporate sales life. A life long friend needed to be placed in an assisted living facility. During this placement process, she was offered a job as an Administrator of a new facility due to her Businessland experience. She loved working with residents, their families, and the dedicated employees in these facilities. So she recreated her career as a Senior Housing, Assisted Living administrator. She got a Master’s degree in Hospital Administration and Certified Geriatric Care Manager, and was hired as an Administrator at Mercy Care Retirement Center in Oakland.

At 63, deciding to again re-imagine her career, she became a Life Coach, and went back to college to get a Master’s degree in Marriage & Family Therapy. She finally retired a few years ago.

Laura has lived a life of service, dedication, and empathy. AAUW-OML, as well as hundreds of Sister-2-Sister alumni, hundreds of STEM Conference attendees and their parents, Saint Mary’s College women student leaders who she has mentored, and many others along the way, have benefited from the many contributions of her time, money and talent.

Laura is a very valued member and friend. Thank you for all you’ve done and we know will do in the future.

**Denise Burian,
2023 Distinguished Woman**



TECH TREK NEWS

Tech Trek Ice Cream Social

This year our Lamorinda seventh graders are headed to residential Tech Trek STEM camp at Santa Clara University in July. The Tech Trek committee invited the 2024 girls and parents to meet on May 19 for a casual ice cream social in the Miramonte Gardens Clubhouse.



Sadie Ginestro and Athena Simbajon from Moraga, Olivia Sanders and Priya Holl from Lafayette and Merritt Thompson from Orinda joined our committee members. Unfortunately, Madelyn Azalde from Orinda and Quinn Sousa from Lafayette had previous commitments. We also welcomed Sophia Bitton, one of the past Tech Trekkers who will be a junior counselor at camp. Giorgia Stankus and Claire Casado will also be junior counselors at Santa Clara and Bella Stratford will be a senior counselor at Sonoma State. The girls in the photo above, from left to right, are Priya Holl, Sophia Bitton, Sadie Ginestro, Athena Simbajon, Merritt Thompson and Olivia Sanders.

All enjoyed seeing an informational slide show and glimpse of the Santa Clara 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 and showed pictures of the dorm rooms. This summer the core classes held each day are Botany, Forensics, Engineering/Physics and Climate Science/Oceans. Other activities at camp will include the Mad City Money financial workshop, robotics, professional women's night, soldering to make a flashlight and 3D math. Since 1998, AAUW-OML has selected 136 local STEM girls to attend Tech Trek science camps. Special thanks to our branch members who attended and the many branch members who have donated to support our program. And special thanks to Christine Walwyn for making it possible for us to use the Clubhouse.

Jan Cushman, Chair, Tech Trek



AAUW Fund Branch Named Gift Honoree ~ Linda Bochte ~

This award is given each year to acknowledge a member's contributions to our branch. And there are many ways **Linda Bochte** added to our branch. Linda, who died Jan 2 was my best friend for 25 years. She became a member in 2016 after retiring from over 20 years as a librarian at Burton Valley School in Lafayette. She joined the Burckhalter group where she used her professional skills and experiences to improve the library. Linda was also our secretary for two years then chair of membership for two years before that. Linda was on the scholarship committee three years, interviewing and fundraising, helped Tech Trek with registration last summer and participated in the Anybody Who Reads The Book group. Linda was always willing to help hospitality at meetings. Our branch is honored to pass this award to her daughters, Sara and Dee.



Janette Maher, who presented this award at the May Luncheon

BURCKHALTER LIBRARY NEWS

We're thrilled to share that Burckhalter was featured in a documentary about innovative reading instruction! The film was shot right in the beautiful library, showcasing the exceptional collection of



books and the inviting space. This is a proud moment for us, highlighting the significant impact we're making at Burckhalter.

Janette Maher, Chair, Burckhalter

SCHOLARSHIP ~ AWARDS and FUNDRAISING

Our committee was able to award **La Reina Torres**, currently a junior at Saint Mary’s College, \$595 to attend AAUW’s National Conference for College Women Student Leaders in College Park, Maryland, from May 30 to June 1, 2024. She attended AAUW’s Tech Trek program as a middle school student to foster her interest in science and medicine. Last year our branch honored LaReina for her volunteer efforts over the years. Valley Children’s Hospital, Saint Mary’s College programs such as La Hermandad, Saint Luke’s Pre-Health Society and Be the Match/NMDP have all benefitted from her work ethic and volunteer spirit. A senior next year, La Reina will work with our branch to strengthen the connection between AAUW and Saint Mary’s College.



A special thank you to members of the Scholarship Committee for their dedication, thoughtfulness and the joy they brought to our meetings.

KEEP COLLECTING THOSE SNEAKERS!



We have decided to continue our sneaker collection, since we made \$750.00 this year and we feel we are doing something good for our environment. Our locations remain the same.

These places still have collection containers.

- Lafayette Veterans Memorial Building,
- 24 Hour Fitness in Rheem,
- Lafayette Community Center by the Pickle Ball Court
- Orinda Community by the tennis courts.

We would love to get back at the Oakwood Gym if anyone can put in a good word for us and give me a contact person? I want to give a special thank you to **Joan Foster** and **Gail Burnett** who continually collect, tie and bag shoes for us!

Our spring Tried and True SAT & ACT practice test events were very successful and earned \$1557.00 for scholarships. We hope to continue to work with them next year.

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

ALLOCATION of FUNDRAISING PROCEEDS

For a second year, our dynamite fundraising team produced a real fine event. Led by Laura Wittenberg and Barbara Bell, all Community Outreach Fund projects provided work finding funders. Golly, there was good stuff! There was music and a lovely presentation of serious “heavy” appetizers. There were auction items (both live auction items with a live auctioneer and silent auction item where bids were written down and processed to announce winners). Wine tasting was also part.

Here’s how the financial results HAPPILY looked. A lot of money was raised. Our hard-working treasurer, Marielle Boortz, reports the following:

Financial results for the December Mingle & Jingle Fundraiser have been finalized. The fundraiser netted \$12,615.38, which was added to the AAUW OML Community Outreach Fund’s (COF’s) undesignated monies while awaiting allocation to OMLs COF projects, that is, our five mission-based programs/ priorities.

At the May Board meeting, the Board unanimously voted to allocate \$15,000 of the COF’s undesignated monies (which included the fundraiser net) to the COF projects as follows: \$1,000 to DEI (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion) and \$3,500 each to the other four projects: Burckhalter School, Scholarships/Awards, STEM Conference and Tech Trek. DEI received a smaller share since that project has yet to have expenses for its activities to date. A little over \$5,000 of COF monies remain unallocated as a reserve for potential future project needs and COF administrative expenses.

**Gail Chesler,
Outgoing President**

ADVERTISING ACCOLADES

What an amazing AAUW organization we are, and why? Because it is made up of branches like Orinda, Moraga, Lafayette! Our leadership is strong, the goals are worthy and relevant. Our camaraderie flows. While remaining fluid like an amoeba, we – the members – regroup endlessly as we work and play.

With that description of us (together), I would like to recognize and thank all those making our branch advertising successful. This includes the Membership Directory, the TRIAD Newsletter, and the OML Website. In that same order, kudos to Editors Gail Chesler, Mary Leigh Miller, and Bonnie Gallogly for continuing with great talent. Each publication is a promotion of group and individual achievements. The money raised from our sale of the advertising covers OML publication costs. Extra revenues supplement the work of the OML Board and monthly programs.

It is my personal joy to thank the Advertising Sales Team who reach into the communities we serve. Thank you to all who secured the 2023-24 advertisers. The 10 Ad Sales Team members buying, renewing, or selling were/are Diane Bell, Stacia Cragholm, K deGroot, Joan Evans (with her daughter, Angie Traxinger), Bonnie Gallogly, Soraya Golesorkhi, Maryellen Judson, Mary Leigh Miller, Lana Reichick and myself. Thanks to OML editors Gail Chesler, Mary Leigh Miller, and Bonnie Gallogly for designing and presenting the ads and listings.

Work begins soon over the summer for a new 2024-25 OML Membership Directory and will be available at the September General Meeting. As you, this loyal and talented membership, continue to do business with the advertisers, please thank them again and again for their part in promoting the AAUW mission.

Pat Lopker, Chair, Advertising Team

PUBLIC POLICY



**NEW TITLE IX RULES
Biden Administration Releases
Long-Awaited Guidance.**

Hot off the Press! On Friday, April 19, 2024, the Biden Administration released long-awaited guidance on the application and administration of Title IX. The rule changes:

- (1) Rework Trump Administration guidance on the handling of campus sexual assault, providing expanded protections for survivors; and
- (2) Expand Title IX protections against sex/gender-based harassment and discrimination to protect members of the LGBTQ+ community. Expansion of rights to the LGBTQ+ community via Title IX aligns this federal law with current interpretation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, which prohibits workplace discrimination on the basis of sex/gender.

AAUW National serves in a gender equity coalition supporting these changes.

Laura Monin, Public Policy Co-chair

**2023-24 AAUW-OML
SPONSORS/ ADVERTISERS**
*AAUW members

LAFAYETTE

- Asian Accents – Original Designs in Jewelry by K. de Groot*
- Creative Alterations – Josef Jamkochain
- DIABLO FOODS
- Hollie’s Homegrown
- Persons Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery – Barbara Persons, MD FACS
- Steve Hall, Tech Help & Consulting
- The Service Outlet – Marc Harvey
- Todd Bunch, Lamorinda’s Handyman
- Ware Designs – Fine Jewelry

MORAGA

- AAAAA Rent-A-Space
- E’s Auto Service & Repair, Inc
- Golden Palace Restaurant
- National Assoc. for Advancement of Female People – Diane Bell*
- Town Bakery and Cafe
- ViaVienté – Lana Reichick*

ORINDA

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

WALNUT CREEK & Beyond

- Bay Alarm Company
- Milner’s Jewelers – Countrywood Shopping Center, Pleasant Hill

**Our ADVERTISERS
would love your SUPPORT.
Tell them you saw their ad
in our directory**



SPECIAL INTEREST ACTIVITIES

ANYONE WHO HAS READ THE BOOK

Friday, June 21 • 10 am
 Friday, July 19 • 10 am
 at Orinda Books,
 276 Village Square, Orinda

We will be meeting at Orinda Books from June 2024 through April 2025. Here is the list for this coming year.

- **June:** *Lessons In Chemistry*, by Bonnie Garmus, discussion leader Susan Wilson
- **July:** *True Biz*, by Sara Novic, discussion leader Marta Johnson
- **August:** *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett,
- **September:** *Island of Sea Women*, by Lisa See
- **October:** *Facing the Mountain*, by James Brown, discussion leader Susan Wilson
- **November:** *All God's Children Need Traveling Shoes*, by Maya Angelou, discussion leader Lucy Olson
- **December:** *Fuzz*, by Mary Roach, discussion leader Mary Mlynek
- **January:** *The White Lady, A British Historical Mystery*, by Jacqueline Winspear, discussion leader Kathy Wyland
- **February:** *White Lies: The Double Life of Walter F. White*, by A.J. Baime
- **March:** *Daughters of the Flower Fragrant Garden*, by Zhuqing Li, discussion leader Judy Peak?
- **April:** *Heaven and Earth Grocery Store*, by James McBride

The order of books may change as we get discussion leaders for each book, however the first two months are set and we will be meeting each month at Orinda Books. This special interest group is open to any OML member who has read the book! Contact Susan Wilson, schnappsmom@sbcglobal.net, or Mary Mlynek, ml_mlynek@yahoo.com for more information.

DEI – BLM ALLIES GROUP

Monday, June 10
 Via Zoom • 3-4:15 pm

This will be our last meeting until September. It will be a planning meeting on rethinking our DEI activities going forward. It is time to move on from primarily a book club to engaging in specific activities. Some thoughts:

- If you've read a DEI related book, give a report to group, i.e. a book on medical issues for Black Americans
- Look at the Reparations bill in CA – which policies do we want to learn more about?
- Visit different museums for cultural enrichment
- Be alert for local issues in our town and county where diversity issues are challenged and get involved as a group, similar to the School Boards Project.

DEI is open to all interested members. Contact Denise Burian or Shari Simon for more info: denburian@gmail.com. sharisimon55@gmail.com.

EVENING SALON

Thursday, June 13 • 6 pm
 at Barbara Bell's home
 Thursday, July 11 • 6 pm
 at K. de Groots' home

All members are welcome for refreshments and drinks in an open and casual environment. We bring topics to discuss - about issues of the day- social, cultural, important news stories. There will be no meeting in July. Contact Denise Burian at denburian@gmail.com for more information.

GREAT DECISIONS

• Wednesday, June 5 • 10 am
 at Susan Wilson's home
 • Wednesday July 3 • 10 am
 K. de Groot's home

Judy Hammon will be our discussion facilitator in June. The topic is #2 in your book: *Global Trade and Green Energy*.

Our July 3 Great Decisions meeting is at the home of K. Groot. The discussion topic is #6 – *Invisible Indonesia* by Charles Sullivan. Email Judy for more information: judyhelder@gmail.com

**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.

**BOCCE BALL
 Monday 6 & 20 • 10 am
 Every Tuesday • 6 pm
 Moraga Commons Bocce Courts**

We meet for casual play at the Moraga Commons on the first and third Mondays. In the spring and summer months we also play Tuesday evenings in a league game. You are welcome to join either or both groups. Not a lot of experience is necessary – it's an easy game to learn! Contact Mary Leigh Miller at mlmiller602@gmail.com for more information.

Some of our special interest groups take a break in the summer. Look for the return of Financially Savvy Women and Museum Mavens and Gorgeous Gardens in September. All our special interest groups will be showcased at our first general meeting of the upcoming year on September 17.

**JUNE 2024
AT A GLANCE**

1 SAT – CRITIC CHOICE BOOK GROUP

Pass your book along to the next person on your list.

5 WED – GREAT DECISIONS

10 am – Susan Wilson’s home

Read more on page 7.

3, 17 MON – BOCCE BALL

10 am – Moraga Commons Bocce Courts

Read more on page 7.

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 – IN-OUT BOARD MEETING

11:30 am – Home of Mary Ann McLeod

12 WED – MEMOIRS & MUSINGS

1 pm – Via Zoom

Contact Carol Messinger.

13 THUR – EVENING SALON

6 pm –Home of Barbara Bell

Read more on page 7.

21 FRI – ANYONE WHO HAS READ THE BOOK

10 am – Orinda Books

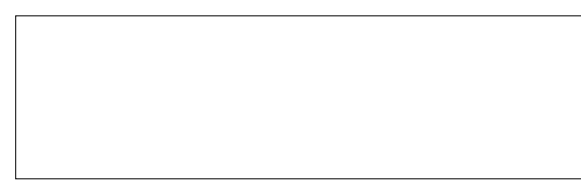
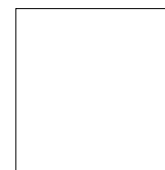
Read more on page 7.

27 THURS – BIKE RIDING GROUP

9:30 am – Meeting place TBA

Contact Diane Bell, dianelouise2020@yahoo.com.

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



**JULY 2024
AT A GLANCE**

1 MON – CRITIC CHOICE BOOK GROUP

Pass your book along to the next person on your list.

1, 15 MON – BOCCE BALL

10 am – Moraga Commons Bocce Courts

Read more on page 7.

3 WED – GREAT DECISIONS

10 am – Susan Wilson’s home

Read more on page 7.

8, 22 MON – GOLF GROUP

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

10 WED – MEMOIRS & MUSINGS

1 pm – Via Zoom

Contact Carol Messinger.

11 THUR – EVENING SALON

6 pm –Home of K. de Groot

Read more on page 7.

19 FRI – ANYONE WHO HAS READ THE BOOK

10 am – Orinda Books

Read more on page 7.

24 WED – DEADLINE for AUGUST TRIAD

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

mlmiller602@gmail.com.

25 THURS – BIKE RIDING GROUP

9:30 am – Meeting place TBA

Contact Diane Bell, dianelouise2020@yahoo.com.

**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.