

## CHEERS MY DEERS!



### DECEMBER HOLIDAY PARTIES

- **Wednesday, December 11 • 10 am - noon**  
at Peggy Cabaniss' home in Moraga  
~ 743 Crossbrook Drive ~

Enjoy a holiday brunch with your OML friends. Peggy will be serving an egg casserole, fruit, bread, coffee, tea and mimosas. **Bring a toy for a Burckhalter student.** Find out how on page 6.

Please RSVP to Peggy: [pcabaniss7@gmail.com](mailto:pcabaniss7@gmail.com)

- **Tuesday, December 17 • 5 pm - 7 pm**  
at Barbara Bell's home in Orinda  
~ 12 Mariposa Lane ~

Get into the holiday spirit with a sampling of Cocktails and Mocktails or your favorite wine!  
*Please bring a savory, finger food type appetizer to share.*

RSVP to Barbara: [b\\_mbell@sbcglobal.net](mailto:b_mbell@sbcglobal.net)  
(Carpooling to Barbara's home is encouraged.)



**You are welcome to attend both parties and also to bring your spouse/partner along.**

**TUESDAY  
JANUARY 21, 2025**

**Joint General Meeting with AAUW-DAW**  
at the Lafayette Library  
9:30 ~ 11:30 am

*Addressing Racial Disparities in Maternal Health Outcomes*

Our AAUW-OML Branch, in conjunction with the AAUW Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek Branch (DAW), is excited to be co-sponsoring this joint membership meeting.

A panel of top researchers and experts from Stanford University and Contra Costa Health will share their research and efforts as part of the Perinatal Equity Initiative.

The program is open to both branches and the public.

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## ... from DENISE'S PERSPECTIVE



I am writing this right before Thanksgiving to get it in the Newsletter. So my first order of business is to THANK YOU! *We are a 5-star AAUW Branch because of YOU!* We can offer many opportunities to impact middle school, high school, and college girls, not to mention the youth at Burckhalter Elementary – because of YOU! We can raise almost \$20,000 to sponsor those community outreach projects because of YOU!. We can engage in many thought provoking, interesting, and fun activities because of YOU!. And to our leaders, of which we have many in order to accomplish the above, we all thank YOU!. I love this organization and to new members, I think you will too. And we thank YOU for joining us.

Our branch has so much planning going on now. Scholarship and Tech Trek are planning for the application process, Burckhalter Library is always busy and STEM Conference committee is working hard to finalize workshops and prepare for food and registration. Public Policy and DEI have been very busy on Get Out The Vote and local election work. And Membership has been very active and successfully increasing membership with several new members each month. And new members are joining interest groups and volunteering.

Our branch will be co-hosting the January membership meeting with AAUW-Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek (DAW). It will be held at the Lafayette Library on Tuesday, January 21, 2025. Shari Simon and I have been working with Ogie Strogratz (also an OML member) and Monika Witte from DAW in planning an interesting program. Called “Racial Disparities in Maternal Health Outcomes,” it will be presented by a panel of experts from Stanford and Contra Costa County Health. They will share data to demonstrate what the disparities are nationally as well as locally are doing, and how emerging research and specific actions being implemented to address them. They are all involved in the Perinatal Equity Initiative. You won’t want to miss it.

Sometimes we get so caught up in the activities of our own branch and favorite projects, that we may forget that we are part of a larger organization with a long and successful history of advocacy and fighting for equity. I encourage all of you to check out AAUW-CA website as well as the AAUW National website. They have been on the forefront of fighting for equity for all women for over a century. And we still have more work to do. Both websites have information for all of our members, and fantastic resources for our branch leaders and members. Don’t forget to check it out.

We can count on AAUW National to help us be involved by being a “Two-Minute Activist.” Go to the website and join the group. From time to time you will get a request to send a letter to your legislator about a bill we support or oppose. You can sign up here:

<https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/>

They make it very easy for you to send the letter as they know by your zip code who your legislators are. You will feel good advocating directly for or against legislation.

I encourage all members to attend our two holiday events in December. It is a time of enjoying each other’s company and celebrating our branch with holiday spirit. Thank you to Peggy Cabaniss and Barbara Bell for hosting in their homes. I want to take this time to wish you all happy holidays. I look forward to working with you to fight for equity for women in the new year.

**Denise Burian, President**

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS  
NOVEMBER 12, 2024

Many thanks to those who have donated and helped make the AAUW-OML “Raise the Bar” fundraiser such a success. We are nearing our goal of \$20,000 and following an update at our November Membership Meeting, hope to meet that goal. If you haven’t already done so, please consider supporting our branch priorities by donating to the Fundraiser.

January’s General meeting will be held at the Lafayette Library from 9:30 to 11:30 am. This will be a joint meeting with the Alamo-Danville-Walnut Creek Branch. A panel will discuss the disparity in maternal health. February’s General meeting will be held at the Serbian Church in Moraga from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The speaker topic will be on Nutrition.

Lobby Days will be held in person in Sacramento on April 27th and 28th. California Public Policy Chairs are currently meeting to discuss and determine appropriate legislation to back. Please contact Laura Monin if interested in knowing more about the event.

The Scholarship committee’s fashion show fundraiser is set for February 13. More information to follow at the January meeting and in the Triad.

Thanks to the continued interest from our existing membership, new members and the new Oakland District Librarian, the Burckhalter library continues to provide top notch services to the students at the elementary school. The committee is working on a user manual to help guide our many volunteers. Please contact Jannette Maher if interested in participating in our work at Burckhalter.

Watch for updates and volunteer opportunities for our March 8, 2024 STEM Conference held at Saint Mary’s College.

**Marcy Place, Secretary**

**FOCUS ON ... RAISING THE BAR!**

**Raise the Bar! Fundraiser**



We are close to reaching our fundraising goal of \$20,000. 52 members donated or pledged over \$17,000. We need a few more members and friends

to go to our website to donate, or send in a check after receiving the fundraiser letter in the mail this past week. If you can give \$50, \$100, or \$200 or more, we will reach our goal.

Thank you to those who have donated. We appreciate it so much. Your generosity is amazing and motivates our community project committees to continue to do the work of the organization to impact the lives of young girls and young women in our communities. You can read about the wonderful work we do in the Triad every month.

We are planning a **Thank You Reception on Saturday, January 18, from 5 to 7** at the Moraga Art Gallery, and look forward to seeing you there. As we just celebrated Thanksgiving, we are very thankful for your generosity and your volunteer time do get all of our work done. *We can't do it without you.*

**If you haven't donated via our website contributions page, click here:**

<https://oml-ca.aauw.net/oml-donations-form/>

**Or you can send a check to the branch PO Box: AAUW-OML Community Outreach Fund, P.O. Box 6705 Moraga, CA 94570-6705**



**Two Unexpected Donations**

Last week, per the consensus of the members of the **Critics' Choice Book Group**, chair Andrea Green attended the AAUW-OML board meeting and presented a check for \$750 to the Community Outreach Fund.

She told the board, "Over the years, our group has built up a very sizable treasury. The intention was to have funds available to cover the cost of buying books annually and replacing books during the year that became damaged or disappeared mysteriously." After collecting dues this year and purchasing all the new books, the group had a balance of \$877.84. In her opinion, this is way too much money to be holding for replacement books. The members all agreed to donate a large portion of the balance to AAUW.

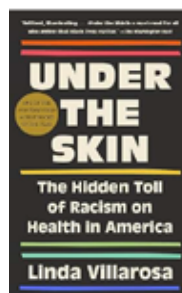
**Susan Pak**, a Lafayette School District board member, donated \$250 to our fundraising campaign, and said this about our school board work: "Thank you for all you are doing to advocate for and protect students from censorship, racism, and discrimination. I have appreciated your steady presence and support at our local school board meetings. Your commitment and dedication is appreciated." A tribute to our work!



*Barbara Bell, Denise Burian and Laura Wittenberg show the progress of "Red Bar" at the November Meeting.*

**DEI UPDATE**

The DEI Committee met in person for the first time. Ellen Beans hosted us to plan how we want DEI to move forward in the future. We decided we will meet in person once per quarter and on Zoom the other months. We will read the book *Under the Skin, The Hidden Toll of Racism On American Lives*, by Linda Villarosa. It is a Pulitzer Prize finalist and only \$18 in paperback. We welcome all AAUW-OML members to read with us and join us for the discussion on January



13, 2025 at 3 pm, via Zoom. Members who have read it says it is a great and interesting book. Turn to page 9 for more information of the DEI Interest Group.

A couple of us have been meeting with and mentoring two STEM Ambassadors on a women's health initiative they've launched. Besides mentoring them, we decided that the best way OML can support them is to support their effort to collect and supply menstrual products to food banks so that low income women can get these products with their food bags. To that end, we will have a menstrual product drive at our January 21 meeting. Members can bring menstrual products to the meeting or put donations in a cash jar so the Ambassadors can buy more products to take to the Monument Center.

DEI members will also continue to support the local school board project with public policy. This effort has definitely made an impact on our local school boards and built AAUW reputation in the community as an organization advocating for women and girls and equality and belonging for all people.

**Denise Burian, President and Shari Simon, Co-chair, DEI Committee**

SCHOLARSHIP UPDATES



**Nicole Hui**  
**Miramonte High School**  
**Graduate,**  
**Class of 2024**

Each month we are featuring one scholarship awardee. Each young woman is actively engaged in her community and striving to learn about the problems and possibilities in our society.

Nicole Hui raised funds for Afghanistan refugee families and tutored students in the *Keeping Our Promise* program. By building relationships with these families, she helped them become self-sufficient. While volunteering in a living and memory care facility, Nicole recognized that seniors and individuals with issues of mobility needed supplies to allow them to move safely. She created *I'mMOBILITY* to collect gently used/new medical equipment and supplies and deliver them free to those in need. She found that volunteering in a senior home and starting Operation I'mMOBILITY made her realize the importance of collaboration and patience when working with others. By working with different seniors and families donating equipment, Nicole also learned to appreciate other peoples' backgrounds and perspectives, understanding that everyone has a different story. Since she placed herself in sensitive environments with her service project, she felt she developed compassionate listening skills.

Nicole was also an Ambassador to the AAUW-OML STEM conference. As an Ambassador, she contacted people working in STEM via email to lead workshops. She spoke at local rotary clubs to raise awareness of women in STEM fields & raise funds. She shared her experience with the community and communicated how to get involved in STEM activities. She made an impact on middle school girls to help them feel comfortable to pursue STEM classes in high school and college, leading to careers in the medical field. Nicole is now a student at Cal Berkeley.

The Scholarship committee will not be meeting in December. Please join us at our January 9 meeting as we begin to plan for our interviews of some amazing applicants.

**Bonnie Fend, Chair,**  
**Scholarship Committee**



**Fashion Show**

You're invited to  
**Our Annual Fashion Show at Harper Greer**

**Thursday,**  
**February 13**  
 3~6 pm

- 3:00 Reception & Shopping**
- 3~4:15 Fashion Show**  
 featuring AAUW models with live music and commentary by owner, John Kiskaddon
- 4:15~ 6 Reception continues**  
 with live jazz at the piano and shopping!

**Fabulous Fashions,**  
**Bubbly and Nibbles**  
*Your heart's desire awaits!*

**10% of all sales will go to AAUW scholarships for local high schools and Saint Mary's College young women**

**If you can't make our special event, shop anytime from February 14 to 20. Just mention AAUW so that 10% will go to our scholarships.**

Harper Greer  
 979 Moraga Rd (La Fiesta Sq)  
 Lafayette, CA  
 info@harpergreer.com  
 925.298.5468  
 www.harpergreer.com



**Thanks to our dear hosts Terry and John Kiskaddon, co-owners of Harper Greer, for our partnership and their gift of 10% of sales!**

**PUBLIC POLICY**

**A Successful 2024 Legislative Agenda**

Thanks to the many AAUW members who participated in Lobby Days, to those who called or wrote to their legislators and the Governor through our Action Alert Network. Twenty nine of the 41 bills on AAUW’s Legislative Agenda made it to the Governor’s desk, and 25 of them have been signed into law! This represents an 86.2% success rate!

**All three of our A-Priority bills were signed:**

- AB 2843 - Signed into law! Authored and sponsored by AAUW California and carried by Assembly member Cottie Petrie-Norris. This bill eliminates cost sharing from being imposed on any rape survivor seeking medical care following a rape ensuring that survivors can receive the care they need following a traumatic sexual attack.
- AB 2326 - Signed into law! Sponsored by AAUW California and authored by Assembly member David Alvarez. This bill requires the Chancellors of the Community Colleges and the State Universities, and the President of the University of California, to provide an annual report, publicly and orally presented, of their schools’ compliance with Title IX.
- AB 2099 - Signed into law! Authored by Assembly members Rebecca Bauer-Kahan and Kevin McCarty. This bill makes it possible for the District Attorney to pursue felony charges for the posting of information about reproductive health care patients or providers if the posting and subsequent actions result in bodily injury.

**Two of our B-priority bills were signed:**

- AB 1790 - Signed into law! Authored by Assembly member Damon Connolly. This bill requires the CSU system to report on the implementation of recommendations provided in the California State Auditor report, to ensure Title IX compliance and protections against sexual harassment.
- AB 1831 - Signed into law! Authored by Assembly member Marc Berman. This bill expands the law prohibiting the possession and distribution of material depicting minors performing sexual activities to include AI and computer-generated images.

**And very significantly:** AB 1955 was signed. This was a C priority bill only because it was added to our Legislative Agenda later in the process.

- AB 1955 - Signed into law! This bill, authored by Assembly member Chris Ward, prohibits public schools from notifying parents if their child uses a different name or pronouns or identifies as a different gender than assigned at birth. California is the first state in the nation to ban forced outing of transgender students.

**SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS**

We are very pleased with the results of the local school board elections, with pro-public education candidates our chapter supported winning in both the Acalanes Union High School and Moraga Districts. Paul Chopra and incumbent Wendy Reicher won in the Acalanes District. Stephanie Dickerson and Lee Hays won seats in the Moraga District.

We continue to have a strong and active presence monitoring local school board meetings. Following their “victory” in the recent Presidential election, Moms for Liberty have renewed their efforts to fight school board agenda items that are contrary to their beliefs. One topic is opposing acknowledgment of the LGBTQ+ community, including proclamations that recognize them.

Thanks go to Karen Feeney, Denise Burian, Laura Monin, Christine Walwyn, and Jeanette Meyer for attending the recent Acalanes District Board meeting and supporting its efforts to pass proclamations recognizing numerous disenfranchised members of our society, including the Mexican/Latino, Filipino, Native American, Black/African American, Women, Disabled, Jewish, Muslim/Arab American, Asian, Pacific Islander & Desi American, and LGBTQAI+ communities. We are currently looking for AAUW members who are interested in monitoring either, or both, the Moraga and Orinda School Board meeting agendas, and attend meetings as needed.

**Note:** Dr. Chris Severson resigned from the AUHSD at the recent Board meeting. The remaining Acalanes High school district members will make a decision about what steps to take. They can either call a special election or appoint a candidate. We will know what process they will use in time for our next Triad.

**Karen Feeney,  
DEI Committee**

The League of Women Voters says that the ERA (which was ratified by enough states but not within an arbitrary deadline) can be published in the Constitution at President Biden’s request. Please read and consider signing by clicking here:  
  
Also making a phone call or email to the President and the Vice President with this same request would help. Please pass this on to your friends who support equal rights for women.

**Laura Monin & Connie Whitting, Public Policy Co-chairs**

## STEM CONFERENCE UPDATE



The STEM Committee members and Ambassadors have been busy planning for our March 8, 2025 STEM Conference. Sandy Fox-Sohner has secured our conference speaker - **Misty Davis**.

Misty grew up wanting to be a veterinarian, a writer, a mother, and a scientist. To fulfill some of those dreams, Dr. Davies says, "I am discovering how to make sure the programs we design at NASA and use for flight really do what they are supposed to do." She earned an undergraduate degree in mechanical engineering from Northern Arizona University. Thereafter, she completed Master's and Ph.D. degrees in aerospace/astro-space engineering and mechanical engineering, leading Dr. Davies to NASA Ames as a research computer engineer.

True to her childhood ambitions to be many things when she grew up, Dr. Davies' path to NASA came only after holding positions as a Shakespearean actress, a waitress, and a veterinary technician. Along the way, she studied how albatrosses fly across the ocean without flapping their wings and why rubber is so stretchy. She is also a mother and learns something new from her two children every day. "All of this learning from so many diverse areas helps me think of new and different ways to approach the problems that NASA is solving in order to make the world a better place," said Dr. Davies.

Stacia Cragholm has been working to secure our workshop presenters and we have confirmed 14 presenters! We will have some similar topics such as FBI Evidence, Cool Chemistry, Exploring the Human Brain, etc along with some new topics - the Awesome Power of Genetics, Math Art, and more. Chris Laszcz-Davis has been reaching out to local Rotaries and community groups to help secure funding to support our conference.

Sheila Apte is heading our volunteer organization for the conference. We are looking for help in the following areas:

- Registration/Check in – 7:30-9 am
- Adult workshop monitors – AM shift 8 am-12:30 pm
- Adult workshop monitors – PM shift with lunch help 11:30am-3:30pm, or all day 8 am-3:30 pm

Sign up sheets will be available at the holiday parties and the Jan 21 general meeting. *A big thank you to the STEM Committee for their hard work and support.*

**Kim Lockett, Chair, STEM Conference**

## BURCKHALTER UPDATES

Burckhalter welcomes new OML members Dianne Faeita, a teacher and Mary Walfoort, a librarian and teacher, plus well known member Christine Walwyn. They bring education experience and business background to enhance the library program at Burckhalter.

### The African Library Project

We worked with the staff and students on their service project to establish two school libraries in South Africa using books that were donated.



Burckhalter Elementary School

Has been named a

2024 Global Literacy Champion

by the African Library Project for providing books for a library at

Munwai Primary

South Africa



[www.africanlibraryproject.org](http://www.africanlibraryproject.org)

**Janette Maher, Chair, Burckhalter Project**

## TOYS FOR KIDS

OML is supporting a toy drive at Burckhalter School. If you would like to donate, please get a toy or toys similar to the type of toys on the attached Amazon list. You don't have to purchase from Amazon, but please choose toys that reflect the diversity at Burckhalter.

Bring your toy(s), unwrapped, to the holiday party at Peggy Cabaniss's home on Wednesday, December 11. We will make sure they get delivered to Burckhalter the next day in time for their give-away the next week.

For questions or the list of toys, contact Denise Burian. She can provide you with a link to suggested toys available on Amazon: [denburian@gmail.com](mailto:denburian@gmail.com). Thank you!

**A WORD from ONE of OUR SPONSORS!**



Looking for some terrific local wine for the holidays? Long standing OML directory advertiser **Meadow View Winery** continues to produce award winning wines that could be a treat during the holidays. Whether carrying a select wine to dinner with friends or enjoying good wine at home, consider a fine wine made from grapes grown in Lamorinda vineyards.

Many local people are not aware that Lamorinda was established as an American Viticulture Area (AVA) in 2016, after years of work to win that recognition by leaders in the Lamorinda Wine Growers Association. How special to share this knowledge and a great wine with local friends.

Orinda winemaker, **Bill English**, gave us an update about Meadow View wines receiving top honors in 2024 wine competitions.

**GOLD**

- 2020 Mary Leigh’s Blend (Syrah/Sangiovese)
- 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon, Haas Vineyard
- 2021 Super-T

**SILVER**

- 2021 Mary Leigh’s Blend
- 2020 Super-T
- 2021 Pinot Noir

Bill’s comment: “Pretty good!”

You can find all Meadow View Winery’s reds at Jackson’s in Lafayette. BevMo in Orinda and Lafayette carries Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Super-T. Tutu’s in Lafayette carries Super-T. Of course, you can always buy the wines, including Chardonnay, directly from the winemaker. Just email or call. Add your name to the mailing list to get a member’s discount. You may even get an invitation to help bottle wine after the harvest next year. Visit the website to get detailed information about each of the wines.

Stock up for the Holidays! Reach Bill English at Meadow View to buy wine direct:  
 (925) 876-8111  
[billeng81@gmail.com](mailto:billeng81@gmail.com)  
[www.MeadowViewWinery.net](http://www.MeadowViewWinery.net)

Reporter’s Note: Don’t miss trying the Super T – a Tuscan-style red blend made with 80% Sangiovese grapes from Mary Leigh’s vines. (Yeah, that Mary Leigh.)

**Lana Reichick, Advertising Team Member**

**THE 2024-25 DIRECTORIES ARE OUT!**

The 2024-25 Directories were distributed at the November OML branch meeting. We got about 45% of them in the hands of branch members. Gail Chesler has the rest and will be bring them to the holiday parties in mid-December and then again to the January general meeting. Get in touch with her if you have not received yours yet.

Gail at [gailchesler@gmail.com](mailto:gailchesler@gmail.com)

**2024-25 AAUW-OML SPONSORS/ ADVERTISERS**

*\*AAUW members*

**LAFAYETTE**

- Asian Accents – Original Designs in Jewelry by K. de Groot\*
- Creative Alterations – Josef Jamkochain
- DIABLO FOODS
- Persons Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery – Barbara Persons, MD FACS
- 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**

- CASA ORINDA
- Meadow View Winery
- 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.*

*Be sure to tell them you saw their ad in the Directory!*

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

We have been having a banner year for recruiting new members! Since June we had 25 new members enrolled as members of our branch. Three individuals are dual members from the Danville, Alamo, Walnut Creek Branch, one from the San Jose Branch. We have had two former members who have renewed their memberships after a long-time absence.

During October, the membership committee hosted a coffee on a Saturday morning (*pictured in photo below*) so working members for the new members to meet our branch board members and committee chairs. It was an inspirational morning as each attendee shared their roles as members of AAUW-OML and why they are committed to the organization, our mission, and our projects/priorities. We asked everyone in the room to take turns sharing with the group why they were attracted to AAUW-OML, their interests, and their past lives/careers. It was a great opportunity for us to get to know one another as there were many conversations before and after, during which the chairs had a chance to connect with the new members personally.



Our new members have jumped right in to volunteer to help with our projects. **Sheila Newton**, a good personal friend, offered to help with membership. The next thing she knew she was filling in for Ling and I greeting everyone at the September meeting passing out the name tags. **Mary Walfoort**, a former librarian, is excited about lending a hand at Burckhalter. **Danielle Ginestro**, the mother of two daughters who have attended the STEM conference and one went to Tech Trek Camp last summer, is so excited about our STEM projects that she has volunteered with Sheila Newton to help with “Outreach” to spread the word about the conference to middle school girls in the greater East Bay. Danielle and her husband have been helping with fundraising as well. **Vera Potapenko** a recent retiree, stated she was primarily interested in Public Policy and volunteered to help with fundraising. These women are excited about the opportunity to engage with like-minded women interested in advocating for women and girls.

Look for these new members when you join us for the Christmas parties this month. I am excited for you to meet these ladies. If you would like to join us at one our future coffees, be sure to let us know. Any thoughts on new ways to gather, please let us know.

**Laura Wittenberg, Co-VP, Membership**

## NOVEMBER AAUW FUND MEETING

At the November general meeting, our speaker was Faith Bennett, a current recipient of a National Fellowship given by AAUW to students in graduate work. This is a very prestigious award; former recipients have been Madame Curie, Sylvia Plath and Susan Sontag to mention a few very well-known and famous scholars. Faith is working on a Ph.D. in U.S. History with a focus on gender and labor. Her dissertation is on Food Service workers in San Francisco from 1940-1980. During that time many changes took place in the labor force and her studies address the changing focus of unions and how that affected food service workers in particular.

Faith told us about her own work history in the food service industry starting at the age of 14 in Florida, and how if you stayed there, you really could not advance to a better job and were more or less stuck as a “working class” woman without an idea of a better life. Taking Community College courses in Florida enabled her to then attend the University of Florida where she received a BA. After working for several years in NYC at the Tenement Museum she went on to pursue a graduate degree. She told us that she had UC Davis in her sights as there were two professors she wanted to study with in her field. Right now, Faith has finished all of her course work and the grant she has received from AAUW will enable her

to finish her dissertation without a lot of distractions. We wish her well!

**Marilyn Evans, VP, AAUW Fund**



*Faith Bennett, (in the middle) with Marilyn and Denise*



## SPECIAL INTEREST ACTIVITIES

**FINANCIALLY SAVVY WOMEN**

Thursday, December 5  
10 am-Noon

Home of Peggy Cabaniss  
Topic: *Estate Planning*

At the December meeting we will be reviewing and understanding the various documents necessary for overall Estate Plans – wills, trusts, health care directives, general power of attorney, community property agreement, etc. We will also discuss how to hold a family meeting to share your plans with family members and aligning your personal wishes with your estate documents. Call Peggy Cabaniss, 925-708-5178 or email [pcabaniss7@gmail.com](mailto:pcabaniss7@gmail.com) if you have any questions about our group.

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**ANYONE WHO HAS READ  
THE BOOK**

Friday, December 20 • 10 am  
at Orinda Books,  
276 Village Square, Orinda

*Fuzz, When Nature Breaks the Law*, by Mary Roach, nonfiction. We all know some of the conflicts with unwanted critters, such as gophers, turkeys, raccoons, even feral pigs. But what to do about elephants, camels, moose, monkeys, bats and on and on. Think of the dilemma the Vatican had when seagulls were destroying the flower arrangements just before the outdoor Easter mass. The pope didn't want to kill the birds, just to leave the flowers alone. The book is divided into chapters highlighting the various ways people and municipalities try to get rid of their offending animals. Some things work and others do not. Discussion leader, Mary Hake. For more information, contact Mary Mlynek at [ml\\_mlynek@yahoo.com](mailto:ml_mlynek@yahoo.com).

**DEI – BLM ALLIES GROUP**

Monday, December 9  
3-4:15 pm on Zoom.

We will discuss the recent school board activity, plans for the future, and the January meeting which DEI is sponsoring with the AAUW-Danville, Alamo, Walnut Creek at the Lafayette Library on Tuesday, January 21, 2025. We will also start reading and discussing the book *Under the Skin, The Hidden Toll of Racism On American Lives*, by Linda Villarosa. We welcome all AAUW-OML members to read with us and join us for the discussion. Please contact Denise Burian, [denburian@gmail.com](mailto:denburian@gmail.com) or Shari Simon, [sharisimon55@gmail.com](mailto:sharisimon55@gmail.com) for more information. All members are welcome.

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**GREAT DECISIONS  
2025 TOPICS AND AUTHORS**

- American Foreign Policy at a Crossroads - John Ikenberry
- U.S. Changing Leadership of the World Economy - Daniel Drezner
- U.S.-China Relations - Thomas J. Christensen
- International Cooperation on Climate Change - Josh Busby
- The Future of NATO and European Security - Kori Schake
- AI and American National Security - Julie George
- India: Between China, the West, and the Global South - Leslie Vinjamuri
- After Gaza: American Policy in the Middle East - Daniel Kurtzer

Great Decisions will start meeting in January. Call Judy Helder on 925-980-0151, or email: [judyhelder@gmail.com](mailto:judyhelder@gmail.com) for more information.

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**MUSEUM MAVENS AND  
GORGEOUS GARDENS**  
Look for the next tour in the  
January Triad

**EVENING SALON**

Thursday, December 12 • 7 pm  
at Denise Burian's home

Come celebrate friendship and participate in an interesting discussion. Contact Denise for more information. *It will be a festive occasion!*

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**HIKING EAST BAY  
REGIONAL PARKS**

Hiking has been "on hold" since the end of the last season because we are looking for a leader. Bonnie Gallogly has offered to lead the hikes starting in Jan through March. There will be information emailed to the hikers as to where and when in late December. For past hikers, our meeting place to carpool will be the same but we are now doing one hike a month. Each month the Saturday will be different due to when the East Bay Park schedules their "strolls." This is so unlike other AAUW activities where things are scheduled on a certain day of the week and never change, but we will keep you posted on when the hikes will be via an email as needed. If you are not already on it, contact Marilyn Evans to get on the email list: [marilynbevans@att.net](mailto:marilynbevans@att.net).

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**BOCCE BALL**

First & Third Mondays • 10 am  
Moraga Commons Bocce Courts

We meet for casual play at the Moraga Commons on the first and third Mondays. Not a lot of experience is necessary – it's an easy game to learn! Contact Mary Leigh Miller at [mlmiller602@gmail.com](mailto:mlmiller602@gmail.com) for more information.

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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.

**DECEMBER 2024  
AT A GLANCE**

1 SUN – PASS ALONG YOUR CRITICS CHOICE BOOK

2, 16 – MON – BOCCE BALL  
10 am – Moraga Commons Bocce Courts  
*Read more on page 9.*

5 THU – TECH TREK TEAM MEETING  
9:30 am – Home of Jan Cushman

5 THU – FINANCIALLY SAVVY WOMEN  
10 am-noon – Home of Peggy Cabaniss  
*Read more on page 9.*

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

9 MON – STEM MEETING  
3-4:30 pm – On Zoom

9 MON – DEI-BLM Allies Group  
3 pm – via Zoom  
*Read more on page 9.*

**11 WED – HOLIDAY PARTY**  
**10 am – Home of Peggy Cabaniss**  
*Read more on the front page*

12 THU – EVENING SALON  
7 pm – Home of Denise Burian  
*Read more on page 9.*

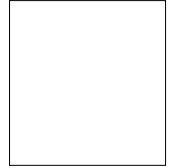
**17 TUE – HOLIDAY PARTY**  
**5 pm – Home of Barbara Bell**  
*Read more on the front page*

20 FRI – ANYONE WHO HAS READ THE BOOK  
10 am – Orinda Books  
*Read more on page 9.*

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

28 TUE – BIKE RIDING GROUP  
9:30 am – Meeting place TBA  
*STEM Committee Meetings are*

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



**JANUARY 2025**

*Look for more information in the January Triad*

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

**21 TUE – OML GENERAL MEETING**  
**DEI Program with DAW Branch**  
**9:30 am – Lafayette Library**

**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.*