

## April Annual Awards Meeting Sunday, April 27

Orinda Community Church • 3-5 pm

*Please note the change of the usual day and time for this meeting*

### **Engineering Our Careers**

**Guest Speaker: Christy Tormey**



Christy Tormey will share her career at Chevron after growing up in Lafayette and earning her B.S. in mechanical engineering at Duke University and her MBA at the UC Berkeley Haas School of Business.

She has held multiple jobs including design engineering, operations and strategic planning in the refinery in Richmond, and positions in the corporate office supporting the renewable fuels business along with reliable supply and demand of fuels on the US West Coast.

*Join this year's Scholarship and Tech Trek scholarship winners and their families for this rewarding late afternoon meeting.*

## MAY LUNCHEON MONDAY, MAY 5

honoring  
Lana Reichick  
our 2025  
Distinguished  
Woman



### **SAVE THE DATE!**

**MONDAY, MAY 5**  
at La Finestra Restaurant  
in the Moraga  
Shopping Center!

*Please note the day of the week change so that we can enjoy a buffet luncheon and have this spacious restaurant all to ourselves. There's easy access, ample free parking and even a grand piano for background music.*

Join us for a lovely lunch and special tribute to Lana Reichick, this year's Distinguished Woman. The AAUW Fund Branch Named Gift Honoree will also be presented at this luncheon.

More details and an email invitation will be coming to your inbox or by regular mail for those who receive the Triad by mail.

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*See you there on April 17th  
Read more on page 5*



## ... from DENISE'S PERSPECTIVE

showing up when needed.

We also celebrated YOU in our Thank YOU party in appreciation of your donations to our "Raise the Bar" Fundraiser. Ninety members (and OML friends) made donations, some very significant. For an organization of 140 members, our level of engagement is outstanding. We can't say thank you enough. A committee, led by Jan Cushman, developed a strategy for how to allocate the funds between the community projects. They made a recommendation to the OML board, who approved distribution of \$21,500 to our community outreach project. Your generosity resulted in STEM receiving \$7,100, Scholarship gaining \$5,835, Tech Tech will get \$4,915, and Burckhalter Library \$3,650. We will retain \$5,000 in unallocated to be available to projects as needed.

We had a great general meeting about how to protect yourself from scams and fraud. If you get as many spam emails as I do, it feels like a full time job to protect ourselves. At this meeting, our Distinguished Woman committee, led by 2024-25 DW Laura Wittenberg, announced our 2025-2026 Distinguished Woman Lana Reichick. This was a well-deserved recognition for many years of work on behalf of many OML community projects. Please look for the invitation soon for the luncheon on Monday, May 5th.

Our membership also voted to approve the election of officers for the 2025-2026 year. Our branch is very lucky in that we have a large engaged Board of Directors. Our elected officers are: Denise Burian, President, President-elect -vacant, Marcy Place, Secretary, Peggy Cabaniss, Finance VP, Danielle Ginestro, AAUW Fund VP, Chris Laszcz-Davis & Gail Chesler, Program VPs. We also have many appointed members. I will write more about these positions next month. Many of us are staying in our positions for another year and I thank the board for stepping up and doing this extra work. Board members can serve for up to two years, with a third year in special circumstances, which we have used for Finance VP since this position requires proficiency in Quickbooks. If several of us are in our second year, then next year we will need many OML members to be willing to serve on the Board. If YOU think this is something you would like to do next year, or future year, please contact me (or another board members) to have a discussion about it and I (we) will try to find a role in which you can be paired with a board member and be a mentee to learn about the position.

There are many ways to get involved in our branch in April. First, sign up for the May 5th luncheon, when you receive the invitation. It is to honor our Distinguished Woman Lana Reichick, our Named Gift Honoree (to be announced that day), and installation of officers. Second, join us on Thursday, April 17th for pizza at Mountain Mikes. It is a fundraiser for Tech Trek. You can order all day (take-out or in-restaurant) and mention AAUW. Or you can join some of us at the restaurant for dinner (no-host) party. And third, attend our special general meeting on Sunday, April 27th at 3:00 p.m. It will be a chance to meet the high school seniors and Saint Mary's students who are our scholarship recipients, as well as our rising 8th graders who were selected for Tech Trek camp this summer.

**Denise Burian, President**

## BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS MARCH 11, 2025

- Lobby Days registration is still open to participate. Event is April 8th and 9th. April 8th will be in person in Sacramento. April 9th will be a Zoom event.

- The Board unanimously approved support for Measure T, a mail only measure in the May 6th special election. (Read more about this on page X).

- Our annual May Luncheon will be held on Monday, May 5, at La Finestra Restaurant in Moraga. The cost per person will be the same as last year (\$48/person).

- The STEM Conference committee received many congratulations and thanks for the fabulous job at our conference. 165 student attendees (sold out in two weeks), 120 volunteers (45 were high school students). NOTE: Next year's conference is calendared for March 7th.

- Karen Feeney is selling t-shirts with AAUW specific graphics (front: AAUW-OML, back: Equity for All) to wear to events, such as school board meetings, to show our presence and unity behind our message(s). T-shirts will be for sale at \$32.80/shirt at our March meeting or contact Karen Feeney, if interested.

- The Scholarship committee interviewed 16 high school applicants and made their selections. Saint Mary's students are still working on applications and interviews will be scheduled shortly.

- Trek Tech Camp selections are underway and our branch has received permission for a 7th camper to attend Camp Hopper. Reminder: Trek Tech committee will be hosting a fundraiser at Mountain Mike's Pizza in Moraga on April 17th. Twenty percent of proceeds will be given to AAUW-OML.

*Continued on page 5*

**FOCUS ON ... 2025 OUR DISTINGUISHED WOMAN ~ LANA REICHICK!**

Each year, as a branch, we recognize an AAUW member who has set herself apart and distinguished herself in initiative, creativity, leadership, friendship, and a steadfast commitment to advancing gender equity for women and girls.



Sometimes the individuals who do 80% of the work get 20% of the credit. We have had a “Hidden Figure” in our midst. Introducing **Lana Reichick**, the AAUW-OML Distinguished Woman of 2025, is an honor. Lana has been a member of AAUW since 1989, when Judy Helder suggested she join to make new friends with interesting women working for equity for all women.



stay to educate her sons in Moraga’s excellent schools. Life happened, with setbacks and disappointments, but Lana never wavered in her determination to provide the best education and life possible for her sons. She persevered. Working full time in “survival jobs,” Lana convinced the Father-Boy Scout Troop to accept her as the participating parent because the men’s troop meetings were at night. The men in the troop were always supportive. Her new-found Moraga Village guided and supported her sons.

We do not have room to list all the hats Lana wears as a very active member of OML. In AAUW, she found a group of interesting women working together for a purpose. While working full time, in the 1990s and 2000s, she served on the boards of nine OML presidents, including two years leading AAUW Fund/LAF. For three years, she led a dynamic New Members interest group.



I have learned, as I have listened to Lana’s history with AAUW-OML and the Moraga Community. Lana is a powerhouse! In 1983, Lana, a single mother, was moved to Moraga to fill a newly created position at Macy’s California. As Fashion Director for Shoes, Accessories, Lingerie & Cosmetics, she led the building of a new fashion office with four fashion

coordinators hired to give color and fashion trend direction to dozens of buyers in the \$400 million dollar division of Macy’s. Lana says she “pointed.” She got to do the fun stuff – influencing shoe, accessories and lingerie buyers as they traveled the world together. (She has many stories to tell). Six years later, when the funding for her successful, influential fashion office was eliminated, she made a life decision. She would not chase a big fashion job and move her sons Adam and Brenn again. She would

In 1998, Tech Trek was founded. After reading the AAUW-CA research report that followed the first ten years of Tech Trek campers, she realized AAUW-CA’s science and math camp was truly changing young girls lives. STEM girls were finding their people! She worked on Pat Lopker’s big team selling tickets to a special one-time Tech Trek Garden Tour. That huge branch success allowed OML to double our Tech Trek sponsorships. She became a core member of the OML crew that sold beer at 49ers games at Candlestick for a decade, generating thousands for Tech Trek sponsorships. After the Niners moved to Levi Stadium, she looked to replace those critical dollars. Single-handedly, she influenced 5A Rent-A-Space to partner with AAUW’s strong volunteers on the annual Shred Fest. Ten years of shred events have now generated thousands for Tech Trek. For fifteen years, she has been the Tech Trek Committee’s liaison to JM School, working with Tech Trek parents to escort their daughters through the application/interview process.

Please join me in recognizing OML’s 2025 Distinguished Woman, Lana Reichick at our May Luncheon at La Finestra’s at 1419 Moraga Way, across from Safeway in Moraga.



*The Distinguished Woman committee members: Heidi Mayer, Karen Feeney, Sandy Fox-Sohner, Laura Wittenberg, Barbara Bell and Christine Walwyn, with Lana..*



**Laura Wittenberg, Distinguished Woman, 2024**



## PUBLIC POLICY ~ MEASURE T

### OML Board Endorses Measure T on May 6 Ballot

The AAUW-OML Branch Board of Directors voted to endorse and support the Acalanes Union High School District (AUHSD). Measure T, which is a \$130 parcel tax measure on the May 6, 2025 special election ballot. A parcel tax is paid with your property taxes. Seniors (Over 65) can apply for an exemption. Apply by May 1st for the next year's taxes. You only have to apply once with auto renewal.

Acalanes District includes five high schools: Acalanes, Campolindo, Las Lomas, Miramonte, and Acalanes Center for Independent Study. It is among the highest performing districts in CA, but one of the lowest in funding received per student from the state. As costs increase year after year, funding is not keeping up, not to mention the uncertainties of funding in this political environment. **Measure T will bring in \$4.5 million annually to the school district.** It will allow the AUHSD to continue offering the advanced academic programs, attract and retain highly qualified teachers, provide library services, academic counseling and career training, keep technology up to date, and provide instructional equipment, materials, and supplies. The measure requires an independent citizens' oversight committee and mandatory annual audits.

Measure T will be on a Special Election Ballot. It is a vote by mail only. Ballots will be mailed out on April 7th and must be returned by Tuesday, May 6th. It requires 2/3 yes vote to pass. You can return the ballot by mail or take it to a local drop box at Lafayette School District Offices, Moraga Library, Orinda City Hall, or Walnut Creek City Hall. We encourage you to vote yes to support our local high schools. Encourage your relatives and friends to vote yes too. Contact Denise if you want a yard sign.

## DEI UPDATE

This group is focusing on AAUW CA Lobby Day on April 8 & 9, attending school board meetings, and supporting the Acalanes Union High School District's Measure T on the Special May 6 mail-in election. We are all about supporting our local districts and their work to provide an excellent academic curriculum and safe spaces for all students. We will have a short meeting on Monday, April 13th at 3:00 p.m. via zoom.

If you are looking for ways to make your voice heard about what is going on in Washington, you can connect with the group **Indivisible 4C** (Central Contra Costa County). There will be a **National Day of Action** rally on Saturday, April 5 at Broadway Plaza (by the fountain) at noon to 1:30 pm. For more information, contact Denise Burian, [denburian@gmail.com](mailto:denburian@gmail.com), or Shari Simon, [sharisimon55@gmail.com](mailto:sharisimon55@gmail.com).

## FUNDRAISING THANK YOU PARTY

**Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!**

**Not only did we meet our goal,  
We exceeded it!**

**Your generosity and commitment to making a difference is truly inspirational. With your support, we are able to expand our goals, provide scholarships, develop innovative programs for our STEM Conference and enhance our community outreach programs.**

Each dollar raised helps in breaking down barriers for young women in our communities. Your commitment strengthens our resolve to create a more equitable future for all!

Dreams for All at \$1000+	6 Donors
Stand For Tomorrow at \$500 - \$999	18 donors
Bright Futures at \$251 - \$499	20 donors
Seeds Of Hope at \$100 - \$249	36 donors
<b>Total Contributions = 80 individuals for a total of \$27,866.30</b>	



*Among the grateful speakers were (left) Mark Ginestro, father of one of this year's Tech Trekkers and former STEM Ambassador and Tech Trekker, Bella Stratford.*





INVITE YOUR FAMILY and FRIENDS  
and COME TO THE PARTY AT

## **MOUNTAIN MIKE'S PIZZA**

### **THURSDAY, APRIL 17**

11:00 am – 9:30 pm



**ADDRESS:**  
**504 Center St**  
**Moraga, CA 94556**

**PHONE NUMBER:**  
**(925) 377-6453**



**ORDER ALL DAY AT MOUNTAIN MIKE'S**  
**- EAT IN OR TAKE OUT -**

20% of the day's proceeds will go to scholarships to send  
Lamorinda 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls to AAUW Tech Trek STEM  
Summer Camp at Santa Clara University.

**Organized by the OML Tech Trek Committee!**

## **BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

**MARCH 11, 2025**

*continued from page 2*

- Kristi Torme, Chevron engineer, will be the speaker at the April 27th meeting.
- Undesignated Funds will be divided between the Priorities using the following formula: The money available for distribution is \$29,012.33. The recommendation, from the committee and voted unanimously by the Board, is to keep \$5,000 in the "Undesignated Funds" category in the event of an unforeseen expense, deduct the cost of the "Fundraiser Thank You Party" (\$2,500), give each Priority \$2,500 and distribute the remaining \$11,500 based on each priorities % of budget.

**Marcy Place, Secretary**

## **TECH TREK**

Hurray, we have seven rising 8th grade girls going to Tech Trek Camp at Santa Clara University on July 6-12!

Stanley Middle School:

Farah Falahati and Surya Spitzer

Orinda Intermediate School:

Molly Eichenberger, Mao Yoshikuni  
and Olivia McDiarmid

Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School:  
Ana Ginestro and Helen Liu

Thanks to our members who did a great job working with the schools, reviewing the applications and interviewing the girls: Karen Feeney, Gail Chesler and Joan Jump at Stanley, Marcy Place, Kim Lockett and Christine Walwyn at OIS, and Lana Reichick, Sandy Fox-Sohner, Pam Docherty and Marielle Boortz at Joaquin Moraga. It was delightful to meet the 23 girls who applied and challenging to decide who are the winners.

Our branch will be well represented at camp! There will be three past Tech Trekker counselors helping out at camp: Isabelle Culinco, Aria Falahati and Viviana Sanchez. They support the core class teachers and staff, and serve as role models for the campers. Jan Cushman and Karen Feeney will be dorm monitors (formerly known as dorm moms) and Gail Chesler will be teaching her ever popular workshop on learning to solder to make a small flashlight.

Join us at Mountain Mikes for Pizza Night on Thursday, April 17!

**Jan Cushman, Chair, Tech Trek**

**A Celebration of Life Service  
for Joy Elkinton Walker will be  
held on Thursday, May 15 at 1  
pm at the Orinda Community  
Church, 10 Irwin Way, Orinda.**



## SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

Scholarship committee has completed our interview process and once again met some amazing young women! We have four applicants from Saint Mary's, which still needs to be finalized. Plan to attend our awards meeting on April 27, 2025 from 3-5 at the Orinda Community Church! Meet the students and their families. Applaud our branch programs that encourage young girls and women in middle school, high school, college and beyond.

Join us at our next Scholarship meeting: April 3, 2025, at 2 pm, at Mary Ann McLeod's 100 Greenfield Dr., Moraga.

**Bonnie Fend, Chair, Scholarship Committee**

### Tried and True Tutoring

The Scholarship Committee has been fortunate to partner with Tried and True Tutoring (T&T) for the past few years as a fundraising resource. T&T offers various ways to prepare high school students to take SAT and ACT college prep exams including boot camps and comprehensive courses. This is done in partnership with local high schools and parent organizations.

The Scholarship Committee first made contact with T&T in 2016 through local high school counselors. We partnered with them until COVID stopped group gatherings and then started up again in 2023 through this year. We receive 10% of T&T's revenue from the events in exchange for us doing the paperwork to reserve a room for the classes held at local high schools and we set up the room the day of the event. This year we participated in a boot camp at Miramonte High School in the fall and a prep class and boot camp at Campolindo High School in the spring. The Committee received \$2,881.25 this year from these endeavors.

Bonnie Fend and Jill Fernald are the Committee members who handle this fundraiser. They have been impressed by the professionalism and enthusiasm of the T&T instructor, Ryan Burke, who credits T&T as an organization that takes great care to provide students with engaging and useful content. Although we never know from year to year how many T&T events the high school counselors will pair us up with, we are thrilled that this is a community fundraiser that does not depend on AAUW members to fund.

**Jill Fernald, Scholarship Committee Co-chair**

## BURCKHALTER UPDATE

### Math Festival at Burckhalter

Burckhalter had a Math Festival on March 13th at which seven AAUW members attended: Laura Wittenberg, Barbara Bell, Pam Docherty, Judy Helder, Renee Rosado, Lisa Gedigian and Janette Maher. We volunteered to assist at game/activity stations. Everyone was excited to play and learn math strategy. The Julia Robinson organization provided the program and materials. We look forward to participating again next year.

One of the activities at the Math Festival was a game called Pentominoes. Pentominoes is a domino like puzzle piece with five squares all connected to each other. There are six different puzzle pieces, each with a different shape.

Once the students are introduced to the rules, they immediately start to mix and match the pentomino puzzle pieces onto the map. When they have successfully figured out how the pieces fit on the map, then they can continue playing to the next level.



The key was to show the boy in the photo above with Renee Rosado, where the first piece belonged on the puzzle and then ask him to find the next piece. It was great to see his reaction when he solved the puzzle.



*Math Festival volunteers, Judy Helder and Pam Docherty*

**Janette Maher, Chair, Burckhalter Project**

## STEM CONFERENCE WRAP-UP

### Our 9th STEM Conference at Saint Mary's College was a BIG Success!!

One hundred, sixty five middle school girls participated in 3 hands-on STEM workshops during the conference. Dr. Misty Davies (Associate Chief for Aeronautics Systems in the Intelligent Systems Division at NASA Ames Research Center) was the keynote speaker and inspired the audience. Two quotes from the participants about the conference are, "I enjoyed the engaging classes and fun experiences," and "I liked being able to do science for a whole day."



Denise and I want to give a BIG Thank YOU to all our wonderful volunteers! The conference would not be possible without our volunteers. We appreciate all of the help at the conference from the AAUW volunteers in addition to our Rotary and Kiwanis partners, as well as the High School

Monitors who helped in the workshops. And an extra thank you to the High school Ambassadors and the STEM Committee members who have given their time and talents since last summer to make this event such an amazing opportunity for the middle school students.

### Kim Lockett, Chair, STEM Conference



## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

I want to welcome **Ingrid Yen, Traci Lewiston, Phyllis Tappe, Collette Kerstan and Elaine Ahrendt** to our branch. Where did these women learn about AAUW-OML? Chatting with a friend, new retirees looking for connection and a purposeful life sharing, needing something more than travel, the gym, hiking, or grandchildren.

When we share our stories of finding connection with interesting women, who are energetic and committed to playing forward their gifts and talents. Traci is from Alamo, learned about AAUW from a colleague. She checked out several AAUW websites and decided OML was for her because she wanted an active group of interesting and engaged women. Phyllis became interested after chatting with her neighbor, Joan Schwimmer. Ingrid is the mother of two young girls who are benefitting from our programs. Collette and Elaine were classmates in grade school who reconnected at the gym. They both recently joined my Pilates class. After chatting about how our lives change over time, they both decided they needed to stay connected. A simple statement like: "You should check out AAUW-OML, there are lots of opportunities to share your talents, while making new friends through shared experiences," and see that little spark light up! The next question is: "Tell me more." These new members have already volunteered to help on several committees and are excited to get connected.

It is a combination of all our priorities that take us out into the community engaging others in our mission to achieve equity in pay and financial security for women and the underserved through education, advocacy, research and philanthropy. While we do the work we make new friends and building a stronger community.

**Laura Wittenberg,**  
VP, Membership



## MARCH MEETING TAKE-AWAY



Some of the scariness in today's real world is well understood, some, not so much. Scary things like identity theft, elder abuse, phishing (what's that?) are now part of our day-to-day life. Yes, this is scary: the FBI says "Seniors lose more than \$3 billion each year to financial scams."

Our speaker at the March General meeting, **Attorney Emily Milstein** (*in middle of photo*), opened our eyes in several areas. Let's share some takeaways. First, we learned that the organization from which she came to us EXISTED. The organization is the Contra Costa Senior Legal Services. They offer free legal services for seniors over 60. This non-profit organization offers to help you. Their focus includes Elder Abuse, Consumer Protections, Debt issues, Planing documents (such as healthcare directives and powers of attorney). You can contact Contra Costa Senior Legal Services at (925) 609-7900.

Emily's presentation answered many of the questions we ought to have, e.g., who abuses elders? Her answers are family members, caregivers, friends, scam artists. Emily walked us through "scams" and "frauds" and shared stories of real cases. Some of those real cases might have struck a few of us as being awfully close to home. We heard about Red Flags – language that warns us off. If you hear that your grandson is stuck in the airport and needs money to get home – probably not true. Our own Q&A time was interesting and fruitful as well.

A couple of DOs and DON'Ts to consider: DO review your monthly bank and credit card statements. DON'T open email attachments from unknown folks, DON'T answer the phone unless you recognize the caller. DO report scams to the source, such as Amazon, your bank. The FBI has a report line. Don't tell anyone your bank account numbers (routing number and account number) unless you really know they are working FOR YOU. If you think you are being scammed, DO hang up. DO go slowly with financial decisions; think it through – get some counsel. It's fine to be independent in our old ages; it's also good to talk about big financial decisions with someone you truly trust.

Emily shared her slides with us. Our webmaster will be uploading them to the website. One of the slides has contact information for reporting scams – if you do report it, someone else may be protected from that scammer.

Gail Chesler, VP, Programs

## MEMBERS CORNER

In April 2020, we established Members Corner, a new Triad feature as we attempted to "Shelter In Peace." In 2025, with many new members joining the branch, we hope to bring Members Corner back to the Triad. New members and long standing members, tell us your AAUW story. Here are things we learned in past Members Corner stories:

**Judy Helder**, a member since 1983, was invited to join AAUW by her new neighbor when she first moved to California. Her advice for new members: Take a job on the board or take the lead in an interest group. You will get to know people and learn about AAUW and how it works. Judy Helder is the leader of Great Decisions, a world affairs educational interest group. Judy says, "The discussions are always the best part!"

**Trudy Barron** has been a dual member since 1985. She remains connected to friends in both the Concord and her local branch in OML. Trudy Barron and Marjorie Singler are the Co-Chairs of the Museums & Gorgeous Gardens interest group. They plan terrific outings and provide great opportunities to meet a few members on relaxed, enjoyable visits to museums and public gardens.

**Bobbie Dodson-Nielsen**, an OML Charter Member since our founding in 1956, told us many original members were young mothers excited to have a local group planning interesting meetings with engaging topics. They were concerned with school board issues. They formed baby sitting co-ops.

**To all members:** Help us continue Members Corner in the Triad. Please participate. Take time to answer a few questions. We will shape your story into a piece for the Members Corner.

## Members Corner Questions

- What was your journey to AAUW-OML? How did you learn about the branch?
- What year did you join AAUW?
- What projects or groups interest you?
- What was a memorable or favorite OML program for you this year or in past years?
- What advice would you give to new members?
- Tell us a fun fact about you—something we don't know about you.

**To Everyone:** Tell us your story, your journey to AAUW. Answer a few questions or write your own narrative. Submit 250 words with a close headshot photo to Lana Reichick: [lanasan@aol.com](mailto:lanasan@aol.com). Subject: 2025 AAUW Members Corner.



## SPECIAL INTEREST ACTIVITIES

**MUSEUM MAVENS AND  
GORGEOUS GARDENS  
Danville-Alamo-WC Branch**

**Garden Tour  
Friday, May 9  
Meet at 9:30 am at LOPC**

Please join us for a delightful garden tour of 6 outstanding gardens in the Danville/Alamo area on Friday, May 9th. Escape to serenity while immersing your senses in six magnificent gardens lovingly created by their owners. We will meet at Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church at 9:30 am. to carpool to the homes. Cost is \$40 and will need to be purchased in advance. This garden tour is a fundraiser for AAUW Danville/Alamo/Walnut Creek Branch, and we are glad to support them and enjoy the gardens. RSVP to [TrudyLbarron@gmail.com](mailto:TrudyLbarron@gmail.com) by April 24th and we will provide you with more information as to how to purchase your tickets. Also, please let us know if you would be willing to drive.

**GREAT DECISIONS**

**Wednesday, April 2  
10 am • Joanie Jump's home  
737 Augusta Drive, Moraga**

**Topic #3: Competition, Cold War or Conflict? Navigating US -China Relations in Tense Times.** The U.S. is in a strategic competition with a rising China that poses a range of economic, political, and military security challenges. Questions? Email Judy Helder on [judyhelder@gmail.com](mailto:judyhelder@gmail.com) for more information.

**DEI – BLM ALLIES GROUP  
Monday, April 14  
3-4:15 pm • on Zoom**

Contact Denise Burian, [denburian@gmail.com](mailto:denburian@gmail.com), for more information.

**EVENING SALON  
Thursday, April 10 • 7 pm  
Home of Barbara Bell**

Evening Salon is a casual discussion group trying to make sense of the current issues of the day. We share snacks and wine and enjoy each other's company. The April Salon will be at the home of Barbara Bell in Orinda on Thursday, April 10th at 7:00 p.m Contact Denise Burian, [denburian@gmail.com](mailto:denburian@gmail.com), to get on her email contact list.

**ANYONE WHO HAS READ  
THE BOOK**

**Friday, April 18 • 10 am  
at Orinda Books,  
276 Village Square, Orinda**

*Daughters of the Flower Fragrant Garden*, by Zhuqing Li, nonfiction/family memoir. Two sisters of a once great Chinese family grow up in the 1930's in southern China. At the end of the Chinese Civil War, one sister, purely by chance, ended up in Taiwan and could not return to the mainland while the other sister remained in China. This is the story of their very different lives, mirroring the historically traumatic changes in the Communist mainland and the Nationalist island. for more information on joining the discussion, contact Mary Mlynek, at [ml\\_mlynek@yahoo.com](mailto:ml_mlynek@yahoo.com).

**HIKING EAST BAY  
REGIONAL PARKS**

April 26 – Saturday Stroll: Huckleberry (Oakland): Skyline Blvd Staging Area. Sat 9:30 am- 11:30 am. The Hiking Interest Group is scheduled to participate in a ranger led hike on Saturday April 26. If interested in carpooling let Bonnie Gallogly know. She cannot attend but will keep whoever is interested connected. You can show up individually as well.

**FINANCIALLY SAVVY WOMEN  
Thursday, April 17  
10 am-Noon**

**Home of Peggy Cabaniss  
Topic: Professional Advisors**

Please join us for our last meeting this year at the home of Peggy Cabaniss, 743 Crossbrook Drive, Moraga. Normally we meet on the first Thursday of the month, but need to change this month's meeting to the THIRD THURSDAY. We will be discussing professional advisors and their role in our financial lives – investment advisors, attorneys, CPAs, financial planners, insurance agents, etc. Call or email Peggy for more information: [pcabaniss7@gmail.com](mailto:pcabaniss7@gmail.com), 925-708-5178

**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

## APRIL 2025 AT A GLANCE

1 TUE – PASS ALONG YOUR CRITICS CHOICE BOOK

2 WED – GREAT DECISIONS  
10:30 am – Home of Joanie Jump  
*Read more on page 9.*

3 THU – SCHOLARSHIP MEETING  
2 pm – Home of Mary Ann McLeod

8 TUE – BOARD MEETING  
1 pm – Orinda Community Church

10 THU – EVENING SALON  
7 pm – Home of Barbara Bell  
*Read more on page 9.*

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

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

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

17 THU – MOUNTAIN MIKE'S FUNDRAISER  
All day – 504 Center St., Moraga  
*Read more on page 3.*

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

26 SAT – HIKING  
9:30 am – Skyline Staging Area, Oakland  
*Read more on page 9.*

27 SUN – ANNUAL AWARDS MEETING  
3 pm – Orinda Community Church

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

AAUW-OML  
Database Coord.  
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## MAY 2025

5 MON – MAY LUNCHEON  
11:30 am – La Finestra Restaurant

13 TUE – BOARD MEETING  
1 pm – Orinda Community Church

## NEWS FROM OTHER BRANCHES



American Association of University Women  
Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek Branch

### 23rd Annual Garden Tour

Friday, May 9 & Saturday, May 10, 2025  
10 AM – 4 PM

Escape to Serenity



Immerse Your Senses and Restore Your Spirit

Proceeds support AAUW Local Community Projects including college scholarships for local students, STEM for middle school girls, and branch programs advancing equity for all. DAW AAUW is a 501(c)(3) organization and donations are tax deductible. EIN # 92-3233415

## OUR 23rd GARDEN TOUR!