

MAY LUNCHEON TAKE-AWAYS



On May 5, Lana Reichick was honored as the OML Branch 2025 Distinguished Woman. In photo on the left, she is with her son, Brenn, and below with past DW, Laura Wittenberg, and DW committee member, Sandy Fox-Sohner.



Turn to page 8 to read more about Lana's remarkable life.



Chris Laszcz-Davis (on the right in photo at left) was named AAUW Fund Branch Gift Honoree by AAUW Fund VP, Marilyn Evans.

Shari Simon, on the right in the photo below with the incoming board members, installed the 2025-26 board. Her installation speech can be read on pages 6 and 7.



Many thanks to Marla Schroeder for once again planning a wonderful day at La Finesstra restaurant in Moraga.

OML BRANCH MEMBERSHIP DUES for 2025-26

Have you renewed your OML membership for the coming year? Membership Chair, Laura Wittenberg, recently sent out an email reminder to all those who had not renewed as of mid-June with the reminder that dues are going up as of July 1, 2025 by \$12. They are \$118 up to June 30th, and \$128 as of July 1st, as AAUW-CA state dues are going up by \$10.

It's easy to do online! To renew your branch membership, click on this link: My.AAUW.org, then enter your email & password. *Do not create a new account!* If you do not remember your password, select *Forgot Password* and one will be sent to your email. A page entitled Personal Snapshot will appear next. Fill in all the blanks then scroll to the bottom of the page select the "RENEW" button to pay dues.

Special note from Laura: We would appreciate your help by renewing your membership online. When you pay by check, it requires the membership chair to manually enter the data and submit the branch debit card payment for your membership online on the national membership website. The treasurer must also deposit your check and reconcile the account. For help in navigating the online payment system, contact Laura at laura.wittenberg.mft@gmail.com.

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... from DENISE'S PERSPECTIVE

I hope you are having a great start to your summer. I help take care of elementary school age grandchildren during the summer which I am happy to do as they grow up so quickly. I hope you get some time to enjoy warm nights and celebrate the very successful year OML just had.

As I am writing this, Jan Cushman and team are at Tech Trek camp, and we provide many volunteers for that so thank you for your time commitment to make the camp a wonderful experience for girls interested in STEM careers. The scholarship checks have been sent out and cashed by our worthy recipients. Burckhalter is on summer vacation and STEM committee is on a short hiatus. Now that does not mean nothing is going on. I know our community outreach priorities will be meeting by late July to develop their budgets. And our special interest groups are either continuing to meet, or planning on selecting books etc for the coming year. We have an unusually active branch, which is why we accomplish so much and develop so many friendships. If you are not involved in any groups yet, be sure to go to our September 16th Showcase meeting to sign up for the work or social groups that interest you.

Public Policy, however, is not taking much of a break. There is just too much going on. Working to advance equity – you would think we would not have to work to advance equity anymore – is more important now than ever. There are attacks on the advances women have made, on women's health and reproductive care, on education, on financial aid, on housing, on all minorities in this country, on LGBTQ+, on immigrants, and the rule of law. All of our norms are under attack. I don't need to go into details, we see it everyday on the news. So our public policy group is and will continue to work to keep us informed as to how to take action. There are several articles in this Triad about public policy. I encourage you to take advantage of making your voice heard through easy options provided by AAUW National and AAUW-CA, or participating in our own activism by attending school board meetings and/or joining a demonstration in our community. Thank you to Laura Monin who has been a Co-Chair of Public Policy for over seven years. She is taking a break but I think we will see her at our advocacy events. Connie Whitting has served as Co-Chair with Laura for a few years. Now, Shari Simon is stepping us a Co-Chair of Public Policy. We continue to be in good hands. I was attracted to AAUW because of the advocacy for equity for women, as I assume many of you were. Be assured we will make our voices heard to advance equity for all women.

Our last big event of the year was the May luncheon to celebrate the contributions of Lana Reichick as our Distinguished Woman. Congratulations Lana! The 2025-2026 Board of Directors was installed, and the new board met with the old board on June 12th for the In and Out Board meeting. One of the big items we discussed was do we want to continue all of the community priorities we have done in the year ahead? If so, do we have the finances and human bandwidth (volunteers) to successfully do all of them? The bottom line is the board *does* want to continue with our initiatives. We are in better financial shape due to our very successful fundraiser. And we are a branch that is able to maintain our numbers as we do have new members joining, with most of them getting involved. The involvement of our members is the only way we can sustain this level of activity. One of our weaknesses, or opportunities, is needing members to also step up to take on leader-

Continued on page 5

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS JUNE 10, 2025

Save the Dates

Membership Meetings:

September 16, 2025– Showcase

October 21, 2025 – Public Policy

November 18, 2025

December Holiday Gathering – Date and location TBD

January 20, 2026

February 17, 2026 – alternative location TBD

March 17, 2026

Sunday, April 19, 2026 – Awards Meeting

NOTE: All Membership meetings will be held at OCC unless otherwise noted.

Special Events:

STEM Conference: Saturday, March 7, 2026

DW Luncheon: Monday, May 18, 2026

Public Policy: Members are encouraged to reach out to our Senators to express concerns about passing the “Big Beautiful Budget Bill.”

AAUW/Saint Mary's Partnership: The Women and Genders' Studies Department at Saint Mary's College is hosting another Women in Leadership event. It will be an all day event held on Thursday, September 4th from 9:50 to 5:30 in Hagerty Lounge. The topic will be “Women's Leadership in the Current Political Climate”.

Burckhalter Elementary School: The committee will hold a meeting in August to plan for the coming school year. If interested in getting involved with this priority, please contact Janette Maher.

Marcy Place, Secretary

FOCUS ON ... PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE

With so much happening on a daily basis, many of us are feeling the need to take action. Fortunately, AAUW National and AAUW-CA are making it easier and easier for each of us to do just this.

Here are a few links that will bring you to key sites/pages where you can increase your understanding of the AAUW National and CA priorities as well as legislation that is currently being considered in committee or is coming up for vote. Please bookmark these for easy access and Sign up for Action Alerts.

- **National: AAUW Action Network;**
- **California: AAUW-CA Public Policy;**
- CA-Bill Tracking Report**

AAUW & AAUW-CA are now posting to BlueSky (a social media app similar to X). If you're a social app user, set up an account [@bsky.app](#) and follow them [@aauw.bsky.social](#) and [@aauw-ca-advocacy.bsky.social](#). OML now has a blue sky account as well. Our account is [aauw-oml-ca.bsky.social](#).

What does it mean to take action?

- It could mean setting aside 2-5 minutes every morning to call your Congressional and State Senators/Assembly members to let them know where you stand on an issue, thank them, or express disapproval based on a vote they recently made or is under consideration (This truly has an impact—they count every single call).
- Or going on the AAUW 2-Minute Activist page, clicking on their pre-written letters (potentially editing them or not) and sending them to your Congressional and CA Legislative representatives. (Letters matter—they also count each one).
- It might mean joining the OML-members who have been showing up at local School Board Meetings (CA School Board Project) to ensure each school district in WaLaM-Orinda remains compliant with all CA State Education Code, as well as support our local School Boards in their ongoing effort to create an environment where every student feel valued, safe, welcome, and able to achieve their academic, social and athletic goals.
- Or participating in local protests and marches: OML recently had strong representation at the National No Kings Day Protest in Walnut Creek. (It's empowering).
- And for others: it may mean becoming increasingly more educated and working to further inform family, friends, and neighbors and possibly enlisting them to join you in your efforts.

While taking action is a personal decision, the OML-Public Policy Committee wants to make it as easy as possible for you to stay informed on all US Congressional and CA Legislative Issues that align with AAUW's Mission and priorities, as well as stay up to date on key decisions throughout the country that directly impact the reproductive health and well-being of women and girls.

Have questions or recommendations? Want to join our Committees? Please reach out to us.

Connie Whitting (OML-Public Policy)

cwhitting22@sbcglobal.net

Shari Simon (OML-Public Policy)

sharisimon55@gmail.com

Karen Feeney (OML-School Board Project)

kfeeney@gmail.com

Shari Simon, Co-chair, Public Policy

PUBLIC POLICY IN ACTION

A contingent of AAUW members from the Public Policy Committee attended the No Kings event in Walnut Creek on June 14 where over 8,000 people gathered to voice their concerns about the current administration.

Connie Whitting found it very well organized and upbeat. She said the messages were short and to the point, and the multitude of creative homemade signs were a treat and enjoyable. "I came home feeling better than when I went. It was a positive experience, a shared camaraderie."

Among the many OML members attending the rally in Walnut Creek were Marcy Place and Laura Wittenberg.



TECH TREK SUMMER CAMP

Tech Trek Girls Set to Go to Camp on July 6!

On May 9th, the Tech Trek committee held an ice cream social at the Miramonte Garden Clubhouse in to help prepare our new Tech Trekkers for camp. We welcomed our 2025 Tech Trek rising 8th graders and three Tech Trek alumnae who will be counselors. **Molly Eichenberger**, **Mao Yoshikuni** and **Olivia MacDiarmid** from Orinda Intermediate School and **Farah Falahati** and **Surya Spitzer** from Stanley Middle School attended. **Anna Ginestro** and **Helen Lui** from Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School had other commitments. In addition to our new Tech Trek girls, the three Tech Trek alumnae joined us: **Isabelle Culinco**, **Aria Falahati** and **Viviana Sanchez**. Since two family members cannot be at the same camp, Farah Falahati will be attending the Fresno camp. That camp has a different curriculum (and a swimming pool!), so we are eager to hear about her experience.

We shared an informational slide show and glimpse of the Santa Clara University campus including details about a typical camp week's schedule of activities, health and safety measures and pictures of the cafeteria and dorm rooms. **Karen Feeney** and **Jan Cushman** will be dorm moms, **Gail Chesler** will teach soldering and Tech Trek alumna **Giorgia Stankus** will teach a workshop using STEM Lingo kits to teach coding. **Heidi Mayer** and **Pam Docherty** will help with registration.

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*, *3D Math* and *Morse Code*.

Since 1998, AAUW-OML has selected 143 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.



This year's Tech Trekkers with Karen Feeney and Jan Cushman gather at the Miramonte Clubhouse on May 9th.

Jan Cushman, Chair, Tech Trek

SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

Scholarship ends another successful year!

Jill Fernald, Gail Burnett and I (Bonnie Fend) attended the awards ceremony at each of the three local high schools and gave a short talk about their accomplishments. The senior awards program at the high schools is where seniors are honored with awards and scholarships from the community and faculty. The faculty awards seniors who have demonstrated excellence in an academic department from art to technical education. Since the teachers hand out the awards there is a lot of cheering and clapping. It is rewarding and encouraging to see how all the seniors are excited and positive of their colleagues receiving the awards. Each one of our high school girls received their \$2,000 scholarship check at our AAUW branch awards ceremony.

I also delivered all the checks for the Saint Mary's recipients to the high potential office. Saint Mary's high potential coach Kierstin Kolte and department head Chameeta Denton are so welcoming and thankful for our support of their students. Each girl received a \$2,000 check and I received several note of thanks. The scholarship committee really appreciates the support they get from all 3 high school College and Career Counselors and the High Potential staff. They help make our job easier in connecting and communicating with the students.

Bonnie Fend, Chair, Scholarship

Hey there, folks who were planning to attend the **Program Planning Discussion Zoom** get together for OML's upcoming year, that Zoom will happen on Tuesday, July 15th, 10-11 am. You got the confirmation and link to the zoom earlier in June, as well as the two attachments we will discuss. Anyone who now can't locate it, please contact Gail Chesler for a resend.

BURCKHALTER UPDATE



Burckhalter ended with students very excited to choose a book to keep. Thanks to your donations, students will have a book to read over summer vacation.

School starts in August. Our committee meeting will be August 14th at 3 pm at Janette's house. We start back in the library August 20-21. Thinking about your options for helping

at Burckhalter? Email Janette at kidlitr@hotmail.com to ask questions and set up a school tour.



Janette Maher, Chair, Burckhalter
Photos by OML member and
Burckhalter volunteer, Lisa Gedigian

FROM DENISE, *continued from page 2*

positions. We have two vacancies on the board now and will have more next year. So this is an area that the Board will work on in the coming year - not just recruiting leadership, but mentoring members who will then feel more comfortable to take on a role on the Board of Directors.

Besides Laura Monin who is stepping down, I want to thank Barbara Bell who served this past year in a special position as assistant to the President. Marilyn Evans, AAUW Fund VP, is going off the board after a successful year, and Danielle Ginestro, a new member, agreeing to accept this position. We need someone who will work with Renee Rosado to learn how to do publicity so she can step away from it. Let me know if you are interested – it's a great way to learn about all the things OML does.

Denise Burian, President

AAUW NATIONAL BOARD



This year in May, I completed six years on the national board of AAUW, serving as the Finance Chair for both three year terms. What an honor and experience it was to work with fourteen other board members, staff at the national headquarters, and members around the country. My job as Finance Chair was to lead the Finance Committee (primarily focused on the

budget and monthly financial reports) and the Investment Committee (charged with overseeing the management of AAUW's \$130M portfolio).

During my term, we accomplished getting the board and management to commit to a balanced budget and to focus on long term financial sustainability for the organization. This might sound like "common sense" but the board had been prone to approving deficit budgets for many years. With continued declining membership numbers, it has been difficult to maintain a balanced budget without cutting various programs at the national level.

I am grateful for the opportunity to have served at the national level. I encourage all of you to explore opportunities to serve on the many committees available at both national and state levels. You will meet wonderful women, will connect with issues affecting women across the country, and will help address the challenges of keeping a non-profit organization with a 150+ year history relevant and alive in today's world.

Our branches are needed more than ever by AAUW. We need to continue our fight for equity, our fostering of opportunity for young women and girls, our advocacy for policy that furthers our mission. OML is an example of an outstanding branch that does all these things, always earns the five-star status (AAUW's highest recognition for alignment with our mission), and supports both local and national causes affecting women and girls.

The new strategic plan incorporates three basic concepts: first, the commitment to the importance of higher education as the pathway to financial independence and leadership for women; second, the need for advocacy and public policy that gives women the opportunity for equity in their lives; and third, the importance of branches being in alignment and support with AAUW's overall mission.

With gratitude,

Peggy S. Cabaniss

A TRIBUTE to OML'S INCOMING BOARD

This is the new board installation speech given by Shari Simon at our May Luncheon on May 5. Because the Powerpoint projection was not working, we were not able to see the photos of the various women in history she linked with each incoming board member, so they are included here.

For more than a century, the American Association of University Women has championed education, opportunity, and equity for women and girls. In today's climate—where many of the rights we've long fought for feel increasingly fragile—our Branch's commitment to advocacy and public policy is more vital than ever.

At the same time, OML offers something equally as important: a warm, engaged, and welcoming community. It's a haven—a place to restore ourselves, share ideas, have fun, and be in the company of like-minded women, giving us the desire and energy to show up, even when the world feels overwhelming. This balance—between connection and action—is what we are going to need over the next year. And this year's seasoned Executive Committee is the perfect group of women to provide this lead us forward. Each one brings unique strengths, a deep commitment to our mission, and a style of leadership that echoes some of the boldest American women in history. So today, as we celebrate their installation, I will introduce them alongside the historical trail blazers whose qualities they exude.

At the same time, let's have some fun with this, and even make it participatory. If you know their namesake, raise your hand. And last, as I read your name, please come to the front.



Denise Burian, a.k.a. Frances Perkins, will continue as our 2025–26 President.

Frances Perkins was the first woman appointed to the U.S. Cabinet, serving as Secretary of Labor under President Franklin D. Roosevelt from 1933 to 1945. She was instrumental in shaping New Deal policies, advocating for labor rights, Social Security, and worker protections. Her legacy includes the establishment of the 40-hour workweek, minimum wage laws, and unemployment insurance.

Denise embodies the strength, passion and strategic mindset of Frances Perkins. Whether it's securing our 5-Star status, co-leading DEI or the STEM Conference, Denise steps in when something needs doing, leading with purpose and efficacy. With a twinkle in her eye and a ready smile, Denise

brings warmth, grit, and unwavering commitment to our Branch, to advocacy and to equity. Like Frances Perkins, she is a fighter—effective, present, and powerful. I am confident that Denise will continue to lead us forward with grace in these turbulent times.



Marcy Place, a.k.a. Mary Lyon, will serve as our Secretary.

Mary Lyon was a pioneering educator who founded Mount Holyoke College and championed women's access to rigorous academic education. She believed deeply in the power of knowledge, discipline, and well-organized systems to advance opportunity for women. Known for her meticulous recordkeeping, long-term vision, and steady leadership, she built a legacy grounded in structure, clarity, and purpose.

Marcy brings those same qualities to our branch. She mirrors Lyon's commitment to precision and posterity, capturing the details of our work with care, ensuring that the history we're making today is preserved for those who come after us. From managing our records to overseeing our insurance, Marcy's notes provide a trusted reference that helps us follow through on commitments, track our progress, and stay aligned as we move forward. Marcy's behind-the-scenes dedication will continue to strengthen our branch in essential ways.



Peggy Cabaniss, a.k.a. Muriel "Mickie" Siebert, will be our Finance Chair.

Mickie Siebert was a trailblazer in the world of finance, becoming the first woman to own a seat on the New York Stock Exchange, and was first female Superintendent of Banking for New York State. Mickie was known for her financial acumen, her calm approach to problem-solving, and her ability to bring a level-headed perspective to even the most complex issues.

Peggy brings the same thoughtful, steady approach to her role. With a sharp eye for financial details and a deep commitment to the health of our branch, she ensures that everything runs smoothly behind the scenes. Like Mickie, Peggy's ability to keep calm under pressure, make rational decisions, and maintain balance, all while guiding us with her financial expertise, makes Peggy the perfect OML Board member for these turbulent times.

Continued on next page



Danielle Ginestro, a.k.a. Doris Matsui, will lead our AAUW Fund efforts.

Doris Matsui, representing California's 6th Congressional District, has long been a champion for gender equity, education, and economic empowerment. Her voting record reflects a strong commitment to AAUW's mission—advocating for equal pay, women's health and reproductive rights, and expanded opportunities for women and girls.

Danielle brings this same level of dedication. A relative newcomer to our Board and Branch, Danielle has already had a significant impact. As Chair of the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund—National's newly emphasized priority—Danielle will help us connect with AAUW's broader mission. This fund supports initiatives like economic empowerment, voter engagement, and policy advocacy, giving AAUW the flexibility to respond where the need is greatest. With a goal of raising at least \$3,000 from our members, Danielle will be leading the charge to help us maintain a key element of our 5-Star status.



Chris Laszcz-Davis, a.k.a. Ellen Swallow Richards, will be one of our 2025–26 Program Co-Chairs.

Ellen Swallow Richards was the first woman admitted to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), graduating with a BS in 1873. She went on to

become the first female instructor at MIT, serving as Instructor in Sanitary Chemistry from 1884 until her death in 1911. As an early pioneer of the industrial hygiene and the environmental movement, she was known for uniting diverse voices to create meaningful, lasting change.

Chris channels that same collaborative energy and strategic mindset—perhaps it's what the field of industrial hygiene demands. Like Ellen, Chris is known for building alliances, working collaboratively, and helping others feel ownership in the process. With her thoughtful, inclusive approach to programming, Chris will continue to ensure our general meetings inform, inspire, and reflect the spirit of shared purpose that defines our branch and that will bring us together in the coming year.

And for our history buffs, I will also add that in doing my research, I discovered that Ellen Swallow Richards was a co-founder of AAUW. How many of you knew this?



Gail Chesler, a.k.a. Grace Hopper, will also serve as one of our 2025–26 Program Co-Chairs.

Grace Hopper was a trailblazing computer scientist and Navy rear admiral who helped transform early computing. Known for her technical brilliance and practical problem-solving, she made complex systems more accessible and helped teams work together more efficiently.

Gail brings that same clarity and capability to OML. She's the behind-the-scenes force who keeps our programs and special interest groups running smoothly—whether it's managing tech at meetings or creating the mailing lists that keep us all in the loop. Like Hopper, Gail blends technical know-how with practical creativity, making it easier for all of us to stay informed, connected, and engaged.



Laura Wittenberg, a.k.a. Oveta Culp Hobby, will continue on as our Membership Chair.

Oveta Culp Hobby led with vision, energy, and purpose—rallying people around causes larger than themselves. As the first director of the Women's

Army Corps and later the first secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, she was known for building strong systems, breaking new ground, and inspiring participation wherever she went.

Laura brings this very same vibrant energy to our branch. She's our number one cheerleader and tireless advocate—promoting AAUW wherever she goes. Her big-picture thinking and innovative ideas have helped grow and energize our membership. And she doesn't stop at recruitment—Laura ensures that new members are engaged and connected. Whether she's brainstorming new strategies or working with National to simplify systems, Laura's leadership continues to strengthen the very heart of our organization.

Each woman we've introduced today was paired with a historical figure not only for fun, but as a reminder: the strength we admire in these trailblazers' lives on in our leaders. These comparisons aren't just reflections—they're inspiration for all of us as we prepare for the year ahead.

With this remarkable team and the continued support of all of us, I believe we are poised for action, impact, and connection—the very hallmarks of our OML 5 Star Branch.

Shari Simon

LANA REICHICK ~ MEMORIES of a REMARKABLE LIFE

Members who missed the May Luncheon expressed interest in reading Lana Reichick's DWA speech.

In my life journey, I have had many unique and interesting experiences. I've had a "pinch me" life in many ways. In my career in the fashion business, I worked with many famous designers, photographers, models, and merchants.

When I was two, my mother wrote me a letter. She gave it to me on my 20th birthday. In her letter, she wrote, "My hope for you is that before you decide to marry and have children, you will DO something in your life while you have the freedom to do what you want."

I was always a cowgirl who loved horses, and I was always cold. I begged my mother to let me wear my Levi's to be warm at school. In 1952, my mom said Yes. In 7th grade, I discovered boys and became a budding fashionista. My mother gave me a clothing allowance and a small job doing bookkeeping tasks in our trucking company. By age 12, I knew I was a business woman. I loved my country, my freedom, and my future opportunity.

I have five alma maters: FHS. University of Kentucky. Tobe Coburn School for Fashion Careers. Bloomingdale's. The School of Life.

I loved business school at the University of Kentucky, but my #1 favorite class was "Riders Up 101." I fulfilled my PE requirement by learning to ride English saddle.

When attending the University of Kentucky, as a business major, I was usually the only girl in my classes. I was not allowed to wear pants to class. In New York in 1966, women were not allowed to wear pants to fine restaurants. In Fall 1966, French couture designer Yves St. Laurent changed my life. He changed all our lives when he showed his entire couture collection with well dressed women in pants. Every model who walked the YSL runway was wearing an elegant pantsuit. For his finale, instead of a bride, he sent out a woman wearing a sophisticated black tuxedo he called Le Smoking. The trickle down effect of that couture collection changed the future for women. What happens in Paris influences us without our even knowing it.

In my career, I worked closely with many shoe and accessories buyers to influence the fashion colors and trends they supported in the stores. I worked in the New York fashion business when The Women Who Ran Fifth Avenue walked

the stores before the doors opened each morning. My first job was at Bonwit Teller, next to Tiffany. I was the Tobe-Coburn student intern working in lingerie. Bonwit's CEO Mildred Custin always said good morning as she passed through the lingerie department.

My dynamic life in business took me to fashion capitals around the world: Paris, Milan, Florence, London, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Seoul and more. I was reading SEVENTEEN Magazine at age 12. Thirteen years later, I was a fashion editor with my name on the masthead.

With all my fancy job titles at Bloomingdale's, SEVENTEEN, May Merchandising Corp. Buying Office, Burlington Hosiery, Robinson's in L.A., and as Fashion Director at Macy's California, the \$1 Billion dollar West Coast division of R.H. Macy's Corp., I got to do the fun stuff. I gave dozens of buyers information and color direction, and I was was good at it.

However, I always knew my most important job was rearing and educating my sons. My biggest accomplishment in life is rearing two terrific latch-key boys who became smart, capable, self-reliant men. As Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis said, "If you bungle raising your children, I don't think whatever else you do well matters very much."

I close my speech by telling this favorite New York story. In 1967, as I walked from the legendary Barbizon Hotel for Women, someone I knew crossed my path. I stood on the corner of "63rd & Lex" just 18 inches behind Jacqueline Kennedy and her young son "John-John." Waiting for the light to change, he was looking up at his mother, telling her about his day at school.

Life is about the "pinch me" moments we experience. I have had many. "The old gray mare, she ain't what she used to be," but I am happily "dancin' all the way up."



Lana Reichick, Distinguished Woman, 2025

SPECIAL INTEREST ACTIVITIES

**CRITICS CHOICE BOOK
GROUP ANNUAL MEETING**
Wednesday, July 23
at Andrea Green's home
10:30 pm

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

We need groups of 10 or 11, so, first come...first served! Send a check for \$30, made out to Andrea Green, to the address above or bring it to the meeting.

GREAT DECISIONS
Wednesday, July 2
Wednesday, August 6
9:30 am

The topic for discussion this month is #6 in your book: *The Future of NATO and European Security*. We will meet at the home of Mary Mlynek, 1225 Warner Court in Lafayette. Email Judy Helder on judyhelder@gmail.com for more information.

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, weather permitting. **We also play Tuesday evenings in league play.** Contact Mary Leigh Miller at mlmiller602@gmail.com for more information and if you are interested in being part of the league, which runs from late April until the end of August.

EVENING SALON
Thursday, July 10 • 6 pm
Home of Janette Maher

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 July Salon will be at the home of Janette Maher in Moraga on Thursday, July 10th. We will meet at 6 pm for light supper potluck in her lovely back yard, and then go inside for discussion at 7:30 p.m. Janette is at 31 Kent Court in Moraga. Contact Denise Burian, denburian@gmail.com, to get on her email contact list.

DEI – BLM ALLIES GROUP
No meeting in July

This group is putting together a lending library for our Branch to start in September. No meeting in July. Contact Denise Burian, denburian@gmail.com, for more information.

**ANYONE WHO HAS READ
THE BOOK**
Friday, July 18 • 10:30 am
at Marilyn Evan's home
17 Inverleith Terrace, Moraga

**Bring a sandwich,
Marilyn will supply drinks
and dessert at lunch.**

Book; *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawson, historical fiction, 448 pages. The mystery is inspired by the life and diary of Martha Ballard, a renowned 18th century midwife. When the Kennebec River froze in 1789, it entombed a man in the ice, Martha was summoned to examine the body and determine the cause of death. Months earlier, the man was implicated in an alleged rape. When a local physician declared the death to be an accident, Martha is forced to investigate the shocking murder on her own. RSVP to Marilyn: (925) 915-0108

GOLF
Monday, May 14 & 28
10 am • Diablo Hills Golf Course

The golf group gets together twice a month for casual play in a golf course in Walnut Creek. Contact Janita Gee for more information, jgee17@yahoo.com.

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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!*



JULY 2025 AT A GLANCE

1 TUE – PASS ALONG YOUR CRITICS CHOICE BOOK

2 WED – GREAT DECISIONS

10:30 am – Home of Mary Mlynek

Read more on page 9.

7, 21 MON – BOCCE BALL

9:30 am – Moraga Commons bocce ball courts

Read more on page 9.

10 THU – EVENING SALON

6 pm – Home of Janette Maher

Read more on page 9.

14, 28 – MON – GOLF GROUP

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

15 TUE – PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING

10 am – Via Zoom

Read more on page 4.

18 FRI – ANYONE WHO'S READ THE BOOK

10:30 am – Home of Marilyn Evans

Read more on page 9.

23 WED – CRITICS CHOICE BOOK SELECTION MEETING

10:30 am – Home of Andrea Green

Read more on page 9.

August 2024

Look for more information in the August Triad

2 TUE – BOARD MEETING

1 pm – Orinda Community Church

AAUW-OML
Database Coord.
7 Mariposa Lane
Orinda, CA 94563

TWO MINUTE ACTIVIST

Let AAUW help you Make Your Voice Heard.

Join AAUW's Action Network by signing upfront for the TWO-MINUTE ACTIVIST. AAUW will send you emails periodically about upcoming legislation. When you click on the link they send, a letter will pop up that is already written to our two senators or our Rep. Mark De Saulnier asking them to vote either for or against a specific legislation. A recent example was one on voting no on the current budget bill going through Congress.

You will be asked to fill out your name and address (they want to know that you live in their district), and the letters will be automatically sent to them. You will even receive a follow-up response from the legislator a few days later. To sign up, click this link:

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

PLEASE NOTE: Some of our special interest groups take a break in the summer. They will all be showcased at our first general meeting of the upcoming year on September 16. You will have the opportunity to sign up and get more information on each activity.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL SPECIAL INTEREST COORDINATORS:

If your group decides to meet on a different day or time than normal, please contact our Calendar Coordinator, BONNIE GALLOGLY, so she can update the website calendar.