

## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

### General Meeting

10:00 am – 11:30 am

Social Gathering 9:30 am

Coffee + Refreshments

Orinda Community Church

Fellowship Hall, 10 Irwin Way, Orinda



### EMMA BISHOPP

#### NUTRITION:

*What We Know*

*What We Don't Know*

*What We Should Know*

Emma Bishopp is a holistic nutrition consultant and Level 3 Restorative Wellness Practitioner. Her formal training began at Bauman College in Berkeley where she developed a strong foundation in nutrition and health. Committed to expanding her expertise, Emma pursued advanced training with Restorative Wellness Solutions, focusing on the interpretation and application of functional lab testing to help clients identify the root causes and blocking factors undermining their well-being.

Digestive issues that persisted into adulthood and a pivotal family event led Emma Bishopp to explore the powerful role nutrition plays in health and healing. When her five year old daughter was diagnosed with cancer she was inspired to look at the many aspects beyond diet required for optimal health such as stress management, sleep, exercise and lifestyle factors.

The knowledge and practices Emma adopted were transformative – not only did she overcome her own struggles with IBS and GERD (Gastroesophageal Regurgitative Disease), but her three daughters are healthy, thriving young adults.

Emma's professional approach combines her comprehensive training, personal experience and deep empathy. Her mission today is to empower others to achieve their best health – bringing together evidence-based knowledge and genuine understanding to help clients reach vibrant well-being.

Visit <https://www.holistic-health-nutrition.com/>.

Chris Laszcz-Davis, Co-VP, Programs

## DECEMBER HOLIDAY PARTIES

A reminder that we do not hold a general meeting in December.

Instead we encourage all OML members to get together at members' homes to celebrate the holidays.

*Mark your calendars:*

• *Saturday,  
December 6*

6 pm - Barbara Bell's home in Orinda

• *Tuesday,  
December 9*

10 am - Noon  
Peggy Cabaniss's home in Moraga

Look for more information in the December Triad!

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Focus on Public Policy  
Page 3 & 4
- STEM Updates  
Page 5
- Fundraiser Successes  
Page 7
- Ad Team Kudos  
Page 8

## ... from DENISE'S PERSPECTIVE



*Dear members,*

I was able to attend the October 21 member meeting at which our Assemblywoman Rebecca Bauer-Kahan (RBK) talked about why the CA legislature put Proposition 50 on the ballot. It is the "Election Rigging Response Act," which authorizes temporary changes to congressional district maps, as approved by the legislator, to be used through 2030. AAUW CA has provided guidance on this proposition. <https://www.aauw-ca.org/documents/2025/09/2025-prop-50-press-release.pdf/> Please send in your ballot and support preserving a broader democracy in our federal government, needed to advance AAUW goals of gender equity and other public policy priorities.

RBK also provided a short legislative update and expressed grave concern about how the medicare and medicaid changes coming from this federal administration will impact us in CA and the Bay Area. She is the founder/ chair of the Assembly Select Committee on Reproductive Health. Now, as Chair of the Committee on Privacy and Consumer Protection, she is helping California lead the way on regulating artificial intelligence tools to ensure that the state is proactive on protecting users without stifling innovation.

I have been mentoring the student-led group who founded the **HER Health Initiative** to fight against women's health inequities. It was begun two years ago by a group of mostly Miramonte HS female students. They conducted the menstrual products drive and collected over 10,000 period products. To get attention about reproductive health issues for young women, they drafted language for a resolution that they've asked RBK to sponsor through the CA legislator. It is entitled *Reproductive Health of Teen Girls Awareness Month in CA*, which they are hoping it will be by October 2026. It is centered on spreading awareness of menstrual health conditions (e.g. endometriosis), HPV vaccination, and healthy sexual health practices. We learned from RBK that all legislators have a limit on number of bills and resolutions they can sponsor. So fingers crossed, she will choose this resolution. Following this, the Acalanes Union High School District Superintendent John Nickerson and Board member Nancy Kendzierski gave a presentation on the transition from "at-large" to "by trustee area" elections. It was a legal process they just completed. They explained the process and the final map chosen by the board. It is important to note that regardless of how school board members are elected, each board member owes fiduciary duty to all schools and represent all students and parents in the district.

At the end, I thanked them for their service and work for all of the students and their active commitment to a high level education environment that respects and is safe for all students. The Acalanes Board and Administration works proactively in teaching a diverse history, supports diversity and inclusiveness of all students. I also listened to their recent Title IX report and while there is always work to be done, Acalanes District high schools work diligently for equity.

I am thrilled to see many new members and I've enjoyed meeting several of you. I encourage you to use the directory and our website to find out what projects and/or special interests look interesting or fun to you and reach out to the chair listed in the directory. You are welcome to get involved in any of our activities. See you at our November 18th member meeting and at our holiday events in December.

**Denise Burian, President**

BOARD MEETING  
HIGHLIGHTS  
OCTOBER 14, 2025**Membership**

- We have a whopping 140 members and seven new members. Welcome to new members, and if you are a regular, please find our new members at our Membership meetings and welcome them to our organization.
- Our branch is currently updating our members' interests. Only half our members have completed the new individual portfolio. Please watch for the document in your email and/or complete the form at our next Membership meeting.

**AAUW Fund**

There are 19 current fellows in California who have received a scholarship from AAUW-National to support projects that promote gender equity for women and girls. Videos of these amazing recipients will be uploaded to the AAUW-CA site by early December.

**H.E.R.**

Did you know that there is a group of our Ambassadors from our STEM conference, that is working to pass a resolution to establish a *Reproductive Health for Teen Girls Awareness Month*? The HER Team has asked the office to sponsor the resolution and the office is reviewing it for consideration when the legislative session begins in January.

**Burckhalter Elementary**

- With the District's school schedule change, our volunteers continue to juggle the needs of the students and teachers, and the running of the library.
- Due to the schedule change, the volunteers are having to simultaneously run two programs, with a limited staff. Volunteers are greatly appreciated and needed. See Janette Maher.
- Holiday season is upon us and AAUW-OML will be conducting two Toy Drives for Burckhalter Elementary. Please bring new, unwrapped toys to our October and November meetings and the December parties.

*Continued on page 5*

**FOCUS ON ... FOLLOW-UP of OML's PUBLIC POLICY GENERAL MEETING****October General Meeting Educates Members on Key Political Issues Facing Local Voters**

The Public Policy Committee put together an engaging and very timely program for our October 21 General Meeting. The audience, including a number of guests and new members, stayed attentive throughout. No one left early.

The first speaker was local Assemblywoman, Rebecca Bauer-Kahan. The primary focus of her presentation was Prop 50, the November 4 ballot measure approved by the California legislature as a response to "partisan gerrymandering" in Republican-led states. If passed, Prop 50 will approve a temporary congressional map that would potentially give California Democrats five more seats in Congress. The new map would apply only to the 2026 and 2028 elections and expire in 2030, when the next census triggers the regular redistricting cycle.



Bauer-Kahan emphasized the importance of approving this legislation. She said under any other circumstances she would not support this type of legislation; however, she said we are in unusual times and the future of our democracy depends on balancing Congress. As an example, she described attending a meeting with John Muir executives the previous day where they told her, since 40% of their clients receive medical care from the Affordable Care Act or Medi Cal and would not be able to afford medical care if premium subsidies cut by the Republican majority are not reinstated. John Muir would be forced to close their doors.

Next, Dr. John Nickerson and School Board Member, Nancy Kendzierski, with the Acalanes Union High School District, presented the background, selection process, final map, and implications of the new Trustee Area Election System, adopted by the District on October 15. No longer will the District's five school board members be elected by all voters in the District. Instead, each board member will be elected by

voters within the Trustee Area where they reside. To learn more about the process and the final Trustee Area Map selected, you can go to the District's website:

<https://www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/site/default.aspx>

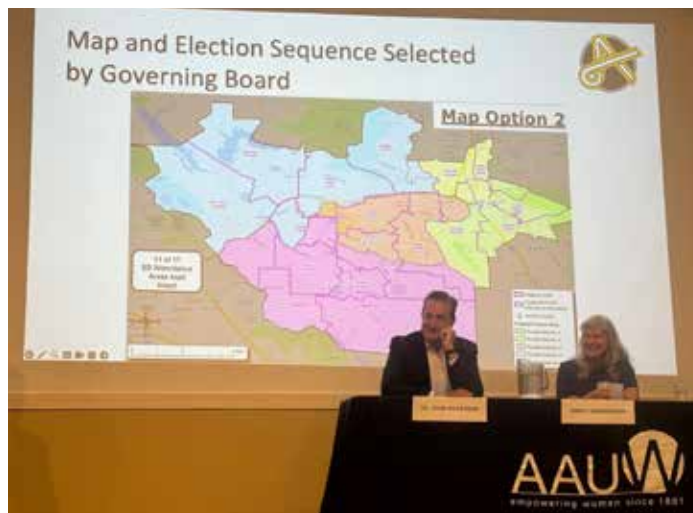
Dr. Nickerson also said how much he appreciates our Branch's support for the District over the last two to three years, with

our members attending Board Meetings and speaking in support of their efforts. Branch President, Denise Burian spoke briefly about how our AAUW values of ensuring a fair and unbiased education, as well as a safe environment for all students, aligned perfectly with the District's values.

The day solidified our relationships with both the Assemblywoman and the District. We look forward to working together in the future.

**Karen Feeney, Public Policy Committee**

Turn to the next page for more information from the Public Policy committee.



## ~ MORE FROM PUBLIC POLICY ~

***School Boards -The Overlooked Frontline of Democracy***

Written by Kathi Harper, Chair,  
Public School Board Project, AAUW California

Last month, Seena Trigas from the Public Policy School Board Project team, submitted an excellent article reminding members of the crucial role that public education plays in our democracy. The current – and seemingly never-ending - assaults on that institution gave rise to the School Board Project, which is now entering its third year.

When we started this project, our main focus initially was to encourage members to actively participate in identifying, recruiting and supporting candidates to run for school boards whose education values were in line with ours at AAUW California. For a number of reasons, our focus shifted to an emphasis on encouraging and training members to attend school board meetings and let us know what they are seeing in their districts. We had a remarkable response, and we want to thank all our members who have answered that call.

As we enter our third iteration of the project, we want to continue that momentum, but narrow the scope to watching for and speaking out against violations of California's protective laws; add a new component of learning how to make a greater impact by working in coalition with other public education supportive organizations; and swing back to where we started with re-engaging and increasing our efforts to ensure district board majorities that support all students and the free flow of ideas. In this last regard, we have recently discovered an organization called the School Board Integrity Project, and I can't say it better than their Executive Director, Kyrstin Schuette, as stated in an Op-Ed she wrote in The Courier.

Here's the link: <https://couriernewsroom.com/news/kyrstin-schuette-the-overlooked-frontline-of-democracy/>

Shari Simon, Chair, Public Policy

**NO KINGS MARCH ~ SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18**

Members headed to Broadway Plaza early to claim an empty bench near the fountain. T shirts and many homemade signs expressed the sentiments of The People.

**EMBRACE ACTION**

**REMEMBER TO VOTE  
ON PROP 50**

**Tuesday, Nov 4 – Election Day**  
Mailed ballots must be postmarked  
by 9 pm  
Ballot drop-off locations close at 8 pm

**Still Not Sure How To Vote:** Visit  
[AAUW-CA.ORG](http://AAUW-CA.ORG) for AAUW Education-Focused, Nonpartisan Guidance on Proposition 50

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS for  
THESE UPCOMING  
WEBINARS & EVENTS**

● **AAUW National Webinar - Defending Equity in Education: DEI Rollbacks & Curriculum Bans.** Oct 28, 2025 11:30am.  
Register [HERE](#)

● **AAUW California Webinar - Harnessing the Power of AI.** Nov 1, 2025 10:00-11:30am. Register [HERE](#)

● **AAUW Silicon Valley Branch Program - Higher Education at Risk - And How You Can Help Protect It - featuring Meghan Kissell, AAUW Senior Director of Policy.** Dec 3, 2025 4:00-5:00pm.  
Register [HERE](#).

● **AAUW California School Board Project Half Day Symposium -Saturday Jan 31, 2026 9:00am-12:00 noon via Zoom.**  
**SAVE THE DATE - registration link coming soon.**



## STEM CONFERENCE UPDATE

Our AAUW STEM Committee and High School Ambassador group are hard at work planning for our March 7, 2026 STEM Conference. Chris Laszcz-Davis has reached out to our local Rotaries to see if they will continue to support us with funding. Marie Bonilla and Stacia Cragholm have secured 14 workshop presenters and are working with them to get the specific information that we need in the next month. Sandy Fox-Sohner is finding our Opening Speaker. Laura Wittenberg is planning the parent program. Peggy Cabaniss has been updating Danielle Ginstro on Hospitality needs. Danielle is also helping organize our school and community outreach. Sheila Apte will be tracking our volunteers again this year. If you didn't get a chance to sign up on our early volunteer form, you can do so here. Renee Rosado is going to secure some of our closing raffle items. Denise Burian has been supporting the group as she recovers and Kim Lockett is working with the Ambassadors and keeping both groups, following our monthly action items. A big thank you to all of them for their hard work and support.

In our October High School Ambassador meeting, we had an activity focusing on public speaking. We have four lead ambassadors this year who will meet separately with Kim and Denise to plan the larger meeting for the other 15 ambassadors. They are impressive young ladies taking a large leadership role. In the public speaking activity, small groups gave either other two random topics and ambassadors came up with creative conspiracy theories while working on their eye contact and projecting their voice. The photos below show the groups in action.

### Kim Lockett, Co-Chair, STEM Conference



## BURCKHALTER FOOD & TOY DRIVE

Let's help Burckhalter families have food this month. Bring your nonperishable donations (see photo) to the November meeting or drop off food at Janette's house, 31 Kent Court Moraga. Grocery store gift cards are also appreciated.



The photo below, featuring Burckhalter library volunteer, Mary Walfoort, serves as a reminder to bring toys to the Holiday Parties. If you need suggestions of what types of toys are best to purchase, contact Janette Maher for ideas.



Janette Maher, Chair, Burckhalter

## BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

*continued from page 2*

### Branch Operations & Community Outreach Review

Did you know, yearly, our organization does an internal review of our Branch and Community Outreach financial books?

- Three members conduct the review.
  - It includes a review of bank reconciliations, treasurer's record of dues revenue, deposits, checks paid and comparison of actual income and expenses versus our budgeted amounts.
- The committee noted no discrepancies.

**Marcy Place, Secretary**

## MEET OUR 2025-2026 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

***Girls who lead promote inclusion,  
equity and acceptance***



**Introducing one of our  
High School Awardees!**

**EMMA WONG  
Miramonte High School  
Class of 2025**

Emma was an AAUW tech trek alumni and she helped with a virtual summer camp for a week. In her high school community, Emma was on the Cross Country and track team. She was the on-line editor-in-chief and the Editor at Large for *The Mirador*. She was president of the writing club. Emma was also the founder/editor-in-chief of re-imagine literary magazine. Three years ago, she and two friends decide to lead an independent research project to investigate levels of mental and academic burnout in her school community, with interesting results! They are now partnering with Stanford University's nonprofit Challenge Success to author a research paper with their findings.

Emma has also been active outside her school community. She has been involved with the Lamorinda Arts council and has been part of the poetry open mic. She saw that her peers were not involved, so found a way to involve them by creating a youth ambassador program. She also was a volunteer with the UCSF Walnut Creek sports medicine for young athletes which inspired her to pursue a pre-med path.

Many of the traits used to describe her are creative, confident, professional, respect for others, a listener, and consideration of others and willingness to create opportunities for the growth of others. She impressed the interview team with her involvement with the Lamorinda Arts council. She saw that her peers were not involved, so found a way to involve them by creating a youth ambassador program. She used her love of writing through Dear Asian youth, open mic, poetry, the school newspaper, and the Lamorinda Newspaper. She won a 2025 Poul Anderson writing contest sponsored by the Friends of the Orinda Library award for her poem "Letters to home." She is attending UCLA pursuing a pre-med path.

**Scholarship's November meeting is on Thursday, November 6th @1:30. We are meeting at Laura Wittenberg's home, 7 Mariposa Lane in Orinda. Orinda. Join us!**

**Bonnie Fend, Chair, Scholarship**

## DEI LENDING LIBRARY MAKING CULTURAL CONNECTIONS



The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion group began in Summer 2020 as a response to the murder of George Floyd. We started it as supporting Black Lives Matter movement. We knew we needed to learn about how prevalent racism still is in America, which we did through books and meeting to discuss them. We were shocked to learn of the daily lived experiences of black people in this country, still - today. Let alone taking a deep dive into the history of slavery, reconstruction, Jim Crow, civil rights movement, etc. and how that history affects people's current lives.

AAUW National also saw the need to educate all AAUW members. They created a DEI Toolkit and encouraged all Branches to present DEI related programs for our members, of which we have had several for OML. Our members joined the public policy team in the School Board Project to support a multicultural curriculum, prevent the banning of books, and ensure a safe school environment for all students regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, including all LGBTQ+ student population.

The current environment in our country demonstrates how much work we need to do to not just advance DEI, but to protect it, and safeguard the gains (or even get some back) we've made in the last 10, 20, 60 years. The DEI group will continue to educate our branch in many ways. One is through our lending library. Please check out books at our member meetings, and on the DEI page on our website, and ask about any you would like to read, as we have many more books available to you. The second is through educational programs at member meetings. DEI sponsors the January meeting so don't miss it. The third is through activism. Join us for our DEI meetings to hear more about it. The next one will be Wednesday, November 5 at 2 pm at the home of Joanie Jump. All members are welcome.

**Denise Burian, President & DEI Committee Member**

*YOUR SMILE IS EVERYTHING*



**MARY H. SMITH, D.D.S.**

*A Professional Corporation*

*Family & Cosmetic Dentistry*

*Come visit our state of the art office.*  
**1 Bates Blvd. #210, Orinda, 925.254.0824**  
[www.maryhsmithdds.com](http://www.maryhsmithdds.com)

## SUCCESSFUL TECH TREK FUNDRAISERS in OCTOBER

### The Walnut Creek Restaurant Walk Was a Big Success!

It was a very pleasant evening to eat, walk and talk with friends. We enjoyed great food from the 30 (!) participating restaurants, including garlic wings, burrata bruschetta, shepherd's pie, tacos, spicy chicken sliders and much more. The taste of sparkling wine was delicious! And it's always wonderful to end the evening with ice cream. This was a fun way to raise money for Tech Trek scholarships. Thanks to all of you who participated.

### Shred Day at 5A - 2025



Thirteen core members of the Tech Trek Committee worked at our 10th successful "Shred Papers On Site" event at 5A Rent-A-Space. In spite of increased expenses and multiple glitches, we pulled a rabbit out of a hat in the "11th hour," raising nearly \$2000 in funds. Several members who were out of town are also sending their follow up donations. After a slow start, at 11:01 a.m. cars starting rolling in to shred—five at a time. Multiple waves of five cars arrived; and they kept coming. We finished the last car at 12:01 when the truck shut down it's pulverizing grinders.

Thank you to the supportive crew at 5A Rent-A-Space. Manager George, Jay, and Bashar started at 7:00 a.m. to prep the tent, tables, and entry to the back lot. 5A supplied Starbucks coffee, chilled water, and giveaways—always with a smile.

Our long standing crew is the best. Most have worked shred day for 8-10 years. Jan Cushman, our talker, asks every driver for donations—the toughest job on the lot. Steve & Sandy Sohner and Mark Ginestro, a Tech Trek dad, worked the boxes. New shred team members, Joanie Jump and three more from the Ginestro Tech Trek family joined us. Danielle Ginestro worked as a runner with Tech Trekkers, Sadie and Anna handing red Shred Day receipt cards to the drivers. Joanie Jump worked as a runner for three full hours, handling that busy 11th hour on her own! (Kudos, Joanie! You were A.Mazing.) The bankers table included Christine Walwyn back at the cash box, Judy Helder keeping the list, and Bonnie Fend handling Square transactions with Peggy Cabaniss for extra support. Long time shred day volunteers Sharon Doi and Michael Swan have moved to the Northwest, but member Sharon still helped with key publicity online. Thanks, Sharon.

Finally, thanks to those community rabbits who popped out of the hat in the 11th hour and gave us another successful Shred Day at 5A. At 12:30, we exhaled. *Thank you for your support.*

**Lana Reichick, Shred Day Coordinator**



Thank you to everyone who supported the Shred Event- we made over \$1,900! And thank you to those who joined in the Walnut Creek Restaurant Walk – we made over \$430! And thank you for the additional donations many of you have made. Our budget is in good shape to send seven girls to camp this coming summer.

I attended a meeting last night with the other branch coordinators and our state Tech Trek director, Dr. Mary Isaac. Here are some highlights from the meeting:

- 780 girls registered for camps from 103 branches and 752 girls attended camp. Speculation is that some of the no-shows were related to immigration worries. There were 318 volunteer staff.
- Statewide, Tech Trek finished the camping summer with a surplus of about \$53,000. That money will be used this coming summer. Great to not have a deficit.
- Fees will stay the same for next year - \$1,200 for each girl for Camp Hopper at Santa Clara University. Good news! The tentative date for camp at Santa Clara in 2026 is July 5-11.
- All volunteers who help with the review of applications, interviews and selection of girls as well as volunteers at camp will be required to complete the conduct agreement again this coming year.
- The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) requiring us to declare the number of campers we want to send will be coming in early January. Denise will sign it.
- The girls' record of MMR vaccination entered into Camp-Doc will be mandatory again. Their record of covid vaccination or a declination also will be required again. The covid requirement comes from the universities.
- The state is working on a video aimed at informing teachers about the selection process. Apparently, some branches that approach middle schools every second or third year feel they need to provide consistent information for the teachers. We are fortunate to have only three schools to work with – some branches have up to 10-12 schools from which to draw girls.

**Jan Cushman, Chair, Tech Trek**

## KUDOS TO DIRECTORY ADVERTISING TEAM

## COLLEGE~UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM



In September, we told you we need new advertisers in our directory. Our branch dues (still just \$24/year) and our advertising sales are the only funds used to manage the business of our branch. Advertisers are essentially our sponsors, supporting the volunteer projects we do through our Community Outreach Fund: Burckhalter, Scholarships, STEM Conference, Tech Trek STEM Camp. Please support our advertisers and tell them, “Thank you for advertising in our AAUW directory.”

This article is to shout Kudos to all members of our ad sales team. Every year, they are diligent in getting the paperwork signed to renew directory ads. Their work is critical, and helps the branch avoid a dues increase. The ad team has been led by Pat Lopker for more than a decade, but this year she needed a leave from her organizational duties. Gail Chesler and Mary Leigh Miller led and held the sales team together. They were superb.

We thank our members who support OML with their business ads renewed: Diane Bell, K. deGroot, Soraya Gole-sorkhi, Lana Reichick. Some member advertisers also sell other ads. The team includes Stacia Cragholm, K. deGroot, Bonnie Fend, Bonnie Gallogly, Maryellen Judson, Pat Lopker, Marcy Place, Renée Rosado, and Lana Reichick. Four sold new ads. Some saved renewals when the advertiser intended to cancel. No small task. We thank all our team for their courage and commitment.

Think about how you can support our advertisers. Pick up bottles of award winning wine from Meadow View Winery to give to friends during the holidays. Join the Meadow View mailing list to buy at a discount directly from the winemaker. Need new flooring? Stop at Blodgett’s Flooring showroom in Lafayette. and tell them Stacia Cragholm in AAUW told you about them.

Two dentists have added their ads to the directory because Renee Rosado and Bonnie Gallogly had the courage to ask. If you know just one business owner who might join our list of sponsors, reach out to our committee. You don’t need two accounts to join our ad team. We need your help, one business at a time. Many thanks to the advertising team for a job well done.

Check out our current advertisers on the next page, and meet Melissa Watson, mater jeweler and owner of Ware Designs. **Also please note the ad for Mary H. Smith, DDS on page 6. Her ad in the directory was incorrectly represented.**

I encourage you to read the page 7 article in the October Triad about the C/U partnership with Saint Mary’s College (SMC). It is a great summary of the recent work Laura Wittenberg has been doing with the programs there. SMC was a partner many years ago but we let that partnership slide away. Laura saw the value in reigniting it and worked with SMC Admin., their women’s faculty group and other leaders to encourage SMC to “re-up” their partnership with AAUW. They did! Our Scholarship committee continues to provide scholarships to SMC students in their High Potential First Gen program. We’ve sent SMC students to the AAUW National NCCWSL program, a national leadership conference for women college students. AAUW National is asking Branches to encourage partner schools students to attend the 2026 event.

Laura has been instrumental in developing the Saint Mary’s College relationships over 8 years. Our scholarships and the STEM Conference contributes to our partnership and our impact and reputation on campus. She has supported leadership speaker events and mentored students. She, with OML members, have been instrumental in support of the “New Leadership Institute” program that is sponsored by the Women and Gender Studies Program. AAUW-OML Branch, the Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary, and the SMC campus’s Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion sponsored a one-day conference on “Women’s Leadership in the Current Political Moment,” hosted by NEW Leadership Institute at Saint Mary’s College. These programs have given students confidence to take on new challenges and leadership opportunities in the school and community. After the recent conference, the Office of Community Outreach from the Oakland Mayor’s office contacted us to discuss ways to collaborate with SMC and the Women and Gender Studies Program in support of female students of color. Now that is what partnership is all about. Developing leadership skills and advancing equity through DEI efforts are key parts of AAUW’s mission and priorities.

To ensure the ongoing support of these efforts, as President of OML, I will soon be asking the Board of Directors to officially authorize the College/ University Partnership Program as one of the National and State Priorities that our branch actively supports and making the chair of this program a Board position in our next bylaws revision in early 2026. Another option for the board is to include this program in our Branch Community Outreach Projects. Please contact Laura Wittenberg or me if you have any questions about this impactful program.

**Lana Reichick, Advertising Team Member**

**Denise Burian, President**

## SPECIAL INTEREST ACTIVITIES

**ANYONE WHO HAS READ  
THE BOOK**

**Friday, November 21 • 10 am**  
**Orinda Books**  
**276 Village Square, Orinda**

Book to discuss: *The Hazelbourne Ladies Motorcycle & Flying Club*, by Helen Simonson, fiction, 432 pages. In the summer after World War I has ended, a young woman travels to an English seaside resort town. She has been asked to care for an old family friend who is convalescing. This is a better occupation than the suggestion that she become a governess, especially since she has had experience helping to run an estate, when so many young British men joined the army. While in Hazelbourne, she befriends a group of thoroughly modern women. Not all is as it seems, with old secrets that come to light. For more information, contact Mary Mlynek, [ml\\_mlynek@yahoo.com](mailto:ml_mlynek@yahoo.com).

**EVENING SALON**

**Thursday, November 13 • 7 pm**  
**Home of Joan Schwimmer**  
**6 Netherton Ct., Moraga**

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. Contact Denise Burian, [denburian@gmail.com](mailto:denburian@gmail.com) or Marilyn Evans, [marilynbevans@att.net](mailto:marilynbevans@att.net) for details or to get on the email contact list. Reminders will be sent prior.

**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. Mary Leigh Miller will send out a notice a few days before to find out who is interested in playing. Contact her at [mlmiller602@gmail.com](mailto:mlmiller602@gmail.com) for more information.

**FINANCIALLY SAVVY WOMEN**

**Tuesday, November 4 • 1 pm**  
**Home of Peggy Cabaniss**  
**743 Crossbrook Drive, Moraga**

**Cash Flow** – How to estimate income and expenses, developing a plan about how you want to spend your money, establishing priorities for spending, case study for the Smith family. Our special interest group meets once a month on the first Tuesday of the month. We will cover different topics over a period of six months. Please join us even if you missed the first meeting. For more information and to join this group, call Peggy Cabaniss or contact her at [pcabaniss7@gmail.com](mailto:pcabaniss7@gmail.com).

**GREAT DECISIONS**

The books have been ordered. They will arrive in early January and our first Great Decision meeting will be February 4. Look for the list of topics in the next triad issue. For more information, contact Judy Helder: 925 98-0151 or [judyhelder@gmail.com](mailto:judyhelder@gmail.com).

**HIKING & BIKING**

Interested in exercising with a group of your AAUW pals? Join either the hiking group or cycling group for a once a month outing. Contact Marcy Place, [marcyplace1@gmail.com](mailto:marcyplace1@gmail.com) if interested, and watch for emails highlighting the month's outing.

Meet Melissa Watson. Melissa is the new owner and master jeweler at WARE DESIGN in Lafayette, (near Trader Joe's). She has worked with the former owner, Steven Ware for many years. Melissa is offering a 20% discount on anything in the store for the months of November and December. Stop by and check out the beautiful jewelry.

**2025-26 AAUW-OML  
SPONSORS/ ADVERTISERS**

\*AAUW members

**LAFAYETTE**

Asian Accents – Original Designs in Jewelry by K. de Groot\*  
Blodgett Floor Covering  
Creative Alterations – Josef Jamkochain  
DIABLO FOODS  
Persons Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery – Barbara Persons, MD FACS  
The Service Outlet – Marc Harvey  
Ware Designs – Fine Jewelry

**MORAGA**

AAAAA Rent-A-Space  
E's Auto Service & Repair, Inc  
Golden Palace Restaurant  
Laura L. Halvorsen, DDS, Dentistry  
National Association for Advancement of Female People – Diane Bell\*  
Town Bakery and Cafe  
ViaVienté – Lana Reichick\*

**ORINDA**

CASA ORINDA  
Mary H. Smith, DDS, Dentistry  
Meadow View Winery  
Shelby's Restaurant and Catering  
Soraya Golesorkhi\*

– Coldwell Banker Realty

**Our ADVERTISERS would  
love your SUPPORT.**

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



## NOVEMBER 2025 AT A GLANCE

### 1 WED – CRITICS CHOICE BOOK GROUP

Pass along your book.

### 3, 17 MON – BOCCE BALL

9:30 am – Moraga Commons bocce ball courts

*Read more on page 9.*

### 4 TUE – FINANCIALLY SAVVY WOMEN

1 pm – Home of Peggy Cabaniss

*Read more on page 9.*

### 5 – WED – DEI MEETING

2 pm – Home of Joanie Jump

*Read more on page 6.*

### 6 THU – SCHOLARSHIP MEETING

1:30 pm – Home of Laura Wittenberg

*Read more on page 6.*

### 10, 24 – MON – GOLF GROUP

Contact Jan Gee for time and venue, [jgee17@yahoo.com](mailto:jgee17@yahoo.com).

### 11 TUE – BOARD MEETING

1 pm – Orinda Community Church

### 13 THU – EVENING SALON

7 pm – Home of Joan Schwimmer

*Read more on page 9.*

### 18 TUE – GENERAL MEETING on NUTRITION

with speaker, Nutritionist, Emma Bishopp

9:30 am – Orinda Community Church

### 21 FRI – ANYONE WHO'S READ THE BOOK

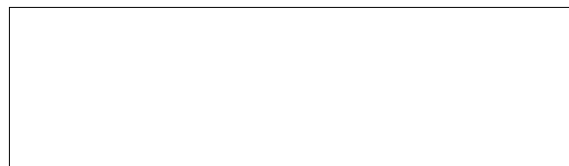
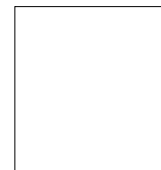
10 am – Orinda Books

*Read more on page 9.*

### 24 MON – DEADLINE for DECEMBER TRIAD

Send all articles to Mary Leigh Miller, [mlmiller602@gmail.com](mailto:mlmiller602@gmail.com)

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



## December 2025

*Look for more information in the December Triad*

### 6 SAT – HOLIDAY PARTY

6 pm – HOME of BARBARA BELL

### 9 TUE – HOLIDAY BRUNCH

10 am - 12 noon – HOME of PEGGY CABANISS

## BECOME A TWO MINUTE ACTIVIST

*Let AAUW help you Make Your Voice Heard.*

Join AAUW's Action Network by signing up for the TWO-MINUTE ACTIVIST. AAUW will send you emails periodically about upcoming legislation. When you click on the link they send a letter that 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/>

## 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.*