

THE



CONNECTION

WEST CONTRA COSTA BRANCH

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research
westcontracosta-ca.aauw.net<http://westcontracosta-ca.aauw.net>

VOLUME XXXIII

NEWSLETTER 4

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2017



NICOLE HOWELL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY OMBUDSMAN SERVICES, WILL SPEAK ON ELDER ABUSE AND HEALTH CARE ISSUES IN THE COUNTY

Saturday, January 21st, 10:00 a.m.
Christ Lutheran Church
780 Ashbury (at Stockton), El Cerrito

Come to hear Nicole Howell, Executive Director for Contra Costa County Ombudsman Services, speak on ensuring that the 9,000 residents of long-term care in the county have access to the highest level of care and respect and are able to live free of abuse and neglect.

The Editor

Table with 4 columns: President, Co-Membership VPs, Tech Trek Co-Chairs, Co-Secretaries, AAUW Funds VP, Program VP, Treasurer, Sunshine Chair, Hospitality Chair, Website Editor, Bylaws, Public Policy, Women's Issues Chair, Newsletter Editor, Community/Cultural Chair, Contra Costa College Relations, Publicity Chair, Directory Co-Chairs, Newsletter Circulation, Read Aloud Chair, Telephone Monitor, Facebook Monitor.



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CALIFORNIA SECTION
AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

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December 1, 2016

AAUW (American Association of University Women), West Contra Costa Branch
c/o Ms. Roberta Montgomery
2343 Alva Avenue
El Cerrito, CA 94530

Dear Roberta,

On behalf of the CA Section, American Chemical Society SEED Program, I would like to thank the AAUW, West Contra Costa Branch, for the generous \$100 donation. It will help to support a 2017 SEED student in this area.

It was so good to see old USDA friends again and meet some of the other AAUW branch members on 11/19/16. Thank you for having the idea to invite me in the first place. The icing on the cake was Valeria's presence. I love to hear stories like hers. So many young people have very difficult life situations. The AAUW scholarship and programs such as SEED help these students in a small way. Still, the burden of the big lift is on each student, who must want to recognize her/his goal and then achieve it.

Students in the economically disadvantaged school districts need these outside-the-classroom experiences more than ever today. These experiences expose the students to life possibilities that they never knew about, because their families generally do not know scientists and engineers with whom they can discuss science at the dinner table. To them, the USDA Albany facility and the Chevron Richmond Technology Center are big buildings, and they have no clue what transpires inside. They do not know that scientists and engineers in both research centers want to share their work with them. Luckily, the management at both labs sees SEED as a win-win situation.

To coordinate this SEED program, the second largest in the nation, I need outstanding partners; and I have them in the form of teachers, scientists, institutional management, site coordinators, and individual donors who help in all kinds of different ways. Thank you for wanting to be a part of the best program the ACS has. By the way, our CA Section 2015 SEED program recently won an ACS ChemLuminary award for being the Best SEED Program in the country for that year.

Sincerely yours,

Elaine Yamaguchi
Coordinator of the CA Section SEED program



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope that the holidays were good to you! We enjoyed another special Holiday Party hosted by **Betty Ann** and **Ray Barnett** in their beautiful home. The weather cleared enough for us to view a silhouette of San Francisco as we listened to the flute music played by **Ellen DeCarlo**. Her music included *Calming Classics*, *Winter Tunes on a Native American Style Flute*, uncommon European Christmas Carols from the 14th to 18th centuries, and a sing-along. We shared delicious treats and brought books and contributions for the **Read-Aloud** and **Grant Birthday Book Projects**. We also contributed small toiletries that we had collected on our travels. These were donated to the **Richmond Neighborhood House Senior Center** and the **West Contra Costa County Family Justice Center**.

November 19, 2016, Meeting: At our November 19th meeting, our member, **Dr. Elaine Yamaguchi**, told us about the California Division of the American Chemical Society's **Project SEED** (short for Summer Experience for the Economically Disadvantaged). Elaine has worked on **Project SEED** for over three decades. "It is the most satisfying thing I do as a chemist," she says. Please see her letter to us on page 2 above.

February 18, 2017, Meeting: Our February meeting will be at 10:00 AM at the **Christ Lutheran Church**, 780 Ashbury (at Stockton), El Cerrito. The speaker for that meeting will be announced.

Be sure to invite friends and others interested in **AAUW** to our meetings. Note if they join at the meeting, they get a reduced rate (\$60.50 verses \$85).

As we reflect on 2016 and look forward to 2017, we can be proud to be part of **AAUW**, an organization that advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research. As always, I enjoy working with such a special group of women.

Roberta Montgomery, President



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER!

Please welcome our new member, **Sarah Whitecotton**. **Sarah** is also a member of the Berkeley Branch. Her contact information is as follows:

Name: **Sarah Whitecotton**
 Address: 518 Curtis Street, Albany, CA 94706
 Phone: 510-528-8268
 Education: University of Oklahoma
 Email: sarahsart518@gmail.com

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Susan Duncan has a new email: sueiaiello@gmail.com.

Roberta Montgomery, President



AAUW-WCC ACTIVITIES FOR THE 2016 ELECTIONS

Roberta Montgomery, President of **AAUW-WCC**, asked me to summarize the work our members did before the 2016 election. The following are the activities in which our **AAUW-WCC** members participated:

- A) A few members registered for and took part in the **AAUW** webinar trainings to work in the **AAUW's Get Out The Voter (GOTV)** Program.
- B) Several members registered voters at **Contra Costa Community College** in San Pablo, CA (at least five times) in the Spring; we also registered voters (at least six times) at local stores in El Cerrito in September and October.
- C) We publicized in our newsletter, "**The AAUW Connection**," the **AAUW Action Funds' 2016 Voter Guides** for the candidates for President and Vice President.
- D) At our October meeting, one member distributed some copies of the CA **League of Women Voters'** positions on the different statewide propositions on the ballot. Another member, who had attended a **CARA (California Alliance for Retired Americans)** meeting, distributed pamphlets about **CARA's** positions on the California propositions that affect seniors.
- E) Individually, many of us:
 - 1) contributed financially to qualified women (and men) candidates;
 - 2) attended and/or helped put on candidate forums and proposition/measure discussions;
 - 3) distributed literature supporting our chosen candidates to households near us;
 - 4) placed signs showing our support for propositions or candidates of our choice;
 - 5) and VOTED or will vote!

Gloria Merrill, Membership VP



WOMEN'S MARCH IN OAKLAND – January 21, 2017

For those of us who are unable to join the **Million Women March** in Washington D.C., there will also be a march in Oakland, beginning at Ninth and Madison at 10 AM and ending at Frank Ogawa Plaza at 3 PM. Its purpose is to unify and empower everyone who stands for human rights, civil liberties, and social justice. For more information, see womensmarchbayarea.org.

The Editor



CULTURE CORNER for JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2017

Richmond Art Center — 2560 Barrett, Richmond

• **January 20 (opening): *Winter Exhibitions:***

- “21st Annual Art of Living Black”;
- “Martin Lipofsky: Molten Matter/Fantastic Form” ;
- “Teacher is Artist: Studio/A/C Faculty Show”
(Opening Reception Saturday, February 4, 2-5 PM)
Telephone: 620-6772 or see www.therac.org

NIAD Art Center — 551 23rd Avenue, Richmond

January 6-27:

- “**Creature Feature**” organized by John Casey & Sara Malpass
- “**Low Jinx**” by Joey Enos & Raquel Charles

Through January 31:

- **Exhibit** by NIAD artists Sara Malpass, Anne Meade, & Billy White
Hercules Public Library, 109 Civic Drive, Hercules

February 3-24:

- “**Igneous Intrusions**”; “**Let’s Talk About It Together**”; & “**Collograph**”
Telephone: 620-0290 or see www.niadart.org

Contra Costa Civic Theater — 951 Pomona (at Moeser), El Cerrito

Monday, January 30, 7:00-9:30 PM:

- “**The Understudy**” (by Theresa Rebeck)

February 17 through March 12:

- “**Well**” (by Lisa Kron)
Fridays & Saturdays, 8 PM, Sundays, 2 PM
Telephone: 524-9132 or see www.ccct.org

San Pablo Art Gallery — 13831 San Pablo Ave., Maple Hall, Civic Center, San Pablo

Through January 31:

- “**Satellite Exhibit**” (paper sculpture)
San Pablo Community Center, 2450 Road 20, San Pablo
- “**Pressing On**” (prints by Joan Finton, Maj-Britt Hilstrom, Katie Leong, Ellen Yamada Tzvetin)
Telephone: 882-8673 or see www.ci.san-pablo.ca.us

Cerrito Theater — (Rialto Cinemas), 10070 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito

January 4 through April 12: (National Theater Live from London)

- “**No Man’s Land**” (January 4, 9, 18, 30, 7 PM) (by Harold Pinter,
starring Ian McKellen & Patrick Stewart)
- “**Amadeus**” (February 6, 15, 22, 27, 7 PM) (by Peter Shaffer)
- “**Saint Joan**” (March 6, 15, 20, 22, 7 PM) (by George Bernard Shaw)
- “**Hedda Gabler**” (March 27, 29, April 3, 12, 7 PM) (by Henrik Ibsen)

Great Art on Screen:

- “**Revolution: New Art for a New World**” (March 16, 30 1 PM) (film on Russian Avant-Garde)
- “**Exhibition-I Claude Monet**” (March 16, 30 1 PM) (film on his life by Phil Grabsky)
Telephone: 273-9102, or see www.rialtocinemas.com

Richmond Museum of History — 400 Nevin Avenue, Richmond

January 14, 1 PM:

- “**North Richmond: Past, Present and Future**” (a documentary film by Doug Harris)
Telephone: 235-7387 (museum) or see www.richmondmuseumofhistory.org

Craneway Pavilion — 1414 Harbour Way South, Richmond

February 5-8:

- “**CODEX 2017**” International Book Fair
Telephone: 215-6000



JANUARY-FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES

Board Meeting: The next Board meeting will be on **Tuesday, January 10, 2017, at 2:00 PM**, at the home of **Maria LaForge** (527-4378), 240 Columbia Avenue, Kensington. The following Board meeting will be on **Tuesday, February 14, 2017, at 2:00 PM**, at a location to be determined at our January meeting. Please call **President Roberta Montgomery** (237-5293) for more information.

Afternoon Books: The group usually meets on the **fourth Monday** of each month at **1:30 PM**. Our next meeting will be on **Monday, January 23**, at the home of **Ida Michael** (524-7468), 268 Cambridge Avenue, Kensington, where we will discuss *The Quiet American* by Graham Greene. Our following meeting will be on **Monday, February 27**, at the home of **Sue Walenta** (526-4383), 737 Bay Tree Lane, El Cerrito, where we will discuss *My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You She's Sorry* by Fredrik Backman. All are welcome — please join us!

Daytime Bridge: This group usually meets at **1:00 p.m.** on the **third Friday** of the month. The next meeting will be on **Friday, January 20**, at the home of **Ellen Mills**, 1648 Oak View Avenue, Kensington. The following meeting will be on **Friday, February 17**, at the same location. All levels of players are welcome. Any bridge player who would like to join the group should contact **Ellen Mills** at 526-5815.

Global Interests Group: The group meets on the **second Monday of each month from 1:30 to 3:00 PM** at the home of **Ellen Mills** (526-5815), 1648 Oak View Avenue, Kensington. The group's next meeting will be on **Monday, January 9**, from **1:30 to 3:00 PM**, when **Barbara Vaughan**, who worked as a nurse for many years, will present a report on the **Zika Virus**. The following meeting will be on **Monday, February 13**, from **1:30 to 3:00 PM**. At the January meeting we will decide who will report in February. Newcomers are welcome to join. All those attending should come with a four- or five-minute presentation on some recent global event to share with other attendees during the first part of the meeting. For further information, if you have any questions, or if you wish to bring a guest, please contact the group's coordinator, **Marty Sarbey de Souto** at 925-304-2022 or josemarty@yahoo.com.

Get Together for Lunch Group: The next meeting of this group will be on **Monday, January 16**, at **12:00 Noon**, at **Ajanta**, 1888 Solano Avenue, Berkeley. The following meeting will be on **Monday, February 20**, at **12:00 Noon**, at **Inn Kensington Restaurant**, 293 Arlington Avenue, Kensington. If you are able to join us, please contact **Maria LaForge** (527-4378) or email her at d.laforge@sbcglobal.net so we can get an appropriate count for our lunch reservation.



The kick-off meeting for our 2017 Tech Trek Program is **Thursday, January 19, at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Marsha Weintraub (1080 Park Hills Rd., Berkeley)**. Consider joining the Team. We can use more volunteers to work with the West County schools on the nomination, selection and processing of the seventh grade girls we will sponsor to attend the **2017 Tech Trek Science and Math Camp at Sonoma State University June 18-24**. Let us know if you want to work on the **Tech Trek** selection team. We also provide a camper orientation/reception at the EC Denny's (**June 3**) and the camper follow-up presentations at the September Meeting.

Tech Trek continues to be a major program for our branch. This year we will again be sponsoring **nine girls** from the eight WCCUSD Middle Schools (Crespi, DeJean, Helms, Hercules, Korematsu, Pinole, Mira Vista and Stewart). Our Branch works closely with the middle school math and science teachers to identify seventh grade girls who will benefit from the **Tech Trek** experience. Each nominated girl completes an application, writes an essay and is interviewed with a parent. For the selected girls, the **Tech Trek Science and Math Camp** is often a life-changing experience.

In addition to selecting the girls, raising the money to send them to camp is very challenging. Our fundraising is year-round. For 2017, the amount needed for each **Tech Trek** camper we sponsor was increased by \$100. The amount is now **\$1,000**, including the \$50 camper commitment fee. Because of the difficulty in getting regular donations from businesses, we depend more on the generosity of our branch members and family/friends. Special thanks go to last year's Branch donors: **Vivian Coe, Lita Fries, Mimi Fruhan, Diane Ichiyasu, Carolyn Linnard, Marion McIntire, Ellen Mills, Patricia Player, Judy Sam, Marianne Selph** and **Virginia Summerer**.

Donations to our **Tech Trek** Program of any amount are always welcome and fully tax-deductible. **Make your check payable to AAUW** and then either mail it to **AAUW WCC Branch, PO Box 501, El Cerrito, CA 94530**, or bring it to our January 21 or February 18 meeting. Note that at this time donations should not be made to **Tech Trek** online, either through the **MPP** or the **AAUW** website, because there currently is no way online to designate **WCC Tech Trek** for your donation.

Thanks in advance for your support.

Roberta Montgomery and **Marsha Weintraub**, Tech Trek Co-Coordinators

Tell Congress: Don't Repeal the ACA!!!

You've likely heard the news: Congress is rushing to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA) with no plan for a replacement and no guarantee that people will keep access to quality, affordable health insurance moving forward. This extreme action could eliminate current coverage for *millions* of people, wipe out anti-discrimination laws protecting women's health care, and throw the U.S. health care system into disarray. Congress must act to protect our health care, not damage it.

Tell Congress now: don't deny health care to millions of Americans.

AAUW believes that everyone is entitled to high-quality, affordable, and accessible health care. The ACA is by no means perfect. But Congress cannot repeal the law without immediately jeopardizing the health care we all rely on – regardless of whether a replacement is ever considered, something for which there is currently no guarantee. Attempts to repeal the ACA specifically put women's access to health care in danger and threaten our economic security. That's because a repeal of the ACA would take us back to time when women were charged more for health insurance than men, when health insurance often failed to cover essential preventive care, and when many women couldn't find affordable health coverage in the individual market. And with Congress' rumored efforts to also defund Planned Parenthood health centers, where millions of us seek preventive care, and roll back state-based Medicaid expansions, Americans are looking at dire consequences to their health and to their wallets. **Congress needs to hear from you today: protect our health care, protect women from discrimination, don't repeal the Affordable Care Act.**