

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

VOLUME XXXII

NEWSLETTER 3

JANAURY/FEBRUARY 2015



JOIN US FOR OUR FEBRUARY MEETING

Confessions of a Health Care Investigator

Saturday, FEBRUARY 21ST 10:00 a.m.

Christ Lutheran Church

780 Ashbury (at Stockton), El Cerrito

Our February meeting is titled "Confessions of a Health Care Investigator". We will hear from Eileen Carabine who enforces regulations for the State of California Public Health, Licensing and Certification Division, She has almost 20 years experience in this field and 20 more years nursing in intensive care and emergency rooms. In addition to hearing about the highs and lows of life in the hospital, Eileen will discuss why many of us will eventually move to assisted living. You'll all get to know Eileen better when you hear her speak at our meeting on February 21.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

January, 2015, is the beginning of a new year and a good time to remember who we are and what we do. I found this write-up appropriate. It's at <http://www.aauw.org/who-we-are/>.

Our Mission

To advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) is the nation's leading voice promoting equity and education for women and girls. Since our founding in 1881, AAUW members have examined and taken positions on the fundamental issues of the day — educational, social, economic, and political.

Our Issues

What started with 17 like-minded women has grown into a powerful network that has influenced — and at times shaped — the debate over equity in education.

AAUW member and biomedical engineer Tamara Brown founded Tech Savvy, a daylong conference designed to attract girls to careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

We are all the faces of pay equity; we all have a story about the pay gap. AAUW is lifting up those stories and leading the fight to end the wage gap once and for all.

Our nonpartisan, nonprofit organization has awarded more than 4.3-million dollars in fellowships and grants to support 278 women in their professional and academic careers

Cheers to an inclusive Violence against Women Reauthorization Act.

Let's continue the good work for 2015.

Ellen Mills, President



JANUARY MEETING REPORT:

Those of us who attended the first meeting of 2014 were in for a treat as Sylvia Falcon, President of El Cerrito Garden Club, gave us hints to make us all better gardeners, even if it nothing more than starting with a 4-inch pot in a sunny window somewhere.

Contrary to many of our pre-conceived ideas that a garden club just helps its members to grow more beautiful blooms, we learned that it's really to help us save the environment.

Their members take a pledge to “become caretakers of our air, water, forests, land, and wildlife” – a pretty tall order.

Sylvia stressed the three requirements for healthy gardens: water, fertilizer, and sunshine. She advised us to start mulching, if we are not already doing so and to learn how to save and use recycled water in our gardens. She reminded us that different plants are appropriate for different zones and that we are in zone 10. She encouraged us to plant in raised bins; it saves your back and allows you to do deep watering in a limited area. She urged us to try growing dry farm tomatoes and when we pressed her to name her favorite nursery she mentioned several but admitted she especially loved Annie's Annuals in Richmond. To see the lovely El Cerrito Garden Club website or contact Sylvia, try www.elcerritogardenclub.org. Happy gardening folks!

Marty Sarbey de Souto, Co-Program Vice President



Broken arm

News from our editor

Sue Walenta, our newsletter editor, has a broken arm, seven broken ribs and now a bad cold and cough! Needless to say, she is spending time at home recuperating and trying not to cough too much.



Be sure to visit our **WCC AAUW** Branch web site, westcontracosta-ca.aauw.net. Special thanks go to our Web Master, **Barbara Vaughan**

GARAGE SALE



Start saving your valuables now for our annual Garage Sale on Saturday, May 2, 2015

We focus on jewelry, we accept much more

Suggested Items to Donate

Costume jewelry, accessories, scarfs, purses and belts, household items, vases, bookends, knick-knacks, bedding, fabrics and yarn, notions like trims, buttons, board games, children toys, gardening supplies, pots...

The garage sale will be held at Vivian Coe's home 413 Balra, El Cerrito. You may bring items there before April 1, and after April 24.

Please call first – 525-4601

Our 2014 garage sale was a tremendous success.
Everyone helped to make it happen. Let's do it again!

Note: If you know of a strong young man who can help us, please let Vivian know. This is a paying position!



CULTURE CORNER for JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2015

by Betty Ann Barnett

NIAD Art Center
551 33rd Ave
tel: 620-0290
niadart.org
check website for hours

January 23-February 21
"There Goes the Bride"
Masquers Playhouse,
105 Park Place
Tel: 232-3888

Richmond Art Center
Artist talks, Feb. 7, 14, noon
Open Studio, March 7, 11 AM—5 PM
2560 Barrett, Richmond tel:620-6772

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Jan. 31-March 1
A Satellite Exhibit from Richmond Art Center
"The Art of Living Black"
San Pablo Art Gallery
Maple Hall, Bldg 4
14831 San Pablo Ave.
San Pablo, Tel: 882-8673

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Richmond Museum of History
400 Nevin Ave
tel: 235-7387
check for open hours



JANUARY AND FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES

Board Meeting: The next Board meeting will be on **Tuesday, February 10, 2015** at **2 PM**, at the home of **Judy Sam** (527-1661), 8821 Terrace Drive, El Cerrito. The following Board meeting will be on **Tuesday, March 10, 2015**, at **2 PM**, at a location to be determined. Please call **President Ellen Mills** (526-5815) for more information.

Drama Exchange Group: The Drama Exchange Group meets on the **second Wednesday of each month**, at **1:00 PM**, at the home of **Lorene Mayer** (524-2258), 951 Galvin Drive, El Cerrito. The next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, February 11**. The play to be read will be announced. If you plan to attend either meeting, please contact Lorene to confirm.

Morning Books: The group meets on the **third Tuesday of the month** at **10:00 AM**, at **Christ Lutheran Church**, 740 Ashbury, El Cerrito. Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday, February 16**. Review a mini book or read a favorite poem! The following meeting will be on **Tuesday, March 16**. We welcome new members. For more information regarding the books to be reviewed and discussed, contact **Lorene Mayer** (524-2258) or **Janet Mengle** (232-2676).

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 26**, at the home of **Maria LaForge** (527-4378) 240 Columbia Avenue, Kensington, where we will discuss *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown. The following meeting will be on **Monday, February 23**, at the home of **Yvonne Steffen**, (237-0250) 1838 Arlington Blvd., El Cerrito where we will discuss *The Bully Pulpit* by Doris Kearns Goodwin. All are welcome--please join us!

Daytime Bridge: This group usually meets from **1:00 to 4:00 PM** on the **third Friday** of the month. The next meeting will be on **Friday, February 20**, at the home of **Ellen Mills** (526-5815), 1648 Oak View Avenue, Kensington. The following meeting will be on **Friday, March 20**, 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.

Armchair Travel Series: Laura and Tony Bushman (558-8092) are holding a series of Armchair Travel series, which are open to all. Please contact the Bushmans for more information regarding their series.

MARIAN SAUER
Rest in Peace

Our long time member Marian Sauer passed away on Dec, 23, 2014. Her service was held on what would have been her 95th birthday, Jan 17, 2015. It was a celebration of her remarkable life!

Marian was a lifelong resident of Richmond, graduated from Richmond High School in 1937 and San Francisco State University in 1941 with a teaching credential. Marian taught music, science and art in the Orinda schools and then transferred to the Richmond school system where she taught music until 1955, when she took time off to care for her family before returning in 1963 to the elementary schools .She was a pioneer in the development of Special Education programs.

After 35 years in education she retired and became more active in community and civic organizations all of whom greatly benefitted from her unusual insight, plans and pragmatic ideas which she executed with resolve and perseverance!

Marian's musical ability was phenomenal. She played the piano, her lifelong friend Leona and sometimes another man formed a trio named MLP which provided entertainment for many organizations. Their CDs which they sold provided funds to help in the restoration of the Red Oak Victory, the last remaining ship still intact which was built in Kaiser Shipyard during World War II. Marian shared much of her life experiences with me, one of which was to teach students whose parents worked in the shipyard during World War II.

Marian Sauer lived her life to the fullest, loved adventure and children of all kinds.

INTRODUCTION TO NEW MEMBER

Eileen Carabine was born and raised in the Bronx, graduated from San Francisco State College in 1973. She worked in various hospitals in the bay area in intensive care units, emergency rooms and as a home health nurse.

Eileen has one granddaughter born Nov. 7, 2014 and loves her dearly.

She is currently working for the State of California public Health, Licensing and Certification Division since 1995 enforcing both State and Federal regulations especially in nursing homes

Urge Congress to Reform our Broken Immigration System Now

There is rare bipartisan consensus on one thing: America's immigration system is broken. No one believes the current system is a good thing for our country, economy, or human rights.

It is estimated that 11 million people are living in the shadows without documentation of legal status. These workers often labor in unsafe working conditions and in extreme cases, are subjected to human trafficking and forced labor. This cannot continue.

Take action below: Urge your members of Congress to update our broken immigration system!

Updates to the immigration system should improve access to education, protect civil rights, and create a fair and just path to legal status. In June 2013, the Senate passed an immigration reform bill that—while not perfect—goes a long way to meet these goals. The Senate bill would

- Create a STEM education fund to help move women and girls into STEM fields;
- Enact the DREAM Act. Increasing access to higher education is imperative for individual financial security and our nation’s economic recovery;
- Provide a fair and just path to legal status for the estimated 11 million undocumented immigrants living in this country; and
- Improve the visa process to protect immigrant victims of domestic violence.

The 2013 Senate-passed bill was a good model that the 114th Congress can strive to emulate. We cannot let the search for a “perfect bill” get in the way of the good solution to our broken immigration system. The lives of millions of undocumented immigrants and the strength of our nation's economy depend on it. women’s equality and opportunity and on young students’ reading.

AAUW ACTION NETWORK
