

  
**THE CONNECTION**  
 of California

**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)<<http://westcontracosta-ca.aauw.net>>

VOLUME XXXIII

NEWSLETTER 5

MARCH 2017



**AMEENA JANDALI, AN INSTRUCTOR AT CITY COLLEGE OF SAN FRANCISCO AND A FOUNDING MEMBER AND CONTENT DIRECTOR OF THE ISLAMIC NETWORKS GROUP, WILL SPEAK ON ISLAM**

*Saturday, March 18th, 10:00 a.m.*

*Christ Lutheran Church*

*780 Ashbury (at Stockton), El Cerrito*

Come to hear **Ameena Jandali**, who is an instructor at **San Francisco City College** (CCSF) and a founding member and content director of the **Islamic Networks Group** (ING). She co-designs and develops ING's educational presentations and cultural competency seminars. She has delivered hundreds of presentations in schools, colleges, universities, churches, and other venues on Islam and related subjects. She has also appeared on many news outlets speaking on issues relating to American Muslims. She currently team-teaches a class on Islam at CCSF. She received her M.A. in Near Eastern Studies from the University of California, Berkeley, and B.A. in History from the University of Illinois. **Ameena Jandali** represents the Muslim religion.

**The Editor**

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## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

March is **Women's History Month**, and we remember the women who inspired us to become all that we are. But we must also look to the present and to the future to the women we are inspiring and will inspire. It is important that we continue the legacy that we have inherited and make it better. And that is one reason why I am part of **AAUW**.

**March 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting:** We continue with our exciting program. At our **March 18<sup>th</sup>** meeting, we will learn about Islam. **Ameena Jandali** of the **Islamic Network Group** will be our speaker. Invite friends and others interested in **AAUW** to the meeting. Note that anyone who joins now will remain a member through June 30, 2018.

**WCC Branch Information Pamphlet and AAUW Button:** **Gloria Merrill** and **Jackie Title** distributed our new Branch Information Pamphlet with a detachable application form at the February meeting. It will be great to have this pamphlet available to give to interested people and to promote our branch. Make sure you carry one or two with you to give out. I also have AAUW 1 ¾" round buttons that can prompt enquiries. Let me know if you want one.

**TECH TREK:** Work is progressing on the selection of our nine **Tech Trek** girls. Our **Tech Trek** team members (**Sally Dunham**, **Karen Euston**, **Mimi Fruehan**, **Mary Ghidella**, **Christine Hills**, **Jackie Title**, **Sharon Trott**, and **Marsha Weintraub**) are contacting the West County Middle Schools, getting teacher nominations, reviewing applications, and setting up interviews.

**CCC Scholarship:** As **Joyce Muse** and **Seti Sidharta** review applications for the selection of our **2017 Mary Ellen Bales AAUW Scholarship** recipient, we are soliciting donations for 2018. We hope with the generous contributions of our members to provide two scholarships next year.

**Membership Annual Renewal:** It's time to pay your dues again for next year (**July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018**). Consider giving an extra contribution. Our regular expenses far exceed our dues income.

Thanks for all your support. I enjoy working with such special women.

**Roberta Montgomery, President**

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## **WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER!**

Please welcome our new member, **Sarah Miyazaki**. **Sarah** is also a member of the Berkeley Branch; she is currently their President. Her contact information is as follows:

Name: **Sarah Miyazaki**  
 Address: 596 Santa Barbara Road, Berkeley, CA 94707  
 Phone: 510-524-1416  
 Education: Stanford  
 Email: sakm@nothingbutnet.net

## **DIRECTORY UPDATES**

**Helen Benjamin** retired at the end of last year from her job as chancellor of the Contra Costa Community College District. She is moving to Dallas to be closer to her parents who need her assistance. Her new email address is: hbenjamin1@yahoo.com

**\*\*NOTE:** If you update your contact information in the AAUW Member Services Database (MSD), you also need to inform the branch (email to Sue Walenta or a Membership Co VP).

There is no automatic way to inform the branch of a change to the MSD.

**Roberta Montgomery, President**

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## **IT IS TIME TO BECOME AN AAUW ACTIVIST!**

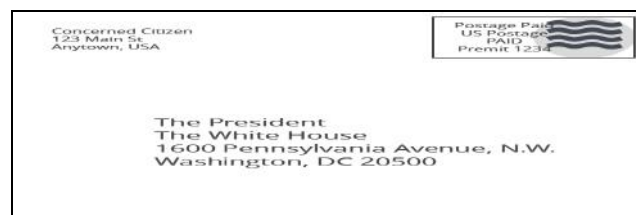
The outcome of the November election and subsequent events have raised concerns in organizations that focus on women's issues, including **AAUW** and its coalition partners in California, the **California Coalition for Reproductive Freedom**, and **Stronger California**. Finding appropriate ways to express the concerns of members is a challenge. We see issues that we thought to be “settled” now have become front-page news, such as access to health care for people at all income levels, forthcoming challenges to *Roe v. Wade*, and freedom to make personal reproductive choices. “Rights” that women have taken for granted are now at risk!

**AAUW** is a non-partisan organization engaging in issue-based advocacy. Our messages cannot identify with political parties, but this does not mean that we must remain silent when key components of our mission are being challenged. In fact, we *must* speak up. As **Lisa Maatz**, **AAUW** VP for Governmental Affairs has stated, “**AAUW** will speak truth to power,” and it has already made strong statements as candidates for cabinet posts are being vetted by Congress. It is critical that **AAUW** members and all citizens concerned with equity be knowledgeable and aware of the current status of important issues, and take action. Women's rights are human rights!

What should you do as an **AAUW** member? First, become informed. Use the **AAUW** website to educate yourself on issues. Check your facts in these days of “fake news” messages being planted. **AAUW** staff is closely monitoring actions contemplated by the incoming administration and Congress, and posting information on the website. Next, get connected to **AAUW**'s national Two - Minute Activist network. If you haven't already, take advantage of the easiest way to express advocacy: sign up for **AAUW** Action Alerts. Go to the national website, <http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/two-minute-activist/> and sign up. **AAUW** will notify us when it is time to make contact with our elected officials. When you use Two-Minute activist, you are automatically connected with the office of your elected Member of Congress or U.S. Senator. Make yourself heard! These elected officials have offices in their districts – even consider making a visit there to express your views!

When you are signed up on national's Two-Minute Activist, you are automatically signed up for **AAUW-CA** Action Alerts. As this legislative session moves forward you will also be receiving messages about taking action on CA bills and other actions that might require immediate responses from members. Change only takes place when we collectively demand it...Act now!

AAUW California: <http://www.aauw-ca.org>



## **MESSAGE FROM THE WOMEN'S MARCH IN OAKLAND**

Send postcards with your concerns to the White House on March 15th:  
[www.idesoftrump.com](http://www.idesoftrump.com).

**Marilynn Bracelin**



**CULTURE CORNER for MARCH 2017**  
**by Betty Ann Barnett and Barbara Miller**

**Richmond Art Center** — 2560 Barrett, Richmond

•**Tuesday, March 21: Spring Exhibitions:**

- “**Artist’s Panel: Marking Space**” (opening reception Saturday, April 8, 2-4 PM);
- “**Mapping the Uncharted**” ;
- “**West Contra Costa Unified School District Student Art Show**”  
(Tuesday-Saturday, 10 AM-5 PM; Free admission)  
Telephone: 620-6772 or see [www.therac.org](http://www.therac.org)

**NIAD Art Center** — 551 23rd Avenue, Richmond

**March 3-31:**

- “**Shapeshifting Superheavies**”  
(Reception Saturday, March 11, 1-4 PM)  
Telephone: 620-0290 or see [www.niadart.org](http://www.niadart.org)

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

**Through March 12:**

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

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

**March 4 –April 2:**

- “**City Employees’ Talent Abounds**” (artwork by San Pablo City employees)  
San Pablo Community Center, 2450 Road 20, San Pablo  
(reception March 4, 1-3 PM)  
Telephone: 882-8673 or see [www.ci.san-pablo.ca.us](http://www.ci.san-pablo.ca.us)

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

**Through April 12: (National Theater Live from London)**

“**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)

**Spring-Summer Series: (NTL. Series tickets on sale now)**

“**Twelfth Night**” (by William Shakespeare). Directed by Simon Godwin

“**Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead**” (by Tom Stoppard)

Directed by David Leveaux. Starring Daniel Radcliffe and Joshua McGuire

“**Obsession**” a new stage adaptation of Visconti’s masterful film

Directed by Ivo van Hove. Starring Jude Law

“**Peter Pan**” (by J.M. Barrie). Directed by Sally Cookson

“**Salome**”. Adapted and directed by Yael Farber

“**Angels in America Part One: Millennium Approaches**” (by Tony Kushner).

Directed by Marianne Elliott.

Starring Andrew Garfield, Nathan Lane, James McArdle and Russell Tovey “**Angels in**

“**America Part Two: Perestroika**” (by Tony Kushner).

Directed by Marianne Elliott

Starring Andrew Garfield, Nathan Lane, James McArdle and Russell Tovey

**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](http://www.rialtocinemas.com)

**Richmond Museum of History** — 400 Nevin Avenue, Richmond

**Opening March 11: “How World War I Changed Richmond”**

**March 16: “Home Front Film Festival 2017: Bedknobs and Broomsticks”** (1971)

Telephone: 235-7387 (museum) or see [www.richmondmuseumofhistory.org](http://www.richmondmuseumofhistory.org)

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## CULTURE CORNER for MARCH 2017

(continued from previous page)

**Rosie the Riveter WW II Home Front National Historic Park Visitor Education Center — 1414 Harbour**

Way South, Suite 3000, Richmond

**March 4, 7, 9, 14, 18, 21, 2-3pm: “Of Lost Conversations”**

Park Ranger Betty Soskin discusses her experience as a young African-American woman during WWII.

**March 11, 16, 23, 11am-12pm: “Of Lost Conversations”**

**March 8, 29, April 5, 2:30-3:30pm: “What We Wore During the War”**

“leather, wool, and nylon were needed by our fighting forces, so we made do on the Home Front. “

**March 9, 16, 23, 30, April 4, 2:00-2:45pm: “Blossoms and Thorns”**

about Richmond’s pre-and post-war community of Japanese flower growers and their experiences in a WW II internment camp.

**March 17, 12:30-1:00pm: “Rationing on the Home Front”**

**March 25, 3:30-4:30pm: “Build ‘Em by the Mile and Cut ‘Em Off by the Yard”**

The life of shipbuilder Henry J. Kaiser, industrialist and friend to labor

**March 25, 11am-12”30pm :”Stories of the Greatest Generation”**

The story of the WW II generation told through the letters they wrote.

**March 26, 11am-12”30pm : “A Future Day of Radiant Peace”**

Mills College graduate Catherine Ladnier’s play about the unjust imprisonment of Mills Japanese students and their families. Reservations required.

Telephone: 232-5050 or <http://www.nps.gov/rori/planyourvisit/calendar.htm>

### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2017!

**\*\*\* Please Pay Your 2017-2018 Membership Dues by June 1 \*\*\***

Regular members: **\$85** (AAUW National \$49\*, State \$20, Branch \$16);

Paid Life members: **\$36** (\$20 State, \$16 Branch);

50-year members pay NO dues

\*Note \$46 of National Dues is tax deductible

Please make your check payable to **AAUW WCC**, and mail it to:

AAUW WCC, PO Box 501, El Cerrito, CA 94530, with the form below **if** there are changes.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street/Apt \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/Home \_\_\_\_\_ /Work \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday month \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to receive the newsletter by e-mail

I wish to receive a hard copy of the newsletter by US mail

In addition to my dues, I am enclosing a contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to help us meet the expenses our annual dues no longer cover and further the good work of our Branch



## MARCH ACTIVITIES

**Board Meeting:** The next Board meeting will be on **Tuesday, March 14, 2017, at 2:00 PM**, at the home of **Marsha Weintraub** (644-0320), 1080 Park Hills Road, Berkeley. 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, March 27**, at the home of **Winnie Sayre** (524-8954), 739 Bay Tree Lane, El Cerrito, where we will discuss *Commonwealth* by Ann Patchett. Our following meeting will be on **Monday, April 24**, at the home of **Sarah Whitecotton** (528-8268) where we will discuss *Hillbilly Elegy* by J.D. Vance. 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, March 17**, at the home of **Ellen Mills**, 1648 Oak View Avenue, Kensington. The following meeting will be on **Friday, April 21**, 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, March 13**, from **1:30 to 3:00 PM**. The subject will be "Update on What's Happening in South America." The presenter will be **Marty Sorbey de Souto** (925-304-2022). **Marty** speaks Spanish, and her husband is from Argentina. During her 50-year career in the travel/tourism industry, **Marty** has traveled and led tours in South America for many years. She is the founder and former chair of the Travel/Tourism Program at Berkeley City College. Her latest book, "*Travel Career Development*," has just come off the press. Readers who wish to join the group are very welcome and should call **Ellen** or **Marty** to let them know that you are coming. 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](mailto:josemarty@yahoo.com).

**Get Together for Lunch Group:** The next meeting of this group will be on **Monday, March 20**, at **12:00 Noon**, at **Café Leila**, 1724 San Pablo Avenue, Berkeley. If you are able to join us, please contact **Maria LaForge** (527-4378) or email her at [d.laforge@sbcglobal.net](mailto:d.laforge@sbcglobal.net) so we can get an appropriate count for our lunch reservation.

The Berkeley Branch of the AAUW is sponsoring a "***Sisters in Crime***" meeting on **Saturday, March 25, 2017, from 10 AM to 12 Noon**, at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley 94707. This meeting will feature local mystery writers (mostly, but not necessarily all women), who will talk about their books and offer copies for sale.

## OUTREACH TO LOCAL TITLE IX COORDINATORS

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 requires that every school have at least one employee responsible for coordinating the school's compliance with the law. This person is sometimes referred to as the **Title IX Coordinator**. The U.S. Department of Education provides [resources to help coordinators](#) understand the full scope of their jobs, but not all coordinators know about these tools. By making outreach to **West Contra Costa Unified** and **Contra Costa College Title IX Coordinators**, our Branch can help spread the word about these valuable resources. Each meeting with a **Title IX Coordinator** represents a step forward in **AAUW's** mission to insure that schools are free from sex discrimination. Let me know if you are interested in working with me on this program.

**Roberta Montgomery, President**



**MARY ELLEN BALES AAUW SCHOLARSHIP**

Once again we are seeking contributions for our Branch-sponsored **Mary Ellen Bales AAUW Scholarship at Contra Costa College**. Your continued support of this worthwhile endeavor is much appreciated. Each year the West Contra Costa Branch provides a \$1,500 scholarship to a woman from the Center for Science Excellence to help her continue her education at a four-year college or university.

Our scholarship is named for **Mary Ellen Bales**. She was an early long-time Branch member, accomplished pianist, and spouse of a **Contra Costa College** professor. She initiated our relationship with the college by encouraging us to help raise money to fund tickets for student winners to attend the annual Scholarship Awards Banquet. Our Branch eventually decided to establish a scholarship fund in her honor.

**Joyce Muse** is our contact with the **Contra Costa College Foundation**. She works closely with branch member **Seti Sidharta**, the **Director** of the **Center for Science Excellence**, to identify women candidates who have shown particular aptitude in math or science while studying at the college. They will introduce our 2017 scholarship recipient at the Installation Luncheon on May 20 at La Strada Restaurant.

The check for your tax-deductible donation should be made payable to the **Contra Costa College Foundation**, with **Mary Ellen Bales AAUW Scholarship Fund** on the memo line. Then either mail the check to AAUW WCC Branch, PO Box 501, El Cerrito, CA 94530 or give it to me at our meeting on March 18. Thank you for your support!

**Roberta Montgomery, President**

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**JOIN US FOR OUR INSTALLATION LUNCHEON AND MEET OUR  
CONTRA COSTA COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT!**

*Saturday, May 20th, 2017, 11:30 a.m.*

**La Strada Italian Restaurant**

**2215 Church Lane (at San Pablo Avenue), San Pablo**

Be sure to attend our final meeting of the year and installation of officers. **Joyce Muse** and **Seti Sidharta** will introduce the recipient of our **Contra Costa College Mary Ellen Bales AAUW Scholarship**. There are four menu choices: **Pollo Marsala** (chicken breast sautéed with Marsala wine and mushrooms), **Red Snapper** (fish sautéed with white wine, lemon, butter, capers, fresh tomatoes, and spring onions), **Ravioli alla Ragu** (beef ravioli in a meat sauce), and **vegetarian**. The chicken and fish entrees are served with polenta and vegetables. The \$28 cost (same as last year) includes bread, green salad, dessert, soft drinks, coffee, tea, tax, and tip. Please complete the reservation form below, indicating the number in your party (bring your friends!), your entrée choice, and send your check for **\$28** per person (payable to **AAUW WCC**) to AAUW WCC, P. O. Box 501, El Cerrito, CA 94530. Our reservation deadline is **Tuesday, May 16**. Note the reservation can also be turned in at our meetings on March 18 and April 15.

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**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **No. in party** \_\_\_\_\_

**Luncheon choice(s):**

**Pollo Marsala** \_\_\_\_\_ **Red Snapper** \_\_\_\_\_ **Ravioli alla Ragu** \_\_\_\_\_ **Vegetarian** \_\_\_\_\_

**Reservation deadline is Tuesday, May 16**

mail FORM and CHECK, payable to **AAUW WCC**, to: AAUW WCC Branch  
P.O. Box 501  
El Cerrito, CA 94530

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**PUBLIC POLICY POSTINGS**

**April 4, 2017** is **Equal Pay Day** -- a day that highlights pay equity issues. Women are STILL fighting for equal pay for equal work. This date symbolizes how far into 2017 women must work to earn what men earned in 2016. For Asian American women the equal pay date is **March 7**; for African American women it is **July 31**; for Native American women it is **September 25**; and for Latin American women it is **November 2!**

Many people think the pay equity gap has been solved, but it hasn't. Much of it is connected to education and economics. At our February meeting, members received postcards to write to their legislators about their concerns. I will have postcards and names/addresses of our Federal legislators at the March meeting with talking points for members to continue the writing campaign. Letters, postcards, e-mails, and phone calls make a difference, so come to our March meeting prepared to contact your legislators with your concerns. Thank you.

**Marilynn Bracelin, Public Policy Chair**

**\$**  
**THANKS FOR EXTRA DUES!**

Thanks to all members who made an extra contribution to supplement our Branch dues for 2016-17. The \$668 (45 percent of our membership income) helped us meet our regular expenses (including meeting room rental, newsletter and directory printing, insurance, post office box rental, and website support) that keep increasing. Without this support, we would not be able to continue all of our many worthwhile activities.

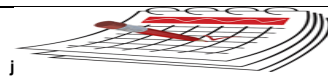
**Roberta Montgomery, President**



**AILEEN RIZO & PAY EQUITY!**

Above is a photo of supporters of **Aileen Rizo** and her suit for pay equity, taken after the hearing in the lobby of the Ninth Circuit Courthouse. **AAUW** members stayed behind after the hearing to take the photo. The photo shows **Aileen** with her family and two lawyers, along with **AAUW** members from various branches, including **Gloria Merrill**, representing our **WCC AAUW** Branch.

**Gloria Merrill, Co-Membership VP**



**NOW IS THE TIME:**  
**HEALTHCARE FOR EVERYBODY**  
**(A Documentary film produced by Laurie Simons and Terry Sterrenberg)**

With the future of the Affordable Care Act in serious doubt, millions may lose their health insurance. Medicare and Medi-Cal are under attack. This film explains what single payer health care is and how it saves money. Three free local showings of the film are coming in March, each to be followed by a question and answer session with the producers:

**Wednesday, March 8, 6:30-8:30 PM,** at the Bobby Bowens Progressive Center, 2540 Macdonald Avenue (across the street from Civic Center Plaza), Richmond.

**Thursday, March 9, 3:00-5:00 PM** at the Fireside Hall New Conference Room at Contra Costa College, 2600 Mission Bell Drive, San Pablo.

**Sunday, March 12, 3:00-5:00 PM,** at the Arlington Community Church and United Church of Christ, 52 Arlington Boulevard, Kensington.

**Rita Xavier**





**IN MEMORIAM**

**Mark Guthrie**, the husband of our valued member and treasurer, **Christine Hills**, passed away on Tuesday, February 21, from a heart attack. We extend our deepest sympathy to Christine.

**Ellen Mills**

**MEMBERSHIP DUES UPDATE**

Your AAUW Board of Directors is currently considering a dues increase of \$10, the first increase in nine years, to ensure that AAUW remains strong and able to meet the needs of women and girls today and in the future. AAUW membership keeps the AAUW community strong locally and rallies new supporters nationally.

Patricia Fae Ho, AAUW Board Chair

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**LETTER FROM NANCY HENDRICKSON**

Hi Roberta,

It was so nice to hear from you. This year started with my being hospitalized for 6 days with a blocked bowel but it fortunately passed just before surgery was needed. Gust ended up in the hospital days two days later with the flu. We are both on the mend after physical therapy. Gust was diagnosed with cancer in October so is having chemo every four weeks for 5 days a week. Needless to say, our activities have been greatly reduced. Hopefully things will improve so I can attend AAUW and other things I enjoy. My two broken hips have healed enough that I can drive but have restricted lots of things I enjoy. I hope you're having a better year than we are and look forward to seeing you before long.

Nancy

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