

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 3

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2016



**HEAR OUR OWN MEMBER, DR. ELAINE YAMAGUCHI,
 SPEAK ON PROJECT SEED, AN EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH
 INITIATIVE OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY (ACS)!**

Saturday, November 19th, 10:00 a.m.

Christ Lutheran Church

780 Ashbury (at Stockton), El Cerrito

Come to hear our own member, **Dr. Elaine Yamaguchi**, speak on the **American Chemical Society's (ACS) Project SEED**. The program provides mentoring and hands-on research experience to economically disadvantaged high school students with interests in the chemical sciences and engineering. For over 30 years **Elaine** has been actively involved with **Project SEED**. "It was like a second job... the most satisfying thing I do as a chemist". She has been a Councilor for the CA Section since 1990 and currently serves as Chair of the SEED Committee and Co-Chair of the Women's Chemists Committee.

Roberta Montgomery, President

<p>President</p> <p>Roberta Montgomery 237-5293 rjm2343@sbcglobal.net</p>	<p>Co-Membership VPs</p> <p>Mimi Fruehan 527-7178 Gloria Merrill 527-2681 Judy Sam 527-1661 Jacque Title 234-9370</p>	<p>Tech Trek Co-Chairs</p> <p>Roberta Montgomery 237-5293 rjm2343@sbcglobal.net Marsha Weintraub, 644-0320 shmw1@sbcglobal.net</p>	<p>Co-Secretaries</p> <p>Barbara Vaughan 548-1942 barbvaughan@mac.com Marilynn Bracelin 223-4057 mbracelin414@gmail.com (backup): Ida Michael 524-7468</p>
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PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY!



**Saturday, December 10, 2:00 p.m.
At the home of Betty Ann Barnett
1452 Sandpiper Spit, Richmond (233-7580)**

Please join us at **Ray and Betty Ann Barnett's** beautiful Richmond home for our annual celebration of the holiday season. We always have a wonderful time enjoying the company of our friends, the splendid views, and the holiday cheer. Please remember to bring a holiday treat of finger food – a plate of cookies or small sandwiches to share. Our host and hostess will provide coffee and tea.

Please also bring a book for a young child or a donation to be used to buy children's books. We are collecting books and donations to support two programs: **Read Aloud** for children at kindergarten through third grade levels, and the **Grant Birthday Book Project** for first and second grade students. Your generosity in the past has been wonderful. Our contributions are greatly appreciated by the children who benefit as they enjoy the stories while improving their knowledge and skills.

Flautist **Ellen DeCarlo** will provide holiday music and good cheer. She gives concerts four times a year, plays the flute once a month in her church, and is a member of West County Winds, a support provider for teachers and freelance musicians. Our Noel visit to the **Barnetts'** home is always a treat. Guests are welcome, and the fellowship will be rich and spirited. Please put this special gathering on your calendar now.

Directions: To reach the house, go west on Cutting Boulevard or take the 580 Freeway going toward Point Richmond, turn or exit onto Canal going south (towards the Bay). Drive seven tenths of a mile until the road narrows. Turn right on Seacliff and go up and over the hill and down to a stop sign. Turn left at the stop sign onto Sandpiper Spit and go almost to the end of the street. The house is on the Bay side of the street. Please park on the north side of the street, as there is no parking on the south (Bay) side of the street. **Carpooling is strongly encouraged, as parking is limited.** (Betty Ann advises that famous former UC Berkeley and current Seattle Seahawks football star Marshawn Lynch has purchased the house next door, and sometimes the street is busy with people coming to take photographs.)

The Editor

DIRECTORY UPDATES for Corrected 2016-2017 Membership Directories

- **Eileen Carabine** has moved. Her new address is: 756 Hilldale Avenue, Berkeley 94708.
- **Joyce Muse** has a new email address: museharris@gmail.com
- **Virginia Liao** has moved to a retirement community in Pasadena and will no longer be a member.
- Give a hearty welcome to our new member and add her information to your directories:
Name: **Connie Miller**; Address: 7300 Pomona Court, El Cerrito 94530;
Phone: (510) 526-1249; College: St. Mary's College, Moraga;
Email: cjm7300@hotmail.com



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I write this, I am thinking about my trip a couple weeks ago to Bandelier National Monument for the dedication of a CCC Worker statue. My husband belongs to the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) Legacy organization, which promotes the awareness of the CCC Program (1933-42) and the men who served. I was very moved when I hiked the Tyuonyi Overlook Trail, a legacy built by CCC "boys." Although we can't physically walk the **AAUW** legacy, we are part of an organization that has a strong legacy built by the women who preceded us. Don't miss the opportunity to help create the future legacy by providing input for the **AAUW California Public Policy Priorities for 2017–2019** (see following page).

November 19th Meeting: We continue with our exciting program. At our November 19th meeting, our member, **Dr. Elaine Yamaguchi**, will tell 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.

Also, our **2016 Contra Costa College Mary Ellen Bales AAUW Scholarship recipient, Valeria Avila**, plans to attend the meeting. She was not able to attend the Installation Luncheon in May. Valeria is majoring in Mechanical Engineering at Santa Clara University.

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

Holiday Gathering: Then we close the year on **Saturday, December 10th** from 2-4 PM, with the annual **Holiday Gathering** at the beautiful home of **Ray and Betty Ann Barnett**. This year **Ellen DeCarlo**, a friend of **Sally Dunham's** from her church, will entertain us. She plays the flute and is a member of **West County Winds**.

Tech Trek: The 2017 **Tech Trek** program is starting. We have again requested nine positions at the Sonoma State University camp. In January we will start working with the West County schools on the nomination, selection, and processing of the seventh grade girls. Working on this program is very rewarding. Consider joining the team. **The kick-off meeting is Thursday, January 19, at 10:00 AM at Marsha Weintraub's** (1080 Park Hills Road, Berkeley).

Leslie O'Hara Bequest: We have received a bequest from **Leslie O'Hara** in the amount of **\$1,500** for our scholarship program. The Board decided that the 2017 CCC scholarship will be given in **Leslie's** memory. Because of this bequest and the regular ongoing member annual donations, we are also looking into increasing the amount of the CCC Scholarship.

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

Roberta Montgomery, President



NEW AAUW-CA WEBSITE!

The **AAUW CA** Communications team is proud to announce the opening of an enhanced website. While the url (www.aauw-ca.org) hasn't changed, the website has been transformed. There are two menus near the top of the page: (1) State or Branch leaders should look in the top menu under **AAUW CA** Business, Branch Support, or Programs & Education; (2) Potential members and supporters can learn about AAUW and how to join in the lower menu under Find Us, Join Us, Support Us, and Advocacy. Social media tools are at the top right of the page. Look for Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram icons there. Very few files require a password; if prompted to enter one, use the member password, aauwca.

Sandi Gabe, AAUW CA Director, Communications

Public Policy Priorities

AAUW CA Public Policy Action Priorities, 2015-2017

The **AAUW CA Public Policy** program supports its mission to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research, and complements the national Public Policy program. **AAUW CA's** priorities for action are chosen according to the criteria of viability, critical need, and strong member support. All members were invited to comment regarding the priorities that **AAUW CA** should place on legislation affecting women and girls during the next two years, and these priorities reflect member comments.

To achieve economic self-sufficiency for all women, AAUW CA supports:

- Pay equity, fairness in compensation, and economic justice.
- Equitable access and advancement in employment, including vigorous enforcement of employment antidiscrimination statutes.
- Strengthening retirement benefits and programs, including pension improvements and protecting Social Security from privatization or reduction in benefits.
- Programs that provide women with education, training, and support for success in the work force.
- Strengthening programs, including welfare and career and technical education, to improve postsecondary education access, career development, and earning potential.
- Greater availability of and access to a high standard of benefits and policies that promote work-life balance.

To support a strong system of high quality public education, AAUW CA advocates:

- Adequate and equitable funding for high quality public education for all students.
- Increased support for programs that break through barriers for women and girls in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields.
- Protection of programs that meet the needs of girls and women in all levels of education, including vigorous enforcement of Title IX and all other civil rights laws pertaining to education.
- Opposition to the use of public funds for nonpublic elementary and secondary education and for charter schools that do not adhere to the same civil rights and accountability standards as required of public schools.
- Support and adequate funding for women and disadvantaged populations access to higher education, including two-year degree programs.

To guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse society, AAUW CA supports:

- Choice in the determination of one's reproductive life.
- Freedom from violence and fear of violence, including bullying and sexual harassment, in homes, schools, workplaces, communities, and the military.
- Increased access to quality, affordable health care and family planning services, including expansion of patient rights.
- Strengthening California programs that improve the lives of children in families living at or below the poverty level.
- Strengthening United Nations programs that address human rights and women's and girls' concerns.
- Freedom in definition of family, and guarantee of civil rights in all family structures.
- Vigorous protection of and full access to civil and constitutional rights.

Approved by vote of membership, May 2015.



CULTURE CORNER for NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2016
by Betty Ann Barnett

October 31-November 3:

- **“Miss Hokusai”** (coming of age story of the daughter of the woodblock print artist Hokusai)

November 18-24:

- **“Tampopo”** (a classic Japanese comedy, USA Nat. Bd. of Review’s top foreign film)
 Shattuck Theatre, 2230 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley
 See www.landmarktheatres.com

November 4 through 26:

- **“Overloaded”** (Contemporary Art, Fok Art & Unique Objects)
 Reception, Saturday, November 12, 1:00-4:00 PM)
- **“Souls and Scenarios”**
 NIAD, 551 23rd Avenue, Richmond
 Telephone: 620-0290 or see www.niadart.org

November 26, 6:00-9:00 PM:

- **“Playland-Not-At-The-Beach”** (NIAD & El Cerrito’s Museum of Fun)
 10979 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito

November 5, 2:00 PM:

- **“Making Our Msrk: Artists’ Talk”**
 Artists Squeak Carnwath & Dru Anderson at 2:00 PM;
 Artists Hung Liu & Michael Hall at 3:00 PM.

December 4, 11:00 AM-5:00 PM:

- **“Holiday Arts Festival”** (food, gifts, etc.)
 Richmond Art Center, 2560 Barrett, Richmond
 Telephone: 620-6772 or see www.therac.org

November 6-7:

- **Joan Baez**
 Fox Theatre, 1807 Telegraph Avenue, Oakland, 7 PM
 Telephone: 844-379-0370

November 9:

- **Michael Krasny presents “Let There Be Laughter”** (sponsored by Berkeley Arts & Letters)
 Hillside Club, 2286 Cedar Street, Berkeley, telephone 644-2967
 General Admission plus book, \$33.08

November 11 through December 4:

- **“You Can’t Take It With You”** (by Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman)
 Fridays & Saturdays, 8 PM, Sundays, 2 PM
 Contra Costa Civic Theater, 951 Pomona (at Moeser), El Cerrito
 Telephone: 524-9132 or see www.ccct.org

November 11-13, 17-19:

- **“Into the Woods”** (by Steven Sondheim)
 Fridays & Saturdays, 7 PM, Sundays, 2 PM
 El Cerrito High School Performing Arts Theatre
 Youth Musical Theater Company, PO Box 9207, Berkeley 94709
 Telephone: 595-5514 or see www.ymtcbayarea.org

(Culture Corner continued on next page)

Through November 13:

- **"Day of the Dead"** (mixed media Day of the Dead themed art work by San Pablo youth)

December 19 through January 31:

- **"Pressing On"** (prints by Joan Finton, Maj-Britt Hilstrom, Katie Leong, Ellen Yamnada Tzvetin) -- Reception November 19, 1-3 PM
San Pablo Art Gallery, 13831 San Pablo Ave., Maple Hall, Civic Center, San Pablo
Telephone: 882-8673 or see www.ci.san-pablo.ca.us

November 2 through December 16:

- **"Deep Blue Sea" (November 2, 7, 16, 7 PM)** (starring Helen McCrory)
- **"Best in Show" (November 10, 9:30 PM)** (a "mockumentary" about a prestigious dog show)
- **"Frankenstein" (November 14, 7 PM)** (starring Benedict & Jonny Lee Miller)
- **"Coriolanus" (November 23, December 16, 7 PM)** (by William Shakespeare)
- **"Skylight" (November 30, 7 PM)** (by David Hare)
- **"The Curious World of Hieronymus Bosch" (December 1)**
- **"Hamlet" (December 5, 7 PM)** (by William Shakespeare)
National Theatre Live from London
Cerrito Theater (Rialto Cinemas), 10070 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito
Telephone: 273-9102, or see www.rialtocinemas.com

December 17, 8 PM:

- **"Holiday Fiesta, Olé"** by the Kensington Symphony Orchestra
Eliane Lust, piano; music by Manuel de Falla, John Carmichael,
Alberto Ginastera, and Morton Gould;
Saturday, 8 PM
Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Road, Kensington
General Admission \$20; seniors & students \$15; children under 12 free
For information contact Mollie Hazen (559-9300), mollie.hazen@gmail.com

Through December 23:

- **"Accessories"**
Richmond Museum of History, 400 Nevin Avenue, Richmond
Telephone: 235-7387 (museum) or see www.richmondmuseumofhistory.org
- **"Home Front Film Festival"**
"Defiance" – November 17, 7:00-9:00 PM
"Miracle of the White Stallions: - December 15, 7:00-9:00 PM
SS Red Oak Victory, 1337 Canal Boulevard, Richmond
Telephone: 235-7387 (museum) or see www.richmondmuseumofhistory.org



MAKE EVERY DAY COUNT UNTIL THE ELECTION!

There is still time to get out the vote, and the AAUW Action Fund has the guides, trainings, voter education resources, and templates you need to make a final push. Make women's voices heard at the polls! Call 866-our-vote or go to www.aauwaction.org for more information.

AAUW Action Fund



NOVEMBER-DECEMBER ACTIVITIES

Board Meeting: The next Board meeting will be on **Tuesday, November 1, 2016, at 2:00 PM**, at the home of **Sue Walenta** (526-4383), 737 Bay Tree Lane, El Cerrito. Please review the Public Policy Priorities, page 4 above, to prepare for this meeting. There will be no Board meeting in December. 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, November 28**, at the home of **Winnie Sayre** (524-8954), 739 Bay Tree Lane, El Cerrito, where we will discuss *The Sympathizer* by Viet Thanh Nguyen. Our following meeting will be on **Monday, December 19** (note change of date to the third Monday), at the home of **Maria LaForge** (527-4378), 240 Columbia Avenue, Kensington, where we will discuss *The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry* by Gabrielle Zevin. At the December meeting, we will choose a book to discuss at our January meeting. 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, November 18**, at the home of **Ellen Mills**, 1648 Oak View Avenue, Kensington. There will be no meeting in December. 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, November 14**, from **1:30 to 3:00 PM**, when **Maria LaForge** will present a report on **Brexit**. The following meeting will be on **Monday, December 12**, from **1:30 to 3:00 PM**, when **Sue Walenta** will report on **Turkey** (the Edorgan government, the coup, and its aftermath). The January meeting will be on **Monday, January 9**, from **1:00 to 3:00 PM**, when **Barbara Vaughn** will report on the **Zika virus**. 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 **Thursday, November 17**, at **12:00 Noon**, at **Renee's Place**, 1477 Solano Avenue, Albany (near Santa Fe). 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.

El Cerrito Garden Club Fundraiser: **Thursday, November 10**, beginning at **9:30 AM**, at the **El Cerrito Community Center**, 7007 Moeser Lane, El Cerrito. The program includes a demonstration of floral design techniques (arrangements will be raffled off), plant sale, silent auction, white elephant sale, and "tea table refreshments." Admission, \$7.



SAVE THE DATE FOR A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY EVENT!

The **KENSINGTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**'s first concert of the season on Saturday, October 29, was a reported success! Opening the season, I introduced the orchestra, which performed Hector Berlioz's "Symphonie Fantastique," a very exciting, passionate one-hour piece with no intermission! Afterwards, a special reception was held in the atrium of the Unitarian Universalist Church, where 60 wonderful orchestra members, esteemed music director/conductor Geoffrey Gallegos, and our Board mingled with the large crowd of attendees over glasses of sparkling prosecco, chocolate truffles, and homemade cookies. Everyone agreed they would return for our next concert. The **East Bay Times** featured our orchestra's story in its October 25th edition: www.eastbaytimes.com/2016/10/25/kensington-symphony-opening-new-season.

Please mark your calendars to join us for our special holiday program: The **KENSINGTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA** will present its **Holiday Fiesta, Olé**, on **Saturday, December 17, at 8:00 PM**, at the **Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley**, 1 Lawson Road, Kensington. The program will include Manuel de Falla's *Ritual Fire Dance*, John Carmichael's *Concierto Folklorico for Piano and Strings* (with internationally known, award-winning piano soloist, **Eliane Lust**), Alberto Ginastera's *Idilio Crepuscular*, and Morton Gould's *Latin American Symphonette*. General Admission is \$20; Seniors & Students - \$15. Free parking. Tickets are available at the door. There will be a reception after the concert. Our orchestra attracts repeat guests with its beautiful music. Consider joining us for our next season. **AAUW** members, contact **Mollie Hazen** (KSO board member/president) at mollie.hazen@gmail.com. For more information, see www.kensingtonsymphonyorchestra.org.

.Mollie Hazen, President, Kensington Symphony Orchestra



VOLUNTEERING AT THE SUNDAR SHADI CHRISTMAS DISPLAY

The Sundar Shadi Christmas Display has been bringing the holiday spirit to El Cerrito for over 60 years. This year it will be open from **December 11 through 27** at its location on Moeser Lane just a few blocks below the Arlington. There will be spectacular lighting and holiday music. The sheep and statues are ready, but there is still a need for shepherds to greet visitors and answer questions. (There is a brief training and a booklet to help volunteers.) The Shadi Holiday Display asks our help in filling the evening shifts from 5:00 to 7:30 PM and/or from 7:30 to 10:00 PM. If you are interested, please contact **Joann Steck-Bayat** by phone at 510-524-9468 or by email at jsbayat1@comcast.net.

Ellen Mills



OUR OCTOBER MEETING

At our second meeting of the year, the Presenter was **Kelly Jenkins-Pultz**, Regional Administrator for the SF Women's Bureau. The Women's Bureau, an agency of the US Department of Labor, started in 1920 and has 10 regional centers around the US. The Women's Bureau works with other offices and agencies to foster, promote and develop the welfare of women wage earners, job seekers, and retirees; improve working conditions; advance opportunities for profitable employment; and assure work-related rights. Statistics show that currently on a national level, women earn 80% of men's wages, and as women get older the gap widens. Although women earn less than men for many reasons, such as performing in lower paying fields, around 40% of the difference in wages remains unexplained. The Women's Bureau conducts research to identify factors that contribute to the wage gap and find ways to overcome them, as well as look for ways to improve compensation for the lower-wage jobs that employ large numbers of women. Women are less inclined to negotiate wages and benefits and are more affected by family pressures. Discrimination exists in promoting women to higher paying positions. The Women's Bureau has worked with **AAUW** in the Start Smart program, which teaches women how to do market research and negotiate salaries and benefits. Gains have been made, such as the CA Fair Pay Act 1/1/16, which states employers must pay women and men the same wage for substantially similar work, ensures that prior salary alone cannot be

used to justify wage disparities, and empowers employees to discuss pay without fear of retaliation. The presentation was very informative and reinforced much of **AAUW's work** in promoting programs to encourage women in the science, math, and tech fields.

Eileen Carabine, Program VP



TECH TREK JUNIOR COUNSELOR ELLA WINCHESTER'S REPORT

My experience with **Tech Trek** has been amazing and eye opening. I have learned so much being both a camper and a Junior Counselor. As a camper I realized my love for nature, exploration of the world, and learning in general. It helped me to focus better in school as my curiosity about the world increased, and the community of young girls who shared my passions encouraged me. I am still in contact with a few of the friends I made at camp. As a Junior Counselor I was learning new things every day along with the campers, and I learned a lot about communicating with others and handling responsibility. Being a JC not only improved my work ethic; it helped me learn how to focus and be a productive member of a team, and it also improved my communication skills and gave me confidence I didn't know I had. I arrived at **Tech Trek** this past summer nervous and insecure, but left as a stronger, confident, and more energetic person. This program not only increased my love of and interest in the sciences, but also helped me improve as a person. I am so grateful to my fellow campers, junior counselors, and to the staff of **Tech Trek**. I will never forget my experience and will continue to benefit from the lessons I learned.

Ella Winchester
