

THE



CONNECTION

WEST COAST of California 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 1

SEPTEMBER 2016

**MEET OUR TECH TREK CAMPERS!****Saturday, September 17th, 10:00 a.m.****Christ Lutheran Church****780 Ashbury (at Stockton), El Cerrito**

Come meet our 2016 **Tech Trek** campers. This year we were able to sponsor nine girls from WCCUSD middle schools to attend the exciting week-long **Tech Trek Science and Math Camp** at Sonoma State University, beginning June 19. Before the girls left, we met them at a reception on Saturday, June 4, at El Cerrito Denny's. They are: **Kelly Han** from Korematsu; **Julia Clair Cava** from Stewart; **Victoria Duenas** and **Angelina Noel** from Pinole; **Monica Jimenez** and **Nikki Black** from DeJean; **Stephanie Silva** and **Shappelle Piazza** from Helms; and **Citlali Camacho Rosales** from Mira Vista. At this meeting, the girls will share their camp experiences, which will include talking about their Core Classes (Chemistry, Biology Wet Labs, Wildlife Biology, Hot Air Ballooning, and App Inventor), Suspension Bridge, Cow Eye, and the Professional Women's Night. Special thanks go to all the members who helped on the **Tech Trek** team and to all of you who made donations to the program.

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>Mimi Fruehan 527-7178 mimifru@aol.com Mary Ghidella 236-2928 mdghidella@sbcglobal.net 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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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome Back! First, I want to acknowledge and thank **Ellen Mills** for her leadership as President for the last two years. She has initiated new projects and procedures, and kept us informed about women's issues. At our luncheon she was given the **AAUW** Past Presidents' Pin. This pin, sold by the Napa County Branch to support their **AAUW** Funds, was designed by Napa County Branch Past President Gladys Johnson and has been available since 1970. Branches form the letters **AAUW**, and the leaves symbolize each past President as vital to the life of the Branch.

Also at the luncheon, **Virginia Summerer** presented certificates to **Sally Dunham** and **Barbara Vaughn**, stating that in appreciation for their significant contributions to the mission of **AAUW**, the Branch has named gifts in the **AAUW** Funds in their honor. And **Marilynn Bracelin** and **Sally Dunham** were introduced as new **AAUW** 50-year members.

Eileen Carabine has put together an exciting list of speakers for our meetings, starting with the **Tech Trek** girls, who will share their summer camp experiences at our **September 17th** meeting.

Ellen Mills is putting together the 2016-2017 Directory, which will be available for pickup at the **September 17** and **October 15** meetings. Those directories that have not been picked up will be mailed in November. Please review your entry and let us know if you have any corrections.

We are also implementing a new hospitality procedure for our monthly meetings. Basically, those who attend the meetings will bring the goodies and will help **Sally Dunham** with the setup and cleanup. There will be a sign-up sheet at the September meeting. Note that the Board will provide the September meeting goodies.

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

Roberta Montgomery, President



MARY ELLEN BALES AAUW SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

Our Branch provides one \$1,500 scholarship each year to a woman from the **Contra Costa College Center for Science Excellence** to help her continue her education at a four-year college or university. **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. The selection of one winner from a strong pool of applicants is always challenging.

This year's scholarship recipient is **Valeria Avila**, who will be majoring in Mechanical Engineering at Santa Clara University. She was inspired to pursue spatial robotics. **Valeria** was not able to attend our Installation Luncheon in May, but she hopes to be able to attend one of our meetings this Fall.

Roberta Montgomery, President



WEST CONTRA COSTA BRANCH AAUW ----- Proposed Budget 2016 – 2017
Roberta Montgomery, Treasurer

INCOME:

Carry-over:		
Other		2,734
Scholarship Fund (SF)		1,045
Special Projects		232
"Let's Go" Fund		2,510
Memberships:	5HL +52 @ 16 plus 538 extra	1,370
<u>Branch Fundraisers / Donations</u>		<u>400</u>
Total Proposed Income:		8,291

EXPENDITURES:

Interbranch Council (IBC)		30
Insurance Assessment		188
Funds Assessment (taken from SF)		40
Newsletter and Directory:		
Printing, Postage and Labels		350
Directory Printing		150
Program:		
Speakers (6@100)		600
Hospitality		75
Rental for Meetings (7@80) see Note 1.		560
Installation Luncheon		100
Administration:		
Membership (VP expenses, recruiting & tea)		100
President (supplies & misc.)		30
Other Officers (supplies & misc.)		250
PO Box Rental		136
Tech-Trek Recruitment, Reception, Printing & Postage		250
Website		120
Registration Convention, Conferences		200
Scholarship Fund (SF)		1,005
Special Projects		232
"Let's Go" Fund		2,510
<u>Other Expenses / Donations / Reserve</u>		<u>1,365</u>
Total Expenditures:		8,291

OTHER BALANCES (August 2016)

CCC Foundation – Mary Ellen Bales AAUW Scholarship Acct.	2,848.00
AAUW WCC SSU Tech Trek Account	8,255.00
Checking Acct. – Balance from Ledger	7,435.18

Note 1 . There are no facility rental charges for the Holiday Party (hosted by Betty Barnett) and the annual Installation Luncheon.



CULTURE CORNER for SEPTEMBER 2016
by Betty Ann Barnett

September 3-23:

• ***"Fashion Accessories of the 20th Century"***

Richmond Museum of History, 400 Nevin Avenue, Richmond

September 11:

• ***"Pancake Breakfast" honoring grandparents, aboard the SS Red Oak Victory***

Red Oak Victory, 1337 Canal Blvd., Richmond

Telephone: 235-7387 (museum) or 237-3933 (ship); see www.richmondmuseumofhistory.org

September 3 through 30:

- **Four Exhibits: "Curious Weave"; "Scott Hewicker's Heads of State";**
- **"Jonathan Velazquez's Immediate Family"; and "The Table Show"**

(Reception for all four exhibits on September 10, 1-4 PM)

NIAD, 551 23rd Avenue, Richmond

Telephone: 620-0290 or see www.niadart.org

September 7, 19, and 28:

• ***"Romeo and Juliet"*** (by William Shakespeare) **(7 PM)**

Kenneth Branagh Theatre Company

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

Telephone: 273-9102, or see www.rialtocinemas.com

September 9 through October 9:

• ***"My Fair Lady"*** (musical by Lerner and Loewe, based on Shaw's Pygmalion)

November 11 through December 4:

• ***"You Can't Take It With You"*** (play 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

September 13 through November 12:

• ***"Making Our Mark"*** *(Reception Saturday, September 10, 5:00-7:00 PM)*

October 1:

• ***"80th Anniversary Gala"*** *(5:30-9:00 PM)*

Richmond Art Center, 2560 Barrett, Richmond

Telephone: 620-6772 or see www.therac.org

Through September 24:

• ***"Witness a Transformation"***

Paintings, prints, and jewelry by Hallie Strock, Suzane Beaubrun & Judith Juntura Miller.

October 1 through November 13:

• ***"Day of the Dead"***

Themed art work by San Pablo youth; Reception October 27, 4 PM, City Hall.

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

Through 2017:

The Masquers Board of Directors and staff have cancelled all productions in 2016 in order to make necessary repairs to the structure of the historic theatre. They hope that the theatre will reopen in 2017.

The Masquers Playhouse, 105 Park Place, Point Richmond

Telephone: 232-4031 or see www.masquers.org



SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES

Board Meeting: The next Board meeting will be on **Tuesday, October 4, 2016**, at 2:00 PM, at the home of **Barbara Vaughan**, 970 Wildcat Canyon 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**. We had to change the date of our September meeting to **Monday, September 5 (Labor Day)**. We will meet at the home of **Ida Michael** (524-7468), 268 Cambridge Avenue, Kensington. At that meeting, we will discuss Elena Ferrante's four Neapolitan novels, which we read over the summer. (They are ***My Brilliant Friend, The Story of a New Name, Those Who Leave and Those Who Stay, and The Story of the Lost Child.***) We will also choose the book to read for our October meeting and the location of that meeting. All are welcome — even if you have not read all the Neapolitan novels, please join us!

Daytime Bridge: This group usually meets at **1:00 p.m.** on the **third Friday** of the month. The next meeting (note date change) will be on **Friday, September 23**, at the home of **Ellen Mills**, 1648 Oak View Avenue, Kensington. 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, September 12**, from **1:30 to 3:00 PM**. The plan for the September 12 meeting is to start with a little fun quiz (only 10 questions) just to test ourselves to see if we know what's been happening in the world during the summer when we haven't been meeting. Then member **Gloria Merrill** will give us a briefing on the Philippines, the last election there, and what has been happening there since that election. With what time we have left, all attendees should be prepared to make a brief (three minutes each) mini-report on some international event that occurred during the summer. Branch members who did not attend this **Global Interests Group** last year are invited to join us for this session. If you are interested in coming, if you want 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. **Marty** looks forward to seeing you there.



INVITE A FRIEND TO OUR MEETINGS AND RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS!

The Membership Committee encourages every member to recruit new members by telling our friends and acquaintances about **AAUW**, the oldest organization that advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. Share with them some of what we do: have a robust speakers program; send nine 7th-grade girls to **Tech Trek Summer Camp**; give scholarships to college women; register voters; have some interest groups like bridge, global events, and book clubs; and have fun and camaraderie. Invite friends to any of our general meetings. Under the Shape the Future Campaign, anyone joining at a meeting open to the public is eligible to a 50 % reduction off the national dues the first year, or \$60.50 (\$24.50 national, \$20 state and \$16.00 branch)!

Gloria Merrill, Membership Committee Co-VP



CONVENTION AAUW CA 2016: EMPOWERING YOU!

Report by Roberta Montgomery, President: Christine Hills, Gloria Merrill, Marilynn Bracelin, and I took advantage of the one-day special Convention rate and drove to San Mateo on Saturday, April 16, for the Workshop Sessions. I attended the four Leadership Workshops: 1) Let's Get Disruptive: New Ways to Do Old Things; 2) What Does Your Branch Really Want to Do? Strategic Planning Simplified; 3) Uh Oh, Member Burnout? Care & Feeding of Volunteers; and 4) Embracing Change – Easier Said and Can Be Done. As the titles suggest, the workshops were very interesting and informative. I plan to incorporate the ideas as appropriate.

Report by Marilynn Bracelin: Roberta Montgomery, Gloria Merrill, Christine Hills, and I arrived at the hotel in San Mateo early on Saturday morning. There was a delicious (and surprise) continental breakfast awaiting, which was much appreciated. We split up in order to attend as many workshops as possible. At the first morning session, I attended "Seduced: The Grooming of America's Teenagers," with Opal Singleton, the author of the book of the same title. She focused on the explosion of human trafficking world-wide, especially with the advent of social media. Opal is also the president and CEO of Million Kids, a nonprofit that coordinates the training and outreach for the Riverside County Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force. She gave background information and some case histories. At the second morning workshop, I attended "Women's Progress in International Society," which had four speakers, each taking a different topic -- an intro, education and economics globally, women in Cuba, and women's progress in South Asia. There wasn't enough time for discussion, unfortunately. We then got together for lunch and discussed the morning's sessions. At the first afternoon session, I attended, "We Did it for You! Women's Journey Through History," which was a play written by Thea Iberall and performed by audience members. It included simple costumes, hats, and props and often included the remaining audience members. It was very enjoyable! The final workshop was "Leadership--Empowering Change," where we discussed some of the topics to promote change in our branches which we have discussed a number of times at board meetings. It was a full day, and most of the attendees were anxious to get ready for the gala dinner. Yummy cookies were available near the registration table, so we got some and a drink of water and went home. Thanks, Roberta, for driving!

Report by Christine Hills: I summarize the four workshops I attended:

AAUW Fund – Get the facts

- **AAUW** supporters are most likely to donate to our tax-deductible funds, such as **Tech Trek**. "Unrestricted" fund giving has dwindled over the past few years. The panel stated that recruiting at the branch level is much less expensive than recruiting at the national level; therefore getting funds for National is harder. **AAUW** is seeking a way to increase donations to this fund. If **AAUW** does not get enough unrestricted money, public policy funding will suffer. Public policy causes include assisting women with court cases and other political actions. Donations to the unrestricted fund are not tax deductible.
- Some ideas –
 - Request that friends/family donate to **AAUW** in lieu of a birthday or Christmas present.
 - Consider putting **AAUW** in your will – join **AAUW Legacy Circle**. The **Legacy Circle** offers many ways to make a planned gift to **AAUW**, ensuring your legacy and that of the organization you support. The **Legacy Circle** is a recognition society to honor those who have committed to make a planned gift to **AAUW National** in their estate plans. Please visit the **AAUW Planned Giving website** to enroll, or contact **Catherine Heffernan Gibson**, senior manager of major and planned giving, at 877.357.5587.
 - If you are trying to pitch **AAUW**.... "No" is the start of the conversation. Find out why the "no," and offer a solution.
 - If you are turned down, do not take it personally.

Branch Treasurers 101

Fun fact: it's easier to recruit people to be President than Treasurer!

This seminar was a deep dive into the responsibilities of the Treasurer. I took this class to assist me in understanding the duties I will assume as Treasurer. If you are interested in the detailed hand-out, contact me (Christine Hills), and I will furnish a copy.

Engaging Younger Members

AAUW is suffering from a dearth of young women. Most of the seminar attendees were older women. The leader was a young mother, and she related her initial experiences with **AAUW**. She had two small children, and it would help if **AAUW** could offer child care during meetings. The initial meetings she attended addressed older women's health issues – not exactly mesmerizing topics for young folks. It was hard for her to relate to the **AAUW** branch populace, but she continued with **AAUW**, concentrating on **Tech Trek** and other timely concerns.

Something to band the young women to **AAUW** is needed. They need a mission to believe in and work towards.

AAUW has introduced the **Younger Women's Task Force (YWTF)**, aimed at engaging women ages 23-40. The meetings might be held in coffee bars or places where young women feel at home and comfortable. The task force is recruiting existing members of **AAUW** and also inviting non-members to contribute their ideas. More information: <http://www.aauw.org/membership/ywtf>

The younger women who attended this seminar said they would like mentors from the traditional **AAUW** community.

One idea was to hold an inter-generational tea and discuss a topic specific to the younger women, such as gender stereotypes. It's up to the branches to come up with ideas to attract younger women.

Advance your branch through Technology

Technology can help keep existing members engaged, help recruit new members, and give you information on who reads your newsletters.

The Mail Chimp app is particularly helpful when publishing to large memberships. You can also use it to track who receives and reads your messages.

Use Survey Monkey to present questions and allow people to answer online, rather than having to fill out paper surveys.



[THIS LABOR DAY, TAKE ACTION FOR WORKING FAMILIES](#)

On Labor Day, we celebrate the contributions that American workers have made to our country. While workers' rights have improved over the years, due in part to **AAUW** members' tireless advocacy, the fight for economic equality is far from over. Only 13 percent of American workers have access to paid leave through their employer. Two-thirds of minimum wage workers in the U.S. are women, and their income remains below the federal poverty line. Women working full time on average still only make 79 cents to a white, non-Hispanic man's dollar. [We need your help to educate voters about state and federal candidates' positions on worker policies!](#) See [AAUW Action Fund's voter guides](#), which break down congressional, gubernatorial, and presidential candidates' positions on issues impacting women and families, such as the minimum wage, equal pay, and paid leave. Registering and turning out voters in November is critical--but educating voters is just as important. [You can also help educate your community by writing a letter-to-the-editor in your local newspaper and encouraging voters to use AAUW Action Fund's voter guides.](#)

AAUW Action Fund



Roberta Montgomery (237-5293), **Ellen Mills** (526-5815), and **Gloria Merrill** (527-2681) have started registering voters. We will be registering voters at Contra Costa College on Thursdays at 10:30 am, at post offices and local establishments such as Ace Hardware during the weekends. We need your help. If you can spare about two hours, give **Gloria**, **Roberta**, or **Ellen** a call or e-mail us, and we'll let you know where we are registering votes and when.

The general election is rapidly approaching. It is time for our Branch to spring into action to help get-out-the-vote in 2016. Register for one or more webinars sponsored by **National AAUW** on the **Get Out the Vote (GOTV)** and learn how can help to elect officials who are sympathetic to women's issues! See <http://www.aauw.org/event/2016/08/2016-gotv-skill-trainings/>.

Gloria Merrill, Co-Membership VP



TIME TO GET OUT THE VOTE!

You have the opportunity to support a generation of young women in establishing lifelong voting habits. In a series of **AAUW GOTV** skills training webinars, you can learn everything you need to know about registering voters. Make sure **AAUW's** key policy issues are emphasized with the **2016 Voter Issue Guide**. **AAUW Action Fund's** voter guides provide nonpartisan information about candidates' positions on issues like equal pay, education, and reproductive rights.

AAUW Action Fund



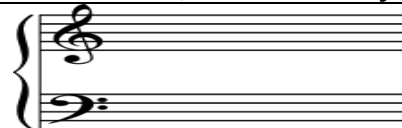
"PUBLIC POLICY REPORT"

The **CA AAUW Public Policy Committee**, co-chaired by **Sue Miller**, reviewed and evaluated all 17 propositions on the November ballot related to **AAUW's** priorities and mission, and took positions on the following items:

- 51 – Support** (school bonds, funding for K-12 and community college facilities)
- 52– Support** (Medi-Cal Funding and Accountability Act, hospital fees to help fund Medi-Cal)
- 53 - Oppose** (voter approval on specified bonds)
- 55 - Support** (extend taxes for schools voted in Prop. 30)
- 56 - Support** (CA Multilingual Education Act, allows structured bilingual education programs for English learners).

A full report will be in the September issue of Perspective. Contact your State Senator to support **AB 1676**, crucial pay equity legislation.

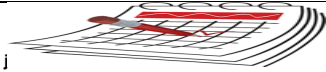
Marilynn Bracelin, Public Policy Chair



KENSINGTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA 2016-2017 SEASON

Branch member **Mollie Hazen**, who is the President of the **Kensington Symphony Orchestra Board**, urges you to save these season dates: **10/29/16**: Reveries and Passions; **12/17/16**: Holiday Fiesta, Ole!; **3/4/17**: Eastern Euro Rhapsody; **4/22/17**: Keyboard Extravaganza; **6/10/17**: Genius Late & Early. Conducted by **Maestro Geoffrey Gallegosb**, these wonderful, lively music programs are held at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Road, Kensington, at 8 PM. Also, visit the **KSO** booth at September 11th's **Solano Stroll** for early bird ticket specials.

Mollie Hazen



COMING EVENTS

Wednesday, September 14, 2016, 12 Noon, at Left Bank Restaurant, Larkspur: Book Passage sponsors “Run Fast. Eat Slow” with Olympic runner Shalane Flanagan and Chef Elyse Kopecky. Single: \$100; Couple: \$165; price includes meal, wine, tax, tip, and a signed copy of the book.

Sunday, October 23, 2016, at the Old Ranch Country Club, Seal Beach: **AAUW** Fund Luncheon.

Saturday, October 29, 2016, at the Crow Canyon Country Club, Danville: **AAUW** Fund Luncheon.

Wednesday through Saturday, June 14-17, 2017 in Washington, D.C., 2017 **AAUW** National Convention.



GIVE A GRADUATE A FREE MEMBERSHIP!

Use your **AAUW** membership to give a college graduate a free, one-year **AAUW** National and State membership. There is no cost to you. Go to www.aauw-ca.org. Click on “Dues and Fees Schedule.” Scroll down to the pink Give-a-Grad-a-Gift section and click on [HERE](#). If you would like to add a gift of membership to your Branch, you may do so by paying their dues to your Branch membership Treasurer, who will then enter them in the Member Services database.

AAUW-CA Perspective



RECIPE FOR A HEALTHY AAUW BRANCH

This is a tried and true recipe that has been tested over the years to yield good results. Please give it a try; we don't think you'll be disappointed.

INGREDIENTS: 1 full measure of each of the following: Engagement; Recruitment; Diversity & Inclusion; College/University Partnerships; Mission Based Programs; Advocacy; Retention. You will need willing members who are committed to promoting **AAUW's** mission and working collaboratively with Branch Leadership. Members will supply the ingredients, and Elected Leaders will be the cooks and stir the pot, so to speak.

DIRECTIONS: Provide engagement by inviting friends, family, neighbors, acquaintances, for members and community leaders to attend **AAUW** events and programs. Recruit them by discovering what issues are important to them and explaining how **AAUW** espouses much of the same agenda. Use the various **AAUW** membership campaigns to offer them the best possible enrollment. Be sure to include all members of your community in your recruitment efforts. You want to be inclusive and have a diverse branch, as it adds the spice to your recipe. Don't forget to look for colleges and universities as part of your outreach. Younger women are the future of **AAUW**, and developing connections through our C/U Programs brings needed stock to your Branch.

Kathy Andreini & Ginny Hatfield, Co-Chairs, AAUW-CA Membership Committee (published in **AAUW-CA Perspective**)

