



THE CONNECTION
WEST CONTRA COSTA COUNTY 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 XXXII

NEWSLETTER 3


NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2015



**COME TO HEAR FLOYD SAM SPEAK ON WHAT YOU SHOULD
 KNOW ABOUT TAXES, PROBLEMS, AND AARP HELP**
Saturday, November 21st, 10:00 a.m.
Christ Lutheran Church
780 Ashbury (at Stockton), El Cerrito

Floyd Sam, District Coordinator of the West Contra Costa County AARP Foundation Tax Aide Program, will speak to us on the subject of women and taxes. He will discuss what we all should know, some problems that we may encounter, and how we can get help from the **AARP**. The husband of member **Judy Sam**, he is also the President and Treasurer of the **Read-Aloud Volunteer Program**. He retired in 2010 from Chevron, where he was a Global Manager of Commercial and Consumer Technology. Come prepared to ask him any questions you may have. He will help us to improve our financial literacy and become more knowledgeable and self-reliant.

Judy Sam, Program Co-VP

President Ellen Mills 526-5815 ellensloanmills@gmail.com	Co-Membership VPs Mimi Fruehan 527-7178 Gloria Merrill 527-2681 Jacque Title 234-9370	Treasurer Roberta Montgomery 237-5293 rjm2343@sbcglobal.net	Co-Secretaries Barbara Vaughan 548-1942 barbvaughan@mac.com Ida Michael 524-7468 lwmicl@juno.com
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PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY!



**Saturday, December 12, 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 .

Singers from a church choir will provide holiday music and good cheer. 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 2015-2016 Membership Directories

- Mollie Hazen's email address is mollie.hazen@gmail.com (the "." between her first and last name was left out)
- Virginia Liao's email address is dyvtliao35@gmail.com (the "35" was left out)
- Phyllis Jean Niehaus has moved. Her new information is:
 - Address: 1010 Second Street, Lafayette, CA 94549
 - Phone: (925) 385-7205
 - Email: phyllis0927@att.net
- Yvonne Steffen's apartment Number is 403



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Here it is November already, past Halloween; we are anticipating rain and thinking about Thanksgiving. I am thankful for our dynamic Program Vice Presidents, **Diane Ichiyasu**, **Judy Sam**, and **Eileen Carabine**, who have completed the schedule of 2015-2016 meeting programs. It looks good to me! Come and bring your friends.

PROGRAMS-AAUW 2015-2016

Date	Topic	Coordinator/Description
Sept 19 10 AM	KICK-OFF BRUNCH Welcome back and Tech Trek week	Marsha Weintraub Camp counselor and Tech Trek girls talk at meeting; brunch; hospitality Interest groups can recruit, new members may introduce themselves
Oct 17 10 AM	Supervisor John M. Gioia speaks and answers questions about preventing violence against women and girls	Contra Costa County Supervisor John M. Gioia speaks on the Family Justice Center, preventing violence in the schools, human trafficking, and elder abuse.
Nov 21 10 AM	Floyd Sam , District Coordinator of the WCC AARP Foundation Tax Aide Program	Floyd Sam speaks on women and taxes, tax problems, and how the AARP Foundation can help
Dec 12 2 PM	Our Branch's Annual Holiday Party	Betty Ann Barnett will host the holiday party at her home; seasonal musical entertainment is provided. Bring sweets and savories, and donations for the Birthday Book and Read Aloud Programs.
Jan 16 10 AM	Teresa LeYung Ryan -- author of " <i>Love Made of Heart</i> ."	Teresa LeYung Ryan , author of " <i>Love Made of Heart</i> ," will speak about mother-daughter relationships and mental health issues.
February 20 10 AM	Naomi Walenta , a Project Manager at Google	Naomi Walenta will speak on opportunities for women to work in tech firms and to advance to higher management positions
March 19 10 AM	Scholars from AAUW will speak on their research	Women's History Month; Berkeley AAUW members will be invited to attend. Election of officers (partially closed meeting). <i>(This program may be changed to another month)</i>
April 16 10 AM	Sheila Tarbet will speak on global weather changes and how we can help the environment	Election of officers (partially closed meeting). <i>(This program may be changed to another month)</i>
May 21 11:30 AM	Installation of newly elected officers	Lunch at La Strada Contra Costa Scholarship Recipients will speak

And a happy Thanksgiving to everyone.

Ellen Mills, President



CULTURE CORNER for NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2015
by Betty Ann Barnett

November 13 through December 23:

- ***“Deck the Walls”*** (Main Gallery)
- ***“The Golden Hits of 2015”*** (Annex Space)
- ***“Kiss My Grits: The Recent work of Alice Sampson”*** (Backroom)
- ***“Holiday Lounge”*** (Storefront)
 Reception, Saturday, November 21, 12:30-3:00 PM
 NIAD, 551 23rd Avenue, Richmond
 Telephone: 620-0290 or see www.niadart.org

November 13 through December 12:

- ***“The World Goes ‘Round”*** (music by John Kander, lyrics by Fred Ebb)
 Fridays and Saturdays at 8 PM; Sunday at 2 PM
 The Masquers Playhouse, 105 Park Place, Point Richmond
 Telephone: 232-4031 or see www.masquers.org

November 14:

- ***“Walking in Two Worlds”*** (a documentary film about Native American youth honoring Native American Heritage Month. Program includes a community forum from 2-2:30 PM, followed by the screening of the film.)
 Sponsored by the Richmond Native Wellness Center and the Richmond Museum of History, 400 Nevin Avenue, Richmond
 Telephone: 235-7387 (museum) or see www.richmondmuseumofhistory.org

November 14 through December 13:

- ***“Dolls and Things”*** (sculpture & paintings by Patricia Anne McCarty-Tamayo & Brooke Fletcher;; Reception November 14, 1-3 PM

December 19 through January 31:

- ***“Collective Voices”*** (Arts of Point Richmond)
 Reception December 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

Through November 15:

- ***“The Body as Agent: Changing Fashion Art”***
 Richmond Art Center, 2560 Barrett, Richmond
 Telephone: 620-6772 or see www.therac.org

November 23 through December 16:

- ***“Coriolanus”*** (November 23, December 16, 7 PM) (by William Shakespeare)
- ***“Skylight”*** (November 30, 7 PM) (by David Hare)
- ***“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

November 20 through December 20:

- ***“The Secret Garden”*** (books & lyrics by Marsha Norman, music by Lucy Simon; a musical based on the novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett)
 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-DECEMBER ACTIVITIES

Board Meeting: There will be no Board meeting in December. The next Board meeting will be on **Tuesday, January 12, 2016, at 2:00 PM**, at the home of **Sue Walenta** (526-4383), 737 Bay Tree Lane, El Cerrito. Please call **President Ellen Mills** (526-5815) 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 23**, at the home of **Maria La Forge** (527-4378), 240 Columbia Avenue, Kensington, where we will discuss *The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah. Our following meeting will be on **Monday, December 28**, at the home of **Winnie Sayre** (524-8954), 739 Bay Tree Lane, El Cerrito, where we will discuss *My Beloved World* by U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor. At the December meeting, we will choose a book to discuss at our January meeting, which will be on **Monday, January 25**, at the home of **Sue Walenta** (526-4383), 737 Bay Tree Lane, El Cerrito. 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 20**, 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, December 14**, from **1:30 to 3:00 PM**. 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.



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER

Please welcome another new member: **Vicki Logan Winston**. Her contact information is:

Vicki Logan Winston

708 Garrison Road

Richmond 94803

Phone: (510) 325-7266

Email: vickiwinston@yahoo.com

Education: University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; San Francisco State University

Roberta Montgomery, Treasurer



SAVE THE DATES FOR TWO WONDERFUL HOLIDAY EVENTS!

The **KENSINGTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA** will present its **Classical Holiday Concert** on **Saturday, December 19, at 8:00 PM**, at the **Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley**, 1 Lawson Road, Kensington. The program will include Rossini's *Overture to the Barber of Seville*, Mozart's *Violin Concerto No. 3 in G Major (with Jason Totzke, violin)*, and Haydn's *Symphony No. 104 in D Major*. General Admission is \$20; Seniors & Students - \$15. Free parking. Tickets are available at the door. There will be a concert bake sale of homemade cookies, cakes, and other sweet holiday treats. Our concerts attract repeat guests with their beautiful music. Consider joining us for our 38th season (2015-2016). AAUW members, contact Mollie Hazen (KSO board member/vice president) at mollie.hazen@gmail.com for a special 2-for-1 offer. For more information, see www.kensingtonsymphonyorchestra.org.

Come to the **HILLSIDE CLUB ART SHOW** at 2286 Cedar Street (at Arch), Berkeley, on **Saturday, December 5th, from 10 AM to 6 PM**. You are especially invited to attend the **Opening Reception on Friday December 4th, from 7 PM to 9 PM**. Admission is free to the public. Curator and Photographer **Mollie Hazen** invites you to her special photography reception and exhibit: **The Light of Passion: The Legacy of Don R. Hazen**. The December Holiday Art show will feature fine art nature prints from the Hazen Nature Photography Collection. **Mollie will debut her new 2016 Calendar!** The Book/Catalog will also be available for purchase. The Hillside Club is a beautiful setting for an arts and crafts show, especially in December, when the Club is decked out in holiday finery. Please join us in this celebration of our local artists and craftspeople. Paintings, Poster Art, Photography, Textiles, Glasswork, Woodworking, Jewelry, Cards and more! Looking forward to seeing you there.

Mollie Hazen



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 12 through 26** 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, President



AAUW FUNDS FALL LUNCHEON

Vivian Coe and Virginia Summerer attended the AAUW Funds Fall Luncheon, held at the Crow Canyon Country Club in Danville. Once more, this event provided inspirational and interesting insights into the lives of the fellows who spoke. They told of their studies and accomplishments and declared how excited they were to be chosen for these awards. The first four won **American Fellowships**: **Whitney Brim-DeForest**, who is studying rice cultivation, first at UC Davis and now at Chico State; **Kristin DeNesera**, who studies Marin Ecology at UC Santa Cruz, focusing on mussels; **Lina-Marie Meirella**, a woman from Columbia who holds a B.A. from SF State but is now at the University of Texas in El Paso pursuing studies about the history of reproductive choice; and **Michelle Fry** from UC Berkeley, who is pursuing a Ph.D. focusing on cities' uneven economic development. The fifth speaker was an **International Fellow**, **May Elonofly**, who is a fully trained M.D. from Egypt with an M.S. in endocrinology. She is now studying breast cancer at SF State, after which she plans to return to Egypt. Two women won **Career Development Grants**: **Fay Chang**, a former Public Health Researcher who now studies graphic design at CA College of the Arts, and **Helen Rocha**, who is working to obtain a Civil Engineering M.A. at CSU Sacramento with a focus on management of water systems. She is the first in her family to attend college.

Then we heard a review of current **AAUW** projects. \$309 million has been awarded to women worldwide to help them improve their lives and those of their families. A new policy of using unrestricted funds helps to direct the money where it is most needed, although we can still designate a specific project for our donations. We have many reasons to celebrate: 1) **SB 3580**, the **Equity Pay Act**, has now been signed into law; 2) **Tech Trek** is now a national program and has many new donors; 3) a new program, **Million Women Mentors**, has been established; 4) new

leaders are being recruited and trained in the **STEM** fields; 5) **AAUW** has collaborated with the Mayor of Boston to bring the **Work Smart Program** to that city; 6) the new \$10 treasury bill will have a woman's picture on it.

Vivian Coe



TECH TREK NEWS

Donations: The California **Tech Trek** camps are transitioning into the national program, and **AAUW** will be the fiscal agent (providing the tax deductible basis) for the California camps. Our check submission process will be the same. Donation checks will come to me and then will be submitted to the Sonoma State University Camp Treasurer for WCC Branch sponsorships. **Your checks for Tech Trek will now be made out to AAUW** instead of AAUW CA SPF. Note that at this time donations should not be made to Tech Trek online, either through the MPP Ellen presented in the October Newsletter or through the AAUW website. There currently is no way online to designate a particular branch or Tech Trek camp. Any donations made online will go to the Tech Trek General Fund.

2016 Tech Trek Program Kick-off Meeting: In January we will start working on our **2016 Tech Trek Program**. As always, we need more volunteers to work with the **West County** schools on the nomination, selection, and processing of the seventh grade girls. We've requested **nine** reservations at **Sonoma State University** this year. Working on this program is a very rewarding experience. Consider joining the team, and plan to attend the **Tech Trek Kick-off Meeting on Tuesday, January 19, at 10:00 AM,** at Marsha's (1080 Park Hills Road, Berkeley).

Marsha Weintraub and Roberta Montgomery, Tech Trek Co-Chairs

RECORD FOR WOMEN!

The United States Census released a report stating that, for the first time in 75 years, women are now more likely to attain

a Bachelor's degree than are men. In 1940, women's enrollment would have had to increase by 45 percent to match men's.

Ellen Mills, President
(from AAUW 10/20/15)



SPECIAL GUESTS FROM AAUW CA AT WCC BRANCH BOARD MEETING

Two members of the **AAUW-CA Board of Directors** came to our Branch's Board meeting on Tuesday, November 10. They were **Virginia Kay Beck**, from the San Jose Branch (vbeck@aauw-ca.org) and **Kathy Andreini**, from the Sonora Branch (kandreini@aauw-ca.org). They had many helpful suggestions on how we might increase our Branch's membership. We can give gift memberships to speakers at our meetings. We can "Give a Grad a Gift" – give memberships to college graduates we know. We can make Contra Costa College an AAUW member, so all its students will then be E-Student Affiliates, with free on-line memberships. We can print brochures and have all Branch members carry them and give them to people likely to be interested. We can send online copies of our newsletter and event flyers to national members who live in this area but have not joined our Branch. We can attend Inter-Branch Council meetings to share ideas. **Virginia** and **Kathy** urged us to send as many members as possible to the next **State Convention**, which will be held on **April 15-17, 2016**, in **San Mateo**. (Because it will be held so close by, we need not stay overnight at the hotel, so the cost to us can be greatly reduced.) And we can focus on **Mission-Based programming**, as the people we hope to attract as members are often interested in helping others. In that regard, we noted that **County Supervisor John Gioia**, who spoke at our last meeting, talked about the new County Family Justice Center. Supervisor Gioia is sponsoring a

Verde Elementary Toy & Coat Drive for the holidays. His goal is to provide every student with a book and a new hoodie printed with the words "Think You Can! Work Hard! Get Smart!" **One thing we can do that I encourage you to support:** women and children in shelters for the homeless or for refugees from violence often can improve their lives by receiving ordinary items they don't have, like soap, shampoo, hand lotion, etc. I have often collected small bottles and packets of those items when traveling and donated them to shelters. They can also be purchased from the travel sections of pharmacies. I am putting together a collection of these items, which I plan to donate as a holiday gift from our Branch to either the Family Justice Center or to local shelters. If you can contribute to our Branch's donation of such items, please bring them to the WCC AAUW Holiday Party at Betty Ann Barnett's. Thank you.

Sue Walenta



2015-2016 DIRECTORY CORRECTION

Unfortunately, the newly distributed 2015-2016 Membership Directories were printed with the wrong page 14. The directories picked up at the October meeting had the correct page 14 glued over the wrong one. Corrections to those directories picked up at the September meeting were handled as follows: updates were made at the October meeting; the new page 14 was sent as an attachment to those with email addresses; and the new page 14 is included with this newsletter for those who receive hard copies. (See attached next page in mailed copies of newsletter only.) I apologize for the inconvenience. Let me know if you have any questions.

Roberta Montgomery, Treasurer
