



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 XXX

NEWSLETTER 7

APRIL 2015



AT OUR APRIL MEETING, COME TO HEAR
ATTORNEY ELEONORE ZWINGER, OF THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE,
SPEAK ABOUT IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES IN AMERICA

Saturday, April 18th, 2015, 10:00 a.m.
At Christ Lutheran Church
740 Ashbury (at Stockton), El Cerrito

On April 18th, our speaker will be **Eleonore Zwinger**. **Eleonore**, a lawyer, is employed by the **International Institute of the Bay Area**, which is located in the Financial Center Building, 405 14th Street, #500, Oakland. It is a non-profit organization that provides high-quality, low-cost immigration legal services to the community. This institute began its work in New York City in 1910. It is devoted to protecting the rights of immigrants and refugees who come to America.

Eleonore is herself an immigrant. She was born and raised in Germany, went to university there to study law, and was admitted there to practice law in 1995. She worked there until 1999. Then she came to the United States, took the California Bar exam, passed it, and was admitted to the California State Bar in 2002. She has been working for the International Institute of the Bay Area since 2003, practicing exclusively immigration law. Her current job title is Senior Staff Attorney and Director of Alameda County immigration programs.

Did you know that in California in 1910, 52% of the people were immigrants, and in San Francisco, 72% of them were immigrants. **Eleonore Zwinger** will help us to understand much more about the situation of immigrants in our country.

Ellen Mills, President

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH – MARCH 2015

Facts that will showcase just how far we have come:

- Today, 71 percent of moms with kids under 18 work. In 1975, fewer than 47 percent did.
- Women currently hold 17 percent of Congressional and Senate seats and 18 percent of gubernatorial positions in the U.S. While women are still underrepresented in political life, it's better than when women weren't allowed to vote – a mere 90 years ago.
- [In almost every country in the world, the life expectancy for women is higher than men.](#)
- Approximately 14 percent of active members in the U.S. armed forces today are women. In 1950, women comprised less than 2 percent of the U.S. military.
- Women earn over 60 percent of the college degrees awarded in the U.S. every year.
- More American women work in the education, health services, and social assistance industries than any others.
- Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony spent their lives fighting for women's suffrage, but neither lived long enough to see the amendment passed. Congress ratified it on August 18, 1920. The 19th Amendment guarantees all American women the right to vote.
- African-American performer Josephine Baker was working in France during WWII, but not only as a singer, dancer and actress. She was also helping the war movement, smuggling numerous messages to French soldiers.
- Marie Curie is the only woman to ever win two Nobel Prizes -- one in physics and the other in chemistry.
- Roberta Gibb was the first woman to run and finish the Boston Marathon in 1966.
- In 1777, sixteen-year-old Sybil Ludington raced through the night to warn New York patriots that the British were attacking nearby Danbury, CT, where munitions and supplies for the entire region were stored during the heat of the Revolutionary War.
- In 1770, a bill proposing that women using makeup should be punished for witchcraft was put forward to the British Parliament.

(Facts from <http://www.genderacrossborders.com/2011/03/07/50-fascinating-facts-for-women%E2%80%99s-history-month/>)

Ellen Mills, President

READ-ALOUD PROGRAM

I'd like to thank those of you who've been participating as volunteer readers for the Read-Aloud Program this school year, and also those who donated books or money for books at our Holiday party in December. You help us enrich the lives of students in our district, and give a gift of enjoyment, knowledge, and keys to the doors of imagination and delight! A Thank-You luncheon for reading volunteers is scheduled, and invitations will be sent soon. Please mark your calendars, and if you're not a volunteer but are interested in getting more information about the program, please call me at 510-527-1661. Happy Spring!

Volunteer Appreciation Lunch

Friday, May 1, 2015, at the [Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley](#)
 RSVP to 510-237-0735, 510-237-0735, or info@read-aloud.org

Judy Sam



CULTURE CORNER for APRIL 2015
by Betty Ann Barnett

April 3-26:

- ***“The Foreigner”*** (a laugh-out-loud comedy by Larry Shue)
 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

Through April 5:

- ***“Improvisational Painting: 3 Artists/3 Paths”***

April 11 through May 10:

- ***“Water Works”*** (photographs by Linda Brown, Elaine Maute, Terry Toomey & Kevin Levesque; reception: April 11, 2015)
 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

April 6 & 15:

- ***“Beyond the Beautiful Forevers” (7 PM)***
 (Adaptation of an acclaimed study of a Mumbai slum)
 National Theatre Live from London
 Cerrito Theater (Rialto Cinemas), 10070 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito
 Telephone: 273-9102, or see www.rialtocinemas.com

April 12:

- ***Pancake Breakfast***
 SS Red Oak Victory Ship, 1337 Canal Blvd., Berth 6A, Richmond, 237-2933

Through mid-May:

- ***“Shrimping on the Bay”*** (Chinese Shrimping)
 Richmond Museum of History, 400 Nevin Avenue, Richmond
 Telephone: 235-7387 (museum) or see www.richmondmuseumofhistory.org

Through April 25:

- ***“Assemble: A NIAD Project”*** (a group exhibition organized by Nina Zurier)
- ***“ROK”*** (recent wall pieces from Nina Zurier)
- ***“Backroom: Motion Rotation”*** (works from Phyllis Carr)
 NIAD, 551 23rd Avenue, Richmond
 Telephone: 620-0290 or see www.niadart.org

Through April 25:

- ***“The Women”*** (by Clare Boothe Luce)
 The Masquers Playhouse, 105 Park Place, Point Richmond
 Telephone: 232-4031 or see www.masquers.org

Through May 24:

- ***“West Contra Costa County School District 50th Annual Student Show”***
 - ***“Mildred Howard: Spirit and Matter”***
 - ***“Art in the Community”*** (Art Center’s traveling program)
 Richmond Art Center, 2560 Barrett, Richmond
 Telephone: 620-6772 or see www.therac.org
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APRIL ACTIVITIES

Board Meeting: The next Board meeting will be on **Tuesday, April 14, at 2:00 PM**, at the home of **Gloria Merrill** (527-2681), 7357 Hotchkiss Avenue, El Cerrito. Please call **President Ellen Mills** (526-5815) for more information.

Drama Exchange Group: The Drama Exchange Group meets on the **second Wednesday of each month, at 1:00 PM**, at the home of **Lorene Mayer** (524-2258), 951 Galvin Drive, El Cerrito. Please let Lorene know if you plan to attend. The next meeting will be on **Wednesday, April 8**, where the group will read the female version of ***The Odd Couple*** by Neil Simon. Call Lorene for more information.

Morning Books: The group meets on the **third Tuesday of the month at 10:00 AM**, at **Christ Lutheran Church**, 740 Ashbury, El Cerrito. Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday, April 21**. **Barbara Lagerway** will review ***The Aviator's Wife*** by Melanie Benjamin. We encourage new members to join us. For more information, contact **Lorene Mayer** (524-2258) or **Janet Mengle** (232-2676).

Afternoon Books: The group meets on the **fourth Monday** of each month at **1:30 PM**. Our next meeting will be on **Monday, April 27**, at the home of **Sue Walenta** (526-4383), 737 Bay Tree Lane, El Cerrito, where we will discuss ***Wild*** by Cheryl Strayed. 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, April 17**, 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 Events 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), 16408 Oak View Avenue, Kensington. The group's next meeting will be on **Monday, April 13, at 1:30 PM**. Please come prepared to give a five-minute presentation on a current world event that you find significant. Also, **Ellen Mills** will lead a discussion of the Ebola outbreak. For more information, please call **Marty Sarbey de Souto** at 925-304-2022.

Armchair Travel: **Laura** and **Tony Bushman** (558-8092) are holding a series of **Armchair Travel** meetings, which are open to all. Biographical information: Laura Bushman grew up traveling and has been to more than 150 countries. She was a professor of chemistry and ballet for 28 years. She speaks Italian, French, and some Spanish. She likes to give visually appealing, informative travel presentations. Her husband, **Tony Bushman**, is an award-winning, published photojournalist traveler and author. He has taken photos in more than 150 countries and has lived in Italy and Spain and spent weeks in France, England, Germany, China, and Guatemala. He is Professor Emeritus at San Francisco State University. Please contact the Bushmans for more information regarding their series.



AAUW WEST CONTRA COSTA BRANCH FUND RAISER

This is your reminder that once again we will be participating in the **City-wide El Cerrito Garage Sale** on **Saturday, May 2, 2015**. The hours will be **9:00 AM to 3:00 PM**.

Vivian Coe has agreed to host this event at her home at **413 Balra Drive, El Cerrito**, and we anticipate a great success. We have already signed an agreement with the City of El Cerrito, which will provide advertising for us and will give maps to customers.

We will need tables on which to display our goods. We will also need help in sorting and pricing the goods before the sale, and sellers to work on the sale day.

Please gather suitable items to contribute and call Vivian at 525-4601 to arrange a delivery time. Please also call her to sign up to help. There will also be a sign-up sheet at the next meeting on April 18, 2015. Thank you if you have already signed our request for help sheet. Please call Vivian if you know of a youth who could help us with the sale. This is a paying position.

Last year costume jewelry, accessories, scarves, household goods (e.g., bedding, cushions, pictures, and dishes) were popular, as were board games, children's toys, and gardening items. Please note that we cannot accept clothing or books.

LIST OF SUGGESTED ITEMS TO DONATE

COSTUME JEWELRY (EARRINGS, BRACELETS, NECKLACES, PINS, ETC.)
 VASES, CERAMIC BOWLS, PLATES BY LOCAL POTTERS OR OF VINTAGE OR
 ASIAN DESIGNS
 BASKETS;
 KITCHEN UTENSILS (SCOOPS, MEASURING SPOONS AND CUPS. ROLLING PINS,
 VEG SCRAPERS, CHEESE KNIVES AND PLATE SETS, CAKE FORKS AND
 KNIVES, MUGS. ETC.) NO DISH SETS OR POTS AND PANS.
 REFRIGERATOR MAGNETS AND KEY CHAINS;
 ACCESSORIES (SCARVES, BELTS, SMALL PURSES, AND TOTES,
 BUT NO OTHER CLOTHING OR SHOES)
 COLLECTABLES. SUCH AS, SALT AND PEPPER SETS, CREAM AND SUGAR SETS.
 UNCHIPPED MUGS, SMALL TRIP MEMORABILIA
 PUZZLES AND GAMES, TOYS AND CHILDREN'S BOOKS

SUPPLIES NEEDED

PLASTIC BAGS (SMALL, MEDIUM, AND STORE SIZE)

MORE INFORMATION WILL FOLLOW

Vivian Coe & Ellen Mills

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2015!

It's Now Time to Pay Your 2015-2016 Membership Dues –

Note there is a \$4 increase in the State dues which brings the total now to **\$85.**

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 \$85.00 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

SIGN UP FOR OUR ANNUAL INSTALLATION LUNCHEON

Saturday, May 16th, 11:30 a.m.

La Strada Italian Restaurant, 2215 Church Lane (at San Pablo Avenue), San Pablo

NAME: _____ **No. in party** _____

Luncheon choice(s):

Chicken _____ **Fish** _____ **Vegetarian** _____

Mail FORM and \$28.00 CHECK (includes tea, coffee, dessert, tax & tip), payable to AAUW WCC, to:

**AAUW WCC Branch
P.O. Box 501
El Cerrito, CA 94530**

Roberta Montgomery, Treasurer



MARY ELLEN BALES AAUW SCHOLARSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS

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 WCC 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. **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 2015 scholarship recipient at the **Installation Luncheon** on **May 16, 2015**, 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 **April 18**. Thank you for your support.

Roberta Montgomery, Treasurer



AAUW 2015 CONVENTION

The 2015 AAUW National Convention will be held in **San Diego** on **June 18-21**. Registration is nearly sold out. To attend, contact convention@aauw.org.

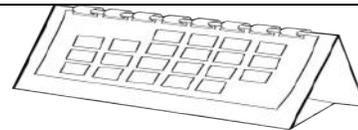
Patricia Fae Ho, AAUW President



MEMORIAL FOR CAROL ELMSTEDT

Our friend and long-time member, **Carol Orpin Elmstedt**, passed away on March 23. We are invited to attend a memorial service for her at Trinity Lutheran Church, 650 Alma Avenue, Oakland, on **Saturday, April 4, at 11 AM**. Because we will celebrate Carol's life, we are, at her request, asked to wear bright spring colors.

Roberta Montgomery, Treasurer



EVENTS COMING SOON

Monday, April 20, 5:00 to 8:00 PM:

The **AAUW** San Ramon Branch will host "*Tips for Change*" at Gianni's Italian Bistro, 2065 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. Volunteers and **AAUW** supporters will be servers. All tips and 10% of sales will go to support **Tech Trek** scholarships for girls. For reservations, call 925-820-6969 or go to www.opentable.com.

Saturday, April 25, 11:00 AM:

The **AAUW** Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek Branch will sponsor "Madam Mars: Women and the Quest for Worlds Beyond," at the Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Drive, Danville. The program will begin with a social at 11 AM, followed by lunch at 11:30 AM and the program at 12 PM. The cost is \$31.00, which includes lunch and the program. The speakers are Beth Rogozinki, Transmedia film producer and founding member of the Multimedia Studies Program at SFSU, and Jan Millsapps, Ph.D, an interactive cinema producer. Register by April 18; mail your check to Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek AAUW, PO Box 996, Alamo, CA 94507, noting name(s), phone #, email address, and # attending, or register online at <http://daw-ca.aauw.net/madamemars>.



MARCH MEETING REPORT

Our own member, **Seti Sidharta**, provided us with an informative and fascinating outline of her own experiences in obtaining a Ph.D. in Chemistry from UC Davis. She told us about the program she administers, the **Contra Costa College Center for Science Excellence**. Many of her students come from poor families, and some must overcome language and cultural issues. She recruits speakers to help address the students' concerns. The program's mission is to increase the numbers of scientists and engineers in the US so that the country will remain globally competitive. It works to (1) prepare STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) students in their first two years of undergraduate education; (2) ease their transfer to four-year colleges; (3) give them a breadth of academic experience to help them adjust to those colleges. The Center enrolls 50 students per year, many of whom still live at home. **Dr. Sidharta** has established relationships with many laboratories and businesses that give her students opportunities for summer internships. These can lead to later full-time employment. Her students go on frequent field trips to learn more about our culture. The Center also provides opportunities for middle school students to attend science exhibits and workshops. Our Branch donates funds each year for scholarships to outstanding students. **Dr. Sidharta** and this year's winner or winners will attend our **May 16, 2015** luncheon at **La Strada Restaurant**.

Vivian Coe



AN ISSUE TO WATCH IN THE SUPREME COURT THIS YEAR

The US Supreme Court ruled last summer in *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby* that closely held corporations cannot be required to cover contraception through their employee health insurance plans. Fallout from the decision could seriously threaten many more employees' access to preventative health care. The first fallout from that decision concerns religiously affiliated non-profits.

When the Affordable Care Act was first passed, the government created (and AAUW supported) an exemption to the contraceptive care requirement for religious organizations and religiously affiliated non-profits. To avoid having to pay for such coverage, the non-profit need only fill out a form explaining its religious objections. But days after the *Hobby Lobby* ruling, a majority on the court voted, over the strong objections of Justices Ginsburg, Sotomayor, and Kagan, to allow a religiously affiliated college not to have to use the form while appealing its own lawsuit. That case will also probably end up in the Supreme Court. *Hobby Lobby's* legacy could mean that even more employers will be able to restrict their employees' access to contraception.

Gradually women's right to control their bodies is being eroded – in this case, with the help of the US Supreme Court.

Ellen Mills, President
(AAUW Advocacy, AAUW.org, 3/23/15)



CANDIDATES FOR AAUW CA OFFICE

Until April 4, you may make additional nominations for **AAUW CA** office (with the nominee's permission) by following the instructions at <<http://www.aauw-ca.org/index.cfm?go=pages.view&parent=428&pagesid=428>> Members can read about the candidates by going to <<http://www.aauw-ca.org/index.cfm?go=pages.view&pagesid=436&parent=428&coparent=436>>

You will find the candidates' photos and statements of goals as well as links to information pages with their vitae and personal contact information so you can ask them questions and learn more about them. We will also vote on our public policy priorities and a bylaws amendment that clarifies the way vacancies are filled on the state board of directors. On April 18 an email broadcast will go out to all **AAUW CA** members' email addresses (make sure your current one is in the AAUW national membership records!) The email message will contain personal voting codes and links to the election site.

Those members who do not have email addresses or the message bounces, will be sent postcards with the voting information and instructions how to receive paper ballots to mail. The voting period is April 18 – May 8, 5:00 pm. Results of the election will be available and posted on the **AAUW CA** website within 24 hours of the close of voting. The newly elected people will join the continuing board on July 1, 2015. If there are questions about voting procedures, please contact me at nominating@auw-ca.org <<http://nominating@auw-ca.org/>>

Harriet Tower, Chair, Nominations & Elections Committee; **Marilynn Bracelin**

SOLVING THE EQUATION

Roberta Montgomery and **Vivian Coe** attended a program on **March 26, 2015**, at Samsung's new headquarters in Mountain View. This event celebrated the recent publication of *Solving the Equation: The Variables for Women's Success in Engineering and Computing*, which was funded by **AAUW Funds**, the **National Science Foundation**, and **AT&T**. National **AAUW** leaders spoke of ways women can succeed in these fields. Dr. Linda Schiebinger, Director of the Gendered Innovations in Science, Health, Medicine, Engineering and Environment Project at Stanford, spoke about the need to attract and retain women in the STEM fields, overcoming the tendency to hire and promote lower performing men over higher performing women. Scott McGregor of Broadcom spoke of the need to address unconscious biases and to improve science teaching in the early grades. April Erickson of NASA urged us to keep young children interested in higher education. Robin Bienfait of Samsung stressed the importance of role models, especially for girls. Elizabeth Gunn of AT&T said that this area tends to have a stressful environment, and that activities to promote relaxation help. Jessica Lindt, the CEO of a non-profit game company, emphasized the importance of learning through games. To summarize, the presenters noted the following challenges: (1) people must recognize their biases and learn to overcome them; (2) women must learn how best to apply their knowledge and expertise; (3) internships are really valuable to help women develop their careers; (4) women need to learn communication skills; (5) the playing field must be open to everyone; (6) men must encourage girls to do all jobs; and (7) all students need to learn the basics of computers.

Vivian Coe
