



# 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>>

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NEWSLETTER 2

OCTOBER 2015



## COME TO MEET AND HEAR OUR SUPERVISOR, JOHN GIOIA!

**Saturday, October 17th, 10:00 a.m.**

**Christ Lutheran Church**

**780 Ashbury (at Stockton), El Cerrito**

**Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia** will speak to us about the status of Title IX in the school district, and also on steps being taken to reduce violence against women and girls and to stop human trafficking in the county. Supervisor Gioia was first elected to public office in 1988 as a Director of East Bay MUD. He became a member of the CC Board of Supervisors in 1998, has been reelected overwhelmingly four times, and now serves as Board Chair. He has advocated for the environment, serving on the Bay Area Air Quality Management Board since 2006. He works at reducing poverty, increasing opportunities for people to obtain affordable housing, preventing violence, restoring the bay, and expanding opportunities for youth. This promises to be a very interesting and informative meeting, so please bring your friends.

### Judy Sam, Program Co-VP

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## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

### **Women and Congress: Why so few?**

It's official: Election season has begun. Many viewers watched the first primetime presidential debate of the 2016 election season. But there was one huge omission: women.

Of the 17 citizens running in the Republican primary for the presidency, only one is a woman.

New research shows that the percentage of women running for Congress has plateaued.

Despite historic gains, women still make up less than 20 percent of Congress.

Today, many states have yet to elect a woman Governor or woman Senator.

Women of color are especially scarce in elected leadership, representing less than 5 percent of the 535 members of the House and Senate.



Women are routinely slighted when it comes to leadership at all levels,

According to a new Harvard study, even mothers and girls had more confidence in student councils led by boys rather than by girls.

Gender stereotypes affect not only how women leaders are perceived, but also how women and girls come to perceive their own leadership capabilities. It's no surprise that women must be asked to run for office not once, not twice, but seven times.

A **key step** to closing the political leadership gap is to actively engage girls and young women in politics early in life, especially around student government.

In fact, 56 percent of women in the current U.S. Congress started their leadership careers in student government.

Absent from the discussion at the first presidential primary debate were issues like equal pay, child care, sexual assault, and minimum wage, all of which disproportionately affect women, and especially women of color.

Our government needs to represent everyone's point of view, including women's.

"I want young women to understand that the field is wide open," said equal pay advocate **Lilly Ledbetter** at **AAUW's 2015 National Convention**. For women, entering that field is "not the easy thing to do, but it's the right thing to do."

By encouraging more women to run for office, we can ensure that women have a voice in the halls of power, from the student union to the state legislature to the White House.

**Ellen Mills, President** (From AAUW Leadership, Summer 2015)



**CULTURE CORNER for OCTOBER 2015**  
**by Betty Ann Barnett**

**October 2 through 31:**

- **“Adventure”** (organized by Scott MacLeod)
- **“Anxiety”** (Scott MacLeod’s recent prints and new paintings)
- **“Can You Dig It”** (the drawings of Deatra Colbert)
- **“Color + Mark”** (the drawings of Christian Vassell)  
Reception, October 10, 12:30-3:00 PM  
NIAD, 551 23rd Avenue, Richmond  
Telephone: 620-0290 or see [www.niadart.org](http://www.niadart.org)

**October 2-4 and 9-11:**

- **“Envision: Charlotte’s Web”** (by Joseph Robinette, based on the classic by E.B. White)  
Fridays at 8 PM; Saturday at 7 PM, Sunday at 2 PM  
The Masquers Playhouse, 105 Park Place, Point Richmond  
Telephone: 232-4031 or see [www.masquers.org](http://www.masquers.org)

**October 7, 19, and 28:**

- **“The Beaux’ Strategem” (7 PM)** (comedy directed by Simon Godwin)  
National Theatre Live from London

**October 10 through November 8:**

- **“A Fine Balance”** (paintings by Wayne Armstrong & Ron Tanovitz;  
montages by Sharon Wilcox; Reception Oct. 10, 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](http://www.ci.san-pablo.ca.us)

**October 10:** • **“9th Annual Home Front Festival”**

Free Admission at Three Sites Along the Richmond Waterfront  
**Craneway Pavilion** at the foot of Harbour Way, 9 AM  
**Marina Bay Park** at the corner of Marina Bay Parkway & Regatta Blvd., 11 AM-4 PM  
**SS Red Oak Victory Ship**, 1337 Canal Blvd., Berth 6A, Richmond, 11 AM-4 PM

**October 11:** • **Pancake Breakfast, 9 AM-1 PM**

**October 15:** • **Movie Night, 6:30 PM-9:00 PM**

**SS Red Oak Victory Ship**, 1337 Canal Blvd., Berth 6A, Richmond, 237-2933  
Sponsored by the Richmond Museum of History, 400 Nevin Avenue, Richmond  
Telephone: 235-7387 (museum) or see [www.richmondmuseumofhistory.org](http://www.richmondmuseumofhistory.org)

**Through October 18:**

- **“The 39 Steps”** (adapted from the movie by Alfred Hitchcock)  
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](http://www.ccct.org)

**October 24:**

- **“My Fair Lady” (10 AM)** (50th Anniversary Celebration)  
Cerrito Theater (Rialto Cinemas), 10070 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito  
Telephone: 273-9102, or see [www.rialtocinemas.com](http://www.rialtocinemas.com)

**Through November 15:**

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



## OCTOBER ACTIVITIES

**Board Meeting:** The next Board meeting will be on **Tuesday, October 13, at 2:00 PM**, at the home of **Barbara Vaughan** (548-1942), 970 Wildcat Canyon, Berkeley. Please call **President Ellen Mills** (526-5815) for more information.

**Morning Books:** The group has in the past met on the **third Tuesday of the month at 10:00 AM**, at **Christ Lutheran Church**, 740 Ashbury, El Cerrito. The group will not meet in October. It is actively seeking new members who are interested in joining the group. For more information, contact **Janet Mengle** (232-2676), **Barbara Vaughan** (528-1942), or **Ida Michael** (524-7468).

**Afternoon Books:** The group usually meets on the **fourth Monday** of each month at **1:30 PM**. Our next meeting will be on **Monday, October 26**, at the home of **Sue Walenta** (526-4383), 737 Bay Tree Lane, El Cerrito, where we will discuss *The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd. Our following 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 December 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. 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, October 16**, 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), 1648 Oak View Avenue, Kensington. The group's next meeting will be on **Monday, October 12**, 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. Then, during the second part of the meeting, member **Ida Michael** will present a special report on **Iran**. For further information, if you have any questions, or if you wish to bring a guest, please contact the group's coordinator, **Marty Sarbey de Souto** at 925-304-2022 or [josemarty@yahoo.com](mailto:josemarty@yahoo.com).

**Drama Exchange Group:** The Drama Exchange Group is no longer meeting. Its members mourn the passing of the group's longtime leader, **Lorene Mayer**. See page 7 below for more information.

### PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE

AAUW's Vice President of Government Relations, **Lisa Maatz**, recently testified at a hearing before the House Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training titled "Preventing and Responding to Sexual Assault on College Campuses". Her ideas for solutions were received well, and it was determined that prevention was the best solution. You can view the hearing at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MPy3YVglZrM>. AAUW members across the country are being asked to contact their Congressional representatives and urge them to cosponsor the HALT Campus Sexual Violence Act (H.R.1490), which would ensure survivors have access to advocates to help them understand their rights and get the support they need.

**Marilynn Bracelin, Public Policy Chair**



## **MEMBERSHIP PAYMENT PROGRAM**

For those members who live by plastic or don't like balancing their checkbooks, **AAUW** provides another way to pay dues and contribute to programs.

The **Membership Payment Program (MPP)** is entirely voluntary.

Members, you can now pay your dues, contribute to **Tech Trek**, contribute to your branch, and give to many fellowships, including that established by **Vivian Coe**, by following these directions.

Go to [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org);

Log in;

Click on **member tools** at the bottom of the page;

Click on **enter here** under the **membership services database (MSD)**;

Click on **enter member services data base (MSD)**;

To pay your **membership dues**, go to the **membership payment program (MPP)** and click on **renew my membership**; then follow the directions.

To contribute to **a fellowship**, click on **individual contributions**, then click on **fellowships**, and at **designate a fellowship**, under the arrow, select **CA- Coe, Vivian**, and then follow the directions;

To contribute to **Tech Trek**, click on **individual contributions**, then click on **other funds and Giving Circles**; then, under the arrow, select **Tech Trek**, and follow the directions.

Remember, this program is voluntary. It is designed to make it easier for you to pay your dues and make contributions to the programs you choose to support. Whether you use it or not is up to you.

If you have questions, call me, **Ellen Mills**, at **526-5815**.

**Ellen Mills, President**

## **PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE**

New gender pay gap data for 2014 has recently been released. White women earned 79 cents for every dollar earned by white men, which is 1 cent more than the year before. The pay gap is slowly narrowing between men and women. However, the gap is worse for women of color. African American women earn 63% and Hispanic or Latina women earn 54% (as well as Alaskan and Pacific Islander women) of what white men are paid! The equal pay gap also has an effect on women's retirement pay. In order to make economic progress for women and families, Congress must take legislative action. **AAUW** leads the way to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act, a much-needed update to the Equal Pay Act of 1963.

**Marilynn Bracelin, Public Policy Chair**



## 2015 TECH TREK TEAM!

Six enthusiastic campers returned our September meeting to report their experiences from **Tech Trek** camp at Sonoma State University: **Audrey Richardson** (Hercules), **Isabel Mitchell** (Hercules), **Katie Henderson** (Crespi), **Hailey Ponchione** (Korematsu), **Kassandra Ruiz** (Helms), and **Nana Yansane** (Korematsu) came prepared to tell our members what they had learned.

They praised their classes, evening activities, and field trips. They spoke of genetics, marine biology, physics, math, chemistry, robotics and building apps. One popular activity was Astronomy Night where they learned to navigate by the stars. Another was game night when they had to use simple objects to build things. They spoke of meeting a veterinarian on the evening they met with women in STEM fields. In past years everyone went on the same field trip. This year the field trips depended on student interests. They spoke warmly of their social experiences. They made new friends. One made a new best friend. They loved their dorm mothers. And, yes, they enjoyed the food. In the last part of their presentation, they gave thoughtful responses as to how the camp changed something that they are doing this year. One camper will study harder. Another will read her text more carefully. A third realized that she can compete in math. A fourth realized that she can understand physics.

Both the campers and their parents thanked us enthusiastically. They recognized the time, energy, and expense that we give to this project. So, thank you all!

**Marsha Weintraub, Tech Trek Co-Chair**



## COMING EVENTS Tuesday, October 20

9:00 A.M.:

The **Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette Branch of the AAUW** will feature the **Hon. Ellen Tauscher**, US Rep. for California's 10<sup>th</sup> congressional district from 1997-2009, at the Holy Trinity Serbian Cultural Center, 1700 School Street, Moraga. She will speak on how we, as individuals, can advocate for **AAUW's** priorities such as public education, women in the workforce, equal pay, affordable health care, the right to privacy, freedom from violence, and reproductive choice. For more information, contact **Chris Laszca-Davis, AAUW-OML Branch**, by phone at 925-330-1774 or email her at [chrisLD@EQ-organization.com](mailto:chrisLD@EQ-organization.com).

Monday, October 28, 5:00-7:30 PM:

The **Contra Costa Commission for Women** will sponsor a panel discussion, **Women and Entrepreneurship**, at the **JFKU Institute for Entrepreneurial Leadership**, 2151 Salvio Street, Suite 350, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Concord, 94530. For more information, contact **Julianna Hynes** at 925-207-1578 or email her at [julianna@julianna@hynes.com](mailto:julianna@julianna@hynes.com).



## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER

We are pleased to announce that we have another new member: **Joan Tarver**. Her biography will follow in the next newsletter. Her contact information is:

**Joan Tarver**

PO Box 2483

El Cerrito, CA 94530

Phone: (510) 598-5003

Email: [joanmrn@gmail.com](mailto:joanmrn@gmail.com)

Education: UC Berkeley 1973

**Roberta Montgomery, Treasurer**



### IN MEMORY OF LORENE MAYER

Past President and Honorary Life Member of our WCC AAUW Branch **Lorene Mayer** passed away September 6th at the age of 92. Lorene was a graduate of UC Berkeley. Her vocation was working as a school psychologist with the West Contra Costa School District for 25 years. She also participated actively in many AAUW interest groups. While a member of Morning Books, she gave interesting and informative reviews. For over 20 years she enthusiastically chaired the Drama Exchange Group in her El Cerrito home. She was an enthusiastic supporter of our local Contra Costa Civic Theatre. Lorene was a member of Christ Lutheran Church, where our Branch holds its monthly meetings and where the Morning Book Group also met. She is survived by her son Randy and her daughter Kim, both of whom are also members of the church. A memorial service to honor her will be held on Saturday, October 24, at 2:30 PM, at the Christ Lutheran Church, 780 Ashbury Avenue, El Cerrito.

**Janet Mengle**



### **DIRECTORY CORRECTION**

A member's contact information was inadvertently omitted from the 2015-2016 directory. Please include:

**Christine Hills**

936 Norvell Street, El Cerrito 94530  
510.734.6505

**Ellen Mills, President**



### IN MEMORY OF FLORENCE YAFFE

Florence Yaffe, a teacher, San Francisco native, and lifelong resident of the Bay Area, has died at age 94. She is survived by her children, Joyce, Michael, Jan, David, and Sally Yaffe, and her grandchildren, Jonathan, Daniel, Noah and Gabriel Yaffe. Florence graduated from UC Berkeley in 1941 with a B.A. in Zoology. She taught in San Leandro, Oakland, and Richmond schools; she taught science at Portola Jr. High and Tehiyah Day School for 20 years. She inspired many students, awakening their interest in science and leading them toward challenging careers. She was active in many organizations, including the Richmond Retired Teachers Assn., AAUW, Hadassah, Congregation Beth El Sisterhood, and Mended Hearts. She was a docent at the UC Berkeley Botanical Gardens and served on the Oakland Kaiser Hospital Ethics Committee. Typical of her commitment was her involvement in **AAUW's Tech Trek**. For many years, she raised money for scholarships, recruited girls from diverse and underprivileged backgrounds, interviewed prospective participants, and even drove girls to program events. She enjoyed reading, arts and crafts, and travel. She will always be remembered for her love of nature, her open-minded tolerance, and her commitment to teaching and community service. Her passion for the last 30 years was raising silk worms every spring and teaching people about their biology and life cycle. Memorial contributions may be made to **Tech Trek, Hadassah, or the American Heart Association.**

**Michael Yaffe**

