



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 XXXII

NEWSLETTER 5

MARCH 2016



COME TO HEAR UNIQUE LAYLOR AT OUR MARCH MEETING

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

Christ Lutheran Church

780 Ashbury (at Stockton), El Cerrito

At our March 2016 meeting, AAUW Career Development Grant recipient Unique Laylor will speak about her current work, her career goals, and how the grant has helped her to achieve them. Unique is working towards her M.S. in Health and Medical Sciences at Samuel Merritt College in Oakland. She has been a registered nurse for six years and is now studying to become a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist. Her goals, on graduation, include mentoring high school students in underserved areas in the nurse anesthesia profession and teaching in higher education.

Ellen Mills, President

Table with 4 columns and 5 rows listing various roles and contact information for the branch, including President, Co-Membership VPs, Treasurer, Co-Secretaries, Program VPs, Tech Trek Co-Chairs, Sunshine Chair, Hospitality Co-Chairs, Web Editor, Bylaws, Public Policy, Women's Issues Chair, Newsletter Editor, Community/Cultural Chair, Contra Costa College Relations, Publicity Chair, Directory Co-Chairs, Newsletter Circulation, Read Aloud Chair, Telephone Monitor, and Facebook Monitor.





NAOMI WALENTA SPEAKS AT FEBRUARY BRANCH MEETING

At our February 20th meeting, **Naomi Walenta** spoke to our Branch about opportunities for women and girls in the tech industry. She grew up in the East Bay and went to local schools. She spent her junior year abroad at the University of Vienna and earned a M.A. in medieval German history at UC Berkeley. But she had always been interested in math and science, and she decided to look for work in the tech industry. She found a job as a Y-2K planner at Clorox Corporation in Oakland. From Clorox she moved to E-Bay in San Jose, where she became a project manager. From E-Bay she moved to Google, where she has risen to the position of Global Infrastructure Capacity Planner. She loves her work and is happy she made the journey. She encourages more girls and women to make the effort. Some suggestions: Don't be afraid to study math and science. Learn coding. Don't be afraid to excel. Take more chances, and don't be afraid to take risks. Don't keep saying you're sorry. Naomi showed us a number of PowerPoint slides with links to information about women who were pioneers in science, math, and technology. She also showed us slides with links to learning and scholarship opportunities. Here are some links:

Doodles celebrating science & engineering & women:

Ada Lovelace: <http://www.google.com/doodles/ada-lovelaces-197th-birthday>

Hedy Lamarr: <http://www.google.com/doodles/hedy-lamarrs-101st-birthday>

Sally Ride: <http://www.google.com/doodles/sally-rides-64th-birthday>

Annie June Cannon: <http://www.google.com/doodles/annie-jump-cannons-151st-birthday>

Grace Hopper: <http://www.google.com/doodles/grace-hoppers-107th-birthday>

Inge Lehmann: <http://www.google.com/doodles/inge-lehmans-127th-birthday>

Marie Curie: <http://www.google.com/doodles/marie-curies-144th-birthday>

Emmy Noether: <http://www.google.com/doodles/emmy-noethers-133rd-birthday>

Nellie Bly: <http://www.google.com/doodles/nellie-blys-151st-birthday>

Amelia Earhart: <http://www.google.com/doodles/amelia-earharts-115th-birthday>

Google Science Fair:

<https://www.google-science-fair.com/en/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=imxQvmUhlVg&feature=youtu.be>

Discover more amazing stories:

<https://www.google-science-fair.com/en/competition/previous-years>

Submission deadlines in May. Finalists announced in September

Learning Opportunities for Everyone:

Made with Code - www.madewithcode.org

Blocky Games - <https://blockly-games.appspot.com/>

Coder for Raspberry Pi - <http://googlecreativelab.github.io/coder/>

Computational Thinking Course -

<https://computationalthinkingcourse.withgoogle.com/unit?lesson=8&unit=1>

Lessons, Tutorials, & Activities - <http://www.cs4hs.com/resources/cscs.html>

More CS Learning Opportunities – Programs:

Google Code Jam 2016 - <https://code.google.com/codejam>

Google Code-In - <https://developers.google.com/open-source/gci/>

Computer Science Summer Institute –

<https://www.google.com/edu/resources/programs/computer-science-summer-institute-cssi/>

BOLD Internship Program - <https://www.google.com/about/careers/students/bold.html>

Engineering Practicum Internships -

<https://www.google.com/about/careers/search#!t=jo&jid=120165001&>

Google Scholarships & Funding

:CS4HS - Google Computer Science for High School - <http://cs4hs.com/>

Google Anita Borg Memorial Scholarship - for women in technology --

<https://www.google.com/anitaborg/>

Generation Google Scholarship - for students from underrepresented groups in computer science (African American, Hispanic, American Indian)

<https://www.google.com/edu/scholarships/the-generation-google-scholarship/>

Google Lime Scholarship - for students with disabilities

<https://www.google.com/edu/scholarships/the-google-lime-scholarship/>

Google Student Veterans of America Scholarship -

<https://www.google.com/edu/scholarships/google-sva-scholarship/>

The Google Travel & Conference Grants - for all traditionally underrepresented groups in technology

<https://www.google.com/edu/scholarships/google-travel-and-conference-grants/>

The Editor



MARY ELLEN BALES AAUW SCHOLARSHIP

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 2016 scholarship recipient at the **Installation Luncheon** on **May 21** 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 4530, or give it to me at our meeting on March 19. Thank you for your support!!!

Roberta Montgomery, Treasurer



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE SURVEY

The membership committee has written a survey to learn what the membership wants or expects from AAUW. We would appreciate each member's input so that the Board can better attempt to meet the needs of our organization and its members. A copy of the survey is attached. If you have not done so already, please complete the survey and mail it to Mimi Fruehan, 8811 Terrace Drive, El Cerrito, CA 94530. Thank you.

Gloria Merrill, Co-Membership VP



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The most powerful lesson from early presidential voting results is that Democrats are facing a generation gap.

Age has emerged as the single most important dividing line in the struggle between Sanders and Clinton. The former senator and secretary of state got walloped in Iowa and New Hampshire among folks under 50 years old.

Why aren't women flocking in support of the first female president in U.S. history? Is it that women have achieved enough equality that the lure of voting for the first female president isn't as big a deal as it would have been even 10 years ago? Is it ageism?

So far Sanders has crushed Clinton by an almost unimaginable six to one—84 percent to 14 percent—among voters younger than 30. He also routed her by 58 percent to 37 percent among those aged 30 to 44.

But Clinton's margins were almost as impressive among older voters: she beat Sanders 58 percent to 35 percent among those aged 45-64, and by 69 percent to 26 percent among seniors.

Why is this? One idea is that women younger than 30 do not feel the pay gap. But as women age, they see men earning higher salaries and being promoted faster. They notice that employers give women little help with child care, and they receive insufficient paid time off to care for dependent children and elders. What do you think?

Ellen Mills, President (Taken from New York Times and blogs)



GET YOUR TAXES DONE FOR FREE!

For free tax preparation by IRS-certified counselors, visit your local **AARP** site. Call for an appointment. We have sites at:

Hercules Senior Center (510) 799-8219 open Monday and Tuesday;

Richmond Annex Senior Center (510) 620-6812 open Thursday and Friday;

El Cerrito Open House Senior Center (510) 559-7677 open Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday;

Pinole Senior Center (510) 724-9800 open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday;

Richmond SparkPoint Site (510) 260-3563 open Tuesday and Wednesday;

San Pablo Senior Center (510) 215-3090.

Floyd Sam



CULTURE CORNER for MARCH 2016
by Betty Ann Barnett

March 2 through March 30:

- ***“Les Liasons Dangereuse”*** (March 2, 7 PM)
- ***“As You Like It”*** (by William Shakespeare) (March 7, 16, 21, 30, 7 PM)
 National Theatre Live from London
 Cerrito Theater (Rialto Cinemas), 10070 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito
 Telephone: 273-9102, or see www.rialtocinemas.com

March 4 through March 25:

- ***“Group Exhibition, Variations on a Theme”*** (Organized by Robert Wuilfe)
 Opening Reception: Saturday, March 12, 12:30-3:00 PM
 NIAD, 551 23rd Avenue, Richmond
 Telephone: 620-0290 or see www.niadart.org

Through March 6:

- ***“The Clean House”*** (by Sarah Ruhl; directed by Erin Merritt;

April 15 through May 18:

- ***“The Mountaintop”*** (by Katori Hall; directed by Marilyn Langbehn;
 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

March 12 through April 3:

- ***“Pinole Artisans”***
 Reception March 12, 1:00-3:00 PM
 (See ***Yellow Dancing Leaves*** by Carolyn Hess, above)

March 25 through May 28:

- ***“Obstruction Meets Reality”***
 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 March 19:

- ***“The Black Panther Party”***
 Richmond Museum of History, 400 Nevin Avenue, Richmond
 Telephone: 235-7387 (museum) or see www.richmondmuseumofhistory.org

March 20 through May 22:

- ***“David Park – Personal Perspectives”***
 Reception March 19, 5:30-7:30 PM
 Richmond Art Center, 2560 Barrett, Richmond
 Telephone: 620-6772 or see www.therac.org

March 25 through April 23:

- ***“The Elephant Man”*** (by Bernard Pomerance)
 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
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MARCH ACTIVITIES

Board Meeting: The next Board meeting will be on **Tuesday, March 8, 2016, at 2:00 PM**, at the home of **Marsha Weintraub** (644-0320), 1080 Park Hills Road, Berkeley. The following Board meeting will be on **Tuesday, April 12, 2016, at 2:00 PM**, at the home of **Ellen Mills** (526-5815), 1648 Oak View Avenue, Kensington. 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**. We changed the dates of recent meetings because some members were unable to attend. Our next meeting will be held on **Monday, March 28**, at the home of **Sue Walenta** (526-4383), 737 Bay Tree Lane, El Cerrito, where we will discuss *The Goldfinch* by Donna Tartt. The following meeting will be held on **Monday, April 25, at 1:30 PM**, at the home of **Ida Michael** (524-7468), 268 Cambridge Avenue, Kensington, where we will discuss *My Brilliant Friend* by Elena Ferrante. 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, March 18**, at the home of **Ellen Mills**, 1648 Oak View Avenue, Kensington. The following meeting will be on **Friday, April 15**, at the same time and place. 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, March 14**, from **1:30 to 3:00 PM**. The following meeting will be on **Monday, April 11**, at the same time and place. **Coordinator Marty Sarbey de Souto** has not been attending lately due to illness (and the DMV not allowing her to drive), but she is feeling much better now and should be able to attend the March 14 meeting. New participants are welcome; "old" participants should come too. All attendees should bring a five-minute mini-report on something that has recently been happening in our world. Ideas: Who may replace Justice Scalia on the Supreme Court? What does South Korea's newest hard line outlook on North Korea portend? What is meant by China's "Left Behind Children," and what remedies is their government proposing? In Russia, what does the current phrase, "The Night of the Long Scoops" mean? What do you think President Obama's forthcoming trip to Cuba may accomplish? And, speaking of visitors to foreign shores, what do you hope was accomplished by Pope Francis's six-day visit to Mexico? If you need ideas, read "*The Economist*" — that's where **Marty** gets her information. 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. **Marty** looks forward to seeing you there.



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER!

Please welcome a new member: **Linda Feldman**. Linda was born in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. She attended Brandeis University, went to graduate school at Harvard, and attended Hastings Law School. After receiving her law degree, she became a Public Defender, first working in the State Public Defender's Office, and then for Alameda County. She then became a staff attorney for the California Supreme Court. She retired from the court in December 2014. Her contact information is:

Linda Feldman

1594 Leroy Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94708; telephone: (510) 540-7310

Email: lfeldman1@mindspring.com

Education: Brandeis University, Harvard University, Hastings Law School

Sue Walenta



TECH TREK 2016 UPDATE

Work is progressing on the selection of our nine **Tech Trek** girls and the raising of the money to send them to camp. Our **Tech Trek** team (**Sally Dunham, Karen Euston, Mimi Fruehan, Mary Ghidella, Christine Hills, Jackie Title, and Sharon Trot**) are contacting the West Contra Costa County Middle Schools, getting teacher nominations, reviewing applications, and setting up interviews. Donation request letters are going out to all of last year's donors. Our fundraising is year-round, and we are already looking to 2017. Although there was no increase for 2016 in the amount for each **Tech Trek** camper we sponsor (\$900, including the \$50 camper commitment fee), there will most likely be an increase next year, because the \$900 does not cover the actual camper cost.

Donations of any amount to our **Tech Trek** Program are always welcome and fully tax-deductible. **Make your check payable to AAUW**, and then either mail it to AAUW WCC Branch, PO Box 501, El Cerrito, CA 94530, or give it to me (Roberta) at our meeting on March 19. Donations can also be made by credit card on the **AAUW** website (aauw.org). Go to the Member Services Database (log in, then select member tools at the bottom of the page) Individual Contributions. Select Tech Trek California-Rohnert Park (Sonoma State) and CA0090-West Contra Costa. Thank you in advance for your support.

Roberta Montgomery and Marsha Weintraub, Tech Trek Coordinators



RICHMOND PROMISE -- \$1,500 COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS -- APPLY BY MARCH 17TH

The **Richmond Promise** is a community-wide College Scholarship Fund and College Success Program. It is a unified effort between the City of Richmond, WCC Unified School District, Contra Costa College, and the Richmond community to provide comprehensive support to help Richmond students realize their ambitions and succeed in college! Applicants must be Richmond or North Richmond residents who have attended local schools since the ninth grade and are graduating from a high school within the WCCUSD boundaries. See www.richmondpromise.org for more information.

Information from CCC Supervisor John Gioia



IT'S MY VOTE!

The **It's My Vote** Group met for the first time on February 29 to plan to meet our goal of registering voters. The three of us – **Gloria Merrill** (527-2681), **Roberta Montgomery** (237-5293), and **Ellen Mills** (526-5815) -- are full of enthusiasm. We thought of several locations where we might find many unregistered voters, such as Contra Costa College, post offices, grocery stores, hardware stores, and some events like the Solano Stroll, the El Cerrito Fourth of July Celebration, and the Kensington Parade in the fall. **Gloria Merrill** came equipped with 150 registration applications, so, you see, we are optimistic. We chose three dates to begin registering voters: **March 12th**, **April 9th**, and **May 7th**. We will select the locations after the owners agree to our plan. Our goal is to meet every three or four weeks, with two members each time, and register voters for about two hours. We will be familiar with the rules and be armed with a FAQ paper. We hope a member will join us for each event. If you have questions or want to volunteer, please call one of us.

Ellen Mills, President



GET WELL WISHES!!!

Our former President, **Vivian Coe**, is recovering from a bad fall in which she broke her elbow and hand. She is temporarily staying in an Assisted Living facility in the South Bay near her daughter, **Carol Coe Pugh**. **Carol** advises **Vivian** has made good progress with her recovery. She is now able to dress herself, is walking longer distances with her walker, and is steadier on her feet. Her arm is getting stronger – she is able to move it at the shoulder, has a little bend at the elbow, no twisting ability yet, and very little fine motor control of her hand. Her attitude is great – but she is definitely missing

her friends. Please call **Vivian** on her cell phone (510-367-6226) to wish her well, or write to her in care of her daughter at 1937 Alford Avenue, Los Altos, CA 94024. If you are going to the South Bay and are able to visit **Vivian**, please call **Carol** (650-386-6658) to make arrangements.

Carol Coe Pugh



MORE GET WELL WISHES!!!

Our member, **Mollie Hazen**, has recently been diagnosed with breast cancer. We all send her our very best wishes for a speedy and complete recovery. **Mollie** has been active in the Kensington Symphony Orchestra, the Hillside Club Art Show, and the El Cerrito Democratic Club as well as AAUW. **Mollie** has established a Caring Bridge Site so her friends can follow her progress and keep in touch. You can find the site through link www.caringbridge.org/visit/mollieschronicles.

Sue Walenta

As the Read-Aloud Volunteer Program is getting near its end for this school year, I'd like to thank those of you who volunteered and substituted, and remind everyone that it's wonderfully supportive when you tell friends and relatives about the great times you've experienced reading with your two students at "your" school site. Doing that passes along the information that our schools are places where teachers in general work hard, and our program helps open the students' minds to the new ideas and adventures that wait inside books. It speaks to their hearts through loving, caring adults who know they are special. Have you visited our website recently? If not, check it out – it's been modernized and is a great resource. See it at www.readaloud.org .

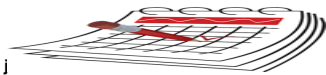
Judy Sam



"AAUW California Empowering You"
April 15th through April 17th at the San Mateo Marriott Hotel
1770 S. Amphlett Blvd - San Mateo, CA

The **AAUW California 2016 Convention** is coming soon! It's close, and our Branch has money in the budget to support members who want to attend. There is also a special one-day rate (\$105) that would allow members to attend Saturday's four workshop sessions. Meal events would be extra. The convention details are on the AAUW-CA website (go to aauw-ca.org, select Convention 2016, then click on "Register Now" to see event details after the ticket information. Check out the daily schedules and workshop abstracts. Let me know if you are interested in attending any or all of the convention.

Roberta Montgomery, Treasurer



COMING EVENTS

Thursday, March 10, 9:20 PM, at the Cerrito Theatre, (Rialto Cinemas), 10070 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito: Cerrito Classic, *The Big Lebowski*, a 1998 film by Joel & Ethan Coen starring Jeff Bridge, John Goodman, & Julianne Moore,

Tuesday, March 15, 9-11:30 AM, at the Holy Trinity Serbian Church Cultural Center, 1700 School St., Moraga: *Cuba – The Power of Community in an Isolated and Underserved Nation*, sponsored by AAUW-OML Branch.

Tuesday, March 15, 7-8:30 PM, at the Family Justice Center Alliance, 2151 Salvio St., Concord, 2nd Floor: *Contra Costa Commission for Women meeting*.

Wednesday, March 16, 1:30-3 PM, at the Veterans Memorial Bldg., 200 Grand Ave., Oakland: Osher Lifelong Learning Institute presents lecture by David Peritz, Prof. at Sarah Lawrence College: *Right Wing and*

Middle Class Populism: What's Driving Voters to Extremes." Free Admission.

Thursday, March 17, 7-9 PM, at the Diablo Valley College Library Bldg., 321 Golf Club Rd., Pleasant Hill: *"The Hunting Ground,"* a movie about the prevalence of sexual assault at US institutions of higher learning.

Saturday, March 19, 6-10 PM, at the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane, El Cerrito: ECHS Jazz Bands – swing dance lessons, food, wine, and music.

Thursday, March 24, 5:30-8:30 PM, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 45 John Glenn Dr., Concord: CC Commission for Women Hall of Fame Awards Dinner. To order tickets, go to www.cccwomenshof.eventbrite.com

Friday, March 25, 7:30-9:30 PM, at the school, El Cerrito High School Concert Band, Symphonic Band, and Wind Ensemble will perform at their annual Spring Concert.

Saturday, April 16, 10 AM, at Christ Lutheran Church, 780 Ashbury (at Stockton), El Cerrito: **Sheila Tarbet** will speak to our **WCC AAUW Branch** on global weather changes and how we can help the environment. She will tell us how she learned more about this area, what she learned, and how we can educate ourselves and become involved.

Saturday, May 21, 11:30 AM, at La Strada Restaurant, 2215 Church Lane, San Pablo: **WCC AAUW Branch Installation Luncheon**. There will be three menu choices: (Pollo Marsala (chicken breast sautéed with Marsala wine and mushrooms); Red Snapper (fish sautéed with white wine, lemon, butter, capers, fresh tomatoes, and spring onions); and Ravioli alla Ragu (beef ravioli in a meat sauce). There will also be a vegetarian option. The chicken and fish entrees are served with polenta and vegetables. The \$28 cost includes bread, green salad, dessert, soft drinks, coffee, tea, tax, and tip

Roberta Montgomery, Treasurer
