

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 6

APRIL-MAY 2016



HEAR SHEILA TARBET SPEAK ON GLOBAL WEATHER CHANGES!

Saturday, April 16, 10:00 a.m.
Christ Lutheran Church
780 Ashbury (at Stockton), El Cerrito

At our April 2016 meeting, **Sheila Tarbet** from El Cerrito will speak on global weather changes and how we can help the environment. **Sheila** comes from a sociology background and has designed and evaluated many programs in social justice and health and human services for over 40 years. She has an MA in Sociology from the University of Washington, Seattle, and a PhD in community psychology from the Wright Institute in Berkeley. Much of her work has been in alcohol and drug prevention and intervention, HIV prevention among low-income members of the African American community, teen pregnancy prevention, fatherhood involvement, and social and health services for low-income pregnant teens and adult women. When **Sheila** left full-time employment two and a half years ago, she began volunteer tutoring with high school students and evaluating a program promoting positive aging. A longtime member of the **Sierra Club** and an outdoors enthusiast, she also began to pursue her interests in environmental issues and climate change. She now works with several groups focused on climate change, including **350 Bay Area**, the **Pachamama Alliance**, the **Green Earth Sangha**, the **Conscious Elder Network**, and **Elders Climate Action**.

Ellen Mills, President

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 lwmichl@juno.com
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VOTE FOR OUR BRANCH'S 2016-2017 OFFICERS AT OUR APRIL MEETING

The nominees to be our Branch's officers for next year, who will be voted on at our **April 16** meeting and installed at our **May 21** luncheon, are as follows:

President: **Roberta Montgomery** (with help/instruction from Past President **Ellen Mills**);
Program Vice President: **Eileen Carrabine** (**Eileen** needs volunteers to help next year, and at the April meeting we will have a group brainstorm to get ideas, suggestions, and volunteers)
Membership Vice Presidents: **Mimi Fruehan, Gloria Merrill, Judy Sam, and Jackie Title**;
AAUW Funds Vice President: **Virginia Summerer**; (**Virginia** will need a backup for email);
Co-Secretaries: **Barbara Vaughan, Marilynn Bracelin** (backup: **Ida Michael**);
Treasurer: **Christine Hills** (with help/instruction from Past Treasurer **Roberta Montgomery**)
Community/Cultural Chair: **Betty Ann Barnett**;
Contra College Relations: **Joyce Muse**;
Tech Trek: **Marsha Weintraub, Roberta Montgomery, Memi Fruehan, Mary Ghidella**;
Public Policy, Bylaws:: **Marilynn Bracelin**;
Newsletter Editor: **Sue Walenta** (backup, **Barbara Miller**);
Website Editor: **Barbara Vaughan**;
Publicity: **Maria LaForge**;

In addition, we will confirm the following members to appointed positions:

Directory: **Marilynn Bracelin**, with **Susan Forsythe**;
Hospitality: **Sally Dunham** (**Sally** will need volunteers to help her);
Newsletter Circulation: **Marion McIntire**;
Read Aloud: **Judy Sam**;
Sunshine: **Nancy Hendrickson**;
Telephone Monitor: **Janet Mengle**.

Judy Sam, Nominating Committee



ARE YOU WONDERING WHAT AAUW IS STUDYING NOW?

AAUW is launching a new project about women and leadership – paid leadership, that is. Women have been leaders throughout history, and today the tradition of volunteer female leadership continues to flourish. Yet in terms of paid leadership, women's elevation to top positions is relatively rare. Why do men still vastly outnumber women in these positions? **AAUW's** newest research report, "*Barriers and Bias: The Status of Women in Leadership*," explores this question, drawing from scholarly research and paying special attention to stereotypes and biases. The report provides recommendations for individuals and those in the education, corporate, and political sectors to contribute to an environment in which gender is no longer a barrier to leadership.

Ellen Mills, President (taken from AAUW)



THANKS FOR EXTRA DUES

Thanks to all our members who made an extra contribution to supplement our Branch dues for 2015-2016. The \$483 (a third of our membership income) helped us to meet our regular expenses that keep increasing. Without this support, we would not be able to continue our many worthwhile activities.

Roberta Montgomery, Treasurer

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2016!

***** Please Pay Your 2016-2017 Membership Dues by June 1 *****

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



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We are faced this year with a critical presidential election. The winner will decide many important issues: perhaps the ninth Supreme Court justice, the Affordable Care Act continuation, support for *Roe v. Wade*, and, ultimately, basic health care for many women. **AAUW** supports the Affordable Care Act, which has had significant impact on women's health. The ACA requires coverage of women's reproductive health services, which conservatives are attacking throughout the country. In 1973 in *Roe v. Wade*, the U.S. Supreme Court made a [landmark decision](#) on the issue of [abortion](#). The court ruled that a woman's decision to have an abortion was protected by her right to [privacy](#) under the [Due Process Clause](#) of the [14th Amendment](#) of the U.S. Constitution. In disallowing many [state](#) and [federal](#) restrictions on [abortion in the United States](#), *Roe v. Wade* prompted a [national debate](#) that continues today about issues including whether, and to what extent, abortion should be legal, who should decide the legality of abortion, what methods the Supreme Court should use in constitutional [adjudication](#), and what the role should be of [religious](#) and [moral](#) views in the political sphere. This has resulted in reducing access to abortion and health care for women. **Planned Parenthood** is at the center of the debate because they provide health services, including abortion, to women. Conservatives are working to restrict abortion by attacking Planned Parenthood. This health care provider has been a passionate advocate for women for nearly 100 years delivering vital reproductive health care. They and their affiliates operate over 650 health centers and have offered one in five American women services at least once in her life. These health centers provide a wide range of safe, reliable health care — and the majority is preventive, primary care, which helps prevent unintended pregnancies through contraception, reduce the spread of sexually transmitted infections through testing and treatment, and screen for cervical and other cancers. The opposition to *Roe v. Wade* has greatly limited access to health care access for women by forcing more and more offices offering health care to close. Closing Planned Parenthood health care centers endangers women's health and harms women.

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



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. Our scholarship is named for **Mary Ellen Bales**. She was an early long-time Branch member, accomplished pianist, and spouse of a Contra Costa College professor. She initiated our relationship with the college by encouraging us to help raise money to fund tickets for student winners to attend the annual Scholarship Awards Banquet. Our Branch eventually decided to establish a scholarship fund in her honor. **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 April 16. Thank you for your support!!!

Roberta Montgomery, Treasurer



COMING EVENTS

Tuesday, April 12, is Equal Pay Day!!!!!!

Sunday, April 17, 3-5 PM, at the Holy Trinity Serbian Church Cultural Center, 1700 School Street, Moraga: OML Branch AAUW's April Annual Awards Meeting. Mary Fettig, Musician & Teacher, will speak on "Music: Math in Action."

Thursday, April 21, 6:30 PM, at Insalata's Restaurant, 120 Sir Francis Drake Blvd., San Anselmo: Book Passage sponsors "Taste the Flavorwalla" with Chef Floyd Cardoz. Single: \$120; Couple: \$185; price includes meal, wine, tax, tip, and a signed copy of the book.

Tuesday, May 17, At the Moraga Country Club, 1600 St. Andrews Drive, Moraga: *Distinguished Woman Luncheon honoring Burckhalter School (Oakland) volunteers*, sponsored by AAUW-OML Branch. For reservations, send your check for \$33 to Janet Mendenhall, 2424 Tice Creek Drive #3, Walnut Creek, CA 94595. See www.oml-ca.aauw.net/

Wednesday, May 18, 4:30-7:00 PM, at the Workforce Development Board, Monterey Room, 300 Ellinwood Way, Pleasant Hill: *Contra Costa Commission for Women, Panel on Women & Entrepreneurship*.

Saturday, May 21, 9 AM-1 PM, Shred Fest at 5A Rent-A-Space, 455 Moraga Road, Moraga: \$7 for first file box. *Proceeds fund Tech Trek Scholarships for Lamorinda 8th Grade girls.*



JOIN US FOR OUR INSTALLATION LUNCHEON AND MEET OUR CONTRA COSTA COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT!

Saturday, May 21st, 2016, 11:30 a.m.

La Strada Italian Restaurant

2215 Church Lane (at San Pablo Avenue), San Pablo

Be sure to attend our final meeting of the year and installation of officers. **Joyce Muse** and **Seti Sidharta** will introduce the recipient of our **Contra Costa College Mary Ellen Bales AAUW Scholarship**. There are four 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), **Ravioli alla Ragu** (beef ravioli in a meat sauce), and **vegetarian**. The chicken and fish entrees are served with polenta and vegetables. The \$28 cost (same as last year) includes bread, green salad, dessert, soft drinks, coffee, tea, tax, and tip. Please complete the reservation form below, indicating the number in your party (bring your friends!), your entrée choice, and send your check for **\$28** per person (payable to **AAUW WCC**) to AAUW WCC, P. O. Box 501, El Cerrito, CA 94530. Our reservation deadline is Tuesday, May 17. NOTE: You may pay the luncheon fee with the same check as your dues.

Roberta Montgomery

NAME: _____ No. in party _____

Luncheon choice(s):

Pollo Marsala _____ Red Snapper _____ Ravioli alla Ragu _____ Vegetarian _____

Reservation deadline is Tuesday, May 17

Mail FORM and CHECK, payable to **AAUW WCC**, to: AAUW WCC Branch
P.O. Box 501
El Cerrito, CA 94530



CULTURE CORNER for APRIL-MAY-JUNE 2016
by Betty Ann Barnett

April 4 through April 27:

- ***“Hangmen”*** (by Matthew Dunster, a hilarious comedy) **(April 4, 13, 18, 27, 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

April 9 through May 1:

- ***“Printmaking Explored”***
 Reception April 9, 1:00-3:00 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

April 10, May 8:

- ***“Pancake Breakfast” aboard the SS Red Oak Victory***
 Richmond Museum of History, 400 Nevin Avenue, Richmond
 Red Oak Victory, 1337 Canal Blvd., Richmond
 Telephone: 235-7387 (museum) or 237-3933 (ship); see www.richmondmuseumofhistory.org

April 15 through May 18:

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

July 10 through July 17:

- ***“American Idiot”*** (musical by Green Day and Billie Joe Armstrong;
 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 23:

- ***“Win Win 4”*** (*Works by 80 national and local artists*)
 NIAD, 551 23rd Avenue, Richmond
 Telephone: 620-0290 or see www.niadart.org

April 29 through May 8:

- ***“The Giver”***
 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

Through May 22:

- ***“David Park – Personal Perspectives”***
 - ***“The Human Spirit: Contemporary Figuration as an Expression of Humanism”***
 Richmond Art Center, 2560 Barrett, Richmond
 Telephone: 620-6772 or see www.therac.org
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APRIL-MAY-JUNE ACTIVITIES

Board Meeting: The next 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. The following Board meeting will be on **Tuesday, May 10, at 2:00 PM,** at a location to be determined. A joint meeting of the outgoing and incoming Board members will be held on **Tuesday, June 14, at 2:00 PM,** at the home of **Jacque Title** (234-9370), 3511 Roosevelt, Richmond. 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 held on **Monday, April 25,** at the home of **Ida Michael** (524-7468), 268 Cambridge Avenue, Kensington, where we will discuss ***My Brilliant Friend*** by Elena Ferrante. The following meeting will be held on **Monday, May 23, at 1:30 PM,** at the home of **Winnie Sayre** (524-8954), 739 Bay Tree Lane, El Cerrito, where we will discuss ***God Help the Child*** by Toni Morrison. We will not meet in June. At our May meeting we will choose a book to read over the summer, to discuss at our September meeting. 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 15,** at the home of **Ellen Mills**, 1648 Oak View Avenue, Kensington. The following meeting will be on **Friday, May 20,** at the same time and place. There will be no June meeting. 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, April 11,** from **1:30 to 3:00 PM.** All attendees should bring a five-minute mini-report on something that has recently been happening in our world. **Coordinator Marty Sarbey de Souto** will bring the first issue of a new magazine called "**1843**" that bills itself as "A new magazine of ideas, lifestyle and culture." It has interesting articles on the street art of Sao Paulo and the most dangerous international airlines, a piece on Marine Le Pen, and a wonderful column called "What the World is Reading," with selections from Russia, South Africa, Argentina, and more. The following meeting will be on **Monday, May 9,** at the same time and place. **Sue Walenta** will report on her April trip to Greece and Turkey. She will talk about the refugee crisis and will describe what she has seen of that catastrophe. All attendees will also bring a five-minute mini-report on an item of world news. 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.



IN MEMORIAM

We mourn the loss of our longtime member, **Leslie O'Hara**. **Leslie** grew up in the San Joaquin valley. After college, she relocated to San Francisco. Then she moved to a lovely Point Richmond Victorian home. Her son, Marc, is a political consultant, and her daughter-in-law, Rachel, is also engaged in politics. Leslie was employed as a recruiter for Pacific Placement Group in SF; she spent her time on BART going to and from the city reading. (She was a member of our Afternoon Books Group.) Leslie was a self-described "foodie" and political junkie. She was a member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, and volunteered for a number of its public services. We are grateful to her for leaving gifts to causes she supported, including the **AAUW**.

Winnie Sayre



"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



GET WELL WISHES!!!

We have learned that our Sunshine Chair, **Nancy Hendrickson**, has broken her second hip. (We understand that she broke her first hip less than a year ago.) Nancy, we are so very sorry that this has happened to you. We are thinking of you and wish you a speedy recovery. Please let us know if we can do anything to help you.

Winnie Sayre



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**'s friends have established a gofundme site to try to raise the money that she needs to cover the cost of her medical care. You can find the site by visiting the link www.caringbridge.org/visit/mollieschronicles.

Sue Walenta



FAREWELL TO A FRIEND

We send our best wishes with our member, **Virginia Liao**, who is moving to Southern California. She will be residing in Villa Gardens, 8422 Villa Street, Apt. 222, Pasadena, CA 91101. Her phone number will be 626-529-3897. Her email will remain the same, although it doesn't always work: dyvtliao35@gmail.com.

The Editor