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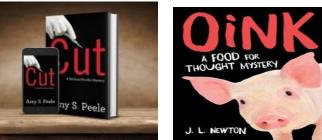
# WEST CONTRA COSTA BRANCH

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 XXXIV** 

NEWSLETTER 3 NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2017



### HEAR "SHE WRITES PRESS" AUTHORS AMY S. PEELE AND JUDITH L. NEWTON SPEAK ABOUT THEIR BOOKS!

Saturday, November 18, 10:00 a.m. Christ Lutheran Church 780 Ashbury (at Stockton), El Cerrito

Come to hear **Amy S. Peele**, an RN with a 35-year career in organ transplantation at the University of Chicago and UCSF, speak about her humorous medical murder mysteries, including *Cut*, which draws on her professional life as the Director of Transplant Clinical Operations at UCSF. Also come to hear **Judith L. Newton**, Professor Emeritus of Women and Gender Studies at UC Davis, speak about her books including *Oink*, a mystery that takes place on a university campus involving the world of women in academia and an untimely poisoning at the campus's historic hog yard. It deals with many issues of interest to **AAUW** and comes with recipes.

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## PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY!



#### Saturday, December 9, 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.

A quartet of A Cappella singers from the **Piedmont Troubadors**, a fully student-run A Cappella choir, dedicated to bringing fun and affordable entertainment to parties and special events, will provide the music for our gathering. Guests are welcome, and the fellowship will be rich and spirited. Please put this special event 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 2017-2018 Membership Directories**

- Sue Duncan has a new phone number: 510-334-0520.
- **Nancy Hendrickson**'s new address and phone number are: 373 Pine Lane, Apt. A111, Los Altos, CA 94022, 650-935-2255. She would like to hear from her **AAUW** friends.
- Ida Michael has a new email address: <u>ida.michael@icloud.com</u>
- Give a hearty welcome to our new member and add her information to your directories: Name: Honey Massey: Address: 721 Pomona Avenue, El Cerrito 94530; Phone: (216) 659-4381; Email: <u>honey joy@sbcglobal.net</u> Colleges: Case Western University, Cleveland, Ohio, B.A.; Cleveland State University, Cleveland, Ohio, M.A. Birthday month: June



#### CULTURE CORNER for NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2017 by Barbara Miller

To celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, the city of El Cerrito is sponsoring a wide variety of activities. You still have time to attend some of them. More information at: <u>http://www.el-cerrito.org/1002/Events</u>

- <u>Sat., Nov. 4, 1:00 pm: Centennial Walking Tour.</u> The El Cerrito Historical Society and the El Cerrito Trail Trekkers host "Architecture in the Hills," a walking tour to see historical homes in El Cerrito. Led by Dave Weinstein. Meet at the Arlington Park clubhouse, 1120 Arlington Blvd. 2 hours.
- <u>Sat., Nov. 4, 10:30 am</u>: Film: *Sundar Shadi's Gifts*. The story behind El Cerrito's annual holiday display. Sundar Shadi, an immigrant from India and a Hindu, created hundreds of folk art pieces as a gift to his community and as a call for peace and cooperation among people of all religions. At the Cerrito Theater. More information available here: <u>http://www.shadiholidaydisplay.com/history.html/www.shadiholidaydisplay.com/history.html</u>
- Dec. 19, 6:00 pm: Closing Centennial program. Please check website for details, which will be posted when available.
- Dec. 10 through Dec. 26: Sundar Shadi Holiday Display. On the PG&E property on Moeser Lane between Sea View Dr. and Shevlin Dr.

El Cerrito City Hall, 10890 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. http://www.el-cerrito.org/Calendar.aspx

<u>Nov. 2, 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm</u>. *Artists' Reception: Students of Canyon Trail Art Studio*. The exhibition will continue in the city hall gallery space until December 13. The Canyon Trail Art Studio in El Cerrito offers classes to anyone from beginners to accomplished painters. For information, visit: *http://www.el-cerrito.org/DocumentCenter/View/6874* 

Contra Costa Civic Theatre, 951 Pomona Ave. (at Moeser), El Cerrito 524-9012. www.ccct.org.

- <u>Nov. 17 through Dec. 10</u>, *Over the River and Through the Woods*. Fri. & Sat., 8:00 pm; Sun., 2:00 pm. "CCCT presents a love letter to family as grandson Nick decides to take a job across the country and then has to convince his four Italian-American grandparents that it's the right move."
- <u>Dec. 14 through 16, 8:00 pm; Dec. 17: 2:00 pm</u>: *All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914*. By Peter Rothstein. "A German soldier steps into No Man's Land singing "Stille Nacht." Thus begins an extraordinary night of camaraderie, music, peace. A remarkable true story told in the words and songs of the men who lived it."

#### Barnes & Noble, El Cerrito Plaza.

• <u>Nov. 11, 4:00 pm</u>. Book signing with Peter S. Beagle and Gail Strickland. Peter, the bestselling author of *The Last Unicorn*, will discuss his latest work, *The Overneath.* Gail's new book, *Oracle of the Song*, is the sequel to *The Oracle of Delphi*.

Youth Musical Theater Company (YMTC): http://ymtcbayarea.org

<u>Nov. 4 through 12</u>. 7:30 pm on 11/4, 11/10, and 11/11; 2:00 pm on 11/5, 11/11 and 11/12.
 *Guys and Dolls*. YMTC "brings together the Bay Area's most talented and dedicated young singer/actors...(7<sup>th</sup> grade-University) with professional directors, designers, and musicians [to] create theater that takes on challenging and sophisticated musical and dramatic themes, and that is always accompanied by a full, live orchestra." At the El Cerrito High School Performing Arts Theater, 540 Ashbury Ave., El Cerrito.

NIAD Art Center. 551 23rd Avenue, Richmond, 620-0290. Niadart.org/exhibits/november2017

- <u>Nov. 11, 1:00-4:00 pm</u>: Opening reception for the following exhibits.
- <u>Nov. 3-24</u>: **The Witnesses**, organized by Cliff Hengst and Scott Hewicker, takes its leading inspiration from anthropologist Edmund Carpenter's permanent installation inside the Surrealist galleries of The Menil Collection in Houston, Texas called "Witnesses to a Surrealist Vision."

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- <u>Nov. 3-24</u>: *Landlooker!: Anne Beck*. Anne Beck traveled back and forth from New York to Mendocino. "From the stark contrasts between these environments arose a series of wall-based collages & public interventions ...that examine the collision between civilization, the land, and its inhabitants and divergent concepts of land-use. This show is in the annex.
- <u>Nov. 3-24</u>: *Animals A-Z*: *Rebecca Jantzen*. Resident artist. Linocut prints of each letter of the alphabet and a corresponding animal.
- Dec. 9, 1:00 4:00 pm: Opening reception for the following exhibits.
- <u>Dec. 1-29</u>: *All of the Light*, organized by Gina Borg. "As we move into December, the days have been getting shorter, and we enter the darkest time of the year. Instead of relying on the sun, we create our own light. Through contrasting light and dark, subtle tonal gradations, or vibrating color contrasts, the works in 'All Of The Light' either depict perceptions of light, or they create a light of their own." Multiple artists.
- <u>Dec. 1-29</u>: 50 Days 50 Choices, Catherine Haley Epstein. "Over the past two years Portland, Oregon-based artist Catherine Haley Epstein has completed a self imposed exercise to make 50 choices per day for 50 days in reverence to those that died in Orlando, Florida nightclub killing in 2016. She made 50 choices on their behalf, every day after the event because 49 of them did not have a choice that day. An additional choice was added to represent the killer."
- <u>Dec. 1-29</u>: *Holiday Lounge 6*. Crafts show featuring seasonal items and unique gifts: quilts, coloring posters and books, baskets, monographs, wall hangings, tree ornaments, and clothing accessories. In the storefront and the backroom.

#### Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd., Kensington.

- <u>Nov.5, 2:00 pm</u>. *From a Silk Cocoon*. Film and Q&A. "a cautionary tale of homeland security . . . compelling . . . stretches beyond the basic facts of the Japanese-American internment experience into the dark and thorny corners of "perceived military necessity" that is just as frightening and relevant now as it was when it happened . . . An intimate portrait of a family under siege." The discussion panel includes filmmaker Satsuki Ina, immigration lawyer Laura Craig and Zahra Billoo, Executive Director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations. 525-0302.
- <u>Sat., Dec. 16, 7:30 pm</u>. *Beethoven Birthday Bash*. Kensington Symphony Orchestra. The concert will include the Egmont Overture (the unofficial anthem of the 1956 Hungarian revolution), the aria Ah Perfido (sung by Lisa Houston), and end with the exuberant Seventh Symphony. <u>https://www.kensingtonsymphonyorchestra.org/2016-17-programs</u>

Richmond Art Center, 2540 Barrett, Richmond. 620-6772. http://www.richmondartcenter.org

- <u>Sat., Nov. 4: 2:00-4:00 pm</u>. *Del Sol String Quartet in Concert with Joan Brown*. The quartet will play pieces to correspond with Brown's works.
- Ongoing exhibitions: Joan Brown: In Living Color; Earth, Wind, and Fire, showcasing 9 contemporary artists; and Pogo Park, A New Model for Community Transformation. Pogo Park is an extraordinary, inter-nationally acclaimed effort by a neighborhood in Richmond's iron triangle to create a safe place for children to play and thrive. <a href="http://pogopark.org">http://pogopark.org</a>. Read about it in Nature magazine: <a href="http://pogopark.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/nature-magazine-privilege-of-health.pdf">http://pogopark.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/nature-magazine-privilege-of-health.pdf</a> and the Christian Science Monitor. <a href="https://www.csmonitor.com/World/Making-a-difference/2017/0524/How-a-forlorn-playground-became-one-of-America-s-most-innovative-public-spaces">https://www.csmonitor.com/World/Making-a-difference/2017/0524/How-a-forlorn-playground-became-one-of-America-s-most-innovative-public-spaces</a>
- Sat., Nov. 11: 3:00-5:00 pm. *Closing Reception for Fall Exhibitions*.

<u>San Pablo Art Gallery</u>, 13831 San Pablo Ave., Maple Hall, Building #4, in the beautiful San Pablo Civic Center, San Pablo, at Alvarado Square. 882-8673. www.sanpabloca.gov/1237/Art-Gallery

- <u>Through Nov. 26</u>: **Confabulations in Color and Form**. Paintings by Katie Hawkenson and sculptures by Joseph Slusky.
- <u>Dec. 2 Jan. 28</u>: Vanishing Lands. Paintings by Judith Corning and Lisa Marie Rigby.
- Dec. 2, 1:00-3:00 pm: Reception for Vanishing Lands exhibit.

<u>West County Winds</u>. This band's goals are to provide opportunities for local musicians to perform and to promote music appreciation, cultural enrichment, and entertainment through free public concerts in the community. <u>http://westcountywinds.org/events/</u>

• <u>Sun. Dec. 3 at 3:00 pm</u>: *Themes and Variations Concert 2017.* At John & Jean Knox Ctr for Performing Arts, Contra Costa Community College, 2920, 2601-2641 Castro Rd, San Pablo.

Rosie the Riveter National Historical Park, 1414 Harbour Way South, Suite 3000, Richmond. <u>https://www.nps.gov/rori/planyourvisit/calendar.htm</u>

- <u>Sun., Dec. 3 at 11:30 am</u>: **Rosie the Riveter: A Closer Look**. A docent will be available to describe the Rosie the Riveter Memorial—"a very thoughtful public art sculpture of a WWII cargo ship under construction along a 450-foot timeline." Melville Square, Marina Bay Park, Richmond.
- <u>Thurs., Dec. 21 at 7:00 pm</u>: *Father Goose (1964)*. "This Academy Award winning film, set in WWII, is considered one of Cary Grant's and Leslie Caron's most endearing comedies." On board the Red Oak Victory Ship. Boarding begins at 6:30 pm. For directions to the ship, call 237-2933.
- Wed., Dec. 27 at 2:00 pm. The Cartoon War from Disney to Dr. Seuss. "Boosting morale during WWII took many forms including comic books, editorial cartoons and movie cartoons. Experience some of the favorites enjoyed by kids, GIs, and workers on the Home Front."
- <u>Sat., Dec. 30 at 3:30 pm</u>: *Henry J. Kaiser: Build 'em by the Mile and Cut 'em off by the Yard*. Author Steve Gilford discusses the extraordinary life of ship builder Henry J. Kaiser.
- <u>Every Thursday at 2:00 pm</u>: *Blossoms and Thorns*. "A docent from the Japanese American Citizens' League screens the documentary...about Richmond's pre-and post-war community of flower growers and nursery owners, and shares from their experiences in a WWII incarceration camp."
- <u>Tuesdays and Saturdays at 2:00 pm and Thursdays at 11:00 am</u>: *Of Lost Conversations*. 96-year-old Ranger Betty Soskin shares her experiences as a young African American woman during WWII.
- <u>Daily</u>, alternating: *The War at Home* (25 minutes), using oral histories, archival materials and personal diaries to illustrate the diversity and complexity of the WWII home front experience. *Home Front Heroes*

(17 minutes.) outlines the history of defense manufacturing in Richmond.

<u>Cerrito Theater (Rialto Cinemas</u>), 10070 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. 273-9102. <u>www.rialtocinemas.com/cerrito</u>

- <u>National Theatre Live</u> (from London). These shows tend to sell out, so it is a good idea to
  order tickets early. This season's remaining plays are:
  - <u>Nov. 20 and 29; Dec. 4 and 13, 7:00 pm</u>. *Follies* by James Goldman and Stephen Sondheim. Directed by Dominic Cooke. Starring Tracie Bennett, Janie Dee and Imelda Staunton.
  - <u>Dec. 18 and 20; Jan. 8 and 17, 7:00 pm</u>. Young Marx by Richard Bean and Clive Colman. Directed by Nicholas Hytner. Starring Rory Kinnear as Marx and Oliver Chris as Engels.
- Exhibition on Screen.
  - <u>Thursdays, Dec. 7 and Dec. 11. 2:00pm</u>. Canaletto and the Art of Venice. A journey into the life and art of Venice's famous view-painter, Giovanni Antonio Canal, better known as Canaletto. This film looks at the Royal Collection at Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle to learn more about the artist. Guided by Royal Collection Trust curators and experts in Venetian history.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We have a very busy exciting year. At the <u>October 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting</u>, former El Cerrito Mayor and President of the El Cerrito Historical Society **Rich Bartke** told us many interesting facts in El Cerrito's history. Women have always had an active role. The <u>November 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting</u> should also be very interesting. Two authors from *She Writes Press* (Judith Newton and Amy Peele) will talk about their books. *She Writes Press* is an independent publishing company founded in 2012, with a thriving publishing program dedicated to community, education, and giving women authors a voice and a platform for their writing.

University.

Be sure to invite friends and others interested in **AAUW** to the meeting. Note if they join at the

Holiday Gathering: Then we close the year on Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> from 2-4 PM, with the

**2017-2018 Membership Directories** have been distributed. Please review your entry and let us know if you have any corrections. Keep your Directory current by incorporating the changes that are in each Newsletter. See page 2 above. Please also note that we anticipate hearing a very special speaker at our **February 17, 2018** meeting: **Menbere Aklilu**, owner of the popular **Salute e Vita Ristorante** in Marina Bay in Richmond. She has served dinner and provided free flu shots and medical checkups to thousands of homeless people on Thanksgiving Day. She gives brunch to children who have lost their mothers to gun violence on Mother's Day. She has helped battered women, veterans, and many others in our community. She has received many awards, including the prestigious Jefferson Award, and has received an honorary doctorate from Holy Names

annual Holiday Gathering at the beautiful home of Ray and Betty Ann Barnett.

<u>October 12<sup>th</sup> 6:30 p.m. California Women Lead Workshop</u> - CANCELLED Unfortunately, this event had to be cancelled. The head of California Lead (who was one of the presenters) is on Governor Brown's state of emergency committee and was very busy with the wildfires. We are hoping to reschedule the workshop in early Spring.

<u>Tech Trek</u>: The **2018 Tech Trek** program is starting. We have again requested nine positions at the Sonoma State University camp. In January we will start working with the West County schools on the nomination, selection, and processing of the seventh grade girls. Effective November 1, the fiscal responsibility of the California Tech Trek Camps will return to **AAUW CA Special Projects Fund (SPF)**. Donation checks will now need to be made out to **AAUW CA SPF** with **Tech Trek** in the memo line.

As always, I thank you for your support. I appreciate all you do for the branch considering your busy lives and other commitments. I enjoy working with such special women.

#### Roberta Montgomery, President

meeting they get a reduced rate (\$60.50 verses \$85).



Board Meeting: The next Board meeting will be on Tuesday, November 7, 2017, at 2:00 PM, at

the home of **Sue Walenta** (526-4383), 737 Bay Tree Lane, El Cerrito. Please contact **President Roberta Montgomery** (237-5293) for more information and to let her know whether you will attend. There will be no Board meeting in December.

<u>Afternoon Books</u>: The group usually meets on the **fourth Monday** of each month at **1:30 PM**. We will meet on **Monday**, **November 27**, at the home of **Sue Walenta** (526-4383), 737 Bay Tree Lane, El Cerrito. At that meeting, we will discuss Elizabeth Strout's *Anything is Possible*. We will also choose the book to read for our January meeting and the location of that meeting. (We will not meet in December – the fourth Monday is December 25.) All are welcome — please join us!

<u>Lunch Group</u>: The group's next meeting will be on **Monday**, **November 20**, at **12 Noon**, at **Paisan**, 2514 San Pablo Avenue, Berkeley. We will not meet in December. Please call **Maria** LaForge (527-4378) if you have any questions. All are welcome!

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, November 13, from 1:30 to 3:00 PM**, at the same location. Member **Sue Walenta** will report on **Indonesia**. On **Monday, December 11**, at the same location, members will have a Xmas Holiday get-together and general discussion. On **Monday, January 8, 2018,** member **Gloria Merrill** will report on **Venezuela**, where her husband, **Dwight Merrill**, served in the Peace Corps for two years, from 1966 to 1968, teaching chemistry at the University in Cumana. Branch members who did not attend this **Global Interests Group** last year are invited to join us. If you are interested in coming, if you want 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.



<u>November 9, 7:30 PM ET (4:30 PM PST)</u>, Join AAUW and the <u>Adelante! Book of the Month</u> <u>Club</u>! to commemorate Native American Heritage Month by talking with Winona LaDuke about her book, *The Winona LaDuke Chronicles: Stories from the Front Lines in the Battle for Environmental Justice.* This book is a collection of timely, persuasive, and inspiring stories of indigenous communities from the Canadian subarctic to the heart of the Navajo Nation. The discussion is on line and free; you just need to click on the link to preregister to join the group. For additional information, contact Hannah Seligman, Branch Relations Associate, at 202-785-7784 or <u>www.aauw.org</u>.

**November 11, 1-4 PM**, **NIAD Art Center, 551 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Richmond,** Opening Reception for "The Witnesses," organized by Cliff Hengst & Scott Hewicker; "Landlooker! A Cursory Survey of Land-Use Traveling from New York to California and Back Again, 2008-2017," by Anne Beck; and "Animals A to Z," by Rebecca Janzten.

<u>November 13, 6:30-8:30 PM</u>, Berkeley City College Auditorium, Center Street (downtown Berkeley), The Berkeley Branch AAUW is sponsoring a conference on the Dreamers (DACA), those children who were brought to the US and are under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals status. Speakers include Nancy E. O'Malley, Alameda County DA, Dustin Bankston, immigration attorney practicing in Berkeley, and some students impacted by DACA legislation. Free to the public, plenty of good seating.

**November 18, 7 PM, The Curran Theatre**, San Francisco: Actor Alec Baldwin & co-author Kurt Anderson present *"You Can't Spell America Without Me."* Tickets \$45-\$65, \$125 with signed book.

<u>November 25, 2-5 PM</u>, Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, One Lawson Road, Kensington, There will be a celebration of the life of Robert Sayre, Winnie Sayre's husband, who passed away on September 16<sup>th</sup>. All friends are invited to attend.

<u>December 16, 7:30 PM</u>, Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, One Lawson Road, Kensington, The Kensington Symphony Orchestra will perform its *Beethoven's Birthday Bash!* For more information, contact Kensington Symphony Orchestra Board President and WCC AAUW member Mollie Hazen at mollie.hazen@gmail.com

April 27-29, 2018, Irvine, California: AAUW-CA Convention.

The Editor