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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research
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VOLUME XXXV

NEWSLETTER 1

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2018



HEAR LINDA RUDOLPH, MD, MPH, SPEAK ON "HEALTH AND CLIMATE CHANGE!"

Saturday, January 20, 2018, 10:00 a.m.
Christ Lutheran Church
780 Ashbury (at Stockton), El Cerrito

Come to hear Linda Rudolph, MD, MPH, who is the director of the Center for Climate Change and Health at the Public Health Institute, speak on "Health and Climate Change." She has been a leader in the implementation of Health in All Policies, and in the integration of climate change into the work of public health agencies. She helps to host the US Climate and Health Alliance, and has served as the Medical Director for the California Division of Workers Compensation. She previously worked as the Deputy Director for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion at the California Department of Public Health, and the Health Officer/Director of Public Health for the City of Berkeley. Her work centers on the nexus between health, equity, and sustainability.

Table with 4 columns: President, Co-Membership VPs, Tech Trek Co-Chairs, Co-Secretaries, AAUW Funds VP, Co-Program VPs, Treasurer, Sunshine Chair, Hospitality Chair, Website Manager, Bylaws, Policies & Procedures, Newsletter Editor, Community/Cultural Chair, Contra Costa College Relations, Publicity Chair, Public Policy, Newsletter Circulation, Read Aloud Chair, Telephone Monitor, Facebook Monitor. Each cell contains names, phone numbers, and email addresses.



***HEAR MEMBERE AKLILU SPEAK ON HOW SHE HELPS PEOPLE,
AND HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT HER WORK***

Saturday, February 17, 2018, 10:00 a.m.

Christ Lutheran Church

780 Ashbury (at Stockton), El Cerrito

Please join us at our February meeting to hear **Menbere Aklilu**, the owner of the wonderful **Salute E Vita Ristorante** in Richmond. She was born in Ethiopia, where she witnessed the murder of her mother in front of her when she was ten years old. She grew up in Italy, where she fled from an abusive husband and had to give birth in a homeless shelter. The many hardships she suffered early in her life taught her the importance of helping people in need. She has provided meals, personal care items, and medical help for struggling veterans, homeless women and children, mothers of hospitalized children, and low-income single mothers. She hosts an annual “Yes, You are Worthy,” Mother’s Day Luncheon. She is assisted by many community volunteers, including the Richmond Mayor, City Manager, Chief of Police, and Fire Chief. She has received the prestigious Jefferson Award, the Contra Costa Commission for Women’s Hall of Fame Award, and the California Small Business Award. Holy Names University awarded her an honorary Doctorate Degree when she addressed the 2013 graduating class with a moving speech. She now plans to build school dormitories for girls in Ethiopia to ensure that they receive a quality education and are protected from becoming child brides.

The Editor



TELL CONGRESS TO KEEP HIGHER EDUCATION ACCESSIBLE

The US House of Representatives has introduced H.R. 4058, which would make higher education more expensive, weaken requirements that assist sexual assault survivors, and more. This bill would eliminate student loan forgiveness for public service employees and alter income-driven repayment options, increasing debt burdens for struggling borrowers. It would weaken schools’ requirements to prevent campus sexual assaults and support assault survivors. Finally, it would fail to strengthen the Pell grant program, which makes it possible for millions of low-income students to go to college. It would even refuse to increase the annual grant amount to reflect inflation.

AAUW Mission & Action



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope that the holidays were good to you! We kicked off the season on December 9 with our annual Holiday Party hosted by **Betty Ann** and **Ray Barnett** in their beautiful home. A good time was had by all! The weather was perfect, and the singing of the **Piedmont Troubadours** was very special. We shared delicious treats and brought books and contributions for the **Read-Aloud and Grant Birthday Book Project**. We also contributed small toiletries that we had collected on our travels. These were donated to **Menbere Aklilu**, who will distribute them to people in need.

We continue with our great programs. On January 20 **Linda Rudolph**, Director of the Center for Climate Change and Health at the Public Health Institute, will talk on "Health and Climate Change." And on February 17 our speaker will be **Menbere Aklilu**, owner of Salute e Vita Ristorante in Richmond. She will share her life experiences and tell us about all she does for the community. Don't miss these meetings. Invite friends and others interested in **AAUW** to attend.

California Women Lead Workshop Rescheduled to January 23rd, 6:30 PM: All those who signed up for the session last October will be contacted about this rescheduled event, which will be held at the Walnut Creek Library, Oak View Room, 1644 N. Broadway. We, along with the other branches in the **Contra Costa County InterBranch Council (CCC IBC)** are helping to host this event to encourage women to run for office or to apply for an appointment at the state or local level. **California Women Lead** is the only statewide, nonpartisan women's organization in California committed to providing women the training and support they need to be successful in the political arena. With the number of women in government decreasing, we want to empower women to apply for appointments to reach gender equity on boards and commissions. This training is free and open to the public, but requires a prior RSVP. To RSVP, visit www.cawomenlead.org/event/ Again, I will distribute the flyer.

At the request of **WCC AAUW** member, **Elaine Yamaguchi**, in her role as Co-Chair of the Women Chemists Committee of the CA Section of the American Chemical Society (ACS), we agreed to partner in her group's application for an ACS Innovative Project Grant (IPG) to bring the **NoBelles** dramatic production to the San Francisco Bay Area. **NoBelles** features three actors and a director who portray women who did, or did not, win Nobel Prizes in science fields. **Elaine** saw the play at the national ACS meeting in Washington DC, was captivated by it, and wants to bring it to a wider and local audience. She feels **WCC** members and especially our **Tech Trek** girls would benefit from seeing **NoBelles**. Also, the IPC reviewing committee likes to see partnerships with groups outside ACS. Our role is to facilitate our **Tech Trek** girls in seeing this play. No direct monetary support is required from us. The grant would pay the bulk of the cost, and the rest would be covered by an admission fee (\$15?) for adults. (**Tech Trek** girls would be free.) The proposed Bay Area production would take place next Fall, possibly October 13. This is a good opportunity for us, and it supports the **AAUW** mission for **STEM Education**.

In Memoriam: We express our sympathy to member **Nancy Hendrickson**, whose husband, Y. Gust, passed away on October 26th.

As we reflect on 2017 and look forward to 2018, we can be proud to be part of **AAUW**, an organization that advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research. 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



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CULTURE CORNER for NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2017 by Barbara Miller

29th Annual El Cerrito Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration: “Keeping the Dream Alive—Resilient in our Resistance.” Co-sponsors of this 2-day event are the El Cerrito branch of the NAACP, the West County Unified School District, and St. Peter Christian Methodist Episcopal Church. <https://www.el-cerrito.org/693/Annual-MLK-Celebration>

- Sun., Jan. 14, 4:00 pm at the Cerrito Theater, 10070 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito: Screening of the documentary, “Life of William Grimes, the Runaway Slave,” with local speaker, storyteller and author Regina E. Mason. Free.
- Mon., Jan. 15, 8:30 am at El Cerrito City Hall, corner of Manila Ave. and San Pablo Ave: Martin Luther King Jr. Day Parade and Rally. Parade begins at 9:00 am, marching from City Hall to El Cerrito High School. Rally begins at 11:00 am at the ECHS Performing Arts Theater.

El Cerrito Art Association: Exhibits of local artists’ work around El Cerrito. <https://elcerritoart.org/>

- El Cerrito Library: The 2017 ECAA Members’ Mini Art Show First Place Winners will be on display until February 9, 2018. The winners are Barbara Tapp, Sylvia Mori, Joanne Uomini, Hortensia Chang, Ron Wolter, Daniel Altman, Marie Cotter, Marcia Gough and Beverly Gilbert.
- Department of Motor Vehicles: Five artist members of the El Cerrito Art Association—Milada Pajaczkowski, Marcia Gough, Samantha McNally, Tom McCort and Kevin Berndt—will be exhibiting at the DMV until March 14, 2018. The theme is “Water.”

NIAD Art Center. 551 23rd Avenue, Richmond, 620-0290. The following will be on exhibit January 5 through 27. Check the website to learn more about these fascinating and multi-talented artists. <http://niadart.org/>

- ***Indeterminate Spaces***, organized by Anthony Piñata, features “works that reference a type of place, albeit abstract, imaginary, or undefined. With life increasingly indeterminate — from diseases to the weather – Piñata found himself drawn to this theme of the indefinite.”
- ***Know Before You Go***, Kim Miscowicz. “Moments found are mornings after a wind storm, mangled rebar from the old Bay Bridge, interrupted long distance lookouts, and echoing textures of land formations” in a variety of formats: pinhole, 35mm, and cell phone camera.
- ***The Small World of Scott Macleod***. “Oakland artist Scott MacLeod has collected hundreds of small objects...This exhibit consists of small dioramas, most of which resemble small galleries.”
- ***Flesh, Organs and Bones***, Bjorn Dimitriou, organized by Maggs Dao Hanson. “Bjorn Dimitriou’s figurative paintings draw from the artist’s own experiences with gender identity, sexuality, and coping with abuse, trauma, and mental illness. Evoking traditions of Surrealism, Art Nouveau, and comic/manga illustration, Dimitriou utilizes heavy repetition, line, and symmetry to depict characters in various psychological states.”

Richmond Art Center, 2540 Barrett, Richmond. 620-6772. The following exhibitions open in January. There will be an artists’ reception on February 3, from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm. <http://www.richmondartcenter.org>

- Jan. 16 through March 8: ***The 22nd Annual Art of Living Black***. “As a preview exhibition and self-guided open studio art tour that recognizes Bay Area artists of African American descent, the exhibition contains a vast range of artistic endeavors, styles and media that references forgotten cultural histories, struggles and personal identity. Here, it is the artists’ ability to construct meaning for themselves and others that defines the significance of the work.” In the Main Gallery.
- Jan. 16 through March 8: ***In Focus: Current Photography***. A juried exhibition of the work of California photographers. “We look to California photographers for a view of current directions in the studio and in the streets. Subjects that draw the hearts and minds, locations that echo the spirit, and matters that demand attention – these all fuel photography.” Juror: Judy Dater. In the South Gallery.
- Jan. 9 through March 18: ***The Cutting Edge: Collage***. “The century of collage that began with George Braque and Pablo Picasso taking wallpaper or newspaper directly to drawing or painting opened a floodgate of exploration and expression making use of diverse materials in concert. Of today’s moment, the seven artists in *The Cutting Edge* sharpen their vision employing scissors and wit, glue and gumption. John Hundt, David Jones, Diana Krevsky, Sherry Parker, Kim Smith, Livia Stein, and Shayna Yasuhara each pursue a different vein of inquiry to touch upon the dream, the dreaded, the seductive, and the puzzling. Riotous color, cool text, and fanciful imaginings all call for visual discovery.”

San Pablo Art Gallery, Maple Hall, 13831 San Pablo Ave., Bldg. 4, San Pablo. 882-8673. Hours: Noon to 4:00 pm on Sat. and Sun. Closed holiday weekends.

<https://www.sanpabloca.gov/1237/Art-Gallery>

- Through Jan. 28: ***Vanishing Lands***. Paintings by Judith Corning and Lisa Marie Rigby.
- Feb. 3, 1:00 – 3:00 pm. Opening reception for ***The Art of Living Black***.
- Feb. 3 through Mar. 3: ***The Art of Living Black***. Paintings by Anna Edwards and Ronnie Sampson.

Rosie the Riveter National Historical Park, 1414 Harbour Way South, Suite 3000, Richmond. 232-5050. <https://www.nps.gov/rori/planyourvisit/calendar.htm>

The museum and archives collections include written narratives; oral histories; defense industry equipment, artifacts and ephemera; photographs; and personal belongings from the WW II home front, mostly donated by ordinary men, women and children of all ethnic backgrounds who experienced the era first hand. Unless otherwise noted, all events take place at the Visitor Center and are free.

NOTE: If you have stories about men and women working on the American Home Front that you would like to share, contact Cultural Resources at **510-232-5050 ext. 6643**.

- Sun., Jan. 7 at 11:30 am: ***Rosie the Riveter Memorial: 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.” At the Rosie the River Memorial, Melville Square, Marina Bay Park, Richmond. Drop-in.
- Mon., Jan. 15 at 2:00 pm. ***The Port Chicago Disaster and Aftermath***. “What kinds of questions were sailors and civilians asking after ten million pounds of explosives blew up in Concord in 1944?”
- Wed., Jan. 3 at 2:00 pm and Thurs., Jan. 25 at 11:00 am: ***Warbling Through the War Years***. “Dancing the jitterbug, laughing to silly tunes—and mending broken hearts: music during World War II helped us get through fearful times. We’ll see and hear how we listened through samples from radio, records, and the movies.”
- Wed., Jan. 24 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.”

- Every Thursday at 2:00 pm: **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.” No show on Thursday, January 4.
- Tuesdays, Jan. 9 and 16 at 2:00 pm., Thursdays Jan. 11 and 18 at 11:00 am, and Saturday, Jan. 13 at 2:00 pm: **Of Lost Conversations**. 96-year-old Ranger Betty Soskin shares her experiences as a young African American woman during WWII. Reservations required.

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

- Feb. 16 through March 11: **The Secret in the Wings**, by Mary Zimmerman. Fri. & Sat., 8:00 pm; Sun., 2:00 pm. “Filled with mystery and tinged with Zimmerman’s signature wit and humor, this collection of lesser-known Grimm’s fairy tales—told through storytelling, music, and movement—takes us on a thrilling, sometimes scary journey from “Once Upon a Time” to “Happily Ever After.”

Cerrito Theater (Rialto Cinemas), 10070 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. 273-9102. <http://www.rialtocinemas.com/cerrito> El Cerrito’s own restored art deco theater. Have a drink and/or dine-in during the film, or visit “The Scene” wine bar next to the lobby before or after the show.

- **National Theatre Live** (from London). The remaining performances in this season are:
 - Jan. 8 and 17, 7:00 pm. **Young Marx** by Richard Bean and Clive Colman. Directed by Nicholas Hytner. Starring Rory Kinnear as Karl Marx and Oliver Chris as Friedrich Engels.
- **National Theatre Live**. Subscriptions are on sale for the 2018 season, which includes the following plays:
 - Feb 26, Mar 7, 12 & 14, 7:00 pm. **Cat on a Hot Tin Roof** by Tennessee Williams. Directed by Benedict Andrews. Starring Sienna Miller & Jack O’Connell.
 - Apr 2, 4, 9 & 11, 7:00 pm. **Julius Caesar** by William Shakespeare. Directed by Nicholas Hytner. Ben Wishaw & Michelle Fairley play Brutus and Cassius. “A new take on the Shakespeare classic.”
 - May 14, 23, 30 & June 4, 7:00 pm. **Macbeth** by William Shakespeare. Directed by Rufus Morris. With Rory Kinnear and Anne-Marie Duff.
- **National Theatre Live**. Encore presentation:
 - Mar 19, 28, Apr 16 & 25. **Hamlet** by William Shakespeare. Directed by Lyndsey Turner. Starring Benedict Cumberbatch.
- **Exhibition on Screen**.
 - Thursday, Jan. 11 at 2:00 pm. **Canaletto and the Art of Venice**. This film looks inside Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle to learn more about Venice’s famous view-painter, Giovanni Antonio Canal (“Canaletto”). “Guided by Royal Collection Trust curators and experts in Venetian history, the film is a wonderful way to get closer to Canaletto and the city that inspired him.”
 - Thursdays, Feb. 1 and Feb. 22 at 2:00 pm. **David Hockney at the Royal Academy of Arts**. “Featuring intimate and in-depth interviews with Hockney, this revealing film focuses on two blockbuster exhibitions held in 2012 and 2016 at the Royal Academy of Arts in London.”

El Cerrito Trail Trekkers. Formed in order to build, maintain, publicize and use the little known urban trails of El Cerrito, California. <http://www.ectrailtrekkers.org/>

- Sat., Jan. 20 at 3:00: Annual public meeting. A speaker from the Bay Area Puma Project will discuss “Living with Lions” in the Garden Room at the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane, El Cerrito.
- NOTE: If you want to see where pumas (AKA cougars, catamounts, and mountain lions) have been recently sighted in the Bay Area, there is a map of sightings since 2004 at <http://www.bapp.org/puma-sighting-map>

Kensington Symphony Orchestra. Programs at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd., Kensington. <https://www.kensingtonsymphonyorchestra.org/2016-17-programs>

- Sat., Feb. 24 at 8:00pm: **The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace.** Joint concert, KSO and the UUCB Luminescence Choir. Written in 1999 by Welsh composer Karl Jenkins, "The Armed Man is a mass in 13 sections for large orchestra, mixed chorus, soprano soloist and muezzin (crier/narrator of muslim prayers)... Originally commissioned by the Roman Armouries Museum for millennial celebrations and dedicated to victims of the Kosovo crisis, this special and rarely performed work in the United States will constitute the entire evening. "

Point San Pablo Harbor. San Pablo Bay Sportsmen's Club, 1900 Stenmark Drive, Richmond. (NOTE: If your GPS cannot find this address, use the old address, 1900 Western Drive. Or check the website for directions.) <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/jazz-at-point-san-pablo-harbor-21-january-what-are-the-odds-tickets-41564751290?aff=erelpanelorg>

- Sun., Jan. 21, and Sun. Feb. 4 at 6:00 pm: **Jazz at Point San Pablo Harbor.** An evening of jazz featuring the group "What are the Odds?" "This quartet of locally-grown musicians met while taking a class led by the great Frank Martin at the Jazz School in Berkeley. We'll be sharing some of the tunes from that class, which was all about playing "odd" times (5, 7, 11, etc.). Some of the tunes were originally written in an odd time signature, and some have been adapted by adding or dropping a beat. We'll also play some personal favorites and a few originals."

Pegasus Books. 1855 Solano Ave., Berkeley. 525-6888. <http://www.pegasusbookstore.com>

- Tues., Feb. 6, 7:30 pm: **Jazz Stories: Live Jazz. Wonderful Stories.** "A performance of the songs of jazz from its most creative periods intensified with illuminating, funny and touching true stories of the time." Hosted by Richard Leiter.

El Cerrito Recycling & Environmental Resource Ctr.: 7501 Schmidt Lane, El Cerrito. 215-4350.

- Wed., Jan. 3, 3:00 pm. Public tour of the facility. Tour starts in the interpretive area next to the Exchange Zone. If you have never taken this tour, you are sure to learn something about the many services offered here. If you have ever wondered what to do with outdated medications and syringes, which electronic wastes you can recycle, where to find used bicycle parts, or what to do with used cooking oil, corks, and hangers, the recycling center has the answer. There is a book and magazine exchange where you can donate or take home reading materials, and an exchange area for office supplies, garden pots, sporting goods, toys and games, and many other items. If you are looking for a place to donate food, old eyeglasses, household cabinets and hardware, or used clothing, the Recycling Center can accommodate you. The tour will also show you why the Center has received LEED Platinum Certification from the US Green Building Council. If you choose not to take the tour, you can learn about the services offered (as well as which materials they will *not* accept) at the Center's website: <https://www.el-cerrito.org/533/Recycling-Environmental-Resource-Center>

El Cerrito Historical Society: Annual Meeting at the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane, El Cerrito, CA 94530. www.elcerritohistoricalsociety.org

- **Learn about Deep History at the El Cerrito Historical Society's Annual Meeting.** Learn about the geological setting of El Cerrito and about the rocks in our city – metamorphic rocks, the Franciscan formation, and faults and landslides, at our meeting Sunday, January 14, 2018, at 3PM.
- Gary Prost, an El Cerrito geologist, will discuss "El Cerrito's Hidden History: Geology, Rocks, and Seismic Forces."

- Gary is a retired geologist who spent 40 years working for the U.S. Geological Survey, mining and oil companies. He is a member of the Northern California Geological Society. He gave a walking tour earlier in 2017 on this subject for El Cerrito Trail trekkers. Gary knows his stuff!
 - This will also be the Historical Society's annual meeting. We will discuss our accomplishments and goals and elect officers. Interested in serving? Let us know!
 - The meeting starts at 3, with the talk starting no later than 3:30.
 - Free. Refreshments will be served. El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane.
 - In CC format:
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 - **El Cerrito Historical Society.** Sun. Jan. 14 at 3:00 pm at the El Cerrito Community Center: "El Cerrito's Hidden History: Geology, Rocks, and Seismic Forces." Talk by Gary Prost, an El Cerrito geologist who spent 40 years working for the U.S. Geological Survey and mining and oil companies. Refreshments will be served.
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Board Meeting: The January Board meeting will be on **Tuesday, January 9, 2018**, at 2:00 PM, at the home of **Maria LaForge** (527-4378), 240 Columbia Avenue, Kensington. The February Board meeting will be on **Tuesday, February 13, 2018**, at 2:00 PM, at the home of **Mimi Fruehan**, 8811 Terrace Drive, El Cerrito. Please contact **President Roberta Montgomery** (237-5293) for more information and to let her know whether you will attend.

Afternoon Books: The group usually meets on the **fourth Monday** of each month at **1:30 PM**. We will meet on the fifth Monday in January, on **Monday, January 29**, at the home of **Winnie Sayre** (524-8954), 739 Bay Tree Lane, El Cerrito. At that meeting, we will discuss T.C. Boyle's ***Riven Rock***. We will also choose the book to read for our February meeting (scheduled for **Monday, February 26**), and the location of that meeting. All are welcome — please join us!

Lunch Group: The group's next meeting will be on **Monday, January 15**, at **12 Noon**, at **Thai Delight Cuisine**, 1700 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley. The following meeting will be on **Monday, February 19**, at **12 Noon**, at **Saul's Restaurant and Deli**, 1475 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley. 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, January 8**, from **1:30 to 3:00 PM**, at the same location. Member **Gloria Merrill** will report on **Venezuela**. On **Monday, February 12**, at the same location, member **Marianne Selph** will report on **The History of the Kurdish People**. 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.

Daytime Bridge Group: We are trying to get the Bridge group going again. In the past, this group, which included all levels of players, usually met at 1:00 PM on the third Friday of the month. Please contact **Roberta Montgomery** (237-5293) if you are interested in playing Bridge as part of a Bridge group. Let her know when you would like to play, how frequently, and if you are willing to host the group.



The kick-off meeting for our 2018 Tech Trek Program is Tuesday, January 16, at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Marsha Weintraub (1080 Park Hills Rd., Berkeley). Consider joining the Team. We can use more volunteers to work with the West County schools on the nomination, selection and processing of the seventh grade girls we will sponsor to attend the 2018 **Tech Trek** STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) Camp at Sonoma State University June 24-30. Let us know if you want to work on the **Tech Trek** selection team. We also provide a camper orientation/reception at the EC Denny's (June 2) and the camper follow-up presentations at the September Meeting.

Tech Trek continues to be a major program for our Branch. This year we will again be sponsoring **nine girls** from the eight WCCUSD Middle Schools (Crespi, DeJean, Helms, Hercules, Korematsu, Pinole, Mira Vista and Stewart). The Branch works closely with the middle school math and science teachers to identify seventh grade girls who will benefit from the **Tech Trek** experience. Each nominated girl completes an application, writes an essay, and is interviewed with a parent. For the selected girls, **Tech Trek** is often life-changing.

In addition to selecting the girls, raising the money to send them to camp is very challenging. The amount needed for each **Tech Trek** camper we sponsor is \$1,000 (including the \$50 camper commitment fee). Because of the difficulty in getting regular donations from businesses, we depend more on the generosity of our branch members and family/friends. Special thanks go to 2017 Branch donors: **Susan Duncan, Lita Fries, Mimi Fruhan, Christine Hills, Diane Ichiyasu, Carolyn Linnard, Marion McIntire, Ellen Mills, Patricia Player, Judy Sam, Marianne Selph, and Virginia Summerer.**

Donations to our Tech Trek Program of any amount are always welcome and fully tax-deductible. **Make your check payable to AAUW-CA SPF with Tech Trek in the memo line** and then either mail it to AAUW WCC Branch, PO Box 501, El Cerrito, CA 94530 or bring it to our January 20 or February 17 meeting. Thanks in advance for your support.

Roberta Montgomery and Marsha Weintraub
Tech Trek Co-Coordinators

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

January 6-February 10, from 10 AM to 1 PM, For six Saturdays, **NIAD Art Center, 551 23rd Street, Richmond,** is offering two free art classes – **Introduction to Hand Sewing** and **Ceramics** – to blind and visually impaired adults

January 27, 10 AM-12 Noon, Danville Town Meeting Hall, 201 Front Street, Danville. The **Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek and Concord AAUW Branches** present **Shannon Smith-Crowley**, attorney, legislative advocate, and AAUW lobbyist. This informative and timely presentation, closely tied to our AAUW mission, will focus on a recap of the 2017 legislative year, a preview of the 2018 year, and how to become involved. The speaker has been an attorney for 30 years and a registered lobbyist in California for 20 years. She received her J.D. in 1985 and a Masters in Health Administration in 1992. Her insights are informed by her previous practical experience in managed health care. She founded **Partners in Advocacy** to specialize in medical and reproductive health advocacy and has attained a series of legislative successes. She also helped to develop California law requiring maternity coverage in all health insurance policies and the creation of California's public umbilical cord blood banking program for stem cell transplants and biomedical research. For more information, contact **Melanie Wade**, President of the Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek AAUW Branch, at 510-690-9566 or aauw.melanie@gmail.com
