



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)<<http://westcontracosta-ca.aauw.net>>

VOLUME XXXV

NEWSLETTER 2

MARCH 2018



**COME TO OUR MARCH MEETING,  
 PREPARED TO TALK TO YOUR FELLOW MEMBERS  
 ABOUT THE ACTIVITIES THAT MOST INTEREST YOU!**

**Saturday, March 17, 2018, 10:00 a.m.  
 Christ Lutheran Church  
 780 Ashbury (at Stockton), El Cerrito**

Our scheduled speaker for the March meeting, who was to talk about immigration, will be unable to come. Therefore, we will each have an opportunity to speak about our favorite activities, hobbies, and interests. But please note that our **Supervisor John Gioia** has announced that **Contra Costa County** has launched a deportation defense hotline and services. The new organization is **Stand Together Contra Costa**. It can be contacted at a 24-hour hotline: **925-900-5151**. It provides free services: information, verification, and rapid response to deportation activities in the county; legal help and defense services for individuals facing deportation; community-based education, trainings, and workshops to ensure that all county residents have accurate information, resources, and support regarding federal deportation; and opportunities for local leadership and civic engagement to advance justice and equity for immigrants in our community. Thanks to Supervisor Gioia for taking action to protect our families and strengthen our community!

<p><b>President</b></p> <p>Roberta Montgomery 237-5293 <a href="mailto:rjm2343@sbcglobal.net">rjm2343@sbcglobal.net</a></p>	<p><b>Co-Membership VPs</b></p> <p>Susan Duncan 334-0520 Mimi Fruehan 527-7178 Judy Sam 527-1661 Jacque Title 234-9370</p>	<p><b>Tech Trek Co-Chairs</b></p> <p>Roberta Montgomery 237-5293 <a href="mailto:rjm2343@sbcglobal.net">rjm2343@sbcglobal.net</a> Marsha Weintraub, 644-0320 <a href="mailto:shmw1@sbcglobal.net">shmw1@sbcglobal.net</a></p>	<p><b>Co-Secretaries</b></p> <p>Marilynn Bracelin 223-4057 <a href="mailto:mbracelin414@gmail.com">mbracelin414@gmail.com</a> (backup): Barbara Vaughan 548-1942 Ida Michael 524-7468</p>
<p><b>AAUW Funds VP</b></p> <p>Virginia Summerer 526-6827 Barbara Vaughan 548-1942</p>	<p><b>Co-Program VPs</b></p> <p>Maria LaForge 527-4378 Gloria Merrill 527-2681 Susan Walenta 526-4383</p>	<p><b>Treasurer</b></p> <p>Christine Hills 734-6505 <a href="mailto:chills627@gmail.com">chills627@gmail.com</a> (backup) Roberta Montgomery 237-5293</p>	<p><b>Sunshine Chair</b></p> <p>Nancy Hendrickson 650-935-2255 <a href="mailto:Y_nhendrickson@att.net">Y_nhendrickson@att.net</a></p>
<p><b>Hospitality Chair</b></p> <p>Sally Dunham, 758-4094 <a href="mailto:sallydunham1@gmail.com">sallydunham1@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>Website Manager</b></p> <p>Barbara Vaughan 548-1942 <a href="mailto:barbvaughan@mac.com">barbvaughan@mac.com</a></p>	<p><b>Bylaws, Policies &amp; Procedures</b></p> <p>Marilynn Bracelin, 223-4057 <a href="mailto:mbracelin414@gmail.com">mbracelin414@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>Newsletter Editor</b></p> <p>Sue Walenta 526-4383 <a href="mailto:awalenta@comcast.net">awalenta@comcast.net</a> (backup) Barbara Miller 526-4874</p>
<p><b>Community/Cultural Chair</b></p> <p>Barbara Miller 526-4874 (backup) Betty Ann Barnett 233-7580</p>	<p><b>Contra Costa College Relations</b></p> <p>Joyce Muse, 236-8254 <a href="mailto:museharris@gmail.com">museharris@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>Publicity Chair</b></p> <p>Maria LaForge, 527-4378 <a href="mailto:d.laforge@sbcglobal.net">d.laforge@sbcglobal.net</a></p>	<p><b>Public Policy</b></p> <p>Marianne Selph 526-6631 <a href="mailto:Mselp2@cs.com">Mselp2@cs.com</a></p>
<p><b>Newsletter Circulation</b></p> <p>Marion McIntire, 237-0534</p>	<p><b>Read Aloud Chair</b></p> <p>Judy Sam, 527-1661 <a href="mailto:Jssam47@yahoo.com">Jssam47@yahoo.com</a></p>	<p><b>Telephone Monitor</b></p> <p>Janet Mengle 232-2676</p>	<p><b>Facebook Monitor</b></p> <p>Christine Hills 734-6505 <a href="mailto:chills627@gmail.com">chills627@gmail.com</a></p>



***HELP MENBERE AKLILU CELEBRATE  
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY***

**Thursday, March 8th**

**at Salute e Vita Ristorante, 1900 Esplanade Drive, Richmond**

Join women's rights advocate and domestic violence survivor **Menbere Aklilu** on **Thursday, March 8th**, to celebrate **International Women's Day**. **Menbe**, who so movingly told us the story of her life and work at our February meeting, will be donating 15 percent of the entire day's proceeds of her wonderful restaurant to the **Family Justice Center of Richmond**, 256 24th Street, Richmond, CA 94804, telephone 510-974-7200, to help survivors of domestic violence, sexual abuse, elder abuse, or human trafficking. To make a reservation for lunch (11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.) happy hour (3:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.), or dinner (3:00 p.m.-9:30 p.m.), contact **Salute e Vita Ristorante**, at Marina Bay, 1900 Esplanade Drive, Richmond, California 94804, telephone 510-215-0803, [salute@salutemarinabay.com](mailto:salute@salutemarinabay.com). **Salute** will be open on March 8th from 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.,

**The Editor**

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Thank you to all who donated books and money to the Retired Teachers Grant School Birthday Book Program. The books were wonderful, and the money will be used to buy Chapter books for the second graders to get in June to take home and read in the summer. Many of these children do not have access to books in their homes. The two members in charge of the Program, **Christina McCoy** and **Olivia Treviño**, appreciate your generosity and thoughtfulness. The first and second grade students love their monthly readers and the books they get to celebrate their birthdays. Thank you again.

**Marilynn Bracelin**

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

March is **Women's History Month**, and we remember the women who inspired us to become all that we are. But we must also look to the present and to the future to the women we are inspiring and will inspire. It is important that we continue the legacy that we have inherited and make it better. And that is one reason why I am part of **AAUW**.

We continue with our great programs. On **January 20th** we heard **Kathy Dervin**, who has worked on climate change and health issues at the California Department of Public Health, Berkeley Public Health, and the Center for Climate Change and Health at the Public Health Institute, talk on the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change she attended last November in Bonn, Germany. And on **February 17th** our speaker was **Menbere Aklilu**, owner of Salute e Vita Ristorante in Richmond, who shared her life experiences and how they influenced her to contribute back to the community. Over 30 people attended.

At our **March 17th** meeting, we will talk about our activities and interests. Guests are always welcome. Note that anyone who joins now gets a reduced rate and will remain a member through June 30, 2019.

**California Women Lead Workshop January 23rd, 6:30 PM Walnut Creek Library:** This event was very successful. About 100 women attended. We, along with the other branches in the **Contra Costa County InterBranch Council (CCC IBC)** helped host it 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. I have copies of the Appointments Workshop Overview handouts. Let me know if you want one.

**TECH TREK:** Work is progressing on the selection of our nine **Tech Trek** girls. Our **Tech Trek** team members (**Sue Duncan, Sally Dunham, Karen Euston, Mimi Fruehan, Christine Hills, Jackie Title, Sharon Trott, and Marsha Weintraub**) are contacting the West County Middle Schools, getting teacher nominations, reviewing applications, and setting up interviews.

**CCC Scholarship:** As **Joyce Muse** and **Seti Sidharta** review applications for the selection of our **2018 Mary Ellen Bales AAUW Scholarship** recipients, we are soliciting donations for 2019. We hope with the generous contributions of our members to again provide two scholarships next year.

**Membership Annual Renewal:** It's time to pay your dues again for next year (**July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019**). The National dues has increased by \$10 making the total **now \$95** (\$59 National, \$20 State and \$16 Branch). **NOTE: extra money is needed to supplement our branch dues**, which do not meet our regular expenses. Consider giving an extra contribution to Adopt-a-Fund. Our regular expenses far exceed our dues income. Without the extra contributions, we are not able to continue our many worthwhile activities.

Thanks for all your support. I enjoy working with such special women.

**Roberta Montgomery, President**

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Photo by Alan Dillen  
Ruth Orta, Orlena Bay Mirook, winnowing acorns.

## CULTURE CORNER for MARCH 2018 by Barbara Miller

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

- Thursday, March 12, 7:00pm: El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane. Monthly meeting, open to the public. Tom Soltesz, an award-winning California landscape painter, will demonstrate how he creates an oil painting. Each meeting also features a "Mini Art Show". This month's theme is "Shadows".
- Through March 14, DMV: Milada Pajaczkowski, Marcia Gough, Samantha McNally, Tom McCort and Kevin Berndt. The theme is "Water".
- Through April 13, El Cerrito Library: Portraits by Hortensia Chang.
- Through April 30, El Cerrito Community Center: Photographs by Kevin Berndt on the theme, *The Bay, Bridges, and Boats.*

**NIAD Art Center.** 551 23rd Avenue, Richmond, 620-0290. <http://niadart.org/exhibits/>

- Saturday, March 10, 1:00pm-4:00pm: Opening Reception.
- March 2 - March 29:
  - ***Can Did.*** Candid photography that "celebrates the natural self; capturing individuality without any posing." Organized by Julio Rodriguez.
  - ***Visual Poems.*** Clare Olivares uses the "found poem" format, similar to the collage, incorporating science-related books to convey themes of resilience and mystery.
  - ***My Favorite Things.*** "Carlos Fernandez's work is based on images he sees and selects from magazines or books."
  - ***Seen Your Show II.*** A collaborative project with NIAD and students from Denison University in Newark, OH.

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

- Ongoing through March 8:
  - ***The 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Art of Living Black.*** A self-guided open studio tour of African-American artists "that references forgotten cultural histories, struggles and personal identity." This exhibit honors Kelvin Curry and Damon Powell, the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Spotlight Award winners. In the Main Gallery.
  - ***In Focus: Current Photography.*** A juried exhibition of the work of California photographers. Juror: Judy Dater. In the South Gallery.
  - ***The Cutting Edge: Collage.*** "John Hundt, David Jones, Diana Krevsky, Sherry Parker, Kim Smith, Livia Stein, & Shayna Yasuhara each pursue a different vein of inquiry. "Riotous color, cool text, and fanciful imaginings all call for visual discovery." In the Community Gallery.
- Saturday, March 24, 5:00-7:00pm: Opening reception for ***Face Forward.***
- March 27 – May 19: ***Face Forward: Self-Image and Self-Worth.*** "Artists use the self-portrait to reflect contemporary life." In the Main Gallery.
- Tuesday, April 17, 5:00-7:00pm: Opening reception, **WCCUSD Student Art Show.**
- March 27 – April 21: **52<sup>nd</sup> Annual WCCUSD Student Art Show,** honoring art teachers and students. Over 300 works in various media and subjects. In the West and Community Galleries.
- Coming Soon: ***Selections from the Betty Ann and Raymond Barnett Collection.*** Check the Richmond Art Center website to learn when our chapter's own Betty Ann Barnett's collection will be on display.

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

<http://www.ci.san-pablo.ca.us/1237/Art-Gallery>

- Saturday, March 10, 1:00-3:00pm: Opening reception for **Dear Mother**.
- March 10 through April 15: **Dear Mother**. Conversations between mothers, daughters, grandmothers and aunts, presented by the Asian American Women Artists Association.

**Rosie the Riveter National Historical Park**, 1414 Harbour Way South, Suite 3000, Richmond. 232-5050. Unless otherwise noted, all events take place at the Visitor Center and are free. NOTE: If you have stories to share, call 510-232-5050 ext. 6643.

<https://www.nps.gov/rori/planyourvisit/calendar.htm>

- Thursdays at 2:00pm: **Blossoms and Thorns**. A documentary about Richmond's pre- and post-war community of Japanese flower growers, followed by a docent's personal story of experiences in a WWII incarceration camp.
- Tuesdays at 2:00pm., Thursdays at 11:00am, and Saturdays at 2:00pm: **Of Lost Conversations**. 96-year-old Ranger Betty Soskin shares her experiences as a young African American woman during WWII. Reservations required.
- Saturday, March 10, 11:00am: **The Women Back Home.** Using original letters, Catherine Ladnier and Mills College theater students will explore the lives of the women whose men served their country overseas." Reservations required.
- Friday, March 16, 12:30-1:00pm: **Rationing on the Home Front**. Stories about America's wartime food-rationing program and how it affected families.
- Sunday, March 18, 2:00pm: **A Second Gold Rush: Migration to California, 1940-45**. UC Berkeley Professor of History Emeritus Thomas Metcalf discusses how the unprecedented migration during WWII created the California we know today."
- Monday, March 26 at 2:00pm: **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?"
- Wednesday, March 28 at 2:00pm: **The Cartoon War from Disney to Dr. Seuss**. Enjoy some of the comic books, editorial cartoons and movie cartoons produced to boost morale during World War II.
- Saturday, March 31 at 3:30pm: **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, an industrialist who was a loyal friend to (organized) labor."

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

- Sunday, March 4. Red carpet: 3:30pm; Show starts: 5:00pm: **2018 Movie Awards Night Viewing Party**. You can watch this at home for free, but it's so much more fun to join your fellow movie-lovers for an Oscars party at the Cerrito. The celebration includes free appetizers, a costume contest, a trivia contest, ballot participation and more! Proceeds benefit the Contra Costa Civic Theater. General admission \$30.00.
- **National Theatre Live**. Purchase subscriptions for the 2018 season, or tickets for individual shows:
  - February 26, March 7, 12 & 14, 7:00pm. **Cat on a Hot Tin Roof** by Tennessee Williams. Starring Sienna Miller & Jack O'Connell.
  - April 2, 4, 9 & 11, 7:00pm. **Julius Caesar** by William Shakespeare.
  - May 14, 23, 30 & June 4, 7:00pm. **Macbeth** by William Shakespeare. Rory Kinnear & Anne-Marie Duff.
- **National Theatre Live**. Encore presentation:
  - March 19, 28, April 16 & 25, 7:00pm. **Hamlet** by William Shakespeare. Directed by Lyndsey

Turner. Starring Benedict Cumberbatch.

- *Cerrito Classic*:
  - Thursday, March 8, 7:00pm: ***The Trouble with Harry***. An Alfred Hitchcock black comedy from 1955. Stars Shirley MacLaine, Edmund Gwenn, and John Forsythe.

**Contra Costa Civic Theatre**, 951 Pomona Ave. (at Moeser), El Cerrito 524-9012. [www.ccct.org](http://www.ccct.org)

- Through March 11, Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00pm; Sundays at 2:00pm: ***The Secret in the Wings***, adapted from lesser-known Grimm's fairy tales by MacArthur Fellow and Tony-Award Winner Mary Zimmerman.

**El Cerrito Historical Society**. 510-524-1737 (Dave Weinstein). The Society provides a Walking Tour Brochure for a self-guided tour of historic locations in El Cerrito.

<http://www.elcerritohistoricalsociety.org/>

- Thursday, March 15, 7:00pm, at the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Ave. ***Native People of El Cerrito: Past, Present, and Future***, an illustrated talk by Beverly Ortiz, Ph.D. An overview of the culture and history of the Huchiuñ, an Ohlone-speaking tribe who once occupied the El Cerrito area. Free. Refreshments will be served.

**West County Winds**. This Bay Area adult wind ensemble performs in a variety of musical styles ranging from classical to contemporary and popular. They perform locally at the Unitarian-Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Road, Kensington. <http://westcountywinds.org/>

- Saturday, March 17, 3:00pm: St. Patrick's Day concert featuring pieces by John Philip Sousa, Steve Danyew, Thomas Kelly, Burton Lane, Warren Barker and Percy Granger.

**City of El Cerrito**. Council Chamber, City Hall, 10890 San Pablo Ave. 510-215-4300.

<https://www.el-cerrito.org/Calendar.aspx>

- Saturday, March 10, 10:00am-12:30pm: The French film *Demain (Tomorrow)* will be shown as part of the city's Eco Film Series, followed by a discussion with community activists and environmental leaders. "An inspirational film that showcases creative solutions to climate change in local communities around the world." Free. Refreshments.
- Tuesday, March 27, 7:00pm. ***Butterfly Pollinator Workshop***. Dr. Peter Oboyski, from the UC Berkeley Essig Museum of Entomology, "will speak about butterfly biology and provide some tips about how you can support local populations in your own backyard." See beautiful and exotic butterflies from the Essig Museum collection. Local garden clubs will provide seeds, seedlings, and further information.

**Pegasus Books on Solano**. 1855 Solano Ave., Berkeley. 525-6888.

<http://www.pegasusbookstore.com>

- Tuesday, March 6, 7:30pm: ***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. Pegasus hosts this program the first Tuesday of every month.
- Tuesday, March 20, 7:30pm: ***The Last Watchman of Old Cairo***. Michael David Lewis will read from his spellbinding novel about a young man who journeys from California to Cairo to unravel centuries-old family secrets.

**By Barbara Miller**

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### **BREAKTHROUGH COMMUNITIES**

On Friday, March 16, from 9 AM to 5 PM, Carl Anthony, author of *"The Earth, the City, and the Hidden Narrative of Race,"* and Paloma Pavel, author of *"Random Acts of Kindness and Senseless Acts of Beauty,"* will participate in the 2018 Religion and Ecology Summit at the California Institute of Integral Studies, 1453 Mission Street, Namaste Hall, 3rd Floor, San Francisco, CA 94103. Tickets range from \$15-\$50. This year's summit will address the topic of gender in the field of religion and ecology.

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## MARCH ACTIVITIES

**Board Meeting:** The March Board meeting will be on **Tuesday, March 13, 2018**, at 2:00 PM, at the home of **Christine Hills** (734-6505), 936 Norvell Street, 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**. Our next meeting will be on **Monday, March 26**, at the home of **Ida Michael** (524-7468), 268 Cambridge Avenue, Kensington. At that meeting, we will discuss Isabel Allende's ***Island Beneath the Sea***. We will also choose the location for our April meeting, which is scheduled for **Monday, April 23**. At our April meeting we will discuss Leslie Peirce's ***Empress of the East***. All are welcome — please join us!

**Lunch Group:** The group's next meeting will be on **Monday, March 19**, at **12 Noon**, at **Akemi**, 1695 Solano Avenue, Berkeley. The restaurant features Japanese ramen, combination plates, bento box lunches, and sushi. 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, March 12, from 1:30 to 3:00 PM**, at the same location. New member **Honey Massey** will speak on the United States educational system (charter schools and public schools). Since she has lived and taught in Israel for 14 years, she will also present comparisons with the Israeli education system. 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](mailto:josemarty@yahoo.com). If you regularly attend, **Marty** will assume you are coming unless you notify her otherwise. **Marty** looks forward to seeing you there. The group will have only two more meetings this year (April and May) before breaking for the summer months of June, July, and August. Please start thinking of ideas for presentations you may be interested in making in the future, and let **Marty** know.

**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.

**\*\*\*SAVE THE DATE\*\*\***

**Saturday, May 19th, 2018, 11:30 a.m.**

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



### MARY ELLEN BALES AAUW SCHOLARSHIP

Once again we are seeking contributions for our annual branch sponsored **Mary Ellen Bales AAUW Scholarship at Contra Costa College**. Each year the West Contra Costa 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. This year because of the generosity of our members last Spring we will be providing two scholarships.

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 select scholarship recipients from women candidates who have shown particular aptitude in math or science while studying at the college. They will introduce our 2018 scholarship recipients at the Installation Luncheon on May 19 at La Strada Restaurant.

Your continued support for the **Mary Ellen Bales AAUW Scholarship at Contra Costa College** is much appreciated. 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 94530 or give it to me at our meeting on March 17.

Thank you for your support!

**Roberta Montgomery, President.**

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Don't miss your chance to experience WomenSing at Chabot. Tickets are going fast and may sell out before April. The program includes a musical performance in the starlit dome, a presentation by an astronomer with stunning visuals, and a dessert and wine reception following. For more information, see <https://womensing.org/content/celestial-evening-science-and-song> or go to this website: <https://womensing.org/concerts/current-season>.

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**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2018**  
**Please note INCREASE in national dues – up \$10**

**\*\*\* Please Pay Your 2018-2019 Membership Dues by June 1 \*\*\***

Regular members: **\$95** (AAUW National \$59\*, State \$20, Branch \$16);

Paid Life members: **\$36** (\$20 State, \$16 Branch);

DUAL members: **\$16** (Branch only)

50-year members pay NO dues

\*Note \$56 of National Dues is tax deductible

**THANKS FOR EXTRA DUES!**

Thanks to all members who made an extra contribution to supplement our Branch dues for 2017-18. The \$444 helped us meet our regular expenses (including meeting room rental, newsletter and directory printing, insurance, post office box rental, and website support) that keep increasing. Note that we no longer have carryover from our garage sales and need much more this year to fund our many worthwhile activities.

**THREE WAYS TO PAY:**

1. Make your check payable to **AAUW WCC**, and mail it to: AAUW WCC, PO Box 501, El Cerrito, CA 94530, with the form below. Make note of any changes to your information.
2. Pay directly to the Treasurer during March or April meetings.
3. Pay online – go to [aauw.org](http://aauw.org) and click on the MSD tab. “Renew my Membership” option. Branch **donations** cannot be made online.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street/Apt \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/Home \_\_\_\_\_ /Cell \_\_\_\_\_

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 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. Please see the list of “adopt-a-fund” choices to pick your favorite!

## ADOPT- A-FUND FUNDRAISER

Everyone is “time impoverished” these days. In lieu of holding a garage sale, which is time consuming and produces small rewards, we, the Board, decided to let the members choose your pet fund to receive your donation. The good news is that we will not raise the Branch dues. Feel free to donate to an Entire Fund or partial Fund or No Fund at all, as you are able. The funds go to support Branch operating expenses, and these donations are not tax deductible.

<b>Budget Item</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Your Contribution</b>
Insurance Assessment – Required for all AAUW chapters	\$266	
Start Smart – Salary negotiation workshop for Contra Costa College women	\$165	
Printing, Postage Labels – printing and mailing newsletters and chapter business	\$300	
Directory Printing	\$175	
Hospitality – Coffee, creamer, napkins, etc.	\$ 75	
Hall Rental – Christ Lutheran Church monthly rental @ \$80/month	\$560	
PO Box Rental – 1 year	\$134	
Website fee paid yearly	\$120	
Speakers’ Honorariums – monthly speakers’ fees @ \$100 per speaker.	\$600	
<b>Where Most Needed</b>		



The **AAUW National Board of Directors** has voted to put three proposals for bylaws amendments before the membership for a vote this spring. The board strongly supports the proposed amendments that we believe will help keep **AAUW** vital as an organization and enable us to increase our impact in advancing equity for women and girls. The proposed amendments address creating three-year staggered board terms, opening board service to those outside of the **AAUW** membership, and eliminating the degree requirement for membership. While rationale and details for each proposed amendment can be found on the [AAUW website](#), the overarching motivation for these changes at this time is to uphold and advance **AAUW's** mission and ensure optimal execution at the national board level. The first two proposals would bring **AAUW's** board governance structure more in line with nationally accepted nonprofit best practices and the needs of the organization. The third proposal — to eliminate the degree requirement for membership — has come before the membership for vote a number of times. The board feels strongly that while the degree requirement made perfect sense at **AAUW's** inception, this requirement is now perceived by many as counter to our mission and limits our ability to build the capacity needed to increase our impact as an organization. The board recognizes that we have not traditionally put proposals up for vote outside our **AAUW** National Election, but these proposed changes have been under consideration for several years by both the Governance Committee and the board, and we believe it is important to move forward without delay to position the organization for greater growth. Members can comment on the proposed amendments and submit their own proposals from February 22, 2018, through March 22, 2018, at 11:59 p.m. ET. Voting will open on April 25, 2018, and close June 9, 2018, at 9 p.m. ET. We encourage you all to engage in respectful debate that has always been a hallmark of the AAUW community, exercise your vote, and encourage fellow members to do the same. You can direct any questions or concerns to [connect@aauw.org](mailto:connect@aauw.org).

**Your AAUW National Board of Directors**