


THE CONNECTION
 of California

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 XXXVI

NEWSLETTER 2

OCTOBER 2018



COME HEAR THREE SISTERS IN CRIME MYSTERY WRITERS!

Saturday, October 20th, 10:00 a.m.

Christ Lutheran Church

780 Ashbury (at Stockton), El Cerrito

Three *Sisters in Crime* mystery writers, (**Susan Shea**, **Simon Wood** and **Margaret Lucke**) will introduce their new books. **Susan C. Shea** loves interesting food, all things France, the beauty of the San Francisco Bay Area she lives in, and her two orange tabby cats. Her book, *Love and Death in Burgundy*, is a mystery that arises out of her likes. **Simon Wood** is a California transplant from England. He's an ex-competitive racecar driver, a licensed pilot, and an occasional private investigator. He's the Anthony Award winner and a Crime Writers Dagger Award finalist. His book, *Saving Grace*, is a crime or procedural fiction. **Margaret Lucke** flings words around in the San Francisco Bay Area, as a writer, editor, teacher of writing classes, and writing coach. She is fascinated by the power of stories and the magic of creativity. Her *Snow Angel* is a Jess Randolph mystery.

Gloria Merrill, Program Co-Chair

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is with a heavy heart that I remember **Winnie Sayre**, who died September 7. I miss her. She was a very active member. Even in her 'retirement' from the Board, she took on special assignments, and last month gave us an update on former members. She will continue to be an inspiration to me.

Our **September 15th Meeting** with the **Tech Trek** girls sharing their camp experiences was a lively event. The girls had a good time at camp and were very appreciative of our sponsorship. It was fortunate that one of our long time major donors, **Marci Smith**, was able to attend.

October 20th Meeting: We continue with another exciting program. This month three **Sisters in Crime** mystery writers will introduce their new books. Be sure to invite others to attend the meeting. Guests are always welcome. Note if they join **AAUW** at the meeting, they will get a reduced rate (\$65.50 vs. \$95).

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



VERY SAD NEWS

Dear Friends,

We are very sorry to have to pass on to you this sad news. Pasted below is a copy of an article that **Winnie Sayre's** family posted on Facebook:

"It is with very heavy hearts that the **Sayre** family shares that **Winnie** passed away on the evening of Friday, September 7th, 2018. Winnie was in a car accident that resulted in a neck fracture from which she could not recover. For several days she fought to heal, receiving visits and calls from those she loved and those who loved her most. She passed away in peace and calm, surrounded by family. **Winnie's** absence will be felt by her family, friends and community. She was an example of how to live a life full of grace and adventure and how to enjoy each day with attentiveness and gratitude. She treated every person she met with kindness and compassion. **Winnie's** life was one full of love, and she leaves behind many who will miss her dearly. "If your actions create a legacy that inspires others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more, then, you are an excellent leader". Thank you **Winnie**, for inspiring and leading us all."

Winnie and her husband **Robert**, who passed away last year, traveled all over the world together. **Winnie** was active in the **AAUW**, the **Retired Teachers**, and the **Unitarian Church**. Her family will have a celebration of her life at the **Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley**, 1 Lawson Road, Berkeley, California, on **Saturday, December 22, 2018**, from **2:00-5:00 PM**. If you wish to share your memories of **Winnie**, please contact **Sue Walenta** at 510-526-4383 (awalenta@comcast.net), or **Winnie's** daughter, **Julie Shampain**, at 209-588-0706 (jshampain6@gmail.com). Contributions in **Winnie's** memory can be made to the **WCC AAUW Tech Trek** program or to Planned Parenthood. For tax deductible donations to **Tech Trek WCC Sonoma**, checks must be made payable to **AAUW CA SPF**.

Sue Walenta, Editor



OCTOBER ACTIVITIES



Board Meeting: The next Board meeting will be on **Tuesday, October 9, 2018, at 2:00 PM**, at the home of **Sue Walenta** (526-4383), 737 Bay Tree Lane, El Cerrito. Please call **President Roberta Montgomery** (237-5293) 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 on **Monday, October 22**, at the home of **Sue Walenta** (526-4383), 737 Bay Tree Lane, El Cerrito, where we will discuss *The Fever Tree* by Jennifer McVeigh. The following meeting will be on **Monday, November 26**, at the home of **Maria LaForge** (527-4378), 240 Columbia Avenue, Kensington, where we will discuss *The Woman Next Door* by Yewande Omotoso. Both books are set in South Africa. Also, because at our September meeting we discussed *Prairie Fires*, a biography of Laura Ingalls Wilder, members may wish to discuss *Little House in the Ozarks*, the book that contains the articles Wilder wrote between 1911 and 1925 for the "Missouri Ruralist" newspaper in her column, "As a Farm Woman Thinks." (The El Cerrito Library has a copy of it.) All are welcome; please join us!

Daytime Bridge: 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 p.m.** on the **third Friday** of the month. Please contact **Roberta Montgomery** (237-5293) if you are interested in playing bridge as part of our Bridge Group. Let her know when you would like to play, how frequently you would like to play, and if you are willing to host the group.

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, October 8**, from **1:30 to 3:00 PM**. Our October meeting will feature a presentation by **Sue Walenta** (526-4383), on the subject of Xinjiang province in China, the Muslim Uighur people who occupy that area, and the difficult relationship between the Chinese government and the Uighurs. Sue traveled through that area on a Cal Alumni Silk Road trip and has photos and documents. Members who wish to join the group are very welcome and should call **Ellen** or **Marty** to let them know that you are coming. All those attending should come with a four- or five-minute presentation on some recent global event to share with other attendees during the first part of the meeting. For further information, if you have any questions, or if you wish to bring a guest, please contact the group's coordinator, **Marty Souto-Martinez** at 925-304-2022 or josemarty@yahoo.com.

Get Together for Lunch Group: The next meeting of this group will be on **Monday, October 15**, at **12:00 Noon**, at **Crepevine Restaurant**, 1600 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley. If you are able to join us, please contact **Maria LaForge** (527-4378) or email her at d.laforge@sbcglobal.net so we can get an appropriate count for our lunch reservation.



DONATE TO AAUW FUNDS!



This year we are having a one time **AAUW Funds** request for the **Vivian Lamont Coe American Fellowship**, part of the California Unfinished Endowments. Vivian's Fellowship is three-fourths on the way to completion. Please send your checks made out to **AAUW Funds** with the fund number, **4046**, on the memo line to **Barbara Vaughan**, 970 Wildcat Canyon Road, Berkeley, California 94708. Contributions can also be made on line: Google **AAUW CA**, select **Support Us**, go to **Donate Now**, then **Search for a Specific Program**, go to **Fellowships**, and select **Vivian Lamont Coe**. Enter the dollar amount and complete the remainder of the page. Let's complete Vivian's Fellowship soon! It would be wonderful if all members of the Branch would donate as they are able. Many thanks, Barb.

Barbara Vaughan, AAUW Funds VP

AAUW 2018 Strategic Plan

Mission:

To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

Vision:

Equity for all.

Values:

Nonpartisan.
Fact-based.
Integrity.
Inclusion and intersectionality.

AAUW launched a new strategic plan on August 1. The plan ensures that **AAUW** is 100 percent mission-focused with an eye toward meaningful impact for women and girls.

The new mission statement places research first to emphasize that **AAUW** continues to be grounded in nonpartisan principles and facts, and is committed to robust research. The noun – philanthropy – was removed from the mission statement. While we remain committed as **AAUW** members to support our mission through our endowed and annual fellowships and grants, others outside see “philanthropy” and assume we are an operating foundation. Meaning, we don’t seek or need contributions or donations for our work. The intention of our philanthropy is to continue to help women and girls with their education, whether through branch scholarships, graduate fellowships or grants. The noun “education” encompasses this intent without confusing outside potential members or donors.

Intersectionality was kept as a value because it is becoming more widely used as other terms like “diversity and inclusion” don’t completely reflect the interrelated nature of race, age, gender, etc. **AAUW** has much work to do, and use of the word intersectionality signals that **AAUW**, at its core, will be an organization more focused on the interrelated nature of gender and other identity categories than only focusing on women as a whole (without taking into account other vital factors, like race, that directly play into women’s success) or white women in particular.

One of the most audacious and exciting goals in the plan is to achieve pay equity by 2030, and this is one of our immediate areas of focus. **AAUW** can lead the national conversation on pay equity — and all members can join advocacy efforts to advance policies in their states and communities and nationally. Another key component of the pay equity agenda will be **to train 10 million women in salary negotiation by 2022**.

Roberta Montgomery, President



MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

The 2018-2019 Membership Directories prepared by **Ellen Mills** and her husband **Paul** will be available for pick-up at the **October 20th** meeting. Those directories not picked up by members will be mailed in November. Please review your entry and let us know if you have corrections. Please note that **Marty Sarbey de Souto** is still an active member (Global Interests), but she has changed her name. She can be found in the Directory as **Martha (Marty) Souto-Martinez**. Also, **Honey Massey**, who joined last Fall, moved to Ohio in May.

Roberta Montgomery, President



Our member and good friend, **Mollie Hazen**, is in Hospice Care at her home at 796 Pomona Avenue, El Cerrito. Her email is mollie.hazen@gmail.com. Her cell phone (text messages preferred) is 510-717-7788. Mollie has been thrilled to hear from so many of you and is so grateful for your love and support. Her biggest needs are for medical supplies and naturally sourced foods. Gift cards from Amazon and the El Cerrito Natural Grocery Company are much valued and needed. Her medical practitioner has now strongly advised that Mollie consume more bone broth around the clock for steady improvements in her immunity, and the type of broth compatible with her needs is available at the Natural Grocery Company. Any assistance you can provide will be greatly appreciated and used with gratitude.

Marty Takimoto

Dear Friends,

I want to thank you all for your ongoing support and caring. With large and growing numbers of inquiries from friends about my health, I've realized the need to do a better job of informing all of you about how I'm doing, especially during times when it's difficult to communicate. This is a first effort at doing so. My good friend Marty is helping transcribe my thoughts, and he will be my conduit for more regular updates in the future.

As many of you know, I'm a deeply private person. Sharing information about myself is difficult. I'm not the type to share info like this on Facebook, although I know it works for others. I hope you will forgive the group email but, for now, it's the easiest way for me to update all of you at once. As part of this, I ask that you please not forward these email updates to others. Do feel free to share general information about my well being with others if asked. In talking about my health, my preference is not to use the actual Big 'C' word nor to describe my situation as being in a "battle" or "fight". I am simply responding in a way which is appropriate and preferred by me applying life skills. I've had some critically serious ups and downs through the past few months. And, through it all, I remain positive and optimistic. Again, with love and support from all of you!

I was pleased to see many of you over Labor Day weekend to celebrate my birthday and honor Don's stunning photography work. Reaching my birthday was an important milestone, and I was very happy to have so many of you share it with me. It was especially heartening to see my friends as the past few months have been especially challenging. Since June, I have lost a great deal of weight due to a lack of appetite and have learned that I must eat despite not being hungry. Having been on a mostly liquid diet, finding nutritious foods that I can eat and digest is a challenge. Right now, fresh salads and steamed veggies seem to be working! Recently, I've also been dealing with lymphedema, an intensely painful nerve condition which has caused my right arm to swell. I am unable to sit at my computer and type, yet I can read emails and text messages on my phone.

With both of these recent issues, I've continued to take an integrative approach to wellness, working closely with a great team made up of my medical practitioner, home health care nurses, and acupuncturist. With my medical team, I'm now receiving relief from nerve pain, which has improved my ability to sleep. Blessedly. Keeping my mind alive and lucid is important to me, and I continue to choose remedies that help keep me that way. Friends have described me as strong minded, tenacious, and resilient. These traits continue to help me on my road to well being. I want to thank you all again for the ongoing support and love you've shared with me through this journey. Your cards, gifts, and emails have been wonderful. Please feel free to continue to contact me either through email or text messages. I will respond as I can. Know that I appreciate each and every thought and prayer from you. I am so thankful for your support and the many ways you have continued to walk along side of me.

Blessings,

Mollie Hazen



CULTURE CORNER for OCTOBER 2018

By Barbara Miller

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

- Oct. 8, 7:00 pm: Monthly meeting, open to the public. Pastel demonstration by Bill Cone, set and production designer at Pixar studios. Garden Room of the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane, El Cerrito.
- Oct. 5-7: ECAA Annual Art Show & Sale, El Cerrito Community Center:
 - Oct. 5, 7:00-9:00pm: Artists' Reception.
 - Oct. 6-7: 11:00am-5:00pm (10/6); 11:00am-4:00pm (10/7). Unframed art for sale.

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

- October 6-25: Mon.-Fri.: 10:00am-4:00pm. Sat.: 12:00pm-4:00pm.
 - ***Guerneville.*** Organized by Gerasimmos Floratos and Ross Simonini. Featuring the organizers favorite works from the **NIAD** archives.
 - ***Secret Language: Carol Newborg.*** Carol Newborg is an Albany-based artist whose unusual technique involves layering hand-cut paperboard and then shaping it with drywall mud, a technique she learned from incarcerated artists with whom she works at the San Quentin Arts in Corrections studio.
 - ***Robots: Saul Alegria.*** Known for his minimalist paintings of animals and ceramic objects based on video game icons, Sal Alegria's latest work involves a quartet of robot drawings.
 - ***Three Paintings from Tre'veon Silva.*** Abstract paintings by a new, extremely talented **NIAD** artist.
- Saturday, October 13: 1:00pm-4:00pm: Opening reception for the above exhibits.

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

- Saturday, Oct. 6: 9:30am-4:00pm. ***Spun, Dyed, Woven & Tied.*** A one-day symposium on the history of California textile art and current trends. \$40 (\$35 for RAC members), includes box lunch.
- Saturday, Oct. 20: 12:30pm-3:00pm. ***Fall Family Day.*** Art-making activities for all ages. Free.
- Saturday, Oct. 20: 12:00pm-4:00pm. ***Community Mural Event.*** The general public is invited to contribute their own reflections to the originally blank wall. The final mural will be available for viewing on Nov. 16.
- Saturday, Oct. 27: 1:00pm-3:00pm. ***See and Make Art: Happy Halloween and Dia De Los Muertos.*** Madeline F. Whittlesey Community Room, 323 Civic Center Plaza. Family event. Make Paper Picado and Spooky Masks. Enjoy a reading of spooky children's books.
- Through Nov. 16:
 - ***Califas: Art of the US-Mexico Borderlands.*** Numerous artists. This exhibition "explores representations of the US-Mexico 'borderlands' in contemporary art, with a special emphasis on the Bay Area". In the Main and West Galleries.
 - ***Lia Cook: Inner Traces.*** Recent jacquard loom pieces by Lia Cook, a Bay Area artist who combines weaving with self-portraiture, photography, digital technology and neuroscience.
 - ***What Knot?*** Contemporary art by California artists working with fiber and textile construction techniques, offering new twists on traditional processes, materials and concepts.

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>

- Through Oct. 28: ***Subtlety.*** Prints and paintings by Patrick Hayashi, Debra Jewell, and Linda Yoshizawa.

Rosie the Riveter National Historical Park, 1414 Harbour Way South, Ste. 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*—call (510) 232-5050 X0. NOTE: There will *not* be a showing on Tues., Oct. 9.
- Saturday, Oct. 6, 11:00am-12:30pm: **From Executive Order 9066 to Executive Orders Today: Our Rights, Our Democracy, Our Humanity**. A screening of the documentary film, **For The Sake of Our Children**. This film explores the legacy of the Japanese-American incarceration and the long-term impact of the incarceration experience. *Reservations required*—call (510) 232-5050 X0.
- Wednesday, Oct. 10, 2:00-3:00pm: **Warbling Through the War Years**. During World War II, "music...helped us get through fearful times. We'll see and hear how we listened through samples from radio, records, and the movies."
- Monday, Oct. 8 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?"
- Sunday, Sept. 30, 2:00-3:00pm: **A Second Gold Rush: Migration to California, 1940-1945**. "Join UC Berkeley Professor of History Emeritus Thomas Metcalf for a presentation about how the unprecedented migration during WWII created the California we know today."

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>

- **National Theatre Live**. Purchase subscriptions for the 2018 season, or tickets for individual shows. All shows are at 7:00pm. Hurry! Tickets are selling out fast.
 - Oct. 1 and 10. **Julie**, by Polly Stenham. A contemporary version of August Strinberg's *Miss Julie*.
 - Oct. 18, 24, and 29; Nov. 7. **King Lear** by William Shakespeare. With Ian McKellen.
 - Nov. 26 and 28; Dec. 3 and 12. **The Madness of George III** by Alan Bennett. Starring Mark Gatiss as King George.
 - Dec 17, Jan. 9 and 14 and 23. **Antony & Cleopatra** by William Shakespeare. Starring Ralph Fiennes and Sopphe Okonedo.
 - Feb. 4 and 20 and 25, Mar. 8. **I'm Not Running**, by David Hare
- Oct. 22, 7:00pm: **Frankenstein**. Re-showing of a NTL show from 2011. Starring Benedict Cumberbatch as the creature and Jonny Lee Miller as Dr. Frankenstein.
- Oct. 31, 7:00pm: **Frankenstein**. Re-showing of a NTL show from 2011 *with roles reversed*. Starring Jonny Lee Miller as the creature and Benedict Cumberbatch as Dr. Frankenstein

City of El Cerrito, Council Chamber, City Hall, 10890 San Pablo Ave. 510-215-4300. <https://www.el-cerrito.org/Calendar.aspx>

- Wednesday, Oct. 3, 3:00pm-4:00pm: **Public Tour of the Recycling Center**. The tour starts in the interpretive area next to the Exchange Zone.
- Wednesday, Oct. 3, 5:00pm-9:00pm: **El Cerrito Out Loud**. The public is invited to join featured poets at an open mike event hosted by Dani Gabriel, Poet Laureate for the City of El Cerrito. At *Off The Grid* on Fairmont Ave. between San Pablo Ave. and Carlson Blvd. Food trucks and poetry. Creative writing workshops are also available.
- Thursday, Oct. 11 through Wednesday, Oct. 17: **El Cerrito Restaurant Week**. Residents are encouraged to eat at local restaurants between Thursday, Oct. 11 and Wed., Oct. 17. In previous years, you got a "passport" and could have it stamped at each restaurant you went to. They don't mention that this year, but keep checking the [website](#) as it would surprise me if

they didn't do that again. With the passport, there are prizes (movie passes, golf for 4, etc.) for those who eat at the most participating restaurants. The list of participating restaurants is [here](#). I expect more will join before Oct. 11, so keep checking back. Also, many of the restaurants have "deals" or a freebie during that week.

Saturday, Oct. 13: **El Cerrito City-Wide Garage Sale.**

- **Contra Costa Civic Theater**, 951 Pomona Ave., El Cerrito.
- Through Oct. 21. Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00pm; Sundays at 2:00pm: **Allegiance.** A musical. Book by Marc Acito, Jay Kuo, and Lorenzo Thione. Music by Jay Kuo. Directed by Lily Tung Crystal. The story of a Japanese family moved to a relocation camp after Pearl Harbor. Inspired by the true life experience of George Takei.

El Cerrito Historical Society

- Sunday, Oct. 14, 4:00-6:00pm. **The International Style in El Cerrito.** Architects Campbell & Wong designed several homes in El Cerrito that partake more of strict, International Style design than the typical, less formal California mid-century modern of the 1950s and 1960s. Dave Weinstein will lead a visit to two of these homes and discuss El Cerrito's modernist heritage. Peter Parenti, one of the owners, will share information about the architects. The event is free, but you must make reservations. Email davidsw Weinstein@yahoo.com, and he will let you know the addresses of the homes and where to meet. The event is free. There will be light refreshments.

Kensington Symphony Orchestra.

- Saturday, Nov. 10, 7:30pm: **Great Anniversaries.** Program includes: Leonard Bernstein, *Overture to Candide*; Claude Debussy, *Nocturnes*; Edvard Grieg, *Piano Concerto in A Minor, Op. 16*. You can buy tickets to individual events or order a season pass. General admission for each concert is \$25 (\$20 for seniors.) <https://www.kensingtonsymphonyorchestra.org/2016-17-programs>



NOVEMBER BALLOT MEASURES

There are 11 measures on the November ballot. They cover a variety of issues. The AAUW-CA Public Policy Committee reviewed the ballot measures and determined that most do not address issues in our Public Policy Priorities. We have classified these as "No Position." Propositions 1, 4, and 5 have a bearing on our principles, but they include elements that undermine some of our priorities, along with elements that support our priorities. The Committee adopted a "**NEUTRAL**" position on Propositions 1, 4, and 5. **Proposition 2: Homeless Housing Bond: SUPPORT No Place Like Home Act of 2018.** A great number of our homeless population suffers from mental illness. Prop. 2 allows previously allocated unspent money to be used to provide permanent supportive housing for people who need mental health service and are either currently homeless or at risk of becoming so. Women comprise a significant percentage of the homeless. This measure does not involve a new state bond. The Committee is **NEUTRAL** on Prop. 1 (Veterans and Affordable Housing Bonds), Prop. 4 (Children's Hospital Bond), and Prop. 5 (Property Tax). It takes no position on Prop. 3 (Water Bond), Prop. 6 (Gas Tax Repeal), Prop. 7 (Daylight Saving Time), Prop. 8 (Dialysis), Prop. 10 (Repeal Costa Hawkins/Rent Control), Prop. 11 (Ambulance Drivers), and Prop. 12 (Farm Animals). For additional information on ballot measures, go to the website for Ballotpedia.

AAUW CA Perspective

Marianne Selph, Public Policy Chair