

WEST CONTRA COSTA BRANCH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

Advancing gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy westcontracosta-ca.aauw.net

VOLUME XXXVI NEWSLETTER 5 MARCH 2020



LEARN ABOUT THE COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES (CASA) PROGRAM

Saturday, March 21st, 10:00 a.m. Christ Lutheran Church 780 Ashbury (at Stockton), El Cerrito

Alvaughn Rodgers, CASA of Contra Costa County Recruitment Coordinator, will talk about the program that supports and promotes court-appointed volunteer advocacy so every abused or neglected child in the county can be safe, have a permanent home and have the opportunity to thrive.

Gloria Merrill, Program Co-Chair

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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** with its mission to advance equity for women and girls.

We continued with our great <u>Program</u>. On **January 18** we had a talk on emergency preparedness given by El Cerrito/Kensington Battalion Chief **Joe Grupalo** and **Marlene Keller**, block captain for the Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) program of El Cerrito and Kensington. And on **February 16**, we had a lively discussion with mystery writers **Faye Snowden** and **Gayle Feyrer aka Yves Fey** from our local <u>Sisters in Crime</u> chapter.

At our **March 21st** meeting, we will learn about the **Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program** which supports abused and neglected children. Guests are always welcome. Invite family and friends.

<u>TECH TREK</u>: Work is progressing on the selection of the eight girls we will sponsor at **Tech Trek** this summer. Our **Tech Trek** team (**Sue Duncan**, **Sally Dunham**, **Mimi Fruehan**, **Christine Hills**, **Jackie Title**, and **Marsha Weintraub**) are contacting the West County Middle Schools, getting teacher nominations, reviewing applications, and setting up interviews.

<u>Membership Annual Renewal</u>: This month we start collecting dues for next year (**July 1, 2020** to **June 30, 2021**). I thank all who gave an extra contribution last year to supplement our branch dues. Without this money, we would not have been able to do our many worthwhile activities. Needless to say, we continue to need your support. Consider giving an extra contribution to Adopt-a-Fund. Our regular expenses far exceed our dues income.

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

AAUW-Supported STEM Act Becomes Law

In December, the bipartisan <u>Building Blocks of STEM Act</u> was signed into law, with a little help from AAUW Lobby Corps. The legislation expands educational opportunities in math and science for young women and students of color. Thanks to Nevada Senator Jacky Rosen for championing the bill!



IN MEMORIAM

I am sorry to report that **Patricia Newton** passed away suddenly at home on November 25. Patricia was a *proud member of AAUW* since 1988. She also taught at Madera.

MARCH ACTIVITIES

<u>Board Meeting</u>: The next Board meeting will be <u>Tuesday</u>, <u>March 3</u>, <u>2020</u>, at 2:00 PM, at the home of <u>Sue Duncan</u> (510-334-0520) 1202 King Dr., El Cerrito. Contact <u>President Roberta Montgomery</u> (510-237-5293) for more information. All members are invited to attend.

<u>Afternoon Books</u>: The group meets on the **fourth Monday** of each month at **1:30 PM**. Our next meeting will be **Monday**, **March 23**, at the home of **Sue Walenta** (526-4383), 737 Bay Tree Lane, El Cerrito. At the meeting, we will discuss *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens. All are welcome —please join us!

<u>Lunch Group</u>: The group's next meeting will be **Monday, March 16**, at **12 Noon**, at **Duo Grill** (Walker's Pie Shop location) 1491 Solano Ave, Albany. Contact **Maria LaForge** (510-527-4378; d.laforge@sbcglobal.net) with any questions. All are welcome!

<u>Global Interests Group</u>: The group meets on the **second Monday of each month at 1:30 PM** at the home of **Ellen Mills** (510-229-9020), 1648 Oak View Avenue, Kensington. The next meeting will be Monday, March 9. Marianne Selph will talk about "The Sultanate of Oman". Contact **Maria LaForge** (510-527-4378; d.laforge@sbcglobal.net) with any questions.

<u>Daytime Bridge Group</u>: We are still trying to get the **Bridge Group** going again. The Group is open to all levels of players and will meet on the **third Friday of each month at 1:00 PM**. Please contact **President Roberta Montgomery** (510-237-5293; rjm2343@sbcglobal.net) if you can host a meeting or just want to play.

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, May 16th, 2020, 11:30 a.m. La Strada Italian Restaurant 2215 Church Lane (at San Pablo Avenue), San Pablo

JOIN US FOR OUR END OF YEAR LUNCHEON – good food, fun and the instillation of officers

THANKS from Grant Birthday Book Program For Holiday Party books and money donations

Dear Ladies,

Thank you so much for your generous contribution to our Birthday Book Project at Grant Elementary School in Richmond. The children and teachers are always excited to see our "Birthday Book" Ladies. Your contributions make it possible for us to continue this worthwhile project.

Sincerely, Christina McCoy Birthday Book Project Coordinator

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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2020-2021

*** Please Pay Your 2020-2021 Membership Dues by June 30 ***

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 2019-2020. The \$2,254 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: contributions to operating expenses are NOT tax deductible.**

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 online NEW PROCEDURE Send an email to treasurer chills627@gmail.com and she will forward a link you will use to make the online donation. (Note: BRANCH donations cannot be made online.)
- 3. Bring your check to a Saturday AAUW branch meeting.

Name		_			
Street/Apt					
City/State					
Phone/Home	_/Cell				
Email		_			
□ I have CHANGES to personal information above. We will update the 2020-2021 Directory with your new information. □ I wish to receive the newsletter by e-mail (this is the default).					
□ 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

This year, branch dues are expected to be \$640 yet our projected budget for operating expenses is approximately \$3152. 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 ask the members to choose your pet fund to receive your donation again this year. 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.

Budget Item	Budget	Your Contribution
Insurance Assessment – Required for all AAUW	\$218	
chapters		
Printing, Postage Labels – printing and mailing	\$425	
newsletters and chapter business		
Directory Printing	\$125	
Hospitality – Coffee, creamer, napkins, etc.	\$ 75	
Hall Rental – Christ Lutheran Church monthly rental @	\$560	
\$80/month		
PO Box Rental – 1 year	\$134	
Website fee paid yearly	\$120	
Speakers' Honorariums – monthly speakers' fees @	\$600	
\$100 per speaker.		
Tech Trek Recruitment, Reception, Printing & Postage	\$300	
Most Needed		

Contra Costa College Scholarship

This is an update on our scholarship at Contra Costa College. For many years our branch has awarded the Mary Ellen Bales AAUW scholarship at Contra Costa College to a woman from the Center for Science Excellence with a STEM major in an underrepresented field continuing her education at a four-year college or university. The scholarship was administered by the tax-exempt Contra Costa College (CCC) Foundation.

In a recent audit it was determined that the CCC Foundation gets Federal Funding through the support it gets from the Contra Costa College District. Therefore under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, all CCC Foundation scholarships must be open to everyone. Since our scholarship is for women only, it can no longer be administered by the CCC Foundation and our account there was closed.

The Board voted to continue this worthwhile endeavor and is now looking into providing the scholarship on our own. Seti Sidharta, a branch member and Director of the Center for Science Excellence at Contra Costa College, has volunteered to administer our scholarship applications at Contra Costa College. We are also applying to the AAUW California Special Projects Fund, a non-profit corporation, to receive tax deductible donations for our local scholarship. Thanks for your continued support.

Roberta Montgomery, President

CULTURE CORNER for MARCH 2020 By Barbara Miller

El Cerrito Art Association. Exhibits of local artists' work around El Cerrito. Monthly meetings are open to the public and are held in the Garden Room of the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane. NOTE: As part of the El Cerrito Creative Reuse program (ECCRU), El Cerrito has two artists in residence: Risa Dye and Kloe Chan. They create art from materials found at our recycling center. https://elcerritoart.org

- Sat., Mar 7, 10:30am 12:30pm. At the Community Center. Recycled Puppet Workshop and Demo by Risa Dye. Come see how Risa is using recycled materials to create puppet characters of many different styles. Risa will share her creative process and demonstrate some recreational techniques and then guide you in creating a puppet! Come join her to make a puppet out of (clean) materials found at the Recycling Center. This workshop is for anyone who wants to create a unique piece of art/ a new friend and can fold and safely use scissors. Free.
- Mon., Mar 9, 7:00pm: Monthly meeting. Photography, Encaustic Demonstration by Denise Fuson.
- Thurs., Mar 19, 3:00-4:00: **Recycled Paper Puppets!** At the El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave. Risa will demonstrate how to make puppets out of recycled paper and help you create your own puppet. Free. Website here.
- Exhibitions:
 - o Through March 13, 2020 at the El Cerrito DMV: The theme is **Peace**.
 - March 11 through July 22 at the DMV: the theme is Flowering.

NIAD Art Center. 551 23rd Ave., Richmond. 510-620-0290. http://niadart.org

- Mar 2 through 26: Exhibitions: http://niadart.org/exhibits/march2020/
 - Weaving Circle. A showcase of NIAD artist weaving practices together with those of masterful Guatemalan backstrap weavers. This exhibit includes photographs of historic Guatemalan woven garments from the Mills College art Collection. There will be an active weaving lab with demonstrations and workshops. Organized by Circulo Tejido/Backstrap Club, an Oakland-based community group that creates a space for Guatemalan backstrap weavers and those interested in learning this art. Main gallery.
 - Modern Times: Matthew Langley. More than 20 new limited-edition serigraphs from New York
 artist Matthew Langley. Mr. Langley uses punk and post-punk approaches "to illustrate the
 recontextualization of consumer images in a way that comments on sexuality, class, and
 modernism in our daily lives." Backroom.
 - Selections of NIAD Work from the Joan Finton Art Collection. Berkeley artist and educator Joan Finton shares her collection of work by several NIAD artists. The exhibit also includes a selection of repurposed pizza boxes from a project led by Ms Finton. Annex space and storefront.
- Sat., Mar 7, 3:00-6:00pm. Win Win 8. NIAD's annual benefit event. At CoBoz Richmond, 1503 MacDonald Ave. Tickets are \$65 and include food, drink, a free movie screening, and an original artwork by a NAID artist for you to take home. For tickets, go to: https://e.givesmart.com/events/g1U/
- Mar 14, 1:00-4:00pm: Opening reception for March exhibitions.
- March 26, 4:00-7:00: Thirsty Thursday with open bar, music, and snacks. Organizers from Circulo Tejido/Backstrap Club will be there and will give a walk-through of the Weaving Circle exhibit at 5:45.

Richmond Art Center. 2540 Barrett Ave., Richmond. 510-620-6772. The largest visual arts center in the East Bay. Open Tues.-Sat., 10:00am-5:00pm. Closed major holidays. http://www.richmondartcenter.org

- Exhibitions:
 - <u>Through March 6</u>: Right Here, Right Now, Richmond. This exhibit looks at excellent, risk-taking work currently being made in Richmond. A variety of media are included. This exhibit is presented in partnership with NIAD Art Center. Community Gallery.
 - Weekends through March 15: Art of the African Diaspora. A group exhibition featuring works of over 150 artists of African descent. This annual exhibition was formerly named The Art of Living Black. In addition to the exhibition at the Richmond Art Center, there will be self-guided open studio tours and satellite exhibitions. Over 95 artists are participating this year. Main and West Galleries. Details are in the Art of the African Diaspora Guide, available at the Center and at:

http://richmondartcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/AOTADGuide 2020 all.pdf

- Fri. Mar 13, 3:00-5:00pm: Closing Reception for Art of the African Diaspora.
- Mar 17 through May 29: Over and Under. "This exhibition is informed by the interchange of ideas and material, the crisscrossing of bodies and objects, and the weaving of histories and personal narratives." South Gallery.
- Mar 24 through April 21: 55th Annual WCCUSD Student Art Show. Community and West Galleries.
- Mar 27-28: Ikuko Ito Pop-Up Exhibition. West Gallery. Ms. Ito is an artist from Richmond's sister city, Shimada, Japan.
- Fri., Mar 27, 3:00-4:30pm: Reception for Ikuko Ito Pop-Up Exhibition.
- Sat., Mar 28, 5:00-7:00pm: Opening Reception for Over and Under.

Bridge Storage and ArtSpace. 23 Maine Ave., Richmond. 510-233-3348. http://www.bridgestorage. A coworking space and art gallery, which includes a shared art studio, woodshop, metal shop and filmmaking facility. Among the experiences offered at The Bridge are artist support groups, songwriting sessions, mindfulness training, and woodshop safety training. https://www.bridgestorage.com/events/

Sat., Mar 14, 4:00-7:00pm. Reception for Paquerette: Works on Paper. This exhibit by Jacob Clark will be in the Office Gallery until mid-April.

<u>East Bay Center for the Performing Arts</u>. 339 11th St., Richmond. 510-234-5624. <u>http://www.eastbaycenter.org/events/upcoming-events</u>

- Sat., Feb 29, 5:00-11:00pm: DOUBLE OR NOTHING. A dance battle with cash prizes. Contestants are preselected. Tickets are \$25 online. To learn more about this program and its artists, go to: http://www.eastbaycenter.org/globals/events/2020/february/double-or-nothing
- Sat., Mar 7 and Sun. Mar 8: Soul Endeavor. Two days of diverse, brief recitals by Center students. From opera to rock ballads; from classical piano to jazz and bebop. One trio will play rare Mexican regional music with violin, jarana and huapanguera. Free.
- Sat., Mar 28 and Sat., April 4: Young Artists Repertory Series. New works by Center resident youth companies. Resident youth companies include a dance company (ballet), a steel band, a chamber ensemble, a jazz collective, a group that performs African-American song, a West African music and dance group, and Mien Legends, a company that performs pauu-zuung, an ancient style of micro-tonal singing from southeast Asia.

<u>Contra Costa Community Theatre</u>. 951 Pomona Ave., El Cerrito. Live theater. CCCT celebrates its 60th season this year. The theater is usually packed, so get your tickets early. <u>https://ccct.org</u>

Mar 13-29. Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00pm; Sundays at 2:00pm. The Waverly Gallery by Kenneth Lonergan. Directed by Mike Reynolds. "A hilarious and heartrending look at the effects of old age on a family." https://ccct.org/event/the-waverly-gallery/2020-03-14/

<u>Youth Musical Theater Company (YMTC)</u>. El Cerrito High School Performing Arts Theater, 540 Ashbury Ave., El Cerrito. 510-595-5514. https://ymtcbayarea.org

• Weekends, March 7 through March 15. **The Music Man**. Tickets on sale now. You can purchase in advance online, by phone, or at the high school box office on performance days.

<u>Cerrito Theater</u> (Rialto Cinemas). 10070 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. 510-273-9102. <u>El Cerrito's own</u> restored art deco movie 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. <u>http://www.rialtocinemas.com/cerrito.</u>

- Parasite. The Korean-language film that won Academy Awards for Best Picture, Best Director, and Best Foreign Film is currently playing at the Cerrito.
- The Call of the Wild. Based on the Jack London novel, this film stars Harrison Ford. The dog is computer-generated. Currently playing at the Cerrito.
- Thursday, Mar 19, 2:00pm: Exhibition on Screen: Lucien Freud, A Self Portrait. This film explores one of the most highly original and popular artists of recent years, who was a key figure in London's radical post-war art scene. A collaboration between London's Royal Academy of Arts and Boston's Museum of Fine Arts.
- Cerrito Classics. A classic film is shown the second Thursday of every month except in summer.

Thurs., March 12, 7:00pm: Election. 1999. About a high school election in which one candidate uses unethical tactics. Starring Matthew Broderick and Reese Witherspoon.
 https://www.rialtocinemas.com/index.php?location=cerrito&film=2020_election

Rosie the Riveter National Historic Park. 1414 Harbour Way South, Suite 3000, Richmond. 510-232-5050. Open daily: 10:00am-5:00pm. Unless otherwise noted, all events take place at the Visitor Center and are free. If you have stories to share, call 510-232-5050 ext. 6643.

https://www.nps.gov/rori/planyourvisit/calendar.htm IMPORTANT NOTE: Betty Soskin's talks have been temporarily suspended after she suffered a stroke in September. The Park expects her to resume her talks in a few months. There is a GoFundMe page where you can donate to help Ms. Soskin pay for inhome care. https://www.gofundme.com/f/inhome-medical-support-for-betty-reid-soskin Check the

All Fridays in March, except for Mar 13, 10:30am and 11:30; and a special 3-hour drop-in session on Sat., March 7 at 10:00am. Rosie Meet and Greet. A group of civilian WW II Rosies share their stories of working at the Richmond Shipyards. It is recommended that you see the orientation film, Home Front. Heroes at 10:00, 11:00 or 1:00 before seeing the Rosies.

website for updated information. Betty has recently been attending showings of the film about her life.

- Sat., Mar 7 and 14 at 2:00pm: Who Was Rosie? "Together we'll explore how this icon came to be, how she's changed over time, and how she is still influencing America."
- Thursdays, 2:00-3:00pm: Blossoms and Thorns. A documentary about Richmond's pre- and postwar community of Japanese flower growers, followed by a docent's personal story of experiences in a WWII incarceration camp.
- Wed., Mar 11, 2:00pm: A Home Away from Home-USO During WW II. Learn how the USO offered homesick youth wholesome activities.
- Thurs., Mar 19, 7:00pm: Movie aboard the historic Red Oak Victory Ship: 1941, starring John Belushi and Dan Akroyd. Directed by Stephen Speilberg. "In this comedy, southern Californians defend themselves against the Japanese Navy." Based on a true incident where a Japanese submarine attacked a refinery off Santa Barbara. The Red Oak Victory Ship is at Shipyard 3, 1337 Canal Blvd., Berth 5, Richmond, CA. Boarding is at 6:30pm. For directions, go to the website or call 510-237-2933. https://www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/event-details.htm?id=736D863A-B26E-5969-D36EB1E305C4860F
- Sat., Mar 21, 2:00pm: A Second Gold Rush. UC Berkeley Professor of History Emeritus Thomas Metcalf explains how unprecedented migration during WW II created the California we know today.
- <u>All Sundays in March. 2:00pm</u>: *Tickets Over the Rainbow.* How "blue discharges" affected gays in the military and contributed to early gay activism.
- Wed., Mar 25, 2:00pm: The T-Zone: Promoting the Bad Stuff During the War. A look at ads for cigarettes, liquor, patent medicines and other bad-for-you items during the war.
- Sat., Mar 28, 3:15pm: The Life and Times of Henry J. Kaiser. Author Steve Gilford discusses the life of Henry J. Kaiser, an industrialist who was a friend to organized labor.

<u>West County Winds</u>. Concerts are at the Knox Center for the Performing Arts on the Contra Costa College campus. 2600 Mission Bell Drive (El Portal Drive and Castro Drive), in San Pablo. http://westcountywinds.org/

Sun., Mar 1, 3:00pm: WCW Goes to the American Musical Theater. Conductor: Geoffrey Gallegos. Program includes songs by George Gershwin, John Williams, Frank Loesser, Stephen Sondheim, Richard Rodgers and Meredith Wilson.

<u>Kensington Symphony Orchestra</u>. Concerts are at Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Road, Kensington. <u>https://www.kensingtonsymphonyorchestra.org</u>. Music Director and Conductor: Geoffrey Gallegos

Sat., Feb 29, 7:30pm: Happy Birthday Ludwig! To celebrate the 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth, KSO will perform the Symphony No. 4 in B-flat Major Op. 60 and the Violin Concerto in D Major, Op 61, featuring Leonid Igudesman on the violin.

<u>El Cerrito Trail Trekkers</u>. The <u>El Cerrito Trail Trekkers</u> is a nonprofit group dedicated to preserving, improving and extending the city's network of public pathways, stairs, trails and greenways for pedestrian and bicycle use, advocating for increased public open space, and sponsoring activities that involve trails

and open space, including hikes, festivals, and other educational events. Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at the Harding Club House, 7115 C Street, El Cerrito. The public is welcome to attend. https://ectrailtrekkers.wordpress.com

- Sat., Mar 7, 11:00am to 1:00pm: Lost Trails, Fine Homes Hike. A two-hour walk in the El Cerrito hills. Some steep sections. Dave Weinstein will lead the hike and discussions of El Cerrito history, architecture and natural history to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the founding of the Trail Trekkers.
- Sun., Mar 15, 10:00am to 12:00 noon: Peeks at Creeks. Barbara Lass and Wade Huntley show how
 they use local maps to follow buried creek beds and get peeks of the exposed portions of the creeks
 themselves.

El Cerrito Library. 6510 Stockton Ave. (510) 526-7512.

March is Women's History Month. Our library offers some special programs to celebrate women. Each program will start with an introduction to the presenter including how she got to where she is in her profession and why she loves it. These are just a few of this month's offerings. For a complete list, go to this website, select El Cerrito, and click on the blue box that says Part of Women's History Month. All events are free.

https://ccclib.bibliocommons.com/events/search/fg=program:(5de828c9e1818724000d8cf1)

- Tues., Mar 3: Downsizing and Home Organization Workshop. "Senior Move Managers DMA Organizing help guide you through the process. In this free workshop you'll learn when to start, how to reduce stress so you aren't overwhelmed, get options on what to do with the things you aren't keeping, and insights into professional resources that can help you." https://ccclib.bibliocommons.com/events/search/fg=program:(5de828c9e1818724000d8cf1)/event/5e321c088cc6383a005c0b37
- Tues., Mar 10: Women in Magic: A Spectacular Magic Show Featuring Heather Rogers. IN addition to a magic show, there will be a discussion of women's influence on the history of magic. https://ccclib.bibliocommons.com/events/search/fq=program:(5de828c9e1818724000d8cf1)/event/5e31e45f0e22b32f0012682a
- Tues., Mar 24: "Beyond Recognition" Film Screening and Discussion. This documentary film shows how women from local Indian tribes fought to prevent desecration of sacred ground in San Francisco. It is described as "the inspiring story of women creating opportunities to preserve Native culture and homeland in a society bent on erasing them."

 https://ccclib.bibliocommons.com/events/search/fq=program:(5de828c9e1818724000d8cf1)/event/5e432f9d2d571ec916aa75c5

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