



**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 XXXVII

NEWSLETTER 3

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2020

**COME HEAR RUTH SASAKI PRESENT
"TOPAZ STORIES"**

**Virtual Meeting
Saturday, November 21, 2020
10:00 a.m. Zoom Check-in
10:30 a.m. Talk**

This is our first virtual meeting. Christine will send all members with email addresses the Zoom invitation. Family and friends are welcome to attend. For them to get the Zoom invitation, they need to send an email to aauw.wcc.94530@gmail.com. Christine will open the Zoom meeting at 10:00 a.m. so attendees can check-in before Ruth begins her talk at 10:30 a.m.

Ruth Sasaki is the author of *"The Loom and Other Stories"* and the editor of *"Topaz Stories,"* an ongoing collection of more than 60 stories about the WWII incarceration of Japanese Americans, gathered from Topaz survivors and their descendants.

Ruth will talk about the Topaz Stories project, share a few of the stories, and discuss their relevance to events today: to "remind those who have forgotten and teach those who don't know of the human consequences of injustice".

Maria LaForge, Program Co-Chair

President Roberta Montgomery	Co-Membership VPs Mimi Fruehan Judy Sam	Tech Trek Co-Chairs Roberta Montgomery Marsha Weintraub	Secretary Marilynn Bracelin
AAUW Fund VP Barbara Vaughan	Co-Program VPs Maria LaForge Gloria Merrill 527-2681	Treasurer Christine Hills	Sunshine Chair TBD
Hospitality Chair Sally Dunham,	Website Manager Barbara Vaughan	Bylaws, Policies & Procedures Marilynn Bracelin	Newsletter Editor Sue Walenta
Community/Cultural Chair Barbara Miller	Contra Costa College Relations	Publicity Chair Maria LaForge,	Public Policy Marianne Selph
Newsletter Circulation Marion McIntire,	Read Aloud Chair Judy Sam	Telephone Monitor Janet Mengle	Facebook Monitor Christine Hills



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well it is a new world dealing with COVID-19 and no in-person meetings for the foreseeable future. AAUW and our branch has been adjusting moving to all virtual meetings. Since April our Board has been meeting monthly via Zoom. All members are invited to the meeting the first Tuesday of the month at 2:00 pm. Thanks for your support.

2020-2021 Program: We continue with our calendar of monthly virtual meetings. On **November 7** we were invited to attend another CalACS-WCC virtual meeting where Nancy Falk talked about Her Journey in Life and Chemistry. See page 4. Note addition information on the CalACS-WCC Dr. Cheryl Sundari Dembe and her CalACS-WCC September 12 talk "*A 48-year PhD Pathway: Secrets to Success in Attaining One's Goals*" is available on the CalACS website. See page 5. On **November 21** we host our first virtual meeting. **Ruth Sasaki** will discuss her **Topaz Stories** Project (rescheduled from April). Hope that you can attend and support this event. Family and friends are welcome.

For the 2020-2021 school year **Read-Aloud** is online. They need more volunteers. See article on page 3.

Stay safe and healthy. In the current virtual world let's not forget members that can't participate. Everyone appreciates a phone call.

Roberta Montgomery, President



IN MEMORIAM

I am sorry to report that **Betty Ann Barnett** passed away at home on October 15. She was the first in her family to attend college and graduated from UCLA where she met her husband Ray. They celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary this year. She was an active member of AAUW for over 30 years. She and Ray would host the annual Holiday party in their beautiful home. Betty Ann wrote the Newsletter Culture Corner where she shared her interests in theater, dance, music, history, and art. A celebration of life will be held with family and friends at a later date.

Roberta Montgomery, President

AAUW FUND

We continue with our annual Fall **AAUW Fund** request for the **Vivian Lamont Coe American Fellowship**, part of the California Unfinished Endowments. If you haven't yet made a donation, send a check made out to **AAUW Fund** with the fund number, **4046**, on the memo line to **Barbara Vaughan**, 970 Wildcat Canyon Road, Berkeley, California 94708. We look forward to the completion of Vivian's Fellowship. Please donate as you are able. We are making good progress, but Vivian's Fund still needs over \$12,000.

Barbara Vaughan, AAUW Fund VP

2020-2021 ONLINE READ-ALOUD PROGRAM

The **Read-Aloud Volunteer Program (RAVP)** will be executed exclusively by online video chat (Zoom) this school year. Now, more than ever, the kids (K thru Grade 2) need a consistent social interaction with someone outside their family unit, an escape from the world, and literary supports. We piloted **Online Read-Aloud** this summer and discovered that while it is different, it is as rewarding and can make a big difference.

We are still actively looking for more volunteers to read via Zoom. In order to volunteer with **Online Read-Aloud** you must be (or think that you could quickly become) proficient with Zoom, have fast internet access, and use a laptop or desktop computer for your Zoom reading sessions. You also have to be fingerprinted for Read-Aloud, and attend a New Volunteer Orientation webinar (or video) and/or training webinar. To apply to volunteer go to read-aloud.org/volunteer and click on the red "Apply" button.

Judy Sam, Read-Aloud Chair



ONLINE CALENDAR – MONTHLY EVENTS

NOVEMBER 2020:

Board Meeting: using Zoom **Tuesday, November 3, 2020 at 2:00 pm.** All members are invited to attend.

CalACS-WCC Virtual Meeting: **Saturday, November 7, 2020 at 11:00 am** Dr. Nancy Falk's talk *"My Journey in Life and "*. Detail information on page 4.

Virtual Meeting: using Zoom **Saturday, November 21, at 10:30 am.** **Ruth Sasaki** will talk about the Topaz Stories project, share a few of the stories, and discuss their relevance to events today. See write-up on Page 1.

DECEMBER 2020:

Board Meeting: using Zoom **Tuesday, December 1, 2020 at 2:00 pm.** All members are invited to attend.

JANUARY 2021:

Board Meeting: using Zoom **Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at 2:00 pm.** All members are invited to attend.

Virtual Meeting: using Zoom **Saturday, January 16, at 10:00 am.** **Dr. Ruth O. Saxton**, professor Emerita of English at Mills College, will talk about her new book, *"The Book of Old Ladies"*, which introduces readers to thirty stories celebrating fictional "women of a certain age".

TELL YOUR STORY Virtual Interest Group: Meeting Fourth Tuesday of month. Next meeting **Tuesday, January 26, 2-4 pm.** Send an email to Christine Hills if want to attend.

FEBRUARY 2021:

Board Meeting: using Zoom **Tuesday, February 2, 2021 at 2:00 pm.** All members are invited to attend.



HEAR NANCY FALK'S TALK:
My Journey in Life and Chemistry

The California Section American Chemical Society
Women Chemists Committee

Virtual Meeting
Saturday, November 7, 2020
10:30 am Chatting
11:00 am Talk and Discussion

Our member Elaine Yamaguchi has invited us to attend this CalACS-WCC virtual meeting. Information about Nancy Falk and her talk are below. All are welcome, but you **must make a reservation by Thursday, November 5**. To register go to <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4761928>. The Zoom link will be sent out the day before the meeting via Brown Paper Tickets.

About the Speaker

Nancy Falk is a Research Fellow in Cleaning R&D at the **Clorox** Company, based in Pleasanton, where she develops and leads strategic technology platforms. Previously, she worked in Laundry R&D at Unilever in Edgewater, NJ, where she developed a number of laundry products. Nancy is an inventor on 17 granted US patents. She recently authored a chapter on "Chlorine and Chlorine Compounds" in the just-released 6th edition of "Block's Disinfection, Sterilization, and Disinfection." Last year, she presented and published a short review on surfactants as antimicrobials for the Surfactants in Solution conference. She's also Senior Associate Editor for the Journal of Surfactants and Detergents, and served a term as Member At Large for the Colloid and Surface Science Division at ACS.

About her Talk

Nancy will talk about her journey from her childhood in a rural Washington state community through her education and her technical career in the cleaning products industry, touching on some relevant technologies used in the industry. She will also reflect on work-life balance, technical society roles, outreach, and mentoring.



DR. CHERYL SUNDARI DEMBE'S TALK
"A 48-year PhD Pathway: Secrets to Success in Attaining One's Goals"

The California Section American Chemical Society
 Women Chemists Committee
Online Zoom Meeting
Saturday, September 12, 2020

Our WCC 9/12/20 speaker, Dr. Cheryl Dembe, has kindly put together her wisdom (see email below) so that those who were not able to attend the meeting might also benefit. Those who attended can review at their leisure.

Her email attachments ([Cheryl Dembe's Story](#), [Cheryl Dembe on Equity](#) and [The Solubility Song](#)) have been added to the [Cal ACS web site post](#) about Cheryl Dembe's talk.
<https://calacs.org/2020/09/a-48-year-phd-pathway-secrets-to-success-in-attaining-ones-goals/>

*Dear Elaine and 'WCC-ers',
 Here is my story below. The first TV interview Kryon link is my favorite.
 This flyer, which I sent out to my network, contains most of the information from my slides. At the end, I'll include some other slides, like the one on Equity, that aren't discussed below. This version of my Equity slide has somewhat more than what I used at the WCC talk.
 The lyrics to The Solubility Song are just below my Sundari Dembe YouTube Channel singing of the song. That link is below. I'll put the lyrics here as well at the end of the material here, courtesy of Mrs. Bernard, my high school Chemistry teacher.
 Thank you again for the WCC invitation. I loved speaking to the group, and meeting you, Fanny, and many others.
 Spiraling Upwards,
 Cheryl*

Elaine Yamaguchi, Co-Chair WCC, CA Section, ACS

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

The Board decided that we would not print a new Directory for 2020-2021. We will continue to use last year's Directory (**2019-2020 with gold cover**) that Ellen Mills and her husband Paul printed. Member information updates will continue to be published in the Newsletter. I have extra copies of last year's Directory. Let me know if you need one.

Roberta Montgomery, President



Public Policy Bill Updates

Kathi Harper, AAUW California Public Policy Co-Chair

SB973 Signed by the Governor!

In 2018, AAUW co-sponsored a bill requiring companies with more than 100 employees to collect and report to the Department of Fair Employment and Housing data on:

1. The number of employees by race, ethnicity, and sex for 10 job categories;
2. The number of employees by race, ethnicity, and sex, whose annual earnings fall within certain pay bands;
3. The total number of hours worked by each employee counted in each pay band during the reporting year.

The purpose of the bill is “to allow for designated state agencies to collect wage data to more efficiently identify wage patterns and allow for targeted enforcement of equal pay or discrimination laws.” The bill failed in 2019, and was re-introduced last year by the same author, Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson (D-Santa Barbara), and was signed by Governor Newsom on September 30th – the last day in the last hour!

Fifteen other AAUW California-supported bills were also signed by the Governor, including: improved medical care for incarcerated pregnant women (**AB732**); protection for women testifying in sexual assault cases from having their testimony of alcohol or drug use at the time of the assault used against them in a separate prosecution (**AB1927**); addition of “sexual harassment” as a form of prohibited sex discrimination in higher education (**SB493**); and expansion of the California Family Rights Act to require any employer with 5 or more employees to grant a request by an employee to take up to 12 workweeks of unpaid protected leave during any 12-month period to bond with a new child or to care for themselves or a child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse, or domestic partner (**SB1383**).

Finally, as part of our “white allyship” posture, we are proud to have supported six bills that were enacted to address racial injustice and/or to enhance opportunities for Black women: **AB979**, requiring corporations to include a specified number of members from underrepresented communities on their boards of directors; **AB1196** and **AB1506**, regulating police use of force; **AB1460**, requiring ethnic studies as a graduation requirement in CSU schools; **AB3070**, addressing discriminatory use of peremptory challenges in jury selection; and **AB3121**, reparation establishing a task force to study and develop proposals.

You can find additional information on these and all our 2019-20 bills on “Capitol Track” on our website.

CULTURE CORNER for NOVEMBER and DECEMBER 2020

By Barbara Miller

NOTE: As places begin to open up, check the websites of these venues to see whether they have any new events or offerings. Since Contra County recently moved into the orange tier, venues may be opening up. To find upcoming events in Richmond, the *Richmond Standard* reports on arts and food.

<https://richmondstandard.com/lifestyle/entertainment-and-food/>

El Cerrito Art Association. This year’s annual art show was cancelled.

- Mon., Nov.9, 7:00pm-8:30pm. **Monthly Meeting.** Via Zoom. Julie Cohn will do a watercolor demonstration. Check the website for information. <https://elcerritoart.org/meeting-news/>.
No meeting in December.

- Exhibitions:
 - Through Nov 18 at the El Cerrito DMV: **Flowering**. Featuring the work of Christopher Beasley, Tanya Edgar, David Edgar, Barbara Epstein-Eagle, and Kathy Diehl.
 - Nov 18 through mid-March, 2021 at the El Cerrito DMV: **Connections**. Coordinated by Marva Reed and Elmarise Owens.
- Online: Photographs of San Francisco in the fog and other Bay sights taken by El Cerrito resident Kevin Berndt in September. <https://patch.com/california/elcerrito/san-francisco-afar-photos-day>

NIAD Art Center. 551 23rd Ave., Richmond. 510-620-0290. <http://niadart.org> The NIAD building is shut, but is displaying art from its exhibitions in its windows.

- Current Window Exhibition: **Be Heard Speak Up**, curated by Fenwick and West's Michelle Hamilt and Ed Rymsha
- Online Exhibitions:
 - **Pods**, selected by Sam Ho. <https://niadartstore.org/collections/221>
 - A new online exhibition will be available for viewing each week. For a link to the weekly exhibition, go to: <https://niadartstore.org/>
- You can visit past online exhibits here: <http://niadart.org/exhibits/onlinehistoryarchive/>
- Thirsty Thursdays. Join artists and other speakers for online conversations every Thursday at 6:00pm. This event is free. See details here: <https://niadartstore.org/collections/thirstythursdays>

Richmond Art Center. 2540 Barrett Ave., Richmond. 510-620-6772. The largest visual arts center in the East Bay. While RAC's galleries are closed due to COVID-19, RAC's website is featuring new projects that represent how artists are adapting, responding and imagining during this period of COVID-19 self-isolation. <http://www.richmondartcenter.org>

- Online exhibitions:
 - Ongoing: **Civic Center Art Tour**. "Take this video tour and learn about...the amazing works in and about the Richmond Art Center." <https://richmondartcenter.org/about/civic-center-art-tour/>
 - Ongoing: **Three Artists in the Studio**. This year's winners of the RAC Spotlight Award are unable to show their work in the galleries. They have each made videos discussing their creative processes. Although scheduled to close at the end of July, these videos were still available as of late October. <https://richmondartcenter.org/exhibitions/three-artists-in-the-studio/>
 - i. **Jagged Skylines of Car Keys** by Laura Kamian McDermott, whose high-quality textiles use stencils based on shapes she created from old keys.
 - ii. **Separation 2020** by Steven Morales, who uses construction materials to make collages examining the permanent effects of our temporary period of separation.
 - iii. **Black, White and Pink** by Leslie Plato Smith creates pottery based on endangered black and white animals who have pink vulnerable zones.
 - Ongoing: **Exposure: The Photography of Ezly Torrez**. In response to the requirement to wear masks, Torrez decided to use the mask as a prop for performing characters, inspired by the beauty and technique of classical painting. Some of his photographs can be viewed here: <https://richmondartcenter.org/exhibitions/exposure/>
 - Ongoing: **Portrait of a Neighborhood in the Time of Covid-19**. Colleen Haraden-Gorski shares images of her Richmond Annex neighbors. A slideshow of over 50 black-and-white images. This exhibit was scheduled to end on September 16 but is still available for viewing online.
- Exhibitions Video Library:
 - The RAC maintains an online collection of artists and their work at <https://richmondartcenter.org/video-library/>. You can learn about these exhibits by viewing these videos:
 - *Joan Brown: In Living Color*. A discussion with former students and colleagues of artist Joan Brown.
 - *Richard Diebenkorn*. A roundtable discussion of the historic role that the Richmond Art Center played in supporting the artists of the Bay Area Figurative Movement, including Diebenkorn.
 - *Making Our Mark*. An exhibition celebrating the history and mission of the Richmond Art Center.

- *Mapping the Uncharted*. An interpretation of the art and uses of mapmaking.
- *Marking Space*. An examination of seven sculpture and installation artists: Mari Andrews, Robert Brady, Genevieve Hastings, Jann Nunn, Gay Outlaw, Lucy Puls and Tracey Snelling.
- *Mildred Howard: Spirit and Matter*. A selection of the artist's most iconic sculptures as well as graphic works never before exhibited.
- *David Park and the Human Spirit*. 3 videos on David Park's figurative art and its influence over artists of the mid-1900s and today.
- *2015 Summer Members Show Spotlight Artists*. A show featuring works by David Yoas, Jan Martin and Edythe Bresnahan.
- *Spun, Dyed, Woven and Tied Fiber Arts Symposium*. A symposium featuring Alice Beasley, Amy Keefer, Lia Cook, JoAnn Stabb on Kaisik Wong, and Joann Stabb on Katherine Westphal and Ed Rossbach

Contra Costa Community Theatre. 951 Pomona Ave., El Cerrito. (510) 524-9012. <https://ccct.org>

- Nov. 27 to Dec. 20, on Zoom: ***It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play***. Fridays and Saturdays at 7:00pm; Sundays at 2:00pm. The familiar holiday story adapted for audio-only. To buy tickets, click here: <https://ccct.org/wonderful-life-on-zoom/>

Cerrito Theater (Rialto Cinemas). 10070 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. 510-273-9102. El Cerrito's own restored art deco movie theater. <https://rialtocinemas.com/index.php?location=cerrito> The theater is currently closed. It offers a selection of movies for streaming at home for \$10.00-\$20.00 per movie. You can stream the movie on your computer, phone, or, if you have a browser available, on your TV. Our home-town theater is suffering financially, as government funds have dried up and the theater is still closed. The theater has taken advantage of the absence of customers to replace seats in both theaters and do other repairs and upgrades. In addition to renting these movies, you can help by going to the Rialto's GoFundMe page for the Cerrito and Elmwood theaters: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/rialto-cinemas-elmwood-amp-cerrito-need-your-help>

- Now Playing:
 - ***Oliver Sacks: His Own Life***. The story of Oliver Sacks life and work, taken from interviews with the acclaimed brain doctor and his friends, colleagues, and patients. *Variety* calls it "at once tender and thrilling."
 - ***Aggie***. A documentary that "explores the nexus of art, race, and justice through the story of art collector and philanthropist Agnes 'Aggie' Gund's life." In making this film, Aggie's daughter's aim was to "give viewers an understanding of the power of art to transform consciousness and inspire social change."
 - ***Herb Alpert Is...*** A Q&A with Grammy-winner Herb Alpert moderated by Grammy Museum Artistic director, Scott Goldman.
 - ***The Keeper***. "A young English woman and a soccer-playing German POW overcome prejudice, public hostility and personal tragedy near the end of World War II." This movie received a critics' score of 99% on Rotten Tomatoes.
 - ***The Disrupted***. A documentary about 3 working class Americans who have fallen through the cracks in our economy: a Kansas farmer, an Ohio factory worker, and an Uber driver in Florida. "Ultimately, THE DISRUPTED reveals a collective American experience of financial challenge, family resilience, and the quest for the purpose and dignity of work."
 - ***Artist's Wife***. This drama about the former painter and wife of a celebrated artist explores how she deals with her husband's dementia in regard to both the art community and their family. Starring Lena Olin, Bruce Dern
 - ***A Chef's Voyage***. This documentary follows Chef David Kinch and his team from Manresa, their Michelin 3-Star restaurant in California, through collaborations with chefs in Paris, Provence and Marseille. In English and French with English subtitles.
 - ***RBG***. A documentary exploring Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's life and legacy, from Betsy West and Julie Cohen. 100% of the ticket price will go to the ACLU Women's Rights Project founded by Justice Ginsburg in 1972.

- **Jimmy Carter: Rock & Roll President.** This documentary explains how Carter's tight bonds with musicians such as Willie Nelson, Bob Dylan and the Allman Brothers helped him win the Democratic nomination for President in 1976, despite being low on campaign funds and lacking name recognition. It examines the role of music throughout Carter's life, during and after his presidency. Includes interviews with Bob Dylan, Willie Nelson, Paul Simon, Gregg Allman, Garth Brooks, and Bono.
- **Our Time Machine.** "Shaken by the news of his father's dementia, artist Maleonn creates 'Papa's Time Machine,' a wondrous time-travel adventure performed on stage with life-size mechanical puppets. Through the play's production, he confronts his own mortality. Maleonn finds grace and unexpected joy in this moving meditation on art, the agonies of love and loss, and the circle of life."
- **Coming in November:**
 - **Collective.** A story about how reporters revealed a case of deadly health care fraud, "Collective is an uncompromising look at the impact of investigative journalism at its best".
 - **Zappa.** The private life of musician Frank Zappa, using archival footage and interviews with family members and musical collaborators. Directed by Alex Winter.
- **Coming in December: (Check website for more December movies.)**
 - **Crock of Gold: A Few Rounds with Shane MacGowan.** An investigation of the private life of the Irish vocalist best known as lead singer and songwriter for the Pogues. Includes videos from his family and animation from Ralph Steadman. Directed by Julien Temple. Starring Bono, Johnny Depp, Nick Cave.

El Cerrito Historical Society. <http://elcerritohistoricalsociety.org/thehistoricalsociety.html>. The EC historical archive is in the Sundar Shadi History Room on the second floor of City Hall. It is currently closed due to Covid-19 restrictions.

- **El Cerrito Holiday Display.** Dec 2 through 25. Moeser Lane at Seaview Drive. Unfortunately, this year the display will be minimal—probably only the star. You can also view a short film on Sundar Shadi's remarkable life and his many contributions to El Cerrito at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OD_5F3ZRKL4

Rosie the Riveter National Historic Park. 1414 Harbour Way South, Suite 3000, Richmond. 510-232-5050. The indoor portions of Rosie the Riveter Park are currently closed. You can view the outdoor Rori Memorial any time. If Contra County moves into a less dangerous tier, the park may open again. Check the website for updates. <https://www.nps.gov/rori/index.htm>. Betty Reid Soskin, at 99, the country's oldest serving park ranger, returned to work at Rori in January 2020 after a stroke in 2019. And then COVID struck. You can view an inspiring film about her life and service here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BcONCVIVCxQ>

City of El Cerrito. Some events that were cancelled earlier this year are being resumed.

Recycling and Environmental Resource Center Tour. 7501 Schmidt Lane. The calendar of events, most of which are held online, is here: <https://www.el-cerrito.org/Calendar.aspx>

- Wed., Nov 4 and Wed., Dec 2, 3:00-4:00pm. Free public tour of the recycling center (outdoors). The tour starts at the interpretive center next to the exchange zone.

El Cerrito Trail Trekkers. The El Cerrito Trail Trekkers 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. While all events have been suspended for the time being, you can enjoy the fruits of this group's work by trekking the trails yourself. Recently, they have concentrated on the El Cerrito Hillside Natural Area, and last May they installed a 15-sign interpretative walk, funded by the El Cerrito Rotary Club. For information and directions, go to: <https://ectrailtrekkers.wordpress.com/>

El Cerrito Library. 6510 Stockton Ave. (510) 526-7512. Front door service is now available. <https://ccclib.org/front-door-service/>. All events have been cancelled except the Tween Book Club.

Meanwhile, the library continues to offer the following services and many more.

<https://ccclib.org/digital-resources/>

- **Kanopy.** Get free access to thousands of movies with your library card. You can stream these movies to your TV, your computer, or your mobile phone. <https://ccclib.kanopy.com/>
- **Newspapers.** Using your library card, you can read entire newspapers online, including the *East Bay Times* and the *New York Times*.
- **Genealogy.** Use *AncestryLibrary*, a genealogy database, to research your family tree.
- **Research.** *Explora* offers the full text of high-quality research articles.