


  
**THE CONNECTION**

**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](http://westcontracosta-ca.aauw.net)

VOLUME XXXVII

NEWSLETTER 5

MARCH 2021

**HEAR REBECCA SUNG, AAUW SELECTED PROFESSIONS FELLOW,**  
**TALK ON “BUILDING A MECHANICAL ENGINEER”**



**Virtual Meeting**  
**Saturday, March 20, 2021**  
**10:00 a.m. Zoom Check-in**  
**10:30 a.m. Talk**

Rebecca (“Becca”) Sung is pursuing a Master of Engineering degree in mechanical engineering at the University of California, Berkeley. She received her B.S. in mechanical engineering from Northeastern University in Boston, where she found her passion for space and ocean technologies. Throughout her undergraduate career, she completed co-ops at UTC Aerospace, NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory, and SpaceX where she received valuable hands on experience that was vital in defining her career goals. At UC Berkeley, she is currently working on deepening her knowledge in mechanical engineering through focusing on product design before entering industry.

For this 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](mailto:aauw.wcc.94530@gmail.com). Christine will open the Zoom meeting at 10:00 a.m. so attendees can check-in (and informally chat) before Becca begins her talk at 10:30 a.m.

**Gloria Merrill, Program Co-Chair**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>President</b></p> <p>Roberta Montgomery                      (510) 237-5293  <a href="mailto:rjm2343@sbcglobal.net">rjm2343@sbcglobal.net</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Co-Membership VPs</b></p> <p>Mimi Fruehan 527-7178  <a href="mailto:mimifru@aol.com">mimifru@aol.com</a>                      Judy Sam 527-1661  <a href="mailto:Jssam47@yahoo.com">Jssam47@yahoo.com</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><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:marsha.weintraub@gmail.com">marsha.weintraub@gmail.com</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Secretary</b></p> <p>Marilynn Bracelin 223-4057  <a href="mailto:bracelins14@gmail.com">bracelins14@gmail.com</a></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>AAUW Fund VP</b></p> <p>Barbara Vaughan 548-1942  <a href="mailto:barbvaughan@mac.com">barbvaughan@mac.com</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Co-Program VPs</b></p> <p>Maria LaForge 527-4378  <a href="mailto:d.laforge@sbcglobal.net">d.laforge@sbcglobal.net</a>                      Gloria Merrill 527-2681  <a href="mailto:cudaviol@yahoo.com">cudaviol@yahoo.com</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Treasurer</b></p> <p>Christine Hills 734-6505  <a href="mailto:chills627@gmail.com">chills627@gmail.com</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sunshine Chair</b></p> <p>TBD</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Hospitality Chair</b></p> <p>Sally Dunham, 758-4094  <a href="mailto:sallydunham1@gmail.com">sallydunham1@gmail.com</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Website Manager</b></p> <p>Barbara Vaughan                      (510) 548-1942  <a href="mailto:barbvaughan@mac.com">barbvaughan@mac.com</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Bylaws, Policies &amp; Procedures</b></p> <p>Marilynn Bracelin, 223-4057  <a href="mailto:bracelins14@gmail.com">bracelins14@gmail.com</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Newsletter Editor</b></p> <p>Sue Walenta 526-4383  <a href="mailto:awalenta@comcast.net">awalenta@comcast.net</a></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Community/Cultural Chair</b></p> <p>Barbara Miller 526-4874  <a href="mailto:bmil@mac.com">bmil@mac.com</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Contra Costa College Relations</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Publicity Chair</b></p> <p>Maria LaForge, 527-4378  <a href="mailto:d.laforge@sbcglobal.net">d.laforge@sbcglobal.net</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Public Policy</b></p> <p>Marianne Selph 526-6631  <a href="mailto:Mselph2@cs.com">Mselph2@cs.com</a></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Newsletter Circulation</b></p> <p>Marion McIntire, 237-0534</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Read Aloud Chair</b></p> <p>Judy Sam, 527-1661  <a href="mailto:Jssam47@yahoo.com">Jssam47@yahoo.com</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Telephone Monitor</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Facebook Monitor</b></p> <p>Christine Hills 734-6505  <a href="mailto:chills627@gmail.com">chills627@gmail.com</a></p>



## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Well, it has been one year since we stopped all in-person meetings. Although with the COVID 19 vaccines things are beginning to open up, but there is still no in-person meetings for the foreseeable future. AAUW and our branch continue with all virtual meetings. However for 2021-2022 we are planning for the (new) normal with more in-person gatherings and a Tech Trek 2022 residential camp.

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. There is lots more to do (for example: March 24<sup>th</sup> is Equal Pay Day – the day when women earn what men earned in 2020).

**2020-2021 Program:** We continue with our virtual meetings. **Sue Duncan's February 20** talk on **Wildfire Prevention: How to Increase Your House's Chance of Survival** was very informative. She provided a list of websites for additional information. See Page 7. At our **March 20** virtual meeting **Rebecca Sung**, AAUW Selected Professions Fellow, will talk on "**Building a Mechanical Engineer**" (See article Page 1). Rebecca is pursuing a master's degree in a field where women's participation traditionally has been low. Hope that you can attend this event and support Rebecca. Family and friends are welcome (they send an email to [aauw.wcc.94530@gmail.com](mailto:aauw.wcc.94530@gmail.com) to get the Zoom link)

**AAUW National News:** National is proposing a bylaw change to eliminate the degree requirement (See article Page 4). Voting will open on April 7.

**Membership Annual Renewal:** This month we start collecting dues for next year (**July 1, 2021** thru **June 30, 2022**). I hope that you will continue to give an extra contribution to Adopt-A-Fund to supplement our branch dues. Our regular expenses far exceed our dues income. Forms are on pages 5 and 6.

Check out Barbara Miller's **March Culture Corner** and support these local organizations. Although the Cerrito Theater is closed, it has movies you can watch online through the Rialto website.

**Roberta Montgomery, President**

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## CALENDAR – MONTHLY VIRTUAL MEETINGS

### MARCH 2021:

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

**Virtual Meeting:** using Zoom **Saturday, March 20, at 10:00 am.** AAUW Selected Professions Fellow Rebecca Sung will talk on “Building a Mechanical Engineer”. (See write-up Page 1)

### APRIL 2021:

**Board Meeting:** using Zoom **Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at 2:00 pm.** All members are invited to attend.

**Virtual Meeting:** using Zoom **Saturday, April 17, 2021 at 10:00 am.** Susan Alice Bickford and Cara Black, “*Sisters in Crime*” mystery writers, will talk.

### MAY 2021:

**Board Meeting:** using Zoom **Tuesday, May 4, 2021 at 2:00 pm.** All members are invited to attend.

**TELL YOUR STORY Virtual Interest Group:** Meeting Fourth Tuesday of month using Zoom. Next meeting **Tuesday, May 24, 2021 2-4 pm.** Send an email to Christine [chills627@gmail.com](mailto:chills627@gmail.com) if you want to receive an invitation.

### JUNE 2021:

**Board Meeting:** using Zoom **Tuesday, June 1, 2021 at 2:00 pm.** All members are invited to attend.



## AAUW Board of Directors Statement on Open Membership

The AAUW National Board of Directors strongly supports elimination of the degree requirement for membership and will put the requirement up for a membership vote this spring. This important change is a critical step in bringing AAUW's bylaws and membership requirement in line with our mission of advancing equity for women and girls. While AAUW is fiercely committed to educational attainment for all women, given our commitment to inclusion, this is simply the right thing to do.

Proposals to eliminate the degree requirement for membership have come before the membership for vote a number of times. The Board feels very strongly that, while the degree requirement made perfect sense at AAUW's inception, this requirement is now counter to our mission and limits our ability to build the capacity needed to increase our impact as an organization.

To learn more about the proposed changes to the AAUW bylaws as well as proposed changes to the Public Policy Priorities, please visit the election page on the AAUW website: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/>

Voting will open on April 7 and close May 17, 2021, 5:00 p.m. ET. **Note: a "yes" vote on two-thirds of the votes cast is required to change the bylaws.**

## **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. \*\*\* **Note Pat Player has a new landline phone number (707) 603-8518.** All changes to date:

CORBIN, ROSEMARY **474 Western Drive**, Richmond 94801

PLAYER, PATRICIA **(707) 603-8518**

SOUTO-MARTINEZ, MARTHA (Marty) **martysoutomartinez@gmail.com**

WEINTRAUB, MARSHA **marsha.weintraub@gmail.com** (email in the directory has an extra "e" at the end of her last name)

**Roberta Montgomery, President**

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## **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2021-2022**

National dues has increased \$3 this year.

**\*\*\* Please Pay Your 2021-2022 Membership Dues by June 30 \*\*\***

Regular members: **\$98** (AAUW National \$62\*, State \$20, Branch \$16);

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

50-year members pay NO dues

**\*Note \$59 of National Dues is tax deductible**

**THANKS FOR THE CONTRIBUTION!**

Thanks to all members who made an extra contribution to supplement our Branch dues for 2020-2021. The \$1,990 helped us meet our regular expenses (including meeting room rental, newsletter printing, insurance, post office box rental, and website support) that keep increasing. **Note: contributions to operating expenses are NOT tax deductible.**

### **TWO WAYS TO PAY:**

1. Make your check payable to **AAUW WCC**, and mail it to: Christine Hills 936 Norvell Street, El Cerrito, CA 94530, with the form below. Note change of address for Corona virus evasion purposes.
2. Pay online – **NEW PROCEDURE** – Send an email to treasurer [chills627@gmail.com](mailto:chills627@gmail.com) and she will forward a link you will use to make the online donation. (Note: BRANCH donations cannot be made online.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**I have CHANGES to personal information above. We will update the next Directory and the Member Services Database with your new information.**

**All members with email addresses will receive the newsletter via email.**

**Check here if you 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 ask the members to choose your pet fund to receive your donation again this year. 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 additional contributions are not tax deductible.** Please note, if the budget item you select is over-subscribed, your donation will go to the Most Needed bucket.

<b>Budget Item</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Your Contribution</b>
Insurance Assessment – Required for all AAUW chapters	\$169	
Printing, Postage Labels – printing and mailing newsletters and chapter business	\$300	
Directory Printing	\$125	
Hospitality – Coffee, creamer, napkins, etc.	\$ 75	
Hall Rental – Christ Lutheran Church monthly rental @ \$80/month	\$560	
PO Box Rental – 1 year	\$150	
Website fee paid yearly	\$120	
Speakers’ Honorariums – monthly speakers’ fees @ \$100 per speaker.	\$600	
Tech Trek Recruitment, Reception, Printing & Postage	\$300	
<b>Most Needed</b>		



## **SUE DUNCAN'S TALK ON WILDFIRE PREVENTION: HOW TO INCREASE YOUR HOUSE'S CHANCE OF SURVIVAL**

**Virtual Meeting  
Saturday, February 20, 2021**

Sue Duncan gave an excellent talk on this timely, critical subject. She was happy to do the presentation. She feels that the more people who are educated, the more the wildfire threat to their and their neighbors' homes is decreased. The following is a list of websites for more information. Sue also said that she sends out pertinent emails on this subject. Send an email to [ecfiresafe@gmail.com](mailto:ecfiresafe@gmail.com) if you want to get on the list.

Make El Cerrito Fire Safe: [www.makeelcerritofiresafe.com](http://www.makeelcerritofiresafe.com)

<https://www.oaklandcpandr.org>

<https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Firecauses-and-risks/Wildfire/Firewise-USA>

<https://www.tahoelivingwithfire.com/wpcontent/uploads/2021/01/>

[LWF\\_RetrofitGuide\\_Accessible\\_for\\_Web.pdf](#)

Fire Safe Councils:

Diablo Fire Safe: <https://www.firesafemarin.org/>

Oakland Fire Safe: <https://oaklandfiresafecouncil.org/>

Marin Fire Safe: <https://www.firesafemarin.org/>

### **CULTURE CORNER for MARCH 2021** **By Barbara Miller**

You can find more information about upcoming events in Richmond at the *Richmond Standard*.

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

**City of El Cerrito.** (510) 215-4300. Most public events are currently cancelled, including the March tour of the recycling center. Check the city calendar to see what events are still scheduled.

<https://www.el-cerrito.org/Calendar.aspx> For copies of the minutes, agendas, and other information about meetings of city boards and commissions, click here:

<https://www.el-cerrito.org/698/Agendas-Minutes>

- Tuesdays., March 2 and 16, April 6 and 20, 7:00pm: **City Council Meeting.** Via WebEx. City council meetings are open to the public. For instructions on streaming or watching the meeting, submitting comments, and other information, go to:  
<https://el-cerrito.org/DocumentCenter/View/13983/Instructions-for-Public-Comments>
- Wednesday, April 7, 3:00-4:00pm: **Tour of the recycling center.** 7501 Schmidt Lane. Meet at the Interpretive Area next to the Exchange Zone. Check the city website to see whether this tour has been canceled.

**El Cerrito Library.** 6510 Stockton Ave. (510) 526-7512. Front door service is now available.

<https://ccclib.org/front-door-service/>.

- Mondays through Thursdays, 2:00pm-4:00pm: **Lunch at the Library.** Children and teens 18 and younger can pick up lunch at the front door Mondays through Thursdays. Masks and social distancing are required.

[https://ccclib.bibliocommons.com/events/search/fq=types:\(5d968fc8a10c7024004c96f8\)](https://ccclib.bibliocommons.com/events/search/fq=types:(5d968fc8a10c7024004c96f8))

- 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.

**El Cerrito Art Association.** Check the website for updates about meetings in 2021.

<https://elcerritoart.org/our-mission-and-programs/>

- [Monthly meetings are held the second Monday of each month at 7:00pm. Meetings will be held on Zoom until further notice. To learn about the March and April meetings, visit the ECAA website or go to their Facebook page.](#)
- Exhibitions:
  - Through mid-March, 2021 at the El Cerrito DMV: **Connections.** Coordinated by Marva Reed and Elmarise Owens.
  - March 17 through July 14: A new exhibit will be shown at the DMV. Theme TBD.

**NIAD Art Center.** 551 23rd Ave., Richmond. (510) 620-0290. <http://niadart.org> The NIAD building is closed, but NIAD is displaying art from its exhibitions in its windows and online. For exhibits in March and April, go to the website home page and click on the exhibit you want.

- Saturday, March 6, 1:00-3:00pm: Win Win 9. NIAD's annual benefit event will be held online this year. They have arranged to help you hold a party for up to 6 participants at home. NIAD will send you a watch party kit including drinks, snacks, party hats, and a Zoom background created by a NIAD artist. To purchase tickets and sponsorships, click on either of these links:
  - <https://e.givesmart.com/events/k8n/>
  - <http://niadart.org/exhibits/ww9/>
- Current Windows Exhibition: **History in the Making**, organized by Raven Harper and Shawna Kinard. <https://niadart.org/exhibits/niad-windows-exhibition-history-in-the-making-organized-by-raven-harper-and-shawna-kinard/>
- Online Exhibitions:
  - Ongoing: **Artist of the Month Series:**
    - **We Are Creating Our History:** Curated by Deatra Colbert, Felicia Griffin, and Dorrie Reid. <https://niadart.org/exhibits/online-exhibition-artist-of-the-month-series-peter-harris/>
    - Ongoing exhibition: ceramics, prints and paintings by Peter Harris
  - Through May 16: **Art of the African Diaspora.** 10 NIAD artists are included in this year's exhibit. See description under Richmond Art Center.
  - Ongoing: **Cradle, Bump, Tap, Slap, Push.** Selected by Brittney LEEANNE Williams. <https://niadart.myshopify.com/collections/217>
  - Ongoing: **The Absence of Evidence is not the Evidence of Absence.** Selected by Christine Hughmanick. <http://niadart.org/exhibits/online-exhibition-the-absence-of-evidence-is-not-the-evidence-of-absence-selected-by-christina-hughmanick/>
  - You can visit past online exhibits here: <http://niadart.org/exhibits/onlinehistoryarchive/>
- Thursday March 11 and April 8 at 6:00pm. **Thirsty Thursdays.** Join artists and other speakers for online conversations. This event is free, but you need to register to receive the link.

**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 projects that represent how artists are adapting, responding and imagining during this period of COVID-19 self-isolation. Many of these were exhibited in 2020 and are still available on the RAC website.

<http://www.richmondartcenter.org>

- Upcoming online exhibitions:
  - Through May 16: **Art of the African Diaspora.** This annual exhibition supports artists of African descent in the Bay Area. You will be able to view their work at the RAC site and at <https://richmondartcenter.org/exhibitions/aotad2021/online-exhibition/>. See works by the 2020



award winners here: <https://aotad.org/wp/2020-art-of-the-african-diaspora-award-winners/>

- Current online exhibitions:
  - Ongoing from December, 2020: **At This Very Moment**. A collection of photographs of “small moments” that show what life is like during our time apart. Organized by Dawline-Jane Oni-Eseleh. <https://atthisverymoment.org/about> Click on “Work” at the upper right to see a photo from each artist, then click on a photo to see other works by that artist.
  - Ongoing: **Three Artists in the Studio**. 2020’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 early March. <https://richmondartcenter.org/exhibitions/three-artists-in-the-studio/>
    - i. **Laura Kamian McDermott** is a textile artist who produces labor-intensive work using woven, knitted and embroidered techniques.
    - 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. <https://richmondartcenter.org/exhibitions/portrait-of-a-neighborhood/>
- Arts and Crafts Hub: You can view and, in many cases, purchase art produced by artists associated with the RAC. <https://richmondartcenter.org/haf/online/>

**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 on your TV, if you have access to a browser. 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 and buying popcorn and pizza, you can help by going to the Rialto’s GoFundMe page for the Cerrito and Elmwood theaters: <https://www.qofundme.com/f/rialto-cinemas-elmwood-amp-cerrito-need-your-help>

- Saturdays, 2:30pm-5:30pm. Popcorn Pickup. Pick up delicious movie theater popcorn for your at-home movie night. Also serving pizza, burgers, nachos and tater tots. Pre-order online or order your food in the theater lobby. [https://rialtocinemas.com/index.php?location=cerrito&film=2020\\_popcorn\\_cer](https://rialtocinemas.com/index.php?location=cerrito&film=2020_popcorn_cer)
- Virtual Cinema Now Playing: Movies you can watch online through the Rialto website. New movies are added frequently. List and descriptions are available online at: <https://rialtocinemas.com/index.php?location=cerrito>

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

- Monday, Mar 1, 7:00pm. On Zoom. **Reading Stage: Too High for Your Pocket.** A play about a college-age youth who joins the Freedom Riders and goes to the Deep South in 1961. This is a reading only, not a full production. One night only. Go to <https://ccct.org/too-heavy-for-your-pocket/> for the Zoom link. Tickets are free, but a \$10 donation is appreciated.

**Youth Musical Theater Company.** <https://ymtcbayarea.org/shows/2020-2021-season/> This company, which previously performed at the El Cerrito High School, is presenting musicals outdoors this season, at Aquatic Park. For directions to the YMTC park location, see

<https://ymtcbayarea.org/about/ymtc-at-aquatic-park/>

- Weekends, March 13-28: **Merrily We Roll Along**, music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim. Based on the 1934 play by George S. Kaufman. This musical will be presented in concert mode. Check the website periodically to learn exact dates and times and how to purchase tickets.

**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.

- **Walking Tour of the Commercial Core of El Cerrito.** For a safe, different kind of outing, consider a narrated walk along San Pablo Ave. in El Cerrito. Pavers mark our city's historic locations. You can print out a guide here: <http://elcerritohistoricalsociety.org/walkingtourbrochure.pdf>
- **Historical Narratives.** The Historical Society posts articles about events and people in El Cerrito's history here: [elcerritohistoricalsociety.org/historicalnarratives.html](http://elcerritohistoricalsociety.org/historicalnarratives.html) From the history of our parks (including Point Isabel) to how we were affected by the 1906 earthquake, this site is full of interesting information.

**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 Rosie the Riveter Memorial any time. For updates, go to: <https://www.nps.gov/rori/index.htm>. Betty Reid Soskin, at 99, the country's oldest serving park ranger, returned to work at RtR in January 2020 after a stroke in 2019. And then COVID struck. We hope to see her back there soon. You can view an inspiring film about her life and service here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BcONCVIVCxQ>

**Barnes & Noble.** El Cerrito Plaza. Barnes and Noble will be holding virtual author events. One that sounds particularly interesting is listed below. Check this website to get a complete list.

<https://stores.barnesandnoble.com/store/2113?page=1&size=10&month=Month&day=Day&type=SP>

- **Wednesday, March 24, 12:00pm:** Peter Swanson discusses his thriller, *Every Vow You Break* with Lisa Gardner. On the B&N Facebook channel. The book will be available for purchase on March 23. <https://www.facebook.com/barnesandnoble>