



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

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NEWSLETTER 3

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2022

MEET DOROTHY HERZBERG PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER, COMMUNITY ACTIVIST, AUTHOR AND TEACHER

Virtual Meeting
Saturday, February 19, 2022
10:00 a.m. Zoom Check-in
10:30 a.m. Discussion

Between 2001 and 2012, **Dorothy Herzberg** raised over \$300,000 and brought more than 200 students and 22 teachers from Richmond and Kennedy High Schools of the WCCUSD to Washington D.C. While there, these mostly economically challenged minority students participated in the Close Up Foundation Program for a personal experience of the US Federal Government in action. In 2010, she was recognized as Woman of the Year and received the Jefferson Award.

Dorothy was one of the first Peace Corps volunteers in Africa and served as a Board of Director of the East Bay Chapter of the United Nations Association of the USA for a couple of years. She had also coordinated volunteers to serve lunches and dinners for the homeless at Greater Richmond Interfaith Program (GRIP). Dorothy has published at least five books about her many experiences.

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. Christine will open the Zoom meeting at 10:00 a.m. so attendees can check-in (and informally chat) before Dorothy talks at 10:30 a.m.

Gloria Merrill, Program Co-Chair

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With the COVID 19 Vaccines and Boosters things are beginning to open up. But we continue to be cautious, evaluating options and will have in person gathering when it is safe to do so. The Board will continue to meet via Zoom. Our meetings are now the fourth Tuesday of the month. The next Board meeting is Tuesday, February 22, at 2:00 pm. All members are invited to attend.

As always we continue to have excellent programs. Our **February 19** speaker will be **Dorothy Herzberg**, Peace Core volunteer, community activist, author and teacher. See write-up Page 1. On **February 12** we are invited to the CalACS-WCC Virtual Meeting to hear Dr. Fancy Frausto's talk "The Stories We Tell as Women in Chemistry". See write-up Page 4. On March 19 we will join the Berkeley Branch with a Sisters in Crime program. Then at the **April 23** meeting our speaker will be Dr. Juliette Levy, UC Riverside Associate Professor of History, who will discuss how to make online instruction more accessible. Hopefully, we can have our luncheon on May 21.

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

Roberta Montgomery, President



IN MEMORIAM – ELLEN MILLS

I'm so sorry to report that Ellen Mills died on December 13. Eileen Carabine, her longtime friend, notified me that Ellen had fallen a week before and fractured her pelvis. She was taken to John Muir hospital and did fairly well until her breathing became labored. Her family was with her throughout the ordeal.

Ellen was a very active member of AAUW WCC always doing what needed to be done. She joined in 2009 and was President 2014 – 2016. So many members worked closely with her and miss her support, guidance and friendship.

Roberta Montgomery, President



2022 Tech Trek will be in person, residential camps with a virtual option. The plans are still being finalized. Since we have not yet received the information packet with the forms and procedures, we cancelled the January 15 Kick-off meeting. Once we receive the information packets we will have to work extra fast to select girls for the June camp. Our very tentative initial 2022 Tech Trek plans are to send eight campers (one from each of our West Contra Costa middle schools) to Sonoma State University. Consider joining our Tech Trek team. We need many volunteers to work with the schools on the nomination, selection and processing of seventh grade girls.

Roberta Montgomery and Marsha Weintraub, Tech Trek Co-coordinators



ONLINE CALENDAR – MONTHLY EVENTS

JANUARY 2022:

Board Meeting: using Zoom **Tuesday, January 4, at 2:00 pm.**

Board Meeting: using Zoom **Tuesday, January 25, at 2:00 pm.**

FEBRUARY 2022:

CalACS-WCC Virtual Meeting: **Saturday, February 12, 2022 at 11:00 am** Dr. Fancy Frausto's talk "The Stories We Tell as Women in Chemistry". See write-up Page 4.

Virtual Meeting: using Zoom **Saturday, February 19, at 10:30 am.** Meet **Dorothy Herzberg**, Peace Corps volunteer, community activist, author and teacher. See write-up Page 1.

Board Meeting: using Zoom **Tuesday, February 22, at 2:00 pm.** All members are invited to attend.

MARCH 2022:

Virtual Meeting: using Zoom **Saturday, March 19, at 10:30 am.** Join Berkeley Branch for Sisters in Crime program

Board Meeting: using Zoom **Tuesday, March 22, at 2:00 pm.** All members are invited to attend.

APRIL 2022:

Virtual Meeting: using Zoom **Saturday, April 23, at 10:30 am.** ***Lessons from Teaching Online*** Dr. Juliette Levy, UC Riverside Associate Professor of History, will discuss how to make online instruction more accessible.

Board Meeting: using Zoom **Tuesday, April 26, at 2:00 pm.** All members are invited to attend.

AAUW CA Virtual Annual Event: **Saturday, April 30**

MAY 2022:

Luncheon: **Saturday, May 21,**

Board Meeting: using Zoom **Tuesday, May 24, at 2:00 pm.** All members are invited to attend



HEAR DR. FANNY FRAUSTO'S TALK:
The Stories We Tell As Women in Chemistry

The California Section American Chemical Society
Women Chemists Committee

Virtual Meeting
Saturday, February 12, 2022
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 Dr. Frausto and her talk is below.

All are welcome! To register either visit the CalACS website www.calacs.org or go to Brown Paper Tickets <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/5237987>. **Register before Thursday, February 10, 12 noon.** The ZOOM link will be sent out by Brown Paper Tickets on or before the day of the event.

About the Speaker

Dr. Fanny Frausto is currently a Senior Scientist in Product Development at the Clorox Company. There she works as a Product Developer and formulates cleaning products to meet the future needs of professional and healthcare spaces.

She is the WCC Co-Chair of the California Section of the ACS and the 2022 Chair for CalACS. She is an ACS Scholars Alumna and credits the programs offered by the ACS for her success. She earned her SB from MIT and her PhD in chemistry from Tufts University studying fluorescent doped conjugated polymer nanoparticles to detect a reactive oxygen species called singlet oxygen.

Abstract

At times the world can seem incredibly frightening and unfathomably exciting. Dr. Fanny Frausto will share her journey as a “pre”-scientist and formerly undocumented immigrant navigating the world through storytelling to get through her early education to her current chosen field of formulation chemistry and data analytics. She will share the powerful tool of storytelling, mentorship, and service and how they helped shape her world and got her through to today. She will give examples of hope, experience, and strength for those early career and mid-career scientists, and anyone who is asking what they truly want to do today.

2022 Topaz Stories Exhibit in Utah

Ruth Sasaki talked about the Topaz Stories Project at our November 2020 Meeting. She sent us this notification for the **Topaz Stories Exhibit** that is scheduled this year in Utah.

Topaz Stories:

Remembering the Japanese-American Incarceration

January 18-December 31, 2022

Utah State Capitol Building

Volunteers from the Friends of Topaz Museum have gathered these stories of Topaz survivors, told by the survivors themselves or their descendants.

To visit the stories: <https://topazstories.com/>

SISTERS IN CRIME MYSTERY WRITERS GLENDACARROLL AND VERA H. C. CHAN

This is a follow-up to our November 2021 virtual meeting with mystery writers Glenda Carroll and Vera H. C. Chan. Listed below are their new releases and websites. Their websites have information about their books and where to order them.

Glenda Carroll

new release: DEAD CODE

website: glendacarroll.com

Vera H. C. Chan

new release: her short story, MURDERER'S FEAST in MIDNIGHT HOUR: A CHILLING ANTHOLOGY OF CRIME FICTION FROM 20 AUTHORS OF COLOR. Note that Sisters In Crime author Faye Snowden, who talked at our February 2020 meeting, also has a short story in the anthology.

website: verahcchan.com

ASHBY VILLAGE

As a follow-up to our October 16 virtual meeting where Joan Straumanis gave a talk on **Ashby Village**, a community of seniors aging independently in their own homes with the resources needed to stay active, independent, and fulfilled, we have received the Ashby Village **prospective member packet** that includes information about programs and services, as well as the membership application. Let me know if you want this file.

Roberta Montgomery, President

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY UPDATES

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

All changes to date:

CORBIN, ROSEMARY **474 Western Drive**, Richmond 94801, **(510) 520-0404**

PLAYER, PATRICIA **(707) 603-8518** (new landline phone number)

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

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION **AAUW CA DEI Presentation to CCC IBC**

The AAUW-CA Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Co-Chairs Elaine Johnson and Janice Lee, attended the Contra Costa County Inter-Branch Council meeting on November 16. This is the first year there has been a DEI committee at AAUW CA. The goal is for all branches to have a **DEI contact** who would work with the branch to increase diversity, equity & inclusion. Let me know if you are interested.

The AAUW National and California State have developed a **DEI toolkit** available under Membership Tools at aauw.org. The hope is to help branches by providing ideas, website information, book recommendations and other resources to help identify diversity issues as well as steps to move forward, and to monitor progress. Also included are webinars and a glossary of terms.

The presentation included a video on inclusion. Click [HERE](#) to watch. The IBC members were encouraged to take a test prior to the meeting to help understand our implicit, unconscious associations about race, gender, sexual orientation and other topics. Click [HERE](#) for the link to the tests.

Roberta Montgomery, President

CULTURE CORNER by Barbara Miller will be back in March

