

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 XXXIX NEWSLETTER 5 MAY-JUNE 2023



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Things are getting more normal with regular in person gatherings. We will continue to use Zoom tied to speaker requirements. Note our Board meetings on the fourth Tuesday of the month will remain via Zoom. The first Board meeting after the summer break is **Tuesday**, **August 22**, **at 2:00 pm**. All members are invited to attend.

End-of-Year Luncheon: Saturday, May 20, 11:30 am at Romano's Macaroni Grill - El Cerrito Plaza A good time was had by all. Nineteen attended including two guests and new member, Juhli Newkirk (See write up Page 4).

AAUW Fund Named Gift Honoree: Because of our 2022 donations to AAUW Funds we are able to select a named gift honoree. This year's honoree is **Barbara Vaughan**. She was selected for her work collecting AAUW Funds donations. Because of Barbara's personal approach which includes a stamped return envelope, we were able to complete Vivian Coe's fellowship and our branch has been recognized by AAUW CA as a top 10 per capita donor. Barbara was presented her certificate at the May 20th luncheon.

Continued on Page 2

President Roberta Montgomery (510) 237-5293 rjm2343@sbcglobal.net	Co-Membership VPs Mimi Fruehan 527-7178 mimifru@aol.com Judy Sam 527-1661 Jssam47@yahoo.com Christine Hills 734-6505 chills627@gmail.com	Tech Trek Co-Chairs Roberta Montgomery 237-5293 rim2343@sbcglobal.net Marsha Weintraub, 644-0320 marsha.weintraub@gmail.com	Co-Program VPs Maria LaForge 527-4378 d.laforge@sbcglobal.net Gloria Merrill 527-2681 cudaviol@yahoo.com
AAUW Fund VP Barbara Vaughan 548-1942 barbvaughan@mac.com	Secretary	Newsletter Editor	Sunshine Chair Sally Dunham, 758-4094 sallydunham1@gmail.com
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Newsletter Circulation	Read Aloud Chair Judy Sam, 527-1661 Jssam47@yahoo.com	Zoom Host Christine Hills 734-6505 chills627@gmail.com	Facebook Monitor Christine Hills 734-6505 chills627@gmail.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Continued from Page 1

<u>Membership Annual Renewal</u>: Note it is time to pay your dues for next year (**July 1, 2023** to **June 30, 2024**). With the \$5 National dues increase, the dues for regular members is now \$108 (National \$72, State \$20, Branch \$16). Consider giving an extra contribution to Adopt-A-Fund. Our regular expenses far exceed our dues income. Thanks for last year's extra contributions. Without them, we would not have been able to continue our many worthwhile activities. Forms are on pages 5 and 6.

Looking for something to do? Check out Barbara Miller's **Spring and Summer 2023 Culture Corner**. See pages 7 to 11.

Thanks for your support. I enjoy working with such special women. Enjoy the rest of your summer.

Roberta Montgomery, President



ONLINE CALENDAR – MONTHLY EVENTS

MAY 2023:

Luncheon: Saturday, May 20, 11:30 am at Romano's Macaroni Grill - El Cerrito Plaza

Board Meeting: using Zoom **Tuesday, May 23, at 2:00 pm**. All members are invited to attend.

JUNE 2023:

<u>Tech Trek Virtual Reception</u>: using Zoom Saturday, June 17, from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Come meet our 2023 Tech Trek girls and wish them success at camp. Also get an update from special guest, Katherine Hennig, a 2017 Tech Trek Camper. Katherine was a Tech Trek Counselor last year and will be a Counselor this year for the first Sonoma State University camp.



Our **2023 Tech Trek Program** was successful. We are sponsoring six WCCUSD middle school girls to attend the 2023 Tech Trek STEM residential Camp at Sonoma State University July 23-29. The selected girls all from Korematsu are: Arianna Nichole Hernandez, Madison Wyatt, Naava Feldman, Olivia Gabriella Lopez, Samantha Madrigal Ochoa and Tiara Beffie Laurene Marpaung. There was a virtual reception/orientation for them on June 17 from 1:00 to 2:00 pm with special guest, Katherine Hennig, a 2017 Tech Trek Camper. The girls will also attend our September 16 meeting to talk about their camp experiences.

Roberta Montgomery and Marsha Weintraub, Tech Trek Co-Coordinators

BRANCH 2023-2024 OFFICERS

ELECTED OFFICERS

At our May 20 Luncheon members approved the slate of officers and agreed to actively support them. Christine and I continue to share treasurer responsibilities, but Christine will be the Treasurer of record since the President and Treasurer cannot be the same person. Marilynn is no longer able to continue as Secretary. Her other responsibilities are requiring more of her time. We thank her for her prompt and accurate recording of the Board minutes for these many years. Since it is required (*) to have a person record the minutes and we weren't able to find someone to fill the Secretary position, we will appoint a secretary for each meeting. Both Judy and Marsha said they could fill in as needed.

<u>*President</u>: Roberta Montgomery

Program Co-Vice Presidents: Maria LaForge and Gloria Merrill

Membership Co-Vice Presidents: Mimi Fruehan, Christine Hills, and Judy Sam

AAUW Fund Vice President: Barbara Vaughan

*Treasurer: Christine Hills (back-up, Roberta Montgomery)

*Secretary: appoint for each meeting (Judy Sam, Marsha Weintraub)

OTHER OFFICERS

Bylaws/Policies and Procedures: Marilynn Bracelin

Community/Cultural: Barbara Miller

Contra Costa College Relations:

Directory:

Hospitality: Sally Dunham (co-host assigned for each meeting)

Newsletter Circulation:

Newsletter Editor:

Public Policy: Marianne Selph

Publicity: Maria LaForge

Read-Aloud Project: Judy Sam

Sunshine: Sally Dunham

Tech Trek Coordinators: Roberta Montgomery and Marsha Weintraub

Website Manager: Barbara Vaughan

Zoom Host: Christine Hills (back-up, Elaine Yamaguchi)

Facebook Monitor: Christine Hills

Roberta Montgomery, President

WELCOME NEW MEMBER – JUHLI NEWKIRK

Juhli is originally from Illinois but has lived many places, particularly in California. In April, she and her husband Gary moved to El Cerrito to be near their young grandchildren.

Juhli's career was as a management consultant and executive coach. She has an undergraduate degree from University of Washington, a master's degree from University of Pacific, and a Ph.D. in Psychology from the University of Southern California.

Juhli's contact information is:

Juhlin (Juhli) Newkirk (Gary) 1309 Noble Ct El Cerrito, CA 94530 (678) 772-9883 juhlinewkirk@gmail.com

Maria LaForge

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. **Note there is a correction to the email address for Marty Souto-Martinez. See below.**

All changes to date:

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

DADZIE, MEIGAN PO Box 7273, Berkeley 94707, greenledger@gmail.com

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

SOUTO-MARTINEZ, MARTHA (Marty) marthasoutomartinez@gmail.com (not marty)

WALENTA, SUSAN (Art) Sunrise Senior Living (510) 531-7190 11889 Skyline Blvd, Apt 215 Oakland, CA 94619

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

Roberta Montgomery, President

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2023-2024

National dues has increased \$5 this year.

Regular members: \$108 (AAUW National \$72*, State \$20, Branch \$16);
DUAL members: \$16 (Branch only)
50-year members pay NO dues
*Note \$69 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 2022-2023. These contributions helped us meet our regular expenses (including meeting room rental, newsletter printing, insurance, post office box rental, and website support) that are not covered by our branch dues. **Note: contributions to operating expenses are NOT tax deductible.**

HOW TO PAY:

Make your **check** payable to **AAUW WCC**, and mail it to: AAUW WCC, PO BOX 501, El Cerrito, CA 94530, with the form below. (You can also renew your membership **online** through the AAUW Community Hub (my.aauw.org). Note: Branch contributions cannot be made online.)

Name				
Street/Apt				
City/State	_ Zip Code			
Phone/Home/Cell_				
Email				
□ I have CHANGES to personal information above. 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 cor the expenses our annual dues no longer cove Please see the list of "adopt-a-fund" choices	r and further the good work of our Branch.			

ADOPT- A-FUND FUNDRAISER

In lieu of holding a garage sale, which is time consuming and produces small rewards, the Board, decided again this year to ask the members to make a donation to their favorite Fund (Budget item). 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.

Budget Item	Budget	Your Contribution
Insurance Assessment – Required for all AAUW	\$144	
chapters		
Printing, Postage Labels – printing and mailing		
newsletters and chapter business		
Directory Printing	\$125	
Hospitality – Coffee, creamer, napkins, etc.	\$ 75	
Rental – Christ Lutheran Church monthly rental @ \$80	\$560	
PO Box Rental – 1 year	\$216	
Website fee paid yearly	\$120	
Speakers' Honorariums – monthly speakers' fees @	\$600	
\$100 per speaker.		
Tech Trek Recruitment, Reception, Printing & Postage	\$300	
Most Needed		

AAUW National Yellow Postcards AAUW Member Data Verification and Oral History Project

On May 12, AAUW CA President Sandi Gabe sent an **update** on the National "yellow postcard" project to California members. In response to California member concerns the following changes were made:

- 1. All messages (emails, postcards etc) to California members were suppressed going forward.
- 2. AAUW National is very concerned that members may have felt pressured into purchasing items. Each California member who purchased an item or package will be contacted to confirm that they wanted to place their order. If not, they will be assisted in canceling the order and obtaining a refund.

Roberta Montgomery, President

CULTURE CORNER SPRING AND SUMMER 2023 By Barbara Miller



El Cerrito July 4th Celebration, Cerrito Vista Park, 2017

<u>City of El Cerrito</u>. 10890 San Pablo Ave. 510-215-4300. <u>https://www.el-cerrito.org/</u> Some public events are again being held in person; others use Zoom. Tours of El Cerrito's LEED Platinum Certified Recycling Center are once again offered, at 3:00pm on the first Wednesday of each month. Check the city calendar to see when committee meetings are being held: <u>https://www.el-cerrito.org/Calendar.aspx</u> For copies of the minutes, agendas, and other information about meetings of city boards and commissions, click here: <u>https://www.el-cerrito.org/698/Agendas-Minutes</u>

- Tuesday, July 4, 11:00am-5:00pm: Fourth of July and World One Festival. Cerrito Vista Park. https://el-cerrito.org/702/July-4th-Festival. Our famous local annual celebration of Independence Day includes a car show, games, food, live music, crafts, and a chance to learn about local non-profit and civic organizations. It is El Cerrito's largest event and draws people from all over the East Bay.
- Wednesdays, May 3, 10, and 17, 1:00-2:00pm: 3-Part Series on Dementia. Presented by the Alzheimer's Association. Enter #155204 on this page of El Cerrito WebTrac Activities. https://web2.myvscloud.com/wbwsc/caelcerritowt.wsc/splash.html?InterfaceParameter=WebTrac
- Various Dates and Times: Classes and Activities. El Cerrito offers a wide variety of activities, as well as occasional trips. This website gives you access to information on senior activities: https://el-cerrito.org/1324/Adult-Programs-Age-18. Another useful website is listed below; click on "Adult & Senior" to find out what is offered and how to register. You will need a login. Registration begins on May 2.

<u>https://web2.myvscloud.com/wbwsc/caelcerritowt.wsc/splash.html?InterfaceParameter=WebTrac</u> These are a few of the activities offered:

- <u>Tassajara Pottery Studio</u>. Tassajara Park, 2575 Tassajara Ave. Make sculptures, hand-built pieces and wheel-thrown pots. Choose your class here: <u>www.el-cerrito.org/onlinereg</u>
- o <u>Ikebana, Wednesday, May 17, 12:30-2:30pm</u>. Learn the art of Japanese flower arranging in this class, held in the patio room of the El Cerrito Community Center.
- Writing and Editing Courses: El Cerrito also offers online courses to help you improve your writing or train for a job in editing, screenwriting, or technical writing.
 https://www.ed2go.com/elcerritocomsvc/SearchResults.aspx?Sort=Relevance&MaxResultCount=10&CategoryID=1432
- <u>Trip. Tuesday, May 23, 10:00am-3:00pm</u>. Presidio Tunnel Tops and Palace of Fine Arts. The trip leaves from the parking lot of the Contra Costa Civic Theater, across Moeser Lane from the Community Center. 951 Pomona Ave.
- Tuesdays, 7:00pm: City Council Meeting. Via Zoom. City council meetings are usually held on the first and third Tuesdays of each month and are open to the public. For instructions on streaming the meeting, submitting comments, and other information, go to: https://el-cerrito.org/DocumentCenter/View/13983/Instructions-for-Public-Comments.
- <u>Various times</u>: **Committee and Commission Meetings**. These meetings are open to the public. Unless otherwise stated, they meet in El Cerrito City Hall. Check the city calendar.
- Third Saturday of each month: Compost Giveaway for El Cerrito residents only, at the upper Cerrito Vista Park, on the Avis Drive side of the park near the tennis courts. All day.

El Cerrito Art Association. The ECAA is a non-profit organization, co-sponsored by the City of El Cerrito, that supports artists with its programs and activities. The membership meeting is open to the public and is held at 7pm on the second Monday of every month in the Garden room of the El Cerrito Community Center at 7007 Moeser Lane. Meeting topics are posted on the ECAA website about a week or so before the meetings. https://elcerritoart.org/meeting-news/

- Monday, May 8th, 6:30-8:30pm: Membership Meeting—Watercolor Demo. David Savellano will demonstrate his watercolor techniques. David is an Alameda resident who prefers to paint outdoors. A few years ago, he won the Best Watercolor Artist award in Plein Air Salon's December/January competition. You can read about him and link to his works here: https://davidsavellano.com/about
- Anytime: Exhibits of local artists' work can always be seen at the Community Center (main hallway), the El Cerrito Library, and the DMV. Currently at the Community Center Lobby you can see Five Photos by Bill Helsel: Photographing Invisible Light, infrared photography. The current show at the DMV, on display through July 19, is by Robert Aramayo, Susan Beauchamp, Alan Krakauer and Joshua Wait.

El Cerrito Historical Society. This group works to preserve and record the city's history and make that information available to the public. Learn about El Cerrito's history from the collection of printed and electronic information available at the Dorothy and Sundar Shadi History Room in City Hall. Take a walking tour through El Cerrito's history along San Pablo Ave. using brochures available online (see below). Or go to the society's well-maintained and extensive website to learn about the aspects of El Cerrito's history that most interest you, such as a list of notable people who have come from El Cerrito or the story of El Cerrito's Tepco Ceramic Factory. The website also features a documentary about Sundar Shadi. http://www.elcerritohistoricalsociety.org/index.html

- <u>Anytime</u>. Print out a brochure to guide you on a historical walking tour of the commercial El Cerrito. <u>http://www.elcerritohistoricalsociety.org/ecprintfiles/walkingtourbrochure.pdf</u> For a map of the tour, click here: http://www.elcerritohistoricalsociety.org/ecprintfiles/walkingtourmap.pdf
- Anytime. Read the book El Cerrito, part of the Images of America series. You can borrow this book from the Contra Costa Library or purchase it at the website.
- Anytime. Read the El Cerrito Historic Content Statement draft online to learn about the fascinating history of our city. http://www.elcerritohistoricalsociety.org/ecprintfiles/historicalcontext.pdf
- Anytime. March was Women's History Month. This is a good time to check out the page on the history of women in El Cerrito, including the first female council member, Sally Rand, and her El Cerrito Night Club, as well as Violet Wong, an early El Cerrito entrepreneur and film star, at: http://www.elcerritohistoricalsociety.org/womenshistoryelcerrito.html

<u>El Cerrito Trail Trekkers</u>. The ECTT was formed to build, maintain, use, and publicize the little-known urban trails of El Cerrito. ECTT produces a map of the trails in El Cerrito that you can buy at Jenny K's or Pegasus books. Members get a copy for free. http://www.ectrailtrekkers.org/

- Saturday, May 6 and Sunday May 7: Hillside Festival. This yearly event in the Hillside Natural Area includes an insect hike, a bird walk, tree walk, history walk, medicinal plant walk, a senior stroll, and many other activities. At the festival, awards will be presented to the winners of the annual haiku contest, who will read their poems about experiences in the Hillside Natural Area. El Cerrito's poet laureate, Eevelyn Mitchell, will read an original poem written for the festival. Click here for the full schedule:
 - https://www.ectrailtrekkers.org/uploads/1/4/2/8/142875193/hillside festival trifold 2023.pdf
- Anytime: Discover Hidden Poems in El Cerrito. The El Cerrito Arts and Culture Commission has worked with the Trail Trekkers to hide 26 poems, along with short biographies of the poets, in containers all around El Cerrito. Our local version of geocaching. Go to the Trekkers website, click on PLACES along the top row and select "Geocaching in El Cerrito". There are three hikes, the first of which features California poets laureate, the second U.S. poets laureate, and the third local poets. The clues on the website for each poem's location are GPS coordinates, so you will need a way to locate these. When you find them read the poem and then sign and date the logs.
- Anytime: Rotary Signs Virtual Hike. Take a YouTube hike in the local parks and trails here: https://www.ectrailtrekkers.org/virtual-hikes.html

El Cerrito and Kensington Libraries. El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave. (510) 526-7512. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., Kensington. (510) 524-3043. The libraries are now open Tuesday through Saturday. For hours and updates on COVID protocols and a list of upcoming online events, check their websites: https://ccclib.org/locations/11/ and https://ccclib.org/locations/13/.

- Tuesdays and Thursdays: One-on-One Tech Help. Kensington Library. Times vary. Sign up for a one-on-one appointment with a Tech Docent at the Kensington Library to get help with the Contra Costa Library website, e-books, e-readers, Kanopy, and other electronic library sources.
- Sunday, May 21, 10:00am-4:00pm. Friends of the Kensington Library Book Sale.
- Every day. Our libraries offer the following services: 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.
 - o Genealogy. Use AncestryLibrary, a genealogy database, to research your family tree.
 - o **Research**. Explora offers the full text of high-quality research articles.

<u>NIAD Art Center</u>. 551 23rd Ave., Richmond. Open Monday-Friday, 10:00am-4;00pm and the first Saturday of each month from 1:00-4:00pm. 510-620-0290. http://niadart.org NIAD is a progressive art studio for adult artists with developmental disabilities. Listed here are a few of the current exhibitions. See what else is available at the NIAD website. Older exhibitions are still available for viewing online. https://niadartstore.org/collections

- Through May 20: A Clearing. Main Gallery. Organized by Mel Priest. "Works in a clearing beckon, inviting you to enter. Each artist composes forms evolving from intuitive rather than predetermined thinking...Overlapping and unpredictable shapes and colors create conversations, inviting viewers to come closer, soften their gaze, release expectations." For a preview go to: https://niadartstore.org/collections/a-clearing-organized-by-mel-press?mc_cid=40cdeb7821&mc_eid=6ce61b3921
- Rotating Exhibitions: At the Richmond mayor's office, 450 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond. Current collection: What a Wonderful World will be on view through April 30. It features works from several NIAD artists, "from Jeremy Burleson's rolled paper hanging objects that seem related to geodes or other mineral shapes to Halisi Noel-Johnson's patterned visions of flower forms and Saul Alegria's animal studies, the natural world." Check this website for future exhibitions: https://www.mayoreduardo.com/art-in-the-mayor-s-office
- New Online Exhibition: Puzzles in Print. Organized by Delilah Ponton. The uniqueness of the phrases makes the viewer think about the artists and what is important to them. See these art works here: https://niadartstore.org/collections/puzzles-in-print
- Online Exhibitions:
 - Waking, Breathing, Making. Organized by Laura Kamian McDermott. "This exhibit highlights the joy communicated by NIAD artists in their process of making and living creative lives. The works chosen for this exhibition celebrate our domestic lives and the natural world with bold uses of materials, color, and imagination." https://niadartstore.org/collections/waking-breathing-making-organized-by-laura-kamian-mcdermott
 - Animal, Animal, Vegetable, Vegetable, Mineral, Mineral. Organized by Nick Schutzenhofer.
 https://niadartstore.org/collections/animal-animal-vegetable-mineral-mineral-organized-by-nick-schutzenhofer?mc_cid=36f26da5e4&mc_eid=6ce61b3921

<u>Richmond Art Center</u>. 2540 Barrett Ave., Richmond. 510-620-6772. Gallery hours: Wednesday through Saturday from 10am to 4pm. The largest visual arts center in the East Bay. In addition to the exhibitions described below, the art center holds classes for all ages and sponsors a summer arts camp. https://richmondartcenter.org/. Masks are required indoors; they may be removed in the courtyard.

- Through May 13: 57th Annual WCCUSD Student Art Show. Community Gallery. Art created by students in WCCUSD middle and high schools. https://richmondartcenter.org/exhibitions/57th-annual-wccusd-student-art-show/
- <u>Saturday, May 27, 12:00-1:30pm</u>: Photographer Ruth Morgan in conversation with Berkeley-based artist, curator and writer Robin Légère Henderson
- Saturday, June 3, 2:00-4:00pm: Closing Reception for current exhibitions.

- Current Exhibitions.
 - Through June 3: South Gallery. **Requiem: The Remains of the Day, August 4, 2021**. "A series of evocative photographs that document the devastation of Greenville, CA after it was burnt down by the Dixie Wildfire on August 4, 2021...The exhibition and portfolios are a requiem to Greenville and a warning for us all to meet the challenge of climate change and ensuing global warming." https://richmondartcenter.org/exhibitions/requiem/
 - <u>Through June 3</u>: Main Gallery. Fencelines: A Collective Monument to Resilience. "a community-based participatory art project that invites local folks to reflect on the circumstances of environ-mental injustice in Richmond. This exhibition presents messages by individual community members responding to the refinery landscape in Richmond. Central to the Fencelines project is a public art installation along a city-owned fence bordering the Chevron refinery and the North Richmond residential neighborhood immediately downwind of it."
 https://richmondartcenter.org/exhibitions/fencelines/
 - <u>Saturday, April 29, 12:00-3:00pm</u>: Courtyard. *Spring Family Day: Clean Air in the Wind*.
 "Spend your Saturday afternoon with us making art and celebrating the community-voices that demand Richmond residents' right to clean air." Features Art-making activities, UC Master Garden Sunflower Giveaway, Music, Caricatures, Healthy Snacks and Drinks and more.
 - Saturday, June 3, 12:00-1:30pm: Artist Talk. 2:00-4:00pm: Closing Reception.
 - Through Saturday, June 3: West Gallery. **Tanja Geis: Recompose**. "In the first exhibition of The Greenhouse Series, *Recompose*, artist Tanja Geis displays mesmerizing cyanotypes of painted decomposing common murres, a bird species that experienced historic die-offs along local coasts in the summer of 2015 as a direct result of global warming."
 - Thursday, May 11, 5:30-6:30pm: Gallery Walkthrough. Walk through the exhibition with the artist. Then see Jed Lee's *The Greenway* at 6:30, followed by a Q&A with the filmmaker. Both of these events are part of "*The Greenhouse*", an exhibition and speaker series focused on the climate crisis and environmental justice movements in Richmond, CA.
 - <u>Through June 19, 2023</u>: West Gallery Entrance. Who Decides? S.P.O.T.S. The Game. An interactive mural that asks guests to play. Players choose from 10 different characters and follow prompts. The game was devised by students in the SPOTS youth public arts program as a way to present contemporary issues, such as war, education, and choice. SPOTS is an acronym for Supporting Peoples Outlooks, Talents and Speech. For more information, see the description at: https://richmondartcenter.org/exhibitions/spots-the-game/

<u>Cerrito Theater (Rialto Cinemas)</u>. 10070 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. 510-273-9102. <u>El Cerrito's own restored art deco movie theater</u>. Food and drink are available before and during movies: wine, beer, pizza, burgers, hot dogs, salads, nachos, etc. Masks are strongly recommended but are not required in all lobby and auditorium areas. To see a list of current and upcoming offerings, visit: https://rialtocinemas.com/cerrito/

- Free Movies! The Cerrito Theater is offering some movies this spring and summer at no cost. One monthly kid-friendly movie and one monthly classic. The family matinees will be offered on Saturdays and Sundays at 10:00am; the classics on Thursdays at 1:00pm. Check the website under "Coming Soon" to learn what free movies will be available later in the summer. The only time to get tickets is at the box office the Friday before the screening.
 - o May 6-7: The Never-Ending Story (family). Tickets available on May 5.
 - May 11: To Catch a Thief (classic). Tickets available on May 5.
 - o June 3-4: Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory (family). Tickets available on June 2.
 - o June 8: Victor/Victoria (classic). Tickets available on June 2.
 - o July 1-2: Race for Your Life, Charlie Brown (family). Tickets available on June 30.
- National Theatre Live. London plays filmed during a live performance. You can purchase tickets here: https://www.tix.com/ticket-sales/rialtocinemascerrito/2629
 - Mon, May 1 and Wed, May 10 at 7:00pm; Wed, May 17 at 1:00pm: Othello by William Shakespeare.
 Directed by Clint Dyer.
 - Mon, June 5 and Wed, June 14 at 7:00pm; Wed, June 21 at 1:00pm: Best of Enemies by James Graham, directed by Jeremy Herrin. Two famous 20th century political commentators, neoconservative William F. Buckley Jr., founder of the National Review, and Gore Vidal, leftist essayist and novelist, debate the moral landscape of 1960s America. Starring David Harewood and Zachary Quinto. This play won the British Critics' Circle Theatre Award for Best New Play in 2022.
 - o Mon, July 17 and Mon, July 26 at 7:00pm; Wed, Aug 2 at 1:00pm: Good by C. P. Taylor, directed by

Dominic Cooke. "An examination of how a 'good' man is corrupted," starring David Tennant.

Cerrito Classics. The classics will take a new form this year. Instead of one classic a month, you will be
able to see any of six classic movies that will be shown over the course of a week. When the schedule for
the next classic week is available, it will be published at this website: https://rialtocinemas.com/coming-soon-cer/cerrito-classics-cer/

Youth Musical Theater Company. This company provides an opportunity for young artists in the area (7th grade through university) to produce musicals for an audience; it also holds workshops for artists in 7th-12th grades. All shows are accompanied by a live orchestra. Directors, designers, choreographers, etc. are professionals, and the quality of the work is high. This summer's show can be seen at El Cerrito High School Performing Arts Theater. https://ymtcbayarea.org/

July 14-23: The Hunchback of Notre Dame. Music by Alan Menken, lyrics by Stephen Schwartz, book by Peter Parnell, directed by Jennifer Boesing. Based on the novel by Victor Hugo and the Disney film of the same name. "Hunchback...is a haunting story of isolation, racism, belonging, and the true nature of faith."

<u>Kensington Symphony Orchestra</u>. All concerts are held at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Road, Kensington. <u>https://www.kensingtonsymphonyorchestra.org/</u>

 Saturday, June 10, 7:30pm: Intimate Connections & Grand Finale. Pieces include: Calm Sea and Prosperous Voyage Overture Op. 27 by Felix Mendelssohn; Concerto for Viola & Clarinet Op 88 in E minor by Max Bruch; Enigma Variations Op. 36 by Sir Edward Elgar.

<u>West County Winds</u>. Hilltop Community Church, 3118 Shane Drive, Richmond, CA. West County Winds is a non-profit wind ensemble that performs music in a variety of styles from classical to pop. Concerts are free. WCW requests that all audience members be up to date on vaccines and wear masks. https://www.westcountywinds.org/concerts

• <u>Sunday, May 7, 3:00pm</u>: To be announced. The previous show was "WCW Goes to the American Musical Theater."

<u>Bay Area Book Festival</u>. <u>Saturday, May 6, 7:30pm</u> at Freight and Salvage, 2020 Addison Street, Berkeley. *An Evening with Joan Baez*. General admission: \$15.00. Part of the Bay Area Book Festival, May 6 and 7 in downtown Berkeley. We don't generally include events in Berkeley in the culture corner—there are too many—but this is a very special event that I thought many of you might be interested in. It is probably sold out, but not too late to get on the waiting list. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/an-evening-with-joan-baez-trailblazing-musician-artist-and-activist-tickets-591847310237?aff=ebdssbdestsearch

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