

  
**THE CONNECTION**  
 of California

**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 XXXX

NEWSLETTER 1

SUMMER 2024



**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Welcome Back and CONGRATULATIONS! The West Contra Costa Branch celebrated its **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** of establishment on August 10. We also completed a successful year with normal in person gatherings (See 2023-2024 Programs and Events Page 3). We will continue to use Zoo tied to speaker requirements (e.g. November speaker Terry Jones-Brady lives in Idaho) and our Board meetings on the fourth Tuesday of the month will remain via Zoom. The first **Board Meeting** after the summer break is next **Tuesday, August 20, at 2:00 pm**. All members are invited to attend.

**AAUW Fund Named Gift Honoree:** Because of our 2023 donations to AAUW Funds we are able to select a named gift honoree. Marsha Weintraub was selected in appreciation for her contributions to the mission of AAUW and support of the branch. Marsha became our Branch Secretary allowing the Board to function.

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<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> Christine Hills 734-6505 <a href="mailto:chills627@gmail.com">chills627@gmail.com</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Tech Trek Co-Chairs</b></p> <p>Roberta Montgomery (510) 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>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>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>Secretary</b></p> <p>Marsha Weintraub, 644-0320 <a href="mailto:marsha.weintraub@gmail.com">marsha.weintraub@gmail.com</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Newsletter Editor</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sunshine 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>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 548-1942 <a href="mailto:barbvaughan@mac.com">barbvaughan@mac.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> Roberta Montgomery <a href="mailto:rjm2343@sbcglobal.net">rjm2343@sbcglobal.net</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Bylaws, Policies &amp; Procedures (Governance)</b></p> <p>Marilynn Bracelin,)223-4057 <a href="mailto:bracelins14@gmail.com">bracelins14@gmail.com</a></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Community/Cultural</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 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>Zoom Host</b></p> <p>Christine Hills 734-6505 <a href="mailto:chills627@gmail.com">chills627@gmail.com</a></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** Continued from Page 1

**Membership Annual Renewal:** This is a reminder (if you have not already done so) to pay your AAUW dues for this year (**July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025**). The dues are the same as last year - for regular members \$108 (National \$72, State \$20, Branch \$16). Consider giving an extra contribution to Adopt-A-Fund. Our regular expenses far exceed our dues income. Forms are on Pages 5 and 6.

**Membership Directory Updates:** Diane Ichiyasu and Susan Walenta have new addresses. See Page 7.

Thanks for all your support. We are very busy people and have many commitments. I appreciate all you do for the Branch. I enjoy working with such special women.

**Roberta Montgomery, President**

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Our **2024 Tech Trek Program** was successful. We sponsored six WCCUSD middle school girls who attended the residential Camp at Sonoma State University June 23-29. The selected girls are: Nilaya Iyer, Sierra Luna, Skyler Mills, Isabelle Alicia Pagan, Ximena Paz and Makena Tringale. Isabelle is from Mira Vista. The others are from Korematsu. Again this year we were not able to contact the other middle schools.

There was a reception/orientation for the 2024 campers and parents at El Cerrito Denny's on Saturday, June 8 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm with special guest, Sophia Carazo-Ortiz, a 2019 Camper and current Camp Counselor. The girls will attend our September 21 meeting to talk about their camp experiences.

**Roberta Montgomery and Marsha Weintraub, Tech Trek Co-Coordinators**

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### **IN MEMORIAM**

I am sorry to report that **Jane Bartke** passed away on June 22. She was a member of AAUW for 37 years. Despite being very active in the community she found time to support the branch and AAUW's mission. Jane produced the Membership Directory for eight years.

**Roberta Montgomery, President**

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## **2023-2024 PROGRAMS AND EVENTS**

### **September 16, 2023**

Our six WCCUSD middle school girls who attended the Tech Trek STEM residential Camp at Sonoma State University the end of July, shared their camp experiences.

### **October 21, 2023**

Update presented on the September 30 *Book Banning and Censorship Panel Discussion* sponsored by the Oakland Public Library and the AAUW Oakland-Piedmont & Berkeley Branches and the AAUW CA Public Policy "School Board Project".

### **November 18, 2023**

Terry Jones-Brady, author of "A Mosaic Heart", shared her path to resilience after tragic losses.

### **December 16, 2023 1-4 pm**

**Holiday Party** at the home of Judy and Floyd Sam. Books and donations were collected for the Read-Aloud Volunteer Program and the Grant Birthday Book Project.

### **January 20, 2024**

Lisa Motoyama, former mayor of El Cerrito, discussed affordable housing.

### **February 17, 2024**

Sisters in Crime authors Janet Dawson and Margaret Lucke discussed "The Pleasures and Perils of a Life of Crime".

### **March 16, 2024**

Stefanie Perez talked about "La Clinica de la Raza", a community based clinic working with children and families.

### **April 20, 2024**

Sarah Bradford of CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of Contra Costa is their Recruitment, Outreach and Tutor Coordinator. She outlined how CASA's volunteers provide help to youth in foster care.

### **May 4, 2024 11:30 am**

**End-of-Year Luncheon** was at Romano's Macaroni Grill - El Cerrito Plaza.

## BRANCH 2024-2025 OFFICERS

### ELECTED OFFICERS

At our May 4 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. We thank Marsha for taking on the Secretary responsibilities and for Marilyn for being her back-up.

<b>*President:</b>	<b>Roberta Montgomery</b>
<b><u>Program Co-Vice Presidents:</u></b>	<b>Maria LaForge and Gloria Merrill</b>
<b><u>Membership Co-Vice Presidents:</u></b>	<b>Mimi Fruehan, Christine Hills, and Judy Sam</b>
<b><u>AAUW Fund Vice President:</u></b>	<b>Barbara Vaughan</b>
<b>*Treasurer:</b>	<b>Christine Hills (back-up, Roberta Montgomery)</b>
<b>*Secretary:</b>	<b>Marsha Weintraub (back-up, Marilyn Bracelin)</b>
*required	

### OTHER OFFICERS

<b><u>Bylaws/Policies and Procedures (Governance):</u></b>	<b>Marilynn Bracelin</b>
<b><u>Community/Cultural:</u></b>	<b>Barbara Miller</b>
<b><u>Contra Costa College Relations:</u></b>	
<b><u>Directory:</u></b>	
<b><u>Hospitality:</u></b>	<b>Sally Dunham (co-hosts volunteer at each meeting)</b>
<b><u>Newsletter Circulation:</u></b>	
<b><u>Newsletter Editor:</u></b>	
<b><u>Public Policy:</u></b>	<b>Marianne Selph</b>
<b><u>Publicity:</u></b>	<b>Maria LaForge</b>
<b><u>Read-Aloud Project:</u></b>	<b>Judy Sam</b>
<b><u>Sunshine:</u></b>	<b>Sally Dunham</b>
<b><u>Tech Trek Coordinators:</u></b>	<b>Roberta Montgomery and Marsha Weintraub</b>
<b><u>Website Manager:</u></b>	<b>Barbara Vaughan</b>
<b><u>Zoom Host:</u></b>	<b>Christine Hills (back-up, Elaine Yamaguchi)</b>
<b><u>Facebook Monitor:</u></b>	<b>Christine Hills</b>

**Roberta Montgomery, President**

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## **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2024-2025**

Regular members: **\$108** (AAUW National **\$72\***, State \$20, Branch \$16);  
DUAL members: **\$16** (Branch only)  
50-year members pay **NO** dues  
**\*Note all National Dues is tax deductible**

### **THANKS FOR THE CONTRIBUTION!**

Thanks to all members who made an extra contribution to supplement our Branch dues for 2023-2024. These contributions helped us meet our regular expenses (including meeting room rental, speaker honorarium, newsletter printing, insurance, post office box rental, website support and Tech Trek) 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 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 on next page to pick your favorite!**

## 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.**

<b>Budget Item</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Your Contribution</b>
Insurance Assessment – Required for all AAUW branches	\$154	
Printing, Postage Labels – printing and mailing newsletters and chapter business	\$300	
Directory Printing	\$150	
Hospitality – Coffee, creamer, napkins, etc.	\$ 75	
Rental – Christ Lutheran Church monthly rental @ \$80	\$560	
PO Box Rental – 1 year	\$230	
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>		

## **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 Diane Ichiyasu and Susan Walenta have new addresses. 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**

ICHIYASU, DIANE **2100 San Pablo Ave Apt 429, Berkeley 94702**

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

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

WALENTA, SUSAN **1100 San Pablo Ave #306, Albany 94706**

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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