



Happy Valentine's Day!

[Visit our Website](#)

Upcoming Events

Bi Branch Fellows Event

[Click HERE to Register](#)

Mark your calendar for **Sunday, February 6, 2022, from 1 - 3:30 PM** for the annual Bi-Branch Fellows event with the Fremont Branch.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Meet **Ana Grande, with PF Bresee Foundation**. The organization is the recipient of a 2021 Community Action Grant for their work in providing meaningful exposure to STEM education and careers for low to middle income kids.



[Click HERE for more about Ana](#)



Stand Up for the Freedom to Vote!

In 2021, three bills were introduced in Congress aimed at establishing national standards to make sure every voter can participate in elections in 2021. The For the People Act (H.R.1) and the bipartisan John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act (H.R.4) both passed the U.S. House of Representatives but stalled in the U.S. Senate. Key Senate leaders then worked on a compromise: the Freedom to Vote Act (S. 2747). By the end of 2021, this also stalled. On January 13, the House consolidated two of the bills and passed the new **Freedom to Vote: John R. Lewis Act of 2022**. The bill package is now under consideration with

the Senate. Contact your Congressional representatives. Let them know you support the freedom to vote.

[Click HERE to read Full Article](#)

[Become a Two-Minute Activist](#)

Interest Groups



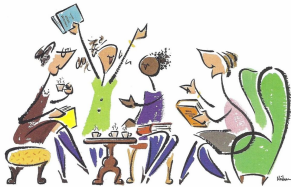
Drama Reading Group

The drama reading group will meet on **Thursday, February 10, 2022, beginning at 1:00 PM.** On Zoom.

We will be reading *The Man from Earth* by Jerome Bixby is a science fiction drama. The plot focuses on a departing university professor, who claims to be a Cro-Magnon caveman who has secretly survived for more than 14,000 years.

Drama Reading books will be available for pickup on Liz's porch on Sunday, February 6th. Everyone is welcome.

Please RSVP to elisabethbathgate@icloud.com.



Evening Book Group

The Evening Book Group will meet on **Friday, February 4, 2022, at 6:30 PM.** On Zoom.

We will be discussing *Unsheltered* by Barbara Kingsolver. It's the story of two families, living in the same house during different times, forced to face precarious situations and still move forward.

Please RSVP to slaterl@sbcglobal.net

Click [HERE](#) to link to Barbara Kingsolver's website

News of the Month

Your Board

Linda Slater - President
slaterl@sbcglobal.net

Helene Carr - Treasurer
helene.carr@yahoo.com

Liz Bathgate - Recording Secretary
elisabethbathgate@icloud.com

Judy Harrison - Tech Trek
jharrison663@comcast.net

Pat Macsata - Dining Out
patmacsata@gmail.com

President's Message

Happy Valentine's Day. The day has an interesting history rooted in ancient Rome and Victorian England, but it wasn't always as rosy as you might believe. The term "wear your heart on your sleeve" was coined when young, Roman suitors, during the Middle Ages, would draw the names of women who they would be coupled with for the upcoming year while attending the Roman festival honoring Juno. After choosing, the men wore the names on their sleeves to show their bond during the festivities. It is thought the first Valentine was written from one of the most unromantic spots possible, prison. The author was Charles, Duke of Orleans, to his 21-year-old bride. He remained imprisoned 20 years so was unable to see how his "valentine" was received. Finally, In Victorian England if you wanted to discourage a suitor you sent a Vinegar Valentine or Penny Dreadful, the antithesis of the present-day cards. Thanks for my indulgence. I love history.

Helene Victor - Tech Trek
darrell.and.helene@gmail.com

**Tammy Tribbles -
Corresponding Secretary**
Tammy@the.tribbles.com

Sandy Boswell - IBC
sandyboswell@rocketmail.com

Nancy Turner - Social Media
hendry-turner@sbcglobal.net

History is the focus for the **bountiful legacy of \$85,000 from lifetime member Patricia Ball**. Your Board met this week with the heads of the Cal State University of the East Bay (CSUEB) history department to finalize the endowment of \$40,000 to fund local scholarships in perpetuity. The CSUEB team speculates the endowment will generate a scholarship of \$1,500 per year by 2024. It is very exciting to move forward with this exciting option.

The remaining \$45,000 will be invested and used for mission-based programs and events. A follow-up meeting to discuss usage will be scheduled. Stay tuned.

Take good care and stay safe. Linda Slater, President



The AAUW California board of directors made the decision that the Tech Trek program will always include a state-wide virtual camp option with a standardized curriculum. In other words, the board endorsed having a single type of virtual camp instead of versions at each site. The board felt the advantages of a standardized virtual camp were consistency of the camp experience, more efficient use of resources, more manageable volunteer requirements, a unified presence for donors, and avoiding unnecessary duplication of effort.

It is not the board's intention that the virtual option will ever replace our beloved residential camps. But, for 2022, our traditional program will be dependent on campus availability and, of course, the state of the pandemic. We are certainly working hard to host residential camps but are grateful to have a virtual alternative with a volunteer to direct it.

The curriculum of the standardized virtual camp is still being developed and it is hoped that our Tech Trek stakeholders will contribute their talents to enhancing the experience we were able to offer in 2021.



Public Policy

Childcare: An Overdue and Critical Investment

By Shelley Mitchell and Ginny Hatfield
AAUW California Public Policy Committee

[Click HERE to Read Article](#)

Member News:

If you have news about a member who needs to be congratulated on a special occasion or accomplishment, who needs to be encouraged during illness or difficult time, or to be reminded we are here for him/her, please contact our corresponding secretary, Tammy Tribbles, at Tammy@thetriables.com

This is especially important during these pandemic times when we are isolated from our branch friends

and not enjoying our usual meetings. Let's show our friends know we care.