



Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek (CA)



The Advocate, May 2020  
(Online at <https://daw-ca.aauw.net/newsletter/>)

**From the Editor:** Just a reminder that contact information for persons mentioned in the Advocate can be found in your directory. If you do not have a directory, please contact Aline Soules ([soulesa@yahoo.com](mailto:soulesa@yahoo.com)) for that information. If you submit articles and pictures for next month's Advocate, please observe the following:

**Articles in .doc or .docx**, or in the body of an email.

**Pictures in .jpg (compressed).**

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**Cards of Condolence, Health Wishes, or Congratulations for our members**

When you know of an AAUW-DAW member who might appreciate a "Get Well" card, need a condolence card upon the death of a loved one, or a congratulations card, **please let our Corresponding Secretary, Pat Gross**, know. Pat will send cards on behalf of our Branch.

## From the President

Our DAW Board had a “virtual” meeting on April 16 via Zoom, another learning experience. More schedule changes for the coming months. I summarize these below, and there are some details in this issue.

- Installation and Member Appreciation – tentatively June 20
- The Garden Tour postponed to July 17-18
- We are disappointed to report that the 2020 Tech Trek camps have been cancelled. We are thinking about ways to celebrate the 10 outstanding girls who were selected to attend from our local area schools.

This is an especially difficult time for our members whose health is compromised or whose social support network has been weakened or eliminated by the virus response policies. AAUW California is collecting ideas on what branches can do to help our members – they call it “Member Helping Member”. Our webmaster Roseann Krane and I have been working on a new page on our website with links to resources for groceries and other services. It also contains a link to help match people who need assistance with people who can offer assistance. Check it out **Healthful Leadership Tips** <https://daw-ca.aauw.net/covid-19-survival-tips/>

And now for good news:

The election is complete and we have an excellent roster of incoming officers. We still need a President-elect, however, so please consider volunteering.

Our branch has achieved a “star” in the National AAUW Recognition Program. We have also achieved several goals for the other four goal categories. See below for details, and “well done” to everyone.

Also, Kathy Harkins is the leader for the Rose Neighborhood Group. She has called all of the group members and has created a buddy system for the group. Read about Kathy’s Rose Group efforts later in this issue.

Stay well, stay resilient, and treat yourself and others with care and kindness.

Deborah Wechsler

## Congratulations 2020-2021 Elected Board

Results are in from the online voting on the slate of elected Board members for the next term 2020-21. 139 members opened the election email (57% of our 245 members). 95 members (39% of membership) voted by the deadline April 22 (required quorum is 10%). 100% of the votes were in favor of approving the slate. Due to coronavirus restrictions we will not be able to gather for a social and final voting meeting, but we will hold an installation event in June, perhaps another “virtual” online gathering. Your next Board is listed on the next page.

**As can see, we are still searching for a President-Elect.** Mostly this person shadows the President, preparing to step into the presidency in July 2021.

We are grateful to the Appointed Board members who have stepped forward to lead our major activities this year. They are eager to bring on new people who may not have previously held leadership positions. **New Members are very welcome in these positions.** It’s a great way to meet people in the branch and to apply your talents in a meaningful way. Outgoing leaders and the rest of the board are happy to guide and support you as you learn your new role. So far, here are the filled and open positions:

### Elected Positions

Elected Positions	2020-2021
President	Chris Ritter
President-Elect	
Programs VP	Bette Felton
Membership VP	Marsha Anderson-Landau
Funds Co-VP	Robin Halloran
Funds Co-VP	Liz Williams
Secretary	Holly Sauer
Treasurer	Claudia Schwarz

Appointed Positions

<b>Appointed Positions</b>	<b>2020-2021</b>
Advertising Sales	Marsha Anderson-Landau
Advocate Editor	Aline Soules
Advocate Circulation Manager	Susetta Welm
Corresponding Secretary	Pat Gross
Database Manager	Joanne Quijano
Directory Manager	Joanne Quijano
Expanding Your Horizons Chair	Judy Lauper
Garden Tour Chair	Open
Graphic Designer	Dora-Thea Porter
Holiday Home Tour	Susan Terzuoli
Hospitality Chair	Open
Local Scholarship Chair	Dianne Tinnes
Local Scholarship Treasurer	Tena Gallagher
Membership Treasurer	Tena Gallagher
Nominating Committee	Open
Parliamentarian	Open
Publicity Manager	Open
Public Policy Chair (Global)	Asha Bajaj, Co-Chair Open Co-Chair
Social Media Manager	Open
Tech Trek Chair (Could be a co-chair)	Open
Webmaster	Roseann Krane, Teresa Cheung, Co-Chairs

**Star Status**

On the following pages, you'll find the AAUW official letter about our star status and a chart showing our current status in all categories of the National AAUW Recognition Program.

April 29, 2020

Dear AAUW Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek Falls Branch,

Thank you for your participation in the Five Star Recognition Program. After reviewing your submission, we are pleased to inform you that your branch received a star for Public Policy & Research.

Whether you are lobbying your representatives, collaborating with your state's public policy chair, or engaging your local community with your advocacy efforts, your actions have a profound impact on the implementation of AAUW's policy priorities that benefit women and girls.

With branches like yours lending their voices to the most pressing issues facing women and girls today, we can advance critical advocacy and research related to equal pay, paid family leave, Title IX, and other important gender equity issues.

Congratulations on your success in the Five Star Recognition Program!

Sincerely,







Kendra L. Davis  
Senior Vice President, Advancement and Partnerships



1310 L St. NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20002 | 202.728.7631 | [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)

Report your branch's achievements to the Five Star Recognition Program and track your progress.

Current status for AAUW Branch: CA0154-Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek 

Focus Area	Goals Confirmed	Review Goals Submit Updates
Programs		<a href="#">Go To Programs</a>
Advancement	 C	<a href="#">Go To Advancement</a>
Communications & External Relations	 A	<a href="#">Go To Communications</a>
Public Policy & Research		
Governance & Sustainability	 A,B	<a href="#">Go To Governance</a>

### AAUW Garden Tour 2020

This year the Garden Tour is now planned for Friday July 17<sup>th</sup> and Saturday July 18<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm, both days.

This year more than ever will be a time to celebrate the beauty of nature. **If you haven't already volunteered to be a docent and want to enjoy a few hours in a beautiful garden, please contact Kathy Harkins.**

Kathy Harkins

### Public Policy Update

The AAUW-CA Public Policy team improvised their annual legislative meeting with our AAUW Advocate in Sacramento. Co-Chairs Kathi Harper and Sue Miller, along with AAUW-CA president Jane Neimeier, met with Advocate Magaly Zaval at her office on March 13<sup>th</sup>; however, they communicated with all other committee members via e-mails throughout the day.

At that meeting, the team reviewed 44 bills with the following resolutions:

- Co-Sponsor 1 bill (SB973)
- Support 26 Bills in the following categories:
  - Product Regulation – 3
  - Family Planning – 5
  - Education – 6
  - Labor/Wages – 2
  - Gender Equity/Discrimination – 4
  - Family Protection – 3
  - Sexual Assault and Sex Education – 2
- “Watch” 8 Bills for further developments
- Drop 10 Bills

For more information on these bills, click here:

<https://ctweb.capitoltrack.com/public/publish.aspx?session=19&id=920d3c91-39f9-4e59-a017-b2d993254aef>

The Legislature currently plans to reconvene until May 4<sup>th</sup>. The team has been advised that the legislative focus will be on coronavirus bills, housing and wildfires. The state budget must be approved by June 15, so this too will be an area of focus.

### A View of our new reality from our Public Policy Chair

What will work look like in the post-COVID economy, and how should we prepare for upcoming changes? We are adapting to working from home, using remote learning, and having our groceries and other necessities delivered while Medical professionals remain on the front lines, protecting us, and grocery clerks, police and firemen continue to work.

Some companies are voluntarily providing benefits for their employees and even their contractors, such as paid sick leave and/or grants for those facing financial hardship because of the virus.

States, such as California, still have laws on the books that attack freelancing and independent contracting — work that could be a lifeline during quarantine. California’s Assembly Bill 5 made it effectively illegal for independent contractors, such as freelance writers who work from home, to earn a living. Even AB5’s author, Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez, has realized the bill went too far. In February, she said she would be “rolling out a number of asks, initiatives and bill language to help ease the implementation of AB5.” Her legislation, AB 1850, is still in committee.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency early in March and recently issued a 90-day grace period for mortgage payments and a moratorium on evictions. Social distancing has a direct impact on the virus’s spread and AB5 hampers entrepreneurs’ ability to work from home, not to mention its potential economic impact. Newsom could exercise his emergency authority and suspend any enforcement of AB5 (and possibly suspend the law itself).

There are several diverse tests across federal and state laws that determine who is an employee and who is an independent entrepreneur. The Department of Labor, operating under the Fair Labor Standards Act, and the IRS have different criteria. States such as California have stricter guidelines that can make independent contracting almost impossible.

There is still a need for immediate response to the health and economic safety crisis America faces, but some are now thinking about the post-coronavirus economy. Optimistically, the COVID-19 public health emergency will end eventually, and the economy will revive.

Whether a return in early May will be possible depends on the rate of infection. Newsom and his advisors said this week that the state could see a peak of cases in May, while pointing out that estimates are still fluid.

Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez (D-San Diego), the chairwoman of the Assembly Appropriations Committee, said last month that she had advised her colleagues to scrap many or most of the bills they introduced earlier this year, saying there would be neither time to consider them nor the funding needed to enact them into law.

Also in doubt is the usual process for crafting a state budget, made all the more challenging by early estimates that most or all of California's projected \$21-billion cash reserves could be needed to replace tax revenues lost due to the pandemic-caused shutdown of businesses and job cuts.

The upcoming presidential election will become a referendum on our current President and the viability of our democracy. Stay engaged and remember to exercise your franchise. Stay well.

Asha Bajaj  
Chair Public Policy

### Rose Group Stays Connected

Our neighborhood Rose group has 45 members and I only noticed that I was the group host prior to the Shelter in Place (SIP). What to do? I picked up the phone and called everyone. Since most people are home now, I was able to talk with most Rose members and left voice mail messages for just a few. I am happy to report that everyone I talked with is doing well.

Since we are unable to meet, I thought that we could stay connected online. I sent out a "buddy" name for each member, thinking that it would be fun to discover what people found out about each other. Learn any good Shelter in Place tips?

Facebook is a great way to stay in touch, via the "Friend" feature. I also like to send cheer with ecards, and some include games.



In our group we have artists, poets, writers, and more. I plan to highlight our members in future emails. One of our members Martha (Gus) Slavin writes a weekly blog that I enjoy, and she gave me permission to share the link with you: <https://marthaslavin.blogspot.com/>

I met Sharon Cohune during an AAUW Creative Night and was intrigued with her journey into art. She began the following triptych as “shelter in place” began:



You can find Sharon on Instagram at SharonCohune\_art

## Work Smart

Since this is online and you're home, you have an opportunity to take advantage of the Work Smart program.



You deserve a raise. This free online course will give you the tools you need to successfully negotiate and close the pay gap for women everywhere. Register today and learn how to improve your negotiating skills in every part of your life. <https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/salary/>

## Join Your DAW friends on a cruise – and raise funds for DAW

Included in the previous two issues was a travel opportunity for November 2020: a European River Cruise. Ilene Ferguson with Alamo World Travel, a long-time member of our branch, was helping to arrange this trip as a fundraiser for our Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek Branch. How this will evolve is unknown at this point, but, if you are interested, please contact Ilene at 925-837-8742 or 800-848-8747, email [info@alamoworld.com](mailto:info@alamoworld.com).

### DAW Interest Groups

Below is the current list of Interest Groups and Leaders, with notations of new groups that formed in fall 2019. The leader contact info is in your directory, except for new members. For their contact information, ask the Advocate editor, Aline Soules ([soulesa@yahoo.com](mailto:soulesa@yahoo.com)).

**Note about Art and Garden:** ART & GARDEN: Cancelled until further notice.

**General note:** The dates and times of regular meetings are listed for your continued reference, but meetings are likely to be cancelled. Check with the leader, if you are in doubt. – Editor.

Group Name	Leader Name(s)	Meeting Day	Time
Art and Garden	Jacque Schubert	Wednesdays or Fridays	Varies. See above or contact Jacque.
Beads2Jewelry (WL)	Maureen Mapes & Dianne Giacobelli	1st Thursday	1:00 PM
Bridge: Daytime Party (WL)	Angela Domer	3rd Monday	10:00 AM
Bridge: Duplicate (WL)	Lola Rohrs	4th Monday	10:00 AM
Bridge: Evening (WL)	Arlene Barnett	2nd Wednesday	7:30 PM
Gourmet: Adventurous Chefs (WL)	Sherry Wilcoxson- Will help start new group for waitlisters	1st Friday	11:30 AM
Gourmet: Culinary Navigators (WL)	Sandy Killoran & Marilyn Steichen	1st Saturday	6:30 PM
Gourmet: Epicureans (WL)	Ann Shelton- Liz Williams will help start new group for waitlisters	3rd Saturday	6:00 PM
Great Decisions Daytime and Evening	Mary Granzotto and Mary Ellen Blake	Weekly for eight weeks	Monday 7:30PM Tuesday 1:30 PM
Hiking	Joanne Quijano	Monthly	Varies

Literature: Contemporary Books (WL)	Diane Stangel	4th Wednesday	9:30 AM
Literature: Daytime (WL)	Laurie Ehrlich	4th Thursday	9:30 AM
Literature: Evening (WL)	Linda Jimerson	4th Tuesday	7:30 PM
Literature: Novel Ideas (WL)	Kathy Harkins	3rd Tuesday	1:00PM
Mah Jongg 1 (WL)	Paula Weintraub	Monday Weekly	10:00 AM
Mah Jongg 2 (WL)	Paula Weintraub-looking for beginners to start a new group	Tuesday Weekly	10:00 AM
Movies: Cinema 1	Pat McElderry	2nd Friday	7:30 PM
Movies: First Friday Film (WL)	Kathy Harkins	1st Friday	7:00 PM
Movies: Third Friday Film Group	Kath Clayton	3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday	7:00 PM
Movies & Lunch (WL)	Mary Twist	2nd Tuesday	11:30 AM
Movies: Oscars (WL)	Mary Mix	2nd Friday	7:30 PM
Needle Arts (WL)	Sandy Killoran, Holly Sauer	2nd Monday	1:30-3:30 PM
Writers Group	Kathy Gage	2nd Thursday	10:30-12:30 PM

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*\*AAUW DAW members are marked with an asterisk*

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) is the nation's leading voice promoting equity and education for women and girls.

**Mission:** AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

**Value Promise:** By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women and girls have a fair chance.

**Vision:** AAUW empowers all women and girls to reach their highest potential.

The Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek branch promotes and supports our AAUW mission through local scholarships, AAUW program support, panel discussions, Tech Trek, AAUW Fund, and topical guest speakers.

Aline Soules, Editor  
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