



Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek (CA)



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

From the Editor: 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) for that information. If you submit articles and pictures for next month’s issue, 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 is still meeting virtually via Zoom. Just one example of the many adaptations that all of us are having to make these days.

Here are some upcoming events for your calendars.

- **Installation and Member Appreciation – Monday June 22, 5:30 pm.** This will be a virtual event. Please stand by for more information
- **Garden Walk is on for July 17-18.** Kathy Harkins and Chris Ritter have been working on a special event adapted for our circumstances. Please see the article later in this newsletter.

I attended the semi-monthly meeting of the Contra Costa Inter-Branch Council (CCIBC) on May 26, again a virtual meeting. I have been the Secretary for the IBC for the past year. All of the branches are struggling with similar issues as our DAW branch. In many cases their situations are more stressful, as they are smaller branches. We are discussing how to continue meetings in the fall, how to continue our education and advocacy efforts, and how to support our members. We shared ideas for how to celebrate our selected 2020 Tech Trek girls. Our Tech Trek chairs Monika Witte and Dianne Tinnes have been active and effective leaders in a very difficult year.

Remember do check out 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/>


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





Deborah Wechsler

AAUW Five Star Program – Progress Updated May 2020



At the beginning (August) of this 2019-2020 year our DAW Board held a strategy meeting to plan our upcoming year. We agreed that we would try to tailor our programs, initiatives and advocacy with the Focus Areas supporting the Mission of AAUW National. Branches that do this can track their progress and be recognized by the 5 Star Achievement Program. I am incredibly pleased to report that we have attained 3 stars this year.




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

Focus Area	Goals Confirmed	Review Goals Submit Updates
Programs		Go To Programs
Advancement	 C	Go To Advancement
Communications & External Relations		
Public Policy & Research		
Governance & Sustainability		

We are being recognized by National AAUW for our achievements in an upcoming communication. Our achievement badge leads off this article and is posted on our website. ***Congratulations everyone and thanks for such a great year.***

You can see the goals for each focus area in the chart below. I have highlighted green the goals that we have achieved. To find out more about the program visit <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/initiatives/5-star-program/>

Area of Focus	Branches
Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host 3-5 strategic plan- related programs (e.g., Forum on economic security, Work Smart Online Training Day, Operation Equity: Reading for Results participation, panel on women and leadership) in FY20 (this is still being verified by National) • Representative(s) from the branch complete the community resource mapping exercise.
Advancement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$30 per capita (member) gift raised for greatest needs. Shift focus in branch giving from fellowships and grants/LAF to greatest needs or strategic plan focus areas by 50%. • Retain 90% or more of your branch membership and submit annual dues by September 30. • Increase the Legacy Circle Members in your state by 10%.

<p>Communications & External Relations</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All existing websites and social media presences include an Economic Security Focus and Work Smart Online. • (Note: Monthly posts are required for social media; Work Smart Online must be included on the website home page.) Work Smart Program publicized in monthly Advocate newsletter
<p>Public Policy & Research</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct an annual meeting with U.S. representative(s) and/or state legislators around a strategic plan area of focus. • Ensure a branch public policy chair is appointed who collaborates with the state public policy chair. • Host at least one public event where Action Network sign-ups are collected.
<p>Governance & Sustainability</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Align planning with state and AAUW national strategic plans. Check our DAW-AAUW website to see how we are doing this. https://daw-ca.aauw.net/members/members-information/ • Branch board institutes a succession plan to ensure new ideas and perspectives are included in the future leadership. Chris Ritter and Deb Wechsler will be reviewing the succession plan processes at the May Board meeting.

AAUW Garden Walk 2020 is Happening

**Friday & Saturday, July 17-18, 2020,
10:00am – 4:00pm**

A New Garden Tour Format for a New Situation

After lots of investigation and consideration for the safety of our members as well as guests, we have determined that we will be able to move forward with our annual garden tour fundraising event this year on July 17 and 18. The event is fully outdoors, we will implement social distancing and mask-wearing for everyone, and we will keep current on the local Contra Count health department guidelines to ensure we operate with full compliance. We hope this event will be a welcome “breath of fresh air” for all of us who have been indoors for so long.

Below is the material we will post on our web site to explain the event and to encourage people to attend.

AAUW Joy of Nature Garden Walk 2020

Due to COVID-19, we have postponed our annual Garden Tour from May to July 17-18. We used the time to reconfigure our tour to be compliant with current COVID-19 guidelines and we are now pleased to invite you to our Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek AAUW Joy of Nature Garden Walk 2020!



This year's AAUW Garden Walk 2020 marks the twenty-year anniversary of our annual garden tour events. Five homeowners in Danville and Alamo are opening their spectacular private gardens for us to stroll through and enjoy at our leisure.

We offer two ways to experience these beautiful spaces:

1. Join us in-person for a self-guided walk (with appropriate social distancing and mask-wearing)
2. Enjoy the natural beauty from home through our on-line Garden Walk 2020 highlights video.

The Garden Walk is a tax-deductible fundraiser with proceeds dedicated to fund these scholarships through the AAUW CA Special Projects Fund, a 501(c)(3) fund, Tax ID 68-043071. Our branch has provided over \$93,000 in scholarships over the last eight years to help local college women complete their degree programs.

Your suggested donation of \$35.00 per person is fully tax deductible.

How Can You Participate?

First, you can volunteer as a docent. Important considerations have been incorporated into our plans to address possible risks, including availability of hand sanitizer, fewer docents and guests at each home at one time, directional arrows, plant ID stakes and one-way travel. Masks and social distancing will be enforced. Docents will be provided with a KN95 mask if desired. If you have already volunteered to be a docent, your head docent will contact you to confirm the new date and answer questions. If you would like to volunteer, contact Kathy Harkins at kdharkins@att.net.

Second, we all need to help promote donations to this event. The Garden Walk 2020 will be our main fundraiser this year for local scholarships so we need to make the most of this opportunity. One thing we all can do is encourage our friends and family to donate to this important cause. We offer our

friends a selection of an in-person experience as well as a virtual highlights tour so everyone can take part in the ways they prefer.

Please Help Distribute Invitations and Flyers

Here is our promotional flyer, which you can download and send to your friends, post on your FaceBook, Nextdoor and other social media accounts. If you have connections at a local publication or if you know a business that is open and would display a poster, please contact Chris Ritter at ChristineNRitter@gmail.com for a 11 X 14 poster.



Scholarships

Many thanks to the scholarship committee for reading and evaluating all the applications. After two Zoom meetings and many emails, we selected seven recipients. Some in the committee felt very strongly we should help more students rather than give a larger amount to two or three students.

All applicants were outstanding with many in STEM fields. Most will be third year students at their university.

Elizabeth Vojvoda, Danville, will be a third-year student at Cal Poly majoring in Biochemistry. After participating in several research groups, she has decided to go to medical school rather than aim for a PHD in Biochemistry. She will also be the recipient of the Jane Trittipio Memorial Scholarship since she will be pursuing a medical career.

Sara Steingraf, Danville, attends Boise State University with a goal of teaching in elementary or special education. She wants to become a mentor teacher.

Alexandra McCabe, Danville, is majoring in Biomedical Engineering at Cal Poly. She has participated in some projects to develop medical devices to improve patient's lives and wants to increase the quality of life for patients with disabilities.

Kaanan Goradia, San Ramon, is currently pursuing a BS in Biological Sciences at UC Davis where she will be a senior Fall 2020. She was a part of Project Lead The Way Biomedical Sciences at Cal High School in San Ramon which sparked her interest in the medical field. After graduation she will be applying to graduate programs in physical therapy.

Socoro Tamayo-Perez, Walnut Creek, will be transferring to CSU San Jose to major in Sociology and ultimately build on her experience as a program coordinator at the Monument Crisis Center to uplift under privileged communities.

Sienna McDonald, Danville, attended an AAUW Tech Trek camp at Stanford in 7th grade which sparked her interest in marine biology. After earning her BS in Biology at Brigham Young University she will be attending UC Davis Veterinary School this fall. She wants to specialize in wildlife medicine.

Christina Adams, Danville, will be a senior at Cal Poly in the fall majoring in Industrial Engineering. She has interned each summer while in college and aspires to work on artificial intelligence and augmented reality projects after graduation.

Public Policy Update

The legislature is back in session in Sacramento. Recently two bills have been introduced in the California State Legislature proposing to create a presumption of compensability for COVID-19 illness. Governor Newsom is also said to be considering an executive order creating a conclusive presumption of a compensable industrial injury for all essential workers who contract COVID-19.

Many essential workers are women, and many nurses may have inadequate health insurance.

Senate Bill 1159 would, until an unspecified date, define ‘injury’ for a critical worker to include illness or death that results from exposure to coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) under specified circumstances. Lawmakers are considering including within the definition of “critical worker” those employees in the public sector and private sector who are “employed to combat the spread of COVID-19.”

Assembly Bill 664: Health care employees such as nurses, aides predominantly women, are those that provide direct patient care in an acute care hospital. The proposed statute provides for reimbursement of personal protective equipment, reasonable living expenses, temporary housing costs, medical treatment, death benefits and disability indemnity.

The State Compensation Insurance Fund will accept any claim by an essential worker for COVID-19 if they are able to prove they tested positive for the disease. Both bills expire in three years.

Teacher test – C-BEST

Assembly Bill 1982 would exempt teacher candidates from the basic skills test if they earn a grade of B or better in coursework and tests approved by a university teacher preparation program.

Assembly Bill 2485 would allow candidates for single- or multiple-subject credentials the option to use college courses in subjects related to the credential they are seeking — instead of taking the California Subject Examinations for Teachers — to prove they are competent to teach a subject

Charter schools

Assembly Bill 2990, authored by Assemblywoman Cristina Garcia (D-Bell Gardens), would bar charter schools from offering ‘financial incentives’ to students, prospective students, or parents of students for using an enrichment activity and would generate a list of approved enrichment program vendors. In addition, AB 2990 would bar any enrichment activities of a religious nature, stop schools from allocating a set amount of money to parents each year for such activities, and stop any enrichment funding to go to private schools. Teacher approval for activities would also be incorporated into the enrichment program process, with vendor contracts above \$92,600 needing school board approval. In addition, random checks on vendors and the programs they offer would be conducted.

The bill was created in response to charter schools, specifically home-schooled charters, spending money on vendors with enrichment programs that included Disneyland and ski passes, along with tourism programs as far away as Chicago. Private education was also often offered alongside more traditional enrichment activities such as museum trips and career centers. Some charter schools under religious programs also reportedly spent money on religious enrichment expenditures. Enrichment funding per student was also as high as \$3,200 per year.

Governor Gavin Newsom has been holding a noontime briefing each day. Tune in to KQED88.5 FM for this daily briefing.

Stay well, healthy, safe, and engaged.

Asha Bajaj, Public Policy Chair

50th Membership Anniversaries

We've enjoyed noting a couple of 50th Membership Anniversaries lately—Roseann Krane and Mary Ellen Brown. At our Zoom Installation on June 22, we will have our third 50th membership anniversary with AAUW—Fran Crisman.

She shared her story in a phone interview. Growing up in New York City, she attended the University of Pennsylvania, Pittsburg, earning her undergraduate degree in Psychology and, later, earned her MA in Counseling, from Idaho State University.

She joined AAUW in Idaho Falls, Idaho in 1970. She was keenly aware of Equal Rights and the need to support it. Membership 'back then' made membership a statement for women, as it still does today. In 1980 her family moved to Danville, where she became active in the Gourmet and Stock Group. She has also participated as a docent in our Garden and Holiday Tours.

In her last professional position, she worked for many years with Dignity Health, covering 41 hospitals in California, Arizona and Nevada.

Congratulations Fran. Thank you for your continued support of AAUW.

Marsha J Anderson Landau, Membership VP

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/>

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).

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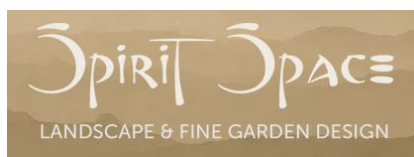
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**AAUW DAW members are marked with an asterisk*

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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