



Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek (CA)



The Advocate, July 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 (x 2)

Our Past President

We have wrapped up a very eventful 2019-20 year for DAW. Starting with our Membership Brunch and then the grand celebration of our Branch Golden Anniversary 50th year, we proceeded with some great programs that were aligned with the strategies of AAUW, focusing on Education, Pay Equity, and Leadership for women and girls. This earned us recognition in the National 5-Star program. And then... Well everything changed as we all are aware.

I hope you were able to attend our virtual Installation and Member Appreciation event on June 22. We highlighted our Local Scholarship recipients and member recognitions. If you were unable to attend you can access the video by clicking on this link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ADltOgcUowKo887pS6G4P2KIRFDHHB0A/view?usp=sharing>

I am proud of our branch accomplishments these past two years and am delighted that we have a strong leadership team in place for the next term, led by President Chris Ritter. It will be a challenging term because AAUW at all levels, National, State, and Local, is actively adjusting our strategies and goals to align with current political and health realities. But Chris and her Board are already at work on developing the plans for next year. I am confident that our DAW branch, with engagement of our members, can be a positive force for change.

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

Deborah Wechsler, DAW AAUW President 19-20

Our Incoming President

Wow! We have our challenges before us this year to move our mission forward and stay connected to each other, all while staying safe. How can we re-imagine our fundraising in the world of social distancing? How can we build and maintain our social relationships and pursue our interests and hobbies while protecting our health? How can we influence public policy without in-person visits?

Fortunately, we are all educated and clever women who realize that adversity also holds wonderful opportunities to create new and exciting ways to accomplish our goals. We have already re-shaped our annual Garden Tour to accommodate social distancing for in-person visitors and also include an option for those who want to participate from home via the highlights video tour. Many of us have become regular users of Zoom and other video meeting applications that add a more personal level to group chats and meetings. We held our first virtual branch Member Appreciation and Board of Directors installation event on June 22. Many of our Interest Groups and committees have embraced video conferencing to continue their work. And, our national AAUW has launched weekly



webinars so we can stay current with our progress in achieving our mission of equity for women.

Your incoming Board of Directors is already working to help us succeed this year in our critical areas of mission actions and social bonding. We ask you help us create a strong solid foundation for planning by answering the survey you will receive mid-July. Armed with your voices, we can do our best to devise actions and programs that we will all be excited to join in the coming year.

As always, if you feel called to join the planning efforts, have a great idea, or want to lead an activity, please let me know. We need all of your creative minds at work to capture the opportunities of our times.

Wishing you all a safe and cheerful July boosted by the Joy of Nature AAUW Garden Walk 2020.

Chris Ritter, DAW AAUW President 20-21

Thank You Deborah Wechsler

June 30 marks the last day of a wonderful two years in DAW AAUW under the capable leadership of Deborah Wechsler. Throughout her terms, she worked tirelessly to make sure our branch strategies were planned and that members were on board to support our events, fundraising and advocacy efforts. Among other things, Deborah enabled us to host our beautiful and memorable celebration for our 50th Anniversary and led our Board of Directors through the decisions and course corrections needed to execute our wide variety of events, programs and activities. Her level-headed and conscientious leadership gave an excellent structure for governance, insured that all voices were heard and kept us focused on our mission. Deborah has generously agreed to continue to lend her expertise to our branch in the coming year to develop our Leadership Succession Plan.



Cheers to you, Deborah, with our sincere thanks for a great two years at DAW AAUW.

Join the AAUW Garden Walk 2020

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 County health department guidelines to insure 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.



*Joy of Nature
Garden Walk 2020*

*Friday, July 17 and Saturday, July 18
10 am to 4 pm*

Celebrate outdoor beauty with a leisurely self-guided stroll through five spectacular private gardens!

- \$35.00 per person suggested tax-deductible donation
- Proceeds support college scholarships for local women through AAUW CA SPF, a 501(c)(3) fund, Tax ID 68-0463071
- Social distancing and masks required for in-person walk
- Children must be over 12. No pets.
- Includes on-line link to walk highlights for stay-at-home participants

Sign up online to refresh your spirit *and* support women's education at <https://daw-ca.aauw.net/>
or register in person at East Bay Flower Company in the Danville Livery

American Association of University Women
Danville Alamo Walnut Creek Branch

Thank you for your donation. If changes in COVID guidelines require us to cancel the in-person walk, please enjoy the on-line option.



We also want to express our gratitude to RE/Max Accord, our sponsor for this event. For any real estate needs, visit <http://www.remaxaccord.com/> Please support our sponsor!



AAUW Joy of Nature Garden Walk 2020 – Web Information

<https://daw-ca.aauw.net/garden/>

Due to COVID-19, we have postponed our annual Garden Tour from May to July 17-18. We used the time to reconfigure our event to be compliant with current COVID-19 guidelines.



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 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 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 in the Garden Walk 2020?

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.

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

Please Help Distribute Invitations and Flyers

Please help get the word out to your friends and contacts:

- Forward the email invitation sent to you on June 15 at 10:59 PM from daw.aauw@gmail.com.
- Use this link to download the flyer in jpg format from our Google Drive and post it to your FaceBook, NextDoor or other social media account. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KkPYNxRf5yksi7quL-flgBVPZhyVJewN/view?usp=sharing>
- If you have connections at a local publication or if you know a business that is open and would promote our event, please contact Chris Ritter for a 11 X 14 poster.

Special Garden Walk 2020 Contributions

This year's Garden Walk features two special elements offered by our generous members.

A special thank you to Mary Mix for creating a beautiful quilt (pictured at the right) for us to raffle on Saturday afternoon. Proceeds from the raffle will fund our Creative Endeavors Local Scholarship. Contact Tena Gallagher to purchase tickets for \$5 each or \$20 for 5 tickets.

Another special thanks to Linda Reeve and Sharon Burke, two of our own DAW AAUW members who are opening their gardens for our tour! We look forward to enjoying your outdoor creations in landscape design.



By Kathy Harkins and Chris Ritter

Public Policy Update

The following is a statement from AAUW CEO Kimberly Churches:

AAUW joins the country in mourning the losses of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and countless other people of color who have been unjustly killed across our nation. Our country needs healing. But healing will only come with justice. As an organization we condemn racism.

Systemic racism is firmly rooted in the U.S. and today's injustices mirror our shameful history — from police brutality to the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on communities of color. There can be no justice or equality when Black and Brown communities are seen as less deserving of basic human and civil rights.

On behalf of our 170,000 members and supporters, we commit to fighting for justice, long-term and lasting change, and we stand in solidarity against racism. We also acknowledge that as an organization we have our own work to do. And, as a member of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, we will work to advance the policies and systemic changes identified in the New Era of Public Safety: A Guide to Fair, Safe, and Effective Community Policing and Vision for Justice Platform.

Please also consult these resources:

The Voter Access & Education webinar information and recording can be found here (<https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/get-involved-in-elections/>)

Both this week and last week, we have included an updated call to support the Voting Rights Advancement Act (<https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/voting-rights/?emci=d594b1fb-e99f-ea11-86e9-00155d03b5dd&emdi=9073674f-1aa0-ea11-86e9-00155d03b5dd&ceid=932324>)

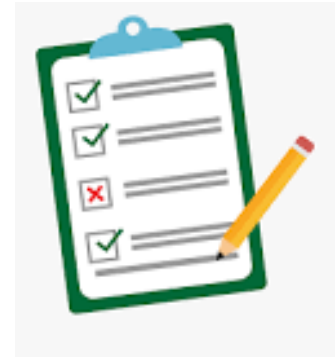
AAUW's recent statement against racism (<https://www.aauw.org/resources/news/media/press-releases/aauw-stands-against-racism/?emci=d1852de1-59a4-ea11-9b05-00155d03b5dd&emdi=9cf6722b-9aa5-ea11-9b05-00155d0394bb&ceid=980183>)

California update: The Assembly Appropriations Committee, partially swayed by the recent death of Floyd George and subsequent nationwide protests, passed two bills that could possibly bring back affirmative action to California and may institute slavery reparations for African Americans.

ACA 5 and AB 3121: Assembly Constitutional Amendment 5, written by Assemblywoman Dr. Shirley Weber (D-San Diego) and Assemblyman Mike Gipson (D-Carson) would overturn Proposition 209, which ended affirmative action policies in California in 1996. Affirmative action, which factors in race and gender for public university admissions and state employment, has not been challenged in California since 2014. Assembly Bill 3121, also written by Assemblywoman Weber, set up a Task Force to compile documentation of the institution of slavery in the United States and then issue recommendations on reparations. Reparations to African Americans in California, if accepted, would most likely come in the form of cash.

Member Survey Coming – Make Your Voice Heard

Your new board is looking forward to meeting this summer to plan our branch activities for next year. One of the major inputs to our session will be your responses to our AAUW DAW Member 2020 Survey that you will receive after the Garden Walk in July.



The member survey asks your opinions on prioritizing our fundraising, educational and advocacy efforts. It also includes important sections asking which branch activities are most important to you and asks for input on how you prefer to participate. We encourage every member to contribute your voice to create an accurate view of member priorities and preferences.

The survey will be sent via email with an easy response link. It should take no longer than 5 minutes to reply so we hope you will find time to respond within a week after receiving it. If you have any questions or need help responding, please call Marsha Anderson-Landau or me. We are also happy to send you a paper survey upon request.

Thank you in advance for helping your board do the best job we can for you.
Chris Ritter, President

50+ Year Members

Deborah Wechsler did some “investigating” and discovered that we have a number of members who have belonged to AAUW for 50 or more years. Here’s the list of our long-standing members.

Carole Allen
Janis Balaban
Arlene Barnett
Mary Ellen Brown
Joyce Briggs
Eileen Clouser

Frances Crisman
Susan Devoe
Phyllis Duggan
Judith Finch
Mavis Hoffman
Mary Ann Hruska

Mary Knox
Roseann Krane
Barbara Nexsen
Gwendolyn Regalia
Joan Reynolds
Diana Sanderson-Mori

Dues

Forty-year member, Judy Anderson, won the AAUW national membership fee worth \$59. She was one of 150 members who paid their dues before our branch member appreciation zoom meeting on Monday, June 22. If you haven't paid your dues, they are due before July 1. Please contact Tena Gallagher if you have questions.

Office Depot/Office Max

AAUW members can save up to 80% on over 93,000 products at Office Depot/OfficeMax. Great for your printing, cleaning and office needs. Shop online or in any Office Depot or OfficeMax store. Enjoy free next-day

delivery on online orders over \$50. If you go to <https://officediscounts.org/aauw/>, you can print a free Store Purchasing Card.

Tena Gallagher notes that this is one of the best perks. She had 100 double sided white paper Garden Guides printed with one side colored. Without the discount and before taxes, her bill would have been \$84. With the discount, it was \$36 before taxes. To view all the perks AAUW offers, see <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/why-join/discounts-and-perks/>

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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snix@gagenmccoy.com



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Everyone Deserves a Bra that Fits
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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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