



Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek (CA)



## The Advocate, November 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](mailto: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).**

**Seeking an Advocate Editor:** If you are interested in taking the position, please contact Christine Ritter. I'm happy to answer questions about the position if you're considering it.

### In This Month's Issue

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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



With the election looming, I hope we are all making our voices heard at the ballot box.

Last month, our extremely successful “[California 2020 Ballot Initiatives: Pros and Cons](#)” program enabled us to reach over 130 individuals from our local AAUW branches and the public. I am encouraged by these early results of our community outreach.

Our Fall virtual [Membership Brunch](#) was attended by 42 of our current members. During the program, we welcomed 23 new members to our group. We all enjoyed an inspiring presentation by one of our AAUW national FUND Fellows, Araceli González, followed by branch leaders sharing our plans for the year and the members approving our budget.

We also held our first “[Wine, Chat and Board Update Party](#)” where 17 of us shared our personal histories and connections with AAUW, and chatted about our current branch activities. The party is a fun way to stay in touch with our AAUW friends.

Next up is our November Program, “[Embracing Life Online](#)”, led by two Social Media entrepreneurs who will help us understand the what, how and whys of the common applications so we can use them to our advantage.

### To Do's for November

- Join Embracing Life Online program Nov 10, 6:30P
- Place your Triple-Win FUNDraiser Nov 19 dinner order
- Join the Wine Chat and Board Party Nov 19 at 7:00P- this month it's dessert and coffee after our Triple-Win dinner.
- Save the date Dec 3 for Healthy Holidays Celebration 5:00 PM

## BREAKING NEWS!

Our fundraising team came up with a wonderful new idea to enjoy a delicious meal, support AAUW FUND and support our local businesses—the **Triple-Win FUNDraiser, November 19.**

For your donation, you will receive a wonderful three-course meal from Montecatini restaurant delivered to your door. Our Wine Chat and Board Zoom Party that evening will follow at 7:00 pm so we can enjoy dessert and socializing after our dinners. Check out the details in the Triple-Win FUNDraiser article.

Please enjoy the updates in this Advocate edition from our wonderful program leaders. If you are interested in joining any of the teams, please contact the Chair and you will be welcomed.

I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

Christine Ritter, President 2020-21

## A TRIPLE WIN!!!

**Enjoy a delicious meal delivered to your door**  
**Support AAUW Funds – Equity for Women and Girls**  
**Support a local business that sponsors and supports our organization**

Your Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek Branch of AAUW has partnered with award-winning Walnut Creek [Montecatini Ristorante](#) to provide you with this fun, delicious, and community-service-filled opportunity. How it works:

- 1) You order a wonderful 3-course meal from **Montecatini Ristorante**
- 2) A DAW Branch member delivers the meal to your home
- 3) Enjoy dinner, and then join us at 7:00 pm for Wine and Dessert and a social chat/Board update

**NOVEMBER 19: orders delivered between 4:30-6pm**

Cost per meal \$49, of which \$19 is a tax-deductible donation.

**You must place your order by 8PM on Sunday, November 15.**

Place your order [HERE https://daw-ca.aauw.net/events/montecatini/](https://daw-ca.aauw.net/events/montecatini/)

### *Three course Dinner Menu:*

1. *Caesar Salad*

2. *Choice of one of the following entrees:*

-*Pollo Alla Piccata with side of pasta and fresh vegetable*

-*Lasagne Casalinga*

-*Panzotti De Formaggio (Vegetarian cheese ravioli)*

3. *Tiramisu Montecatini dessert*

**When you order, please ignore all notices about order and pickup dates. Your meals will be delivered on November 19 by your friendly DAW members!** If you have difficulty ordering, please contact Teresa Cheung (925-366-7433) or Linda Jimerson (925-984-4611).

This is a fundraiser to support the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund. This fund allows AAUW to respond rapidly, in our communications and advocacy, to critical issues affecting women as they emerge — whether it's a new threat to Title IX, an opportunity to partner with employers, or the dawn of a social justice movement like #MeToo. Greatest Needs is also what fuels our research and advocacy work to pass fair-pay laws and other key equity legislation. You should shortly receive your annual Funds donation letter via USPS mail. For more info click [AAUW Fundraising](#)

Montecatini Ristorante has been a long-time supporter of AAUW, donating to our Holiday Home Tours and Garden Tours. The restaurant is owned by Teresa Cheung (a DAW Past President) and her husband and chef Ermes Paulin.





## **Embracing Life Online**

**Tuesday, November 10, 2020**

**6:30 – 8:00 PM**

**Zoom Meeting Link**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86925285889>**

## **Speakers**

**Anna Jameson and Bianca Nash**  
**Social Media Entrepreneurs**

Join your fellow DAW members  
and two of our local social media entrepreneurs  
for a lively discussion  
of how embracing zoom meetings,  
attending virtual events,  
and participating in social media  
can enrich your life.

Whether you are sharing your interests with friends,  
advocating for your favorite cause,  
or reaching out to your children and grandchildren,  
online tools can help you in almost every area of your life.

Even in the pandemic,  
you can attend meetings, socialize with friends,  
and participate in many community activities.

Our speakers will inspire you  
to expand and nourish your digital life.

## What's New on Social Media?

We have an active Twitter account. Please find us at <https://twitter.com/danvillealamowc>

Make sure to “follow” us on Twitter. To help us to grow our list of followers, remember to “like” our tweets, and “retweet” the tweets so your followers can find us and learn about our activities.

Let me know if you have any questions or need assistance with any of the following.

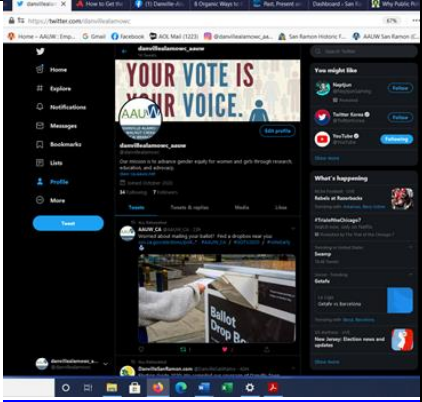
Our social media palette is complete:

Facebook  
<https://www.facebook.com/DanvilleAlamoWalnutCreekAauw>

Instagram  
[https://www.instagram.com/danvillealamowc\\_aauw/](https://www.instagram.com/danvillealamowc_aauw/)

Twitter  
<https://twitter.com/danvillealamowc>

YouTube  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiRK5pe76qBZ37Rv9onLz9A>

A screenshot of a social media dashboard, likely from a browser. The main content area shows a tweet with a large graphic that says "YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE." and a video thumbnail with the text "Ballot Drop B...". The dashboard includes navigation tabs like Home, Explore, Messages, and a sidebar with various social media icons and settings.

Remember to join us on November 10 for our **Embracing Life Online** program. If there is one thing that this pandemic has taught us is that technology can help us stay connected.

Isabel Lau  
Social Media Manager

## Funds Solicitation

It's almost that time of the year again. No, not Thanksgiving. Can you guess? Yes, it's Funds Solicitation letter time. Your donation is very important and truly does make an impact on women and girls' lives.

Since 1881 AAUW has been empowering women both as individuals and as a community. We have worked together as a national grassroots organization to improve the lives of millions of women and their families for more than 130 years.

At this time AAUW is facing a large shortage. Please consider making your donations to the Greatest Needs Fund. These funds are unrestricted and may be used where most needed. Look for your letter coming soon for more information.

Liz Williams and Robin Halloran  
Funds Co-VPs

## Tech Trek Will Not Go Dark in 2021

AAUW California has cancelled all in-person Tech Trek camps in 2021, with the safety and well-being of branch members and campers being the primary focus. But extensive planning is underway at the state level for a virtual camp experience. The process for nominating girls through their math and science teachers will continue, and the selection process will be similar. California Tech Trek is preparing what we hope will be an educational, stimulating, and fun five-day STEM experience for our rising middle school girls. I am serving as the interim Tech Trek Chair and I will be recruiting interview teams in January. Please contact me with any questions.

Deborah Wechsler

## California 2020 Ballot Initiatives: Pros and Cons Program Report

The first Branch educational Zoom program was on the evening of October 6, when the League of Women Voters shared information and resources about the California measures on the November ballot.

The session was attended by over 130 participants from DAW AAUW, neighboring local AAUW branches, and the public. Bette Felton and Carole Woods presented summaries of all twelve propositions and provided support and opposition arguments. A question and answer session, via Chat, completed the session.



The presenters highlighted the importance of a League sponsored resource- [Votersedge.org](https://www.votersedge.org)- where anyone can insert their zip code (only) and view their entire ballot, including candidates and measures down to the local level. The presenters highlighted the importance of a League sponsored resource- [Votersedge.org](https://www.votersedge.org)- where anyone can insert their zip code (only) and view their entire ballot, including candidates and measures down to the local level. Support and oppositions can be compared, and the amount of money donated is shown. As usual, AAUW members and friends, asked good questions and were thoughtful about the issues and support behind the propositions.

## Public Policy Update

AAUW co-sponsored the SRVUSD School board debate on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Topics included the reopening of schools, teacher retention, police on campus, and the budget.

The Nov. 3 ballot includes current Board President Greg Marvel, local business owner Shelley Clark and SRVUSD parent Priscilla Graft (Trustee Area 2, central and eastern Danville), and community volunteer Laura Bratt, project manager Kumar Nallusamy, and San Ramon Valley Education Foundation board member Scott Roberts (Trustee Area 3, Dougherty Valley). The candidates debated a range of issues including managing the COVID-19 crisis, social justice reform, and teacher retention.

**Safe re-opening of Schools:** All candidates would like students to return to class as soon as it is safe.

**Promotion of diversity:** Candidates agreed that the promotion of diversity and inclusion should be a top priority, and that the best place to begin addressing anti-racism was in the classroom. Clark said, "That means more education in the areas of ethnic studies in the area of curriculum, anti-racism programs like 'No Place for Hate' and 'Teaching Tolerance'."

**Emotional Learning and Wellness:** Bratt advocated for more counselors to help students with emotional learning and wellness. Clark advocated for social and emotional learning among students in small groups, promoting "Breaking Down the Walls," a program which encourages students share their lives and experiences with one another.

**Police on campus:** Marvel said that school resource officers' goal was to make students feel safe, but newcomer Bratt argued that some students feel more afraid when they see police officers and called for understanding and more inclusivity for all students.

**Teacher Retention:** Some candidates thought that the district had not done enough to meet the needs of teachers. "Our students are our future leaders and our teachers are our heroes," first-time candidate Nallusamy said, adding that negotiation is the key to good relations with teachers. Nallusamy advocated for increased transparency and communication among district staff as a way to improve teacher retention. He would also ask teachers for the top five things that could be implemented now.

**Budget:** The SRVUSD is the second-lowest funded school district per pupil in California. Candidates spoke strongly in favor of seeking other sources of revenue due to the budget deficit anticipated from declining enrollment and the financial crisis from the pandemic. Candidates had divergent views on a bond, which would be an extra burden on parents at the time of COVID.

**National:** The confirmation of Amy Coney Barrett is anticipated. The Supreme Court faces cases on the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) and Roe vs Wade. Meanwhile, election fever has gripped the nation and early voter turnout has been in larger numbers than before.

Asha Bajaj, Public Policy chair

## DAW Interest Groups

Due to the pandemic, many groups are on hiatus. Please see our updated web site for the complete list of Interest Groups, Leaders and their status with respect to meeting while staying socially distant. Here is the link: <https://daw-ca.aauw.net/about/contact/section/>.

(Contact information for Interest Group Leaders can be found in the Membership Directory)

### PLEASE NOTE

The [Great Decisions Group](#) is in search of a leader or two to conduct this year's sessions via Zoom. We can make a zoom account available and we can help with the set-up if someone wants to take the lead. This is a wonderful program so please consider acting as facilitator. Please contact Chris Ritter if you are interested.

| Group Name   | Status                               | Leader Name(s)                          | Meeting Day                            | Time                              |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| <a href="#"><u>Art and Garden</u></a>                      | On COVID hiatus                      | Jacque Schubert                         | Wednesdays<br>or Fridays               | Varies                            |
| <a href="#"><u>Beads2Jewelry</u></a>                       | On COVID hiatus                      | Maureen Mapes<br>& Dianne<br>Giacovelli | 1st Thursday                           | 1:00 PM                           |
| <a href="#"><u>Bridge: Daytime Party</u></a> (WL)          | on COVID hiatus                      | Angela Domer                            | 3rd Monday                             | 10:00 AM                          |
| <a href="#"><u>Bridge: Duplicate</u></a> (WL)              | on COVID hiatus                      | Lola Rohrs                              | 4th Monday                             | 10:00 AM                          |
| <a href="#"><u>Bridge: Evening</u></a> (WL)                | Trying Trickster on-line bridge      | Arlene Barnett                          | 2nd<br>Wednesday                       | 7:30 PM                           |
| <a href="#"><u>Gourmet: Adventurous Chefs</u></a> (WL)     | Socially Distanced outdoor BYO lunch | Sherry Wilcoxson                        | 1st Friday                             | 11:30 AM                          |
| <a href="#"><u>Gourmet: Culinary Navigators</u></a>        | on COVID hiatus                      | Sandy Killoran &<br>Marilyn Steichen    | 1st Saturday                           | 6:30 PM                           |
| <a href="#"><u>Gourmet: Epicureans</u></a>                 | on COVID hiatus                      | Elizabeth<br>Williams                   | 3rd Saturday                           | 6:00 PM                           |
| <a href="#"><u>Great Decisions</u></a> Daytime and Evening | Start early next year                | Mary Granzotto<br>& Mary Ellen<br>Blake | Weekly for<br>eight weeks<br>(Jan-Mar) | Mon 7:30<br>PM<br>Tues 1:30<br>PM |



|   |   |                             |                     |              |
|---|---|-----------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| <b><u>Hiking</u></b>                              | on COVID hiatus                         | Joanne Quijano              | Monthly             | Varies       |
| <b><u>Literature: Contemporary Books</u></b> (WL) | on COVID hiatus                         | Diane Stangel               | 4th Wednesday       | 9:30 AM      |
| <b><u>Literature: Daytime</u></b>                 | Conference call meetings                | Laurie Ehrlich              | 4th Thursday        | 9:30 AM      |
| <b><u>Literature: Evening</u></b>                 | Zoom meetings                           | Linda Jimerson              | 4th Tuesday         | 7:30 PM      |
| <b><u>Literature: Novel Ideas</u></b> (WL)        | Zoom meetings                           | Kathy Harkins               | 3rd Tuesday         | 1:00PM       |
| <b><u>Mah Jongg</u></b> 1 (WL)                    | on hiatus                               | Paula Weintraub             | Monday Weekly       | 10:00 AM     |
| <b><u>Mah Jongg</u></b> 2 (WL)                    | Some playing online                     | Paula Weintraub             | Tuesday Weekly      | 10:00 AM     |
| <b><u>Movies: Cinema 1</u></b>                    | waiting for new movies/considering Zoom | Pat McElderry               | 2nd Friday          | 7:30 PM      |
| <b><u>Movies: First Friday Film</u></b> (WL)      | Zoom meetings on Netflix movies         | Kathy Harkins               | Alternating Fridays | 7:00 PM      |
| <b><u>Movies &amp; Lunch</u></b>                  | on COVID hiatus                         | Mary Twist                  | 2nd Tuesday         | 11:30 AM     |
| <b><u>Movies: Oscars</u></b> (WL)                 | on COVID hiatus                         | Mary Mix                    | 2nd Friday          | 7:30 PM      |
| <b><u>Movies: Third Friday Film</u></b> (WL)      | on COVID hiatus                         | Kath Clayton                | 3rd Friday          | 7:00 PM      |
| <b><u>Needle Arts</u></b>                         | On COVID hiatus                         | Sandy Killoran, Holly Sauer | 2nd Monday          | 1:30-3:30 PM |
| <b><u>Writers</u></b>                             | on break until fall 2020                | Kathy Gage                  | 2nd Tuesday         | 1:00-3:00 PM |

**(WL) = Wait Listed**

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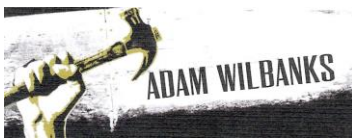
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<https://www.revelationinfit.com/>

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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, 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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