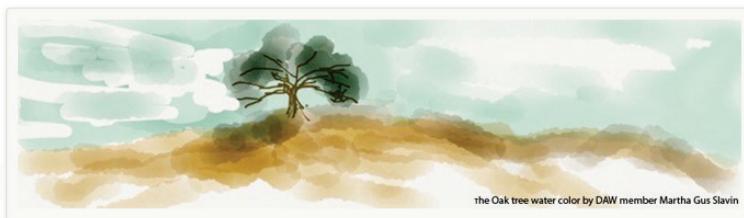




Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek (CA)



The Advocate, January 2021

Online at <https://daw-ca.aauw.net/newsletter/>

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From the President



Welcome to the New Year! I know I am happy to see the dawn of new hope for the vaccine as our path to returning to lunch dates, coffee together, and eventually even attending a group event. We will, of course, move very cautiously as an AAUW group by continuing our meetings and events virtually until our health officials advise us it is safe to meet.

Meanwhile, if you haven't joined our virtual Zoom events, I encourage you to try out our next [Wine, Chat and Board Update Party](#) on January 21 from 5:00 to 6:00 pm. If you need help getting started, see [Tips for Those New to Zoom](#). If you want to practice or need a one-on-one helper, drop our webmaster Teresa Cheung an email via our [web contact page](#) and she will set you up with a Zoom pal. Virtual meetings can be a lot of fun and help us keep in touch with our friends and moving forward in our lives.

Speaking of moving forward, we have learned that Tech Trek is going virtual this summer. Deborah Wechsler shares the plan for Tech Trek in her article in this issue. We are looking for lots of volunteers to help advise the campers via Zoom. So, here's another reason to become a Zoomer! Please contact Deborah Wechsler if you want to take part in this rewarding effort.

Bette Felton's article reviews our wonderful educational programming so far this year, and announces our next event on January 27, focused on [Race and Racism](#). The program features an experienced workshop leader who will teach us new approaches to doing our part to end racism. Please share the invitation with your friends as this event is open to all.

Advocacy is also back in focus this month; it's time to [register for AAUW CA Advocacy Days](#), which will be held virtually this March. You need to sign up for training meetings by January 8. See the details in the article about the [AAUW CA Public Policy virtual lobby day](#) and join the effort to support representatives in Sacramento who support our agenda.

Here's to 2021 as a year of joy and progress with the help of COVID vaccine! I look forward to seeing you all soon at our next events.

Christine Ritter, President

January 2021 To Do List

- [Register for AAUW CA Virtual Lobby Days](#) by Jan 8
- Attend the [Title IX/Gender Equity Webinar](#) from AAUW CA Jan 11
- Catch up with friends at the [Wine, Chat and Board Update Party](#) Jan 21
- Join the [Race and Racism](#) Program, Jan 27
- Volunteer to help with the [Tech Trek 2021 virtual camp](#) program
- Volunteer to help with [Expanding Your Horizons](#)
- [Run for election](#) to one of three AAUW CA State Board positions
- Save the date, Feb 9, for the [Women in Biological Sciences](#) program.

From the Editor

We welcome your contributions to the Advocate. Send any articles and pictures to Beth Clark, editor, by the 20th of the month prior to the next month's Advocate. Submissions should be in the following format:

- Articles in a .doc or .docx file, or in the body of an email
- Pictures in .jpg format (compressed)

Contact information for people mentioned in the Advocate is in your directory. If you do not have a directory, contact Marsha Anderson Landau.

From the Corresponding Secretary

Pat Gross, our Corresponding Secretary, sends out cards on behalf of our Branch. Let Pat know if you know about any AAUW-DAW member who might appreciate a "Get Well" card, a condolence card after the death of a loved one, or a congratulations card.

From the Treasurer: Where to send expenses and deposits

If you have expense vouchers or deposits, send them to our AAUW P.O. Box 966 in Alamo, 94507 instead of to our Treasurer's home. We can process your transaction more quickly if your paperwork goes to the P.O. box in case the Treasurer is unavailable.

Events in Review

by Bette Felton, Programs VP

DAW had three general interest programs this Fall:

- October's focus was on **Advocacy**. DAW and the Diablo Valley League of Women Voters jointly presented **The California Ballot Initiatives-Pros and Cons**, which was a non-partisan look at both sides of the measures. This evening, via Zoom, attracted our first sizeable on-line audience. AAUW members had their ballots on hand to mark up as they heard the arguments.
- November's focus was on **Communication**. On November 10, from 6:30-8, DAW was treated to a presentation by two of our local social media entrepreneurs, Anna Jameson and Bianca Nash. In their presentation, **Embracing Life Online**, Anna and Bianca showed how they work, play, and communicate online with the world. Members also saw our updated DAW website. AAUW members gained a greater appreciation of the possibilities for online communication and how easy digital communication can be.
- December's focus was on **Community**. We had our first **DAW Holiday Party** via Zoom. Kathy Harkins had us playing games and sharing holiday traditions and memories. We spent time in

Zoom breakout rooms (set up by Chris Ritter) so that members could talk in small, intimate, groups. Although a party via Zoom was not as good as meeting in person, this social event met our needs to be in a community, catch up with old friends, and make new friends.

Upcoming Events

Upcoming program January 27: Conversations around race and racism

by Bette Felton, Programs VP

DAW will start 2021 with important studying and reflection on the topic of Anti-Racism. Although many of us thought we had studied race and racism in the 1960s, we are in a different time and space now and we need to learn more about this subject.

Deepening Your Personal Understanding and Consciousness: Race and Racism

Speaker: Dr. Lori A. Watson

Wednesday, January 27, 2021

5:00 – 6:30 PM



We'll be joined on January 27 from 5:00-6:30 by Dr. Lori Watson, who will introduce participants to a foundational approach to the skills of anti-racism. Participants will be guided through personally-reflective exercises and engage in thought-provoking dialogue. We'll examine our own personal beliefs about race and racism; recognize the impact of race in our own lives; and gain a support tool for engaging in challenging conversations about race.

This seminar is intended to introduce participants to the needed skills of anti-racism. Participants will be guided through personally reflective exercises and engage in thought-provoking dialogue, first to examine their own personal beliefs about race and racism; second, to recognize the impact of race in their own lives; and last, to acquire a tool which will support them in engaging in challenging conversations about race. Learn more about the speaker and her work at <https://www.race-work.com/>.

You have already received an email with the Zoom meeting link and buttons for you to RSVP. AAUW members can also get the Zoom link from our Members Only web page at <https://daw-ca.aauw.net/members/members-only/>. Guests are welcome to register at <https://daw-aauw-race-and-racism-program.eventbrite.com/>.

Upcoming program February 9: Two women's journeys to Biological Science Careers

by Bette Felton, Programs VP

February is *STEM month*. We will be joined on February 9, from 5:00-6:30, by Dr Chitra Manohar and her daughter and colleague, Nitya Furtado. This dynamo team of scientists will share and compare their journeys in science, including challenges and opportunities they experienced as they came to biologic science careers. They will also share with us what they hope for Women in Science going forward.

National and California AAUW Reports

Title IX webinar January 11, 2021: Breaking down barriers

Alicia Hetman, Title IX Consultant, titleix@aauw-ca.org

On Monday, January 11, 2021, at 7:00 pm AAUW California will present this important educational webinar for our members to bring Title IX/Gender Equity back to a level where our members are "keeping their eyes on equity." Members will learn all about Title IX and how to exercise their voices to "see something and say something" so that they will become more effective as advocates for protecting our students. Click [HERE](#) to register for the webinar.

The speakers include:

- Kiki Williams, Executive Director of Student Experience and Equity Compliance at San Francisco Unified School District.
- Kim Turner, Senior Staff Attorney for Legal Aid at Work. She works with the gender equity and LGBT rights program.
- Jean Reed, Co-President of Petaluma AAUW Branch. She will discuss the AAUW San Jose Sports Equity Community Project

AAUW California Board of Directors open positions

There are three open positions on the 2021 California Board of Directors. Would you like to become a candidate? Or do you know someone else who might consider it? The open positions on the 2021 AAUW California Board of Directors are.

- President-Elect (one-year term 2021-2022) during the second year of the president's term, followed by a two-year term (2022-2024) as president
- Chief Financial Officer (two-year term 2021-2023)
- Director (two-year term 2021-2023)

Details about these nominations and the election, including dates, are at <https://www.aauw-ca.org/elections-nominations/>. The deadline for nomination submittal is March 15, 2021. If you need more information, contact Deanna Arthur, Charlene Goehring, or Janice Lee at nominating@aauw-ca.org.

AAUW National membership dues increase

Starting Fiscal year 2022, you will be seeing a bump in the amount of your annual dues that goes to AAUW National. The following letter from Julia T. Brown at the National AAUW office describes why AAUW National decided to raise dues. Note that the amount of the dues mentioned in her letter is the amount that goes to the National AAUW office. The total amount of dues that you pay each year also includes another \$20 that goes to AAUW at the state level and \$21 that goes to our branch.

The following letter is from Julia T. Brown:

At its October 16, 2020, meeting, the AAUW Board of Directors voted to increase Individual Member dues for the next three years. The dues will rise by \$3 for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, \$5 for FY 2023 and \$5 for FY 2024, making the total dues amount for those years \$62, \$67 and \$72, respectively. All but \$3 of your annual dues remains tax deductible.

This decision wasn't made lightly. The board members couldn't be more grateful for our members — or prouder of the work you've done this year. We also recognize that all of us are navigating numerous challenges in these uncertain times. However, in order to preserve the viability of this organization we all love, the board needed to take action. Simply put, this measure is essential for AAUW to continue our mission to achieve gender equity.

Most nonprofits adjust their dues annually or every other year to keep pace with inflation and rising expenses. However, due to prudent budgetary management, AAUW has been able to keep its dues flat since July 2018. That means that, by the time the first scheduled increase takes effect, we will have maintained three years of dues stability. Moreover, in recognition of the difficult economy we're in, the board planned for the initial adjustment to be the most modest. Over the course of the year, it works out to be only an additional 25 cents per month—what we hope is a small price to pay for maintaining our important work and community.

Current life members will not be affected by this change. New life memberships acquired after July 1, 2021, will reflect the higher dues' amounts. College and university membership fees will remain unchanged.

Please [reach out to us](#) with any feedback or concerns. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to AAUW and our mission. On behalf of the AAUW Board, we are

grateful for your understanding and look forward to continuing our work together.

Sincerely, Julia T. Brown, Esq. Board Chair

AAUW California Public Policy team virtual lobby day in March

On March 24, 2021, AAUW California in conjunction with its new advocacy firm, MVM Strategy Group, will be conducting a virtual Lobby Day in Sacramento with California legislators. You can participate in this event. Doing so enables you to get involved in the public policy process and help the state Public Policy (PP) Committee advance its legislative goals for 2021-22.

This event also provides a way for you to meet your local legislators and let them know how, through AAUW, you are helping their constituents in your communities. All participants will be given full training in a Zoom webinar on March 22, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. Click [HERE](#) to register for this training webinar “How to Talk to Your Legislators.”

If you are interested in participating in this event, register [HERE](#) no later than January 8, 2021.

Important Dates:

- January 8, 2021 – Last day to register to participate in Lobby Day
- March 22, 2021 – Lobby Day training webinar
- March 24, 2021 – Lobby Day

DAW Branch Reports

2021 Local Scholarships are now available. Help get out the word!

by Dianne Tinnes, Local Scholarship Chair

There are many young women out there who need and deserve our support. Please help us identify them!

Our Local Scholarship application form and process is now up on the DAW website and we are open for business. We are seeking local women who merit our support to help continue their educational journey. Calling all granddaughters, neighborhood friends etc. Please contact any potential applicants you know. Send them to our website for full details: <https://daw-ca.aauw.net/local-scholarships/> Applications are due March 12, 2021. The minimum award is \$1,500. Applicant criteria is as follows:

- Graduated from San Ramon Unified School District or reside here now

- Resided in Walnut Creek during high school or reside there now.
- Entering junior year or higher in the Fall, at an accredited 4-year college
- Above average academic record and be actively involved in the community

Tech Trek STEM Camp goes virtual in 2021—Your chance to help girls in STEM

by Deborah Wechsler, DAW Tech Trek Chair 2020-21

You may have already heard that all Tech Trek in-person camps nation-wide have been cancelled for 2021. California Tech Trek leaders, partnering with the technology company Qualcomm, have created a virtual camp experience based on a pilot in August 2020 with about 40 participants. The camp has a core component of hands-on robotics creation. Three to four 2021 Virtual Camps will be scheduled between mid-June and early August based on camper enrollment (likely dates 6/21-25, 7/12-16, 7/26-30, and/or 8/2-6).

There are many exciting opportunities for your involvement for 2021. Please let me know if you are interested in helping with any of the following:

1. Participate in the interview and selection process, to be done virtually probably beginning in February 2021. Details of how this will happen are being worked out at the CA State level, but it will all be done virtually this year.
2. Help distribute robotics kits to selected girls.
3. Participate as a Build Coach, Social Coach, or Workshop Coach for one or more camps. You will receive training (4-8 hours) and a monetary stipend. Applications for positions will be coming out soon.
4. Help me by joining my advisory team for giving feedback and ideas. I would like to form this team regardless of our branch level of participation in the 2021 Virtual camp

More details about these opportunities and the virtual camp are available on our website <https://daw-ca.aauw.net/programs/techtrek/>. Please contact me with any questions or to volunteer. Realize that you are not binding yourself to a full commitment yet. Not your thing? I encourage you to forward this information to your relatives or friends who might be interested in volunteering to support girls in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math). Thanks in advance for your patience and support of Tech Trek as we continue to navigate this new world.

AAUW California and branch-named gift honorees

by Liz Williams and Robin Halloran, Co-Funds VPs

Each year our branch nominates four members who have gone above and beyond in service to our branch. The nominees should have exceeded the expected contributions for committee or board

positions. Give us examples of how and what your nominee accomplished that went beyond expected service.

Any branch member may nominate and submit for board approval the name of a member for California Gift-Named Honoree.

Any branch member can nominate and submit recommendations to the AAUW Funds Disbursement Committee for Branch Named Gift Honorees. Selected nominations will then be sent to the board for approval.

The deadline for submissions is February 1, 2021. *Please send submissions to Fund Co-VPs Liz Williams and Robin Halloran before February 1, 2021.*

Expanding your Horizons is going virtual

by Judy Lauper, Expanding Your Horizons Chair

Expanding Your Horizons is still taking place on February 20th, but this year it will be virtual. Classes are not totally worked out yet. But right now they are asking our help on these two dates:

- **Saturday, February 13:** Pass out the packets.
- **Saturday, February 20:** Be a monitor in the virtual classroom. You would take roll and monitor the chat questions to let the presenters know. The group will train you beforehand. If you are not afraid of technology, please sign up for this one.

If you are interested in volunteering, email Judy Lauper at jalauper@gmail.com.

Wishing you a better New Year.

Funds Advocacy

by Liz Williams and Robin Halloran, Co-Funds VPs

We hope this article finds everyone happy, healthy, safe and not stir crazy.

Susan Terzoli, Teresa Cheung, and their numerous drivers and helpers put together a wonderful and delicious fundraiser for Funds. The Montecatini event raised \$1,728.60. Donations in our branch name to National totaled \$15,446.00., for a total of \$17,174.60 in donations. We still have until the end of this month to make donations in our branch's name.

As always, our branch members are outstanding in giving of their time and donations. Thank you for your generosity.

Happy Holidays!

DAW Interest Group Happenings

Our branch has a wide variety of Interest Groups. Joining an Interest Group gives you the opportunity to get to know women in the branch who enjoy the same activities as you do. Some Interest Groups are also open to your significant others. Unfortunately, not all the Interest Groups are meeting due to the pandemic. Be sure to check the newsletter each month for updates about whether specific Interest Groups are meeting.

The full list of active and inactive Interest Groups is on our branch website at <https://daw-ca.aauw.net/about/contact/section/>. There you can find details about what each group does, who leads it, and when the group meets. Some Interest Groups are quite popular and have a waiting list. Be sure to add your name to a waiting list if you can't join the group now.

Interest Groups currently meeting

As of January 1, 2021, the following Interest Groups are meeting:

Interest group	Leader to contact
Bridge: Evening	Arlene Barnett
Great Decisions This group will begin meeting on Monday February 1 and Tuesday February 2 (two sessions to choose from). Contact Mary Ellen for details and to sign up. Plans are still being finalized as of the time of the newsletter publication.	Mary Ellen Blake
Literature: Evening	Linda Jimerson
Literature: Novel Ideas **This Interest Group is full.	Kathy Harkins
Mah Jong 2 The Tuesday group is meeting; the Monday group is not	Paula Weintraub
Movies: First Friday Films ** This Interest Group is full. Other movie groups are not meeting.	Kathy Harkins

We are looking forward to the end of the pandemic when all Interest Groups can resume full operation.

Public Policy Corner

by Asha Bajaj, Public Policy Chair

The second stimulus package of 900 billion dollars is headed to the Senate and White House for confirmation. This package includes a \$600 stimulus payment for all taxpayers, \$300 added to unemployment benefits for 11 months, extension of the payroll tax exemption for small business loans, rental assistance, a moratorium on evictions, and extension of the nutrition and food assistance program.

President-elect Joe Biden moves forward in naming his cabinet appointees, just as Mr. Trump continues his challenges through the courts and his followers in the media, and just as we faced another lockdown in California, December through January 6, 2021.

AB-10 re-opening protocols for schools

Democratic legislators led by Assembly member Phil Ting, a San Francisco Democrat, are co-authoring Assembly Bill (AB-10), one of the first bills introduced this legislative session. They say this bill is in response to the fact that many public schools across California are still doing remote learning even though the state allowed them to physically reopen campuses this fall.

If passed by two-thirds of the Legislature and signed by Governor Gavin Newsom, AB-10 would require public schools to plan for transition to in-person learning within 2 weeks after their counties move out of the purple (most restrictive) tier. Local school boards and administrators would still have authority to decide logistics on scheduling and how their schools would transition to in-person learning. But the plan would have to be in place within 2 weeks from moving up from the purple tier. Parents would still be allowed to keep their children in remote learning if they want to. Certificated staff who are medically fragile would be exempt from having to return to campuses in person. AB-10, if passed, would take effect March 1.

Under AB-10, public schools would also have to create more detailed plans for engaging students who are not participating in remote classes. This school year several California students have effectively been shut out of online classes because they lack stable internet access or functioning technology; this despite state and local efforts to close a decades-long digital divide in the state.

AB-14 Internet for All Act of 2021

The pandemic has highlighted the dire need to move quickly on providing access, especially to underserved and underinvested communities, and to act upon the Broadband for All Initiative. Governor Newsom first announced it at the 2019 California Economic Summit in Fresno. With one in eight families in California disconnected and nearly one million school-aged children with no internet connection, the lack of access is creating additional hardships during a time when connectivity is more essential than ever. As the California Dream Index shows, broadband access is less available for Black, Latino and tribal communities in California. “The heartbreaking reality is that 1 in 8 California homes still do not have internet access and communities of color face even higher numbers of students and families who remain disconnected,” said Aguiar-Curry. At the 2020

California Economic Summit on Friday, Dec. 4, Aguiar-Curry introduced Assembly bill 14 (AB-14), the “Internet for All Act of 2021” and announced a partnership working with Senator Lena Gonzalez. This created real momentum for much needed progress.

AB-14 reflects Aguiar-Curry’s steadfast commitment to achieve our state’s digital connectivity goals. It is a product of the knowledge Aguiar-Curry gained through her own bill this year, AB 570 (Aguiar-Curry, the “Internet for All Act of 2020”) and the negotiations between both houses of the State Legislature and the Governor’s administration through the 2020 legislative session.

It’s been wonderful to hear about the introduction of nearly three vaccines that are already being shipped and put it into the arms of our front-line workers. Hopefully by spring of 2021 we will all be vaccinated and be able to put this threat of the Corona virus behind us.

Let’s begin the New Year with renewed hope in the future of our country and the tenets of democracy.

Stay alert! Stay engaged! Stay well!

Technology Corner: Tips for participating in Zoom meetings

by Beth Clark, Advocate Editor

Connecting with others via Zoom meetings has become a way of life for us now. Here are a few tips to enhance your experience.

Tips for using video and audio

Your meeting host specifies that participant video and audio will be off or on when coming into the meeting. If audio and video are set to on and you don’t want them to be, just say no when Zoom asks you as you are joining. You also have control over these functions when you are in the meeting. If, for example, you are having a "bad hair day" or you don’t want your picture showing on a recorded video, just turn your video off and only your name will show. Webinars are a little different; usually the webinar host has set up the meeting for no video and audio except for the speakers. There won’t be any video or audio controls available to you.

Tips for viewing meeting attendees

Gallery view shows your fellow meeting participants spread across the whole screen. The number you can see depends on your device; on Windows there can be up to 49 participants on a single screen. Speaker view puts the person speaking in a large window and other participants will be small, in a ribbon. Gallery view is good when you want to have a conversation between participants. Speaker view is good when you have someone giving a program. The way to change the view is different on different devices. On a PC the View choice list is in the upper right corner. On tablets you swipe to get the view options. You can search on Google for the method for your device.

Tips for looking your best when you're on the Zoom call

It makes a difference where you are located in relation to the camera on your device.

- Don't sit with your back to a window or your background will be washed out and you will appear as a silhouette. Facing a window gives you soft, people-pleasing light. In the evening, one steady lamp directly by your face gives even, steady lighting
- Stay back a bit from your screen. The closer you are to the camera, the more distorted you will look.
- Pay attention to the height of your device. If your device's camera is too high, your head is cut off. If the camera is too low, people will be looking up your nostrils. You can put boxes or books under your computer to raise it up.
- If you want an air-brushed (softer) look, you can set the "Touch up my appearance" option in your Zoom settings. To get to your Zoom settings while in Zoom, click on an icon similar to this. This is what it looks like on a PC.
- If you're having a "bad hair" day, just turn off your camera!



Tips for suppressing background noise

Arg! You're in a Zoom meeting and all of a sudden you hear someone's dog barking, the TV, or someone's kids. You can't see the speaker anymore because somebody else's picture becomes the big window. This problem happens when the person making the noise has their audio on (audio is not muted). Don't be that person who disrupts the meeting! In most cases it is best to mute yourself until you have something to say. Click on the Mute/Audio icon to mute and unmute yourself. (Your host might mute everyone to prevent these noise distractions.)







Tips for engaging with your audience








You normally look someone in the eyes when you're talking with them in person. You want to do the same thing when you are on Zoom so that you engage with your audience. To look them the eye on Zoom you must look directly at your camera. It's easy to forget to do this. If you are reading from notes, place the notes in front of you and look up frequently so you can stay mostly focused on the camera.

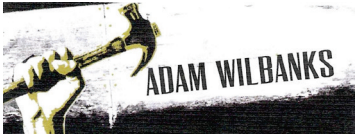

Need more tips?

Check out this YouTube video released December 8, 2020, "All the Top New Features in Zoom," at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WjwZTRve3Zc>.

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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.

Beth Clark, Editor

Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek AAUW

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