



Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek (CA)



# The Advocate, February 2021

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

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**From the President**

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January got off to a rocky start with the event of January 6 leaving us shaken and horrified at the attempted takeover of our nation’s capital. Both National AAUW and CA AAUW have strongly condemned the insurgent activities surrounding the transition of power and demanded that those responsible be held accountable.

Nonetheless, our democratic institutions prevailed and we now have a new Washington administration with our first woman Vice President in place that is aligned with our AAUW goals of equity for women! As we get our vaccinations and gradually awaken from what feels like a long hibernation, we look forward to stepping up our activities in our community.

Our branch January program, [Race and Racism](#) with Dr. Lori Watson was extremely timely and informative. Because the session was interactive, we did not record it. So, I hope you were able to join in. I know that I took away several ideas about how I could personally act to address the specific challenges face by women of color.

Our January Wine Chat and Board Update topic was “What is the first thing you want to do after the Covid-19 restrictions are lifted?” We had lots of fun sharing our aspirations to travel, hug loved ones, and get back into our public life activities. Our next [Wine Chat and Board Update](#) is February 18 at 5:00 pm. So please join me and your AAUW friends for this fun social chat time.

This month’s program comes up very soon. Be sure to mark your calendar for Tuesday, February 9 for our [“Women in STEM”](#) program, celebrating mother and daughter scientists and their journeys in two different time periods in the male-dominated STEM world.

- February 2021 To Do List**
- By Feb 3, deadline for [AAUW Art Contest](#) submissions
  - By Feb 5, [Comment on AAUW proposal to eliminate the degree](#) requirement
  - Attend the Feb 9 [Women in STEM](#) program.
  - On Feb 18, Catch up with Friends at the [Wine, Chat and Board Update](#)
  - Volunteer to help with [Tech Trek virtual summer camp](#)
  - Encourage applications for our 2021 [Local Scholarships](#)
  - Buy your raffle tickets now for our Local Scholarships [Quilt Drawing](#)

In this *Advocate* edition, you will be treated to the first of a new series of articles “What was it Like for You, Mom?”, written by our editor, Beth Clark, and based on experiences shared by our members and other women. This will be a collection of anecdotes and remembrances of what the world was like before women gained the rights we have today. I expect we will be motivated by these reflections to want to share them with younger women and to encourage us all to continue our efforts toward equality for all.

Please read the letter from Julia Brown on the proposal from our National AAUW to eliminate the degree requirement for membership. You can learn more about this proposal on the [AAUW Open Membership page](#). [Comments](#) are being accepted until February 5. Votes will be held from April 7 to May 17. Please be prepared to make your voice heard on this issue

Finally, we continue to upgrade our website. I invite you to take a look at our [Volunteers Needed](#) page that lists volunteer opportunities within AAUW. If you are looking for a way to contribute, here’s quick access to the activities you can join. We also added invitations from our local sister AAUW branches to the “To Do” list side bar on the home page, and created a page [“Other Branch News”](#). These should help you take advantage of all our regional zoom programs. I hope this website is a great resource for all of us to find the latest and greatest on DAW AAUW.

Wishing you all a good month and I look forward to seeing you at our next event.

*Christine Ritter, President*

## **From the Editor**

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We welcome your contributions to the Advocate. Send any articles and pictures to Beth Clark, editor, by the 15<sup>th</sup> 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**

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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

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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.


## Upcoming Events

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

*by Bette Felton, Programs VP*


**Women in STEM: Opportunities & Challenges**



Chitra Manohar,  
Diagnostics leader for  
Precision Medicine

**Tuesday, February 9, 2021**  
**5:00 to 6:30 P.M.**

These two women, mother and daughter, will share their differing challenges and opportunities with their careers in the biological sciences.



Nitya Furtado,  
Scientist II at  
Roche Sequencing  
Solutions

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.

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 for this event at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/women-in-stem-opportunities-and-challenges-tickets-137047493743?aff=DAWwebsite>.

## Wine chat and board update, February 18, 2021, 5:00 to 6:30

*by Chris Ritter, President*

Come join the board and your AAUW friends on Thursday February 18, from 5:00 to 6:30, via Zoom. It's a chance to have a relaxed visit with friends—especially needed these days—and find out what our branch is working on. You can get the Zoom meeting link for this event here: <https://daw-ca.aauw.net/zoom-meeting-links/>

## National and California AAUW Reports

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### Open Membership voting in the Spring

AAUW National sent out email informing us that in the Spring we will be asked to vote whether to open up the AAUW membership to women without a degree. Our branch board encourages you to think about this so that you will be ready to vote when we are asked to.

*from Julia T. Brown, Esq., Board chair*

This spring, the AAUW membership will vote on an important proposal to amend the AAUW bylaws to open membership and eliminate the degree requirement to join AAUW. The national AAUW Board of Directors strongly supports the proposal, along with dozens of member leaders across the country. We believe this is an essential step toward making AAUW a more diverse and inclusive organization, better aligned with our mission, values and the needs of women today.

Now through February 5, 2021, you can provide thoughts and comments on the proposed changes to the AAUW bylaws as well as proposed changes to the Public Policy Priorities. To learn more about the proposed changes and submit your feedback, please visit the [election page on the AAUW website](#).

### 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](mailto:nominating@aauw-ca.org).

### **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.”

NOTE: The deadline for registration for this event was January 8, 2021. We are trying to get an update about whether registrations are still being accepted. You could try to register [HERE](#) to see whether they will still accept your registration.

#### **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**

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#### **Nominating committee named for 2021-22 DAW AAUW elected board positions**

*by Chris Ritter, President*

Our Nomination Committee is charged with identifying candidates for our Board’s elected positions for the coming year. With the beginning of the new year, it’s time for all of us to think about how we can support our branch next year with our skills and talents. Please lend your support to our nominations team by thinking about how you could make a difference in our organization next year.

As a reminder, our elected positions are President, President-Elect, Treasurer, Secretary, Programs VP, Membership VP, FUND VP. All are interesting roles that provide a great way to interact with

like-minded, interesting and fun women! Stay tuned for more news from the Nominations Committee.

A big thank you goes to the following members who have agreed to serve on this year's committee: Marsha Anderson Landau, Kathie Hixon, Alicia Jones, Joanne Quijano, and Chris Winter.

### **New Volunteer page on the DAW AAUW web site**

Studies show that doing things for others contributes to happiness. That's probably why a lot of us look for volunteer opportunities. We know that there are a lot of volunteer opportunities to choose from. We hope that you will consider volunteering to help with some AAUW activities. Our new volunteer web page at <https://daw-ca.aauw.net/volunteers-needed/> shows activities for which we need volunteers and gives you information about who to contact.

### **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.

### **Interested in registering a 6th to 9th grade girl for Expanding your Horizons?**

*by Judy Lauper, Expanding Your Horizons Chair*

Registration for Expanding Your Horizons opens on January 19, 2021 and closes on February 9, 2021. If you know a girl in grades 6-9 who would like to attend this event, go to <https://www.tveyh.org/> to register them. Registration is limited to 300 girls and the conference fills quickly. So do not delay.

If the conference is full before you can register, you might want to look at the information about similar conferences at <https://www.tveyh.org/registration/>.

### **Funds Advocacy**

*by Liz Williams and Robin Halloran, Co-FUNDS VPs*

A huge "Thank You" to everyone who donated to National's FUNDS' Programs this year. We can be very proud of our branch. For this fiscal year, from July 1, 2020 to December 30, 2020, our branch members donated \$10,491. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Unless designated by the donor, funds will be used where there is the greatest need.



## DAW Interest Group Happenings

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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 February 1, 2021, the following Interest Groups are meeting:

Interest group	Leader to contact
<a href="#">Bridge: Evening</a>	Arlene Barnett
<a href="#">Great Decisions</a> The plan for this group is to begin meeting via Zoom on Monday February 1 at 7:00 P.M. and Tuesday February 2 at 1:30 PM (two sessions to choose from).	Tuesday group: Rebecca Bhatt Monday evening: Still needs a leader
<a href="#">Literature: Daytime</a>	Laurie Erlich
<a href="#">Literature: Evening</a>	Linda Jimerson
<a href="#">Literature: Novel Ideas</a> **This Interest Group is full.	Kathy Harkins
<a href="#">Mah Jong 2</a> The Tuesday group is meeting; the Monday group is not	Paula Weintrab
<a href="#">Movies: First Friday Films</a> ** This Interest Group is full. Other movie groups are not meeting.	Kathy Harkins

### *Changes to Interest Groups information from last month's Advocate*

- The [Literature: Evening](#) group is now open for one more person. If you are interested in participating, contact Linda Jimerson.
- [Great Decisions](#) will be starting February 1. Rebecca Bhatt will lead the Tuesday afternoon group. We still need a leader for the Monday evening group. Please contact Chris Ritter if you can host the evening group. Chris will set up the Zoom for you and the group.
- [Literature: Daytime](#) was meeting last month also but wasn't listed in the table in the January Advocate.

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

### **Membership Corner**

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*by Marsha Anderson Landau, Membership VP*

We have a new member!

[Linda Lew Van Brocklin](#). Walnut Creek. University of California, Berkeley, BA 1982, Psychology. Chapman University, MA 2005, Education.  
Neighborhood: Azalea.

If you know anyone who may be interested in becoming a member or advertiser, contact Marsha Anderson Landau, email: [marsha888@comcast.net](mailto:marsha888@comcast.net), or call (925) 351-8188. I am available to answer any questions and send information to them!

### **Public Policy Corner**

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*by Asha Bajaj, Public Policy Chair*

The ugly specter of rioters in the Capitol building cast a shadow on our history of having a smooth transition of Presidential power. However, it was heartening to see the House and Senate go back the same day to complete the count of the certified electoral votes and confirm the inauguration of President Elect Joe Biden and Kamala Harris as our Vice president. Thankfully the inauguration went smoothly. But the specter of thousands of troops at the nation's capital was a grim reminder of how fragile democracy can be. We can only hope and pray that the country will pull together to deal with the major issues like the Coronavirus, stimulating the economy, and improving our health care system and move towards a bipartisan legislative agenda.

Governor Gavin Newsom recently signed a number of bills that will affect California employers in 2021. Most significantly, the new laws greatly expand the California Family Rights Act (CFRA), create stringent workplace reporting requirements related to COVID-19, and clarify California's year-old independent contractor law, Assembly Bill 5 (AB 5).

### ***Supplemental COVID-19 Paid Sick Leave***

Assembly Bill (AB) 1867 expanded supplemental paid sick leave for COVID-19-related reasons for certain employers not already covered by the federal Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA). Specifically, it required private employers that employ 500 or more U.S. employees to provide California employees with paid sick time for COVID-19-related absences. In addition, some local governments, including the City and County of San Francisco, San Mateo County, and Sacramento County, have extended their local sick leave ordinances to require covered employers to provide paid COVID-19 sick leave into 2021.

### ***COVID-19 Recording and Reporting Requirements***

Taking effect January 1, 2021, AB 685 establishes stringent COVID-19 recording and reporting requirements when employers receive notice of a potential COVID-19 exposure at the workplace. Among other things, AB 685 requires employers to provide multiple notices within one business day after receiving notice of a potential COVID-19 exposure:

- Written notice 1 to all employees and employers of subcontracted employees who were at the worksite within the infectious period
- Written notice 2 regarding COVID-19-related benefits, including workers' compensation benefits, COVID-19 leave, paid sick leave, and the company's anti-discrimination, anti-harassment, and anti-retaliation policies
- Written notice 3 to employees regarding the company's disinfection protocols and safety plan to eliminate any further exposures, per CDC guidelines

Employers must also notify their local public health department within 48 hours if an "outbreak" occurs at the worksite (defined as three lab-confirmed cases within two weeks). The new law also authorizes the Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA) to immediately shut down a business without prior notice if it concludes there is an imminent risk of serious physical harm due to COVID-19, and to issue significant monetary citations for serious violations relating to COVID-19.

The law also requires employers to draft and implement a separate COVID-19 Pandemic Plan that addresses all COVID-19 exposures, identifies the manner in which the employer intends to correct such exposures, and indicates how the employer will enforce its procedures, train its employees, conduct inspections, and review its plan for effectiveness.

### ***Re-opening of Schools***

Governor Gavin Newsom announced a \$2 billion plan to reopen schools, beginning as soon as February for younger students and gradually phasing in older grades. His plan is optional for schools but includes incentives to participate. It calls for widespread testing, contact tracing, masks and other safety measures, including ventilation upgrades. While ventilation improvements are not required under Newsom's plan, research shows that well-ventilated clean air can lessen the spread of the coronavirus as well as other contaminants, including wildfire smoke, dust and air pollution.

Clean air can also improve students' academic achievement, reduce absenteeism and boost health overall for students and staff, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

### **State Budget**

Governor Gavin Newsom unveiled a \$227.2 billion budget proposal Friday, kicking off a 6-month-long process to finalize a state budget for 2021-2022. The proposal includes \$14 billion in programs to assist workers and businesses impacted by the pandemic, as well as assistance to reopen schools. That includes nearly \$5 billion that Newsom will ask the Legislature to approve before the budget is finalized in June.

Newsom predicts \$34 billion in what he calls "budget resiliency," or a combination of reserves and discretionary surplus, with \$15.6 billion coming from the state's rainy-day fund. Even amid the coronavirus pandemic, Newsom's \$227 billion spending plan marks a record-high budget proposal. Keely Bosler, director of the Department of Finance said "We did not know how deep the recession was going to be. But due in large part to strong economic recovery among wealthier earners, the budget has been put forth with the state relying disproportionately on income tax revenue."

### **Vaccination rollout**

The vaccination roll out has been slow, but hopefully most of you have signed up to get it. Most adults 75+ are projected to be vaccinated by end of February.

Stay well, stay engaged, stay tuned!

## **Madam Vice-President: Kamala Devi Harris**

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*by Asha Bajaj, Public Policy Chair*

*"When day comes we ask ourselves, where can we find light in this never-ending shade? The loss we carry a sea we must wade. We've braved the belly of the beast. We've learned that quiet isn't always peace. In the norms and notions of what just is isn't always justice.*

*And yet, the dawn is ours before we knew it. Somehow, we do it. Somehow, we've weathered and witnessed a nation that isn't broken, but simply unfinished. We, the successors of a country and a time where a skinny Black girl descended from slaves and raised by a single mother can dream of becoming president, only to find herself reciting for one."*—Amanda Gorman, Junior Poet Laureate

As these words were spoken on January 20, 2021, we could hear the shattering of so many glass ceilings: Kamala Devi Harris, the first woman of mixed descent, the first African American, the first Indian-American was sworn into the highest office in the land—Vice president of the United States!

Our own California Senator, who embodies the entire spectrum of AAUW ideals from gender equity to women's empowerment, had been picked to partner with Joe Biden, our 46th President as the 49<sup>th</sup> Vice-President.

I am truly amazed at how Kamala's upbringing and her parents' involvement in civil rights demonstrations in the late 1960s shaped her into the person she became. As they say, geography often shapes your destiny. Kamala Harris would join her parents in her stroller as a toddler shouting "Fweedom." These experiences strengthened her interest in issues of justice, equality, and civil rights. They have shaped the woman we see today—not through proxy power but earned on her own based on merit, service, and hard work.

### ***A family pushing against biases—A South Asian woman and a black man***

Kamala's mother, Shyamala Gopalan, another norm-breaking woman, had arrived in the U.S. from India in 1958. She was a 19-year-old graduate student in nutrition and endocrinology at the University of California, Berkeley. Gopalan received her PhD in 1964. She was a biologist whose work on the progesterone receptor gene stimulated work in breast cancer research. She conducted research in UC Berkeley's Department of Zoology and Cancer Research Lab. She worked as a breast cancer researcher at University of Illinois and University of Wisconsin. She worked for 16 years at the Lady Davis Institute for Medical Research and McGill University Faculty of Medicine. She served as a peer reviewer for the National Institutes of Health and as a site visit team member for the Federal Advisory Committee. She also served on the President's Special Commission on Breast Cancer. She mentored dozens of students in her lab. For her last decade of research, Shyamala worked in the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. She passed away on Feb 11, 2009.

As a woman of South Asian descent, Shyamala broke many barriers when she married Donald Harris. She chose who she was going to marry instead having an arranged marriage within her upper-caste Brahmin background, and she married a black man.

Kamala's father, Donald J. Harris, is a Stanford University professor emeritus of economics, who arrived in the U.S. from British Jamaica in 1961 for graduate study at UC Berkeley. He received a PhD in economics in 1966. He met his former wife, Shyamalan Gopalan, through the civil rights movement. Harris was an assistant professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign from 1966 to 1967 and at Northwestern University from 1967 to 1968. He moved to the University of Wisconsin, Madison as an associate professor in 1968. In 1972, he joined the faculty of Stanford University as a professor of economics. He directed the Consortium Graduate School of Social Sciences at the University of the West Indies in 1986-1987, and he was a Fulbright Scholar in Brazil in 1990 and 1991, and in Mexico in 1992. In 1998, he retired from Stanford, becoming a professor emeritus. On a personal note, he was an advisor to my son-in-law during his term at Stanford in the 1990s.

### ***Influence of desegregation and culture on Kamala***

Along with her younger sister, Maya, Harris lived in Berkeley, California. She lived briefly on Milvia Street, in central Berkeley, and then in a duplex on Bancroft Way in West Berkeley; it was an area often called "the flatlands," with a significant Black population. When Harris began kindergarten, she was bused as part of Berkeley's comprehensive desegregation program to Thousand Oaks Elementary School, a public school in a more prosperous neighborhood in northern Berkeley. Thousand Oaks had previously been 95 percent white, and after the desegregation plan went into

effect became 40 percent Black. This was her famous line “and that little girl was me” directed towards Joe Biden in one of their debates (since he had opposed bussing).

A neighbor, Mrs. Sheldon, regularly took the Harris girls to an African American church in Oakland where they sang in the children's choir. Kamala Harris used Mrs. Sheldon's bible and the bible used by Justice Thurgood Marshall to take her oath of office.

Kamala and Maya's mother introduced them to Hindu mythology and took them to a nearby Hindu temple. As children, Kamala and her sister visited their mother's family in Madras (now Chennai) several times. She says she has been strongly influenced by her maternal grandfather P. V. Gopalan, a retired Indian civil servant whose progressive views on democracy and women's rights impressed her. Harris has remained in touch with her Indian aunts and an uncle throughout her adult life. Harris has also visited her father's family in Jamaica. You will all remember her famous line thanking her “chittis” (aunts) in her acceptance speech. This gave rise to a groundswell group called Kamala's chitti gang, comprised of local south Asian women, who did a lot of fundraising for her.

Kamala's parents divorced when she was seven. She has said that when she and her sister visited their father in Palo Alto on weekends, other children in the neighborhood were not allowed to play with them because they were black. When she was twelve, Harris and her sister moved with their mother to Montreal, Quebec, Canada, where Shyamala had accepted a research and teaching position at the McGill University-affiliated Jewish General Hospital. Harris attended a French-speaking primary school, Notre-Dame-des-Neiges, and then graduated from Westmount High School in Quebec in 1981.

### ***Breaking norms as a legislator and prosecutor***

After high school, Harris attended Howard University, a historically black university in Washington, D.C. While at Howard, she interned as a mail room clerk for California senator Alan Cranston, chaired the economics society, led the debate team, and joined Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority. Harris graduated from Howard in 1986 with a degree in political science and economics, then returned to California to attend law school at the University of California, Hastings College of the Law.

Since law school, Harris has been breaking norms with some bold legislative and prosecutorial moves.

In 1994, California Assembly speaker Willie Brown appointed her to the state Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board and later to the California Medical Assistance Commission. In 2003, she was elected district attorney of San Francisco. In 2008, Harris issued citations against six parents whose children missed at least fifty days of school, the first time San Francisco prosecuted adults for student truancy. February 2012, Harris announced an agreement with Apple, Amazon, Google, Hewlett-Packard, Microsoft, and Research in Motion to mandate that apps sold in their stores display prominent privacy policies informing users of what private information they were sharing and with whom.

In 2016, Harris announced wide-sweeping arrests of more than fifty members of the Mexican Mafia, a.k.a. La Eme, seizing more than sixty firearms, more than \$95,000 in cash, and \$1.6 million worth of methamphetamine, cocaine, and marijuana in Riverside County.

### ***Family***

The First Gentleman Douglas Emhoff is the husband of Kamala Harris. He was born to Jewish parents, Michael and Barbara Emhoff in Brooklyn, New York. He lived in New Jersey from 1969 to 1981, moving with his family to California when he was 17. Emhoff graduated from the California State University, Northridge, and USC Gould School of Law. Emhoff is an entertainment litigator and began his career at Pillsbury Winthrop's litigation group. Cole and Emma Emhoff are Kamala's step kids. Kamala Harris loves to cook Sunday dinner and her step kids lovingly call her "Momala."

### ***A new beginning***

In the span of two weeks, we saw both the ugly face of democracy in the insurrection at the Capitol and the beautiful promise of a new beginning with the inauguration of Joe Biden as President and Kamala Harris as Vice-president of The (not so) United States of America. We hope to see unity, truth, and a system of meritocracy and justice take their rightful place in our society.

Books by Kamala Harris: *Smart on Crime*, 2009; *The Truths We Hold* and *Superheroes Are Everywhere*, Oct 2019

## **Women's Equality: What Was it Like for You, Mom?**

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*by Beth Clark, Advocate editor*

The articles that were written about Ruth Bader Ginsburg after she died brought back memories of some of my experiences related to women's rights and discrimination against women. I talked with my daughter about how much RGB had achieved for women, and I also told her about some of my experiences. She was very surprised, having not known much about RGB and having not experienced the same roadblocks herself. It occurred to me that because AAUW works on improving rights for women, it would be good to have a column that would help young women learn about where we've come from. After all, it's hard to gauge how well you're doing if you don't know where you came from.

### ***Do you want to tell us about your experiences?***

If you want to share your experiences with each other and with the young women in our lives, please send them to me ([bclark143@comcast.net](mailto:bclark143@comcast.net)) and I can make this a multi-month article. For example, what kind of messaging did you get about what you could and couldn't do as a woman? What roadblocks did you encounter because you were a woman? Were there any successes you had because you were a woman, things that were not available to men? Include the approximate year and where you were living at the time. You can send just one line or a short story about your

experiences. If you don't want your name mentioned, please let me know. Feel free to share experiences of friends also.

Disclaimer: Our group is composed of college-educated women in the suburbs. So, our experiences are not necessarily representative of the experiences of a lot of women in America or in the world. But sharing our experiences here can be a starting place.

### *How it was for us with education...*

- “My mother sent me to college to find a husband.”—Karen from Portland, who started college in 1969. She left college after two years to get married.
- “My father, who was a Jr. high math teacher at one time, told me that “girls just can't do math like boys.” It was the cultural norm. One of my school chums told me, in recent years, that she was good at math but as a female was so discouraged from pursuing it that she never did.”—Dianne Tinnes
- “In the mid-1980s I told my parents that I wanted to switch careers and become a technical writer. My father told me that only men were technical writers. That was how things were in his workplace, I suppose, so he didn't see beyond that. He had been quite supportive regarding education otherwise. My mother told my father that he didn't know what he was talking about.”—Beth Clark, Berkeley
- “I was a junior in high school and, even though I was a decent student, I had not thought about planning my courses etc. with college in mind. That is until I watched my friends getting college acceptance letters. I said to myself “What in the world have you been doing?” I went home to tell my mom that I wanted to go to college. She said “Forget college. You learn how to type and take shorthand so you can support yourself.” I can see why/how she said this and I can clearly hear our conversation today.”—Linda Jimerson
- “I was raised with the idea that I could do or be whatever I wanted. Time has made a difference.”—Kathy Harkins

### *How it was for us with our careers and in the workplace...*

- “In the mid-1980s, I was working at a local tech company as a Middle Manager. I was discussing with my boss the candidates we had interviewed and I recommended one of the women for the position. He said “great” and then offered that he liked to hire women because they were smarter and he didn't have to pay them as much. I think he was actually trying to give me a compliment! It was OK to pay women less in those days. I think we have made some progress since then, but we have more to do!”—Chris Ritter
- “I began working for the State of California about three days after college graduation (1969, Sacramento). I was married at the time; my husband was still in college. The head of the department where I was hired made it quite clear that women were hired only to be clerical staff and I bought into that. Eventually, in about 1980, I was in a semi-administrative position at UC Berkeley and did well there. I never questioned the earlier restrictions, and that seems



troubling now. But then it seemed OK. I likely was not alone in my acceptance. It just was the way it was and, truly, I never 'took it personally' or felt demeaned or limited, despite a college degree." —Marie Bowen, Napa

- "In 1984, I joined a company that required me to travel. After racking up big credit card bills (we got reimbursed but it took time), I learned that everyone else on the team—all men—had a company credit card that they used for their travel expenses. When I asked the department VP why everyone but me had a company card, he told me that women aren't to be trusted with credit cards the way men were. I was floored; yes, I was the only female on the team who was not an administrator but how did he come up with that explanation! I persisted and he finally relented and ordered a company credit card for me. When it arrived, he called me into his office and explained how I was to use it only for company business and that I was not allowed to go shopping with it to buy items for myself. He emphasized that I wasn't to take it to the mall for a spending spree." —Karen Abbruscato, Bay Area (with an engineering degree)
- "When working as a technical writer in Silicon Valley in the 1980s and 1990s, I didn't let anyone at work know that I had children. I was afraid that they would think that I wouldn't be able to do as good a job as a man because my duties as a mother would interfere." —Beth Clark
- "My father, who was an executive in a medium size company, called his secretary his "girl." It was the cultural norm as in "I will have my girl send the papers over to your girl." —Dianne Tinnes

### *How it was for us financially...*

- "In 1970, we started an investment club of 20 AAUW members in the Tri-Valley. It was very novel at the time. We had a male broker from Merrill Lynch work with us. He told us, hesitantly, that Lynch rules said we each had to have a note from our husbands saying it was OK for us to invest \$10 a month in the investment club! One of our members was Helen Tirsell, mayor of Livermore at the time! Can you imagine being told that today, 50 years later?" —Betty Nostrand, Pleasanton
- "It wasn't until 1974 that it was possible for a married woman to get a credit card in her own name and, therefore, establish a credit history of her own. I suspect that a lot of women were like me and didn't pursue getting their own card. In 1985 I got divorced. I had no separate credit history. It was all in my Ex's name. Plus, having been home raising the children I had no recent salary history either. I couldn't get a car loan without the bank requiring me to tie up that same amount of money in my bank account as collateral. I was going to have to get someone to co-sign for a house loan. Maybe it was just business for the bank and not discrimination. But it was infuriating because when I was married, I was the one who made sure all the bills were paid on time. Unfortunately, I had no separate credit history to show that." —Beth Clark

### *How it was for us with family life...*

- “I was a teacher before I got married. In India where I live, it was expected that I would quit my career when I got married and take care of the house and my family, including extended family. Although my children are now grown, I am still taking care of them and extended family. I wouldn’t go back to teaching now because I want to eventually have some time for myself. I have never had time for myself. I have always wanted to travel but my husband does not want to. Women of my age are not really encouraged to travel alone. Modern Indian girls are totally different. Thank God.”—A 55-year-old Indian woman, in December 2020

### *How it was in other interactions...*

- “In the last 25 years since my divorce, I have bought seven cars for me and my children. In the early 1990s I brought a boyfriend with me to the dealership because I thought that the salesman would give me a better deal if a man was with me. But I did the talking. The first question that salesman asked me was “What color do you want?” I doubt that would have been the first question he would have asked a man. To me the underlying message was you’re a woman so you’re not smart enough to care about anything else but color. A couple of times since then a car salesman has asked me about color first thing. I still find it insulting. I walked out the door and moved onto a different dealership. Buying cars over the Internet is a very nice alternative to dealing with disrespectful car salesmen.”—Beth Clark, Pleasanton

### *What young women today are saying...*

- “My granddaughter, who is now a Senior at Amador Valley High School in Pleasanton, is one of two girls in an Engineering III class of 50 students. STEM is needed! She says the boys don’t listen to her at first. But if she gets things right several times then they start to listen. Lesson: keep on speaking up!”—Betty Nostrand, Pleasanton

## **Technology Corner: Tips and Tricks for Computer Novices**

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*by Beth Clark, Advocate Editor*

We all start at the bottom when it comes to learning technology. Some of us learn through our jobs. Others who have not had that opportunity have courageously jumped into the world of email and computers anyway, and have been struggling. I am targeting those ladies with this article, giving some tips about things I have seen newbies struggle with most frequently. I apologize that there are more Windows-specific tips than Macintosh tips. I haven’t used a Macintosh. If you are a Macintosh user you might consider writing an article for us with tips for MacIntosh users.

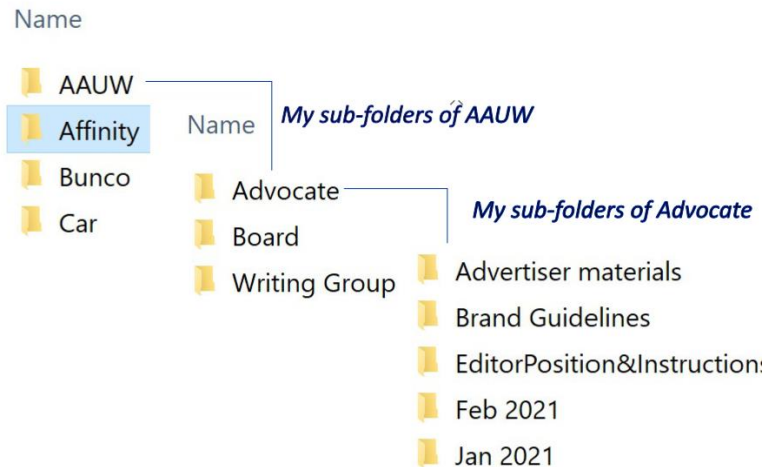
### ***Organizing your files***

It doesn’t take long before you accumulate dozens or even hundreds or thousands of files. Organizing your files and naming them with descriptive names is important so you know what’s in

them without having to open them. You also need to know how to use the Search on your computer in case you can't find a particular file.

Think about your computer as a file cabinet like you use for paperwork. You organize your paperwork by separating it out into file folders. You'll want to use folders on your computer to organize your files in the same way. If you don't use folders and have many files you will have trouble finding specific files. One thing that is a bit different on the computer is that you can put folders within other folders to more finely organize them (that is, use sub-folders).

The picture on the right shows the first four top-level folders on my computer (in alpha order). Within the AAUW folder I created three sub-folders so that I could group my files about AAUW. The Advocate folder contains—you guessed it—files related to editing the Advocate. Within the Advocate folder I created some more sub-folders to further organize, for example, a folder to contain files related to each month's edition.



On a Windows computer, your folders and files are displayed in the *File Explorer*. On an Apple computer your folders and files are displayed in the *Finder*.

For Windows users, I recommend you look at these “How to Use Windows Explorer” videos on YouTube to learn the basics of file management and other basic Windows Explorer functions:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sf4I4YGXGt0> Part 1, Overview

<https://youtu.be/AyVqCJrs9dk> Part 2, Cut, Copy, Paste, Move and Delete Files

<https://youtu.be/Op5y8Ams-Jw>: Part 3, File, Folder and Library Management:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pkXMPJZI63Q> Part 5, Shortcuts, Recycle Bin, Hidden Files and Other Tips

**Folder and file names:** Your goal when naming folders and files is to give them a name that will make sense to you later when you're looking for a file. On the left in the following example is how I have organized at the top level the many, many gardening-related files on my computer. On the right is an alternative.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>📁 Garden-Native Plants</li> <li>📁 Garden-Plant_lists</li> <li>📁 Garden-Pollinating Plants</li> <li>📁 Garden-Pollinator Videos</li> <li>📁 Garden-Propagation</li> <li>📁 Garden-pruning</li> <li>📁 Garden-succulents</li> </ul>	<p style="margin: 0;">Garden</p> <p style="margin: 0; padding-left: 20px;">Native Plants</p> <p style="margin: 0; padding-left: 20px;">Plant_lists</p> <p style="margin: 0; padding-left: 20px;">Pollinating Plants</p> <p style="margin: 0; padding-left: 20px;">Pollinator Videos</p> <p style="margin: 0; padding-left: 20px;">Propagation</p> <p style="margin: 0; padding-left: 20px;">Pruning</p> <p style="margin: 0; padding-left: 20px;">Succulents</p>
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I decided to use the folder structure on the left because I wanted my gardening-related categories to show at the top-level—less clicking and more visible. I started all the garden-related folders with the same name so they would stay together in alpha order. An alternative, shown on the right, is to have a top-level folder of Garden and put the category folders as sub-folders. If I didn't have so many files the structure on the right would work just fine for me. Both structures are good.

As far as file names go, don't rely on programs such as Word to give your files good names. Word uses the first few words in the first line of your document as the file name. Graphic files are often saved by a program with IMG as the start of the name. You want a file name to give you a clue as to what is in the file. Adding a description name, date, revision number, words like DRAFT and FINAL or similar will help you to identify your files more easily so that you won't have to open them to find out what they are. For example, I copied a file named IMG\_2585.JPG from my phone to my computer. It's certainly not a helpful name. So, I changed the name to MeganGoatYoga1.jpg because it is a photo of my daughter at her goat yoga class. I have multiple photos of her that day. So, I am including a number in the name. The other photos of this same event have the same name but the numbers are incremented. So, they will all list together in alpha order.

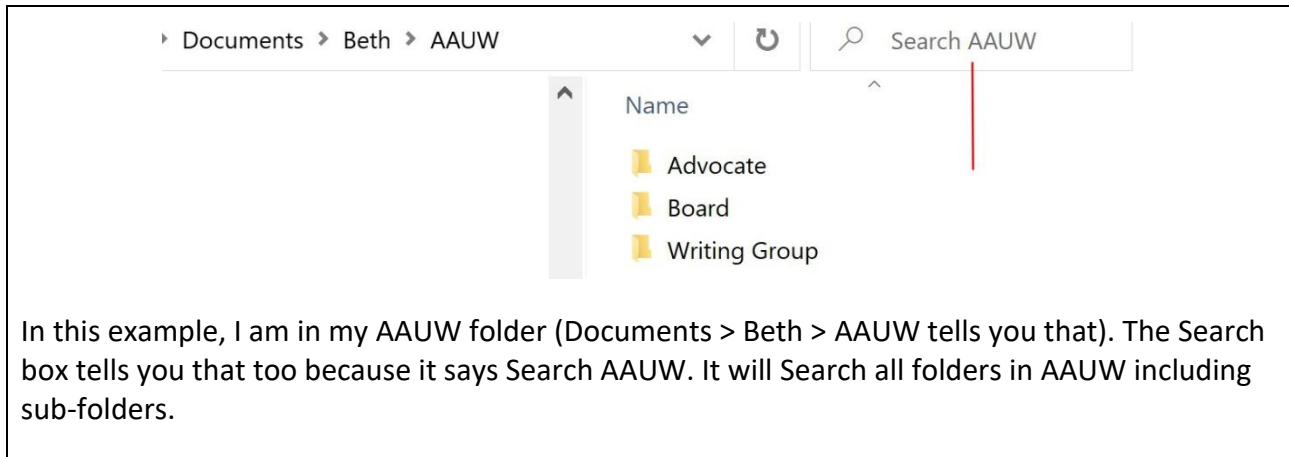
### ***Where is that file?***

You downloaded a file from email or from an Internet site. But you can't find it on your computer. Does that sound familiar? This is one of the most common problems that I have seen with novice computer users. It happens to all of us, actually. Becoming knowledgeable about File Explorer/Finder and their Search functions will help you find wayward files.

Here are a couple of things I've noticed on a Windows 10 computer:

- If you download a file onto a Windows 10 computer, the file usually goes into your Download folder.
- Programs tend to save files in the last folder where you saved another file you were working on in that program.

For Search on Windows, you'll enter your search string in the box at the top right corner of File Explorer. If searching by file name, enter as much of the name as you can remember. You can also search by date, file type, and other ways.



In this example, I am in my AAUW folder (Documents > Beth > AAUW tells you that). The Search box tells you that too because it says Search AAUW. It will Search all folders in AAUW including sub-folders.

This YouTube video about how to use Search in Windows is quite helpful.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tLyr8bjk0jI> Part 4, Search

*Note:* In Windows 10 and earlier, there is a Search box in the lower left-hand corner. But this Search returns results from the Web too, which can be confusing. It's better to use the Search in File Explorer.

This is a helpful YouTube video about how find files and emails on a Macintosh computer:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZTFVxyHipW0>.

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### New corporate sponsor program

Our branch recently launched a new corporate sponsorship program for companies who want to support our branch's initiatives. We are pleased to announce our first two corporate sponsors that donated funds toward our Tech Trek program:

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As a software leader in building a next-gen Edge OS for cloud workspaces, IGEL believes in the power of females and diversity in tech. We have prioritized hiring and empowering females and are proud to sponsor an aspiring 8th-grade student in the Tech Trek Science and Math Camp at Sonoma State University (the alma mater of our CEO, Jed Ayres).






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Alima Technologies is an early-stage tech startup company based in the San Francisco Bay Area. Foundational to Alima are its values, which include "giving back individually and


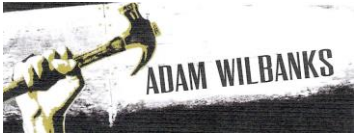



corporately” by looking for ways to help the communities we can impact. Being a tech company, Alima recognizes the importance of giving everyone the chance to succeed in the industry regardless of gender, race, or background. Alima is proud to sponsor AAUW-DAW to help open these opportunities.

We encourage you to check out their websites to learn about these companies. If you have suggestions for other corporations that might be willing to donate toward our branch’s programs, contact Maryam Alexandrian-Adams at [MaryamAlexandrian@gmail.com](mailto:MaryamAlexandrian@gmail.com). These first two companies chose to donate toward Tech Trek but other companies might choose to donate toward Local Scholarships or any other branch programs.

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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

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