



Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek (CA)



# The Advocate, May 2021

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

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## From the President

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*by Chris Ritter, President*



As the weather warms and our pandemic restriction ease, I hope we are all feeling like emerging from our cocoons into glorious days ahead!

Are you ready to get out for a beautiful evening outdoors? Our garden tour this year will be a social distancing-friendly series of evening strolls through the Ruth Bancroft Gardens in Walnut Creek. The May 21st event features a special wine tasting donated by Bette Felton's Sky Terrace Vineyards

as well as the special Ikebana Japanese Artscape exhibit. We are planning two additional evening strolls on July 28 and 29. Proceeds will fund our Local Scholarships. Please buy your tickets now for the May 21st event.

Be sure to join our next member event, the May 6<sup>th</sup> Creativity Night program via Zoom at 5:00 PM. It's an opportunity to see examples of the amazing creativity among our members and to cast your vote for next year's slate of DAW AAUW Board candidates.

And please save the date on June 17<sup>th</sup> for our end-of-year Member Appreciation Night where we will honor this year's 12 deserving Local Scholarship winners, recognize our members' efforts and contributions, and formally install our 2021-22 Board Members.

Since we already have big social events in May and June, we will end our Wine, Chat and Board Update social chat time for the year. Thank you to all who attended, and I hope you enjoyed this opportunity to connect with other members during the pandemic isolation. I know it was a pleasure for me!

And, on the horizon, we are already planning our **first in-person event!** Save the date for our Membership Brunch on September 25 at the Crow Canyon Country Club!

Finally, please make your voice heard on the AAUW national vote on eliminating the degree requirement for membership, and on the AAUW CA state ballot to elect director candidates and to approve legislative priorities and proposed bylaws changes. Your ballots are in your email (or paper mail if you unsubscribed from AAUW electronic communications.)

### May To Do List

- But your tickets now for **Friday, May 21<sup>st</sup>**, for the [AAUW Evening Stroll at the Ruth Bancroft Garden](#)
- You can also buy your raffle tickets for the [Quilt Drawing](#) now!
- Join the May 6 [Creativity Night Program](#)
- Cast your vote in the AAUW national and AAUW CA ballots in your email in-box or mail.
- Contact Deborah Wechsler to [Volunteer to help kit distribution for Tech Trek Virtual Summer Camp.](#)

## Upcoming Events

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by Deborah Wechsler and Marsha Anderson-Landau

### Branch Creativity Night!

**Thursday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 to 6:30 PM**

During our **General Membership Meeting** on Thursday, May 6, we plan to hold a FUN Zoom event highlighting the creative energy of our members. Do not miss it!



Image from [tinybuddha.com](http://tinybuddha.com)

And there's still time to submit your creation by May 4<sup>th</sup> for the event. To learn more about the meeting or to participate with your creation, click on [Creativity Night](#).

[Get your Tickets Now](#)

Only 120 people per event can attend!

### Garden Tour at the Ruth Bancroft Gardens

**Friday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 5:30 to 6:30 PM**

*This is sure to be an exciting and enjoyable event!*

In addition to touring the fascinating gardens, there will be several added attractions.

**Sky Terrace Vineyards** will be providing winemaker tastings of their fine wines at our [Ruth Bancroft Garden](#) Tour. The grapes of this award-winning wine were planted in 2002 by family and friends of Jim and Bette Felton. First harvest was in the Fall, 2006. The wine is fermented and bottled at [Sky Terrace Vineyards](#) in Danville.

The vineyard is slightly less than one acre with 175 Merlot and 75 Syrah vines. There is also a blending vineyard of Zinfandel, Grenache, Cabernet Franc and Sangiovese grapes. To learn more about this vineyard, check out information of this wonderful AAUW member-owned Danville treasure on Facebook and Instagram.





**Raffles** – The 2021 Garden Tour raffle will be offering 2 beautiful gift baskets, a wooden-boxed wine duo from Sky Terrace Vineyards, and a Ruth Bancroft Garden offering. Purchase raffle tickets at the event to become a winner! There will also be tickets available for the [raffle for the wonderful quilt](#) made by Mary Mix.

**Refreshments** - As you wander on the garden tour, bistro tables will be positioned about offering water and fun food favors, displays of raffle items, and wine tasting.

### **Our Official Tour Sponsor - [Crafts for A Pretty Penny](#)**

This is a successful local, woman - owned company based out of Martinez. An Etsy participant, this company offers seasonal products, customized gifts and signage, personalized wooden items and terrific party events! Be sure to check out their table at the front of the venue. Brochures, samples and items for sale will be available at the event.



*Sogetsu ikebana by Sharon Suimei Doi*

Special garden features will also include admittance to the beautiful, limited - time Japanese Ikebana exhibit. We will enjoy soft background music while we stroll. Every attendee will receive a ribboned Party Favor Package, individually wrapped treat, beverage, wine tasting and beautiful Informational booklet and map of the Ruth Bancroft Garden as a memento.

This venue is a first for our Branch. Tickets are \$40 (of which \$30 is tax deductible, the other \$10 is for the RBG Gardens entrance fee). They may be purchased [HERE](#), or by mailing a check to P.O. Box 996, Alamo, Ca. 94507, or in person at East Bay Flower Company. ***Proceeds will benefit our Local Scholarships.***

## **National and California AAUW Reports**

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### **National AAUW**

#### **Learn How AAUW Met the Challenge of Feminism in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.**

“In November 1881, seventeen women gathered at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) to jointly consider their future prospects and form a national organization of female college graduates.” from [Degrees of Equality, AAUW and the Challenge of 20th Century Feminism](#) by Susan Levine. Given AAUW California’s 22-year emphasis on STEM and given how rare women in STEM were in 1881, it is significant that those 17 women gathered at an institution devoted to the sciences. If you want to learn more about AAUW history, this is a great resource.

## AAUW California

### AAUW CA Needs Your Vote

*by Janice Lee, Nominations & Elections Chair, nominating@aauw-ca.org*

Your vote in this year's annual state election will impact the following areas:

- Who represents you on the Board of Directors
- Public policy priorities for 2021-2023
- Changes to the bylaws

There are three positions to be filled on the Board of Directors and the nominees are:

1. President-Elect: Sandi Gabe (uncontested)
2. Chief Financial Officer: Roli Wendorf (uncontested)
3. One Director: (choose one)
  - Judy Cavin Brown
  - Carol Holzgrafe

AAUW California's Public Policy Committee reassesses policy directives every two years in light of the ever-changing cultural and legislative landscape. To keep AAUW California aligned with our mission to advance equity for women and girls and remain consistent with our values of fair and equitable opportunities for our diverse society, vote "yes" on the ballot for:

1. Economic Security for All Women
2. Equal Access to Quality Public Education for All Students
3. Social and Racial Justice for All Members of Society
4. Changes to the bylaws

We urge you to vote "yes" to two changes related to the Board of Directors structure.

1. The addition of a one-year term Director elected in even years to serve opposite the President-Elect position, which is elected, in odd years. In doing this, we will eliminate an increasing imbalance of positions elected in even years. (Currently, 8 out of 12 positions are elected in even years) This imbalance represents a challenge in even years to fill all the board openings and to maintain a level of continuity of experience on the board in the face of high turnover.
2. Separately, to align with the best practice of having an odd number of voting members and for budgetary efficiencies that would not affect board effectiveness, we recommend reducing the number of board positions from twelve to eleven. If we have your email address, you will get a link to vote online; a mail-in ballot will be sent to you if we do not have your email address. When you vote, It MATTERS!

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*Voting Period: April 16 to May 7, 2021*

*Click [HERE](#) for details on candidates, public policy priorities, and changes to the bylaws.*

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### Three Updates on AAUW CA Public Policy

*by Kathleen Harper, Director, and Sue Miller, Public Policy Committee Co-Chairs,  
publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org*

1. Our first ever (virtual) Lobby Day was a huge SUCCESS! 111 AAUW members from 68 branches visited 36 Assembly and 23 Senate offices, and the Public Policy co-chairs visited with the Governor’s staff. Many offices were familiar with AAUW, and we had a great opportunity to educate those who were not, as well as to advocate for our top-priority bills. Thanks to all branch members for their participation.
2. The Public Policy Committee has completed its review of the bills for this legislative season, and the 2020-21 [Bill Tracker](#) can now be found on the website under Public Policy/Legislative Advocacy/Bill Tracking.
3. At the April 17 Annual Meeting, we presented our first-ever “Equity Champion” Award to former *California Senator Hannah Beth Jackson* for her many years of legislative advocacy on behalf of women and girls.

### DAW Branch Reports

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#### Update on Nominations for 2021-2022 Elected Board Positions

*by Joanne Quijano, Branch Nominating Committee*

I am happy to report that we have a great slate of candidates for our Branch’s 2021-22 elected Board positions! Many thanks to the people who have graciously volunteered to run for the positions. Please be sure to cast your vote to officially elect our Board for the coming year; you should have received an email on April 22<sup>nd</sup> with voting information, or you can vote at our General Membership meeting on May 6<sup>th</sup>.

*And the candidates are:*

President	Joanne Quijano
President Elect	OPEN
VP Programs	Bette Felton
VP Membership	Claudia Schwarz
Co-VP Funds	Marilyn Lawver
Co-VP Funds	Judy Halden
Secretary	Rebecca Bhatt
Treasurer	Monika Witte

Also, many thanks also to the other energetic members of the Nominating Committee – Alicia Jones, Kathie Hixon, Chris Winter and Marsha Anderson Landau. Their efforts were critical in identifying and recruiting our fine candidates; it was a pleasure to work with all of them.

## Update on Local Scholarships 2020-2021

by Dianne Tinnes, Local Scholarships Chair

The following candidates were selected to receive this year's Branch scholarships:



### Carly Glasson

U. of Colorado  
Psychology/Sociology/Forensics  
*Carly is the granddaughter of longtime DAW member Bev Nidick*

### Erika Monasch

UC Davis School of Medicine  
Pediatrics  
*Recipient of the Jane Trittipo Award*

### Francesca "Kiki" Callahan

University of Edinburg  
Fine Arts/Illustration

### Helena Chan

Columbia University  
Mailman School of Public Health  
Graduate Student

### Holly Langbein

U. of Missouri  
Public Affairs  
Graduate Student

### Valerie Alexinian

DVC – Transferring to UC this fall  
Business Admin/Finance

### Cameron Hui

UC Berkeley  
Computer Science/Art Practice/Animation  
*Recipient of Creative Endeavors scholarship*

### Maria Ji

Des Moines University School of Medicine  
Pediatrics  
*Recipient of the Jane Trittipo Award*

### Lidia Woolery

Syracuse University  
Fine Arts/Environmental and Interior Design

### Kristina Skrenek

Samuel Merritt University  
Physical Therapy  
Graduate Student

### Mary Locher

DVC – Transferring to University this fall  
Teaching Credential

### Tahne Kariguddaiah

DVC – Transferring to University this fall  
Economics

## Update on Tech Trek -- STEM 2021 Virtual Camp

*by Deborah Wechsler, Tech Trek Chair*

We are continuing with plans for three to four 2021 Virtual Camps scheduled between mid-June and early August. Here is our progress:

- We have 16 campers who are registering for the 2021 camp. The girls and parents are extremely excited about this opportunity.
- We have sufficient funds for the 2021 camp. We have an incredibly good start on funding for an in-person Tech Trek camp in 2022.
- ***You can still get involved.*** Please let me know if you are interested in helping to distribute robotics kits to selected girls.



*Tech Trek Virtual Camp 2020 Participant*

More details about these opportunities and the virtual camp are available on our [website](#). Please contact me with any questions. 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.

## Update on Programs -- Women and ENCORE Careers

*by Bette Felton, Programs VP*

Unlike our parents, those of us between 45 and 80 are living longer healthier lives. Fortunate to have had education, health, and supportive partners, we can look forward to satisfying work well beyond traditional retirement at 65.



How people define retirement is changing. I know few of my peers who plan to, as the old saying goes, 'sit home and eat bon bons'. For most people retirement doesn't mean that they will stop working. Instead, Americans are looking for what are called ENCORE careers, to help them find meaning, stay engaged and generate income. In a 2014 survey, of 1500 adults (the [Age Wave study](#)), the authors described reasons why what we used to call retirement could also be called 'Career Intermission':

- **Increasing average life expectancy**, which in the US for women in 2021 is 81 years old. This means that a traditional retirement could easily last 30 years or more.



- **Many workers coming to retirement age have lost pensions.** This includes those of us who were teachers, nurses and government workers, and that shifts the burden for funding retirement from employers to the people retiring. More of us need to earn to live.
- **Economic uncertainty**, that has defined the last decade, has been a wake-up call for everyone. For many, it is not financially sustainable to retire. Many must work.
- **Re-visioning of later life has accelerated**, as new generations seek greater purpose, stimulation, social engagement, and fulfillment in retirement.
- **Life adjustments resulting from Covid-19** require career and job changes for a myriad of consequences.

Now, in 2021, more people are retiring in new ways. The high cost of living in the US means that even if you even have retirement savings or a pension, it will not last as long and as effectively as just ten years ago. Retirement is no longer sitting back. It is jumping in again, to the same work or sometimes, very different work than when you were younger. By continuing to work, retirees can stretch savings and enjoy huge emotional and mental benefits by finding engaging ways to spend their days/nights/productive years.

Unfortunately, I am talking about many, but not all workers approaching 65. One's physical and mental health, and economic vulnerability makes every story and work journey differ. Take for instance, a woman who was a full time Mom after college, and when her kids were teens, she fulfilled her dream of becoming a nurse. She studied for 3 years and then worked as an RN in different settings. After a 15-year nursing career, around 50, she had the ability to go back to school again and chose a career in business as an owner of a home care service agency. These work trajectories are not simply different jobs, but whole career changes, and are an example of ENCORES as coined by Mark Freedman, from an organization called Civic Ventures. In his book, *Encore: Finding Work That Matters in the Second Half of Life*, Freedman describes an **Encore Career** as work in the second half of life that combines continued income, greater personal meaning, and social impact.

Nicholas Kristof, in the *New York Times*, notes that Bill Gates' switch to working full-time for his foundation "is part of a booming trend: the 'encore career' as a substitute for retirement. Definitions vary, but an encore career often aims to provide personal satisfaction by 'giving back.'" Journalist Ellen Goodman did an entire article on Al Gore's response to losing the Presidency, describing his illustrious set of encore jobs in his new career as environmental activist.

To consider the impacts of 'encore work', Marc Freedman wrote "What if, over time, 100,000 people interested in encore careers were persuaded to launch 10-year encore careers? That would mean one million years of service dedicated to areas like education, poverty, and the environment." "What if we could persuade a million more to do so? Applying this human talent and experience to the big challenges of our time could be as profound a contribution as those made possible by new technologies or even massive infusions of philanthropic dollars."

Because the original idea of encore came about more than 10 years ago, I have been thinking about the concept now. Observations of my friends who are 40-65 are revealing that many are already on their 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> ENCORE career. We have all heard the information that today's workers can expect 10-15 jobs in their working lives, and that increase in opportunities is also happening as we grow into our 60s. Could it be that 'ENCORE careers' is an outdated concept? It seems that is increasingly evident. Successful women are finding this so right now. My friend JK started in international finance, moved to parenting, then contracting and construction management. That was followed by a communication and international marketing career in the food/beverage industry. All before the age of 60. I don't think her story is unusual.

## Updates on Public Policy

*By Asha Bajaj, Public Policy Chair*

The high-profile case of George Floyd resulting in the guilty verdict for Officer Derek Chauvin on all three counts was a welcomed step forward towards social justice all over the country. Whether this will result in police reform remains to be seen.

California has pushed through some strong measures for police accountability. The most high-profile proposal, **Senate Bill 2**, would empower the state Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training to decertify peace officers who engaged in "serious misconduct," a term to be defined by future regulation. The commission would also act on decisions issued by a new nine-member citizen panel, only two members of which would be required to have a law enforcement background.

Bradford's bill to expand victim restitution to cases involving police confrontations also won support from the panel's only Republican, State Sen. Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh (R-Yucaipa). The proposal, **Senate Bill 299**, broadly defines such incidents and states that payments would be allowed "regardless of whether the law enforcement officer is arrested for, charged with, or convicted of committing a crime." The author of SB 299, state Sen. Connie Leyva (D-Chino), said the current process can exclude victims who didn't cooperate with police officers. Critics argue the bill would allow restitution in cases in which the officer was never arrested or charged.

Last year's law to ban the use of chokeholds by law enforcement would be expanded to include any restraint or transport of suspects that involves a high risk of "positional asphyxia," which limits breathing, under **Assembly Bill 490**, approved by the Assembly Public Safety Committee.

Assemblyman Mike Gipson (D-Carson) said the broad limit on restraint procedures was removed from last year's chokehold ban, though he cited several cases in which subjects died during confinement by law enforcement officers.

***The Paycheck Fairness Act was passed with the support of AAUW.***

## Membership Corner

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*by Claudia Schwarz, Incoming Membership VP*

**MEMBERS -- WE NEED YOUR HELP** getting the word out about AAUW! Our branch is planning new and exciting events all the time and women in the area are always looking for ways to get involved and stay informed.

Do you have a friend or neighbor who would love to **JOIN** a group of “Tenacious and Trailblazer” women? Send them this newsletter, or better yet, send them the following [NEW MEMBER LINK](#) and have them contact me at 925-786-6061 or [claudiaschwarz@comcast.net](mailto:claudiaschwarz@comcast.net)



*by Marsha Anderson Landau, Current Membership VP*

If you know anyone who may be interested in becoming an advertiser, contact me, 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!

## 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 significant others. Not all the Interest Groups are meeting due to the pandemic. Be sure to check the newsletter each month for updates about whether a specific group is 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 Group Highlights

#### *Movies: The First Friday Films, by Dianne Tinnnes*

The Oscars film group, like many other special interest groups, is looking forward to resume meeting in person for their May gathering. The group has continued to meet throughout this COVID-19 year via Zoom. Quality films have been a little less available this season, as the studios have tended to hold back their new releases due to COVID. Some of the group's most popular selections, for this year, listed below, are also Academy Award nominees.



Trial of the Chicago 7



Ma Rainey's Black Bottom



Promising Young Woman



Mank

**Literature: Novel Ideas, by Kathy Harkins**

We are reposting the link to the book list shared with us last month by the Literature: Novel Ideas Interest Group. [CLICK HERE](#) if you want to see the full list of books this group has read. There are some treasures in there!

**Interest Groups Currently Meeting**

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

Interest group	Leader to contact
<a href="#">Bridge: Evening</a>	Arlene Barnett
<a href="#">Literature: Daytime</a>	Laurie Ehrlich
<a href="#">Literature: Evening</a>	Linda Jimerson
<a href="#">Literature: Novel Ideas</a> **This Interest Group is full.	Kathy Harkins
<a href="#">Mah Jongg 2</a> The Tuesday group is meeting; the Monday group is not	Paula Weintraub
<a href="#">Movies: First Friday Films</a> Full. Other movie groups are not meeting.	Kathy Harkins

**From the Editor**

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We welcome your contributions to the Advocate. Send any articles and pictures to Claudia Schwarz, "Standing 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 on our branch website and 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.

## Our Wonderful Sponsors

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	<p><i>Your Local Home Repair Specialist</i></p> <p>Adam Wilbanks</p> <p><a href="mailto:Wilbanks79@gmail.com">Wilbanks79@gmail.com</a></p>
	<p><i>Everyone Deserves a Bra that Fits</i></p> <p>Veronica Szender</p> <p><a href="https://www.revelationinfit.com/">https://www.revelationinfit.com/</a></p>

\*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.

Claudia Schwarz, Acting Editor  
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