



Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek (CA)



## The Advocate, June 2021

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

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## From the President

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by Chris Ritter, President



After a year like this, I think we can clearly confirm that we are tenacious!

At our **June 17<sup>th</sup> branch meeting, Celebrating Local Scholars and Executive Board Installation**, we will reap the rewards of our work as we present our Local Scholarships valued at over \$18,000 to 12 deserving candidates! We will have the opportunity to hear from many of the

awardees at the meeting. We will also officially install our newly-elected Executive Board and thank our outgoing board members for their efforts.

Also coming up **July 28 & 29 are the second two Evening Strolls** at the Ruth Bancroft Gardens. This time, the dramatic annual garden sculpture exhibit will be on display, so, even if you attended our first stroll, the garden will be transformed to a new experience for a second visit. Please be sure to invite your friends to this very enjoyable activity that will support our Local Scholarships for 2022.

Since we are continuing our fundraising into July, we are planning an **August Membership Appreciation Garden Party** that we can all attend in-person! This will be a wonderful opportunity for us to reconnect with our AAUW friends, re-energize our interest groups and celebrate all that our members do to support each other and our important projects. We are still working on a date and will keep you posted.

Finally, congratulations to Deborah Wechsler, Marsha Anderson and to all the volunteers who made our first **Evening Stroll at the Ruth Bancroft Garden a stunning success!** This creative alternative for our annual garden event was a delightful way to safely provide an enjoyable experience to raise funds in the face of COVID restrictions. With this start, we are well on our way to another year of generous funding for our local scholarships program. Thank you to all who participated and attended.

Have a wonderful beginning of summer and I look forward to seeing you all at our June 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Chris Ritter  
President 2020-21

### June To Do List

- Volunteer to distribute Tech Trek Kits – **contact Deborah Wechsler.**
- **June 17<sup>th</sup>** Attend Celebration for Local Scholars and Installation of 2022 Executive Board. [Zoom Link.](#)
- **Check your member directory info and picture** – review your personalized email asking for updates.
- **July 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>** -- Bring your friends to our [Evening Strolls at Ruth Bancroft Gardens](#). Click here to buy tickets.

## Upcoming Events

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### Local Scholars Celebration and Board Installation

June 17, from 5:00 to 6:30 PM via Zoom

- Meet our inspiring Local Scholarship recipients
- Celebrate our successful Ruth Bancroft Evening Stroll
- Welcome our new 2021-22 Board of Directors
- Bid farewell to our outgoing Board members

Bring a beverage for the celebration!

### [Garden Tour at the Ruth Bancroft Gardens, July 28 & 29](#)

Even if you attended our first Evening Stroll, there will be lots more to see during the annual “Sculpture in the Garden” display. These last two strolls are key fundraisers for our Local Scholarships next year so please attend with your friends and spread the word if you can about this fun activity.



**“Sculpture in the Garden”**

**July 28 & 29,  
5:30 – 6:30 pm**

**Ruth Bancroft Garden  
& Nursery**

“This annual **art show and sale** marries stunning sculptural art with the natural sculptural beauty of the Garden. This year’s show will feature the works of over 20 renowned Northern California artists”

## Member Appreciation Party

*By Claudia Schwarz*

After over a year and months of some level of hibernation, we are all ready to get out and enjoy each other and everything the world has to offer, am I right? I know I am! To celebrate our return to “normalcy,” our board is planning a **Member Appreciation Party** – a fun social event for members– where we can celebrate all we have accomplished this year and recognize our wonderful members for all that they do. This will be an ideal event to invite friends who might be interested in joining AAUW. The party is being planned for August at Theresa Cheung’s home in Danville.

**Keep an eye out for a “SAVE THE DATE” for this August event!**

## Annual Membership Brunch

We are also planning our **Annual Membership Brunch** for the Fall. After a year hiatus, we are returning to the Crow Canyon Country Club (CCCC). This is going to be a wonderful opportunity for members to sign up for interest groups, get to know one another, and listen to an inspirational speaker. There will be a raffle and live music – a must go event!

**Save the date -**

**Saturday, September 25<sup>TH</sup>, from 10 AM to 1 PM**

## National and California AAUW Reports

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### National AAUW

#### AAUW Election Results: Members have spoken

Julia Brown and Malinda Gaul were re-elected as board chair and vice chair, respectively, and Elizabeth Haynes and Joseph Bertolino will retain their board seats. AAUW’s public policy priorities were approved by 92% of voters. The board-recommended ballot initiative to remove the college-degree membership requirement **DID NOT** receive the two-thirds vote required to enact a bylaws change. However, a remarkable 63% of you voted in favor of this change, indicating a momentum shift toward a more inclusive membership.

### AAUW California

#### AAUW California 2021 election results are in!

The California branch membership researched and discussed qualifications, met, and voted on the candidates for our 2021 state election. With the close of voting on May 7th, the Nominations &

Elections Committee is pleased to announce California's newly elected leaders for the upcoming term:



**CA President Elect: Sandi Gabe**  
Mariposa and CA Online Branches



**CA Chief Financial Officer: Roli Wendorf**  
San Francisco Branch



**CA Director: Carol Holzgrafe**  
Chico and Paradise Branches

### **Public Policy Priorities**

In addition to electing new leaders, 1,980 of California's members voted a resounding YES to approve the Public Policy Priorities. The Public Policy Committee wishes to thank all of our members who sent us their input as well as those who took the time to vote.

### **Bylaw Amendments**

The California membership passed two amendments to the AAUW California bylaws with the required  $\frac{2}{3}$  approval. Both are intended to streamline and simplify the operation of the Board of Directors. The first amendment added a one-year director position to serve opposite the president-elect position to balance the number elected in odd and even years. The second amendment reduced the number of elected directors from 12 to 11 to establish an odd number for voting purposes and for budget efficiencies. These bylaw changes will take effect immediately.

### **Diversity and Inclusion, DEI Comes from Within**

*By Elaine Johnson, Director, [diversity@aauw-ca.org](mailto:diversity@aauw-ca.org)*

Congratulations and thank you to the many branches across California that have been taking action to make diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) real for AAUW California's current and prospective members. The DEI toolkit is available [here](#). It has many resources available for branch use. The glossary of terms is a handy guide with definitions of some of the most used terms such as implicit bias or intersectionality.

We encourage branches to identify new materials and connections with other organizations that support increasing DEI. Please share your experiences with us at [diversity@aauwca.org](mailto:diversity@aauwca.org).



## Speech Trek

By Marlene Cain, Speech Trek, [spechtrek@aauw-ca.org](mailto:spechtrek@aauw-ca.org)

**“I was so inspired by the Speech Trek speeches at the Annual Meeting... I want my Branch to start this program!”--Phyllis Taylor, President, Santa Cruz County Branch.**

Welcome, Santa Cruz County Branch, and others, who have written to say they are eager to join Speech Trek 2022. AAUW California Speech Trek joins Ms. Taylor in congratulating the top five speakers of 2021 (click [here](#) to watch the 1st three-place winner’s speeches):

- Honorable Mentions: Liliana Jacquet - Morgan Hill Rhea Jain-Fremont
- 3rd Place: Lauryn McGuire - La Mesa-El Cajon
- 2nd Place: Halle Schaffer - Del Mar Leucadia
- 1st Place: Lilian Chang - California Online



Lilian Chang  
California Online

Halle Schaffer  
Del Mar Leucadia

Lauryn McGuire  
La Mesa-El Cajon

***Congratulations to all the participating branches who stepped up and conducted virtual contests!***

AAUW California Speech Trek is already preparing for 2022! The 2021-2022 Branch Tool Kit and the 2021-2022 Student Tool Kit are being readied and will be on the website this summer. Let your students start thinking about the new topic:

“I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.” School children have been reciting the Pledge of Allegiance for nearly a century. What began as an advertising lark in 1923 has evolved to a patriotic act in 46 states.<sup>1</sup>

- Has the US lived up to its pledge of “liberty and justice for all”?
- Would requiring the study of diversity, equity, and inclusion in a high school setting help ensure “liberty and justice for all”?

“After watching the Speech Trek semifinalists during the AAUW California Annual Meeting... our branch is considering starting a Speech Trek program!” -- Jo Ann Cobb, North Tahoe Co-President.

Thank you, Jo Ann and Phyllis-- AAUW California Speech Trek looks forward to working with you and all the branches in 2021-2022!

(<sup>1</sup> "How the Pledge of Allegiance Went from PR Gimmick to Patriotic Vow", by Amy Crawford, Smithsonian Magazine, September 2015)

### Update on Directory Information Review

*By Joanne Quijano, Database and Directory Manager*



I am planning ahead for the 2021-2022 edition of our DAW AAUW Branch Membership Directory. To make it the best possible, it should reflect the most up to date information about our members. This includes address, contact information, education, and all the other items in our current Directory.

You should have received a personalized email by now with all of your listed Directory information. I hope you'll take the time to review this and let me know about any updates. Of special note is that we will be updating the option to **exclude cell phone numbers** from the Directory. The default will be that your cell number will be in the Directory listing. So it's important that you let me know if you do not want your number to appear.

Finally, we would like to have a **recent photo** of you to include in the 2021-2022 edition. If your current photo is a bit dated, or if you don't have one at all, please send me a new one. Ideally it should be in jpg file with just you in the frame, but I can crop and re-size as needed, so any photo can be used. Just email the file to me.

My email is [jtq@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jtq@sbcglobal.net). Thank you!

### Ruth Bancroft Garden Stroll was a Grand Success!

*By Marsha Anderson-Landau & Deborah Wechsler*

We sold out – 120 participants (about half AAUW members and half non-members) enjoyed a delightful evening strolling through the beautiful Ruth Bancroft Garden. We were able to see the unique outdoor exhibit of Japanese Ikebana art forms. Thanks to DAW member Bette Felton and her husband Jim, we sampled three wine varietals from their Sky Terrace Vineyards as we strolled about. We are very grateful for this successful partnership with Ruth Bancroft Garden.

**We netted over \$4,000 to help fund our Local Scholarships for women.** You will have another chance in late July to experience the annual garden sculpture art show and the beautiful Ruth Bancroft Garden, while helping women through our DAW Local Scholarships. The garden is always changing – something else in bloom; new plantings; new growth.

### Raffle Prizes and Winners

- Stunning 4<sup>th</sup> of July - themed gift basket created and donated by DAW member Carol Highton; won by Judy Abrams
- Sky Terrace Vineyards Wine Duet donated by Bette & Jim Felton; won by DAW member Pat McElderry
- Succulent Garden Planter donated by Ruth Bancroft Garden; won by Christy Campbell

And there was an additional raffle item, the “Brighter Days” Quilt, created and donated by DAW member Mary Mix. You are able to purchase more raffle tickets online at [Quilt Raffle](#) and also on July 28 and 29 at our Ruth Bancroft Garden Sculpture Stroll.

**Thank you** to the following people, without whom this event would not have been possible.

Analyn Landau & her assistants – [Crafts for a Pretty Penny](#) sponsor

Bette and Jim Felton – [Sky Terrace Vineyards](#) wine purveyors

Candy Blackman and Cooky Logan – refreshments table

Claudia Schwarz – membership table

Dee Brook & Marilyn & Bryan Lawver – wine sampling

Dianne Tinnis – Local Scholarships

Joanne Quijano – setup, cleanup and general volunteer

Lucy Kim, Tracy Fletcher, Julia Ibarra and all the Ruth Bancroft Garden docents

Robert Landau – parking assistance, setup and cleanup

Susan Terzuoli – parking assistance

Tena Gallagher - raffles

Veronica Szender – Entry table with Marsha





## 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.***

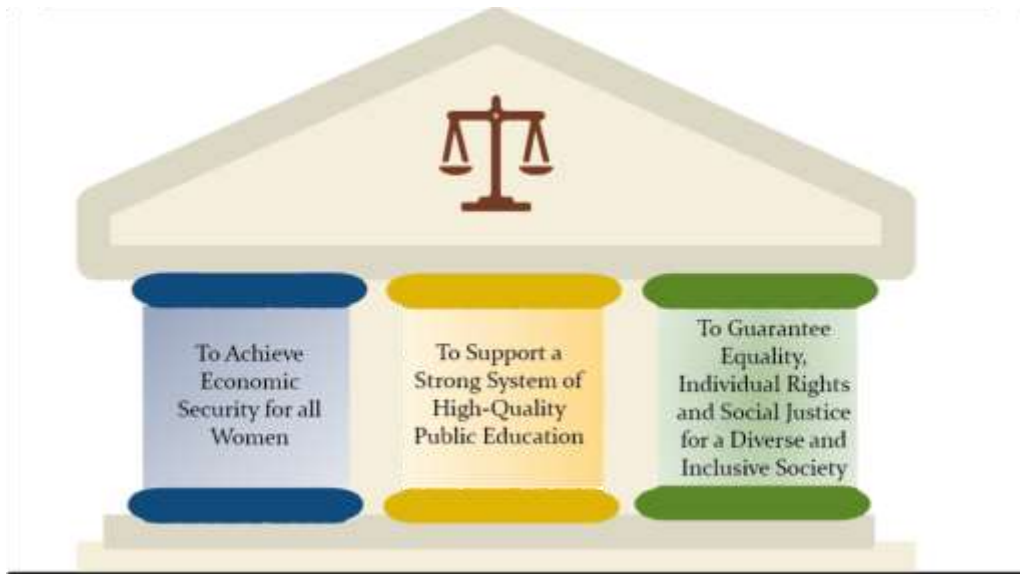
- Please let me know if you are interested in helping to distribute robotics kits to selected girls.
- **Camp Adult Volunteers Still Needed!** Additional adult social and build coaches are needed to support the three camps. Work for more than one camp! Click [here](#) for applications.

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

## Public Policy Corner

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*By Asha Bajaj, Public Policy Chair*



## **Mississippi Abortion Law in Supreme Court**

The Supreme Court announced Monday (May 17) that it will consider a major rollback on abortion rights. The nation's highest court will decide whether states can ban abortions that take place prior to the time in which a fetus can survive outside the womb, which will set up a showdown over abortion, expected in the fall.

The proposal comes as the Supreme Court has already shifted to a more conservative court, nearly 50 years after the 1973 Roe v. Wade rulings on constitutional abortion rights and its reaffirmation 19 years later. The case involves a Mississippi law that would prohibit most abortions after the 15th week of pregnancy. The law has been blocked by lower courts as inconsistent with Supreme Court precedent, which supports a woman's right to get an abortion prior to the fetus being developed enough to survive outside of the womb. Watch out for another attack on the constitutionality of Roe vs Wade!

## **Flexible Work Schedules**

Businesses are currently grappling with how to physically return employees to work following a year of working remotely during the pandemic. The California legislature is weighing into the mix by proposing two bills to provide employers and employees with more leeway to agree to mutually beneficial “flexible work schedules.”

Assembly Bill 230 (the Workplace Flexibility Act of 2021) and Assembly Bill 1028 (the Telework Flexibility Act of 2021), introduced in February, would provide hourly employees with the right to request flexible work schedules to work up to four 10-hour days per week. With this request, the employer would not have to pay overtime for the 9th and 10th hours worked per day in that schedule. In addition, the Telework Flexibility Act of 2021 would provide remote employees with more flexibility to schedule their meal periods and rest breaks.

## **State Stimulus Money**

Gov. Gavin Newsom proposed a second round of \$600 state stimulus checks on Monday to hasten California’s recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, hoping to expand the payments from low-income residents to also include middle-class families, and noting that doing so would ensure benefits for 2 out of 3 state residents.

The proposal to deliver \$8 billion in new cash payments to millions of Californians is part of a \$100-billion economic stimulus plan made possible in part by a budget that has swelled with a significant windfall of tax revenues, a surplus the governor put at \$75.7 billion.

## Membership Corner

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*by Claudia Schwarz, Incoming Membership VP and by Marsha Anderson Landau, Current Membership VP*

### Welcome NEW Members

**Danville:** Marcia Beersdorf, Alicia Hetman, and Cheryl Kohleriter (returning).

**Walnut Creek:** Wendi Whitcomb and Sosanna Kuruvila (returning).

To reach out to our new members and welcome them to our Branch, go [HERE](#) for their email and phone number information.

### Membership Drive

We are actively recruiting **NEW** members and **RETURNING** members to our Branch. If you know someone who would like to join our group of Wonderful Women, please let me know.

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)

## 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 Groups Currently Meeting

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

Interest group	Leader to contact
<a href="#">Bridge: Evening switching to daytime</a> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday from 12:30 to 3:30_pm	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> Monday and Tuesday morning groups.	Paula Weintraub, M Lawver
<a href="#">Movies: First Friday Films</a> Full. Other movie groups 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

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!

 <p>BAY AREA FUNDING GROUP</p>	<p><i>Find the best financing for you with personalized home loan solutions.</i></p> <p>Carrie Sanford</p> <p><a href="https://www.bayareafunding.com/carriesanford/">https://www.bayareafunding.com/carriesanford/</a></p>
	<p><i>Plan your dream trip with confidence.</i></p> <p>Ilene Ferguson*</p> <p><a href="https://www.alamoworld.com/">https://www.alamoworld.com/</a></p>
<p><i>Writer Advice</i> Helping Writers online since 1997</p>	<p><i>Connect with your muse through a personal writing coach.</i></p> <p>Benita Lynn Goodwin*</p> <p><a href="https://writeradvice.com/">https://writeradvice.com/</a></p>
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	<p><i>Feel younger with new skills for pain-free movement.</i></p> <p>Lucas Ritter</p> <p><a href="mailto:RitterLucasR@gmail.com">RitterLucasR@gmail.com</a></p>
	<p><i>Financial planning to Realize Your Dreams</i></p> <p>Erin Beable*</p> <p><a href="https://advisor.morganstanley.com/the-sauberman-beable-group">https://advisor.morganstanley.com/the-sauberman-beable-group</a></p>
	<p><i>Trust and estate planning you can trust.</i></p> <p>Sarah Nix*, Attorney at Law</p> <p><a href="mailto:snix@gagenmccoy.com">snix@gagenmccoy.com</a></p>

 <p>Morning Glory Estate Sales Making Happy Clients</p>	<p><i>Become a happy client with your estate sale.</i></p> <p>Marie Dear <a href="mailto:MorningGlory821@gmail.com">MorningGlory821@gmail.com</a></p>
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	<p><i>Lift your spirit with elegant landscape and fine garden design.</i></p> <p>Bill Williams <a href="https://www.spiritspacelandscape.com/">https://www.spiritspacelandscape.com/</a></p>
	<p><i>Take advantage of advanced technologies to communicate more effectively.</i></p> <p>Louis Leveriza <a href="http://www.diabloprinting.com/">http://www.diabloprinting.com/</a></p>
	<p><i>Add beauty to your life with fine floral arrangements and gifts.</i></p> <p>Kris Simpson <a href="https://www.eastbayflowercompany.com/">https://www.eastbayflowercompany.com/</a></p>
	<p><i>Your Local Home Repair Specialist</i></p> <p>Adam Wilbanks <a href="mailto:Wilbanks79@gmail.com">Wilbanks79@gmail.com</a></p>
	<p><i>Everyone Deserves a Bra that Fits</i></p> <p>Veronica Szender <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

Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek AAUW

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