



Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek (CA)



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



## The Advocate, July 2021

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## Outgoing President's Message

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by Chris Ritter, President 2020-21



What a year! If ever there was an opportunity to prove ourselves trailblazing and tenacious, this was it. In spite of the challenges of the pandemic, we were able to advance gender equity through each of our three action areas: research, education and advocacy.

*Research* - We started the year with a member survey to find out what you, our members, needed from our organization and we planned our annual activities around your input.

*Education* – We held six mission based educational programs that we delivered via Zoom. We took advantage of the Zoom format to distribute the program content more widely than was possible with in-person events. We invited our neighboring AAUW branches to join our programs and launched successful publicity and social media campaigns that drew 125 members of the public to register for our programs.

Local Scholarships - We raised over \$18,500 from our July Garden Tour which we awarded this year to Local Scholars and we already have \$4,000 in our fund for next year based on the first Evening Stroll at Ruth Bancroft Garden.

Tech Trek – We funded 16 virtual campers this year using a portion of the funds we had from last year's cancelled camps. And based on your generous donations, the two corporate sponsors we secured, the \$1,700 we raised from our Mangia Mi dinner event, and the remaining funds from the cancelled 2020 camps, we already have almost enough funds to support our campers in 2022!

*Advocacy* – Based on your survey data, we reinvigorated our advocacy activities, with our Get Out the Vote postcard writing campaign, a joint program with the League of Women Voters on California ballot initiatives and our co-sponsored school board candidate program with the San Ramon Valley PTA. Three of our members joined Lobby Day to educate state legislators on the most important bills for our AAUW CA agenda. We reinstated our monthly Public Policy Update in *The Advocate*. And we are looking to strengthen our advocacy effectiveness next year by coordinating our efforts with neighboring branches.

AAUW FUND – Based on our solicitation letter and our Montecatini Triple Win fundraiser dinner, our branch contributed \$13,500, mostly to the Greatest Needs Fund, where our contributions are most needed to support the broad spectrum of programs and support provided by our national organization.

Thank you for the opportunity to lead our group of remarkable women whose generous contributions of time, energy and resources enabled us to achieve so much in difficult times. Thank you to the Board members who worked so well and so hard to lead our initiatives. And thank you to all our members who supported our branch's work this year. I look forward to seeing you all in person soon to continue our work under the able leadership of our new President Joanne Quijano.

## Incoming President's Message

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By Joanne Quijano, President 2021-22



It was indeed a challenging year for the past Board! We all had to adjust to changing levels of restrictions, yet still managed to have a full state of programs and engaging events. Many, many thanks to the outgoing Board members, and to all of you Branch members who stayed active and engaged!

This coming year should bring us back together in person with new purpose. I am anticipating plenty of energy and an exciting agenda will emerge from the incoming Board's strategy session in August. Our new and continuing Board members will be ready to build on our past year's successes to continue the Branch's education and advocacy activities. Please feel free to contact me at [jtq@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jtq@sbcglobal.net) with any ideas you have for our Branch this coming year.

For July, there will be another fundraising event at the beautiful Ruth Bancroft Gardens. We've reserved two dates, July 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, where our ticket holders will have exclusive access to stroll through the gardens with amazing garden docents on hand. We'll be offering wine tasting and several other extras to enhance your experience.

In addition to the garden stroll, plans are under way for two great member events. In August, we are bringing back our Membership Appreciation Party with a garden party at the lovely home of Teresa Cheung. Following in September will be our Fall Membership Brunch that we'll have at the Crow Canyon Country Club. This is shaping up to be a not-to-be-missed event.

Be sure to look for details about these events in the Upcoming Events section!

### July To Do List

- **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.
- **August 12** – Save the date for *Member Appreciation Garden Party*
- **September 25** – Save the date for *Fall Membership Brunch* at Crow Canyon Country Club

## Upcoming Events

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### Evening Garden Stroll at the Ruth Bancroft Gardens, July 28 & 29

by Deborah Wechsler

Following our very successful May 21 Japanese Ikebana evening stroll (reported in the Advocate June issue), Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek Branch of the American Association of University Women has reserved 2 evenings at the world-famous [Ruth Bancroft Garden](#), Walnut Creek, to experience their 27<sup>th</sup> annual sculpture show. Please join us!



Your \$40 Ticket includes:

- **Wine sampling** again thanks to Bette and Jim Felton of [Sky Terrace Vineyards](#)
- **Welcome packet:** Self-guided tour brochure, current blooms descriptions, water/drought and landscaping information, and AAUW & sponsor information
- **Quilt and Garden basket raffle** opportunities. Mary Mix's beautiful quilt raffle will be drawn on July 29. Carol Highton is offering three of her amazing baskets for the raffle!
- **Refreshments again thanks to event sponsor** [Crafts for a Pretty Penny](#)
- **Support our DAW-AAUW Scholarships** for local women

Choose your date and reserve your place by clicking [daw-ca.aauw.net](http://daw-ca.aauw.net) or purchase at [East Bay Flower Company](#) in the Danville Livery (check or cash only). The garden has a maximum of 120 guests each evening, and on **May 21 we sold out**, so please reserve your "ticket" now. Your name will be added to the list at the garden welcome entry; no physical tickets will be mailed.

Next year's 2022 Traditional Garden tour will resume post COVID with 5 beautiful, interesting, individual local gardens. Marsha Anderson Landau and Tena Gallagher will be coordinating May dates, locales, ticket creation, and volunteer docents.

## Member Appreciation Party

*by Joanne Quijano*

It is time to get out and socialize in person! The first event of the new Branch year that's just for our Branch members and prospective members will be our annual Member Appreciation Party. We've set the date for August 12<sup>th</sup>, from 5:00 to 7:00 pm, and the location will be the gracious backyard of Teresa Cheung. At this time we'll celebrate the past year's accomplishments, award long standing members, and recognize our generous funds donors. In addition, we'll have a garden party theme, with drinks and refreshments. So, get out your best garden-style hat, and plan to come join the party!



Remember to save the date for **August 12, 2021, from 5:00 to 7:00 pm.**

## Annual Membership Brunch

*By Claudia Schwarz*

We are extremely excited about this year's Membership Brunch and hope that you are too!

We are returning to the wonderful Crow Canyon Country Club after having our Brunch on Zoom last year. The event will present a great opportunity to catch up with friends, listen to a great speaker (TBD – we are determining between several top-level speakers), and enjoy a lovely brunch. There will be information tables to learn about and sign up for our Branch Interest Groups as well as information about our Tech Trek student support program.

If you have time and interest in event planning and want to help, please contact Claudia Schwarz at [claudiaschwarz@comcast.net](mailto:claudiaschwarz@comcast.net) or (925)786-6061.

Remember to save the date for **September 25, 2021, from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM.**

## National and California AAUW Reports

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### National AAUW News

#### *A Setback for Fair Pay*

After inching so close to finally seeing the passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act (PFA), this important piece of legislation failed on a procedural vote in the U.S. Senate earlier this month. PFA would give women the tools they need to challenge pay discrimination and provide incentives to employers to comply with the law.

We know you share [our deep disappointment at this setback](#), but the fight isn't over. With your support, we've pushed for PFA's passage for more than two decades—and we'll keep on pushing for as long as it takes. [Take action now](#) using our new activist toolkit.

#### *Title IX Turns 49*

June 23 marked the 49th anniversary of Title IX, a landmark federal civil rights law. AAUW provided public comment for a virtual public hearing on June 7-11, emphasizing the need to restore and strengthen safeguards against harassment in schools and protect students from retaliation. As we await next steps, tell Congress to support the [Gender Equity in Education Act](#).

GEEA would help to reduce and prevent sex discrimination in all areas of education by supporting the vital, on-the-ground work of Title IX coordinators through additional resources, training and technical assistance. It would also authorize competitive grants to K-12 schools, colleges, local educational agencies, or states to support their gender equity work.

All of these efforts, and those that AAUW members have undertaken for decades, lay the groundwork for a real 50th anniversary celebration of Title IX in 2022: fully realizing the promise of the law. Urge your members of Congress to build on the legacy of Title IX by [cosponsoring GEEA today!](#)

#### *STEMEd for Girls Starts July 7*

Computer science and engineering are among the fastest-growing and highest paid jobs of the future, yet only 16% of engineers are women. Help engineer a promising future for the young women in your life through AAUW's free [STEMEd for Girls](#) program, which starts July 7. It was created exclusively for girls in grades 9 through 12 and the parents, guardians and caregivers who support their dreams.

## **AAUW California News**

### ***Volunteer for New AAUW-CA Marketing Work Group***

*by Michelle Miller-Galaz and Sharyn Siebert, Directors, Marketing Committee CoChairs,  
marketing@aauw-ca.org*

The Marketing Committee of AAUW California has been meeting almost monthly. Dowitcher Design, our marketing consulting firm, has given us a road map, which we are working through with our Marketing Committee and the Marketing Design Task Force. This committee is multi-generational and very engaged on how to best market our organization. We need engaged members to join our upcoming work groups in order to implement those various efforts. No previous experience is required—only a desire to help.

When the applications for the workgroups are posted to the AAUW California website in late June, please consider joining one. Our board cannot do this alone!

### ***Public Policy Opportunities at AAUW-CA***

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

As we look back on our many successes this past year, your Public Policy co-chairs want to acknowledge the contributions of our branch leaders and their members in advancing the public policy priorities of AAUW California. First, thank you to our great team, who come from 10 different branches: Ginny Hatfield, Kit Hein, Alicia Hetman, Amy Hom, Arnedra Jordan, Melissa Maceyko, Nancy Mahr, Archana Maniar, Shelley Mitchell, and Claire Noonan. These ten fabulous women worked so hard this year. Please send them kind thoughts of gratitude.

Next, we recognize the 111 members from 65 branches who participated in Lobby Day, and the 640 members who responded to the Public Policy Priorities (PPPs) survey. Thanks to you, 59 legislators now know all about AAUW and our signature bills, and our PPPs now reflect members' evolving concerns.

Finally, we are grateful to the 66 branches who published a public policy article in their newsletter, presented a mission-related program, or held a mission-related community event. Member participation in mission-related work is the backbone of our organization. Please consider applying for the Public Policy Committee next year. Applications will be posted on the AAUW California website in late June.

## DAW Branch Reports

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

*By Deborah Wechsler, Tech Trek Chair*

The first Virtual Tech Trek camp was held June 21-25, with almost 300 girls attending! Eleven of those campers were sponsored by our DAW branch. Our other five sponsored campers are planning to go to one of the camps in July.

Some comments from the campers:

"I had an amazing experience at Tech Trek. I really enjoyed all the workshops, but my favorites were "Math is on the Menu" and "Exploring Water at Its Surface." I also found pleasure in making my automated hat during breakout rooms in the morning. Socializing with other girls with similar interests as mine was fun as well. Overall, I had a very educational and memorable time at Tech Trek."



"I really enjoyed the experience and all of the fun workshops that we got to do last week. One of the workshops that we did I really liked; it was called: Strawberries Have DNA? The hat project was also fun because I loved how I got to be creative with my designs and I liked programming it to spin or light up. Everyone was just so helpful and kind, I really loved it and I got to meet some new people and get their phone numbers so I can chat with them. Thank you so much for giving me this opportunity to be in this camp!"

I was the Logistics Coordinator for all of the East Bay branches, with 68 campers and about 20 coaches. With help from DAW member Bev Nidick and Tech Trek Branch Coordinators Diane Coventry (Pleasant Hill-Martinez) and Debbie Cummings (Delta-Contra Costa), we completed and distributed kits for the campers and coaches.

I would like to thank the 2021 Tech Trek Interview team of Sue Brandy, Bette Felton, Diane Fornasier, Laura Johnson, Pat Kenber, Liz Williams, and Monika Witte, who worked together to select the Tech Trek girls for this year. We have several new members expressing interest to help out next year, and we will begin active efforts in the fall. **Let me know if you would like to join the team!**

We have sufficient funds for the 2021 camp. If fees stay the same as in 2020 (\$1000/girl) we are only \$2000 short of funding for 12 girls in 2022. Thanks for your generous contributions and support!

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



## Advertisers Needed

*By Marsha Anderson Landau*

Hello DAW members! We are back soliciting funds to cover branch overhead expenses.

Last fall, due to COVID lockdown protocol and closed businesses, we extended our current advertiser contracts for an additional year at no charge. Consequently, no advertiser revenue was raised last year. Thankfully, our membership and advertisers made it through the past year and have emerged stronger.

We generated \$2,925 from advertisers in 2019 to cover critical needs such as the cost of our Membership Directory and miscellaneous promotional expenses. **This year, our goal is \$3,000.**

Our May 2022 Garden Tour will need Event Advertisers to cover expenses such as ticket and poster creation, refreshments and media exposure. Event Advertisers will be recognized in event signage, event promotion, and on the event page on our website. After the event, each Event Advertiser will receive a poster with their logo showing their support for the event. This is a BIG deal for our local businesses, because the attendance at this event is huge, and offers tremendous exposure not only to AAUW members, but also to members of the public who comprise about half of the attendees.

We also are looking for Directory Advertisers for our much-used and much-loved Member Directory, which is distributed to each of our 240 members. Each advertisement is featured in our directory, the advertiser's logo and web link appear monthly in our *Advocate* newsletter and also is displayed on our website.

Promoting members' and friends' businesses and supporting our branch are the goals of the Event Advertiser or Directory Advertisers role! If you, or anyone you know, is interested in participating as an [Advertiser](#) for our special events, please contact me, Marsha Anderson Landau, at 925-351-8188 or [marsha888@comcast.net](mailto:marsha888@comcast.net).

## Branch Executive Board Openings – Volunteers Needed

*by Joanne Quijano, President*

As our Branch starts the new year, we have a new slate of elected Board members that is starting work to set our direction and plan events. In addition to elected officers, there are many appointed Board positions. While many of these positions are filled, there are still several key openings that will provide opportunities for willing volunteers who'd like to get more involved in our Branch activities.

- **Advocate Editor** – The Advocate is the Branch's flagship monthly communication to our members. This position offers the opportunity for someone with word processing, writing and editorial skills to shape this forum. While the Advocate's format and editorial processes are established, there's plenty of room to be creative as well as influence the articles solicited for publication.

- **Local Scholarship Chair** – One of the Branch’s defining programs is that of awarding scholarships to selected local students. Students are solicited to apply through our website and other sources. The LS Chair is the one who builds a team to review the applications and select the recipients, and then informs everyone of the selections. This a great opportunity to interact with the excellent students and to work with a dedicated team of Branch members.
- **Fundraising Chair**- This position has the mission of generating funds for our Branch programs. While the traditional Garden Tour is in the works for May of 2022, our usual Holiday Home Tour is no longer possible. The Fundraising Chair will need to form a team to meet this challenge that will envision, plan and execute fund raising events. There were lots of creative ideas used for generating funds in the last year that this team can build on.

If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact me at [jtq@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jtq@sbcglobal.net), or anyone on the Board. We’re looking forward to welcoming a few more new, energetic Board members!

### Thank You Outgoing Board Members

*By Chris Ritter, Outgoing President*

For those of you who missed the Local Scholar Celebration and Board Installation, I want recap the recognition and heartfelt thanks we shared for all our outgoing 2021-21 Officers, Board members and their committees who worked so hard to make this year such a success in spite of the pandemic challenge.

### *Our Thanks to This Year’s Special Teams*

This year, two special teams came together to meet the challenge of continuing our branch operations and fundraising in the face of the pandemic restrictions.

**Fundraising Task Force** – Our *Fundraising Chair, Susan Terzuoli*, led a special team including *Robin Halloran Co VP FUND, Liz Williams CO-VP FUND, Marsha Anderson VP Membership and Maryam Alexandrian-Adams Fundraising Outreach Chair*, to generate creative fundraising activities in the year of COVID and to replace our Holiday Home Tour in the future.

- *Susan Terzuoli, Marsha Anderon and Robin Halloran* led two fundraiser dinners that generated over \$3,500.
- *Deborah Wechsler and Marsha Anderson* created and led the Ruth Bancroft Garden Evening Strolls which generated over \$4,000 from the first of three events.
- *Maryam Alexandrian Adams* secured \$1,500 in corporate sponsorships for Tech Trek.

The team also generated many ideas for winter fundraisers for next year.

**Technology Task Force** – *Teresa Cheung, Webmaster*, also led a special team, including *Joanne Quijano Directory and Database Manager, Linda Jimerson Publicity Chair, Isabel Lau Social Media Manager, Deborah Wechsler Communications and Graphic Designer and Chris Ritter President*, to help us adapt to the virtual world for this year and the future.

- *Teresa Cheung* led our website update to support our new urgent need for excellent virtual communications.
- *Joanne Quijano* transitioned our directory from a word document to a database report that prints at the press of a button! She also updated all our directory info this spring.
- *Linda Jimerson* expanded our publicity outreach to digital media and local digital newsletters resulting in 125 registrations of the general public for our educational programs and increased membership inquiries.
- *Isabel Lau* reorganized and revitalized our social media presence in FaceBook, Instagram and Twitter to increase our public exposure and also wrote “how to” *Advocate* articles to help members participate in the digital world.
- *Deborah Wechsler* developed graphics and publicity kits for each of our public events and managed the branch email communications. She also developed the plan for our new branch digital archive on Google Drive.
- *Chris Ritter* set up the branch Zoom meetings, established a new YouTube Channel to host our meeting videos and facilitated our public meeting registration through EventBrite ticket sales.

### ***Our Thanks to Our Executive Board Members***

With the help of these special teams providing new pandemic-friendly fundraising and improved digital infrastructure, our Board Members were able to continue to move our mission forward this year despite our quarantine challenges:

- *Bette Felton, VP Programs* - brought us six high-quality mission-based educational programs offered over Zoom. Zoom enabled us to easily share our programs with our neighboring branches, and our publicity and on-line EventBrite registration garnered 125 registrations from the general public.
- *Marsha Anderson Landau, VP Membership* – made sure we understood our members’ needs by contacting all members who did not respond to our member survey. She followed up on dozens of membership inquiries with informative, professional packets and she nurtured our advertisers by extending their contracts for 2020 with the expectation that they will advertise post pandemic. She organized our virtual Fall Membership Brunch, our Holiday social event and our Board Installation event. In addition, she led our Triple Win Montecatini fundraiser dinner for AAUW and co-led our Ruth Bancroft Garden Evening Strolls.
- *Liz Williams and Robin Halloran, Co -VPs of FUNDS* – This dynamic duo supported our AAUW fundraising with the solicitation letter and their support of the Fundraising Task Force. With their leadership our branch members generated \$13,500 to support AAUW FUND. Robin Halloran was instrumental in brokering the Mangia Mi fundraiser deal.
- *Holly Sauer, Secretary* -kept wonderfully thorough and accurate meeting minutes.
- *Claudia Schwarz, Treasurer* – kept us on course with our income and expenses and reported our fundraising progress each month. As she transitions to VP Membership in 2021, Claudia has already launched a new membership drive.

## ***Our Thanks to Our Appointed Board Members***

We also want to recognize and thank our Appointed Board Members for their key contributions in addition to those from the Task Force roles.

- *Kathy Harkins, Garden Tour Chair July 2020* – led our wonderfully successful Garden Tour last summer that funded our \$18,500 in 2021 Local Scholarship awards this year.
- *Deborah Wechsler, Tech Trek Chair, Parliamentarian, Communications Manager and Graphic Designer* – supported the branch in so many ways and also took the extra step of serving as our East Bay area’s Tech Trek Logistics coordinator for the 82 campers and coaches from 9 area Branches. She was instrumental in brokering the agreement with Ruth Bancroft Garden for our Evening Stroll fundraisers that will support our Local Scholarships we will award in 2022.
- *Asha Bajaj, Public Policy Chair* - kicked off the election year with post-card campaign to get out the vote among recently disenfranchised voters, partnered with San Ramon Valley PTA for school board candidate panel, monitored the public policy arena for us with monthly columns, and led our Lobby Day group. This summer she is working to establish a regional Public Policy Committee to coordinate our activities with neighboring branches.
- *Dianne Tinnis, Local Scholarship Chair* – led Local Scholarship committee to one of our most successful year ever with 15 excellent candidates and 12 awardees. We received not only more applications this year, but also had higher quality applicants.
- *Judy Lauper, Expanding Your Horizons Chair*- managed our Expanding Your Horizons participation in this virtual year. AAUW is a major sponsor for this event, which continued virtually this year with 300 girls.
- *Tena Gallagher, Membership Treasurer and Local Scholarship Treasurer*- in addition to making sure all our dues were paid and members entered into the national database, Tena also tracked our donations and payments to our Local Scholarship 501(c)(3) fund administered by AAUW CA Special Projects.
- *Aline Soules, Beth Clark and Claudia Schwarz, Advocate Editors* – our 2019-20 editor, Aline Soules, was kind enough to help us make a smooth transition once we identified a new editor for this year. Beth Clark picked up the reins and formalized the production using a template to make it easier for future editors. She also started a new column, “What was it Like for you. Mom?”. When Beth went on leave, Claudia Schwarz graciously picked up the editorship to keep us all informed of important branch news.
- *Susetta Welm, Advocate Distribution Manager*- made sure our “non-digital” members received this important communication.
- *Pat Gross, Member Services Chair* – faithfully worked to share our support for members in need by sending cards behalf of our organization.
- *Joanne Quijano, Nomination Committee Chair*, led our Nomination Committee to create our outstanding slate of 2021-22 officers.

This has been a remarkable year in which we were able to succeed through the combined efforts of our whole group. Please join me in giving our heartfelt thanks to all the contributors mentioned above, to all those who served on the committees or volunteered to support our important work and to our members whose donations of their resources, time and talents make it possible for us to continue advancing equity for women and girls.

## Public Policy Update

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By Asha Bajaj, Public Policy Chair

### Social Justice Issues

***Juneteenth was declared a federal holiday*** - a cause for celebration for justice and equality. It also brought into focus how fragile these freedoms can be under the onslaught of voting rights being restricted and modified in Georgia, Texas and other states. All the more reason that a federal level voting rights bill needs to pass congress and the Senate to counteract these efforts.

***California to restrict unemployment benefits*** - California has added more than 390,000 jobs since February. In April alone, California accounted for 38% of all new jobs added in the U.S. But that same month, California still had the second-highest unemployment rate in the country at 8.3%. Since the pandemic began, California has processed more than 20 million unemployment claims and paid out more than \$128 billion in benefits.

Normally, the most money someone can get from unemployment benefits in California is \$450 per week. But Congress has added an additional \$300 per week on top of that because of the pandemic. Now as coronavirus cases have fallen and more people are getting vaccinated, employers have said they are having a hard time finding people to work. In response, most states, including California, will require people to look for work in order to be eligible for unemployment benefits. And 25 states have stopped paying the extra \$300 per week in benefits to prod people back into the workforce.

***Housing Crisis*** - Sen. Anthony Portantino's bill, Senate Bill 15, seeks to empower and incentivize local governments to rezone commercial properties in order to make room for much-needed affordable housing. Until now, one big roadblock to building more affordable housing, according to Portantino, D-La Canada, has been the fact that cities earn more revenue from sales tax than they do from property tax.

Vacant or idle commercial properties eligible to be rezoned range from single stores at least 75,000 square feet, multi-store strip mall locations, and even the large, big box stores. "Idle" as it is written in SB15, means that at least 80% of the site is not occupied and has been so for at least 12 months.

The stipulations written into the bill make certain that the housing developed at these commercial locations be for low-income and workforce housing – 80% of the median income level, according to Portantino.

Funding for SB15 would be handled by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). The HCD would issue a Notice of Funding Availability for a year, on grants for which interested cities could then apply. The HCD would then accept applications for those grants at the end of that 12-month period. The HCD would do this each year the funds are made available.

## Reproductive Rights

“Reproductive rights may be in question again after it’s been decided for 40 years,” said state Sen. Lena Gonzalez (D-Long Beach), author of California Senate Bill 245, the Abortion Accessibility Act. “We’re taking a stance, not just to make abortions available but to make them free and equitable.”

The state Legislature is considering the bill just as the fate of Roe vs. Wade has been thrown into question. The conservative-leaning Supreme Court has agreed to review this year a Mississippi law that bans abortions after 15 weeks, and its ruling could end or weaken Roe.

Stay Tuned! Stay engaged! Stay involved!

## Membership Corner

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### Welcome New Members

*by Claudia Schwarz, Membership VP and by Marsha Anderson Landau, Past Membership VP*

Please extend a warm welcome to our newest members:

**Alamo:** Carol Coburn

**Danville:** Tricia Grame

**Walnut Creek:** Michele Rubenstein, Ogie Strogatz, Kathryn Thonton (Dual), Caroline Wood (Dual - returning).

**Clayton:** Lisa Simone

To reach out to our new members and welcome them to our Branch, click [Here](#) for their email and phone number information on the Directory page of the members only section of our website.

### “Meet and Greet” – New and Returning Members

*By Claudia Schwarz*

On Saturday, July 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am, a few of us will gather for a “Meet and Greet” at the [Peet’s by Heather Farm in Walnut Creek](#). This is a great opportunity for new and returning members to find out more about our Branch and share their interests and reasons to join.

### Membership Drive

*By Claudia Schwarz*

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 (WOW), 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)

## **AAUW Membership Dues**

*By Tena Gallagher*

Membership dues for the year beginning July 1, 2021 were due by June 30. The dues are \$103 total: \$62 for national, \$21 for California AAUW and \$20 for our branch. \$59 of national dues are tax deductible. If you haven't paid yet, please contact our membership treasurer, Tena Gallagher at [mstena@gmail.com](mailto:mstena@gmail.com), to get this important issue resolved.

## **Member B. Lynne Goodwin's Book Honored in Book Competition**

B. Lynn Goodwin was a finalist in the 15th Annual National Indie Excellence® Awards (NIEA) in this year's competition. Her latest book, a YA called Talent, is published by Koehler Books.

Winners and finalists are determined on the basis of superior written matter coupled with excellent presentation in every facet of the final published product from cover to cover.

Congratulations, Lynne!

## **Members Caring for Members**

This month two of our members, Roseann Krane and Charlene Vorous, lost their beloved husbands. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to them.

## **DAW Interest Group Happenings**

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Joining an Interest Group gives you the opportunity to get to know women in the branch who enjoy the same activities as you do.

The full list of active and inactive Interest Groups is on our branch website; click on [DAW Branch Interest Groups](#). 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. Some Interest Groups are also open to significant others. Be sure to add your name to a waiting list if you can't join the group now.

## **Interest Groups Are Meeting in Person**

As the pandemic restrictions ease, our interest groups are re-energized and ready to resume meeting in person to share our common interests. Here are the exciting updates from our reporting Interest Group leaders. If you don't see an update for your group on the list, please use the Interest Group link and contact the leader directly.

Group Name	Leader(s)	Messages from the Group Leaders
Art and Garden Wednesdays or Fridays Excursion + lunch Time varies	Jacque Schubert	Art and Garden started up with a June 4 <sup>th</sup> outing to Blackhawk Museum and Blackhawk Grille. 18 attended and I had a waiting list, so people are definitely ready to get out and get going. I am looking for more local and easy outings in the next few months as the venues open up and are able to provide docents. There will be no outing in July and I am looking at two options for fall, but nothing is definite yet. I will keep you posted through the Advocate and my email.
Beads2Jewelry 1st Thursday 1:00 PM	Maureen Mapes & Dianne Giacovelli	We restarted in May!
Bridge: Daytime Party (WL) 3rd Monday 12:30 PM	Angela Domer	The 3rd Monday AAUW Party Bridge group will be having its first in-person game on July 19 <sup>th</sup> at 12:30. It will be at the home of Lola Rohrs. Though our group is full, we can always take names for substitutes. All of our AAUW Bridge groups will be meeting on Mondays at 12:30 so that the month's hostess will no longer be providing lunch -- light snacks and liquid refreshments only are suggested. If you are interested in becoming a sub, call or text Angela Domer at 925 997 1692 or email at angelacv@earthlink.net.
Bridge: Duplicate (WL) 4th Monday 12:30 PM	Lola Rohrs	We will start at 12:30 with hostesses serving only snacks and liquid refreshments. Our first meeting will be at my house on July 26 <sup>th</sup> at 12:30. Experienced bridge players are encouraged to talk to Lola Rohrs regarding playing with this group. My phone number is 925 680-8345.
Bridge: 2nd Monday Party Bridge (WL) 2nd Monday 12:30 PM	Arlene Barnett	The 2nd Monday Party Bridge group will return to in-person bridge in houses starting monthly in July. We will start at 12:30 with hostesses serving only snacks and liquid refreshments. Many in the group have been playing bridge online with the Trickster app for the past 11 months, not only to enjoy playing the game, but in the hope that we will all remember how to play at the level we want to when we are back to "normal". Call Arlene Barnett at 925 947-6122 if you are interested in becoming a sub as our group is currently full.



Group Name	Leader(s)	Messages from the Group Leaders
Gourmet: Adventurous Chefs	In Search of a Leader	The group decided to disband. Those interested in starting or leading a new group on the Adventurous Chefs model are encouraged to contact Chris Ritter.
Gourmet: Culinary Navigators 1st Saturday 6:30 PM	Sandy Killoran & Marilyn Steichen	The group met June 19 <sup>th</sup> for an outdoor dinner. We are a small group; however, we had a wonderful time. Great food, good conversation and good discussion for the coming year. We are planning to meet again in August.
Gourmet: Epicureans 3rd Saturday 6:00 PM	Elizabeth Williams	We plan to meet in August and we are accepting new members.
Literature: Contemporary Books (WL) 4th Wednesday 9:30 AM	Diane Stangel	We are meeting in person in outdoor locations and will consider moving indoors as member safety concerns allow.
Literature: Daytime 4th Thursday 9:45 AM	Laurie Ehrlich	This group of serious readers can accept new members. We currently meet in a variety of locations and plan to return to meeting in members' homes as soon as the group feels it is safe.
Literature: Evening 4th Tuesday 7:00 PM	Linda Jimerson	The Evening Literature group has been meeting via Zoom since February, 2020, to discuss a great array of books. However, on Tuesday, June 22, we will meet in person (for the first time) at the home of Alicia Jones to enjoy our annual International Pot Luck. As is our tradition, the food contributions are based upon the book which we have selected for that month. In this case the book is Beneath a Scarlet Sky by Mark Sullivan. The story provides a look at how WWII impacted the citizens of Italy and the true story of one boy who becomes a spy and a hero. Ciao!
Literature: Novel Ideas (WL) 3rd Tuesday 1:00 PM	Kathy Harkins	Our Novel Ideas book group met for the first time at my house. It was great to see everyone. We met via Zoom over the past year and a half.

Group Name	Leader(s)	Messages from the Group Leaders
Mah Jongg 1 Mondays 10:00 AM	Paula Weintraub	Accepting new members. Paula would be glad to teach the game to someone interested in the Monday group.
Mah Jongg 2 Tuesdays 10:00 AM	Paula Weintraub	Accepting new members.
Movies: Cinema 1 2nd Fridays 7:30 PM	Pat McElderry	We will resume in person meetings in September.
Movies: First Friday Film (WL) Alternating Fridays 7:00 PM	Kathy Harkins	Our First Friday Film group will meet in person for a BBQ potluck on July 2 at my house. We have been meeting on Zoom.
Movies: Oscars (WL) 2nd Friday 7:00 PM	Pat DeRensis	We are meeting in person. We take the summer off and will restart in September.
Movies: Friday Night Movie (WL) 3rd Friday 7:00 PM	Kath Clayton	The Third Friday Film group is still on hiatus. We need more movies in the theaters to re-start the group!
Needle Arts 2nd Monday 1:30 - 3:30 PM	Sandy Killoran	We are looking to invite new members and find a co-lead to restart in person meetings in Fall. Please call if you are interested!
Writers 2nd Tuesday 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Kathy Gage	We are looking for new members to restart our group in the Fall

## 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 Editor

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We welcome your contributions to the Advocate. We especially welcome a volunteer to be the editor of this fun publication! Until we find a new editor, please send any articles and images to Chris Ritter, "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 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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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! \*AAUW DAW members are marked with an asterisk.

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**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.

Christine Ritter, Acting Editor  
Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek AAUW  
P.O. Box 996, Alamo, CA 94507

