



Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek (CA)



## The Advocate, August 2021

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

### In This Month's Issue

<b>From the President</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Upcoming Events</b>	<b>3</b>
Member Appreciation Party .....	3
Annual Membership Brunch.....	3
Emergency Preparedness Webinar .....	4
<b>National and California AAUW Reports</b>	<b>4</b>
National AAUW .....	4
<i>Systemic Racism and the Pay Gap</i>	<b>4</b>
<i>Two Minute Activist</i>	<b>4</b>
<i>Farewell to National CEO Kim Churches</i>	<b>5</b>
<i>National Membership Perks</i>	<b>5</b>
AAUW California .....	5
<b>DAW Branch Reports</b>	<b>6</b>
Update on Tech Trek -- STEM 2021 Virtual Camp .....	6
<i>The Future of Tech Trek STEM Camps</i>	<b>7</b>
Ruth Bancroft Garden and Sculpture Stroll - Recap .....	7
<b>Public Policy Corner</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Membership Corner</b>	<b>9</b>
Membership Drive .....	9
New Member Meet & Greet .....	9
<b>DAW Interest Group Happenings</b>	<b>10</b>
Art & Garden Interest Group's Activity .....	10
Interest Group Status .....	10
<i>Interest Groups Currently Meeting</i>	<b>10</b>
<b>From the Editor</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>From the Corresponding Secretary</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>From the Treasurer: Where to Send Expenses and Deposits</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Our Wonderful Sponsors</b>	<b>12</b>

## From the President

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by Joanne Quijano, President



The Summer is upon us, and I hope you are enjoying getting out and about after staying home for so long. With the installation of our new Board in June, we're starting plans for the new year, and will be having a strategy and planning session on August 18th. Now's the time to let me, or any of the Board members, know about ideas you have for the coming Branch year.

While the incoming Board is getting organized, we've still got openings for several additional folks to contribute to the Branch. A key position that presents a great opportunity to help shape the Branch's communications is that of Advocate editor. Other Board positions that were described in more detail in the last Advocate – Local Scholarship and Fundraising Chair - are also still available.

The second **Evening Stroll** in the Ruth Bancroft Gardens was held in July; hopefully you were able to attend and enjoy the wonderful garden with the special sculptures by local artists. Congratulations once again to Deborah Wechsler, Marsha Anderson and to all the many volunteers who made our second stroll a success. The proceeds will go toward funding for our Local Scholarships program. Many thanks to all who braved the hot weather and supported this event!

The **Member Appreciation Party** is coming soon, and it's shaping up to be a lovely event! It will be on August 12<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00. This free event is for members and prospective members only. Be sure to mark your calendar, [RSVP](#), and attend the party. See the Upcoming Events section for more information. I hope to see many of you at this event.

Then in September, our annual **Member Brunch** will be on September 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:00. This will be a special event that will include an excellent speaker, information about Branch Interest Groups, and a wonderful brunch. It's certainly a wonderful traditional event that you won't want to miss. Details are in the Upcoming Events section.

In the past few months, Branch Interest Groups have been getting back into action after over a year of suspending gathering in person! While many are meeting this month, others are making plans to resume activities in the Fall. Hopefully the worrying pandemic situation will continue to be good enough that we can gather safely. Look for a full update in the Interest Group Happenings section.

Take care all!

### August To Do List

**August 12<sup>th</sup> Member Appreciation Party** – Attend our first in person member event! [RSVP here](#)

**August 17<sup>th</sup> Emergency Preparedness Webinar** – Plan for emergencies [OML Webinar](#)

**September 25<sup>th</sup> Member Brunch** – Save the date for this great event.

**Volunteer with the Branch!** – Learn about open Board positions on [the Branch website](#)

**Send your ideas for the Branch** to me or any Board member. Email to [jtq@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jtq@sbcglobal.net)

**Check your member directory info and picture** – it's not too late to get your updates in before the new Directory is created. Email to [jtq@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jtq@sbcglobal.net)

### Member Appreciation Party



**Thursday, August 12, 2021**

**5:00 to 7:00 pm**

It is time to get out and socialize in person in a comfortable outdoor setting! 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. The date is August 12th, from 5:00 to 7:00 pm, and the location will be the gracious backyard of Teresa

Cheung. At this fun event we'll get a chance to mingle, 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 dinner and drinks. So get out your best garden-style hat, and plan to come join the party!

**Don't delay, please [RSVP](#) now!**

### Annual Membership Brunch

**Saturday, September 25, 2021**

**10:00 to Noon**



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.

**Save the date!**

## Emergency Preparedness Webinar

Are you ready for an emergency? Do you have a “go” bag at all set? Is your home fire safe? Our neighbor group, the Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette Branch, will be holding a very timely webinar about how you can be prepared for all types of emergencies. The event will be on August 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am. This is an excellent opportunity to learn how to be ready for many possible scenarios.

Click for more details and to register [OML Emergency Preparedness Webinar](#)

## National and California AAUW Reports

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### National AAUW

#### *Systemic Racism and the Pay Gap*

A supplement to AAUW’s [Simple Truth report](#) examines how decades of systemic racism—including discriminatory employment practices, inadequate legal protections and persistent stereotypes—have contributed to a gender pay gap that remains far wider for women of color than for white women.

As we mark Black Women’s Equal Pay Day on August 3, the analysis provides excellent insight on the challenges Black women face in the fight for equity. Consider that:

- Over a 40-year career, Black women lose almost \$1 million to the wage gap.
- Despite providing essential services during COVID-19, Black women are paid less than their white counterparts.
- It takes the typical Black woman 19 months to be paid what the average white man takes home in 12 months.

Learn more about [Black women and the pay gap](#). Then join the Twitterstorm on Tuesday, August 3, at 2 p.m. ET to demand #BlackWomensEqualPay.

#### *Two Minute Activist*

*From the AAUW National website, this is a “Two Minute Activist” item with a suggestion for how you can get involved in supporting an AAUW advocacy effort. You can use the link below to sign up to receive action alerts.*



While many of us have focused on recovering and rebuilding from the pandemic and economic crises facing our nation, some unrelenting legislators continue to burden our democracy with anti-voter bills. The U.S. Senate refused to even debate voting rights legislation in June. Two recent Supreme Court rulings dealt blows to the freedom to vote, making Congressional action that much more critical for the preservation of our democracy.

**In spite of these harmful actions, defenders of the freedom to vote have only grown stronger.**

Honoring the first anniversary of the passing of voting rights champion Congressman John Lewis this past weekend, advocates held vigils in his memory across the country. Legislators traveled from Texas to the steps of Congress last week, committed to fighting restrictive laws in their state and refusing to leave without speaking to their federal counterparts. And we have not given up on key bills still awaiting consideration with our elected officials.

**Your senators are about to go home for summer recess—now is your chance.**

Your senators must hear from you now—every day—until they uphold their duty to protect our democratic principles. The For the People Act (H.R. 1/S. 1) will ensure accessibility to all voters throughout the country, make sure all votes count by preventing bought elections and partisan gerrymandering, and establish stronger codes of ethics for our branches of government. Write to them, call them, meet with them while they visit home. The future of our democracy is in your hands.

**Demand your senators pass legislation [protecting the freedom to vote today!](#)**

### ***Farewell to National CEO Kim Churches***

In July, Kim Churches announced that she'll be stepping down as AAUW CEO on October 1 to pursue an exciting new professional opportunity. The AAUW Board of Directors has a robust continuity plan in place, and the Executive Committee of the Board will meet to determine next steps shortly. Kim is dedicated to a smooth transition and will remain a passionate member of AAUW.

Since Kim joined AAUW in the spring of 2017, she's been fiercely committed to our mission of advancing gender equity. She partnered with many in AAUW to roll out a bold new strategic plan in 2018 that broadened the scope of our work to embrace equity for all in every sphere—education, economic security, governance and leadership.

### ***National Membership Perks***

Did you know that your AAUW membership entitles you to many cost-saving offers and other perks? You'll find discounts on everything from office supplies, hotels and insurance to UPS shipping. There's even an on-line store for AAUW branded gear. Click on [AAUW National Discounts & Perks](#) for details.

### ***AAUW California***

#### ***2021-2022: The Year of M&Ms!***

Marketing and Membership are our goals! AAUW California is keeping its eye on the prize. We will be holding a Planning Day scheduled for August 28th from 9-4 via Zoom. We have embraced the goal of increasing AAUW's visibility and reach (Marketing!) which should help your branches grow (Membership!). The Board of Directors backed it up by approving the hiring of a professional marketing firm to guide our efforts. Now, as a result of their research and recommendations, we have a roadmap to M&Ms! To go down that road, we have designed four workgroups to

implement the marketing consultants' recommendations under the overall guidance of Sandi Gabe, President-Elect.

- **Working Age Recruitment Workgroup** – Will investigate methods to attract the younger population with messages and content that resonate with their needs and interests. Chair: Crystal Stebbins
- **Retirement Age Recruitment Workgroup** – Will develop strategies to engage individuals who are at or approaching retirement age. Chair: Sharyn Siebert
- **University and Organization Collaboration Workgroup** – Will leverage the College/University program to expose more college students to AAUW and investigate other organizations for collaborative programs. Chair: Michelle Galaz-Miller
- **Social Media Workgroup** – Will expand the strategic use of social media platforms to engage different populations with relevant messaging. Chair: Sandi Gabe

Never lazy, your state leadership will also continue its focus on retooling **Tech Trek** to rocket it into the future. This effort began in February with the creation of five workgroups to assess changes suggested by Tech Trek stakeholders. Overall guidance is provided by Tracey Clark, Communications Committee Chair; the workgroups are Administration, Campers, Finance, Marketing and Evaluation, and Curriculum.

## DAW Branch Reports

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

*By Deborah Wechsler, Tech Trek Chair*

Last week we completed the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final session of Virtual Tech Trek camp. Our branch sent 16 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade girls to one of the three sessions. The total number of campers in the state for all three camps was over 700 girls! Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek also had several of our former Tech Trek participants and some of our members help out as virtual coaches – a total of nine, for very good representation from our Branch.

The core activity was a robotics component sponsored by the company QualComm. On the final day of camp each girl submitted a video of her “Wearable Art” creation – a crazy animated hat. We are working on having the videos of our girls’ presentations to share. The photo here shows some of the girls from the first camp, including six from Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek.

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!



## ***The Future of Tech Trek STEM Camps***

California Tech Trek has created five workgroups to study changes suggested by Tech Trek stakeholders. These groups are hard at work and don't need volunteers at this time, but we will keep you informed on the progress and opportunities to get involved with the future STEM camps.

- **Administration Workgroup** - Evaluating the organization's overall structure including roles and responsibilities at the state and camp level.
- **Camps and Campers Workgroup** - Studying the optimum camp structure and target group for Tech Trek.
- **Finance Workgroup** - Exploring ways to simplify financial processes for camps and branches.
- **Marketing and Evaluation Workgroup** - Developing strategies to promote Tech Trek to the public and to evaluate its effectiveness.
- **Curriculum Workgroup** - Reviewing Tech Trek's curriculum and learning experiences to assure they're up to date with current trends.

## **Ruth Bancroft Garden and Sculpture Stroll - Recap**

*By Marsha Anderson-Landau & Deborah Wechsler, Garden Tour Co-chairs*

Attendees were entranced as they enjoyed a warm evening stroll in the garden during the Ruth Bancroft Garden's annual special garden art show last week. This was the second time our Branch has partnered with the Garden to reserve the facility for an exclusive evening stroll. The plantings were amazing as usual, and the garden sculptures were distributed throughout the grounds in surprising and thoughtful ways.

In addition to wandering the garden and enjoying tastes of Sky Terrace wines, there were several raffle items offered. This facet of our event helps add to the fun atmosphere and contributes additional funds for our scholarships. During the evening participants enjoyed viewing and donating for:

Three amazing baskets (Cake Pops Creation Kit, Serenity Wagon of Plants, and Wine Pairings) created and donated by DAW member Carol Highton; they were won by Penny Adams, Katrina Cookman and Nancy Samelson.

Sky Terrace Vineyards Wine Duet donated by Bette and Jim Felton; it was won by Nancy Samelson.

"Brighter Days" Quilt, created and donated by DAW member Mary Mix; it was won by the very lucky DAW member Nancy Samelson.

**We netted almost \$2,000 to help fund our Local Scholarships for women!** Combined with our May event, this brings us close to \$6,000 for this worthwhile project.

**"Thank You" to the many people who made this event a success, including -**

- The Ruth Bancroft Garden and Nursery for the stunning venue, fascinating plants, and amazing volunteer docents. Julia Ibarra was extremely helpful as on-site manager for the evening.
- DAW member Bette Felton and her husband Jim again for providing wine varietals from their [Sky Terrace Vineyards](#), as well as a wine duet for the raffle.

- Dee Brook, and Marilyn and Bryan Lawver for helping the Feltons with wine sampling.
- Carol Highton for creating and donating three amazing baskets for the raffle.
- Mary Mix for making and donating her beautiful quilt.
- Jolene Bertetto from EBMUD, for providing informative literature and discussions about water conservation ideas.
- Caroline Sanchez, with her bust of Ruth Bancroft's father-in-law, for sharing her historical knowledge about the family.
- Volunteers who assisted by manning our sign-in, membership, refreshment and raffle tables, greeting visitors, taking photos and disseminating information: new members Wendi Whitcomb and Lisa Simone, Asha Bajaj, Candy Blackman, Tena Gallagher, Robert Landau, Susan Mann, Joanne Quijano and Chris Ritter.





## Public Policy Corner

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*By Asha Bajaj, Public Policy Chair*

California Senate Bill 503, which would implement a uniform statewide signature verification standard for mail-in ballots, passed the Assembly Elections Committee in a 6-1 vote and will head to the Appropriations Committee.

Senate Bill 504, which would take steps to ensure that those who have been released from incarceration would not inadvertently be removed from voter rolls, was approved by the committee unanimously and will head to the Public Safety Committee.

At the Federal level the two major infrastructure bills touted as the “New Deal” are still in limbo.

Stay safe and stay well!

## Membership Corner

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### Membership Drive

*by Claudia Schwarz, Membership VP*

We are actively recruiting new 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)

### New Member Meet & Greet

*By Chris Ritter, Past President*



Our new Membership VP, Claudia Schwarz, hosted a morning coffee get-together to welcome our new and prospective branch members at Peet’s coffee near Heather Farms on Saturday, July 10<sup>th</sup>. Joanne Quijano and Chris Ritter joined Claudia at the event to meet some of our new and prospective members. We learned that our new members are eager to get involved with their local communities and looked to AAUW and our many activities for social and mission-based work as a great way to meet women friends.

We are growing in members thanks to our outreach efforts!

Pictured are: Lisa Simone, Chris Ritter, Debbie Block, Joanne Quijano, Wendi Whitcomb and Claudia Schwarz.

## DAW Interest Group Happenings

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### Art & Garden Interest Group's Activity

*by Jacque Schubert, Art & Garden Interest Group Leader*

On Wednesday, September 1<sup>st</sup>, Art & Garden will attend the Master Gardener talk "Our Garden/Ornamental Plants for Fun – Flowers – and Fragrance" from 10:00 to 11:30 am at the Master Gardener's Our Garden under the big oak tree. Our Garden is located at the Southwest corner of North Wiget Lane and Shadelands Drive (just north of Ygnacio Valley Road) in Walnut Creek. Cost is \$5/person and seating will be provided. After our talk, which I know will inspire all of us to get out and plant, plant, plant, we will lunch in the area. If you wish more information or to sign up, please contact Jacque Schubert at [jacqueschubert@comcast.net](mailto:jacqueschubert@comcast.net).

### Interest Group Status

Our branch has a wide variety of Interest Groups. Joining an Interest Group gives you the opportunity to have fun and get to know other women in the branch while sharing a common interest. Some Interest Groups are also open to significant others.

As reported last month, many of the Interest Groups have resumed in-person activities, and almost all have plans to meet by Fall. This Advocate section provides updates about whether a specific group is meeting. You can also click on the group's name to access our Branch's website for more information about that group.

The full, most current 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.

Don't see an Interest Group that you'd like? Let us know – there may be other members who would like to get together and form a new group.

### Interest Groups Currently Meeting

As of July 20th, 2021, the following Interest Groups are meeting:

Interest Group	Usual Meeting Time	Leader to Contact
<a href="#">Art &amp; Garden</a>	Wednesday or Friday	Jacque Schubert
<a href="#">Beads2Jewelry</a>	1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday, 1:00	Maureen Mapes, Dianne Giacobelli
<a href="#">Bridge: New Daytime</a> (WL)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday, 12:30 to 3:30	Arlene Barnett
<a href="#">Bridge: Daytime Party</a> (WL)	3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday, 12:30 to 3:30	Angela Domer
<a href="#">Bridge: Duplicate</a> (WL)	4 <sup>th</sup> Monday, 12:30 to 3:30	Lola Rohrs
<a href="#">Gourmet: Culinary Navigators</a>	1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday, 6:30	Sandy Killoran, Marilyn Steichen
<a href="#">Gourmet: Epicureans</a>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday, 6:00	Liz Williams
<a href="#">Literature: Contemporary Books</a> (WL)	4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday, 9:30	Diane Stangel
<a href="#">Literature: Daytime</a>	4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday, 9:45	Laurie Ehrlich

<a href="#">Literature: Evening</a>	4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday, 7:00pm	Linda Jimerson
<a href="#">Literature: Novel Ideas</a> (WL)	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, 1:00	Kathy Harkins
<a href="#">Mah Jongg 1</a>	Every Monday, 10:00	Paula Weintraub
<a href="#">Mah Jongg 2</a>	Every Tuesday, 10:00	Paula Weintraub, Marilyn Lawver
<a href="#">Movies: First Friday Films</a> (WL)	Alternating Fridays, 7:00pm	Kathy Harkins
<a href="#">Movies: Oscars</a> (WL)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday, 7:00pm	Pat DeRensis
(WL) = group is full, has wait list		

## From the Editor

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We welcome your contributions to the Advocate. Send any articles and pictures to Joanne Quijano, "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 996 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><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>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><i>Become a happy client with your estate sale.</i></p> <p>Marie Dear</p> <p><a href="mailto:MorningGlory821@gmail.com">MorningGlory821@gmail.com</a></p>

	<p><i>Enjoy award-winning authentic Italian dining.</i></p> <p>Teresa Cheung*</p> <p><a href="http://montecatinirestaurant.com/">http://montecatinirestaurant.com/</a></p>
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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.

Joanne Quijano, Acting Editor  
Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek AAUW  
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