



Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek (CA)



The Advocate, September 2021

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

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From the President

by Joanne Quijano, President



To start off our 2021-22 year, the branch board members convened a **strategy session** on August 18th. While we had hoped to meet in person, we decided to be cautious and met over Zoom. We were able to cover a lot of topics and got our new board members off to a good start. There's an informative recap of the session in the Branch Reports section.

You received a survey a short time ago about your interest in attending our **Membership Brunch** in person later this month. Thank you to all who responded, you provided the Brunch Planning Committee with very timely information to assist our evaluation of the scheduled event. Of the people who responded, only 30 members anticipated attending the Brunch, while the other 65 responders would not attend, either because of pandemic concerns, or for other reasons.

In large part because of this member feedback, the planning committee made the difficult decision to cancel the event for this year. We are very disappointed to have to come to this conclusion. Since we had contracted with Crow Canyon to hold our brunch for the usual 100 attendees, it would be an unacceptable loss of branch funds if only a much smaller number of tickets were sold. When the Brunch was planned, we had no inkling that pandemic conditions would continue to create such significant challenges for in person gatherings. It turns out that the conditions of our contract with the venue did not allow for changing the plans as much as we would need to for the brunch to be financially viable this year.

In place of an in person event, we are going to proceed with a virtual Member Brunch. It will be on the same date, September 25th, as the original event. Our excellent speaker, Rachael Morello-Frosch, is willing to go virtual, and we're planning to include as much of our traditional brunch programming as possible. There's more information in the Upcoming Events section, and we'll be sending emails soon with more details. Be sure to Zoom in to the Brunch!

Back in July, we were excited to plan the **Member Appreciation Party** for August 12th. Unfortunately, as the time for the event drew closer, the pandemic situation in our area became more problematic. As with the Member Brunch, we made the very difficult decision to postpone this event. This seems to be a trend for the moment. We are now considering options in its place; a rescheduled date, perhaps a Zoom format, or a scaled back event. We'll keep you informed as plans are revised.

September To Do List

September 16th Board Meeting
Via Zoom at 9:30am

September 25th Member Brunch
Zoom in at 10:00am for this annual meeting - [RSVP](#)

October 26th Program
Save the date for "Women Working in Water", via Zoom at 6:00pm

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

Plan for Garden Tour 2022
Help identify potential gardens to participate; contact Tena Gallagher with ideas

Meet AAUW Calif FUNDS Awardees
Save the dates for virtual events to hear from the awardees –

- Oct 22nd,
- Oct 30th,
- Nov 7th

After a Summer hiatus, our **branch programs** will start again with an excellent session being planned for October 26th, to be held via Zoom. The topic will be “Women Working in Water” and there’s a preview in the Upcoming Events section. Save the date for what should be a fascinating program.

I’ll keep saying it - we’ve still got openings for several additional people to contribute to the branch by joining our **Appointed Board**. A key position that presents a great opportunity to help shape the branch’s communications is that of Advocate Editor. Other board positions such as Local Scholarship and Fundraising Chair are also still available.

Hard to believe that we are well through the year, and the Summer is (almost!) over. Let’s hope that we’ll feel comfortable once again getting together in larger groups. Take care all!

Upcoming Events

October Speaker’s Program - Preview

Programs VP Bette Felton has a great, informative program in the works for October 26th, titled “Women Working in Water”. The session will be held via Zoom at 6:00pm. There will be two excellent speakers – both experts in areas relating to California’s drinking water systems. Besides providing information about how water is managed in our state, Bette will lead them in conversation about their roles as women in their challenging fields. More details to come in the next Advocate!

Save the date – Oct 26th at 6:00pm!

Planning Ahead for Garden Tour 2022

We are planning to return to our popular, traditional Garden Tour format in 2022! It will be held on May 6th and May 7th which are the Friday and Saturday before Mother’s Day. To make this possible, we need to identify people who would like to share their gardens with our tour visitors. It’s not too soon to ask if you, or someone you know, would be interested. Please contact Tena Gallagher with suggestions.

Annual Membership Brunch

Saturday, September 25, 2021
10:00



The Membership Brunch goes virtual! Zoom in to enjoy the program, see new members, and hear about our branch plans for the coming year. Learn about our theme for speakers' programs and highlights from the Interest Groups. View the event at home, or join with a group of friends to experience this annual membership meeting.

Keynote Speaker

Introducing the keynote speaker for our Brunch - **Rachel Morello-Frosch**, MPH PhD- White House Environmental Justice Council (Biden administration) and Professor at UC Berkeley Department of Environmental Science. Her talk will be: The Climate Gap: Inequalities in how climate change hurts Americans and how to close the gap.



Dr. Morello-Frosch has dedicated her career to study how race and class affect distributions of health risks in the United States. Her research explores this environmental justice questions in the context of exposures to environmental chemicals, ambient air pollution, drinking water contaminants, climate change, and effects on women's health, perinatal outcomes.

Zoom in on Sept 25th!

[RSVP HERE](#)

(Zoom link will be emailed to attendees)

National AAUW

AAUW Awards Fellowships and Grants

For the 2021-22 Academic year, over 260 outstanding recipients received an unprecedented \$5 million in fellowships and grants from the AAUW.

“For more than a century, our funding has opened doors and created opportunities for women and girls,” said Gloria L. Blackwell, AAUW’s executive vice president and chief program officer. “Our current focus is on providing increased support for women of color and women in the STEM fields, where barriers to women’s full participation still persist. We’re confident that this year’s recipients will benefit from our life-changing grants and fellowships, and more importantly, our society will benefit from their important work.”

The fellowships and grants programs are also a cornerstone of AAUW’s commitment to easing the growing burden of student debt, which disproportionately affects women, particularly women of color. The ability to pay off that debt is hampered by a lifelong pay gap that affects women in nearly every profession. AAUW’s generous awards alleviate student debt so women can focus on developing their skills and qualifications. In a feature unique to some AAUW awards, the funding may be used for expenses outside of those traditionally associated with academic study, including childcare and transportation, which supports recipients continue, return to and successfully complete graduate programs.

Fellowship and grant applications are now being taken for the 2022-23 academic year.

Applications for AAUW’s fellowship and grants opened August 1, and deadlines vary by program. Learn more about our funding opportunities at [Funding Opportunities for 2022-23](#)

AAUW California

Meet AAUW FUND Awardees

by Lynne Batchelor, Secretary, AAUW Fund Committee Chair

Save the dates for meeting our FUND awardees! It is that time of year we all look forward to—meeting our fellows. Hearing from our awardees is such an inspiration, and the personification of our mission. This year we are again giving you the opportunity to meet all of our awardees virtually. California has 37 scholars studying here this year. In order to give each of these women an adequate amount of time to speak, we are scheduling three events this year. You are welcome to register and attend all three events. Details will be available in September; all of the events will go from 10:00 to noon. For now, save the dates:

- Saturday, October 23rd,
- Saturday, October 30th, and
- Sunday, November 7th.

See you then!

Update on the AAUW Five-Star Program from 2020-21 – Making a Difference

By Chris Ritter, Past President

AAUW's Five-Star National Recognition Program rewards affiliates (states, branches and other organizations) for aligning their work with the AAUW strategic plan and other initiatives that foster the organization's mission of advancing gender equity for women and girls. We decided last year to use this program to help frame our Branch activities in line with the AAUW's goals.



Our 2020 branch member survey sent us a clear message that, even in the face of COVID restrictions, our members wanted to make things happen! We settled on three branch priorities for the year: *increase member engagement* with advocacy and social engagement opportunities, *find new pandemic-adapted fundraisers* to support our mission-base projects and *increase community support* for AAUW and our mission.

The Five-Star framework guided us to include a broad spectrum of action opportunities in our plan, with the following results:

- We hosted six mission-based programs.
- We inspired the majority of our members to switch AAUW FUND support to "Greatest Needs".
- We greatly expanded our external communications through social media, Zoom meetings, timely updates to our branch website, and aggressive event promotion to the public.
- We supported Public Policy with a GOTV post-card writing campaign, added a Public Policy column to our newsletter, supported two public policy programs and attended Lobby Day.
- We drafted a leadership plan to carry us forward as our needs change and implemented three new fundraisers that were social distancing-friendly.

Using the Five-Star program, we were able to organize and implement a comprehensive action plan that addressed our branch priorities, aligned our activities with national focus areas and also strengthened our branch for the future. Our branch is proud join the Five-Star Program, achieve National recognition, and to make a difference!

Board Strategy Session Highlights

By Joanne Quijano, President

It was great to get together with the ongoing and new Executive Board members for our first official session on August 18th. Through the wonders of Zoom, we had a chance to get to know each other better, share and build on our ideas for the branch, and, in general, generate mutual energy to start off the new fiscal year. The various board members have a great range of skills and interests, from us techie types to more outward focused people persons; it should be an interesting, busy year! Some of the areas we'd like to touch on include –

- Building our membership, including younger, possibly working members
- Raising sufficient money to support our programs
- Learning new skills in support of our branch
- Simplifying branch processes to better support our board, members and activities
- Enjoying the camaraderie of other motivated women
- Wanting to support AAUW's worthwhile mission and projects

After the enlightening general discussion, we conducted some official branch business. We reviewed and approved our operating budget, which will be provided to the members for their votes at the Membership Brunch. And we set up a board meeting schedule for the year; meetings will be on the third Thursday of the month, alternating morning and evening times. We'll start out holding the meetings via Zoom; any interested branch members are welcome to attend.

Then Bette Felton, our continuing Programs VP, presented some great ideas for speakers and programs, which will start in October. Most will be in a "conversation" format with several speakers and ample time for questions and answers rather than being solely formal presentations. With an overall theme of "Women Finding Solutions", she sketched out topics for the coming year. The first few are:

- October topic – *Water Workers in California*, with water engineers and activists, including an EBMUD representative. This session will have a climate related focus.
- November topic – *Civics Education: Generation Citizen*, with the lead of GC for SRVUSD high schools. GC is an NGO that seeks to "inspire civic participation through a proven state standards-aligned action civics class that gives students the opportunity to experience real-world democracy."

After these two thought provoking events, we will plan a festive winter/holiday event in December to give everyone a change of pace and a chance to socialize. And for early next year, we'll have worked out our fundraising plans to implement by then. Bette had more ideas to carry through into April of next year, and several additional ideas were discussed as possibilities. Stay tuned!

To close out our strategy session, we discussed our general branch direction for the coming year to guide our actions in addition to our program and fundraising activities. We decided that our key focus would be on how to get and keep our members engaged, since engaged members are critical to a vital, active organization. From last year's survey, we learned that Interest Groups are one of the main reasons people join our branch; they serve as a contact point for members to make friends, get to know like-minded people, and engage with the organization to support AAUW's worthy causes. With this in mind, several directions emerged -

- Work more closely with IG leaders, to inform and support them and their groups, and encourage their participation with broader AAUW activities.
- Look for new or under-served areas that might be of interest for new IGs and provide support to get groups started or revitalized.
- Be sure to highlight IGs at the Membership Brunch.

With this last discussion, we wrapped up our board strategy session – with clearer, more focused direction and plenty of excellent ideas to carry into the coming year!

Public Policy Corner

By Asha Bajaj, Public Policy Chair

Expansion of CFRA Leave and Sick Pay

Two bills, currently pending in the Senate, seek to expand the scope of the California Family Rights Act (CFRA). The second bill also looks to expand sick pay. Under the CFRA, employers in California are required to grant eligible employees up to 12 workweeks of unpaid protected leave during any 12-month period for family care and medical leave. Under current law, this protected leave includes leave to care for a parent.

Assembly Bill (AB) 1033 would expand the definition of family care and medical leave to include leave to care for a parent-in-law.

Assembly Bill (AB) 1041 would expand family care and medical leave to include leave to care for a “designated person.” The bill defines designated person as “a person identified by the employee at the time the employee requests family care and medical leave.” However, the bill authorizes an employer to limit an employee to a single designated person per 12-month period for family care and medical leave. The introduction of a “designated person” would significantly expand the scope of both acts. Employers can anticipate more requests for CFRA leave or paid sick days, especially as the COVID-19 pandemic continues.

Telehealth Services Become Permanent

Assembly Bill 32, by Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry (D-Winters) and Assemblymember Robert Rivas (D-Salinas), introduced at the beginning of the legislative session, sought to expand health care accessibility via telehealth, by making permanent the telehealth flexibilities put in place during the pandemic.

California Gubernatorial Recall Election

You should have received your ballot for the election to recall Governor Newsom. Make your voice heard, please vote early.

Stay engaged- stay alert -stay involved! And please do stay well!

Membership Corner

Welcome New Members!

Please extend a warm welcome to our newest members:

Danville – Edith Hottinger, Cindy Dragomanivich, Shveta Shourie, Maryam Mehdikhan and Donna Lenhardt

Walnut Creek – Wendi Whitcomb, Sosanna Kuruvila (returning), Deborah Block and Stephanie Denman

San Ramon – Tanya Earls

Rio Vista – Alicia Hetman (dual branches)

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 in the members only section of our website.

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

Member's Achievements

Congratulations to our Branch member Teresa Cheung! Her restaurant in Walnut Creek, Montecatini Ristorante, was awarded the Wine Spectator Award of Excellence for 2021. These annual awards honor excellence in restaurant wine lists, as well as those who have demonstrated passion and devoted extensive resources to creating outstanding wine programs.

DAW Interest Group Happenings

Bridge Interest Groups – Seeking New Members!

By Angela Domer, 3rd Monday Party Bridge Leader

All three of AAUW's Bridge Interest Groups are hoping to add members to our sub lists. We also have "wait lists" for people interested in becoming permanent members. All groups meet at 12:30 in the home of the member who is hostess for that month (the hostess doesn't have to provide any lunch--just some liquid refreshments and snacks on the tables if desired). We have two Party Bridge groups -- one plays on the 2nd Monday of the month and the other on the 3rd Monday of the month. Our Duplicate group plays the 4th Monday of the month. Each group usually has 3 tables, but sometimes just 2. If you are interested, please contact the appropriate leader. Subs do not have to hostess. You don't need to be an expert player -- we are fun groups!

2nd Monday Party Bridge -- contact Arlene Barnett -- arbar3933@gmail.com or call 925 947-6122

3rd Monday Party Bridge -- contact Angela Domer -- angelacv@earthlink.net or call 925 997-1692

4th Monday Duplicate Bridge -- contact Lola Rohrs -- lolarohrs43@gmail.com or call 925 680-8345

Hope to hear from some of you soon!

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.

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 with a similar interest who would like to get together and form a new group.

From the Editor

We welcome your contributions to the Advocate. Send any ideas, articles and pictures to Joanne Quijano, "Standing Editor," by the 15th 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









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

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, or call (925) 351-8188. I am available to answer any questions and send information to them!

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	<p><i>Financial planning to Realize Your Dreams</i></p> <p>Erin Beable*</p> <p>https://advisor.morganstanley.com/the-sauberman-beable-group</p>
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	<p><i>Everyone Deserves a Bra that Fits</i></p> <p>Veronica Szender</p> <p>https://www.revelationinfit.com/</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
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