



Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek (CA)



## The Advocate, October 2021

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

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## From the President

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by Joanne Quijano, President

It was wonderful to see everyone –if only virtually – at our **Membership Brunch and General Meeting** on September 25<sup>th</sup>. While we had hoped to meet in person, the event committee and the keynote speaker were able to adjust to the new direction and pulled together to make the online



meeting a success. I was fascinated and inspired by the keynote speaker, and impressed by the FY22 plans for our branch. See the DAW Branch Reports section for a review of the session.

For those who weren't able to attend, or who would like to reference any of the wide variety of topics covered, there are videos and other related materials on our branch website.

[Link to Brunch Information here](#)

In addition to the full, informative program, the names of our 2020-21 **Funds Branch Named Gift Honorees** were announced at the Brunch – an overdue acknowledgement of their many valuable contributions to our branch. A big thank you to Deborah Wechsler, Bette Felton, Teresa Cheung, Kathy Harkins and Tena Gallagher for your continued enthusiasm, hard work and dedication! See the DAW Branch Reports section for details about their many efforts.

You are needed to support abortion rights given the recent restrictive law passed in Texas! See the Upcoming Events section to learn how to join your fellow branch members in the local **Rally for Abortion Rights** on October 2<sup>nd</sup> to raise awareness about this important issue.

I'm eagerly anticipating our first **branch program** of the FY22. It should be an excellent session on October 26<sup>th</sup>, to be held via Zoom at 6:00. The topic is "Women Working with Water", and it will be held in an intriguing conversational format. See the Upcoming Events section for more details and to RSVP for the event.

I'll keep saying it - we still have 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 Fundraising Chair and Hospitality Chair are also still available.

Take care all!

### October To Do List

#### October 2<sup>nd</sup> Women's Rally

Meet in Danville at 2:00 to support abortion rights!

[Rally RSVP Here](#)

#### October 21<sup>st</sup> Board Meeting

Via Zoom at 7:00pm

#### October 26<sup>th</sup> Program – Women Working with Water

Attend via Zoom at 6:00pm

[Program RSVP Here](#)

#### Meet AAUW Calif Funds Awardees

Hear from the awardees virtually

- Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00am
- Oct 30<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am
- Nov 7<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm

[Funds RSVP Here](#)

#### November Program – Civics Education: Generation Citizen

November 11<sup>th</sup>

[Save the date!](#)

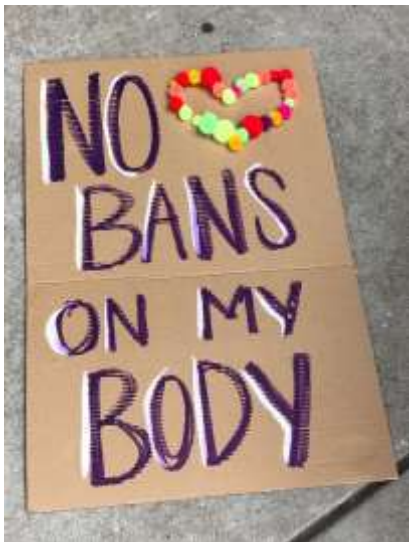
#### Volunteer with the Branch!

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

**March for Reproductive Rights – Get Active!**

**Join DAW AAUW Members at the Rally for Abortion Justice**

**October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2:00pm**



Women in Texas are facing one of the most pernicious and forceful attacks on their human rights because of Senate Bill 8 that became effective on September 1, 2021. This law prohibits women from having an abortion once a fetal heartbeat can be detected, even in cases of rape and incest. And it allows private citizens to sue any individual who assists a woman in such an abortion.

This law goes directly against the AAUW’s most recent Reproductive Rights Policy , which states: “AAUW trusts that every woman has the ability to make her own informed choices regarding her reproductive life within the dictates of her own moral and religious beliefs. Further, AAUW believes that these deeply personal decisions should be made without government interference.”

We are going to march on October 2<sup>nd</sup> in Danville to demand that this right be protected for all women and girls. This rally is being organized by the Women’s March group; participants will meet at 400 Front St (Danville Green).

RSVP for the rally by clicking [Women's March Oct 2 RSVP](#)

Please let our DAW march coordinator at [Claudiaschwarz@comcast.net](mailto:Claudiaschwarz@comcast.net) know you are coming so we can plan our representation at the rally.

**Come join us and help make our voices heard!**

## October Speaker's Program –

### Women Working with Water

Tuesday, October 26, 6:00-7:30 pm, via Zoom

You are invited to a conversational program with DAW Program VP, Bette Felton, and two local engineers, Laura Johnson and Erin Mackey. Laura and Erin work on drinking water systems and are two very different kinds of engineers! We will learn the complexity of procuring, providing and conserving drinking water in California. We'll hear of the systems and acronyms that allow us to drink clean and safe water from our taps, and appreciate the difficult work from people working in those systems. We'll learn how Laura and Erin work, and the opportunities and challenges they face as women, in what was once a male-dominated career. They will also share how they mentor younger engineers and their outlook for water in California. We hope to see you on zoom!



[PLEASE RSVP HERE](#)

## November Speaker's Program – Preview

The November program will be ***“Civics Education: Generation Citizen”***, with Courtney Konopacky, the lead of Generation Citizen (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.” This should be an informative program about this excellent and very timely initiative!

**Save the date – November 11<sup>th</sup>!**

### AAUW California

#### *Meet AAUW Fund Awardees*

*by Lynne Batchelor, Secretary, AAUW Fund Committee Chair*

It is almost time to fire up Zoom, put on your favorite waist-up attire, grab a snack, pick up a pen and paper, and join us in welcoming this year's California fellows and grant recipients. Because we are lucky enough to have so many (37) recipients in California, we have scheduled three virtual AAUW Fund events for 2021 to enable all of them to have an opportunity to explain their work. You may attend any number of events, but you must register in advance. We have two Saturday events, and one Sunday event. Although the events are free, please consider making a donation to the AAUW Fund to support this fantastic program. You are especially invited to contribute to the Greatest Need Fund which enables your donation to be prioritized to meet AAUW obligations. Register now to be informed and inspired by these wonderful women!

- Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00am
- Saturday, October 30<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am
- Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm

Register here – [AAUW CA Funds Sessions](#) See you then!

### DAW Branch Reports

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#### **Request for Advertisers**

*By Marsha Anderson-Landau, Advertising Sales Manager*

What is your favorite local business? Please help us identify great advertisers for our AAUW DAW Directory, the Advocate and special upcoming events.

An important source of funding for our local branch activities is advertising from local businesses in our annual Directory. I've been working to identify advertisers who are great fits for our membership in that they offer excellent services that are needed by our members.

Do you know a local business that you could recommend to your fellow AAUW members? Please let me (marsha888@comcast.net or 925-351-8188) know the name of the business, the name of anyone you know there, and tell us why you recommend it. I will follow up with them and let them know of your recommendation and ask them if they would like to expand their business with our group!

## AAUW Fund Branch Named Gift Honorees

*by Robin Halloran and Liz Williams, Past Funds Co-VPs*

After being delayed several times from our usual June time frame, four Named Gift Honorees for FY21 were introduced at the Membership Brunch. In addition, we have a fifth honorable mention honoree. We are pleased to share their names and accomplishments with you.



### **Deborah Wechsler**

Deborah has continued to support the leadership of our branch as a main advisor to Past President Chris Ritter while also holding the position of Parliamentarian. Deborah assumed the roles of Tech Trek Chair and launched a new function as communications manager for our branch which helped us to organize our greatly increased digital communications. With the Tech Team she helped update and organize our digital infrastructure. Deborah is updating our leadership plan to help bring our job descriptions and policies and procedures up to the current standard.

### **Bette Felton**

Bette has outstanding energy! Her innovative efforts to obtain speakers for our branch programs in 2020 and 2021 have been varied and very informative. As a result of her community connections and commitment to our AAUW mission and goals, the quality and relevance of our programs were greatly enhanced.

### **Teresa Cheung**

Teresa worked with Chris Ritter to vastly improve our branch website. This could not have been accomplished without Teresa's dedication and skills. Teresa also generously enabled us to have a very successful fundraiser with the restaurant she and her husband own.

### **Kathy Harkins**

Without Kathy there probably would not have been a Garden Tour last summer. She did so much on her own especially with the restrictions we had with COVID 19. Kathy worked tirelessly to make this a successful fundraiser by going above and beyond and adding special touches such as the virtual tour.

### **Tena Gallagher - Special Honorable Mention**

Tena has a wealth of knowledge regarding our branch, the state AAUW and National. Tena is always ready to help and give us background information and suggestions which will improve our branch.

**Many thanks, and congratulations to all the honorees!**

## Annual Funds Campaign in October

*Judy Halden and Marilyn Lawver, Funds Co-VPs*

Be on the lookout for this year's Funds solicitation letter. It will be in your snail mail box by the end of the month. We are hoping you will make a contribution; this is a very critical source of funding to support the mission of AAUW.



## Membership Brunch and General Meeting - Recap

*By Joanne Quijano, President*

The Membership Brunch and General Meeting held virtually on September 25<sup>th</sup> was an enjoyable event packed with information. Our Branch Board covered a wide variety of topics, from introducing new members, to explaining the operating budget for FY 2021-22, to previewing our speakers' programs and theme for the coming year. Members and friends were able to connect a little through Zoom, while hoping for some in-person meetings in the near future.

As an official branch business item, the FY22 Budget was unanimously approved via email votes combined with votes at the meeting.

You can find links to the brunch presentation slides and videos of the presentations on the branch website.

Link to – [Brunch Information](#)

The keynote speaker, Rachel Morello-Frosch, provided a fascinating talk with some inspiring suggestions as a finish. She is a member of the White House Environmental Justice Council (Biden administration) and professor at the UC Berkeley Department of Environmental Science. Her talk titled "The Climate Gap: Inequalities in how climate change hurts Americans and how to close the gap" was very well-received.



You can find materials related to Dr. Morello-Frosch's talk on our branch website as follows.

Link to - [Dr. Morello-Frosch Slides](#)

Link to - [Dr. Morello-Frosch Presentation](#)

Link to - [Resources for Climate Activism](#)

Many thanks to our intrepid team of branch volunteers who made the virtual event possible, as well as entertaining and informative!

### Event Team

**Claudia Schwarz:** Brunch Committee leader and speaker's arrangements

**Deborah Wechsler:** Slide deck editor, MailChimp guru and Zoomer

**Monika Witte:** Zoomer and slide show operator

**Chris Ritter:** Zoom manager and general info source

**Bette Felton:** Zoom Chat Manager

**Joanne Quijano:** Brunch Committee coordinator and Slide Deck manager

### Presenters

**Claudia Schwarz:** New members and speaker

**Monika Witte:** Budget

**Marilyn Lawver, Liz Williams:** FUNDS  
**Bette Felton:** Programs and speaker's Q&A  
**Deborah Wechsler:** Tech Trek  
**Asha Bajaj:** Public Policy  
**Bette Felton:** Programs  
**Joanne Quijano:** Overview and Branch direction for FY22

## Public Policy Corner

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*By Asha Bajaj, Public Policy Chair*

I'm happy to report that two of our priority bills just got signed into California law by the governor. One is SB 62, the Garment Workers' Bill, which strengthens protections for garment workers to ensure fair wages. The other is AB 628, Removing Barriers to Employment, that will focus resources on innovative approaches to, and proven practices for, addressing racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic disparities in the labor market. YAY!

As we all know, women's reproductive rights are in an extremely perilous position right now in states all across our nation. We are fortunate that we are not in danger here in California, but we need to support those whose rights are in jeopardy. It is important that we show solidarity and support for our sisters in imperiled states by sending a strong, united message to SCOTUS to retain the protections of *Roe* for ALL women, regardless of where they live. I'm excited to let you know that AAUW is now officially partnered with the coalition of organizations leading the national [Rally for Abortion Justice](#) happening across the country this Saturday, October 2. The AAUW encourages members to join our local marches with AAUW-identifying accessories, i.e., shirts, hats, banners, etc.

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

## Membership Corner

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*by Claudia Schwarz, Membership VP*

### Welcome New Members!

**Danville:** Bonnie Becker and Nancy Dowell

**Walnut Creek:** Elizabeth Peters and Joan Schwanz

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.



## New Member Event

We are planning a **New Member Event** for November. It will combine “**Meet and Greet**” and “**Find-Out and Sign-Up**” for Interest Groups and board appointed positions! This will be a great opportunity to get together in person after so many of our usual events have gone virtual.

Look to the November Advocate for more information and details about location and time!

## Join 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)

## Recognizing Our Newest Life Member

A Life Membership has been granted to Dr. Luisa Hansen for her 50 years of dedication to AAUW and her support of women’s equity and leadership development. She was recently honored at our Membership Brunch.

Dr Hansen received her BS in math, with a minor in physics, in her native country of Chile, where while studying and working as a teaching assistant at the university in Santiago, she was introduced by a friend to an American from Wisconsin — the man who would soon become her husband. They married and headed back to the United States, where she would soon obtain a Ph.D. in experimental nuclear physics from UC Berkeley.



Jacqueline McBride/NEWSLINE

Her professional career began in the 1950s at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) where she still works as a retired scientist. She remembers when she was the only female physicist who worked in her field. Throughout her career, Dr.Hansen has garnered numerous awards, written over 170 peer journal articles and traveled the world. Dr. Hansen’s longtime interest has been to help increase the participation of women in science and engineering, probably an offshoot from her early days when she saw so few female scientists.

She has been an active participant in the annual Expanding Your Horizons in Math and Science conference, as an organizer, workshop leader and presenter. Along with being an active member, in 1992 Dr. Hansen served as the president of the Walnut Creek Branch of our Association.

## DAW Interest Group Happenings

### Interest Group Updates

#### Literature Evening Group – Linda Jimerson

We are meeting in person – see some of our book selections here.

#### Literature Daytime Group – Laurie Ehrlich

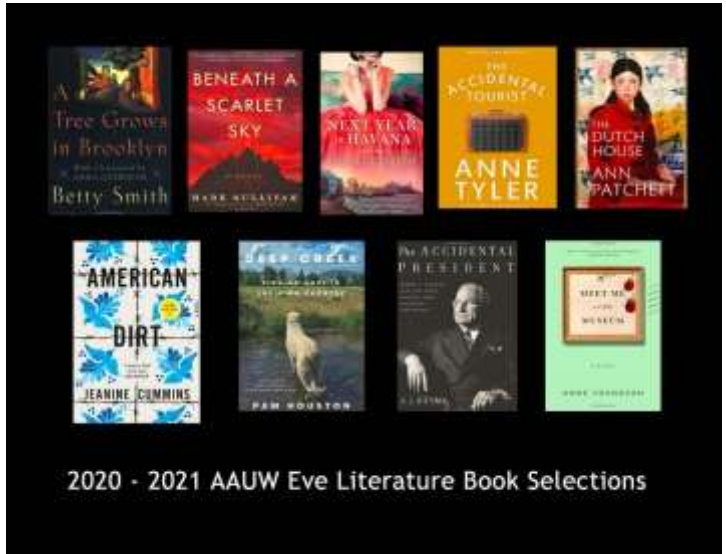
We have mostly been meeting by Zoom and conference call. We are a pretty serious reading group, meaning we do analyze the books we read in terms of the author's writing skills and style as well as the content of the book. We read both fiction and non-fiction books, most of which are relatively new. We just recently voted and selected the books we will be reading through August, 2022. Three of the eleven books are: *Hidden Valley Road: Inside the Mind of An American Family* by Robert Kolker, *How to Avoid A Climate Disaster* by Bill Gates and *The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett.

Our group is open to new members. If anyone is interested in joining our group, please reach out to me at [plate@pacbell.net](mailto:plate@pacbell.net).

#### Art and Garden – Jacque Schubert

Art and Garden had a garden talk at “our Garden” in Walnut Creek (the UC Master Gardener Program of Contra Costa) titled “Ornamental Plants for Fun-Flowers-and-Fragrance” followed by lunch at Thai Thani restaurant on September 1st. On Friday, October 8, we will have an 11:00 am docent tour of “Reclaimed: The Art of Recology” at the Bedford Gallery, Leshar Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek. Lunch in Walnut Creek will follow this tour.

I will schedule events as I find local things of interest that will minimize carpooling and BART travel for now. I am trying to put together something in early December so we can have a holiday lunch. We usually have between 12 and 20 attendees to an event, and we always do lunch.



2020 - 2021 AAUW Eve Literature Book Selections



#### Bridge 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday Party Group – Arlene Barnett

#### Bridge 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday Party Group – Angela Domer

#### Bridge 4<sup>th</sup> Monday Duplicate Group – Lola Rohrs

All three bridge Interest Groups have openings for subs as well as wait lists for those interested in becoming permanent members. We are meeting in person at members' homes. You don't need to be an expert player — we are fun groups!

## **Beads2Jewelry Group – Dianne Giacobelli, Jessica Barrett**

We pick projects by group consensus and depend on each other to find and teach new projects. We have a new Co-Chair, Jessica Barrett, and we are looking for up to four new members.

## **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**

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We welcome your contributions to the Advocate. Send any ideas, 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 Claudia Schwarz.

## **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!

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	<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>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  
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