



Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek (CA)



The Advocate, December 2021



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

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From the President

By Joanne Quijano, President

It was a pleasure to get together with some of our new branch members in November. Look for photos of smiling faces from this event in Claudia's report in the Membership Section. I sure hope that the pandemic restrictions will get looser, and we'll soon be able to do more of our smaller events in-person. In the meantime, we'll continue to Zoom on with our branch events.



Our December program of Local Women in the Arts is going to be an interesting and inspiring evening. I encourage you to join us to hear our speakers' stories and encouraging messages. See the Programs Update Section for more information.

Plans for our January event are in progress; we have several excellent speakers in the works to address our theme of "women finding solutions" relating to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Mark your calendar for January 13 and look for more details in the next Advocate.

You will soon be receiving our annual letter requesting your generous donations to the AAUW Fund. This year we've added an appeal for donations to our branch Local Scholarship and Tech Trek initiatives as well. We are in greatest need of contributions to Local Scholarships (LS); your donations are the only source of funding for this valuable program. Many thanks in advance!

Take time to enjoy some holiday cheer with your friends and family – we've sprinkled a few carols throughout this edition of the Advocate to help get you in the mood.

Best wishes to all for a joyous holiday season and a wonderful, healthy New Year!



December To Do List

December 6, 6:30 pm
Local Women in the Arts
Zoom in for an inspiring evening
[RSVP Here](#)

December 16 Board Meeting
Via Zoom at 7:00pm

January 13, 7:00 pm
DEI Solutions Program
Via Zoom – Save the date

Please Donate! – Support our branch's fundraising campaign
[Click to Donate](#)

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

December Programs Update

“A Beautiful Sight” - Local Women in the Arts, December 6

By Bette Felton, VP Programs

The weather outside may be frightful, so stay inside and enjoy an evening with Local Women in the Arts, Monday, December 6, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Zoom. Presented by DAW AAUW, Sawsan Wolski, Sharon Cohune and Tricia Game will share their stories, dreams and work in the visual arts. Following the panel discussion, members will have an opportunity to showcase their own works in 3-minute 'speed showings'.



Tricia Game Sculpture



Sharon Cohune at TVAST

Interested in sharing your masterpiece?

Email: Bette Felton at bfelton25@gmail.com or Deborah Wechsler at deborah.wechsler@gmail.com

[RSVP here](#)

Visit the DAW website for [more information.](#)

National and California AAUW Reports

AAUW National

“Up on The Housetop,” – Here’s What’s Happening at AAUW National

AAUW hosted a celebratory virtual event on November 17th as part of the National organization’s 140th Anniversary. The highlight of the session was an interview with the 2021 AAUW Alumnae Recognition Awardee, Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, who was a 1977-78 AAUW International Fellow. Dr. Okonjo-Iweala is a global finance expert, economist and international development professional with over 30 years of experience working in Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America and North America. She served twice as Nigeria’s Finance Minister and briefly as Foreign Minister in 2006, the first woman to hold both positions. Currently, she is Director-General of the World Trade Organization, the first African and first woman to serve in that role. [Learn more.](#)

Watch for the anniversary event video, available soon, [here.](#)

“Ho, Ho, Ho, Who Wouldn’t Go” to AAUW 2021 Fund Events?

Black Holes? Rural women’s health? Social classification? These are among the incredible topics the 37 AAUW-funded fellowship and grant recipients are studying. Three virtual sessions were held in October and November showcasing their personal stories and fascinating studies. If you missed the live sessions, you can still watch video recordings [here](#).

“Good Tidings We Bring” – Celebrating the Holidays Inclusively

By Elaine Johnson, Director and Janice Lee, DEI Committee Co-Chairs diversity@aauw-ca.org

Many religious and secular holidays will be observed during the upcoming winter months providing opportunities to recognize and appreciate the richness of living in a multicultural society. It can also create underlying tensions when groups feel their holidays are not appreciated. AAUW’s efforts to create diversity, equity, and inclusion within our organization and the larger society we live in, call for us to consider how to make holiday celebrations more meaningful and inclusive. Here are some suggestions to foster understanding and awareness of each other’s holiday traditions:

- Be respectful of how people observe different religious holidays.
- Avoid scheduling mistakes by checking an interfaith, multicultural calendar or winter celebrations calendar.
- Provide food options that respect different dietary and cultural needs.
- Seek ways to make decorations inclusive and explain the religious traditions they represent.

“Over the River and Through the Woods” to Adventures in AAUWLand

By Charmen Goehring, Meetings Planner, meetings@aauw-ca.org

Calling all AAUW adventurers!! On Saturday, April 30, 2022, we will all be explorers, searching for new routes to connect to AAUW and its mission. Join us for a redesigned, virtual state convention – Adventures in AAUWLand. There will be a morning session filled with inspirational words from keynote speakers, as well as presentations for and accomplishments, an advocacy review and a surprise or two. We will also be inspired by the three Speech Trek finalists’ videos. We will continue our trek in the afternoon with “Choose Your Own Adventure” sessions (via breakout rooms), where we will have the opportunity to talk with others about a variety of topics related to AAUW.

Every successful adventure needs a guide! You can host one of the afternoon’s informal 30-minute breakout rooms for your fellow travelers. What topics, experiences, stories are you (or someone you know) dying to talk about? No agenda. No PowerPoint. Just inspiring conversation! Learn more, see potential topic ideas and [sign up here](#).

“Christmas Is Coming,” and so Is Your Branch Membership Directory

By Joanne Quijano, Directory Manager

Our great, green-covered 2021-2022 Branch Membership Directory will be mailed to all branch members in early December. The Directory is a comprehensive list of our branch members, including our newbies, and has valuable information about national and California AAUW contacts, our branch officers, Interest Groups and Neighborhood Groups. See an electronic version on our [branch website](#).

“Joy to the World” - Tech Trek Camp 2022 Is Full STEM Ahead!

By Deborah Wechsler, Tech Trek Chair

Thanks to generous donations this past month, we are FULLY FUNDED for 12 camper positions for the Tech Trek STEM 2022 Camp and well on our way to funding for 2023. Plans are to hold the June 2022 camp in person at Sonoma State University. Our branch selects the middle school girls who will attend and we underwrite the cost of \$1,000 per girl, with families asked to contribute a nominal fee of \$50.



We're looking for more volunteers to help with the following activities:

- Participate on selection and interview teams
- Camp workshop leader
- Camp assistant (help with workshops, classes or other activities at the camp)
- Dorm mom
- Ice cream social helper
- Participate on professional women's panel one evening during the June camp
- Help Deborah develop tools to communicate with and track the girls after their camp experiences. This might be a social media solution, a database, or a combination. The goal is to continue mentoring these young women as they go on to high school and college

Interested? Please contact Deborah.wechsler@gmail.com

“T’is the Season to Be Jolly” – and Generous!

By Joanne Quijano, President

While we still can't deck the halls and fundraise in person this year, you can still donate some Yuletide treasure and make a difference for three critical areas:

- **The AAUW Greatest Needs Fund** - advances AAUW's national mission by sustaining nationwide programs and activities to create and expand our renowned research, mission-based programs and advocacy initiatives that tackle challenges facing women and girls
- **DAW Local Scholarship Program** - provides \$2,000 awards to local college women toward continuing education
- **DAW Tech Trek** - provides scholarships at \$1,000 each so local girls can attend the popular weeklong science camps to augment their STEM education and encourage confidence.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to our valuable initiatives to help advance gender equity for women and girls. Watch for a "Funds Solicitation" letter and please consider contributing. Our Local Scholarship program needs contributions. [See how you can make a difference.](#)

"Merry and Bright" – Local Scholarships for 2022

By Becky Bhatt, Local Scholarship Chair

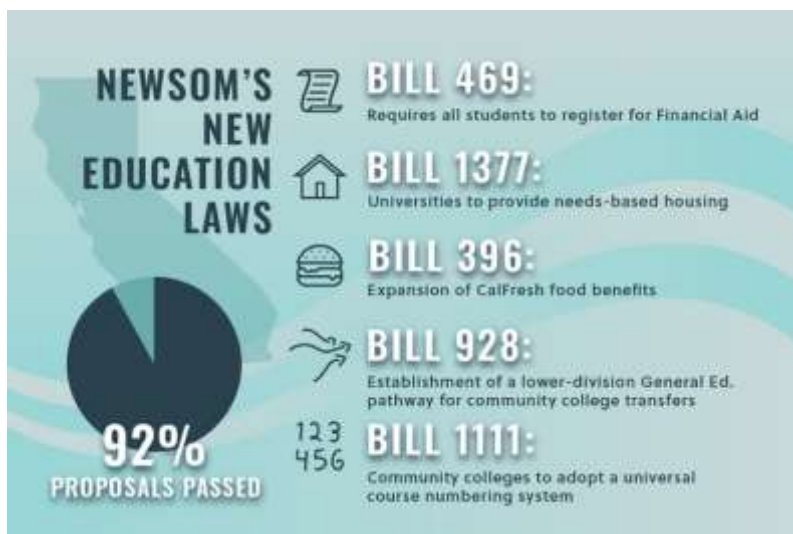
Our branch offers scholarships to local women to help them complete their academic degree programs. Through the Local Scholarship Initiative, we've provided over \$110K in scholarships over the last nine years. Our Local Scholarship Committee members this year are Nancy Murray, Carole Allen, Liz Peters, Sosanna Kuruvila and Becky Bhatt. We plan to increase our award to \$2000 for 2022. Students may apply starting this month by using the process and forms available on our DAW website. The due date for the application is March 11, 2022.

Please share the link for the application and encourage eligible young women you may know to apply. [Link to Local Scholarship Application Process.](#)

"Light One Candle" and See Updates from AAUW California Public Policy Committee

By Asha Bajaj, Public Policy Chair

Education



Parent Healthcare Act

Introduced in February by ASM. Miguel Santiago, the “Parent Healthcare Act,” (Assembly Bill 570), targets people who don’t qualify for Medicare and cannot afford health insurance including immigrant families whose children are documented citizens, but their parents aren’t. The bill goes into effect January 1, 2023. ASM Santiago commented on how this bill will impact California families, “AB 570 brings California one step closer to providing healthcare for all by allowing adult children to add dependent parents to their health insurance. This helps working families save money by combining healthcare costs on one plan. This is also an option for mixed-status families or working families with a disabled parent at home who doesn’t qualify for other safety-net programs like Social Security or Medicare.”

Sponsored by: California Department of Insurance. Supported by California Health Advocates and immigrant groups fighting to improve access to health care for undocumented citizens.

Sexual Assault and Spousal Rape

Assembly Bill (AB) 453, AB 1171, AB 939 and Senate Bill (SB) 215.

- AB 453, authored by ASM Cristina Garcia (D- Bell Gardens), makes the act of non-consensually removing a condom, also known as “stealthing”, illegal.
- SB 215, co-authored by Senator Connie Leyva (D-Chino), will allow survivors of sexual assault to track and receive information regarding their sexual assault evidence kit. A new online portal will enable survivors to access the SAFE-T database.
- Denim Day Act of 2021 (AB 939) bans a survivor’s clothing from being used as evidence of consent in a sexual assault case. The bill is named for Denim Day in April which amplifies the message that the manner of dress does not equate to consent. Under this new law, stealthing would be considered a form of sexual battery, however, it doesn’t criminalize it.

Stay alert! Stay engaged! Stay involved!

- “Build Back Better” infrastructure bill signed by President Biden is headed to the Senate.
- Booster doses and vaccines for kids 5-11 are now available. Please go to Myturn.gov to sign up.

Membership Corner

Welcome New Members!

Walnut Creek: Patricia Chadwell

Danville: Guadalupe Cerrone and Robin Keefe



“Silent Night” – But Lively New Member Gathering!

By Claudia Schwarz, Membership VP



New members and a sampling of Board and Interest Group Leads gathered November 6th at Claudia’s home in Danville for a warm welcome and introduction to DAW. Attended by 23, of which 13 were new members, the group got to know each other better and learned about opportunities to get involved.

Claudia is planning more of these face-to-face events in the coming year, possibly at local restaurants and wine clubs. We hope you’ll join us!



“Do You See What I See?” – New DAW-AAUW Facebook Page

By Claudia Schwarz, VP Membership

I’m developing a new closed, private Facebook page for our DAW community to help us get to know each other better, particularly since we can’t always get together in person. Anyone is welcome to join and post things like:

- Member milestones – Wedding anniversaries, birthdays, graduations
- Member events promoted by DAW AAUW board members and interest or neighborhood groups
- Community activities – Art exhibits, shows, book readings, pop-up stores
- Members’ businesses - Members can promote their businesses
- Recommendations and advice – Restaurants, travel, services or anything that you’re excited about and want to share
- Issues or news that align with our Vision and Mission of empowering and educating women in our community.

Let's Start Building a Better Community! [Join the page here.](#)

"Here to Stay Is a New Bird" – Meet Ogie Strogatz

By Stephanie Denman, Advocate Editor



New AAUW member, Ogie (pronounced O.G.) Strogatz came by her moniker through a series of mispronunciations. Ogie was named after a favorite great-aunt Rose Gordon, whose parents called her Rosie. Rosie's siblings couldn't pronounce the "r", so they called her "Osie". They apparently had trouble with the "s" too, so it morphed into "Ogie". The original Ogie died shortly before current Ogie was born, and her parents named her Rose Gordon in Ogie's honor, but she's always been known as "Ogie". Here are five other things to know about Ogie:

- 1) **Roots:** From Torrington Connecticut and currently lives in Walnut Creek with her husband Rick. They have one adult son named Matt.
- 2) **Academics:** BA in Psychology, Vassar, MSPH in Health Policy and Administration from the School of Public Health at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.
- 3) **Raison d'AAUW:** Prompted to join after Asha Bajaj contacted her in 2020 about AAUW postcard writing through the Center for Common Ground (where Ogie is a local organizer), to help get out the vote in historically marginalized communities in battleground states.
- 4) **Passion Projects:** Volunteering as a progressive political activist since the 2016 elections and currently focused on:
 - racial justice - SURJ member, Showing Up for Racial Justice, Contra Costa
 - climate change - 350 Contra Costa member, and co-chair of their State & Federal Legislative Team
 - women's reproductive health - Planned Parenthood patient escort at the Walnut Creek clinic
 - strengthening our democracy - Indivisible ReSisters Walnut Creek member and a member of a group of Bay Area Indivisible leaders that's rallying in SF every Friday evening to advocate for the Senate passage of the Freedom To Vote Act & the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act. The bills address voter suppression, election subversion, and gerrymandering.
- 5) **On her nightstand:** Re-reading Viktor Frankl's, Man's Search for Meaning. "As a privileged person living in a fraught time, I'm reflecting on how I can contribute most meaningfully to family, friends, and community. I am moved by Frankl's experience as a Holocaust survivor; his wisdom and resilience serve as a powerful point of reference for me."

[Click here](#) to contact new members and welcome them to our branch.

“Faithful Friends Who Are Dear to Us” – Remembering Sharon Ritchey

By Christine Ritter, Past President

Our branch member, Sharon Ritchey, passed away September 12. An AAUW member since 1993, Sharon was also a co-founder of the Danville Fine Art Gallery, Chair of the Danville Arts Commission and served on the Board of Role Players Ensemble, and was President of the high school PTA. She loved everything in nature, art and animals. An accomplished artist, Sharon worked across media from painting and printmaking to drawing and photography. She shared many of her drawings and photographs of exotic animals in our AAUW Creativity Nights. The family requests that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the John Muir Health Foundation, 1400 Treat Blvd, Walnut Creek, CA 94597. We will miss her.

DAW Interest Group Happenings

“Follow Me in Merry Measure” – Join an Interest Group!

Our branch has a wide variety of Interest Groups from Art & Garden to Gourmet Epicureans to Mah Jongg to Writing. Some groups are open to significant others. Find details and the latest list on our [branch website](#).

Don't see anything that interests you? Let us know. There may be other members who would like to get together and form a new group.

From the Editor

Got an idea for the Advocate? We welcome your contributions. Send ideas, articles and pictures to Editor Stephanie Denman, steph@denmans.us by the 15th of the month to appear in the next issue. 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)

You can find contact information about people mentioned in the Advocate on our [branch website](#) and in your directory. If you do not have a directory, contact Claudia Schwarz.

From the Corresponding Secretary

Pat Gross, our Corresponding Secretary, sends cards on behalf of our branch. Contact Pat if you know of an AAUW-DAW member in need of a birthday, get well, condolence or congratulations card.








From the Treasurer: Where to Send Expenses and Deposits


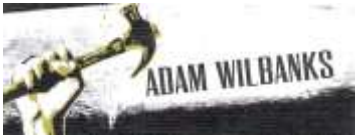
Please send expense vouchers or deposits to our AAUW P.O. Box 996 in Alamo, 94507 for expedited processing. Do not send them to our Treasurer's home.



Our Wonderful Sponsors

Know someone who may be interested in becoming an advertiser? Contact Marsha Anderson Landau, email: marsha888@comcast.net, or call (925) 351-8188.

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*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.

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

