



The Advocate, October 2022

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



AAUW and League of Women Voters Present: **Examining the November 2022 California Ballot Initiatives**



Thursday, October 20, 2022, 6:00 – 8:00 PM Greenbrook Clubhouse, 300 Greenbrook Drive, Danville

Speakers: Sue Brandy and Janet Hoy: Pros and Cons Team
Diablo Valley League of Women Voters

Join the American Association of University Women Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek branch and the League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley in an informative presentation of the pros and cons related to our 2022 ballot measures. A presentation by the speakers will help us sort through the latest array of initiatives.

This year, more than ever, we need to prepare for this critical election before we cast our ballots. California is facing unprecedented challenges to our democracy, not to mention the public health and economic crises. As voters, we must consider critical issues such as systemic racism, homelessness, rebuilding a crumbling infrastructure, and a wide range of measures on this year's ballot.

This discussion offers a look behind the slogans to better understand the ballot measure opportunities and their consequences. <u>Click here</u> for more information and to RSVP

October Checklist

- ASAP: Contact Ogie Strogatz to join the branch Get Out the Vote postcard project
- October 15, 22, 23, 11-12: register and attend the California Funds Recipient Zoom Meetings
- October 20, 6:00pm: Monthly Member Meeting with League of Women Voters program "Examining the November 2022 California Ballot initiatives" RSVP Here



- November 17: 6:00pm: Monthly Member Meeting with Title IX program speaker
- <u>Donate here</u> to support DAW branch programs
- **Volunteer!** We still have open positions on our branch board! Learn more <u>here</u>

October 2022 Advocate President's Message

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our September Membership Brunch! We were 85 attendees strong and those who responded to the post-meeting survey gave it high marks. We are looking forward to continuing our reconnection with our Third-Thursday monthly in-person meetings . This year, seven of our monthly meetings support one of our mission focus areas and two are devoted





to social activities to build our AAUW member community. All are scheduled to be held in the Greenbrook Clubhouse, 300 Greenbrook Drive in Danville from 6 to 8 pm. We chose this location, in part, because it is a spacious facility with high ceilings and good air circulation.

I hope you will all join us for our next in-person program, Examining the November 2022 California Ballot Initiatives, presented by the League of Women Voters. The program supports our mission focus area of exercising our power as women through the vote. Also supporting this area of focus is our branch postcard-writing project led by our Public Affairs team, Asha Bajaj and Ogie Strogatz, where we can encourage exercise the power of their vote. There's still time to sign up to write 20 postcards with the team.

Meanwhile, our Branch Committees and Interest Groups and are kicking off their plans for the year so now is the time to join a team. Just contact the leader to sign up. As the Lego movie tells us "Everything is Awesome When You're Part of a Team!"

Stay tuned for an active year of reconnecting to Make a Difference in women's equity!

Christine Ritter and Joanne Quijano, Co-Presidents

Marilyn Steichen Memorial Scholarship

By Robin Halloran, Co-Chair Local Scholarships

Marilyn Steichen, a long-time and dedicated AAUW member, passed away this summer. In Marilyn's memory the Steichen Family and friends created a special scholarship to be administered through Local Scholarships this year. The scholarship will be presented to a young lady who is pursuing the sciences. We thank them and very much appreciate their honoring their mother, friend and colleague in this manner.



Marilyn was not one to sit on the sidelines. She was quite a "doer." Marilyn, with friends, formed, joined and headed numerous groups. Being active was a priority for her. Her love of the sciences and having been a teacher at Monta Vista High School motivated the family to create this special scholarship.

Thank you, Steichen family and friends.

Members Reconnect and Energize for FY23 at Membership Brunch

By Liz Peters, VP Membership

This year's kick off membership brunch was held at Crow Canyon Country Club on Saturday, September 17th. The brunch was attended by over 85 members and guests. Attendees were able to sign up for committees and interest groups and learn more about AAUW 2022-2023. We honored our 50-year member, Chris Winter and welcomed seven new and returning members.

The keynote speaker was Elizabeth Coffey from The Center for Reproductive Rights. Elizabeth



spoke about where we are post Roe in America and what we can do now. It was interesting to learn what has happened after the ruling in our state and where other states currently stand. She helped us to understand how her organization helps all women with

access to reproductive rights globally. Also, what action we can take to help this important issue. If you are interested in learning more, please click on this <u>link to the Center for Reproductive Rights</u>

Another highlight was meeting twelve of our fifteen Tech Trek Campers who attended. The campers participated in this year's Tech Trek Camp and delighted the audience with how meaningful and rewarding this experience was for them. It was such a special time for the girls, and we were all very happy to hear about their time at camp.



Chris Ritter, the Co-President shared news about new monthly membership meetings that will be held every third Thursday of each month. Membership meetings will include social time as well as timely informative topics the Board has put as a focus for the coming year. The first meeting will be on October 20 and the topic is Examining the November 2022 California Ballot with the League of Women Voters. Please see the article about Monthly Membership Meetings in this Advocate.

During the short business meeting, Monika Witte presented the FY23 Budget and Chris Ritter reviewed the rationale for the proposed transition to a 501(c)(3) organization. Members who had not previously voted on the budget and the proposed changes to the governance documents were encouraged to vote at the meeting using an QR code printed on the meeting program.

Next, Chris Ritter and several Committee Chairs shared our plans and mission focus areas for this year. Bette Felton reviewed calendar of monthly meeting program and activities and Ogie Strogatz reviewed our Public Policy priorities and encouraged members to participate in our Get Out The Vote postcard writing project underway now. Sherry Wilcoxson reviewed the exciting plans for fundraising events to support our projects this year. To see the detailed presentation on these topics click here.

It was a wonderful brunch and we are all looking forward to an amazing 2022-2023 for the AAUW Danville Alamo Walnut Creek Branch!

Chris Ritter, Co-President, Liz Peters, VP Membership and Elizabeth Coffey, Senior Philanthropy Officer, Center for Reproductive Rights.

Hop On Board

By Chris Ritter, Co-President

I am pleased to announce two new additions to our DAW AAUW Board of Directors:

 Bette Felton has agreed to lead our much-loved Garden Tour 2023 as Garden Tour Chair. Bette is calling all interested parties together to join her committee so please contact her if you would like to help with planning this event.



Roseann Krane has assumed responsibility for our main communication piece, The Advocate. Roseann has already taken the reins for this October's edition! Please send you contributions for the Advocate using the Submittal page in the NEWS section of our website at https://daw-ca.aauw.net/submittal/

We also changed the name of the **Tech Team** to the **Operations Team**. The Tech Team was originally founded to modernize our digital infrastructure during the pandemic. After completing the web relaunch and assembling the branch digital assets, and creating an archiving system for branch documents, the team began administering all our digital communications and systems including the web site, our social media posts, our PR efforts, event reservations and payment systems, member surveys and votes. To better reflect this new charter, the team will change its name to Operations Team. We thank Teresa Cheung for continued leadership of this core team and encourage any members with a technical bent to contact Teresa to join the team!

Joanne and I continue to be amazed and thankful for the wonderful teamwork we see in our organization and for the individuals who step up to lead our core activities. A heartfelt "Thank You" to all!

We Need You! Write Postcards to Get Out the Vote

By Ogie Strogatz



We need YOU! Midterm elections are coming up fast. We have a perfect opportunity to act right now on our branch's commitment to *Make a Difference* in one of our five priority areas: Creating Education Equity. *We're writing "Get Out The Vote" postcards to infrequent Black voters in Florida in partnership with Reclaim Our Vote*, a major, national initiative of the Center for Common Ground, which is a non-partisan voting rights organization led by people of color.

(Please note: The Center for Common Ground and Reclaim Our Vote are monitoring the impact of Hurricane Ian in Florida. Should individuals wish to contribute to the relief effort, they suggest Collier Community Foundation in southwest Florida. Bearing in mind that postcards are not to be mailed until October 17-25, we will continue with the current campaign to encourage voter turnout.)

In April, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis signed HB 7, the Stop Wrongs Against Our Kids and Employees Act (commonly called the "Stop WOKE Act"), which restricts education about the United States' legacy of racism in schools and workplaces. Several lawsuits have been filed to challenge the act, including one brought by <u>Florida educators and students</u>. We can help maximize voter turnout in Florida! Our postcards provide specific information about how to vote early in-person.

A big, heartfelt thank you to branch members who already have stepped up to write to Florida voters! The list as we publish: Asha Bajaj, Becky Bhatt, Lupe Cerrone, Sharon Cohune, Corrienne Heinemann, Cindy Dragomanovich, Sandy Killoran, Debbie Koos, Roseann Krane, Chris Ritter, Lisa Simone, Dianne Tinnes, Deborah Wechsler, and Monika Witte. We're also grateful to the West Contra Costa branch for partnering with us in this effort. Together we've pledged to write 600 postcards! Yes! Let's go for 1,000!

And we can do even more. Join us! Please contact Ogie ("OG") Strogatz on the Public Policy team: email: ogstrogatz@gmail.com.

Chris Winter Honored with 50-Year life Membership

Chris Winter serves as a role model for all of us. She received her Business Administration degree at Oregon State University and then moved to the Bay area.

Chris served six years on the AAUW's Board of Directors. She served first as Regional Director from California (1987-89) and then as AAUW's Director of Public Policy (1995-99). AAUW's Voter Education Campaign to mobilize women to vote on issues that impacted their daily lives was implemented during her tenure as Director of Public Policy.

By Tena Gallagher



She also has served as California AAUW's State President (1990-92), Program Vice President (1984-86), and Public Policy Chair and has held leadership positions, including President, in her branch since 1974. Through the years, she has been deeply involved in issues affecting the status of women. She has represented AAUW on numerous California coalitions and boards. She was Vice President and President of the AAUW CA Special Projects Fund Board- for two years in each office.

Chris's leadership has touched many of our lives outside of AAUW too. 40 years ago, she was on the committee to incorporate Danville! Chris was Executive Director of Leadership San Ramon Valley, a non-profit organization to develop community leadership skills, and promote community involvement. She also served on the Board of Directors of the San Ramon Valley Community Services Group as Vice President and Program Chair.

Chris was honored as the "1995 Woman of Distinction" by Soroptimist International, of San Ramon. She has an AAUW Educational Foundation American Endowment in her name which provides fellowships to women seeking advanced degrees.

What a powerhouse of leadership we have in our branch! Activism has always been a driving force for her and to work alongside like-minded women and men to make our world a better place.

Invite a Friend to Make a Difference

The Membership Team, led by Liz Peters, is actively pursuing new members for our branch and we encourage you to invite a friend to our next AAUW event.

We have placed articles in local digital news media with a great picture so you may recognize these smiling faces when you open your Danville, Walnut Creek, or Alamo Today or look in the Patch or check your NextDoor feed!

JOIN AAUW

Since 1881, the America Association of University Women (AAUW) has advanced gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

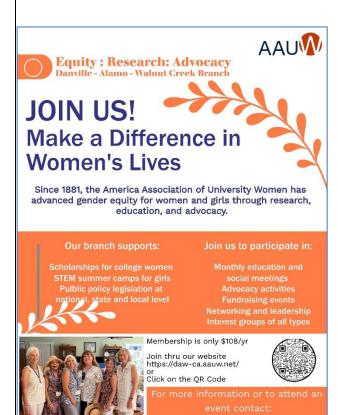
Join in and make a difference in women's lives.

tunities, and interest groups of all types.

The branch supports scholarships for college women, STEM summer camps for girls, and public policy legislation at local, state, and national levels. Join up to participate in monthly educational and social meetings, advocacy activities, fundraising events, networking and leadership oppor-

For more information, or to join, contact Claudia Schwarz at <u>claudiaschwarz@comcast.net</u> or visit <u>daw-ca.aauw.net</u>. Membership dues are only \$108 annually.





Lisa Simone and Claudia Schwarz also created a new member flyer, which they posted at local coffee shops. Copies of the flyer are available here for download so please print one out and post it in any place you know of where it might be seen by women who would like to Make a Difference with AAUW.

Branch FY23 Budget and Governance Documents Changes Approved by Members

by Deborah Wechsler

At our General Membership meeting on September 17th our branch finalized our voting on several very important items. According to our Bylaws the voting requirement is for a quorum (10%) of our members to vote. We have approximately 200 active members, so a quorum is 20 members. We had 59 members vote on these items with the results as follows:



The FY23 (2022-2023) Budget passed with votes 59 YES, 0 NO

Review the final approved budget HERE

We voted on three documents required for changing from a 501(c) (4) organization to a 501(c)(3) organization. You can review the rational for this Board-recommended change and the documents on our website Members page linked HERE.

Incorporation Document passed with votes 58 YES, 1 NO Standing Rules Revision passed with votes 58 YES, 1 NO Bylaws Update passed with votes 58 YES, 1 NO

Thanks everyone who voted and helped us move forward on these important components of our branch operations.

Mark Your Calendar for our November 17th Monthly Meeting: Title IX

We have an exciting speaker lined up for our November meeting: Allison Kern, Director of Athletics at Cal State East Bay will speak to us about the Current Status of Title IX in Women's Athletics. Join us November 17, 6-8 pm at the Greenbrook Clubhouse to learn about the impact of Title IX on Women's athletics in our local women. More details are coming soon.





Jun 3 - 🚱

YOU Are Part of the Communications

Team Isabel Lau, Social Media Coordinator

Communication is a two-way street. The tools at our disposal:

• Newsletter: The Advocate

Website: https://daw-ca.aauw.net/

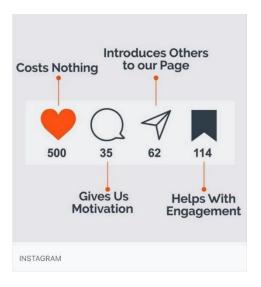
• Facebook: @DanvilleAlamoWalnutCreekAauw

• Instagram: @danvillealamovwc_aauw

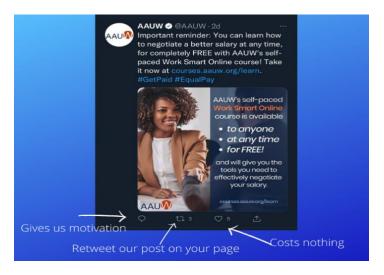
• Twitter: @danvillealamowc

We have a few requests:

- Please read our newsletter. Share the information with family and friends.
- Visit our website.
- LIKE our Facebook page. LIKE our posts. Make a **COMMENT**. SHARE the posts on your personal page.
- **FOLLOW** us on Instagram. **LIKE** our posts. Make a **COMMENT. SHARE** the posts on your Stories so your friends see them.



 FOLLOW us on Twitter. LIKE our posts. Make a COMMENT. Make sure to RETWEET our posts on your page.



October 2022 – DAW AAUW Interest Groups

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
						6:30 pm
						Gourmet:
						<u>Culinary</u>
_	_			_		<u>Navigators</u>
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	10 am Mah Jongg 1	10 am	Art and		7:00 pm	
		Mah Jongg 2	Garden		Movies: First	
					<u>Friday Film</u>	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	10 am Mah Jongg 1	10 am			7:30 pm –	6:30 pm –
	12 pm – Bridge: 2nd	Mah Jongg 2			Movies: Cinema	Gourmet:
	Monday Party	1:00 Writers			7:20	Epicureans
	1:30 pm				7:30 pm – Movies: Oscars	
16	NeedleArts 17	18	19	20	21	22
10	10 am Mah Jongg 1	10 am	19	20	7:00pm -	22
	12 pm – Bridge: 3 rd	Mah Jongg 2			Movies: Third	
	Monday Party	1:00 pm			Friday Film	
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		Ideas				
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	10 am Mah Jongg 1	10 am	9:30 am –	9:30 am –	7:30 pm –	
	12:30 pm – <u>Bridge:</u>	Mah Jongg 2	Literature:	Literature:	Movies: Oscars	
	<u>Duplicate</u>		Contemporary	Morning		
			Books	1 pm –		
				Beads2Jewelry		
30	31					
	10 am Mah Jongg 1					
	10 am Mah Jongg 1					

AAUW Beads2Jewelry Interest Group Moves to 4th Thursdays

by Dianne Giacovelli

The Beading Group meets on the 4th Thursday of the month from 1pm to 3:30 pm and we rotate the meetings between members' homes. There are usually 6-8 members at each meeting. The hostess provides snacks and beverages and one or two tables with space for projects.

Projects: We pick projects by group consensus and depend on each other to find and teach new projects. Supply lists for the projects are emailed to members 2-3 weeks before each meeting so that there is adequate time to gather supplies. Everyone is responsible for bringing her own supplies. Most of our projects can be completed at the beading meeting or easily finished at home. We try many different projects including simple stringing, wire crochet, wire-wrapping, seed beading and knotting. If you are not interested in making the project, just bring something else to work on and enjoy the companionship of your fellow beaders.



Supplies: Each member brings her own tools and supplies. A basic tool and supply list is available and the items can be purchased at craft stores or on line. The initial investment in tools and supplies, not including the beads, is about \$100. The supplies for most of our monthly projects cost about \$20. If you are new to beading, you can take a basic beading class at any bead shop or craft store or view on YouTube to see if you like it well enough to invest in the supplies.

Beading in general: Beading is a fun and relaxing hobby that usually results in an extensive jewelry wardrobe and a ready cache of handcrafted gifts. Beading requires good hand strength and dexterity and adequate eyesight. Most of us use magnifiers or strong reading glasses for close work. Beads can be purchased at craft stores, bead shows, and on line. Your inventory will grow quickly! To join our interest group, please contact a Co-chair: Dianne Giacovelli and Jessica Barrett



Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek AAUW members are very involved in the community. In this photo members Chris Ritter, Robin Halloran, Holly Saur, Marcia Anderson and Roseann Krane participate in the Alamo Danville Garden Club.

California AAUW Updates

AAUW Fund Events (formerly Fund Luncheons)

Karen Vanderwerken, Director, AAUW Fund Committee Chair, <u>aauwfund@aauw-ca.org</u>

Join us in welcoming 39 California fellows and grant recipients at four fall Zoom events!

We can't argue with success. Holding our annual AAUW Fund Events via Zoom has opened them up to far greater participation. More members can log on and hear presentations by more stimulating fellows and grant recipients. Plan on joining us to learn what your Fund dollars are supporting AND perhaps line up a speaker for your branch. So don't miss out this year. Zoom over to this year's AAUW Fund Event on three Saturdays and one Sunday:

Saturday: October 15th, October 22nd, and November 12th 10-noon

Sunday: October 23rd 1-3 pm

Registration is required. Click <u>HERE</u> to register for one or more events.

Nominations are Open for the AAUW CA Board

Charmen Goehring, Nominations & Elections Chair, nominating@aauw-ca.org

Do you love AAUW??? If so, it is time to consider becoming a candidate in the upcoming AAUW California election in April 2023. Serving on the state board of directors is a great experience and a way to help guide AAUW California into the future.

This year, we will be electing:

- President-Elect (one-year term 2023-2024, then two-year term 2024-2026 as president)
- Four Directors (two-year term 2023-2025)
- CFO (two-year term 2023-2025)

Our committee will be reaching out to many branch presidents to talk about the benefits of serving on the board, the time commitment required, and our search for diversity.

The website and nomination form will be updated shortly. Start considering members in your branch who might like to run for state office, or maybe you yourself would make a great candidate! More information will be available next month.

AAUW CA Public Policy: When Women Vote, They Change the Conversation!

Kathleen Harper, Director, Public Policy Committee Chair, publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org

Even though Mahatma Gandhi didn't actually say "Be the change you want to see in the world," it's still a great sentiment - and you don't even have to go on a hunger strike to make it happen! All you have to do is join our Voter Education/Get Out the Vote campaign! Starting the first week in September, you and your members will be receiving weekly messages from the Public Policy team, ready-made for posting on social media platforms. Here are three things you, as leaders, can do to help:

- Make sure the messages are posted on your branch's Facebook page.
- Make sure your members are aware of the campaign and the importance of their participation and encourage them to post the messages on their own social media platforms.
- Include the Voter Education/GOTV articles sent to your branch public policy chairs in your newsletters.

You are also encouraged to make your October program focus on the election. You may want to consider a Candidates' Night. Before a partisan election, AAUW branches may host candidate forums to which all major-party candidates in that election are invited. Just remember AAUW branches with 501(c)(4) status must make a thorough and good faith effort to ensure the participation of at least two candidates for a specific office, but may proceed with a forum if only one candidate accepts. AAUW branches with 501(c)(3) status may only proceed with a candidate forum event if at least two candidates have accepted the invitation.

Thanks for being part of the change!

Click <u>HERE</u> to learn more about California Proposition 1, Right to Reproductive Freedom Amendment (2022).

Speech Trek Update: Toolkits, MOU'S and How Do They Do It?

Marlene Cain, Speech Trek Program Director, speechtrek@aauw-ca.org

- The toolkits are available! Click <u>HERE</u> to download the 2022-2023 Branch and Student Toolkits.
- The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU, found in the Branch Toolkit) submission deadline has been extended to **Friday, November 18th.**

How do they do it? We spoke with Poway-Peñasquitos Branch, home of two state winners (2019 and 2022). We asked Karen McGurk, Speech Trek Chair, and Marie Dye, Communications/PR Chair, to reveal the branch's secret to success. They graciously shared their five-step winning formula:

- Strong support from the state Speech Trek team
- Dedicated and flexible branch members
- Multiple methods of publicity, especially social media, school promotion, and wordof-mouth
- Community involvement
- Patience and persistence

Why does Karen McGurk volunteer for Speech Trek?

"I believe speaking is the most important way we communicate," she answered. "Speech Trek provides an opportunity for young people to enhance their speaking skills, and the participants ... have been such creative, poised, intelligent people," she gushed. "They have the critical thinking and leadership skills necessary to make our world a better place--they give me hope!"

Here's hoping your branch will lend insight into the 2023 Speech Trek question: *How can communities, organizations, and citizens of all ages help protect and expand voting rights?*

See toolkits for more details on the topic and join our GOVTREK Kickoff Webinar November 17 at 7:00 PM. Questions? Email speechtrek@aauw-ca.org for answers!

Gov Trek California – Kickoff Webinar, November 16th, 7 pm

Shauna Oenning Ruyle, Gov Trek Program Director, qovtrek@aauw-ca.org

We're getting ready! We're busy planning for the next phase of the Gov Trek program – and can't wait to get the curriculum in the hands of high school junior and senior girls across California!

Join us on November 16th to learn about this free, virtual, state-wide program designed to elevate a new generation of women to public service and elected office through career exploration, industry speakers, campaign simulations, summer internship opportunities, and more!

Get more women involved in politics, and deliver more value to your branch members and community with Gov Trek. Join us to learn more on November 16th! Stay tuned for the webinar details.

Click **HERE** to learn about the 2019 Gov Trek pilot program.

From the Editor



Contribute to the Advocate

Send ideas, articles, and pictures by the October 24th to appear in the next issue. Please use the <u>Submittal Form</u> on our website to direct your contribution to the Advocate, or other DAW social media, to our communications team. Submissions should be in the following format:

- Articles in a .doc or .docx file, or in the body of an email using calibri font, size 12.
- Pictures in .jpg format (compressed)

Find contact information about people mentioned in the Advocate on our <u>branch website</u> and in your directory. If you do not have a directory, contact Tena Gallagher.

From the Corresponding Secretary



Know someone who needs a note?

Julie Grisham, our Corresponding Secretary, sends cards on behalf of our branch. If you know of an AAUW-DAW member in need of a get well, condolence or congratulations card, contact Julie via email here.

Our Wonderful Sponsors

We're always looking for new advertisers. Funds go toward branch expenses such as printing, membership directory, and postage. Advertisers' names and businesses will appear in our fall Membership Directory and the monthly Advocate. For more information, please visit our website at https://daw-ca.aauw.net/support/



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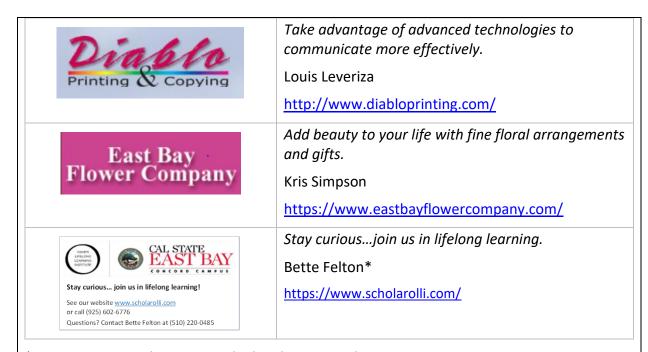
Marsha Anderson*

marsha888@comcast.net



Enjoy award-winning authentic Italian dining.

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*DAW AAUW 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.

Roseann Krane, Editor

Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek AAUW, P.O. Box 996, Alamo, CA 94507

