



Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek (CA)



## The Advocate, February 2022

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

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We had an excellent DEI-related program on January 13, three fascinating speakers, thoughtful discussion and plenty of follow-up ideas for promoting anti-racism. The evening was a good lead in for Black History Month. While Black history is certainly an integral part of world history, it's so often overlooked or downplayed that it's important to have a month dedicated to raising our awareness.

Valentine's Day is also this month. Whether or not you have a special someone, take time to thank those who brighten your life. We can all use some extra understanding and kindness these days.

This month's Advocate features both a new, streamlined format, and lots of inspiring quotes from Black leaders and activists. Enjoy!

Take care – be kind  
*Joanne Quijano, President DAW Branch*

*"The time is always right, to do what's right." Martin Luther King*



### February Checklist

- **February 8, 10:00 am, Member Social** [RSVP Here](#)
- **February 15, 9:30 am, Leadership Program with Senator Glazer** hosted by OML branch
- **February 17, 7:00 pm, DAW Board Meeting**
- **February 19, 1:00 pm Social Justice Fair**
- **February 28, Gianni's Benefit for San Ramon Tech Trek**
- [Donate here](#) to support the DAW fundraising campaign
- **Volunteer!** Learn about open board positions on [the branch Website](#)

## February Programs Update

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*"Helping people by charity is the most human thing we can do." Oprah Winfrey*



**Let's Get Social**, February 8, 10:00 am – Peet's Danville

Get to know your DAW friends, hear about community action and advocacy and our amazing interest groups.

Meet us at Peet's Coffee in downtown Danville, 435 Railroad Ave, at the outdoor seating area. Bring your AAUW name tag and feel free to invite a friend. [Register here](#)



### **Get Involved at the Social Justice Fair, February 19, 1:00 pm**

Hear from a panel of organizations working on social justice in the Tri-Valley Area. Brought to you by Veronica Benjamin, one of the speakers at our January Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) event and co-founder of Conscious Contra Costa. For more information or to get involved, click [Conscious Contra Costa](#)



### **Order Italian to Benefit Tech Trek, February 28**

Gianni's Italian Bistro is hosting a "Tips for Change" evening benefiting the San Ramon branch Tech Trek. Order your delicious takeout dinner between 4:30-8:00 pm. All tips and 10% of sales will go toward Tech Trek. Visit [Gianni's Website](#) or call 925-820-6969. Buon Appetito!

## **National AAUW Updates**

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*"Don't listen to the voice in your head that says you can't. Listen to the voice that says I can."  
Shirley Chisholm*



### **Make a DEI-fference Webinars**

Check out AAUW's 2022 webinars supporting state and branch leaders, diversity officers and other members as they work to make their affiliates more diverse, equitable and inclusive.

#### **Intersectionality Identified, March 24, 7 pm Eastern Time (ET)**

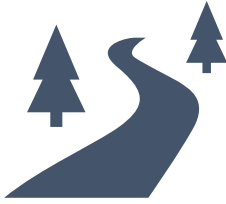
Join the Inclusion & Equity Committee for this discussion of intersectionality and how to create branch or state programming for members on this concept.

#### **Social Justice: Creating Change, May 26, 7 pm ET**

What does it mean to support social justice and how is that different (or the same) as racial justice and economic justice?

An AAUW DEI toolkit is also available with resources to tackle issues like starting difficult conversations. Register for the webinars and find the toolkit [here](#).

*“Our unity is our strength and our diversity is our power.” Kamala Harris*



### Attend the AAUW California Annual Event

California’s annual virtual event this year will feature fabulous speakers AAUW CEO Gloria Blackwell, policy rockstar Lisa Maatz, and the Jasmine Sadler the dancing rocket scientist. Hear from our Speech Trek finalists and explore a variety of topics covering equity, women and girls. It will all be happening virtually on April 30. Watch for registration details.

*Charmen Goehring, Meetings Planner, [meetings@aauw-ca.org](mailto:meetings@aauw-ca.org)*



### Learn the Language of Diversity

AAUW’s focus on DEI brings many opportunities to move beyond our comfort zones and appreciate living in a multi-cultural society where differences between people are a valued asset. Using common communication tools helps us understand each other as we try to encourage and support diversity in our branch.

See AAUW’s DEI glossary [here](#).

We can use our power to help expand the diversity of each branch—learning about diversity in our book clubs and film groups, making branch dinners an ethnically diverse culinary experience and seeking out diversity in community partnerships.

*Elaine Johnson, Director and Janice Lee, DEI Committee Co-Chairs, [diversity@aauw-ca.org](mailto:diversity@aauw-ca.org)*



### Run for the AAUW California Board of Directors

AAUW California is looking for candidates to run for its Board of Directors. Board members shape the policies and programs for the state and provide support for branches. Your skills and experience will help the board accomplish our mission of achieving gender equity in California. We’ll be electing:

- Secretary (two-year term 2022– 2024)
- Three Directors (one-year term 2022–2023)
- Four Directors (two-year term 2022– 2024)

Click [here](#) for the election process details and nomination form. Candidate information will be posted as it is received. Take the challenge and put your name out there!

*Charmen Goehring, Nominations & Elections Chair, [nominating@aauw-ca.org](mailto:nominating@aauw-ca.org), and Carolyn Garfein*

*“Don’t sit down and wait for opportunities to come. Get up and make them.” Madame C.J. Walker*



### **Learn about Public Policy**

#### *California Single-Payer Universal Healthcare Bill:*

Assemblyman Ash Kalra sponsored AB 1400 would create CalCare — a single-payer health care plan that would cover everyone in the state — and an independent, nine-member CalCare Board to administer it.

That bill would impose a 2.3% excise tax on businesses making more than \$2 million in gross receipts per year, a 1.25% payroll tax on employers with 50 or more Californian employees, an additional 1% payroll tax on employees making more than \$49,900 per year, and a new marginal income tax on those making \$149,509 and above.

AB 1400 has been referred to the Appropriations Committee. Since it was introduced last year, the bill will die if it doesn’t make it out of the Assembly by Jan. 31. For ACA 11 to take effect, it would have to be approved by a two-thirds majority in the Assembly and Senate, and then go on the ballot to and be approved by voters.

#### *Final Stimulus Checks:*

The final batch of stimulus payments from California is heading out in the mail. Families who earn less than \$75,000 and met other requirements will receive \$600 payments, plus an extra \$500 for dependents.

#### *Build Back Better Summary: H.R.5376 — 117th Congress (2021-2022) Introduced in House (09/27/2021)*



This bill provides funding, establishes programs, and otherwise modifies provisions relating to a broad array of areas, including education, labor, childcare, health care, taxes, immigration, and the environment. (The bill is commonly referred to as the Build Back Better Act.)

For example, the bill provides funding for management of the National Forest System; job placement and career services; safe drinking water, energy-efficiency, and weatherization projects; electric vehicles and zero-emission, heavy-duty vehicles; public health infrastructure and supply chain resiliency; housing, rental,

and homeowner assistance programs; cybersecurity programs; tribal infrastructure, housing, environmental, and health programs; wildfire prevention, drought relief, conservation efforts, and climate change research; small business assistance and development; transit services and clean energy projects in low-income communities; and infrastructure and administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Additionally, the bill establishes programs to provide up to six semesters of free community college, free childcare for children under the age of six, free universal preschool services, and health benefits for eligible individuals who reside in states that have not expanded Medicaid.

The bill also includes provisions that establish a methane fee for certain petroleum and natural gas facilities; expand Medicare to cover dental, hearing, and vision care; provide certain aliens with a path to permanent resident status (e.g., those who entered the United States as minors); provide up to 12 weeks of paid family and medical leave; restructure and increase the tax rates for certain corporations and high-income individuals (e.g., individuals with income over \$400,000); and require the Department of Health and Human Services to negotiate maximum prices for certain brand-name drugs under Medicare.

The bill did not pass the senate and is now under re-construction, to give it a better chance to pass once split into two components.

*Childcare Relief:*

Childcare relief remains the top priority of AAUW California this year. Please be sure to contact your Senator and let them know of your AAUW membership and your commitment to ensuring our Nation's future.



AAUW is calling on the 117th Congress to ensure that a permanent paid leave program, childcare funding and the Child Tax Credit are included in the budget reconciliation process.

To find our more or to contact your senators, [CLICK HERE](#)

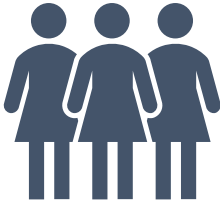
Stay alert! Stay engaged! Stay involved!

*Asha Bajaj Public Policy Chair, DAW AAUW*

*“If they don’t give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair.” Shirley Chisholm*

### “Women Finding Solutions” Recap

Three inspiring Bay Area women shared stories about their work promoting anti-racism during January’s “Women Finding Solutions” evening.



**Veronica Benjamin**, a Danville native, became a voice for social justice following the killing of Tyrell Wilson. Veronica founded Conscious Contra Costa – to help make people aware of racial injustice and build more community spirit.

**Tanya Earls** moved to San Francisco from El Salvador when she was four, grew up living in the Mission district and eventually moved to San Ramon. Struck by the lack of black history and respect for black African culture in San Ramon schools, Earls wrote “Ancient Africa” to provide a new perspective that black culture began well before slaves were brought to the Americas.

**Lori Watson** grew up in a supportive black community in Mississippi. She first experienced racism when she moved to California which inspired to start her leading seminars about recognizing and addressing systemic racism. She encourages people to be uncomfortable and reach out to others.

Read more about the evening and ideas to help promote awareness and racial equity on our [DEI Program](#) web page.

### Volunteer at the Danville Thrift Station



The Thrift Station (The Shop) in Danville needs volunteers. The Shop sells new and gently used goods to support low-cost, broad-reaching mental health services provided by the Discovery Counseling Center of the San Ramon Valley. Learn more about the shop and the center and apply to help online [here](#) or stop by the shop and apply in person.

### In Memoriam

**Mimi Knox** passed away on December 27, 2021. She was a dedicated, long time AAUW member since joining in 1963. She also served as president of the Walnut Creek branch in 1980-81. Our condolences to her daughter, Mary, who is also a member of our DAW branch, and to the rest of her family.

*Norma George* passed away on January 4. She had been a member of our branch for nine years and was active as a volunteer for our Garden and Holiday Home Tours as well as a participant in the Great Decisions group. Our sincere condolences to her daughters Margot and Nanette.

*Diana Sanderson-Mori* passed away on January 24. After joining AAUW in 1966, she participated in the AAUW state organization as treasurer and as auditor as well as being an active branch member. Our condolences to her husband and family.

## DAW Interest Group Happenings

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*"It is the mind that makes the body." Sojourner Truth*



### Participate in a Global Conversation

Our "Great Decisions" club enables members to be a part of America's largest discussion program about world affairs. Leveraging program materials developed by the [Foreign Policy Association](#), we meet nine times throughout the year for thought-provoking discussions on current foreign policy issues.

#### **Two meeting options are available:**

- Monday nights: 7-8:30 pm, led by Mary Granzotto at the Walnut Creek Mercer Building
- Tuesday afternoons: 1:30-3:00 pm, led by Rebecca Bhatt at various members' homes pending Covid restrictions.

Contact: Rebecca Bhatt, [beckybhatt@gmail.com](mailto:beckybhatt@gmail.com)

## From the Editor

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### Contribute to the Advocate

Send ideas, articles and pictures to Editor Stephanie Denman, [steph@denmans.us](mailto:steph@denmans.us) by the 15<sup>th</sup> 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)

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 Tena Gallagher.










### Handle Money Matters Here

Please send expense vouchers or deposits to our AAUW P.O. Box 996 in Alamo, 94507 for expedited processing. Refer to our branch website for specific forms and instructions – Click on [Members Page](#).

## Our Wonderful Sponsors

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

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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.

Stephanie Denman, Acting Editor  
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