



Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek (CA)



The Advocate, June 2022

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

Contents

- From the President 2**
- June Program Update 3**
- National AAUW Updates..... 3**
- California AAUW Updates 5**
- DAW Branch Reports 5**
- Membership Corner.....10**
- From the Editor10**
- From the Treasurer10**
- Our Wonderful Sponsors11**



June marks the end of the AAUW Fiscal Year and of my term as branch president. It's been a challenging time, especially with Covid still keeping some people at home. Many, many thanks to all the wonderful, dedicated board and committee members who've worked so hard for the branch in the past year! I'm looking forward to celebrating all our accomplishments at the Membership Engagement and Installation party on June 16.

That said, I'm not going far; I'll be starting in July as co-president partnering with past president Chris Ritter. We are excited to build on ideas from the past year and will expand them during our board's planning session in August. Look for more in-person events continuing with the Member Brunch in September, and a regular monthly branch meeting on the 3rd Thursday starting in October. We will also continue to build on our branch's advocacy activities, led by the Public Policy team. There are certainly several critical areas that need our support in these contentious times.

June is National Pride Month and we've included quotes in this issue that will hopefully inspire you as we celebrate the richness diversity brings to AAUW. With graduations and vacations on the horizon, I hope you have some exciting, or perhaps restful, summer plans.

Take care – be kind.

Joanne Quijano, President DAW Branch



June checklist

- **June 3-5 – [Wear orange](#)** to end gun violence weekend
- **June 2 -15 – [Vote in the branch election](#)** – look for the ballot in your email
- **June 16, 5:00 pm – [Membership Engagement & Installation](#)** – [RSVP here](#)
- [Donate here](#) to support DAW branch programs
- **Volunteer!** Become a candidate for the **branch board**, learn about positions [here](#)

June Program Update

“You don’t have to be gay to be a supporter—you just have to be a human.” — Daniel Radcliffe



Engage and celebrate: Membership Engagement & Executive Board Installation, Thursday June 16, 5:00 PM – 7:30 PM

Join your fellow branch members and prospective members at our annual meeting marking the end of the AAUW fiscal year. We’ll enjoy a relaxing, fun evening in a lovely setting hosted in Deborah Wechsler’s backyard. Celebrate the past year’s accomplishments, honor the out-going Executive Board and welcome new incoming board members who take office starting in July.

Featuring:

- Social time with appetizers and beverages
- Recognition of 2021-22 AAUW Funds Branch-Named Gift Honorees
- Update on Local Scholarship students
- Installation of the 2022-23 Branch Executive Board
- Opportunities to learn and engage with branch committees.

Get involved to help the branch achieve our mission of advancing gender equity for women and girls.

[RSVP here!](#)

National AAUW Updates

“This community has fought and continues to fight a war of acceptance, a war of tolerance, and the most relentless bravery. You are the definition of courage, do you know that?” — Lady Gaga



Time to renew your membership

It’s that time of year! Renewals for all current members are due on or before July 1, the start of our organization’s fiscal year.

Membership dues for 2022-23 have increased slightly:

- *National dues:* \$67, of which \$64 is tax-deductible.
- *State dues:* \$20 but are not tax-deductible.
- *Branch dues:* \$21. DAW branch members pay a total of \$108 for their renewals.

You have several options to renew:

- Use our branch website to renew online through PayPal. Renew [here](#) (note: there is an extra fee for PayPal)

- Follow the instructions recently emailed by National about renewing; this process will go through their new Community Hub app.
- Mail a check for \$108 (made out to DAW AAUW) to our branch PO Box at:
Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek AAUW
PO Box 996
Alamo, CA 94507

Learn about Community Hub



Have you tried “Community Hub,” our new national member support system? Recently launched, it’s an app for managing membership information and renewing your individual membership through your “Personal Snapshot”.

Click [HERE](#) for tutorials and written instructions on how to use the app. Thank you for your during the transition to this new system.

Rally for reproductive rights!



The leak of a draft opinion in the Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization case suggests that the Supreme Court may overturn this landmark decision and take away a fundamental right that Americans have held for almost 50 years.

Get involved. Check out the [national web page](#) for ideas on how you can help.

"When all Americans are treated as equal, no matter who they are or whom they love, we are all more free." — Barack Obama



Give yourself a hand! California recognizes top contributors

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the AAUW Fund, we raised nearly half a million dollars combined with all the California branches! To top it off, our DAW branch was recognized as one of the top 10 contributors in the state.



Happy birthday Title IX!

"No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any educational programs or activity receiving federal financial assistance."

June 23 marks the 50th anniversary of the enactment Title IX. It's about more than sports. Learn more about this critical legislation, on the AAUW California website, Title IX [Public Policies page](#) and listen to a recording by the Santa Clara County Interbranch Council [called Title IX: What You Don't Know Can Hurt You](#).

By Kathleen Harper, Director, and Sue Miller, Public Policy Committee Co-Chairs, publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org

DAW Branch Reports

"Your judgments about another person say more about your own character than the character of the person you're pointing a finger at." — Alaric Hutchinson



Watch for your ballot: vote for your branch Executive Officers

It's time to elect your new branch officers. The new executive team will take their positions July 1. You should be receiving an email soon with the slate of candidates and we need your vote to make the election official.

The candidates:

- Co-President – Joanne Quijano
- Co-President – Chris Ritter
- Programs VP – Tanya Earls
- Secretary - Cindy Dragomanovich
- Treasurer – Monika Witte



Take the lead or join a team – positions available

Thank you to all who answered the call to participate in our branch leadership positions, committees and project teams. We have a terrific group of candidates for next year's elected board who will be introduced at our June 16 Member Engagement and Board Installation party.

We're still in need of a VP of Membership (committee of four is committed and ready to go) and a co-VP of Programs to partner with Tanya Earls. Volunteers are welcome!

We also need to fill out several of our appointed board positions along with filling in more committee members to build working teams. Committee representatives will be at the Installation party to talk more about specific opportunities. For more information, visit the branch website volunteer page [HERE](#).

Available areas are:

- Advertising Sales Manager – lead and committee members
- Advocate Editor – lead
- Communications – lead
- DEI – committee members
- Expanding Your Horizons – committee members
- Fundraising Events – committee members
- Garden Tour – lead and committee members
- Hospitality – committee members
- Local Scholarship – committee members
- Nominating Committee 2023-24– lead and committee members
- Parliamentarian/Policy & Procedures – committee members
- Public Policy – committee members
- Tech Team – committee members
- Tech Trek – co-lead and committee members

Your volunteer efforts are critical to the ongoing success of our branch activities, programs, and advocacy efforts!

By Chris Ritter, Nominating Committee Chair



Volunteer for Tech Trek – June 20-24

After months of planning, organizing and preparation, Tech Trek camp takes place this month. Tech Trek is a science and math camp designed to develop interest, excitement and self-confidence in girls entering eighth grade in the fall. We're sponsoring 15 students to participate in camps at Sonoma State and Fresno. Volunteers are needed for the Sonoma Camp and at the traditional Ice Cream Social on June 6 which orients the students and gives them a chance to meet each other.

Interested in volunteering? Please contact Deborah Wechsler
deborah.wechsler@gmail.com



Be aware of campus sexual assault

Students on college campuses often face sexual harassment and violence. A 2019 study found the rate of undergraduates who experienced rape or sexual assault through physical force, violence, or incapacitation to be 26.4 percent for women, 23.1 percent for transgender, genderqueer, or nonconforming students, and 6.8 percent for men.

A crucial first step toward solving problems is accurate reporting and measurement. Lack of reporting, action, education, and trust may be exacerbated by the understaffing and underfunding of Title IX positions and offices at universities.

[Read more here](#) about the issues and the proposed California legislation and Assembly bill to address these problems.

Public Policy Update



Reproductive rights

As the rest of the country braces for the upcoming Supreme Court decision on *Roe vs Wade*, the Women's Caucus is sponsoring a suite of 13 bills currently in the California Assembly and Senate to codify abortion protections. "We will not back down, we will double down," says Senator Toni Atkins (D-San Diego).

The bills are:

- AB 1666: Protection for patients and providers against abortion lawsuits from other states.
- AB 2091: Protection of medical privacy from out of state subpoenas for data.
- AB 2223: Prohibits investigations into fetal deaths after 20 weeks.
- AB 2626: Prohibits medical/nursing boards from revoking or suspending licenses for providing an abortion.
- AB 2134: Creates the CA Reproductive Health Equity Program to give grant funding for providers to offer abortion/contraception access to low-income people.
- AB 2205: Requires healthcare plans to create a separate funding category for abortion services and report balance yearly.
- AB 2320: Provides funding to primary care clinics in 5 counties for marginalized patients who need to travel for service.

- AB 1918: Creates CA Reproductive Health Service Corps to recruit, train and retain a diverse workforce of health care professionals.
- AB 2586: Creates a working group to address reproductive health inequities for communities of color.
- SB 245: Eliminates copay for abortions (already passed and signed into law).
- SB 1245: Creates LA County Abortion Access Safe Haven Program to provide safe access to abortion, regardless of residency status.
- SB 1142: Create website and educational programs to help find abortion services in the state and create a fund to help low-income women pay for abortion services.
- SB 1375: Ease nurse practitioner requirements for performing an abortion without a doctor present.

"All of these bills weave together to strengthen the infrastructure," says Sen. Atkins. "There is a cost to that, but we need to be doing that anyway."

"We will fight and do what we need to do to ensure that we have an equitable system that is accessible to anyone needing refuge here in California," adds Assemblyman Garcia.

Meanwhile, Gov. Newsom just released a revised version of his budget to include \$125 million to expand abortion access and fund many of the programs created by the bills.

Protecting children's' privacy rights

The California Age-Appropriate Design Code would require social media platforms to switch off geolocation for children, discontinue "nudging" techniques that trick kids into giving up their information, reduce exposure to harmful content and limit the potential for risky connections with adults.

Co-authored by Assembly members Buffy Wicks, a Democrat from Oakland, and Jordan Cunningham, a Republican from Templeton, the bill is modeled after a recently passed U.K. law. At a time when teenagers spend an average of 8.5 hours online each day, the bill would force social media companies to implement the strongest available safety settings by default for users under 18.

Domestic terrorism

It's been a bad time for the country as the Buffalo massacre unfolded this past month. The radicalization of the young white male motivating him to commit the shooting in Buffalo on the Black community was a direct result of the "Great Replacement theory," formerly a fringe idea that is now being bandied about in some political circles. Per experts, the process is remarkably

similar to the radicalization of youth to commit the acts of 9/11. Unfortunately, there are no laws on our books regarding domestic terrorism and the warning signs were not heeded in this instance.

Local area advocacy



DAW members and friends show support for "Black Lives Matter"

Closer to home in Danville, a few White demonstrators with their faces covered, held "White Lives Matter" signs shortly after the Buffalo shooting. Some of our AAUW members participated in a counter-rally to balance out the voices that stoke the fires of extremism.

Branch members also attended at a meeting held by Saru Jayaraman, a lawyer and avid defender of fair wages in the restaurant industry and went to a reproductive rights rally in Sacramento.

There are numerous opportunities to get your voices heard. Stay tuned as we continue to inform you about local advocacy opportunities.

As the elections roll around, we want to encourage everyone to vote. We will be starting a campaign to get out the vote with postcard writing and supporting sister organizations that align with our public policy priorities.

Stay alert! Stay engaged! Stay involved!

By Asha Bajaj, Public Policy Chair, ashakiran@gmail.com

Membership Corner

“Openness may not completely disarm prejudice, but it’s a good place to start.” – Jason Collins



Read with Morning Literature

The former “Daytime Literature” group is now called “Morning Literature” and has two new leaders: Sue Woodworth-Bennett and Vivian Franklin. A huge thank you to Laurie Erlich who has led the group through years of reading and discussions about a variety of stimulating and insightful books.

We meet on the fourth Thursday of every month at 9:30 a.m. and are welcoming new members. We will return to meeting in member’s homes on a rotating basis as soon as it’s safe. Members suggest and vote on our books annually. Join us to delve into great literature and in-depth discussions of our books.

Interested readers please contact:

Vivian Franklin at vjhfranklin1@gmail.com, or Sue Woodworth-Bennett at woodworthbennett@gmail.com

From the Editor



Contribute to the Advocate

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)

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.

From the Treasurer



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

We're always looking for new advertisers. Funds go toward branch expenses such as printing, membership directory, and postage. Advertiser names and businesses will appear in our fall Membership Directory and the monthly Advocate. Contact Marsha Anderson Landau, email: marsha888@comcast.net, or call (925) 351-8188.



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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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