



Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek (CA)



The Advocate, July 2022

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

Contents

- From the Co-Presidents 2**
- Program Update 3**
- DAW Board for 2022-23 4**
- National AAUW Updates..... 5**
- California AAUW Updates 6**
- DAW Branch Reports 7**
- Membership Corner.....12**
- From the Editor13**
- From the Treasurer13**
- From the Corresponding Secretary14**
- Our Wonderful Sponsors15**



Chris and Joanne at the Bancroft Garden Tour

As new co-presidents for 2022-23, we are excited about plans for the coming branch year! We aim to bring back our much-loved Spring Garden Tour, revitalize our in-person relationships, and strengthen our mission activities through monthly Third Thursday member meetings.

Advocacy for women's equity and social justice will certainly be key themes for this year given the recent over-turn of the long-established Roe v Wade decision. We support AAUW's strong opposition to this decision and we will continue to fight at every level of our organization to protect reproductive and all women's rights.

The branch board will meet in August to set our priorities, identify our goals, and plan our activities for the coming year. Now is the time to send your ideas to the related board member so they are included in the planning discussion. Or better yet, [join a team](#) where you can contribute your ideas directly and help them be realized!

Have a wonderful summer, and we look forward to seeing you at our brunch on September 17...

Take care – be kind.

Joanne Quijano, Co-President DAW Branch

Chris Ritter, Co-President DAW Branch



July checklist

- **July 4** – Celebrate Independence Day!
- **July 7, 7:00pm** – **Calif AAUW Webinar** on the Supreme Court Abortion Rights ruling – Register [HERE](#)
- **August 13** – **Board 2022-23 Planning Session**
- **September 17** – **Membership Brunch** – Reserve the date!
- **Third Thursdays, 6:00pm** – Reserve the dates! General meetings from October to June 2023
- [Donate here](#) to support DAW branch programs
- **Volunteer!** Become a candidate for the **branch board**, learn about positions [here](#)



Save the Date: Membership Brunch - September 17

Planning is under way for the annual branch Membership Brunch at Crow Canyon Country Club, and a return to our traditional in-person event. Besides visiting with your fellow branch members and enjoying a tasty meal, we'll have a speaker, information about the branch's plans for the coming year, and a chance to learn about active Interest Groups.

Watch for more details via email and in the next Advocate.



Meet Live – Third Thursdays

Wouldn't you love to have some in-person social time with other AAUW Members? After two years of isolation, we start off our new fiscal year with the September brunch and then start monthly branch meetings October 20. Meetings will be a mix of socializing, informative speakers and programs.

Block your calendars in advance and come meet fellow branch members. Cheers to getting back together for friendship and furthering our mission!

By Membership Committee: Chris Ritter and Becky Bhatt, Liz Peters, Tena Gallagher

Welcome New and Continuing Board Members!



Joanne Q, Tanya E, Chris R, Cindy D, Monika W, and Lupe C at the Branch Installation

With our branch election completed, and our Installation party held, the board members for 2022-23 are gearing up for a busy, exciting and challenging year ahead. Many experienced officers are continuing their service along with some members new to the board. Here's the roster:

Elected Board Positions

Co-President – Joanne Quijano
Co-President – Chris Ritter
Programs VP – Tanya Earls
Membership VP – OPEN

Funds-VP – Lupe Cerrone
Secretary – Cindy Dragomanovich
Treasurer – Monika Witte

Appointed Board Positions

Advertising Sales – OPEN
Advocate Editor – OPEN
Advocate Circulation – Susetta Welm
Communication Manager – OPEN
Corresponding Secretary – Julie Grisham
Database/Directory – Joanne Quijano
DEI Officer – Teresa Cheung
Expanding Your Horizons – Judy Lauper
Garden Tour Chair – OPEN
Fundraising Chair – Pat Morris
Hospitality Chair – Becky Bhatt
Local Scholarship Co-Chairs – Robin Halloran & Liz Williams

Local Scholarship Treasurer – Deborah Wechsler
Membership Treasurer – Tena Gallagher
Nominating Committee – OPEN
Parliamentarian – Deborah Wechsler
Publicity Chair – Linda Jimerson
Public Policy Co-Chairs– Asha Bajaj & Ogie Strogatz
Social Media Manager – Isabel Lau
Tech Trek Chair – Deborah Wechsler
Technology Team Chair – Teresa Cheung
Web Master – Teresa Cheung



AAUW condemns SCOTUS Dobbs Decision

The American Association of University Women strongly condemns the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*. The decision overturns the landmark *Roe v. Wade* ruling that established abortion as a constitutionally protected right nearly 50 years ago and ignores the will of the American people, 80 percent of whom support legal abortion.

AAUW believes everyone has the right to make decisions about their own reproductive lives without government interference. Abortion access is vital to women's ability to control their lives, bodies and futures. Without reproductive freedom, there can be no equity.

Being able to choose whether and when to become a parent improves women's well-being and fosters economic security—a crucial component of AAUW's mission. This is particularly important in a country that lacks accessible maternal health care, paid caregiving leave and workplace protections for pregnant workers.

The Court's decision hurts all of us, but it will do the most harm to low-income people, women of color, immigrants, people with disabilities and LGBTQ+ people, because these groups already face substantial barriers to accessing reproductive services and health care.

While the Court's decision is a major setback for all Americans, AAUW remains steadfast in our commitment to protecting reproductive rights, a vital component of gender equity.

By: Gloria L. Blackwell, AAUW Chief Executive Officer



Congrats 2022-23 fellows and grantees!

AAUW is excited to announce it has awarded over \$6 million in funding – the largest amount ever - to more than 320 fellows and grantees in the 2022-23 award year. These exceptional recipients will pursue academic work and lead innovative community projects to empower women and girls.



Join AAUW California webinar on the Dobbs decision – July 7

AAUW California joins AAUW National in condemning the Supreme Court’s decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health* which overturns *Roe v. Wade* and, with it, a woman’s right to make her own reproductive health decisions. This is a core public policy priority for both AAUW and AAUW California.

Join Kathi Harper, AAUW California’s Public Policy Chair, in a discussion about:

- What the opinion says and doesn’t say
- What the opinion means for California
- What the post-*Dobbs* landscape looks like for women
- What can – and can’t – be done to counter the effects of this dramatic opinion.

You must register to attend the webinar. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Volunteer with the Public Policy Committee



The Public Policy Committee has had a busy year so far and we’re looking for volunteers to help us continue our important efforts. Here’s a snapshot of our activities.

- Co-sponsored bills to help low-income working mothers lower their childcare costs, and to prevent women from other states from being sued in California for obtaining an abortion here.
- Secured a legislative resolution recognizing the 50th Anniversary of Title IX. Supported 30 other bills that, among other things, require pay transparency reports on gender and ethnicity, and for women in the construction industry; prohibit businesses from charging more for women’s products; require colleges to post uniform protocols for reporting campus sexual assault; provide relief for college students with dependent children; establish a state office of Racial Equity; and provide for confidentiality for election workers.

Next year we’ll be revising our Public Policy Priorities, working on an original AAUW bill, facing an important election in fall 2022, and gearing up for a new legislative session and Lobby Day in Spring 2023.

Another ambitious year. How much we tackle, accomplish and succeed depends entirely on having a robust committee. Here's your chance to take your activism to the state level! Contact us to volunteer.

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

DAW Branch Reports



Cheers to our 2021-22 board members

Many, many thanks to our intrepid board members for all they did in the past year. Some of their many accomplishments include:

Asha Bajaj renewed our Public Policy efforts by working with the Inter Branch Council, expanding the PP team, and keeping us informed about current legislation aligned with the AAUW mission.

Becky Bhatt took on the role of Local Scholarship Chair to identify candidates, coordinate review of applications, and select five final scholarship recipients. She accomplished this while serving reliably as board secretary.

Teresa Cheung continued leading the critical Tech Team, managing our branch website, and also initiated our branch diversity efforts as our first Diversity Equity and Inclusion Officer.

Stephanie Denman acted as Advocate editor creating a new, updated look for our branch publication, finding interesting themes and quotes for each edition, and doing a great job of keeping our articles focused and timely.

Bette Felton organized five programs with excellent speakers addressing the theme of women in leadership. She also generously opened her home and donated wine for the Vineyard Stroll fundraising event.

Julie Grisham and Pat Gross represented the branch in sending cards to members and member's families as needed.

Judy Halden and Marilyn Lawver solicited and tracked Funds donations and selected two admirable branch Fund Honorees.

Linda Jimerson and Isabel Lau got the word about our branch and our programs out to members and the public via social media and outside publications.

Marsha Anderson-Landau signed up our current advertisers and helped arrange the Ruth Bancroft Garden tour last July.

Chris Ritter served as an extremely valuable source of help and information as past president, a key participant on the Tech Team, coordinator of MailChimp reservations, a membership team member, and general Jill-of-all-trades.

Claudia Schwarz created a great membership campaign, tirelessly recruited and followed up with 27 new members, and developed an active, innovative membership team.

Deborah Wechsler led our Tech Trek program through returning to in-person camps and a new on-line application system for campers. She organized the traditional Ice Cream Social and recruited volunteers for the camps. She was also critical to our communications team in coordinating and emailing messages to members about our branch.

Susetta Welm reliably printed and snail-mailed the Advocate to our members who don't use email, keeping them informed about AAUW happenings and branch activities.

Monika Witte carefully managed branch finances and kept the board on track with our budgets and expenses.

And cheers to our many 2021-22 volunteers who served on committees and volunteered their help for the Garden Tour, the Vineyard Stroll, the Installation, member social events, programs, ongoing Interest Groups, and wherever needed.

Finally, thanks to **those who donated** so generously to our Funds, Local Scholarship and Teck Trek initiatives.



Get involved!

Thank you to our enthusiastic volunteers who signed up for committees at our June 16 Member Engagement and Board Installation party. We're still in need of key leaders for both elected and appointed board positions. For more information, visit the branch website volunteer page [HERE](#).

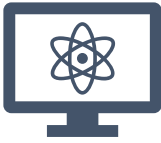
Available lead roles are:

- Membership VP
- Programs co-VP (with Tanya Earls)
- Advertising Sales Manager
- Advocate Editor
- Communications
- Garden Tour
- Nominating Committee 2023-24
- Parliamentarian/Policy & Procedures
- Tech Trek co-chair (with Deborah Wechsler)

Volunteers are critical to the ongoing success of our branch activities, programs, and advocacy efforts

Kudos to Tech Trek 2022 – ultimate experiential learning!

It's been a super summer so far for our Tech Trek camps and campers. Our branch funded a total of 15 campers in 2022; eight at Sonoma State, four at Fresno State, two at the June virtual camp and one at the July virtual camp.



Asha Bajaj, Lisa Simone and Deborah Wechsler helped with the core class and workshops at the Sonoma Camp. See photos of campers learning about geometry of 3D objects and sundials, attending a workshop about scientists working in Antarctica, and more on our website - [here](#)



Sonoma campers



Sonoma campers in action

Celebrating our incoming and out-going boards



Over 40 branch members and prospective members came together at our annual meeting marking the end of the AAUW fiscal year and the start of the newly elected board's 2022-23 term.

It was a relaxing, fun evening in a wonderful setting hosted in Deborah Wechsler's backyard. We celebrated the year's accomplishments, honored the out-going Executive Board and welcomed new incoming board members who take office in July.

Highlights from the evening include:

Becky Bhatt described our Local Scholarship winners for 2022. See their video introductions [here](#).



Becky with Local Scholarship Display



Becky and Claudia

We recognized our 2022 AAUW-Named Branch Honorees, Claudia Schwarz and Becky Bhatt for their extraordinary contributions to our mission in 2022.

After hearing from branch committee reps, we concluded by raising a toast to renewed engagement in our branch and to an exciting year ahead.

Public Policy Update

California gun laws in progress to curb violence

Senate Majority Leader Emeritus Bob Hertzberg (D-Van Nuys) introduced **Senate Bill 1327**. Modeled after Texas' SB 8, this bill creates a first-in-the-nation private right of action for citizens to use against those who manufacture, distribute, transport, import into California, or sell assault weapons, .50 BMG rifles, ghost guns, or ghost gun kits.



Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan (D-Orinda) introduced **AB 2571** which would restrict firearms marketing geared towards children and youth.

Both SB 1327 and AB 2571 are part of a package of bills that Newsom committed last month to signing.

A third bill, **AB 1621**, introduced by Assemblymember Mike A. Gipson (D-Carson), would restrict ghost guns and the parts and kits used to build them. It has cleared several initial readings but a June 9 committee meeting that was to have considered the bill was postponed.

AB 1594, introduced by Assemblymember Phil Ting (D-San Francisco), would allow governments and victims of gun violence to sue manufacturers and sellers of firearms.

California to become a pro-choice sanctuary state

While 26 states in the U.S. are likely to ban or severely restrict abortion care now that the Supreme Court has overturned *Roe v. Wade*, California is positioning itself to be a sanctuary for abortion access, preparing to welcome and support people from around the country who are seeking that care.

The state's legislature is considering a **package of 13 bills** designed to ease access to abortion, reduce costs, and help protect people from law enforcement action if they have an abortion or help provide one. Gov. Gavin Newsom has pledged \$125 million in state funds to back these efforts.

California bill to help prevent Covid misinformation

AB 2098 aims to mitigate the spread of false information surrounding Covid-19 by preventing health care providers from disseminating unproven information about the virus to the public. The bill classifies such actions as “unprofessional conduct” and gives the Medical Board of California and the Osteopathic Medical Board of California the authority to decide if an instance constitutes a violation of the bill. The consequences of such a violation would be loss of licensure.

Activism in our community

Branch members attended a school board meeting to show support for a black Cal high school teacher who was assailed with racist comments and to show disapproval for a cheerleading group that used a racially charged mannequin as a mascot. These incidents of racist actions have been happening too often in our own community.

If you wish to be informed about rallies, dates of school board and town council meetings to get involved locally, please

contact me at ashakiran@gmail.com or Claudia Schwarz at claudiaschwarz@comcast.net. We need to be vigilant and active to ensure that our hard-fought freedoms and a civil society based on equal opportunities do not continue to erode.

Recent Supreme Court decisions

All eyes are on the Supreme Court as the conservative majority hands down decisions related to freedoms and norms that we took for granted. Recently, they ruled that religious schools could receive public funding along with secular private schools. This puts a big dent in the separation of church and state, something we simply took as a pillar of our constitution.

Another recent ruling overturned a longstanding New York state regulation requiring “proper cause” to carry a handgun in public.

The court also upheld a Texas law limiting all abortion services, harkening back to the pre-Roe vs Wade days. And most recently they have invalidated the Roe vs Wade decision, a horrendous setback for women’s reproductive rights almost 50 years after the case was originally decided.

Our only recourse is to elect representatives who respect and uphold freedoms and laws that we have fought so hard to make us a more and perfect union. Getting out the vote becomes especially important and learning more about the ballot propositions makes us more informed and involved citizens.

Anyone interested in writing postcards for the “Get-out-the-vote” efforts please contact me, Asha Bajaj.

Look for an October program with the League of Women Voters, where they will present pros and cons of major ballot initiatives.

Stay alert! Stay engaged! Stay involved!

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

Membership Corner

Keep your AAUW Membership Active!

It’s that time of year! Current member renewals were due by July 1, the start of our organization’s fiscal year. However, it’s not too late if you haven’t renewed, do it now! Regular DAW branch members now pay a total of \$108 for membership.



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 emailed by National in May about renewing; this process uses 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

Anyone who renewed before July 1 was automatically entered into a drawing for a free membership. And the lucky winner is – **Martha Slavin!**

We've lost contact with member **Janis Balaban**; she's moved without giving us a new address. If anyone has information about her, please contact [Tena Gallagher](#) .

From the Editor



Contribute to the Advocate

Send ideas, articles and pictures by the 15th of the month to appear in the next issue. Please use the [Submittal Form](#) 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
- 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](#).



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. 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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*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.

Joanne Quijano and Stephanie Denman, Acting Editors

Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek AAUW

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