



Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek (CA)



The Advocate, August 2022

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

Contents

- From the Co-Presidents 2**
- Program Update 3**
- Advocacy – Make a Difference 4**
- National AAUW Updates..... 5**
- California AAUW Updates 5**
- DAW Branch Reports 5**
- Public Policy Updates..... 6**
- Membership Corner..... 7**
- From the Editor 8**
- From the Treasurer 8**
- From the Corresponding Secretary..... 9**
- Our Wonderful Sponsors10**



Chris and Joanne at the Bancroft Garden Tour

While many branch activities are on break for the summer, the DAW Board members will hold our yearly strategy and planning meeting on August 13th. We'll determine our main theme and set our direction for the coming year. Another important outcome will be a plan for the topics of our monthly Third Thursday meetings. If you have any ideas for our branch activities or programs, now is the time to contact the appropriate chair or either Chris or Joanne.

We are excited to be resuming our traditional annual Membership Brunch in September with a wonderful speaker to inform and challenge us. Of course, we'll also conduct branch business and provide information about branch committees and Interest Groups. We expect that everyone is looking forward to the opportunity to get together in person for this inspiring event.

We are happy to welcome Membership VP Liz Peters as our newest board member. Last year, Liz was active with the membership committee, and we are thrilled that she's taken on the lead role. Meanwhile, ready your pens for our upcoming Get Out the Vote postcard-writing campaign encouraging voters in low-turnout areas to register to vote. Contact Ogie Strogatz or Asha Bajaj to volunteer.

As we reflect on all the recent national issues like the latest Supreme Court decisions, we are reminded that we are proud to be part of AAUW. The organization has been and continues to be instrumental in advances for women including supporting Title IX, doing research regarding equal pay, and championing reproductive rights. Achieving equity for women and girls is an ongoing process!

Take care – be kind.

Joanne Quijano, Co-President DAW Branch
Chris Ritter, Co-President DAW Branch



August checklist

- **August 13 – Board 2022-23 Planning Session**
- **September 17, 10:00am – Membership Brunch**
[RSVP here](#)
- **October 20, 6:00pm -Third Thursday Meeting**
League of Women Voters ballot initiatives pros & cons
Save the date!
- [Donate here](#) to support DAW branch programs
- **Volunteer!** Become a candidate for the **branch board**, learn about positions [here](#)

Program Update



Membership Brunch - September 17, 10:00

Plan now to attend our branch’s annual Membership Brunch at Crow Canyon Country Club in Danville! Renew acquaintances, make new friends, sign up for Interest Groups and branch committees, meet Tech Trekkers and prospective branch members, and listen to an interesting, challenging, and inspiring speaker.

Introduce a friend to AAUW and our Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek branch at the brunch! They will be able to meet a group of wonderful members, find out about the goals of AAUW as well as discover all the Interest Groups and committee teams that will be represented on that day. If they join at the event, they will get a special “Shape the Future” reduced rate for their first year’s dues.



Elizabeth Coffey

The featured speaker will be **Elizabeth Coffey**, Senior Philanthropy Officer for the [Center for Reproductive Rights](#). Elizabeth will inform us about the status of reproductive rights globally, nationally, and locally. She will also provide us with ideas about what we can do to further support women’s reproductive health.

Elizabeth joined the Center in 2017 after working in Harvard University’s San Francisco office and the University of California, Berkeley in major and regional strategy and giving. Prior to that, she worked in Washington DC for the University of California, Washington Center, the Congressional Youth Leadership Council and for Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher. She is a Bay Area native and lives in Oakland with her husband and two young children.

For more details and to RSVP [CLICK HERE](#)

Please make your reservation by September 9.

Third Thursday Meeting – October 20, 6:00pm



Our first Third Thursday Meeting will feature representatives from the League of Women Voters presenting pros and cons about the November ballot initiatives. This timely and informative meeting will be open to our branch members, members of other branches, and the general public.

Save the date!

Advocacy – Make a Difference

Help get out the vote!



Wondering how you can help increase voter participation? DAW members are working with the non-partisan organization [Center for Common Ground](#) to get the vote out in communities across the country where voting has been historically suppressed. The Center is a 501(c)(3) voting rights organization led by people of color. Our branch “Postcard Captains” will tap into one of their key campaigns, [Reclaim Our Vote](#) (ROV), which is a grassroots, national, primarily volunteer-run initiative that focuses on increasing BIPOC (Black, indigenous, and people of color) voter turnout in battleground states through post-carding, texting and phone banking.

You can get involved by volunteering to write postcards - it’s easy, and our branch’s Postcard Captains will deliver postcards, labels, and stamps to you along with a script to write on each card. The ROV scripted messages will provide critical information such as how to reach county election officials, voter registration deadlines, voting locations and times, and how to obtain free rides to polling locations. If you’re interested, here’s a [Youtube](#) video with more information about the Reclaim Our Vote initiative and their postcard process.

In 2020, DAW AAUW members wrote 500 postcards and *helped the ROV campaign make a difference*. This year, we’d like to engage at least 20 DAW AAUW members to write 50 postcards each, which can take 4 or 5 hours, between now and November 2022. The target states for the next few months include North Carolina, Georgia, and Virginia, in primarily low-income black communities.

Inspired to help? Please contact one of our Postcard Captains - Ogie Strogatz at ogstrogatz@gmail.com or Asha Bajaj at ashakiran@gmail.com

National AAUW Updates



Rally for reproductive rights

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. Following last month’s Supreme Court decision to overturn Roe v. Wade, AAUW continues to work closely with coalition partners to determine the best next steps. In the meantime, visit the [AAUW website](#) to see what you can do to step up and fight for reproductive freedom.

California AAUW Updates



Dobbs, a new word in our vocabulary

In line with national efforts, AAUW California held a webinar in July about the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision on Dobbs v Jackson Women’s Health Organization which overturned Roe v Wade. In the presentation, California Public Policy committee chair, Kathi Harper, delved into details about the momentous decision and provided context by reviewing prior court rulings related to reproductive rights. If you missed it, you can view a video of the session as well as find further information about AAUW’s stand on the matter on the California AAUW website [HERE](#)

DAW Branch Reports



Calling all gardenista organizers!

The good news is that our branch is committed to having our traditional spring Garden Tour on May 12th and 13th, 2023, and we already have an experienced team in place to make it happen. The other good news is that we have an opportunity for one of our members to lead the effort!

The Garden Tour Chair will be a rewarding position working with the GT team to make big decisions, keep track of progress, and clear any obstacles the team may meet. There’s lots of expertise from past tours to draw from within the team; this is a great opportunity for a project organizer to learn about the tour while facilitating a wonderful team of experienced Garden Tour planners and doers.

If you can organize a team and might be willing to help our branch with this key fundraiser, please call Chris Ritter or Joanne Quijano to find out more!

Interest Group updates

Most of our branch Interest Groups have resumed activities in some form, holding both in-person and Zoom gatherings. With renewed activity, there have been some changes over the past year. New leaders have taken over several IGs, a few need leadership, and some have updated schedules. Updates are:

Art & Garden: longtime leader Jacquie Schubert has retired; the group now needs a new leader.

3rd Monday Bridge: Holly Sauer has taken the lead role from Angela Domer.

Great Decisions: Asha Baja will be taking the lead from Becky Bhatt when the group starts organizing for its 2023 session later this year.

Gourmet: Epicureans: Lead Liz William reports that currently the group is meeting every other month instead of monthly.

Literature: Novel Ideas: Holly Sauer and Pat Morris have taken over the leadership role from Kathy Harkins.

Movies: First Friday Film: This group needs a new leader after the retirement of past leader Kathy Harkins.

Many thanks to all of the dedicated former IG leaders, and welcome to the new leads!

You can find these updates and the current status and contacts for all of the Interest Groups on our [branch website](#).



Public Policy Updates

California state legislation in progress

Accountability for gun industries: AB 1594, which passed on July 12th, restores the rights of Californians to hold the firearm industry responsible for their misconduct. The law governs the sale and marketing practices of firearms manufacturers and distributors who do business in California, requiring them to make reasonable efforts to prevent their products from being used unlawfully. If gun industry members fail to take proper precautions in their marketing and distribution, AB 1594 authorizes the Attorney General and individual Californians to file civil suits to recoup the damage from those failures.



In the United States, every industry is held legally responsible when their misconduct harms consumers. Despite this, after intense lobbying from the gun industry, in 2005 the federal government enacted the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (PLCAA). PLCAA provides the firearm industry unique and broad freedom to operate with little to no liability

According to the CDC, California's gun death rate was the 44th lowest in the nation, with 8.5 gun deaths per 100,000 people – compared to 13.7 deaths per 100,000 nationally, 28.6 in Mississippi, 20.7 in Oklahoma, and 14.2 in Texas. California's gun death rate for children is also lower than other states, and is 58% lower than the national average

California energy provisions: AB 205 was passed on June 30th. It authorizes the Department of Water Resources to buy power from fossil fuel plants and Diablo Canyon, the state's lone remaining nuclear facility, when power supplies are running short. It also allows the state to OK the construction of new solar, wind and other green-energy facilities without securing approval from local governments. It's intended to help avoid the rolling blackouts that hit the state during an intense August 2020 heatwave. The blackouts made clear that California's drive for an all-green grid leaves it vulnerable during early-evening hours when the sun goes down, solar power fades — but it's still hot enough that residents keep their air conditioners humming. In addition, Newsom's budget, which also passed on June 30th, includes a \$5.2 billion strategic energy reliability reserve to purchase power during crunch times.

Stay alert! Stay engaged! Stay involved!

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

Membership Corner

Encourage new members

Do you have a friend or neighbor who would love to join our group of “Tenacious and Trailblazing” AAUW members? You can help to get the word out about AAUW! Our branch is planning new and exciting events all the time that may appeal to those in the area who support women's equity and who are looking for ways to get involved and stay informed.



Send them this newsletter, or better yet, send them the following [NEW MEMBER LINK](#) and have them contact Claudia Schwarz at 925-786-6061 or claudiaschwarz@comcast.net or Norma Stephenson at normalees10@gmail.com.

Keep your AAUW membership active

If you haven't renewed, it's not too late to 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)
- Sign on and use the AAUW National's 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

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.



Negotiate today's residential real estate market with confidence.

Marsha Anderson*

marsha888@comcast.net



Enjoy award-winning authentic Italian dining.

<http://montecatinirestaurant.com/>



Take advantage of advanced technologies to communicate more effectively.

Louis Leveriza

<http://www.diabloprinting.com/>



Add beauty to your life with fine floral arrangements and gifts.

Kris Simpson

<https://www.eastbayflowercompany.com/>



Stay curious...join us in lifelong learning.

Bette Felton*

www.scholarolli.com

*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

P.O. Box 996, Alamo, CA 94507

