



Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek (CA)



The Advocate, September 2022

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

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Chris and Joanne at the Bancroft Garden Tour

As a hint of fall cools the air, (at least we hope it will be cooling soon!), the new branch year is getting under way. At our strategy session in August, which was the first working meeting with our new board, we really enjoyed brainstorming with many of the board members. You'll learn more about our theme for this year "Make a Difference" and other ideas we developed at the session in the article in this edition and at the Membership Brunch. It's exciting to see all of the energy that was generated!

As a bonus during the strategy meeting, a very motivated member stepped forward to join the branch board in a critical role. Welcome to Bette Felton as the Garden Tour Chair! With her appointment, we'll be moving ahead with plans for our traditional Garden Tour to be held in May, 2023.

The annual Membership Brunch is coming soon! It's our first member meeting for the year, and an event that's always enjoyable. We hope you'll make your reservation and join us on September 17th.

In October, we'll have the first of our new monthly Third Thursday Member Meetings. We are looking forward to getting to see each other again after so many Zoom sessions! Each monthly meeting will begin with social time, followed by branch updates and ending with our educational program or activity supporting our "Make a Difference" theme. We look forward to seeing you at the Greenbrook Clubhouse, at 6:00 PM every third Thursday from October to June.

Take care – be kind.

Joanne Quijano, Co-President DAW Branch

Chris Ritter, Co-President DAW Branch

September checklist



- **September 8** – last day to RSVP for Membership Brunch
[RSVP here](#)
- **September 12, 6:30pm** – Branch Board Meeting
- **September 17, 10:00am** – Membership Brunch
[RSVP here](#)
- **October 15, Calif Grant Recipient Meeting**
Save the date!

- **October 20, 6:00pm -Third Thursday Member Meeting**
League of Women Voters Ballot Initiatives Pros & Cons
[RSVP Here](#)
- **October 22, Calif Grant Recipient Meeting**
Save the date!
- **October 23, Calif Grant Recipient Meeting**
Save the date!
- **November 12, Calif Grant Recipient Meeting**
Save the date!
- **Third Thursdays from November to June, 6:00pm - Monthly Member Meetings**
Reserve the dates!
- [Donate here](#) to support DAW branch programs
- **Volunteer! We still have open positions on our branch board!** Learn more [here](#)

Program Update



Membership Brunch - September 17, 10:00 at Crow Canyon Country Club, Danville

If you haven't already, now's the time to make your reservation to attend our branch's annual Membership Brunch! 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 8.

October Third Thursday Member Meeting

Examining the November 2022 California Ballot Initiatives

October 20, 6:00pm at [Greenbrook Clubhouse](#), Danville



Join our branch and the League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley for an informative presentation of the pros and cons related to the 2022 ballot measures. In their non-partisan presentation, Sue Brandy and Janet Hoy will help us sort through the latest array of initiatives. This program is open to other branches and to the public.

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 program offers a look behind the slogans to better understand the ballot measures' opportunities and their consequences.

As we'll do with all of our Third Thursday Member Meetings, we'll start off the meeting with a short, informal, social time, allowing friends and fellow members a chance to connect before the planned presentation.

[Click here](#) for more information and to RSVP

California AAUW Updates

Learn about California's AAUW grant recipients

AAUW awarded \$6 million in Fellowships and Grants this year to 320 recipients; 49 of these are in California. There will be four Zoom meetings featuring many of these recipients where you will hear fascinating stories of their research.



Registration starts in September for these meetings to be held on Oct 15, Oct 22, Oct 23, and Nov 12. This is your chance to be inspired and see where your AAUW Fund dollars go!

Karen Vanderwerken, Director, AAUW Fund Committee Chair,
aaufund@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. This year, we will be electing three two-year term directors, a CFO, AND a president-elect!! Serving on the state board is a great experience and a way to help guide AAUW California into the future.

The website and nomination form will be updated shortly. Start considering whether you might like to run for state office! More information will be available next month.

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



COVID couldn't keep us down!

Thanks to the phenomenal support of the camp directors, committee members, branch coordinators, schools, and the AAUW California leadership team, we have been able to deliver another successful season of Tech Trek camps in California. So many challenges and potential obstacles were thrown in our path this year, from COVID-19 to a new database, and once again all the branch coordinators and volunteers rose to the challenge! From the first in-person camp orientation on June 12th to the virtual camp Closing Campfire on July 29th, we successfully served 639 campers from 94 branches at eight camps (six residential, two virtual) across California, staffed by a community of 230+ volunteers, over half of whom were Tech Trek alumnae!

Mary Isaac, Tech Trek Program Director, techtrek@aauw-ca.org

DAW Branch Reports

We need your vote!

You have received an email with information about voting in two important areas of branch business. One is the annual budget which is always reviewed and presented for membership approval in September.



The second area where we are asking for your vote of approval is regarding updated governance documents to support our branch's transition to a 501(c)(3) organization. A focused team, led by Co-President Chris Ritter, has reviewed the requirements to make this change and has revised our Bylaws and Standing

Rules accordingly. They have also created Articles of Incorporation for the branch to become a corporation along with the change to a 501(c)(3). We now need a membership vote to approve these documents.

You can view the budget and the newly revised governance documents on the branch website [here](#).

To learn more about why the branch is transitioning to a 501(c)(3) organization [click here](#).

Board strategy session report - *Make a Difference!*



The branch board members embraced our theme for this year – *Make a Difference* – at our strategy session in August. We plan to build on the AAUW mission of advancing gender equity for women and girls by creating and supporting programs and initiatives to inform, to educate, and to facilitate activities that will enable us to make a difference in our local community. We will aim to tap into our members’ desire to be active and get involved.

To set the branch’s direction for the coming year, we started by identifying a range of ideas and topics of interest within three strategic areas - economic equity, social justice, and women’s health/reproductive rights. Once identified, we narrowed our focus for this year’s efforts by voting on the top five topic areas to address.

These top five topic areas for this year are:

- Women in Power
- Education Equity
- Title IX
- Foster Care
- Women’s Health and Reproductive Rights

These key focus areas will inform our speakers’ programs at the Third Thursday meetings as well as direct and inspire other branch activities throughout the coming year.

Get involved in helping people vote



Getting out the vote is a big push this November to ensure our democracy is strong and that all Americans can make their voices heard. As was reported last month, we are working with the Center for Common Ground to write postcards targeted to providing specific information to help people register and vote.

Volunteers are still needed! Please sign up for the postcard project by sending an email to Ashakiran@gmail.com or ogstrogatz@gmail.com



Interest Group updates

2nd Monday Party Bridge: After many years, group lead Arlene Barnet has turned over the lead position to Edie Hottinger.

Many thanks to Arlene for her dedicated work!

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

Public Policy Updates



Learn about the Inflation Reduction Act

The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (IRA) is a United States law which aims to curb inflation by reducing the deficit, lowering prescription drug prices, and investing in domestic energy production while promoting clean energy. It was signed into law on August 16, 2022. It is a budget reconciliation bill sponsored by Senators Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Joe Manchin (D-WV). The bill was the result of negotiations on the proposed Build Back Better Act, which was reduced and comprehensively reworked from its initial proposal after receiving opposition from Manchin. It was introduced as an amendment to the Build Back Better Act and the legislative text was substituted.

The law will raise \$737 billion and authorize \$369 billion in spending on energy and climate change, \$300 billion toward deficit reduction, three years of Affordable Care Act subsidies, prescription drug reform to lower prices, and tax reform. Some changes were made to the tax provisions after negotiations with Senator Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ). The law represents the largest investment in addressing climate change in United States history. According to several independent analyses, the law is projected to bring the U.S. significantly closer to President Biden's goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 50% below 2005 levels by 2030. It also includes a large expansion and modernization effort for the Internal Revenue Service.

For more details about the Infrastructure Bill, visit [The White House website](#)

California legislative updates

Reproductive rights - The recent US Supreme Court's Dobbs decision on abortion has stimulated action in many states across the nation, including California. Our legislature passed, and Governor Newsom signed, **AB 1666** which will enable a woman coming into California to receive an abortion to be protected from lawsuits originating in her home state. *This bill was co-sponsored by AAUW CA!*

A further step protecting a woman's right to make personal medical decisions is a Constitutional Amendment, **Proposition 1**, which will be on the November 8 ballot. It would amend the California Constitution to prohibit the state from denying or interfering with an individual's reproductive freedom in her most intimate decisions, which includes the fundamental right to choose to have an abortion and the fundamental right to choose or refuse contraceptives. AAUW CA supports this constitutional amendment.

AB 988 (Bauer-Kahan) - Mental health: 988 crisis hotline

Current federal law, the National Suicide Hotline Designation Act, designates the 3-digit telephone number "988" as the universal number within the United States for the purpose of the national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system. This bill would enact the Miles Hall Lifeline and Suicide Prevention Act. The bill would require the Office of Emergency Services to ensure, no later than July 16, 2022, that designated 988 centers utilize technology that allows for transfers between 988 centers as well as between 988 centers and 911 public safety answering points. The bill would require, no later than 90 days after passage of the act, the office to appoint a 988-crisis hotline system director, among other things. The bill would require, no later than July 1, 2024, the office to ensure interoperability between and across crisis and emergency response systems used throughout the state, as described. The bill would require the office to consult with specified entities on any technology requirements for 988 centers.

AB 1942 (Muratsuchi) - Community colleges: funding: instructional service agreements with public safety agencies.

Commencing with the 2024–25 fiscal year, AB 1942 would require instruction provided by community college districts under instructional service agreements, with public safety agencies, as defined, to be funded under the apportionment formula used for instruction in career development and college preparation. The bill would, commencing with the 2022–23 academic year, require each community college district with an instructional service

agreement with a public safety agency to annually submit a copy of its most up-to-date instructional service agreement, and beginning January 1, 2024, to annually submit specified data to the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office.

ACR 205 (Wilson) - Women Veterans Recognition Day

This Assembly Concurrent Resolution would proclaim June 12, 2022, as Women Veterans Recognition Day and urge all Californians to join in celebrating the many contributions of women to our armed forces.

SJR 12 (Skinner) - Equal Rights Amendment

This joint resolution would urge the Congress of the United States to pass House Resolution 891, resolving that the requirements have been met to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) and that it shall now be known as the "Twenty-Eighth Amendment to the Constitution."

ACR 154 (Seyarto) - Women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics

This measure would honor 100 years of women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics during the month of June 2022.

Stay alert! Stay engaged! Stay involved!

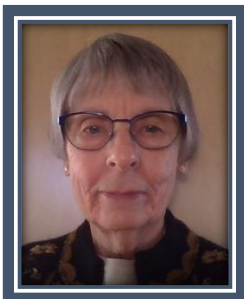
Asha Bajaj, Public Policy Chair, ashakiran@gmail.com

Membership Corner

Welcome new members!

Please reach out to our new members and let them know that we are glad to have them become part of our branch! You'll find their contact information on the [Members Only page](#) of our website, just click on the DAW AAUW Branch Directory.

Here are some interesting notes about our four newest members to help get you acquainted.



Donita Hohenstein is a graduate of UC Berkeley who lives in Walnut Creek with two recently adopted black cats. Her son and his family also live in Walnut Creek, while her daughter lives in London. She enjoys playing mahjong and hikes at least once a week with a long-time group of women friends. She loves to travel to the Sierra and elsewhere in the spring and summer, and is always looking for wildflowers to photograph, having given up her cameras and tripods for a smartphone several years ago.



Lola Ganse graduated from Cal State Hayward; she even took a computer class there from our own Roseann Krane. Before retiring in 2006, Lola taught courses at Monte Vista High School for 21 years, including drama, speech and debate, English, and advanced placement language and composition.

She has a son, a daughter and five grandchildren. She helped with her daughter's first baby, Ella, who needed extra medical care. She ended up giving one of her kidneys to the child, who is now a healthy 16-year-old. Lola enjoys reading, music, dancing, water skiing, and her family. She's also a member of the Mt. Diablo Daughters of the American Revolution. In the past, she sang in her church's choir.



Alene Riley retired recently, spends her free time walking with her dog Charlie, and is also active in two choruses and at her church. Her two grown daughters are out on their own, while she shares her home with partner Greg. She was involved with DAW AAUW a long time ago before getting busy raising daughters. She graduated from Cal State University, Chico, and was previously very involved with National Charity League, Girl Scouts, and Blackhawk Women.



Deborah Koos is a graduate of the University of Missouri in Columbia who grew up in the Midwest and later lived on the East Coast. She and husband Greg have lived in San Ramon since 1999; they've recently added a very energetic Wheaten Terrier puppy to the household. She enjoys time with her daughter, son-in-law, four-year-old granddaughter, and her soon to be married son. She's been active with her church and with the League of Women Voters.

She retired in 2018 after a lifetime career in nutrition and dietetics with several years working as a diabetes educator. She enjoys many outdoor activities including skiing, hiking, kayaking and pickleball. Since retiring, she's also started learning to play the ukulele and quilting.

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. 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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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, Acting Editor
Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek AAUW
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