





March 2023 Advocate

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

Third Thursday Member Meeting - March



Educational Equity: Growing Healthy Kids Thursday March 16, 2023 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Greenbrook Clubhouse, 300 Greenbrook Drive, Danville Speakers: Laney Cline King, MSW, LCSW, GHK Program Director Jennifer Sachs, Chief of Educational Services for the Mt. Diablo Unified School District

Join us in March for our Third Thursday Member Meeting on March 16 at 6:00 pm. In addition to our usual social time, we will learn about effective programs to bring science and wellness to K-12 students in the Mt. Diablo Unified School District. The discussion will include information about the non-profit organization **Growing Healthy Kids (GHK)** and its unique garden-based science and wellness education programs.

GHK brings unique outdoor educational learning opportunities to over 7,000 students in Bay Point, Clayton, Concord, Pleasant Hill, and Walnut Creek. Through equitable access to school gardens and other outdoor learning spaces, GHK boosts academic engagement while inspiring healthful eating habits and improving student well-being. Launched as a pilot program in 2013, GHK currently provides garden and wellness education to 13+ schools with a staff of 17. To learn more about GHK and its programs <u>click here</u>.

Laney Cline King has worked in the nonprofit and public-school sectors with children and families for over 20 years as a psychotherapist, adjunct professor, health coach, and garden educator. Jennifer Sachs has worked in education for over 28 years. Prior to coming to Mt. Diablo, she worked in several districts as the Director of Educational Services, Assistant Director of Curriculum & Instruction, site principal, teacher, and instructional assistant. Jennifer has experience partnering with TK-12 and community college systems to support the enrichment of educational programs for underserved students.

Click <u>HERE</u> to learn more about the program and to RSVP

Co-Presidents' March Message

By Christine Ritter and Joanne Quijano, Co-Presidents

March is a big month for recognizing women's achievements as well as continuing women's equity issues. It's Women's History Month, which started with an official Women's History Week in 1980 that grew to a month as designated by the US Congress in 1987. It's also Equal Pay Day on March 15, see the National AAUW website to learn about AAUW initiatives to help close the gender pay gap. There's been great progress over the years, but there's still more to go!



Chris Ritter

Joanne Quijano

Our branch is certainly actively helping address the pay gap by providing scholarships to local women, so they are better equipped to start careers and earn competitive wages. We are currently accepting applications for this year's Local Scholarship awards until March 15. We are looking forward to seeing our hard work raising scholarship funds translate into support for these hard-working scholars.

We were really inspired by the two speakers at our February member meeting who informed us about two excellent initiatives to help people transitioning out of foster care. We're quite happy that our branch is working directly with one of the initiatives, the Renaissance Scholar program, to award a scholarship to one of their deserving students. See the article in this edition, and visit our website for more info and to view the presentation slides.

Plans are taking shape for our Garden Tour – featuring five beautiful gardens – with a range from intimate to spectacular settings. Our tour committee is hard at work developing publicity, soliciting sponsors, and making arrangements with the homeowners. It's so exciting to anticipate hosting the tour for two days in May. You can but tickets now on our web site, so please spread the word to your friends and neighbors!

We also updated our "Make a Difference" chart with our new accomplishments in out five focus areas for the year. We are making good progress, so please check out the article in this edition or the Advocate.

Here's to continuing to make a difference!

March Checklist

- March 15 Equal Pay Day
- March 9, 7 pm San Ramon Branch program
- March 16, 6:00 pm DAW Third Thursday Member Meeting Educational Equity To RSVP <u>click here</u>
- March 17 DAW AAUW Local Scholarships due
- March 21-22 Lobby Days with the California legislature
- March 25, 10 am to 12:30 pm Online Gov Trek Finale and Campaign Competition
- April 20, 6:00 pm DAW Third Thursday Member Meeting Women's Power in Art Save the date
- May 12, 10 am to 4 pm DAW Garden Tour
- May 13, 10 am to 4 pm DAW Garden Tour
- <u>Donate here</u> to support DAW branch programs
- Volunteer! We still have open positions on our branch board and committees! Learn more here

The San Ramon AAUW branch presents:

"Strong Enough" Women Leaders in Our Community

March 9, 7 – 8:30pm

The neighboring San Ramon AAUW branch will host and informative and lively panel of four women working in non-traditional careers. They will talk about their backgrounds, careers, and leadership experiences working in industries often thought of as male-dominated.

The event is on March 9 from 7-8:30pm. It will be a hybrid event – in person at the San Ramon Community Center and via Zoom. Anyone interested in attending may RSVP <u>here</u> or contact the San Ramon branch at <u>aauwsr@gmail.com</u>.

Guest Panelists:

Pamela Vargas, Corporate Digital Marketing Manager, eCommerce Strategy at UPS, Maddie Mechikoff, Firefighter/Paramedic, San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District, Maria Castellanos, Firefighter/Paramedic, San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District, Gayle Israel, Chief of Staff, Contra Costa County Supervisor Candace Andersen

Third Thursday Member Meeting - April Women's Power in Art Thursday April 20, 2023, 6:00 – 8:00 PM Greenbrook Clubhouse, 300 Greenbrook Drive, Danville



With **Tricia Grame**, PhD Integral Studies, who specializes in women's spirituality and art history at the California Institute Integral Studies in San Francisco.

Plans are in the works for our program in April relating to women's power expressed through the arts. It's sure to be a fascinating evening. Stay tuned for more details in the next Advocate.

Save the date!

February Meeting Recap – What's Next after Foster Care?



Roshawn Campbell

At our February meeting, we were treated to two dynamic speakers who gave us insight into options in our area for foster children transitioning to adulthood. Roshawn Campbell, the Coordinator of California State University East Bay Renaissance Scholars, explained the program that supports 50 students who have aged out of foster care and who choose to

seek a college degree. Roshawn expressed her special thanks and gratitude for the Local Scholarship that our DAW branch is dedicating to one of these deserving students this year. Click <u>here</u> to find out more about the Renaissance Scholars program.



Britt Wade





About 40 members attending this eye-opening meeting! We all very much enjoyed the comradery and the treats and snacks provided by our thoughtful members who signed up to help with snacks, and for the support of our hospitality committee led this month by Nancy Dowell. Many thanks to our hospitality team and to our Program Committee and contributors Tanya Earls, Cindy Dragomanovich, Monika Witte, and Bette Felton for making the program a success!



Coming event at the Family Harvest Farm



Roshawn Campbell

Garden Tour 2023 Is On Its Way!



Preparations are proceeding for the 21st DAW Garden Tour. With a theme of *Gardens that Inspire* the tour committee has selected five spectacular local gardens for members and guests to visit on Friday and Saturday, May 12 and 13, 2023 from 10 am to 4 pm. Each garden is unique in its appeal and approach to creating beautiful and inviting home garden space. **Tickets are available** for \$40.00 per person; all proceeds

Nature's Sanctuary, 2023 DAW AAUW Garden Tour **available** for \$40.00 per person; all proceeds from the tour will go directly to our branch's local scholarships program. Registrants will receive a link to an online ticket and Garden Tour guide as the tour date approaches.

We are **seeking sponsors** to support this spectacular garden event. With over 400 garden and landscape design enthusiasts visiting the gardens, the tour provides a great opportunity for sponsors to get visibility for their businesses. Sponsorship donations are tax-deductible and will go toward our branch's scholarships for local college women. Please encourage businesses you know to participate as sponsors for the tour. Refer them to Claudia Schwarz at <u>claudiaschwarz@comcast.net</u> to learn more about becoming an AAUW Garden Tour sponsor.

Of course, the Garden Tour won't be possible without the help of our gracious branch members. With five beautiful gardens, each needing two shifts of docents and helpers for the two days of the tour, there are many **opportunities for volunteers**! We'll also need help with refreshments, gift baskets, and organization.

Click <u>HERE</u> for more about the tour, tickets, sponsorships, and volunteering.

Thanks to East Bay Flowers

You may have noticed that the longtime ad for East Bay Flowers is no longer in the Advocate or on our branch website. After 34 years of running her floral shop in Danville, owner Kris Simpson has closed the business, sold her house, and moved to the East Coast. She'll live in Massachusetts close to her sisters, son, daughter-in-law, and 4-year-old granddaughter. Kris was always willing to provide a great service to our branch by advertising and selling Garden Tour tickets in the beautiful setting of her store.



We sincerely thank Kris for her help over the years and wish her all the best in this new chapter of her life.



Making a Difference- How are We Doing So Far? Updated February 21, 2023

by Chris Ritter, Co-President

We are progressing well in addressing the five focus areas we chose for this year. Here is an updated checklist compared to our December 2022 progress with changes marked in red.

Focus Area	Progress to Date	Next Steps
Advancing Women in Power	 Publicized Gov Trek program to local high school student and parents We registered 15 girls from the East Bay and 2 from Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek to participate in Gov Trek. The first class was given Jan 28. We registered a core team of branch members for Lobby Day. 	 Our April program will focus on empowering women through art.
Advancing Education Equity	 We have raised most of the funds needed to support our Local Scholarships and Tech Trek camperships for 2022/23. 	 Our March Program will inform us about equity issues in local schools Our Garden Tour planning is underway and will support our educational awards for 2023-24. Tech Trek candidate selection process is underway. Local Scholarship applicants are being solicited.

Supporting Implementation of Title IX	• Our November program updated us on the status of Title IX at Cal State East Bay.	• Educate members on new Title IX Rules to be released by Biden in May.
Supporting Foster Care Students in Transition	 We Amended our Policies and Procedures to expand eligibility to groups with identified need. We designated one 2023 Local Scholarship for a transitioning foster care student in the Renaissance Scholars program at Cal State East Bay. Our February Program educated us on two options for local students transitioning out of foster care: Renaissance Scholars and Family Harvest Farm internships 	 Renaissance Scholar applicants are being identified for our branch Local Scholarship
Protecting Women's Health	 Our September Membership Brunch Speaker updated us on status of reproductive rights globally to empower us with facts for conversations on this topic. Our January program educated us on a new program allowing victims of domestic violence to get medical care virtually, without a physical visit to a doctor. 	 We are encouraged by our speaker-experts to continue to build women's self- confidence to help them avoid abusive situations.

Interest Groups

Our branch has a wide variety of Interest Groups. Joining an Interest Group gives you the opportunity to have fun and get to know other women in the branch while sharing a common interest. Some Interest Groups are also open to significant others. Visit our website <u>here</u> for the latest about the groups and the leaders to contact.

Mah Jongg group has gone inactive for want of a leader. Yet we have many interested players. If you are willing to lead this group, please call Chris Ritter to get connected with the other Mah Jongg enthusiasts.

Some of our many Interest Groups are:

Art and Garden, Beads2jewelry, Bridge 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Mondays, Gourmet: Culinary Navigators, Gourmet: Epicureans, Great Decisions, Hiking, Literature: Contemporary Books, Literature: Morning, Literature: Novel Ideas, Movies: Cinema 1, Movies: First Friday Film, Movies: Oscars, Needle Arts, and Writers.

Membership Corner

By Claudia Schwarz, Membership Committee

We had a great turnout on Feb 8th at the new member coffee hour. Five new branch members attended to socialize and visit with each other and with branch member. Welcome!



Left to right: New members Kate Waters (Alamo), Debbie Barone (Danville), Chris Chandler (Danville), and Kyla Mitsunaga (Danville). Not in the picture, Donita Hohenstein (Walnut Creek).

Public Policy Update

By Asha Bajaj and Ogie Strogatz, Public Policy Co-chairs



Assembly Bill 252 - introduced by Chris Holden, whose district includes Pasadena - calls for Division I schools in California to share 50% of revenue with athletes who are undervalued because the amount of their athletic scholarships doesn't match their market value. That would mostly be aimed at athletes competing in the revenue-generating sports such as football and basketball, but not exclusively. Money paid toward scholarships

would be included in the 50% that goes toward the players. The rest would go into a fund that would pay out yearly. Individual payments would be determined based on what schools bring in and could not exceed \$25,000 per year for any one athlete. Any excess revenue from the athletes' share would go into a degree completion fund that athletes would be eligible to draw from after they have graduated within six years.

Assembly Bill 92 - introduced by Damon Connolly, would make it a misdemeanor offense punishable by an up to \$10,000 fine for someone to buy or sell bullet-resistant body armor or clothing to people not employed in certain professions, such as law enforcement. People who already own body armor would be allowed to keep it but would be prohibited from reselling it. The prohibition would not apply

to law enforcement officers, firefighters, military personnel, security guards, firearms dealers, body armor salespeople, code enforcement officers and medical first responders. The California Department of Justice would be authorized to add other exempted professions. Additionally, the bill would make it a felony offense punishable by up to three years in prison for a person to wear body armor while committing a violent felony involving a firearm.

March is Women's History Month, a fitting time to observe the transgender day of visibility, according to Melissa Maycenko, a member of CA AAUW's state Public Policy committee. She writes:

"Each year on March 31, the world observes Transgender Day of Visibility (TDOV) to raise awareness about transgender people. It is a day to celebrate the lives and contributions of trans people, while also drawing attention to the poverty, discrimination, and violence the community faces. We understand how women's history tells the story of misogyny, which is the systemic mistreatment of women, girls, and feminine peoples through forms of physical and structural violence. But we rarely consider how it is linked to transmisogyny, which focuses on the complex intersections between transphobia and misogyny that are faced by trans women and girls, as well as transfeminine and gender nonconforming peoples. It is a term that attempts to capture multiple layers of gender-based marginalization and systemic mistreatment. If misogyny and transmisogyny are not combatted together, then the root of the problem will never truly be eradicated. As a women's organization we should be focusing on this cause."

We need to be vigilant to safeguard our freedoms. Stay alert! Stay engaged! Stay involved!

You're invited! Online Gov Trek Finale and Campaign Competition Saturday, March 25, 10:00 am to 12:30 pm

By Ogie Strogatz, Public Policy Co-chair

California AAUW launched Gov Trek on January 28. This striking new initiative gives junior and senior high school-age girls a glimpse of careers in public service and elected office. Structured around five, online, two-hour sessions through mid-March, the program features live presentations from an impressive array of women leaders holding key local, state, and federal government positions. In addition, the



students are grouped into small teams, each of which will prepare and present a campaign simulation based on a hypothetical candidate running in a local, state, or federal jurisdiction chosen by the team. The simulation deliverables include a candidate stump speech, voter outreach plan, and campaign flyer and ad, all to be captured in a video designed and produced by the team.

As a facilitator of two Gov Trek sessions, I have been impressed by the quality, passion, and motivation of these high school young women to devote their energies to a life of public service and social justice causes.

Branch members are warmly invited to attend the online grand finale, which will include the eight student team presentations, live judging, and awards. This promises to be a terrific event! Please join us on March 25, 10:00 am to 12:30 pm. The link to register: <u>Click here</u>

AAUW California Updates

ANNUAL EVENT - Get Ready for the Academy AAUWards! By Charmen Goehring, Meetings Planner, meetings@aauw-ca.org

AAUW California will be hosting our Annual Event on April 22, 2023, from 9-4 on Zoom. This year's theme is the Academy AAUWards! Come join us for red carpet interviews, listen to inspiring keynote speakers, and watch the Speech Trek and Gov Trek finalists. Cheer on your fellow members and branches for all sorts of AAUW awards, get a public policy update, and meet the board candidates. And, every awards event worth its swag bag has after–parties! Join our Zoom-style parties to hang out with your friends! Look in next month's B2B and on the website for more information soon!

Celebrating AAUW California, its branches, and its members will be the most fun event of the spring! Don't miss out on the Academy AAUWards on April 22nd! Get ready to mingle!

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION - Centering in Solidarity

By Stormy Miller Sabia, Director, DEI Committee Chair, diversity@aauw-ca.org

A time of year that is often met with hope, resolution, and intentions, has been met with sorrow and grief for many, particularly among Asian, Black and African American communities. The mass killings in Monterey Park, Half Moon Bay, and the shooting in Oakland, occurred in rapid succession in our state, and our trauma was intensified by the killing of Tyre Nichols. It's hard to know what to do or how to respond to these horrific experiences impacting communities of color.

What does this mean for our work in AAUW? What does this mean for an individual committed to equity and justice? And how might we mobilize and unite when things feel heavy and hard? There's an opportunity to explore these questions within our branches and in conversations and community that center on diversity, equity, and inclusion. Most importantly, let us explore how we can stand in solidarity and support our fellow AAUW members who are members of these communities. Below are a few resources you may wish to review or share, in an effort toward lifting up communities of color and providing mental health resources and support during this difficult time.

Wishing you all comfort and peace, and wishing you a warm and joyous start to the celebration of Black History Month. "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." - Martin Luther King, Jr.

BEAM: https://beam.community/ Black Emotional and Mental Health Collaborative

Asian Mental Health Collective: <u>https://www.asianmhc.org/</u> aspiring to make mental health easily available, approachable, and accessible to Asian communities worldwide.

Stop AAPI Hate: https://stopaapihate.org/

MEMBERSHIP - Resourceful Women: Let's Grow!

By Marsha Swails, Membership Committee Chair, membership@aauw-ca.org

Over the last several months, it has been a privilege to work with several talented women thinking and dreaming about how to grow AAUW California membership. On January 25th, the Membership Committee presented the webinar Growing AAUW California. <u>Click HERE</u> to view the webinar and the slides for the presentation. Besides presenting statistics about current membership, the group challenged branches to grow 6% by February 2024 which is about 600 new members. Just imagine the energy, experience, and perspective these new members will bring!

Four areas hold potential:

- 1. Create the role of Branch Ambassador to mentor and guide new members.
- 2. Invite college/university members to join branches as well as the 986 national members in California without branch affiliation.
- 3. Enhance branch communications, which are key to new member outreach. The app <u>Canva.com</u> and QR codes can enhance your outreach.
- 4. Create a culture of rewards and recognition to energize members with the "Bling Project." The webinar offers more info on that. Connect with your communities in a couple of deliberate ways to introduce our brand to potential members.

NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS - Do You Hear a Ticking Clock?

By Charmen Goehring, Nominations & Elections Chair, nominating@aauw-ca.org Submitted by Deanna Arthur

Don't miss an opportunity to share your expertise with the state of California AAUW members and branches. We need you to run for office. Don't be afraid to show off your talents! The deadline for nominations is March 1, 2023. To learn more and submit your nomination, click <u>HERE</u>.

Don't miss your opportunity to have your voice heard. If you are contemplating the run for office, stop contemplating and submit your information. The state needs your expertise.

Don't let the alarm go off before you submit your application. Looking forward to seeing your applications pouring into the state.

PUBLIC POLICY - Celebrating Branch Members' Participation in Shaping AAUW California Public Policy By Kathleen Harper, Director, Public Policy Committee Chair, <u>publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org</u>

Over the last two months, the state Public Policy team has reached out to members with two opportunities to participate in our advocacy efforts. In December, we asked members to provide input on our Public Policy priorities for 2023-25 and 465 members responded! While the majority felt that the current priorities satisfactorily represent their views, and there were many suggestions for modifications and/or additions. The committee appreciates the time and thought that went into these comments, and is in the process of reviewing and discussing each one.

In January, we asked members to sign up for Lobby Days to help us advocate for our top three bills with the California legislature on March 21st and 22nd. 111 members answered our call, and the committee is now working on organizing those members into teams. Members should expect to receive further information this month once we know which offices will be participating. A note: some members completed the interest survey but did not register for the mandatory training webinar on March 20th. If you, or any of your members, received a notice of need to register for the webinar, please do so ASAP! Please remember, if you do not attend the training, you cannot participate in the Lobby Days event. Finally, "late-comers" who wish to participate but missed the deadline can still submit an interest survey and register for the training. Click <u>HERE</u> to complete the survey and register. The deadline has been extended to February 28th.

The committee recognizes the role our branch leaders play in getting the word out regarding public policy events and encouraging members' participation, and we want you to know you are appreciated.

GOV TREK - Virtual GOV TREK Has Begun!

By Shauna Ruyle, Gov Trek Program Director, govtrek@aauw-ca.org

On January 28th we launched our inaugural virtual Gov Trek session with just over 60 future leaders and 40 volunteers in attendance from across California!

We were all honored to air a welcome video from Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi to launch this amazing program. We have received permission from the Office of Nancy Pelosi for each California branch to post the video on their websites and social media. Please use the messaging and link below:

Exciting News! AAUW California 2023 Gov Trek's inaugural session started with a video address from fellow Californian SPEAKER EMERITA NANCY PELOSI. We were privileged to have the first woman Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives greet us as we begin our journey together to explore careers in public office and elected positions. <u>https://youtu.be/szcsrAj0Ir4</u>

Five distinguished women leaders addressed Gov Trek participants in the Women in Leadership Panel. They covered topics on elective office and public service at different levels of government, including the skills and challenges involved with them, and other related career paths in leadership and political participation.

The speakers were:

- Kathleen Van Osten, AAUW California Advocate and Lobbyist
- Ellen Montanari, Deputy Campaign Manager, Rep Mike Levin
- Regina Luzincourt, Lobbyist and Former Press Secretary, State Senator Parker
- Shana Hazan, VP San Diego Unified School Board
- Griselda Ramirez, Senior Director of Community Engagement, Partnerships, and Strategic Initiatives, Office of San Diego County Board of Supervisor Chair, Nora Vargas

Click <u>HERE</u> to watch Gov Trek Session 1. There are four more inspiring Gov Trek sessions including the Gov Trek Finale & Campaign Competition! The speaker sessions will be recorded and available to AAUW California members on the website <u>HERE</u> in the Student Program Materials section.

We can't wait to see how our future leaders will change the world!

From the Editor Roseann Krane

Contribute to the Advocate - Send ideas, articles, and pictures by the 15th of the month to appear in the next issue. Please use the <u>Submittal Form</u> 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
- Calibri font, size 11
- Pictures in .jpg format (compressed)
- Permissions set for editing

Find contact information about people mentioned in the Advocate on our <u>branch website</u> and in your directory. If you do not have a directory, contact Tena Gallagher.

From the Treasurer Monika Witte

Handle money matters here - Please send expense vouchers or deposits to our AAUW mailbox at: P.O. Box 996, Alamo, CA 94507 for expedited processing. Refer to our branch website for specific forms and instructions – Click on <u>Members Page</u>

From the Corresponding Secretary Julie Grisham

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 <u>here</u>.

Our Wonderful Sponsors

We're always looking for new advertisers. Funds go toward branch expenses such as printing, creating the Membership Directory, and postage. Advertisers' names and businesses will appear in our fall Membership Directory, the monthly Advocate, and on our branch website. 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.

Roseann Krane, Editor

AAUW Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek Branch

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