



May 2023 Advocate

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

AAUW DAW Garden Tour 2023

Gardens That Inspire

Friday, May 12 & Saturday, May 13
10am to 4pm

Celebrate outdoor beauty with a leisurely self-guided stroll through five spectacular private gardens! Refresh your spirit *and* support women's education.

Five homeowners in Danville and Alamo are opening their spectacular private gardens for the tour. Each garden is unique in its appeal and approach to creating beautiful and inviting home garden space.

The AAUW Garden Tour 2023 is the principal DAW fundraiser to support local scholarships for women and girls, and this 2023 *Gardens That Inspire* tour marks the twenty-first year of our branch's popular garden event.



For more information, [click here](#).

To purchase tickets, [click here](#).

Please thank our generous 2023 Garden Tour sponsors by patronizing their businesses –

Gold Sponsors:



Silver Sponsor:



Third Thursday Member Meeting - May

Celebration of Garden Tour and Sharing Evening

Thursday May 18, 2023, 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Greenbrook Clubhouse, 300 Greenbrook Drive, Danville

Celebrate! Join your fellow branch members to share in celebrating our Garden Tour and other fundraising and program successes this past year.

Share Your Ideas! Please give some thought to what areas of focus, activities, program, fundraisers, advocacy, or other updates you'd like to make to our branch activities for next year. There will be flip chart pages attached to the wall where you can write your suggestions and ideas. The new board will include your input in its summer strategy session for the next branch year.



While there won't be a formal talk, we'll share branch announcements and recognize our Garden Tour volunteers. We'll also have snacks and beverages to help set a festive tone for the evening. Please join us for a fun and productive evening!

To learn more about the event and to RSVP click [HERE](#)

Co-Presidents' Message

By Christine Ritter and Joanne Quijano, Co-Presidents

Welcome to spring! We hope you are enjoying our beautiful weather and lush green hills. We anticipate that the wonderful conditions will make our DAW AAUW Garden Tour one of the best ever. It's "all hands on deck" as we prepare for this elegant event raising funds for our Local Scholarship awards for next year. If you haven't volunteered to help, please [click here](#) to see how you can contribute. If you and your friends need tickets, [click here](#)! The Garden Tour is one of the most fun things we do all year so be sure you don't miss out!



Chris Ritter



Joanne Quijano

In keeping with our Garden Tour theme, our May Third Thursday meeting will be a celebration of the tour and all of the hard work that's gone into making it happen. There won't be a formal program other than to enjoy our success this year and record your ideas for next year's focus areas and activities on flipchart pages around the room. The new board will use these ideas to plan our FY24 activities and programs.

Speaking of board members, if you would like to influence what our branch does and enjoy working on a team, please volunteer to join our Board of Directors next year. It's a great way to connect with the interesting and delightful AAUW branch members while helping our group decide how we can make a difference for women and girls. All the job descriptions are in our [Policies and Procedures](#) and we are always available to tell you more if you are interested. Former chairs and VPs will be available to help you with a new job, so you don't need experience in a role to take it on; new members are especially welcome.

On the state and national scene, both the AAUW CA and AAUW National organizations are holding elections this month where you can weigh in on policy priorities and directors. The links are in the article on this topic in this Advocate edition.

Wishing everyone the joy of a new spring and the satisfaction of being a volunteer!

May Checklist

- **May 12, 10 am to 4 pm – DAW Garden Tour**
- **May 13, 10 am to 4 pm – DAW Garden Tour**
To RSVP [Click Here](#) To Volunteer [Click Here](#)
- **May 18, 6:00 pm – DAW Third Thursday Member Meeting – Celebration - [RSVP here](#)**
- [Donate here](#) to support DAW branch programs
- **Volunteer!** – Board and committee positions are open for 2023-24! Learn more [here](#)

April Third Thursday Member Meeting Recap -

Women's Power and Evolving Image in Art

By Christine Ritter, Co-president

At our April Member Meeting, we were treated to lemon drop shooters from Debbie Hammond's lemon tree and a lovely selection of savory and sweet treats during our social time. Thanks to Becky Bhatt, the Hospitality Team, and our generous members who contributed refreshments!

Branch Updates

We still need volunteers for the **Garden Tour** to help with parking, work the raffle tables, provide and serve snacks, and drive a shuttle to the one garden that doesn't have parking. **Please click [here](#) to see what's needed** and let us know if you can fill any of these important roles.

We were also reminded that our **membership dues are now up for renewal**; look for an email from AAUW national about how to renew. If you don't want to pay online, click [here](#) for more information about renewing.

We need volunteers to join the **Nominating Committee** to find candidates for our elected board members for FY24. The board positions are President, President Elect, Program VP, Membership VP,

Funds VP, Secretary, and Treasurer. The committee will contact people who have indicated their interest in working in our organization to see if they would be willing to serve in an elected office.

If you are interested in any of the ***elected board positions***, please let Joanne or Chris know right away! Roles that are particularly suited to new members are Secretary and Funds VP. These require no background in AAUW and are a great way to learn about our organization.

Liz Peters reviewed our growing ***list of new members***, several of whom are introduced to you later in this newsletter. Welcome!



Photos from the April Member Meeting

For the evening’s talk, we enjoyed a fascinating program by one of our members, **Tricia Grame**. She amazed us with images of women’s bodies used in art from the antiquities through the modern day. While the ancient images were quite graphic, they demonstrated respect for women and their important roles in society. The old art was then contrasted with more modern images in which women were treated as objects of desire in order to sell products. We also discussed the propagation of images of perfect women (made even more perfect through digital editing) and its effect on today’s women and girls. We were encouraged with the idea that we can effect change by supporting artists who are portraying women respectfully, and with agency and power.

Time to Pay Annual Dues!

by Monika Witte, Branch Treasurer

For most DAW members, annual dues are paid in the months of May or June. (Note – newer members pay on a different schedule, according to which month they joined. If you have any questions about your renewal month, contact Tena Gallagher, mstena@gmail.com).

This year you will notice that both the Branch dues and the National dues have gone up (Branch by \$7 and National by \$5). This article explains how we spend the Branch dues, and why they went up.

Here’s a breakdown of the dues from last year compared to the coming year:

	Old	After April 1, 2023
Total Dues	\$108	\$120
AAUW National	67	72
AAUW California	20	20
AAUW DAW Branch	21	28

With only a small portion of your yearly dues, our branch must cover the following costs given the income available:

DAW Branch Operating Costs	\$7,235
Insurance	1,020
Printing (Directory, Brunch items, other)	800
PO Box Rental	220
Postage plus bulk mail permit (We mail the directory plus a few items to membership)	415
Rent for Greenbrook clubhouse for Third Thursday Meetings, Sycamore clubhouse for Board meetings	1,275

Taxes, permits	55
Branch hosted or supported functions – snacks, supplies, catering for Holiday event	1,300
Marketing – Outreach with patch or other	250
Honoraria for Monthly Speakers plus Brunch speaker	1900
Income	\$7,300
Dues (~200 dues-paying members, \$28 each)	5,600
Sell advertising in our Directory, website	500
Donations to Branch (at Third Thursday meetings, other)	200
Branch Fundraiser	1,000

AAUW National dues help to sustain and grow AAUW’s programs, and work to advance equity for women and girls. A combination of dues, donations, and corporate and foundation funding support AAUW National’s salary negotiation workshops, groundbreaking research, advocacy efforts, campus leadership programs, and more.

Some of the things the statewide AAUW California provides are oversight of projects and programs that propel the mission, such as Tech Trek, Speech Trek, and Gov Trek; legislative advocacy; a database of all California branches; and publication of an annual directory.

Public Policy Update

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

As the legislature returns into session some of the bills being considered are as follows.

Housing is a big issue this session and lawmakers are considering several bills aimed at easing the state’s affordable housing crisis. Sen. Scott Wiener has introduced a couple of bills on this front — **SB 4** and **SB 423**. Both bills are currently before the Senate Governance and Finance Committee.

SB 4 clears the way for churches and nonprofit colleges to build housing on the properties they own. And **SB 423** makes it easier for multi-family housing to get built but also requires developers to pay prevailing wages for projects with 10 units or more.

AB 799 by Assembly member Luz Rivas, D-San Fernando Valley, was introduced to create an accountability framework for cities receiving state funds to address homelessness.

SB333 by Sen. Dave Cortese, D-San Jose. A guaranteed income program for homeless high school seniors has been amended so that it starts in 2025 rather than 2024.

Prisoner's rights

AB 280 by Assembly member Holden, will restrict the use of solitary confinement in California jails and prisons. And **ACA 4**, by Assembly member Isaac G. Bryan, D-Los Angeles, is a proposed constitutional amendment that grants the right to vote to people serving time for felonies.

Police traffic stops

Sen. Steven Bradford, D-Gardena, has introduced **SB 50** to cut down on police traffic stops for minor offenses such as vehicle registration issues, window tinting or a single non-working brake light.

Concealed weapons ban

While Florida has become the latest state to allow concealed carry of firearms without a permit, California is heading decidedly in the other direction. Sen. Anthony Portantino, D-Burbank, has introduced **SB 2** to make it more difficult to get a concealed carry permit and to limit where people can carry in public.

AB 28, from Assembly member Jesse Gabriel, D-Woodland Hills, would impose an excise tax on firearm and ammunition sales. The bill has been updated to include a specific provision for an 11% excise tax, with proceeds going to a new Gun Violence Prevention, Healing, and Recovery Fund.

False advertising of abortion services

AB 315, by Assembly member Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, would prohibit crisis pregnancy centers from falsely advertising that they offer abortion services or referrals if they do not do so.

SB 287, Sen. Skinner's bill to hold social media companies accountable for children who gain access to ghost guns, fentanyl, harmful diet products, or content promoting suicide, eating disorders or social media addiction, was heard by the Senate Appropriations Committee and placed in the committee's Suspense File.

Both these bills are being endorsed and supported by AAUW.

As the country gets divided with disparate rights in each state regarding reproductive health, LGBTQ rights and other freedoms, the medical system is caught in a quagmire of conflicting rulings on women's health issues. The only solution is to have congress act on equal rights protection for all women, so these are protected under the constitution.

Stay involved! Stay alert! Stay engaged!

2023 Tech Trek Update – Campers Are Selected

By Deborah Wechsler, Tech Trek Chair

Local 7th grade girls are going to STEM camps! Middle school math, science and technology teachers nominated 23 girls from five local middle schools. Our dedicated and hard-working DAW Tech Trek selection committee interviewed the girls and evaluated their applications, finally making the very difficult selection of fifteen girls and two alternates. We are sending some girls to each of the following camps: **Sonoma State – June 18-24 or July 23-29, Fresno State – June 18-24, and Virtual Camp – July 23-29.**

Student	School Name	Camp
Connie Cai	Walnut Creek Intermediate	Fresno
Charlize Cerda	Walnut Creek Intermediate	Sonoma 1

Flynn Gholston	Walnut Creek Intermediate	Fresno
Ella Chiu	Stone Valley	Sonoma 2
Diya McClean	Stone Valley	Sonoma 2
Isabella Wintrip	Stone Valley	Virtual
Sasha Coleman	Foothill	alternate
Marley Galloway	Foothill	Sonoma 1
Kaira Lam	Foothill	Virtual
Ella Lapsker Shwarzman	Foothill	Sonoma 2
Naomi Guss	Diablo Vista	Fresno
Camille Hahm	Diablo Vista	Sonoma 1
Eleanor (Ellie) Moen	Diablo Vista	Sonoma 1
Carolyn Ren	Diablo Vista	alternate
Isobel Sims	Diablo Vista	Sonoma 2
Soyeon (Sunny) Kang	Charlotte Wood	Sonoma 1
Elizaveta Udalkin	Charlotte Wood	Virtual

Thanks so very much to the Tech Trek Selection Committee! We had some returning and some new participants. We worked hard and enjoyed meeting these exceptional young women and their families. The Selection Committee 2023: **Bette Felton, Diane Fornasier, Debbie Hammond, Rita Hannum, Zora Kalinic, Bev Nidick, Liz Peters, Kate Waters, and Ann Willoughby**. Thanks also to this group for rallying to raise some last-minute supplemental funds, which enabled us to support the 15 girls and overcome the challenge of the camp cost increasing this year at every camp.

There are still opportunities to support this popular and effective program.

- Professional Women’s panel at one or more camps
- Ice Cream Social (June 11), an opportunity to meet the girls and hear an overview about the Sonoma Camps while serving ice cream sandwiches!

Please contact Deborah Wechsler if you are interested in volunteering, or with any questions.

AAUW California News

It's Time to Vote!

By Sandi Gabe, President, AAUW California, statepresident@aauw-ca.org

Take a Stand and Vote - It's AAUW election season and this is your opportunity to let AAUW National and AAUW California know what you think. We don't always have an opportunity to share our opinion. My philosophy is that when asked - make a decision! The only wrong decision is not casting a vote.

[AAUW National Election](#) - voting begins on April 4th and ends on May 15th at 2 pm PT

- Candidates for the Board of Directors
- Bylaws Revision
- Bylaws Revision
- Public Policy Priorities Additions

[AAUW California Election](#) - voting begins on April 22nd and ends on May 13th at midnight PT

- Public Policy Priorities

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

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

Reflection on Our Learning JABEID in Practice - Thank you to all who joined us on March 27th for the AAUW California DEI Committee's second DEI Statewide Chat on *Justice, Accessibility, Belonging, Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity*. We had 62 participants, 44 California branches represented, and branch leaders representing public policy, membership, communications, Tech Trek, and DEI, to name a few. If you were unable to attend the session, not to worry, the AAUW California website not only has the presentation and recording available, you can also access the discussion summary by clicking [HERE](#).

We wish to express our heartfelt appreciation to Dr. Lata Murti who engaged participants in practical approaches to implementing these concepts in our branches and throughout AAUW. Together, we explored what access looks like in our community spaces, the difference between belonging and inclusion, cultural humility, leveraging data to explore community demographics and representation within our branches, and why Dr. Murti leads these conversations with who attended remember Dr. Murti's birthday wish that you take the learning, try it and apply it, and circle back with your experiences. Dr. Murti can be reached at: latamurti@gmail.com.

Public Policy

By Kathleen Harper, Director, Public Policy Committee Chair, publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org

March Definitely Roared in Like a Lion – March certainly kept the Public Policy Committee on our toes! As a result, AAUW California members now have 30 bills that are being advocated for in the state legislature. Members visited 57 legislative offices to advocate for the top three of those bills during Lobby Days. We will also have the chance to vote on 11 proposed changes that have been made to the Public Policy Priorities.

Our Bill Tracker chart has been posted on the Public Policy page of the AAUW California website and can be viewed [HERE](#).

Thanks to the 120 members from 56 branches who participated in Lobby Days.

Finally, the committee wants to thank all the members who took the time to weigh in on updates to our Public Policy Priorities for 2023-25. The committee has reviewed all 466 comments and agreed on 11 modifications based on members' input. Not all suggestions were incorporated for a variety of reasons. Our three main criteria for edits were:

- Is it within our mission?
- Does it address a new issue germane to current circumstances?
- Would adding it inform the public as to an important AAUW California position, provide guidance for the Public Policy Committee on forming our Legislative Agenda, and/or provide guidance to our membership in shaping their branches' public policy positions and programs?

Many suggestions did not meet one or more of these criteria and were therefore not incorporated. The Board of Directors has approved the suggested changes and it is now up to members to vote yes or no. Click [HERE](#) to view the proposed changes.

Gov Trek

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

Congratulations to the Inaugural Graduate Class of GOV TREK Women! - We are proud to introduce the class of 2023 graduates of the Gov Trek program! After an incredible journey of learning and career exploration, these talented and driven young women are ready to showcase their skills and make their mark on the world of politics. Your support of their efforts was invaluable.

From all of us at AAUW California, we are thrilled to celebrate the achievements of these amazing students. We know they will go on to do great things, and we can't wait to see all that they accomplish.

We invite you to congratulate these outstanding young women by watching and sharing the recordings of their BRILLIANT political campaign simulation videos with your branch and community. This is a tremendous achievement and a well-deserved recognition of their hard work, dedication, and commitment to gender equity in public service and elected office.

Click [HERE](#) to watch their videos and learn the results of the competition.

Tech Trek

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

No Tiptoeing Through the Tulips for TECH TREK! - After a crazy March with record rain AND snowfall for many parts of California, branches are getting close to catching up with over 1,000 completed camper applications and nearly a third already assigned to camps! Camper selections should be completed mid-April.

Additionally, staff volunteer applications are still being accepted until camps are fully staffed. Available roles and the link to apply are [HERE](#). Assignments are in process and should be completed by early to mid-May.

Many camps still need Dorm Moms (21+ years old), so if you have never experienced sleeping in a dorm, now's your chance!

Membership News 2023!!

By Liz Peters, Membership Chair

This year we have been excited about the new members joining our branch. Please welcome them if you see them at one of our events. Our newest members are:

- Chris Chandler, lives in Danville.
- Kyla Mitsunaga, lives in Danville.
- May Carlson, lives in Alamo.
- Laurinda Ochoa, lives in Danville.

The Membership Team is planning a new member welcome celebration in June. New members will learn more about our branch and all the exciting ways to get involved. Stay tuned for more details!

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 [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
- Calibri font, size 12
- Pictures in .jpg format (compressed)
- Permissions set for editing

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 *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 [Members Page](#)

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 [here](#).

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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