



## June 2023 Advocate

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

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### Third Thursday Member Meeting – June

#### Installation and Member Recognition

Thursday June 15, 2023, 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Greenbrook Clubhouse, 300 Greenbrook Drive, Danville

Join your fellow branch members and prospective members at this festive and informative evening marking the end of the AAUW fiscal year. We'll have a light dinner and refreshments to start the evening and give everyone time to mix and mingle. Then the installation and recognition program will include recognition of the past year's many accomplishments along with the installation of the new board members whose terms will start July 1.

*The evening will feature:*

- Social time with light dinner and beverages
- Recognition of outstanding branch members' service
- Update on Local Scholarship students
- Installation of the 2023-24 Branch Executive Board
- Recognition of accomplishments in 2022-23
- Thanks to the outgoing Branch Executive Board
- Opportunities to learn about and engage with branch committees



You won't want to miss this important meeting to celebrate our branch and welcome our new board members!

For more information and to RSVP – [click here](#)

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## Co-Presidents' Message

*By Christine Ritter and Joanne Quijano, Co-Presidents*

While June is the middle of the calendar year, it's also a time for endings and new beginnings. As the traditional graduation month, students finish their school year now and celebrate their accomplishments. They also look forward to entering a new grade, a new school, or moving on to beginning their life beyond academics.



For AAUW and for our branch, June is the end of the fiscal year. It's time for us and the other outgoing board members to reflect on our many accomplishments of the past year. It's also a great opportunity for us to anticipate the new energy and direction of the incoming board members in furthering the AAUW mission. Please be sure to review the slate of candidates and vote in our branch elections to enable the transition to our new board.

We're proud that we've revitalized our in-person programs in the last year. We've met our ambitious plan to hold monthly member meetings since last October with the dedicated help of our tireless program and hospitality committees. In this newsletter, you'll learn more about other goals we've reached in identifying on-going college students and awarding local scholarships. We also have once again sponsored middle school girls so they can attend Tech Trek STEM camp over the summer.

As a wonderful key fundraising event for this year, we staged the branch's 21<sup>st</sup> Garden Tour. We sold over 500 tickets, which more than met our fundraising target, while providing a lovely experience for attendees. It took an extended cast of branch volunteers to make the tour possible – from the starting point of finding and encouraging garden owners to participate, to coordinating all the logistics on the two days of the tour. It was an amazing feat of teamwork with the able guidance of chair Bette Felton and her back up chair Tena Gallagher! We heartily thank Bette, Tena, and all who graciously helped make the tour a success.

Our June 15<sup>th</sup> Third Thursday member meeting will be our annual Installation event. We'll close the year with the opportunity to celebrate our volunteers from this year, thank our outgoing board members, and officially welcome our new Board of Directors for the coming year. All of this and a light dinner and some festive beverages! This will be one of our most fun meetings of the year, so be sure to come!



Here's to celebrating our past year's accomplishments and anticipating more in the coming year!

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## June Checklist

- **June 1 to June 15 – Vote for new Board Members**
- **June 15, 6:00 pm – DAW Third Thursday Member Meeting - Installation and Member Recognition [RSVP here](#)**
- [Donate here](#) to support DAW branch programs
- **Volunteer!** – Board and committee positions are open for 2023-24! Learn more [here](#)






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## Branch Elections – We Need Your Vote!

*By Joanne Quijano*

Candidates for the 2023-24 elected board positions have accepted nominations to help our branch in the coming year! You should receive an email about casting your vote; please be sure to do so to officially elect our board for the coming year. Many thanks to the generous and engaged people who have graciously volunteered for the positions.

And the candidates are:

Position	Candidate	Candidate
Co-Presidents	 Monika Witte	 Ogie Strogatz
Programs VP	OPEN	
Membership VP	 Tena Gallagher	
Funds VP	 Roseann Krane	
Secretary	 Kate Waters	

Treasurer	 <p data-bbox="769 312 922 344">Chris Ritter</p>	
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With the new year, we also have opportunities for members to join our many active branch committees. See our website for more information – [click here](#).

## Garden Tour Report – It’s a Wrap!

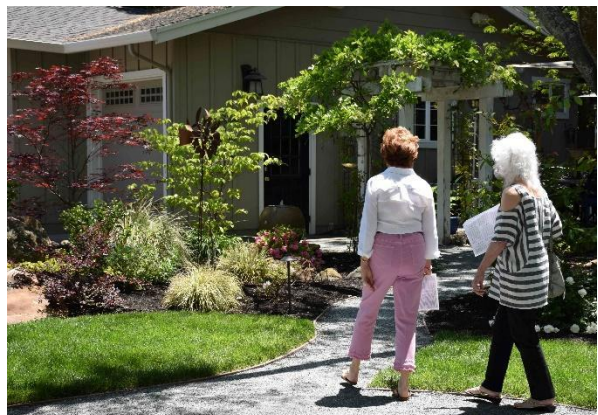
The branch’s 21<sup>st</sup> Garden Tour was a rousing success! We had perfect weather over the 2 days of the tour and all five gardens were beautiful after our wild winter weather. Eager visitors bought over 500 tickets for the tour, there were six generous sponsors, and a large contingent of branch volunteers and



friends helped to make it all possible. In addition to providing a lovely experience for all the visitors, the tour’s over \$27,000 in proceeds will fully fund our branch’s Local Scholarships for next year.

It was truly a community building effort by more than 70 volunteers - homeowners, sponsors, docents, and vendors - who created a beautiful, peaceful, and educational visit to five very different environments. At our post-tour celebratory meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup>, tour chair Bette Felton recognized all the areas where so many people contributed to the tour including –

- The Garden Tour team who recruited homeowners, and visited and chose gardens.
- The Communications and Operations team, along with the Garden Tour team and friends, who created a common tour theme and designed tour flyers, ticket brochures, signage, emails, and marketing in print and on social media.
- The team that managed tickets sales, tracked payments, and emailed tickets to attendees.
- The team that solicited sponsors and gift card donors and the businesses that became sponsors and donors.
- The homeowners, garden designers, and the team that wrote and refined the garden descriptions.
- The head docents, the raffle basket creators, the garden art creators, and the photographers.
- The contributors to the baskets, the garden art objects, and the quilt raffle.
- The plein aire painter – something new for this tour.



- All of the many volunteers who sold tickets, shuttled visitors, placed signage, provided and served refreshments, and served as docents and helpers for the tour.
- The tour visitors who bought tickets, enjoyed the gardens, and supported the raffles.

*Congratulations and thanks to all for a wonderful, successful tour!*

Visit our branch website for more photos and a “slide show” of the tour’s gardens. [Click here.](#)

Look for a short survey about your experience with the garden tour coming electronically in June. In the interim, don’t hesitate to send your thoughts and ideas regarding the tour, to Bette Felton, Garden Tour Chair at [Bfelton25@gmail.com](mailto:Bfelton25@gmail.com).

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

**Gold Sponsors:**



**Silver Sponsor:**



**Seeking Your Ideas for Branch Programs in 2023-2024**

*By Ogie Strogatz, candidate for Co-President*

In addition to celebrating this year’s Garden Tour and honoring all who contributed to it in so many ways, attendees at our May 18<sup>th</sup> member meeting participated in a vigorous brainstorming exercise to begin shaping next year’s programs. Everyone was invited to write down and post their responses to the following questions:

- What do we want to be known for?
- What issues should we prioritize for advocacy?
- What service(s) can we contribute to the community?
- What should we raise money for? Whom to give money to?



- What else is important for us to keep in mind as we plan for next year?

After responses were posted, each attendee was given a dozen stickers to vote, affixing stickers to the ideas they favored the most. The exercise sparked lots of energy and reflection. Among the ideas garnering the most votes, we want to . . .

- *be known for* supporting and advocating for women’s rights, and for building and helping our community.
- *advocate for* reproductive rights, gun control, and a thoughtful response to the emergence of Artificial Intelligence.
- *help research and provide guidance* to girls who suffer from the negative impacts of social media.
- *ensure that we are informed voters* as we enter the 2024 electoral cycle.
- *continue to raise money* for Tech Trek and higher-education scholarships.
- *diversify our membership* and energize all members to be active volunteers.

What do you think? The incoming branch board will convene this summer to map next year’s priorities and programs. We welcome your thoughts! Please feel free to contact our Co-President candidate, Ogie Strogatz, at [ogstrogatz@gmail.com](mailto:ogstrogatz@gmail.com).

## Time to Renew Your Membership!

Renewals for current AAUW members are due on or **before** July 1<sup>st</sup> – so if you haven’t already, it’s time to do your renewal. Membership dues for the 2023-24 fiscal year have increased slightly as our Treasurer explained in last month’s newsletter. **National dues** are **\$72**, of which **\$69** is tax-deductible. **State dues** remain the same at **\$20** and are not tax-deductible. Our **branch dues** are now **\$28**. This means regular DAW branch members pay a **total of \$120** for regular National, State and Branch membership. If you’re a *dual member* with another branch as the primary one, you’ll owe just \$28 (branch only) and if you’re a *paid life member*, you owe \$48 (state + branch).



*There are three ways to renew:*

1. **Renew Online:** Send your amount due using your credit card via [PayPal](#). There is a convenience fee of \$4.91. If needed, please update your information [here](#).
2. **Use AAUW National’s Community Hub app:** Sign on to the National Community Hub and follow the instructions to renew online. (Note that our branch ID# is CA0154). There’s no fee for paying with a credit card this way; to access the Hub [click here](#).
3. **Renew by Mail:** Write your check for \$120, payable to Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek AAUW, and mail to:

Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek AAUW  
PO Box 996  
Alamo, CA 94507

There’s a **special bonus** if you renew by June 15<sup>th</sup>, and we have at least 100 renewals by then – we’ll pick one lucky member to get a free membership at our Installation event on June 15<sup>th</sup>. So don’t delay!

Any questions? Please contact Tena Gallagher at [mstena@gmail.com](mailto:mstena@gmail.com).

**Thank you for your continued membership and your support of advancing equity for women and girls!**

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## Local Scholarship Students Selected!

*By Robin Halloran and Liz Williams, Local Scholarship Co-chairs*

The Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek AAUW branch is pleased to award scholarships of at least \$2,000 to the following applicants.



**Elizabeth Vojvoda** is currently attending the John Hopkins School of Medicine with the intent of becoming a physician. Elizabeth attended Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. While there she not only took a full load of classes, she found time to be active in her community through volunteer and paid work. Elizabeth has also been given the **Jane Tritipo Scholarship** which will add to the base amount of her award.

**Manahil Syeda** is our **Marilyn Steichen Scholarship** awardee. Currently Manahil is attending DVC with the intent of an Electrical Engineering and Computer Science degree. Manahil was very active with volunteer and paid work. She has been hired for a summer internship with Visa, Inc. Manahil will be awarded this one-time scholarship. Marilyn, who passed away last year, felt very strongly about helping young women in the fields of the sciences. We sincerely thank the **Steichen family** and friends for their generous donation of this scholarship in Marilyn's name.

**Shelby Bates** is currently enrolled at USC. Shelby is another scholarship recipient who has found time to be very active in her community and have a paid position. She is looking forward to completing a major in Business Administration.

**Seneca (Chrissy) Chein** is currently attending DVC and looking forward to transferring and completing a Computer Engineering degree. Chrissy is very active with a wide range of interests and activities. She has been employed as a tutor in the areas of computer science, physics and math. Chrissy also enjoys painting and music.

**Ruth Clay** is our first ever **Renaissance Scholar** awardee. A Renaissance Scholar must be enrolled in Cal State East Bay and have been or is still in the foster care system or a ward of the court. Ruth's aspiration is to take care of people. She first attended community college to receive her CNA and then an AA degree in Sociology. In the fall of 2022 Ruth transferred to Cal State East Bay with her eye on completing a major in Sociology with a minor in Human Development. After graduating in the spring of 2024 Ruth plans to continue her education and receive a Master's Degree in Social Work. Her goal is to create a program which provides services for foster youth.

**Amanda Kang** is our **Creative Endeavors Scholarship** winner. Amanda is enrolled at UCLA. Her double major will be in Theater with an emphasis on musical theater and English with a concentration on creative writing. She would like to be theatrical performer, film producer, and book publisher. Amanda has been involved in many activities, both volunteer and paid, in the theater world. Amanda is pursuing publishing work with various creative writing and student magazine clubs as well as internships at various publishing houses. Amanda's base scholarship award will be increased by the amount from the Creative Endeavors Scholarship Fund.

**Gia Kirkland** is currently attending DVC with the intent of transferring to UC Berkeley and completing a Bachelor of Science major in the field of Society and Environment with an emphasis in Global Environmental Politics Specialization. Some of Gia's volunteer work was with Harvest Family Farms located in Pittsburg. She worked with other volunteers and foster care youth at the farm.

Our wonderful committee made up of Holly Sauer, Ann Willoughby, Judy Lauper, Marcia Steinhardt, and Sandy Killoran did a fabulous job of evaluating the twelve applications we received. Thank you all very much for all of your time and wisdom. It has been an honor to be involved with this committee and its valuable work. We wish the best for all our scholars in their future endeavors.

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## Public Policy Update

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

Response to book Bans:

### **PEN AMERICA V. ESCAMBIA COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

PEN America, Penguin Random House, and a diverse group of authors joined with parents and students in Escambia County, Florida, to file a federal lawsuit challenging removals and restrictions of books from school libraries that violate their rights to free speech and equal protection under the law. This lawsuit brings together authors whose books have been removed or restricted and parents and students in the district who cannot access the books, in a first of its kind challenge to unlawful censorship. Ensuring that students have access to books on a wide range of topics and that express a diversity of viewpoints is a core function of public education — preparing students to be thoughtful and engaged citizens.

The lawsuit says the Escambia County School District and School Board violated the First Amendment rights of the students, authors, and publishers by removing books “based on ideological objections to their contents or disagreement with their messages or themes.”

The **bills on our AAUW California 2023-24 Legislative Agenda** are working their way through committee hearings. Here’s the status -

**AB 230**, Passed to Senate 76 – 0 - Reyes — Changes to the Menstrual products: Menstrual Equity for All Act of 2021

**AB 58**, Passed to Senate 62 - 7 - Wicks — Paid family leave: eligibility: care for designated persons.

**AB 524**, Passed committee 12 – 3 - Wicks — Discrimination: family caregiver status.

**AB 789**, Passed committee 11 - 0 (Amended to take the reporting element out of the bill) -

Berman and Cervantes - Student financial aid: Cal Grants: satisfactory academic progress

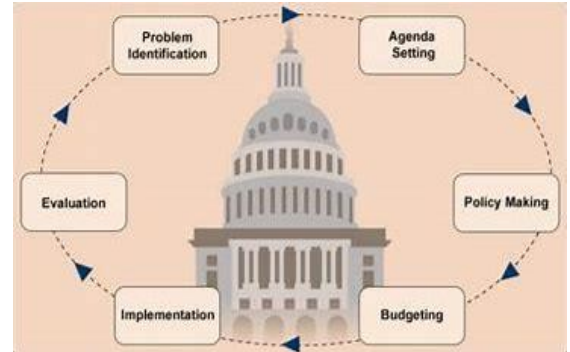
**AB 793**, Passed committee 12 - 2 - Bonta — Privacy; Reverse Demands

**AB 1054**, Passed committee 15-0 - Berman — Pupil instruction: high schools: computer science education courses

**AB 1057**, Passed committee 15-0 - Weber — California Home Visiting Program

**Stay involved! Stay alert! Stay engaged!**

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## Farewell to the Tri-Valley Expanding Your Horizons (EYH) Conference

By Ann Willoughby

The Lawrence Livermore and Sandia National Laboratories consortium that manages the annual Tri-Valley EYH Conference has decided that they will no longer host the annual STEM event for girls. The wealth of STEM-oriented programs available in the Bay Area and challenges recruiting conference leadership and volunteers from the Labs has resulted in the Tri-Valley Conference being retired.

From the early days of the TVEYH Conference some 40 years ago, our branch and the Livermore-Pleasanton-Dublin branch have partnered with the National Labs in conducting the Tri-Valley EYH Conference. We have provided hundreds of event volunteers over the years who have served as workshop monitors and in other capacities. AAUW volunteers from both branches have played an important role in the smooth and successful execution of the annual conference. Many of you have daughters and granddaughters who attended the conference.

Our heartfelt thanks to Judy Lauper for her enthusiastic, committed service to the branch and the conference as our TVEYH lead and her recruitment and management of DAW volunteers each year. We also extend our thanks to all of you who have volunteered for the Tri-Valley EYH Conference at one time or another. We know this event will be missed by our members.



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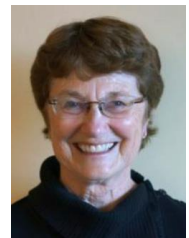
## AAUW California News



### State Named Honoree Announced!

**It's a true honor to present Sharon Westafer with the 2023 State Named Gift Honoree award!**

She is an active member of the Long Beach and Stockton branches, and the Los Angeles County IBC. Additionally, she is the secretary of the California Online Branch. She has held most branch positions in leadership roles, but also shows up to stuff student bags for Tech Trek! Sharon has proven leadership skills in many areas of her branches: president, Fund director, treasurer, and secretary.



## Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

By Stormy Miller Sabia, Director, DEI Committee chair, [diversity@aauw-ca.org](mailto:diversity@aauw-ca.org)

*Upcoming AAUW California Conversations Centering on DEI!*- We know the work of a DEI coordinator/chair can be rewarding, but exhausting and hard! Creating spaces to be in community with peers actively committed to elevating conversations around diversity, equity, and inclusion can be inspiring, reinvigorating, and generative. We want to support you in this work! Our last DEI Statewide Chat for this year will be held on Thursday, June 1st at 7 pm. The AAUW California DEI Committee will provide you with an overview of resources focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion to support your learning and development in this work. Register [HERE](#).

## Public Policy

By Kathleen Harper, Director, Public Policy Committee Chair, [publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org](mailto:publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org)

In case you missed the fabulous Academy AAUWards at the Annual Event, the Public Policy Committee was thrilled to name Sheila Kuehl as our Equity Champion for 2023. During her time as both a state assembly member and state senator, as well as a member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, Ms. Kuehl authored many bills addressing economic equity for women and violence against women, as well as those enhancing rights for members of the LGBTQ community. People of a certain age – which includes many of us – might remember her as Zelda on The Many Loves of Dobie Gillis, and we all enjoyed watching a snippet from the episode where she declared herself “Most Likely to Succeed” – fortuitous indeed! The bills on our 2023-24 Legislative Agenda are working their way through committee hearings. You can keep updated on their progress on our “Bill Tracker”, click [HERE](#).

## GOV TREK

By Shauna Ruyle, Gov Trek Program Director, [govtrek@aauw-ca.org](mailto:govtrek@aauw-ca.org)

AAUW California’s Gov Trek Program is an innovative and engaging way for high school junior and senior girls to explore careers in public service and elected office. The board recently voted to recognize this program as a state program, alongside the popular Speech Trek and Tech Trek. Through a variety of activities such as speech writing, voter data analysis, guest speakers, digital campaign ad creation, and a realistic team campaign simulation competition, Gov Trek equips students with the knowledge, skills, and experience necessary to become informed and active citizens.

Gov Trek also helps provide mentorship opportunities for students to learn from experienced AAUW California members and professionals in their fields. This program gives students (and mentors) the opportunity to meet with elected officials at the local, state, and federal level.

Speak with your branch leadership to express your interest in Gov Trek participation. It’s time to elevate the next generation of women leaders while networking with inspiring leaders in the AAUW community.

## SPEECH TREK

By Marlene Cain, Speech Trek Program Director, [spechtrek@aauw-ca.org](mailto:spechtrek@aauw-ca.org)

*SPEECH TREK 2023 Winners Revealed; 2024 Topic Announced!* - “Another great competition!”—Karen McGurk, Speech TrekChair, Poway-Peñasquitos Branch. The Finals judges enthusiastically agreed, commenting that they were “blown away” by the poise and content of the three finalists’ speeches. Over 200 attendees at the AAUW California Annual Event on April 22nd also enjoyed the three finalists’ videos broadcast throughout the day. If you missed the program, click [HERE](#) to watch.

Please join the Speech Trek Committee in congratulating the state winners:

1st Place: Teddy Garcia, Camarillo Branch

2nd Place: Elizabeth Ma, Alhambra-San Gabriel Branch

3rd Place: Ameya Ravi, Fremont Branch

Participating branches: thank you for your leadership! You are empowering the next generation by supporting this invaluable communication program. And now on to next year! Announced at the April 22nd Annual Event, the 2023-2024 topic, inspired by today’s headlines and AAUW California public policy, is:

*If an educated population is essential to a nation's prosperity, then how can we ensure a robust public-school curriculum that is accessible to all and teaches historically accurate information?*

Watch this space for Speech Trek updates, breaking news, and announcements! Questions in the meantime? Please email [spechtrek@aauw-ca.org](mailto:spechtrek@aauw-ca.org)

## TECH TREK

*By Mary Isaac, Tech Trek Program Director, [techtrek@aauw-ca.org](mailto:techtrek@aauw-ca.org)*

*May Gray is Well on its Way but June Won't be Gloomy for TECH TREK!* - We made it through all kinds of weather and currently have nearly 800 campers registered in nine residential and virtual camps across the state and another 160 or so alternates waiting in the wings to attend!

*Yes, We Still Need Dorm Moms* (21+ years old) at most camps, so take the plunge! Apply [HERE](#). In order to sign up, you will be asked to create an account in our camp software program, CampDoc, if you don't already have one.

In case you missed it at the *Academy AAUWards* not so long ago, click [HERE](#) to view the gem video which demonstrates the diversity of Tech Trek. If your branch still needs help, Tech Trek office hours are every Friday starting at 11 am; register [HERE](#) or send an email to [techtrek-campdoc@aauw-ca.org](mailto:techtrek-campdoc@aauw-ca.org).

CampDoc Sign Up: <http://app.campdoc.com/register/aauw>

CampDoc Log in for current users: <https://app.campdoc.com/!/dn/login>

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## From the Editor *Roseann Krane*

**Contribute to the Advocate** - Send ideas, articles, and pictures by the 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

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## 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](#)

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## 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](#).

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## 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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\*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.

Roseann Krane, Editor  
AAUW Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek Branch  
P.O. Box 996, Alamo, CA 94507

