



November 2023 Advocate

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

Third Thursday Member Meeting – November



Caring for the Branch, Caring for Ourselves
November 16, 6:00 pm

Danville Congregational Church
989 San Ramon Valley Blvd, Danville

It is deeply gratifying to partner with one another as we help strengthen our communities in so many ways. Here are some selected comments from people touched by our branch's work -

- "AAUW's public comments at tonight's Board of Education meeting transformed the energy in the room — it became welcoming, positive, hopeful." (San Ramon Valley Unified School District parent)
- "One of my favorite things about Tech Trek was when a hands-on experiment failed! We didn't dwell on the setback, instead we focused on learning from it and trying again. Good stuff. Thank you AAUW!" (Tech Trek camper)
- "Because of you, I'm able to complete my undergrad degree." (Local Scholarship recipient)

For those of us who are relatively new to AAUW (and any who would like a refresher!), a portion of the November program will be devoted to an orientation about how the branch works — what happens behind the scenes so we can show up in force at a School Board meeting, how we recruit and raise funds for Tech Trek campers, manage our Local Scholarship program, prepare for our membership meetings, and so much more that's essential to a thriving DAW Branch. We invite you to join us to

learn and to consider where there might be a great fit between your skills and passion, and our caring for the branch.

And then, because caring for others is grounded in caring for ourselves, the balance of the November program will be led by local yoga and Pilates teacher, Praveena Chinthluri. Praveena will guide us in breath work and a series of seated, gentle stretches bound to have us gliding out of the meeting centered and renewed. A wonderful way to ease into the holiday season. Ahhhh. . .

Please dress comfortably. All levels of ability are welcome, no prior experience required. See you on November 16!

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

Co-Presidents' Messages

By Ogie Strogatz and Monika Witte, Co-Presidents

From Ogie – Hello everyone, this month I'm delighted to spotlight [Gov Trek](#), a terrific initiative from AAUW California that is now launching its second season. Gov Trek is a free, online program for high school junior and senior girls to help address the underrepresentation of women in elected and appointed positions at every level of our government. Structured as seven, two-hour Zoom sessions on Saturdays between February 3rd and March 16th, 2024, the program features two main components.



Monika Witte



Ogie Strogatz

One is a series of presentations by a diverse array of women leaders in government. Gov Trek 2023 guest speakers included: California Speaker Emerita, Nancy Pelosi; California Senate President Pro Tempore, Senator Toni Atkins; Congresswoman Anna Eshoo; California State Treasurer, Fiona Ma; AAUW CA Advocate and Lobbyist, Kathleen Van Osten; Ellen Montanari, Deputy Campaign Manager, Congressman Mike Levin; Hilary Nemchik, Strategic Communications Executive, Former Director of Communications for the San Diego City Attorney's Office; Regina Luzincourt, Lobbyist and former Press Secretary, State Senator Kevin Parker (NY); Shana Hazan, San Diego Unified School Board; Miranda Drolet, Sacramento County Deputy District Attorney; Summer Stephan, San Diego County District Attorney; Anne Marie Schubert, Sacramento County District Attorney; and Marlene Cain, AAUW California Program Director, Speech Trek.

The other component is a competitive project in which the Gov Trek participants are divided into small teams that carry out a campaign simulation. Each student team identifies the elected position that their candidate will pursue. The team determines who will perform the roles of candidate, campaign manager, communications director, and field director. Each team collaborates to produce a stump speech delivered by the candidate, a voter outreach plan, and a campaign flier with core messaging. At the final Gov Trek Zoom session, the teams present their campaigns to a panel of expert judges. California AAUW arranges a government internship for each member of the winning team.

Asha Bajaj and I were fortunate to serve as facilitators for last year's Gov Trek student teams. If you'd like to learn more about the program (for example, perhaps you know of high school faculty who can

help recruit student participants, or you'd like to learn more about volunteering), please contact me (ogstrogatz@gmail.com).

Thanks to each of you for your commitment to helping open doors of opportunity for the next generation of women leaders!

From Monika – Greetings! I have found attending SRVUSD school board meetings this year to be an interesting and an easy way to advocate for our schools. Until this year I had not attended a school board meeting in several decades. We've heard from a handful of people in the district (trustees and staff,) that our presence at these meetings has been impactful in positive ways; it feels good. Each month one member speaks (gives a three-minute public comment) on behalf of the branch, and other DAW members who are present stand to indicate support. At the SRVUSD board meeting on November 14 we will feature our support of Tech Trek, and our comments will include gratitude to the teachers and administrators who support this program. We try to look like a unified group by wearing the same color shirt and nametags. Everyone is of course welcome! We are now taking orders for DAW T-shirts, so that in the future we can easily look like we belong together; information on T-shirts is in this Advocate.

In this season of gratitude, I am grateful for the opportunity to work with so many amazing women, and for progress that we can make together to support equity.
In friendship, Monika

November Checklist

- **November 7, 6:00 to 7:30 pm – Launch of DAW Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee** via Zoom
[Click here](#) for more information. Everyone is welcome!
- **November 14, 5:30 pm – San Ramon Unified School District Meeting**
[Click here](#) for more information
- **November 16, 6:00 pm - DAW Third Thursday Member Meeting: Caring for the Branch, Caring for Ourselves**
[Click here](#) to register
- **December 21, 6:00 pm – DAW Third Thursday Member Meeting: Winter Solstice Holiday Gathering**
Save the date!
- [Donate here](#) to support DAW branch programs
- **Volunteer!** – Board and committee positions are open for 2023-24! Learn more [here](#)



Third Thursday Member Meeting – December



Winter Solstice DAW Holiday Gathering
December 21, 6:00pm
Danville Congregational Church

Save the date!

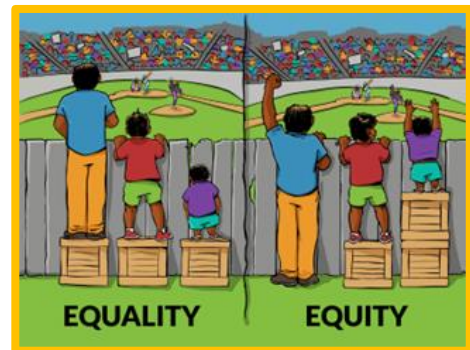
DAW Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee

By Teresa Cheung, DEI Officer

“Embody the goals and spirit of equity, inclusion, diversity and intersectionality across all AAUW activities and participants, prioritizing women of color.” ([from the AAUW national strategic plan](#))

Our branch’s DEI Committee is officially launching via Zoom, on Tuesday, November 7th, from 6:00 to 7:30 pm. You are invited to be a part of the team! We have an ambitious agenda for the evening that will include:

- discussing the committee’s purpose and setting our direction and meeting schedule for coming months,
- brainstorming ideas for activities to foster equity and inclusion with our branch,
- reviewing some DEI related terms so we have a common understanding,
- discussing strategies for handling a real-life, controversial DEI situation. (You’ve gotten the sort of email we’ll talk about – what did you do?)



We want to raise awareness for championing equity in our branch and in our lives; complacency is not an option. Zoom in for the meeting on the 7th – we need your ideas and support. Everyone is welcome!

Intrigued? Contact me, Teresa Cheung at aauwTeresa@gmail.com, for background about the DEI situation to be discussed and a Zoom link for the meeting by November 6. Even if you can’t attend, let me know if you would like to be included on our DEI emailing list.

[Click here](#) for more information about our branch’s DEI work.

DAW T-Shirts – Order One Now



Show your Branch pride and boost DAW’s visibility with an AAUW logo T-shirt!

The shirts feature an AAUW DAW branch logo on the front and the bold message of “EQUITY FOR ALL” on the back – all for the reasonable price of \$30. There will be samples available at our Third Thursday Member Meetings and check, credit card, and cash payments will be accepted then. All T-shirt orders will be collected and consolidated for delivery later this year.

If you’d like to place an order, but won’t be at a meeting, [click here](#) for instructions and more information.

AAUW California Public Policy Update

2023 California Legislative Session Round-Up: AAUW California’s Priority Legislation

By Amy Hom & Missy Maceyko, Co-Chairs, CA State Public Policy Committee

September 14, 2023 was a tense day in Sacramento: [the last day for each House to pass bills that could be sent on to the governor](#). After at least nine months of writing, researching, amending, and lobbying, the legislative session drew to a close. We are happy to report that AAUW California’s priority bills did pretty well in this cycle!

Priority Legislation by the Numbers

Note that legislation listed as a “2-year bill” will be reconsidered in the 2024 legislative cycle.

A-Level Bills

Our three A-level bills this year were AB 1394, AB 549, and SB 680. AAUW California was also a co-sponsor on AB 1394. AB 1394 has been signed into law. AB 549 and SB 680 have both been transformed into 2-year bills.

AB 1394. Signed into Law! Authored by Assemblymember Buffy Wicks, and co-sponsored by AAUW California, this bill seeks to help child sex abuse survivors remove their images from social media platforms.

AB 549. 2-Year Bill. Authored by Assemblymember Lori Wilson. This bill would require all state agencies to conduct an evaluation of their own departments to ensure that the state does not discriminate against women through the allocation of funding and the delivery of services.

SB 680. 2-Year Bill. Authored by Senator Nancy Skinner, this bill prohibits a social media platform from using a design, algorithm, or feature that the platform knows, or should have known, causes child users to experience addiction to the social media platform.

B-Level Bills

Our four B-level bills this year were AB 524, AB 1071, AB 1078, and SB 36. AAUW California added AB 1078 later in the session at the request of the School Board Project Subcommittee, as it deals with preserving historically accurate and representative curricula for public schools in California. We are

excited to report that two of our B-level bills have been signed into law: AB 1071 and AB 1078. AB 524 is still sitting on the Governor's desk and SB 36 has been transformed into a 2-year bill.

AB 524. Vetoed by the Governor. Authored by Assemblymember Buffy Wicks, this bill would prohibit discrimination against employees based on their status as a family caregiver. In his October 8th veto message, Newsom indicated that while he appreciated the intent of the bill, the burden it places on small businesses is too great and the language of the bill is too ambiguous.

AB 1071. Signed into Law! Authored by Assemblymember Joshua Hoover, this bill would authorize and encourage school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools to provide teen dating violence prevention (TDV) education to all pupils in grades 7-12, and make TDV resources available on its website.

AB 1078. Signed into Law! Authored by Assemblymember Dr. Corey Jackson, this bill expands the diversity of the social science curriculum, requiring instruction in social sciences to include a study of the role and contributions of people of all genders, Latino Americans, LGBTQ+ Americans, and other ethnic cultural, religious and socioeconomic status groups. If the school district has not provided sufficient textbooks or instructional materials, their local control funding formula allocation will be reduced.

SB 36. 2-Year Bill. Authored by Senator Nancy Skinner, this bill provides protections and support for any person fleeing prosecution, conviction, or sentence from another state for seeking abortion, contraception, reproductive care, or seeking gender-affirming care in California. It also provides protections for any person assisting the person seeking that care.

C-Level Bills

We had thirty C-level bills this year. Fifteen of our C-level bills were signed into law. Thirteen are now 2-year bills, and two were vetoed.

For additional details about the bills that we supported at the C-level, or bills at any level, as well as access to the most current information, check out our bill tracker [HERE](#).

And if you would like to sign up for action alerts for AAUW California's Priority Legislation in 2024, you can sign up [HERE](#). You can also share the link below with anyone else—inside or outside of AAUW—who you think may be interested in receiving these alerts.

<https://forms.gle/zkxQM8gByqjGymTA>

Garden Tour Planning

The DAW Garden Tour is in the works for 2024! It will be held on Friday and Saturday, May 10th and 11th – as usual that's the two days before Mothers' Day. We are continuing to look for homeowners with interesting, preferably sustainable, gardens they would like to share.

We are also looking for energetic members to participate on the GT committee. The tour committee is visiting potential gardens now to decide which ones to feature next year. They will also be starting to plan publicity and materials to promote the tour. If you're interested in joining the committee, or showcasing your garden, or you know someone who has a beautiful garden, please email Joanne Quijano at jtq@sbcglobal.net.

Notes from the October DAW General Member Meeting

Our Third Thursday Member Meeting on October 19th was a rousing success! We had a wonderful turnout, with 60 people attending, including many members that we welcomed from our sister branch, San Ramon AAUW. All enjoyed the creative and fun snacks provided by Nancy Dowell, Debbie Hammond, and their Hospitality committee. It was a great way to inaugurate our new meeting venue.

The program, “Protecting Quality Education in the SRV Unified School District”, featured a panel of interested people involved with the district including a student representative. It was very inspiring and generated positive energy in the attendees. A big thanks to Laurinda Ochoa for leading our first program of the 2023-2024 year.



Oct 19 Meeting Attendees



The Hospitality Team



Anya Ayyappan, SRVUSD
Student Board Member

AAUW National News

By Gloria Blackwell, AAUW CEO

We are proud to announce that the 2023 Alumnae Recognition Award ceremony was held on November 2, 2023. This event honored our alumnae and celebrated both AAUW’s 135th Anniversary of AAUW’s American Fellowship Program, the first fellowship program established by AAUW, and the 10th anniversary of the award.

This year, we were thrilled to honor Black feminist pioneer, activist, author, publisher, and AAUW American Fellowship alumna **Barbara Smith**.



Barbara Smith played a groundbreaking role in defining an African American literary tradition, building Black women’s studies and feminist scholarship in the U.S., and opening up a national, cultural, and political dialogue about the intersections of race, class, sexuality, and gender. Among her many outstanding accomplishments, Barbara Smith co-founded Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press, the first U.S. publisher of books for women of color to amplify voices that had long been marginalized.

To learn more about Barbara – [click here](#)

Membership Corner

In Memoriam - Jacqueline Schubert -September 29, 1943- October 16, 2023

Jacque Schubert, a long-time member of AAUW, passed away last month, succumbing to pancreatic cancer. Just this past year, she was recognized as one of our Branch Service Honorees for her outstanding work in support of our AAUW branch’s mission. While Jacque held several board positions, she’s probably best remembered for her sixteen years planning and implementing AAUW Art and Garden tours throughout the bay area. So many of us enjoyed these bi-monthly trips and the comradery they encouraged.



Jacque was born and raised in Elmwood Park, a suburb of Chicago. She attended Catholic grade school and high school. She graduated from the University of Illinois with a major in Russian Language Literature and History, and was a Phi Beta Kappa member. When she married her husband Jeff, they traveled around the United States, then settled in Scottsdale Arizona for 23 years where they were active in local politics. Jacque studied for her MBA at Arizona State University. She and Jeff have lived locally in Alamo for 23 years. Jacque served as an AAUW Treasurer and often helped out with branch financial decisions. She has one daughter and two grandchildren.

We send our heartfelt sympathy to Jacque’s husband and family. She will be greatly missed by all of her AAUW friends.

New Interest Group – “Gourmet from Scratch”

Group leaders Bonnie Becker and Debbie Hammond are forming a new Interest Group for those who would like to gather once a month to create and enjoy a gourmet meal together. They envision forming subsets of eight people per meeting that would include experienced cooks who are passionate about gourmet scratch cooking with foods from around the world. The meals created will feature interesting and challenging ingredients, recipes, and techniques.

The new group anticipates starting up meetings in early 2024; exact dates are to be determined. If you’re interested, please contact Debbie at oltrans@att.net.

“Stay Home” Policy Statement

While we understand that people want to participate in person at our branch events, we also want to foster consideration for all members in creating a safe environment for everyone. Please consider this direction when you plan to attend a branch meeting.

If you are feeling ill in any way, or have been in close contact with someone known to have tested positive for COVID in the last 10 days, please do not attend any meeting!

Remember that COVID exposure remains a serious issue and that we need to be constantly vigilant. If you plan to attend a branch event, please stay home if you feel ill or if you have been exposed to COVID or any other significant communicable disease. We encourage you to be considerate of everyone attending a function, some of whom might be more susceptible than others. If you have any doubts, test, wear a mask, and err on the side of caution.

While there are inherent risks in attending an in-person event, with your help we will do our best to keep everyone safe at our meetings.

From the Editor - Joanne Quijano

Contribute to the Advocate - Send ideas, articles, and pictures by the 23rd 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 to enable 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, [click here](#) to send us a request.

From the Treasurer – Chris Ritter

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.

Joanne Quijano, Editor
AAUW Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek Branch
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