



## December 2023 Advocate

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

### Third Thursday Member Meeting – December



### DAW Branch Holiday Party!

Thursday, December 21, 2023 - 6:00 pm  
At the home of Teresa Cheung,  
Danville

You (all our branch members!) and a guest are invited to the Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek branch's holiday party! Our own Teresa Cheung will share her wonderfully festive decorated home with us for this event. Wear your favorite holiday sweater and come join in the festivities!

Bring a "plus one" or other guest - maybe someone interested in becoming a member? We'll mix it up so we can make some new AAUW friends. There will be a buffet of delectable finger foods and assorted holiday sweets to tantalize your palate. We'll celebrate the season with a jolly list of holiday classics with Chris Ritter, master pianist, on the piano, and Alene Riley, a talented singer, leading a sing along. We have talent in the branch!

We'll turn down the heat so you can enjoy your holiday sweaters. Shall we turn down the lights for the sweaters that light up?

Come for the fun, food, and joy of membership.

**Don't delay, RSVP [HERE](#) by December 19<sup>th</sup>!**

*\$10 Donation per person is appreciated  
Carpooling is encouraged*

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## Co-Presidents' Messages

By Ogie Strogatz and Monika Witte, Co-Presidents

From Ogie - Although I am not especially keen on chilly weather or dwindling daylight, I'm always grateful for the power of this season to remind us of our shared humanity. I am moved by the beauty of distinct cultural traditions that all bring light and warmth to this darkened time of year, whether as sparkling Christmas tree ornaments, the glowing candles of a Kwanzaa kinara or a Hanukkah menorah, or a crackling Yule log. Nothing beats the holiday season for inspiring more people from diverse backgrounds throughout the world, all at once, to gather and engage in acts of generosity, good will, and fresh hope for the coming new year. It is truly remarkable to behold.



Monika Witte



Ogie Strogatz

You all give me hope for a more equitable world through your steadfast commitment to realizing AAUW's vision in our communities. Your thoughtfulness, drive, and compassion are my favorite antidote to any moments of discouragement or doubt in this challenging time. Thank you for being who you are.

With best wishes for a peaceful, healthy holiday season and new year,

Ogie

From Monika - The days are cold, and issues facing the world feel overwhelming and in some cases confusing; this is a tough time. I think about the reasons that we choose to connect in AAUW, and how those intentions and actions can bring light and help us be resilient.

If you have been a DAW member for a few years you might be connected through friendships. If you are relatively new you might be looking to meet women with similar interests in supporting our community. We share the connection of a desire to support our mission — *to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy*, and as a branch we are working toward *equity for all*.

Coming up this month, in addition to the reformed Art & Garden and the new Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) groups you will read about in this month's Advocate, there will be a wonderful Holiday Party where you can meet people and share familiar tunes. Also, if you'd like, join our support for the school board by attending the meeting on December 13. In January we'll learn about how social media has a powerful impact on youth, especially girls. And then in February we'll hear from an AAUW Fund recipient about the importance of diversity in storytelling — and that's just the beginning of the year.

Whether you've been a dedicated member for years, or have recently joined us, we share common motivations. There are many ways to get involved — one quick and easy way is to help at the Third Thursday meetings and "Meet, Munch, Make a Difference" during the first 30 minutes. This is a great opportunity to meet people and to put your toe in the water to participate. I'm always looking for help, please call me!

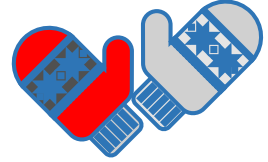
Best wishes for a wonderful holiday and a healthy and productive new year,

Monika

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## December Checklist

- December 12, 4:00 pm – DAW Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee Meeting  
[Click here](#) for more information. Everyone is welcome!
- December 13, 5:30 pm – San Ramon Unified School District Meeting  
[Click here](#) for more information
- December 21, 6:00 pm – DAW Third Thursday Member Meeting:  
**Holiday Party!**  
For more information and to RSVP – [click here](#)
- January 16, 5:30 pm – San Ramon Unified School District Meeting  
[Click here](#) for more information
- January 18, 6:00 pm - DAW Third Thursday Member Meeting:  
**The Impact of Social Media on Girls: Challenges, Opportunities, and Support**  
Save the date!
- [Donate here](#) to support DAW branch programs
- **Volunteer!** – Board and committee positions are open for 2023-24! Learn more [here](#)



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## Third Thursday Member Meeting – January



### The Impact of **Social Media** on Girls: Challenges, Opportunities, and Support

Thursday, January 18, 2024 - 6:00 pm  
Danville Congregational Church  
Danville, CA

Social media and tech use are at the center of our kids' lives. From Tik Tok to Instagram, our kids are distracted by their devices. What risk do these platforms pose for our kids- specifically girls? Join us along with **Jamie Nuñez, Western Region**

**Manager with Common Sense Media** for an engaging presentation and group discussion on the challenges, opportunities, and possible ways to support girls affected by social media misuse. Find out why lawmakers have begun considering whether younger teens should be on social media at all.

Come learn about:

- *Latest research on social media's impact on girls*
- *Ways in which social media are used and abused*
- *How social media tools are and can be used for good*

We will name the ongoing risks but will spend the bulk of our time highlighting ways to support our most vulnerable girls. We hope you'll join us.

**Save the date!**

**About Common Sense Media -**

**Most technology wasn't built with kids in mind. We're on a mission to change that.**

We believe in media that inspire and entertain families of all kinds. In technology that protects privacy and supports communities. In learning tools that prepare students and teachers for success in a connected world. Discover how we're working to make the digital world better for kids and families.

To learn more about Common Sense Media, its mission, research, and programs - [click here](#).

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**DAW Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee**

*By Teresa Cheung, DEI Officer*

**DEI Around the Table: Tuesday, December 12, 2023, 4:00 -7:00 pm, at Teresa's home.**

Our next meeting will be at my home; we'll combine a chance to share in the spirit of the holidays with our group's DEI activities. The meeting will start by our joining National AAUW's webinar for DEI from 4 pm to 5 pm to hear what is happening across the country. After the session, we will discuss what we learned and note any takeaways for our branch. Finally, we'll review ideas and plan future Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek DEI activities. In particular, we want to organize a program, probably in April, for a general membership monthly meeting.



All branch members are welcome and encouraged to participate in the DEI group. Please RSVP as soon as you can to [AAUWTeresa@gmail.com](mailto:AAUWTeresa@gmail.com), and no later than December 8<sup>th</sup>.

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

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**DAW T-Shirts – Order One Now – Last Date to Order is Dec 8**



**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. A bulk order to print all of the shirts will be placed in mid-December, for delivery in January. Don't delay, get your order in now!

To order your T-shirt, [click here](#) for instructions and more information.

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## Donations to AAUW Requested

As you know, your generous donations contribute directly to funding our branch's signature Local Scholarship and Tech Trek programs. These programs rely completely on contributions from members and donors, and branch fundraising efforts. At the national level, your Fund donations support the many AAUW national initiatives aimed at advancing gender equity for women and girls.

In late October, we sent our annual solicitation letter to every branch member. If you haven't already, this is a reminder to please donate to help further AAUW's mission through our branch and through the National AAUW Fund. Given that our DAW Garden Tour in May of last year raised enough funds for our Local Scholarships this year, we encourage you to focus your contributions toward the AAUW Fund and our branch's Tech Trek program. In particular, the costs for Tech Trek have gone up, and at this point we are substantially short of funds to provide for the number of girls we traditionally support.

For those who have already made donations this fall, we thank you very much – your generosity makes our initiatives possible!

For information about donating to AAUW, [click here](#).

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## AAUW California Public Policy Update

### Claudia Goldin Wins Nobel Prize in Economics for AAUW Aligned Research

*by Nancy Major, Member, CA AAUW Public Policy Committee*

One of AAUW California's Public Policy priorities is to promote women in leadership positions, so it is a pleasure to report that Claudia Goldin, 77, is the first woman to win the Nobel Prize in Economics without men as collaborators, and the third woman to win overall. She was also the first woman to be offered tenure in Harvard's economics department, in 1989.

Dr. Goldin's Nobel-winning study focuses on causes of the gender wage gap, the evolution of women's participation in the job market over the past 200 years, and the implications for the future of the labor force. [In a paper in the National Bureau of Economic Research](#), Goldin writes that, "the golden era of American women's rights lasted from 1963 to 1973." Of the 155 important moments for advancement of women, 45% took place in those years during which women changed from having jobs to pursuing careers. [This one factor is "among the grandest advances in society", according to Dr. Goldin.](#)

However, her work also focuses on the work that we still have to do to continue to advance.

Another AAUW Public Policy priority is economic security for all women including equity in the workplace, enforcement of workplace anti-discrimination statutes, access to job training for career development, and work-life balance, including access to quality affordable childcare and paid sick and care-giving leave. These are exactly the factors studied by Dr. Goldin to understand why U.S. women earn \$.80 for every dollar a man makes, why men's wages are higher than women's in the same occupation, and why women lag behind men in the top jobs.

"Women are now more educated than men," [Goldin told the Associated Press](#). "They graduate from college at much higher rates than men. They do better in high school than men do. So why are there these differences?"

In the first half of the 20th century, laws limited women's ability to work when married or pregnant. In the second half of the century, birth control, later marriages and education resulted in [substantial](#)

[progress for women in the labor market](#). However, a gender gap persists into the present day—a gap that is compounded by additional factors, such as class, race, ethnicity, and ability. Dr. Goldin’s research shows that, when gender is the primary factor for consideration, parenthood and lack of childcare are the main factors contributing to the ongoing pay gap. As women are normally expected to shoulder caregiving responsibilities in the home, this pay gap begins a year or two after a woman’s first child is born. And yet, since the Comprehensive Child Development Act was vetoed by President Nixon in 1971, an act which would have created a national daycare program, consistent and affordable access to quality childcare options remains elusive for most American families.

While Goldin’s research is not focused on solutions to entrenched problems related to gender and labor, other economists note the importance of her work for better understanding these issues, which is a critical step for creating meaningful social and legal change.

To learn more about California AAUW Public Policy priorities – [click here](#)

***You can help!*** One step to creating meaningful change is for Congress to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act which updates and strengthens the Equal Pay Act of 1963. Help create that change by following AAUW’s Two Minute Activist - [click here](#).

## **California Enacts Law Prohibiting Book Bans and Curricula Censorship**

*By Kathi Harper, Chair Public Policy School Board Project*

On September 25, 2023, Governor Newsom signed AB 1078 into law, officially preventing school districts from banning books and censoring curriculum based on the materials’ depiction of inclusive and diverse perspectives. Specifically, the new law:

- Reaffirms, in the introduction, that:
  - California supports accurate and inclusive education;
  - the California Constitution guarantees pupils equal protection under the law;
  - California schools have an obligation to combat bias against pupils within their schools;
  - and accurate and inclusive education is essential to ensure the educational success of all pupils
- Requires the Department of Education to develop guidance and public educational materials to ensure that all Californians can access information about educational laws and policies that safeguard the right to an accurate and inclusive curriculum
- Requires all school districts to have sufficient instructional materials for all students that align with approved content standards
- Adds to list of included topics in social sciences textbooks: the role and contributions of people of all genders, Latino Americans, LGBTQ+ Americans, and members of other ethnic, cultural, religious and socioeconomic status groups
- Reduces a school district’s funding formula allocation if the district does not provide sufficient instructional materials pursuant to these provisions
- Prohibits governing members of school districts from refusing to approve or prohibiting the use of any book or instructional material on the basis that it contains inclusive and diverse perspectives

For the full text of AB 1078 - [click here](#).

It is not certain at this point how school districts will respond to the new law. We anticipate that most will comply but suspect there are some that will not. Please note that the script in the School Board

Project (SBP) Toolkit has been modified to reflect the new law, and please keep your SBP liaison apprised if your district is in violation (our branch’s liaison is Laurinda Ochoa).

**You can help!** To learn about the CA AAUW School Board Project and its Toolkit with suggestions for action- [click here](#). You can also join your fellow branch members at a San Ramon Valley Unified School District Board meeting. For more information about attending a meeting – [click here](#).

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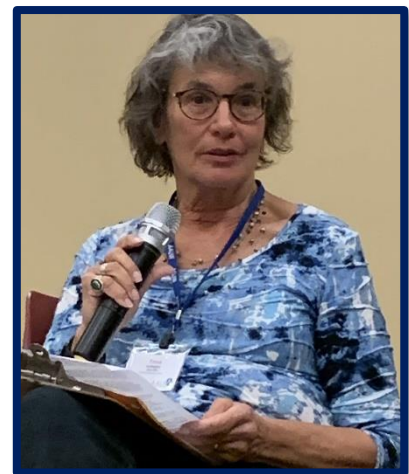
## Notes from the November DAW General Member Meeting



Ogie Strogatz



Robin Halloran



Tena Gallagher

About 30 members gathered for the Third Thursday Member Meeting on November 16 to experience the program titled “Caring for the Branch, Caring About Ourselves”. The evening started with the usual tasty treats and beverages provided by the Hospitality Committee along with opportunities to get involved in branch and AAUW advocacy initiatives.

Then the more formal program began with interesting question and answer segments about all of the branch’s important areas, including the history of the branch itself, Tech Trek, Local Scholarships, and Public Policy. Co-President Ogie Strogatz serving as the emcee with Tena Gallagher, Deborah Wechsler, Lee Garverick, Chris Ritter, Robin Halloran, and Laurinda Ochoa taking part in the segments.

After engaging their brains with lots of great information about DAW, attendees took part in a very relaxing “chair” yoga session, led by Praveena Chinthluri. It was a wonderful way to wind down the evening.



Praveena Chinthluri

## Garden Tour Planning

The DAW Garden Tour is in the works for 2024! It will be held on Friday and Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> – 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 Garden Tour 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](mailto:jtq@sbcglobal.net).

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## AAUW California News

### AAUW Fund

*By Karen Vanderwerken, AAUW Fund Committee chair, [aaufund@aauw-ca.org](mailto:aaufund@aauw-ca.org)*

SCHOLARS AND DOLLARS! Our Fund donations through September are \$201,940 statewide. Our fall scholar presentations are entirely virtual this year. We have videos from 31 fellowship and grant scholars for you to check out. Members can watch these any time and any place! Click [HERE](#) to view. All of the presentations are combined into three videos with the start times noted for each speaker.

### Nominations and Elections

*By Deanna Arthur, Nomination and Election Committee Chair, [nominating@aauw-ca.org](mailto:nominating@aauw-ca.org)*

CALL FOR 2024-25 CANDIDATES - We seek candidates for:

- Secretary (two-year term 2024-2026)
- Four Directors (two-year terms 2024-2026)
- One Director (one-year term 2024-2025)

The committee will be contacting branch presidents and other names that have been suggested to the committee. We are specifically looking for technology gurus and individuals with knowledge of AAUW Fund and how it works. Please consider if you might be interested in one of these positions.

Thanks to those of you who have stepped up to the plate or given names to approach – keep it up, we can do this if we continue to work together.

### Public Policy

*By Amy Hom and Melissa Maceyko, Directors, Public Policy Committee Co-chairs, [publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org](mailto:publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org)*

A FINAL SCORECARD FOR THE 2023 CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE SESSION - 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. This left us one final month—until October 14, 2023—to lobby Governor Newsom's office to get our bills signed into law.

So how did AAUW California's priority legislation fare? Pretty well, overall! Of our 40 pieces of priority legislation, 19 were signed into law, 3 were vetoed, and 18 were transitioned into two-year bills



(meaning they will be raised again in 2024). Twenty-two pieces of our priority legislation made it to the governor's desk. With 19 out of those 22 pieces of legislation signed into law, we achieved an 86.3% success rate.

Check out the [November Issue of Public Policy News](#) for additional details and visual representation of our final 2023 Legislative Scorecard.

## GOV TREK

*By Shauna Oenning Ruyle, Gov Trek Program Director and Gov Trek Committee chair,  
govtrek@aauw-ca.org*

REGISTRATION FOR THE 2024 GOV TREK IS NOW OPEN - We're off and running and looking forward to another successful year. The program was launched on October 16 with a well-attended, information-packed presentation.

Click [HERE](#) to view the recording. Click [HERE](#) for all the details and information your branch will need, including the link for student registrations.

GOV TREK 2024 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! BE A PART OF IT! Be a Zoom Breakout Room Facilitator! Breakout Room Facilitators manage a group of up to 14 students in a Zoom breakout room. You will help them stay on task, assist with the understanding and implementation of assigned activities, and facilitate collaboration among the group for active participation. It's likely that the groups will be mostly self-directed. Click [HERE](#) for more information and [HERE](#) for the application to be a facilitator.

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## Interest Group Updates

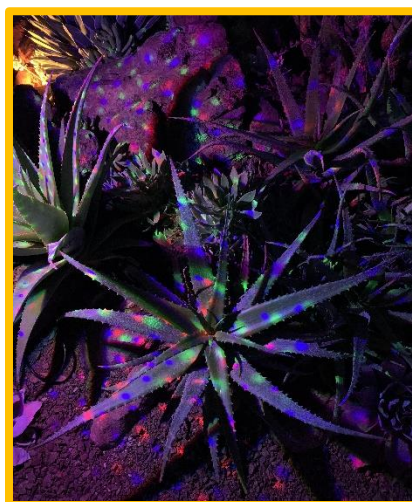
### The Art & Garden Group Is Back

*By Tena Gallagher*

Come join our branch's Art & Garden Interest Group as we move forward after losing our intrepid leader, Jacque Schubert, this fall. All branch members are invited to participate and receive notices about the group's activities, there's no waitlist involved. You'll always need to let the leader know of your interest in an event so we can order tickets or reserve space as required.

Our first outing will be on Sunday, December 17, to the Ruth Bancroft Garden's "Garden of D'Lights" special event series from 5:30 - 6:30 pm. After enjoying the garden, we will have dinner at Melo's Walnut Creek at 1360 Locust at 7:00 pm. The Garden only allows a certain number of attendees each hour, so you need to be on time. It's recommended that you purchase your ticket for the 5:30 time slot in advance through the Garden's website – [click here](#) to access the site. Tickets are \$29; if you are a member of the garden, there is a \$4 discount.

Please email Tena at [mstena@gmail.com](mailto:mstena@gmail.com) for more details or questions and to add your name to the Art & Garden Interest Group's mailing list. If requested, we may arrange carpools from Sycamore Park and Ride, the Alamo Post Office, and maybe Rossmoor.



## Membership Corner

### Branch Directories Are in the Mail

*By Joanne Quijano, Directory and Database Manager*

The latest, greatest, 2023-24 Branch Membership Directories were mailed in November! I hope you enjoy the new edition with all of our most recent branch members, the current roster of officers and other AAUW contact information.

While many of us appreciate our paper copies, the branch member listings are also available on our branch's website on the Member / Members Only page. Starting with this edition, I'll be posting updated listings throughout the year as new members join our branch. The website will also have the latest rosters for our officers, leaders of Interest Groups, and other branch positions. To access the Members Only page, [click here](#). Note that you will need your branch password to see the member information.

If you have any questions, corrections, or need the branch password, please contact me at [jtq@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jtq@sbcglobal.net).

### The Thrift Station in Danville Seeks Volunteers

*By Ann Willoughby*

Volunteers, 18 years and older, are needed at *The Thrift Station in Danville*. The shop, located at 486 San Ramon Valley Blvd, Danville, is open Monday – Saturday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. The Thrift Station has been a valued member of our local community for 50 years, selling new and gently used donations to support the exceptional, low-cost, broad-reaching mental health services provided by the Discovery Counseling Center of the San Ramon Valley. It is an all-volunteer organization with a large, loyal customer base. Volunteers agree to serve two 3-hour shifts a month. If you are interested in joining The Thrift Station's warm and welcoming volunteer family, you can fill out an application on the shop's webpage [here](#), email [Thriftvols@gmail.com](mailto:Thriftvols@gmail.com), or stop by the shop and apply in person.

Nancy Dowell and I are DAW members and Thrift Station volunteers. We encourage our fellow branch members to get involved and volunteer at the shop.



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## “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.

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### **From the Editor** - *Joanne Quijano*

**Contribute to the Advocate** - Send ideas, articles, and pictures by the 23<sup>rd</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 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.

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### **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](#)

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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](#).

## 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.

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