



# The Advocate

## April 2025

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*"To succeed in life, you need three things: a wishbone, a backbone and a funny bone."*  
– Reba McEntire, singer and actress

**AAUW Fund Speaker: Investing in Innovators**  
**Thursday, April 17, 2025, 6:00 – 8:00 pm**  
**Danville Congregational Church**

For the April Third Thursday program, we are excited to welcome **Adamaka Ajaelo**, who is the recipient of an AAUW Fund Community Action Grant, as our speaker. She will fill us in about her work with Self-eSTEM, a remarkable organization she founded that is dedicated to empowering women and girls by creating equitable access to STEM opportunities, fostering innovation, and cultivating the next generation of changemakers poised to lead and thrive in the industries of tomorrow. It's sure to be an interesting and inspiring presentation as Adamaka shares her vision and the accomplishments of Self-eSTEM!

The Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek Branch is hosting this meeting jointly with our neighboring AAUW San Ramon and AAUW Livermore-Pleasanton-Dublin branches.

**All are welcome to attend!**

[Click here for more info and to RSVP](#)

## Garden Tour 2025 Is Here!

*By Anne Struthers, Garden Tour Chair*

The **2025 Garden Tour** will be held on **Friday, May 9, and Saturday, May 10th** this year. The tour will feature six diverse, private gardens in Danville, Alamo and Diablo that will “take you away” – immersing your senses and restoring your spirit! You’ll learn about palms, garden tranquility, and a bit of local history, as you experience the respite of a walk in the gardens.

This is a lovely way to share the advent of spring with your mother, daughter, family, or friends – all are welcome. Please join us!

**Tickets are on sale now!** Tickets bought by April 28 are \$40, those on April 29 or later will be \$45.

Click here for more info  
and to purchase tickets



*“Escape to Serenity”*

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### Calling All Volunteers!

The 2025 Garden Tour on May 9 and 10 is our biggest fundraiser, supporting our scholarships, Tech Trek, and our other branch programs and efforts. This year we have six gorgeous gardens on display, and we need many volunteers to staff them, provide refreshments, and other tasks. Volunteering at this event will give you a chance to meet other AAUW members and show your support for our DAW branch. Your participation in the Garden Tour as a volunteer and as an attendee will help make this the BEST Garden Tour yet!

If you would like to be a docent at a garden, please contact Susan Terzuoli at (925) 588-5693 and if you would like to help with refreshments, please contact Kathy Harkins at (925) 548-5944. For all other volunteer positions at the Garden Tour, please contact me, Anne Struthers at (925) 285-5429. Thank you!

## President’s Message

*By Deborah Wechsler, President*

It’s hard to believe that we are nearing the end of this fiscal year for our DAW branch. We have one more Third Thursday program scheduled April 17, where we will hear from one of the AAUW fellowship recipients. May is the Garden Tour, and June will be our Membership Appreciation and installation of the board for 2025-26. Writing that date makes me wonder where 2022-2024 went!

The DAW Board approved a revision of our Policies and Procedures Handbook, linked [HERE](#). The most significant changes brought our P&P into alignment with already approved changes in our Local Scholarship program. Thanks go to Chris Ritter, Joanne Quijano, Monika Witte and especially Ann

Willoughby for reviewing and editing. The P&P Handbook is a great resource for finding out details of our branch operations and leadership positions

Our branch continues to be a strong voice advocating for equity in public education. Our Public Policy Chair Laurinda Ochoa and DEI Officer Ogie Strogatz keep us informed on emerging issues and help us identify opportunities for action.

I am very grateful for the efforts of Holly Sauer and the Nominating Committee, who have been working hard to identify candidates for our 2025-26 Board. If you have any interest or questions about any of our elected or appointed Board positions, please contact Holly or me. We would love to get some new people involved in our branch workings.



## April Checklist

- **April 8 and April 9 – Lobby Days**  
[Click here](#) to learn more
- **April 9, 7:00 pm – DEI Zoom Session - Disabled Students in Public Education**  
[Click here](#) for more information
- **April 12, Tri-Valley Innovation Fair at Alameda County Fair Grounds**  
[Click here](#) for more information
- **April 17, 6:00 pm – Third Thursday Member Meeting – AAUW Fund Speaker: Investing in Innovators**  
[Click here](#) for more information and to RSVP
- **April 22, 5:30 pm – San Ramon Valley Unified School District Meeting**  
[Click here](#) for more information
- **April 26, 10:00 am – AAUW California Annual Event**
- **May 9 and May 10, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm – 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Garden Tour**  
[Click here](#) for more info and to purchase tickets
- **May 13, 5:30 pm – San Ramon Valley Unified School District Meeting**  
[Click here](#) for more information
- [Click here](#) to buy your tickets for the quilt raffle to support the **Creative Endeavors Scholarship** fund; the winning ticket will be drawn at the close of the Garden Tour
- [Donate here](#) to support DAW branch programs



## 2024-25 Local Scholarship Recipients Selected!

*By Holly Sauer, Local Scholarship Co-Chair*

This year, 19 Local Scholarship applications were received, and 10 outstanding local women are selected for scholarships. These \$2,000 scholarship recommendations will be submitted to our board for approval in April. One of our community local scholars is also selected to receive an additional \$1000 Creative Endeavors Scholarship for her education in the Performing Arts field of dance.

Three of these scholarships are for individuals who identify as women and are currently enrolled in the CSU East Bay Renaissance Scholars Program for former foster youth. Seven Community Local Scholarships are for individuals who identify as women and are graduates of Danville or Walnut Creek high schools or currently live or work in Danville, Alamo, or Walnut Creek.

In addition to the ten awards to students selected by our committee, a Single Parent Scholarship of \$2,000 will be awarded to a Diablo Valley College student. This recipient will be selected by DVC based on our selection criteria.

Thanks very much to our committee members for their dedication in reviewing and selecting our scholarship candidates: Dot Healy, Debbie Koos, Judy Lauper, Ogie Strogatz, Kate Waters, and Monika Witte, along with co-chairs Holly Sauer and Anne Willoughby. And a very sincere thank you also to Mary Mix for making our Creative Endeavors Scholarship possible with her beautiful quilts.

Last, but certainly not least, a big, heartfelt thank you to all our members and donors who make our scholarships possible. If you would like to make a tax deductible donation for next year's scholarships, please refer to our Donate webpage: [click here](#). If you are interested in establishing an honorary scholarship in the name of a special individual, please contact us at [daw.aauw@gmail.com](mailto:daw.aauw@gmail.com). Donations of any amount are greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions about our local scholarship process, please contact Holly Sauer at [holly.gr8f8@gmail.com](mailto:holly.gr8f8@gmail.com).

## DEI Notes

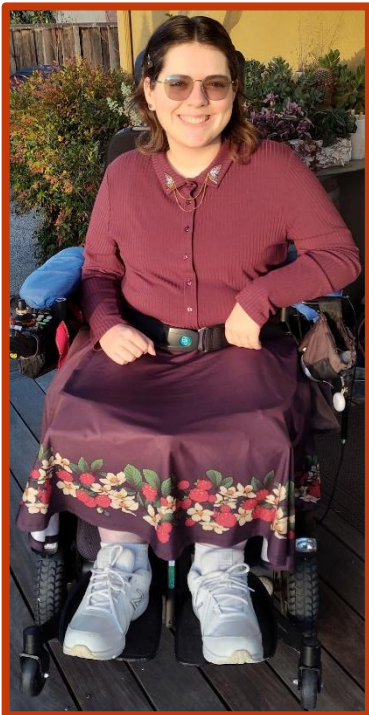
*By Ogie Strogatz, DEI Officer*

### Women's History in March

At our March DEI session, we honored **Women's History Month** by lifting up the work of an extraordinary Black leader who is making history as we speak: La June Montgomery Tabron, the first woman and first African American to serve as President and CEO of the W. K. Kellogg Foundation. Ms. Tabron recently published a memoir, *How We Heal*, that traces her experiences growing up in Detroit and how they inspired her to guide the development and launch of Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation (TRHT), a uniquely powerful approach to racial equity work in which participants explore the current effects of historical and contemporary racism, prioritizing truth-telling and accountability. We focused on one of the case studies she recounts, in which the descendants of people enslaved by Georgetown University confront the university's Jesuit leadership. We had a rich, thoughtful discussion. One of the takeaway actions for me is to contact the CA Department of Justice to inquire about their familiarity with the TRHT methodology and its potential application to implement the findings of the state's Reparations Task Force.

## April DEI Session on Zoom – April 9 at 7:00pm

Our DEI meeting in April is entitled, “**Disabled Students in Public Education**”. As you’re likely aware, the President recently signed an executive order to dismantle the U.S. Department of Education.



Rian Dindzans

Among the department’s gravely threatened responsibilities are ensuring that a student’s disability status does not impede their ability to access a quality education (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act).

DAW member Rian Dindzans will share their firsthand insights into the current threats to disabled students’ education, and what we can do to protect their right to knowledge and access to learning. Rian’s presentation will include an overview of the history of educating disabled children, what accommodations are, and how they work.

Rian graduated from CSU East Bay in 2024, Summa Cum Laude with a B.A. in Human Development, and is a former SRVUSD student. Being disabled themselves, they have been passionate about researching disability history and connecting current events to challenges the disability community faces throughout and beyond their academic careers.

We look forward to your joining us on Zoom, **Wednesday, April 9, from 7:00 to 8:00 pm**. Please RSVP to Ogie Strogatz, [ogstrogatz@gmail.com](mailto:ogstrogatz@gmail.com).

## DAW Branch Election

*By Holly Sauer, Nominating Committee Chair*

### Members Needed for Next Year’s Board

Many thanks to everyone who has agreed to be on our board for the 2025-2026 year. ***We still need volunteers for some very important open positions!***

We absolutely can’t do all that we do without dedicated and involved members. Please volunteer for one of these open positions or committees.

Current and past members who have served in these positions will mentor you and help you become comfortable with the responsibilities. They might

also be able to serve as a co-chair with you, as you learn the role. Is there a friend you would like to share a position with? You could learn together. Here are key positions in need of volunteers:



**President or Co-Presidents:** Can you believe that no one is set to lead our branch next year? This is a critical responsibility to work with other board members to set our direction, keep us focused, and represent us on a state and national level. This responsibility is not as difficult as it may seem. Other board members provide incredible support and assistance, and our board plus all of our committees create a community that achieves our goals by working together.

**Treasurer:** This is an extremely important job to keep us on track as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. A big advantage of this position is that you can do it on your own time in your own home!

**Garden Tour Co-Chair:** Our Garden Tour provides monies for our local scholarships and Tech Trek sponsorships. Supporting education for women is the heart of our organization. We can't have scholarships or Tech Trek without our Garden Tour. Being a part of this wonderful event is a lot of fun.

**Tech Trek Co-Chair:** Each year, we provide sponsorships for local middle school girls to attend Tech Trek summer camp. This camp provides fun activities and education in STEM fields. It's a wonderful experience to meet and support the outstanding girls chosen for this camp by their science teachers.

**Hospitality Co-Chairs:** This board position plays an important role in supporting our monthly general meetings and branch events, including our holiday party and the installation event that recognize our members' achievements. Our general meetings are open to the public and support education and fellowship with our community.

**Hospitality Committee:** Being a member of the hospitality committee is a great way to get involved with our branch activities, meet members, and have fun together. It's a way to support your branch no matter how much or how little time you have available. Every bit helps.

**Webmaster:** More and more, our members rely on our website for current branch information and notices about our many activities. The webmaster is critical to keeping the site accurate and up-to-date using the WordPress application. If you have a technical bent and are interested in this position, you can work with the current webmaster to learn about the tools and processes the branch uses and perhaps start in a webmaster helper's position.

**Advocate Editor:** The Advocate monthly newsletter is one of our branch's prime ways of communicating with our members and others interested in our activities. The editor is the one who pulls articles and information together into a cohesive form to create this monthly publication. As Advocate editor, here's a chance to put your creative stamp on our newsletter. If you're not sure about the role, the current Advocate Editor is available to mentor a new volunteer or possibly share the role as Co-Editors.

Please let me know how you can help by serving on our board. If you are interested in any of these positions, I can provide you with more information about the responsibilities and current board members in these positions will be happy to talk with you. Great information about our involvement and support for all of our projects is in our current and past newsletters and on our website - [click here](#).

Please contact me at [holly.gr8f8@gmail.com](mailto:holly.gr8f8@gmail.com). I would love to talk with you and help you get involved.

## Measure T - Endorsement

### DAW Board Supports Measure T

At the March DAW Board meeting, the branch's board voted to endorse Measure T. This is a parcel tax measure that will be on the May 6, 2025, special election ballot to be mailed to residents in the Acalanes Union High School District (AUHSD). The measure would enhance locally controlled funding to

continue attracting and retaining great teachers, keeping class sizes manageable and providing a wide range of challenging and enriching course offerings for students in the district. The funding that sustains AUHSD’s academic programs has not increased in 15 years, yet the cost of providing these programs has increased over the years. Without Measure T, the future of these programs and teachers is at risk.



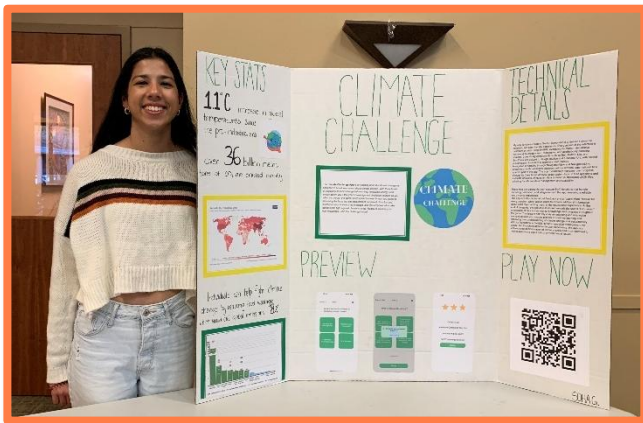
The DAW Branch’s name has been added to the list of organizations endorsing this vital measure. Please [click here](#) to learn more about Measure T and how you can help encourage support for passing this important legislation.

## March Member Meeting – Recap

### Climate Action in Contra Costa County – held March 20, 2025

About 30 interested people attended our March meeting focused on climate action in our county. As a bonus, the meeting started with San Ramon Valley High School student Soha Guller informing us about her “Climate Challenge” app that she created for smart phones. The app poses trivia questions

designed to raise awareness of climate issues in a fun and entertaining way. Attendees were impressed as they tried out the app and heard Soha share her passion for making a difference.



Soha Guller

Ogie Strogatz introduced the main speaker Lynda Deschambault, newly elected member of the East Bay Regional Park District Board of Directors. Lynda has an impressive background from work in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to being mayor of Moraga in addition to her science-related education. Her preference is for a focus on local action where things can get done more quickly; she feels that East Bay Parks are a

great example of local initiatives where an environmental ethic guides their actions.

Critical to the East Bay Parks is building climate resiliency in several areas including water quality and wildfire risk management. She noted that we are already seeing climate change impacts in the county parks – for the first time ever some parks were shut down last year due to the danger of extremely hot weather affecting park employees. Extensive work is in progress to improve safety from wildfires including the use of “carbonators” to burn dead trees into inert charcoal.

Besides enjoying hiking and other outdoor activities in the parks, she encouraged us to get involved in the outdoors by using the Merlin and iNaturalist apps to participate in “citizen science” related to birding and biodiversity our area. The park district also has an annual Trails Challenge program to encourage people to connect with parks and trails while tracking their milage goals.



Lynda Deschambault



In parting, Lynda challenged all the attendees to get involved in local action by attending one public meeting a year where we can speak up about what we think about an important issue.

[Click here to access Lynda's slide presentation](#)

To download Soha Guller's "Climate Challenge" trivia app, search for the app's name in your device's app store.

## AAUW California

### Planning For Our AAUW Future Starts Now!

*By Charmen Goehring, President, AAUW California, [statepresident@aauw-ca.org](mailto:statepresident@aauw-ca.org)*

Mark your calendars for the **Annual Event on April 26th**, starting at 10 am. In addition to the usual awards and updates, we will focus on social change and how we can pivot to ensure our AAUW branches survive. More information will soon be available.

While your board is very frugal, the decline of dues-paying members and increased costs has us looking at a dues increase, the first in over 10 years. A letter with the proposal and rationale will go out to members soon.

### Why AAUW is Relevant

*By Michelle Baer and Donna Holmes, Directors, Communication Committee Co-chairs, [communications@aauw-ca.org](mailto:communications@aauw-ca.org)*

Have you stopped to review all AAUW accomplishes even in present-day circumstances? Here are some highlights from first national, then state and local:

- 6.3 million dollars went to 285 AAUW Fellows and Community Organizations
- 6157 women received Work Smart, Money Smart, and Start Smart training
- 500 college women went to NCCWSL
- 47,000 messages were sent to our elected officials via the 2-minute activist

Learn more from the 2024 AAUW National Annual Report – [click here](#).

- Speech Trek – working with high school students to deliver a speech on a selected timely topic
- Tech Trek has sent more than 15,000 girls, entering 8th grade, to STEM camps throughout California since 1998. Virtual camps were added during the pandemic and now both options are offered! Be inspired at their website: [Tech Trek](#).
- Branches provide thousands of local scholarships for women pursuing their first 4-year degree.
- A focus on DEI makes the world a better, more welcoming place.
- Too many local programs to list here; check out [Branch Brag](#) on the AAUW California website

So, keep strong and carry on!

## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

By Lata Murti, Director, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, [diversity@aauw-ca.org](mailto:diversity@aauw-ca.org)

Take the [Social Change Ecosystem Quiz](#) to see what role you tend to play in social justice organizations like AAUW. Have your branch members take it too! You will have an opportunity to discuss the results during our AAUW California Annual State Meeting on Saturday, April 26th.

## Choosing Our Best Leaders Is Up to Each of Us

By Elaine Johnson, Nominations and Election chair, [nominating@aauw-ca.org](mailto:nominating@aauw-ca.org)

The AAUW California election will open **April 26th and run through May 16th**. Each member with an email address on file will receive an email on April 26th with a link to their ballot. Members without email will receive a paper ballot. All ballots must be returned by May 16th to be counted! If you do not receive an email with your link, first check your spam folder. It will be coming from [siteadmin@aauwca.org](mailto:siteadmin@aauwca.org) via SurveyMonkey. You can also search your inbox, the subject will be '2025 AAUW California Election Ballot'. If you still cannot find it, email [webteam@aauw-ca.org](mailto:webteam@aauw-ca.org) for assistance.

Members will also be asked to approve the **Public Policy Priorities for 2025-2027**. These are critical to our advocacy efforts. We highly encourage all members to review the priorities and vote.

For more information contact Elaine Johnson, Nominations and Elections Committee chair, at [nominating@aauw-ca.org](mailto:nominating@aauw-ca.org). ***It is up to each of us to vote for strong state leaders.***

## AAUW California Public Policy News

### Prepare for Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April

by Claire Noonan, AAUW CA Public Policy Committee

Sexual assault violence prevention calls for the creation of safer communities. Addressing the root causes of this kind of violence is difficult as it involves a multipronged approach, including improving street and housing conditions, providing education, and offering support services. We should work to advance policies at workplaces and schools, discuss sexual assault and its consequences with friends and family, and prioritize prevention in our communities.



Official channels for raising awareness about sexual assault violence and creating and implementing the policies needed for prevention has a long history in the United States; however, given the current administration's attack on "DEI," much of this work is now under threat of being dismantled.

Violence awareness began officially when the [Family Violence Prevention and Services Act \(FVPSA\)](#) became law in 1984, providing the primary federal funding for domestic violence victims and their children via emergency shelters and related assistance. The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), [passed by Congress in 1994](#), is comprehensive federal legislation to end violence against women. In 2001, the National Sexual Violence Resource Center coordinated the first national [Sexual Assault Awareness Month](#) (SAAM), building on years of advocacy and awareness-building. In 2009, President Barack Obama officially declared April to be Sexual Assault Awareness Month, which presidents have proclaimed every year since then.

As part of this wider federal push, awareness-raising and prevention efforts around sexual assault violence have been more firmly embedded in core policies and practices. For instance, the Department

of Defense has been trying to create a culture to eliminate sexual assault, requiring a personal commitment from all service members. Educational institutions have benefitted as well: the final Title IX revisions in April 2024 by President Joe Biden reflected the stronger shift to prevent assault actions on school campuses. These revisions also sought to protect more people, expanding the definition of “sex-based harassment” to include harassment based on sex characteristics, sexual orientation, gender identity, sex stereotypes, and pregnancy. At the state level, In September 2024 Governor Newsom signed eight bills on domestic violence. The legislation created a new victims’ services fund using penalties from white-collar crimes and expanded the ability of victims to access restraining orders.

While all of this movement has been positive, by the second week of President Donald Trump’s current administration, the Office of Management and Budget had ordered a freeze of all federal financial assistance in all agencies including those that oversee government programs and funding for organizations that provide domestic violence and sexual assault services, such as Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control, and the Department of Justice. Multiple court orders have blocked the freezes from taking effect, but in some cases, funds haven’t been received for programs aimed at preventing sexual violence.

In addition, the current administration has attacked the Office of Family Violence Prevention and Services and the Office on Violence Against Women, who must now disclose information that may further eliminate funding and resources, such as whether grants are being used to support “removable or illegal aliens or immigrants;” to “promote gender ideology;” or to advance “illegal DEI” programs—although at the time of writing, early challenges have signaled that enforcement of these provisions and [denial of funding may be unconstitutional](#).

What can we do to help?

- As individuals and non-profit organizations, we can contact our congressmembers and state officials to back efforts to get the money flowing to relevant organizations and programs that raise awareness of and prevent sexual assault violence.
- We can also [act in our local communities](#) to reduce sexual assault violence. We can ask to improve lighting to make streets and other public spaces safer. We can make sure our city, county, and public health officials promote policies for families and children, address economic security, and provide access to safe, stable housing. We can collaborate with community-led organizations that coordinate resources and services that help with trauma, mental health and substance use, all of which lead to sexual abuse. (from [CDC-Violence Prevention](#))
- Overall, we can all work to [support the organizations country-wide](#) that are on the front lines of dealing with sexual assault violence.
- Share free materials from the [Domestic Violence Awareness Project](#).

### **Implementation Of Project 2025 - Our Core Values Are Under Attack**

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

*Take action now.* As Co-Directors Amy Hom and Missy Maceyko outlined in a [webinar](#) in October 2024, the objectives of Project 2025 directly counter the Public Policy Priorities of AAUW California. With federal policy pronouncements and changes continuing to take place at a head-spinning pace, it is clear that changes are underway to make Project 2025 become reality (track implementation [HERE](#)). To respond to the attack on the people and issues we care about and to fulfill the mission of our organization, “to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research,” we

will continue to compile resources to help you take action to fight back. This is a critical moment, as the changes that are being implemented may have long-lasting impacts, locally and globally.

Even as we are asking you to act, we want to remind you that *your well-being is important*. With an uptick in policies and enforcement actions that run counter to our core values, you may be feeling overwhelmed, exhausted, fearful, or anxious. Action is important, but [self-care is also a political act](#). Be gentle with yourself and acknowledge your efforts.

We also encourage you to [check out this guide](#) on how to read the news more strategically to still be able to follow events while preventing burnout and protecting your mental health.

You should also consider staying connected with AAUW members and with those outside of AAUW who are engaged in efforts to push back. To this end, here are some examples of individuals, groups, and organizations that are pushing back in different ways:

- direct refusal to comply, [via mass resignation](#),
- showing up in person not only to protest but also to support, including [showing love for beleaguered federal workers](#) at USAID,
- initiating and sustaining [legal challenges](#).

AAUW California is building out our own **action-items database**, which is being released to the California Leadership Team to review in March and which will go live for you in April. Regardless, we will continue to provide a short list of targeted resources each month.

We ask you to take action by choosing one self-focused, one other-focused, and one political focused item from the list below. This month the topic area is: **Sexual Assault Violence Prevention**

Self-Focused: Education

- learn more about the [organizations country-wide](#) that are on the front lines of dealing with sexual assault violence
- read through the resources provided by [Domestic Violence Awareness Project](#) and the [CDC](#).

Other-Focused: Education & Connection

- whatever you take away from your homework in self-education--be sure to tell one friend about what you learned. You can do this over lunch.
- work with others to [organize an event](#) to raise awareness and dispel myths around gender based and sexual assault violence in your community.

Politically Focused: Outreach to Senators

- Use [5-calls](#) to reach out to federal legislators to oppose the abolition of the Department of Education, which will impact enforcement of existing sexual and gender-based violence protections under Title IX.
- text SIGN PNNWWO to 50409 to contact legislators, urging them to back efforts to get money flowing to relevant organizations and programs to raise awareness about and prevent sexual assault violence (e.g. [Department of Justice, Office of Violence Against Women](#)). See the [article](#) "Prepare for Sexual Assault Prevention Month in April" for additional agencies.

**Lobby Days 2025 April 8-9, 2025**

We have had overwhelming interest in this year's Lobby Days event, with 77 people registered to participate in person at the Capitol on April 8th and 107 people registered to participate via Zoom on

April 9th! It is incredibly inspiring and humbling to be part of an organization that is so passionate about advocating to make the world better for women and girls. We are grateful.

The Public Policy Committee is now hard at work to form teams and schedule meetings, as well as evaluate bills for our 2025 Legislative Agenda.

## AAUW National

### AAUW Dues Increase

The AAUW Board approved a modest dues adjustment — \$2 per year over the next two years. This raises national dues to \$74 starting April 1, 2025, and \$76 starting April 1, 2026.

**Why it matters:** Member dues are an important funding source for AAUW. While costs for member support increase annually, dues have not kept pace. During a feedback process, we heard from more than 750 members. The Board’s decision to increase dues by \$2 reflects an adjustment to the original proposal to lessen the burden of a dues increase on members while keeping pace with inflation.

Your member dues help fund member services such as:

- **Administrative Support:** Assist with dues processing, Community Hub management, 990N filings, branding materials, and toolkits (e.g., DEI Toolkit, College/University Member Toolkit).
- **Website Support:** Update and manage ~500 branch and state websites and provide ongoing Site Resources support.
- **Member Training:** Hold regular virtual member gatherings and training programs.
- **Member Engagement:** Organize member-led groups and committees like Archives Corps, Lobby Corps, and national committees.
- **Speaker Engagement:** Offer National speakers for branch meetings and state conventions.
- **Real-Time Support:** Connect Team provides daily assistance and semi-weekly “Office Hours” for member leaders.
- And more!

**The bottom line:** We heard you. The dues increase balances AAUW’s financial sustainability with the member feedback we received.

### Stay Connected: Re-Subscribe to AAUW Emails

Do you think you may be missing out on vital updates and important announcements from AAUW National? Don’t let valuable information slip through the cracks! Ensure you stay connected with us by re-subscribing to AAUW emails. Simply [click here](#) to re-subscribe and guarantee that you’ll receive all the latest news, webinars, and opportunities from AAUW National.

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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 are preferred 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
- 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.

**Comments about the Advocate?** – I’m always interested in making improvements to the newsletter to better meet our members’ needs. Please let me know your comments and suggestions at [jtq@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jtq@sbcglobal.net).

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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 at [juliegrisham@sbcglobal.net](mailto:juliegrisham@sbcglobal.net).

## Our Branch Sponsors

We are proud to acknowledge our loyal branch sponsors. We appreciate their support, which goes directly to fund DAW projects that include scholarships for local college students, Tech Trek camperships, and community education programs. For more information about becoming a sponsor, please visit our website at <https://daw-ca.aauw.net/sponsorships-2024/>



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[snix@gagenmccoy.com](mailto:snix@gagenmccoy.com)



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\* AAUW DAW 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.



## The Advocate

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

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