



The Advocate

September 2025

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"It is good to have an end to journey toward, but it is the journey that matters in the end."
- Ursula K. Le Guin, American author

Membership Brunch



MEMBERSHIP BRUNCH

September 20, 2025
10:00 am

OakHill Park Community Center
3005 Stone Valley Rd, Danville

Join us to start our 2025-26 branch activities.
All members and prospective members are invited!

The 2025 Membership Brunch will be a great chance to mix and mingle with other members and friends while enjoying a **tasty buffet brunch** in a congenial setting.

Martha “Gus” Slavin, DAW member and noted artist, will be the keynote speaker at this fun and festive event; her topic – *Unleashing Your Creativity*. As an antidote to the many weighty issues in the world today, she will inspire us with ideas about how to unleash creativity in our lives. Her presentation - and some hands-on activities - will encourage us to "think outside the box" and look at issues with new eyes for creative ways to help solve problems and uplift our spirits.

The event’s program will also feature other of topics to pique your interest. Many of the **Tech Trek campers** sponsored by our branch this year will be present to share highlights of their experiences. We will learn about plans for **upcoming DAW branch events and talks** so you can schedule your calendar accordingly. And there will be the opportunity to learn about branch Interest Groups and working committees.



Martha Slavin

Make your reservation today!

The cost is \$45 per person; note that a service fee will be added for reservations made online. Please make your reservation by September 10.

Click here to learn more
and to RSVP

There’s also an important duty for branch members to perform in conjunction with the brunch meeting – **approving the branch’s budget** for 2025-26. [Click here](#) to see the proposed budget.

DAW Equity T-shirts - A new edition premieres at the Brunch!



These great shirts with an updated message of “STAND UP FOR EQUITY” on the back will be available for purchase at the Membership Brunch. Here’s your chance to show your AAUW spirit! If you didn’t get a DAW T-shirt when they were last available, or if you have one and would like to extend your wardrobe, plan to purchase a shirt with the new message at the brunch. There will be a variety of sizes to choose from, but quantities are limited.

The purchase price of the T-shirts at the brunch will be \$32. Please bring a credit card, a check (made out to DAW AAUW), or cash so you can take home your new, impressive T-shirt.

Third Thursday Community Program - October

Civic Engagement Check-in: What Can I Do?

Thursday, October 16, 2025

6:00 – 8:00 pm

Danville Congregational Church



The first Third Thursday meeting with the DAW Branch’s new “Community Program” theme will be held on October 16.

Join Ogie Strogatz and Bette Felton to hear and participate in a discussion about our public policy priorities. When we see issues that we care about, how can we show up to help?

It’s sure to be an inspiring, timely, action-oriented program.

Save the date!

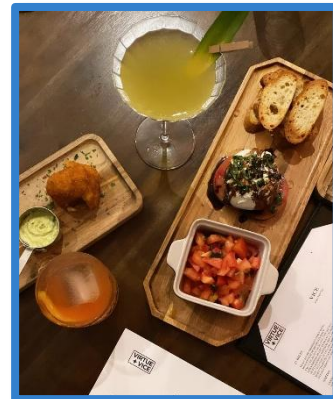
DAW Branch Fundraising

By Pat Morris, Fundraising Chair

Join us on **Wednesday, November 12**, for a delicious dinner at the lovely downtown Danville restaurant, Virtue + Vice. They serve comfort food with a global twist! We will be participating in their "Tips for Change" program. They will give us 10% of the food and beverage sales and all the tips on this special date. Enjoy dinner out on the town while helping our branch raise funds for our programs supporting women and girls.

Please put the date in your calendar now!

We will need seven branch volunteers to help as wait staff for the evening of the event. No waitress experience is needed. We did this at our last restaurant fundraiser, and it was challenging, but really quite fun! Please contact Pat Morris at (925) 876-0481.



President's Message

By Deborah Wechsler, President

And it's fall! Hope you all had a wonderful summer!

Your board has approved the DAW budget for the coming 2025-26 year. Please check your email for an opportunity to view and vote on the budget. The final membership approval will be at our general membership meeting and Brunch on September 20. Looking forward to seeing many of you in person then.



THE AAUW  PROGRAM

Good news - just this morning (Aug 28) the Membership Matters email arrived from AAUW National, including announcement of the Five-Star branches. **Our branch achieved five stars for FY 2025**, reaching this level again after some time. This shows the commitment and quality of our members' efforts to produce educational programs and lead advocacy efforts for women and girls.

Congratulations everyone!

September Checklist

- **September 4, 9:50 am - Women's Leadership Conference at St Mary's**
Daylong event – see article in this newsletter
- **September 16, 5:30 pm – San Ramon Valley Unified School District Meeting**
[Click here](#) for more information
- **September 17, 5:30 pm - Review of Title IX -Past, Present, Future**
[Click here](#) to RSVP
- **September 18, 2:00 pm - AAUW Fall Member Gathering**
[Click here](#) to RSVP
- **September 20, 10:00 am – Membership Brunch**
[Click here](#) to RSVP
- **September 25, 5:00 pm - Rancho Romero Elementary School Science Night**
Volunteers needed – see article in this newsletter
- **October 4, 10:00 am – Quest Science Center's Science@Stockmen's Park**
Attend the free event, [click here](#) to volunteer
- **October 14, 5:30 pm – San Ramon Valley Unified School District Meeting**
[Click here](#) for more information
- **October 16, 6:00 pm – Third Thursday Community Program - Civic Engagement Checkin**
Save the date!
- **Volunteer!** We have open positions for FY 25-26 on our branch board and committees.
[Click here](#) to learn more
- [Donate here](#) to support DAW branch programs



AAUW Fund - Opportunities for Grants

By Jana Multhaup, Funds VP

AAUW National is not just about raising contributions for Funds. Whether you're advancing your academic journey or spearheading community programming, AAUW has fellowship and grant opportunities to support your vision. From funding academic pursuits across diverse fields to empowering K–12 STEM initiatives for girls, options are available to help you make an impact.

Applications are now being accepted until the **September 30 deadline**. Click on the following links to explore the possible types of grants and fellowships.

Opportunities for individuals include -

- [American Dissertation Fellowship](#)
- [American Short-Term Research Publication Grant](#)
- [American Postdoctoral Research Leave Fellowship](#)
- [Career Development Grant](#)
- [International Fellowship \(Master's and Doctorate Degrees\)](#)
- [International Project Grant](#)
- [International Postdoctoral Research Fellowship](#)
- [Selected Professions Fellowship](#)

- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

An opportunity for organizations is -

- [Community Action Grant](#)

Quest Science Center – Volunteer Opportunities

By Ann Willoughby, Quest Advisory Board member

Rancho Romero Elementary School Science Night - September 25

DAW members Kate Waters and Ann Willoughby will be volunteering for Quest Science Center at Rancho Romero Elementary School's first every Family STEM Night on September 25. The fun, family-oriented event is being organized by the school and will feature some 20 local STEM exhibitors, including Quest. The school expects to attract around 300 attendees. Two additional DAW volunteers are requested to assist Kate and Ann. The hands-on Quest exhibit will feature battery-operated electrical circuits that children assemble and test. No STEM experience is required. Volunteers need to be at Rancho Romero by 4:15 PM to help to set up the Quest exhibit. The event, which will be held outdoors, will run from 5:00 to 7:00pm.

If you are interested in joining Kate and Ann at this event as a Quest volunteer, contact Ann Willoughby at akwilloughby@att.net. DAW volunteers help to bring Quest events to the San Ramon Valley.

Science@Stockmen's Park - October 4

Quest Science Center is excited to announce the kickoff event - **Engineering for All** - for its fall **Science@Stockmen's Park** series! It will be held on **Saturday, October 4, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm** at Stockmen's Park at 29 South Livermore Ave in Livermore. This free, fun, family-oriented, hands-on STEM exploration will be held outdoors at the park. Attendees of all ages will be able to design, build, and test their own engineering creations with the guidance of Quest's helpers. And for visitors to the event, there are a lot of great shops and restaurants in downtown Livermore to check out as well.



Volunteers are needed to help with this event. As part of DAW's commitment to STEM outreach, we support Quest by promoting its STEM events with our members and encouraging members to attend and/or volunteer. No STEM experience is required to be a volunteer, and Quest staff are there to supervise. Volunteers enable Quest to deliver free STEM events to our local communities and are great fun for volunteers. Feel free to invite family or friends to volunteer with you!

To register as a volunteer for October 4, [click here](#)

For a someone to attend the event while you volunteer, please [click here](#) to register them.

To learn more about Science@Stockmen's Park, [click here](#).

Women's Leadership Conference at St Mary's

The Women's and Gender Studies Program at Saint Mary's College and its New Education for Women's (NEW) Leadership Institute, in collaboration with the Saint Mary's DEI Office, and the AAUW Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette Branch, is hosting a one-day conference, **Women's Leadership in the Current Political Moment**, on September 4 from 9:50 am to 5:00 pm (lunch included) at Saint Mary's College, Hagerty Lounge, in Moraga.

The program agenda includes a panel discussion with the mayors of Berkeley, El Cerrito, and a Pinole city council member in the morning. At noon, the keynote speaker will be Gilda Gonzales, Outgoing President and CEO of Planned Parenthood Northern California. The event concludes in the afternoon with remarks by Barbara Lee, Mayor of Oakland followed by a reception for attendees.

The conference is free and open to the public, but attendees need to RSVP to newleadershipsmc@stmarys-ca.edu. When responding, please include your name, email address, organizational affiliation (AAUW DAW) and indicate if you are staying for lunch. You are welcome to share this information with others who may be interested in advancing women as political leaders.

For more information about the September 4 conference, [click here](#).

To learn more about the NEW Leadership Program at St Mary's, [click here](#).



Membership Corner

In Memoriam – Elsie Nylund

By Judy Finch

Elsie was 91 years old when she passed away on August 12. She served as president of the AAUW Walnut Creek Branch in 2002-2003 before they merged in the DAW Branch. She had owned a dress shop in Walnut Creek and later dealt in real estate, specializing in selling homes for elder care. A devoted Christian, she was born in Israel of a Russian doctor and an American woman from Pennsylvania.



I know that those who knew her will remember her as a very kind and thoughtful businesswoman with a fascinating background.

AAUW California

Review of Title IX -Past, Present, Future – September 17

With all the recent changes to Title IX and assaults on DEI at the federal level, it can be hard to keep up. The AAUW California Online Branch invites you to join us on **September 17, from 5:30 to 7 pm**, for an in-depth review of Title IX. This panel, presented by the **AAUW Washington Online Branch**, will feature scholars in the fields of political science, athletics, and student affairs.

The panel will explore the historical evolution, current landscape, and future implications of Title IX, with a focus on its impact on gender equity in education, athletics, and beyond. This panel will provide attendees with a deeper understanding of the legal, cultural, and political dimensions of Title IX—from its 1972 origins to the most recent developments in 2025.

Panelists will share insights on enforcement trends, lived experiences, and strategies for upholding gender equity in the face of evolving interpretations and challenges.

Panelists include:

- Dr. Dorothy McBride, professor emeritus of political science at Florida Atlantic University
- Dr. Julie McCleery, Co-Director, UW Center for Leadership in Athletics, College of Education
- Dr. Domanic Vanthom, WSU Vancouver, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs and Deputy Title IX Coordinator

To register, [click here](#) and fill in the Google Form. 48 hours before the presentation you will receive the Zoom link for the event. You must pre-register to receive the link to attend.

Join us for this informative and timely virtual program!

AAUW National

AAUW Fall Member Gathering - Thursday, September 18, 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Please join us for AAUW's Fall Member Gathering! At this special virtual event, we will:

- Recognize outstanding supporters and branches,
- Update you about our Strategic Plan's three key priorities,
- Share the results of AAUW's FY25 Branch Survey, and
- Provide you with the information you need to answer our five Calls to Action!

Don't miss this opportunity to celebrate our achievements and learn about our latest initiatives! To register, [click here](#) and logon to your AAUW National account.

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.

“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 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.

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 at 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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* 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/>

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