



# The Advocate

## January 2026

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*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful citizens can change the world.  
Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."*

- Margaret Mead, anthropologist, author, and speaker

## Third Thursday Community Program – January



### INNOVATIONS IN NINTH GRADE LEARNING – “COHORT LEARNING”

Thursday, January 15, 6:00 pm

Danville Congregational Church  
989 San Ramon Valley Blvd, Danville

Remember ninth Grade? It's all different now! Come to the DAW branch's program on January 15 to learn about the innovative **Freshman Interdisciplinary Cohort Model** in San Ramon Valley Unified School District (SRVUSD).

The vision of the Cohort Model is to create a transformative educational environment where students and teachers flourish through meaningful, collaborative, and innovative practices. In SRVUSD, the effort is three years old and thriving with enthusiasm and impact! Join DAW to hear from students and teachers about how learning and innovation is growing!

**Cohort Learning** is an interdisciplinary approach to education where groups, or cohorts, of students are formed and the students attend classes together. Themes in the teaching curriculum are then coordinated and carried over across various subjects to provide an integrated learning experience.

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

All are welcome and encouraged to attend.  
AAUW and Danville CC members are free, \$10 fee for others.

## Third Thursday Community Program - February



### San Ramon Valley Unified School District – Two Hot Topics

**Thursday, February 19, 2026, 6:00 pm**  
**Danville Congregational Church**

Join us in February to hear an update about financing for the San Ramon Valley Unified School District (SRVUSD) and to learn about experiencing Ethnic Studies!

First, **CJ Cammack, Superintendent of SRVUSD**, will give a presentation about funding and financing issues facing the district. Second will be a presentation from **Hong Nguyen** about the new Ethnic Studies course that was offered to ninth graders for the first time this fall.

More details to come – save the date!

## President's Message

*By Deborah Wechsler, President*

**Welcome to the new year!** We hope it is one of joy, bringing light into our relationships and interactions with each other.

I was reminded this week of the arc of our DAW branch. On January 19, our branch and the San Ramon branch will be honored at the Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration, organized by the San Ramon Valley Diversity Coalition. The celebration is open to all and no reservations are required. More information can be found later in this issue. Then we were made aware that our Danville-Alamo branch's first president, Sandy Varco, passed away in December. From that year, 1969, through 2026, we have been "standing up for equity" and advocating "equity for all". Fifty-seven years of passion and hard work to uphold our values and contribute to our community.



I am grateful to all our current members and to the wonderful people who preceded us in these efforts. I hope you will join me on January 19 and at our other programs in January.

Deborah

## January Checklist



### January To Do's

- **January 15, 6:00 pm – Third Thursday Community Program - Innovations in Ninth Grade Learning – “Cohort Learning”**  
[Click here](#) for more information and to RSVP
- **January 19, 2:00 pm – Diversity Coalition’s Martin Luther King, Jr Celebration**  
See article below
- **January 20, 9:30 am – ICE Activity/Immigrant Rights in Contra Costa**  
[Click here](#) for more information
- **January 20, 6:00 pm – San Ramon Valley Unified School District Board Meeting**  
[Click here](#) for more information
- **January 22, 1:00 pm - AAUW Silicon Valley Branch online, Step Out for Pro Choice**  
[Click here](#) for more information and to RSVP
- **Saturday, Jan 31, 9:00 am - 12:30 pm, online AAUW CA Public Policy Symposium: “The School Board Project: Defending the Frontline of Democracy”**  
[Click here](#) to RSVP
- **February 19, 6:00 pm – Third Thursday Community Program – SRVUSD Two Hot Topics**  
Save the date!
- **February 24, 6:00 pm – San Ramon Valley Unified School District Board Meeting**  
[Click here](#) for more information
- **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

## DAW Shares SRV Diversity Coalition Award

We are very proud to announce that the AAUW DAW branch, along with the San Ramon branch, will be honored with the following award for service and advocacy in our community. Here is the note we received about our branch's selection.

“The steering committee of the San Ramon Valley Diversity Coalition (SRVDC) has selected the Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek and San Ramon branches of AAUW as the recipients of this year's Martin Luther King Jr. Recognition Award. The award honors organizations or individuals that exemplify Dr. King's values of justice, equality, and service to others and that have consistently demonstrated through unwavering commitment to advancing equity in our community.”

We are honored to be recognized in this wonderful fashion. Indeed, our efforts are focused on justice and equity in all facets of our lives, and we are continuing to partner with the San Ramon branch, other AAUW branches, and other community organizations such as SRVDC to bring more strength to these ideals, activities, and advocacy.

You are invited to join us at the SRVDC's Martin Luther King, Jr. event on January 19 at 2:00 at the San Ramon City Hall; all are welcome to attend, no RSVP required. It will mark the formal recognition of our award and will be a true celebration of all things that Martin Luther King, Jr. stood for.

**Presented by**



## ***Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration***

Honoree:



Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek  
and San Ramon branches

Monday, January 19, 2026  
San Ramon City Hall Rotunda  
Program 2:00 - 3:30 pm  
Reception 3:30 - 4:30 pm

### **Supported by:**

- Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan
- Supervisor Candace Andersen
- Danville Mayor Newell Arnerich and Vice Mayor Robert Storer
- San Ramon Valley Unified School District
- Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association-Tri-Valley Chapter (APAPIA-TVC)
- Diablo Black Men's Group
- Discovery Counseling Center
- Narika
- National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) - Contra Costa
- PFLAG Danville-San Ramon Valley
- Rewire Community
- San Ramon Chamber of Commerce
- San Ramon Valley Council of PTAs

## **Public Policy, DEI, and Advocacy**

*By Ogie Strogatz, DEI Officer*

For all who have been able to help pull through AAUW's Public Policy and DEI priorities, your contributions — whether contacting elected officials via National's [Two-Minute Activist](#), attending a monthly branch meeting that helps cultivate our awareness, understanding, and action to support

historically marginalized communities, writing nonpartisan postcards to help Get Out The Vote, attending a school board meeting or a candidate forum, showing up at a pro-democracy rally, donating to and operationalizing more equitable access to our local scholarships, and countless other ways — all are so particularly crucial in this time of unrelenting attack on our democracy.

Every single act is valuable and radiates compassion. I acknowledge and respect that sometimes it can be challenging to figure out an action that fits well with your interests and energy. I can help! Feel free to contact me ([ogstrogatz@gmail.com](mailto:ogstrogatz@gmail.com)) and we'll find a time to talk through options to determine what works best for you.

Special events in the Public Policy/DEI space this month are:



**Monday, Jan 19, 2:00-4:30 pm, San Ramon City Hall Rotunda: MLK celebration** – the San Ramon Valley Diversity Coalition will honor DEI initiatives of our DAW and San Ramon Branches.

**Tuesday, Jan 20, 9:30-11:30 am, Orinda Community Church, “ICE Activity and Immigrant Rights in Contra Costa: What You Need to Know and What Can You Do”** – This will be a panel discussion at the OML Branch's January meeting. I am privileged to moderate the discussion, which promises to be an informative update that will include lots of options to support our immigrant communities.

**Saturday, Jan 31, 9:00 am - 12:30 pm, online AAUW CA Public Policy Symposium: “The School Board Project: Defending the Frontline of Democracy”** – free event, open to the public. This statewide event features a keynote address on the impact of new federal laws and policies on California's protective laws, followed by a brief training on monitoring school board meetings, then a panel discussion on how AAUW members can support students, parents, and school board members in the face of challenges and misinformation, and the event will close with workshops on recruiting school board members and forming coalitions for greater impact. To register, [click here](#).

I'll be co-facilitating the workshop on coalition building, where we will showcase the work of the Lift Up Public Schools (LUPS) coalition. Spoiler alert: We'll be announcing a LUPS community outreach initiative during the workshop; please sign up and join us virtually to learn more!

## Holiday Open House - Recap

A merry group of DAW branch members, significant others, and guests shared tasty snacks and holiday beverages at Deborah Wechsler and her husband Bruce's home on December 18. Several members displayed their creative works, and party-goers were encouraged to add their own artwork to a poster board to help inspire imaginations. Once again Chris Ritter played the piano, leading the group in rousing renderings of holiday songs. It was a wonderful, festive way to finish 2025 and look forward to a joyous 2026!





Chris Ritter on the piano

A note from party attendee Asha Bajaj –  
“Holiday celebrations around the winter solstice are always about the festival of lights like Diwali, Hanukkah, and Christmas. I was delighted that we started with lighting the menorah and ended by singing Christmas carols. Next time let’s add a diwali lamp! The food, the camaraderie, and the warm hospitality truly reflected the spirit of AAUW and the season.”



Enthusiastic carolers

## Community Collaboration News

From our neighbor AAUW Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette Branch –

### ICE Activity/Immigrant Rights in Contra Costa: What You Need to Know and What You Can Do

Tuesday, January 20, 2026

9:30 to 11:30 am

Orinda Community Church, Fellowship Hall  
10 Irwin Way, Orinda



Come hear a panel discussion with leaders of local organizations, including East Bay Sanctuary Covenant and Indivisible Resistors Contra Costa, who are supporting immigrants in Contra Costa County. The DEI Committee of the AAUW Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette (OML) Branch is sponsoring this meeting to inform attendees about current ICE activity in Contra Costa County. With discussion moderated by Ogie Strogatz, the panel will cover the challenges that local immigrants are facing, the impact on our communities, and suggest what actions we can take to respond as individuals to make a difference at this critical time.

We'll hear how our immigrant neighbors, friends, and families are directly affected, what rights they have, the services available to them, their safety, and their ability to remain in the United States. The panel also will share the impact of ICE activities on local churches, healthcare providers, schools, food banks, and businesses, along with suggestions regarding volunteer activities and where to donate.

[Click here to learn  
more from OML](#)

This meeting is open to the public; no RSVP is needed.  
Socializing begins at 9:30 am; the program begins at 10:00 am.

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From our neighbor AAUW San Ramon Branch –



**From the Sierra Foothills to San Ramon:  
The Amazing Journey of Your Water**



**Featured Speaker: Luz Gomez  
EBMUD Director &  
AAUW San Ramon Member**

Topics Covered:

- How EBMUD serves the East Bay community
- Key projects and sustainability efforts in San Ramon
- How your water is sourced, treated, and delivered
- EBMUD's commitment to inclusion
- Programs supporting women- and minority-owned businesses
- Pathways for women in STEM and environmental careers

**Thursday, January 15, 2026, 6:30 PM  
San Ramon Community Center, Terrace Room**

**Admission is free to all.  
Invite your friends, family, and neighbors.**



## AAUW California – Public Policy Updates

### AAUW California Public Policy Committee Announces School Board Symposium

By Kathi Harper, Chair AAUW Public Policy School Board Project

In *The Once and Future King*, T.H. White wrote: “[Y]ou may see the world about you devastated by evil lunatics, or know your honour trampled in the sewers of baser minds. There is only one thing for it then — to learn... That is the only thing which the mind can never exhaust, never alienate, never be tortured by, never fear or distrust, and never dream of regretting. Learning is the only thing for you.”

In 1881, a small group of female college graduates demonstrated that they understood the importance of learning to women’s ability to advance in the world, when they banded together in what would become the American Association of University Women to encourage more women to pursue higher education.

Almost one hundred years later, Congress demonstrated that they understood the importance of equal access to learning when they added Title IX to the U.S. Education Codes in 1972, prohibiting discrimination in educational opportunities on the basis of sex; and again when they established the U.S. Department of Education on May 4, 1980, with a mission to strengthen the Federal commitment to assuring access to equal educational opportunity for every individual.

Now, fifty-five years later, it does indeed seem the world is being “devastated by lunatics.” In 2016 Title IX protections against sexual harassment were eviscerated in the first Trump administration. Attempts by the new administration in 2020 to reverse those changes, and to provide additional protections for our LGBTQ+ and pregnant students were [thrown out by a Federal court](#). In 2022, Florida passed [the Stop WOKE Act](#) restricting classroom discussions of race, gender and sexual orientation and banned 2,300 books in just the 2024-25 school year alone [followed by 23 other states](#). This spawned the “Moms for Liberty” movement, whose goal is to install school board members across the United States whose values include banning books, censoring curriculum, and enacting policies harmful to our LGBTQ+ students.

And it gets worse. In his inaugural address in January 2025, the President declared “As of today, it will henceforth be the official policy of the United States government that there are only two genders: male and female.” In February he sent a “[Dear Colleague](#)” letter to all school districts making federal funding contingent on eliminating race-based considerations from [all policy decisions](#). To date eight universities have capitulated to the current administration’s lawsuits or threats to withhold grants by agreeing to curtail or eliminate DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion) programs and policies under an Alice-in-Wonderland [definition of discrimination](#). And the latest blow: in late November of 2025, the Trump administration took a major new step to dismantle the U.S. Department of Education (ED). After deep staff cuts, ED announced six “partnerships” on November 18 that shift the day-to-day work of key education programs to other federal agencies, despite Congress creating ED to centralize federal education expertise and protect students’ civil rights.

Is your hair on fire yet?! I know ours (AAUW California Public Policy Committee) is. That’s why the School Board Project is more important, more relevant, and more urgent than ever. We are doing everything we can to empower you, our members, to make a difference at the grass roots level to fight to save the value of learning in your local school districts, by speaking up for our values at school board meetings and supporting school board candidates who share those values.

If you're ready to fight back, please join us for a half day of our own learning, on Saturday January 31, 9:00am to 12:30pm, for our symposium **AAUW School Board Project: Defending the Frontline of Democracy**.

In just 3 ½ short hours you will learn:

- How the federal government's restrictive laws impact California's protective laws
- How to effectively advocate for AAUW values with your local school board members
- Why advocating on behalf of LGBTQ+ students is a crucial AAUW priority
- How to support progressive school board members in conservative districts
- How to respond to parents' concerns with accurate information
- How to form and sustain valuable coalitions in your district with like-minded organizations
- How to identify, recruit and support school board candidates whose values reflect AAUW California's Public Policy Priorities

Don't just be on fire, be fired-up! Join us for a day of learning. To register, [click here](#).

**LEARNING IS THE ONLY THING FOR YOU!**

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### **Lobby Days 2026 - A New Approach for Greater Impact**

*By Amy Hom and Missy Maceyko, Co-chairs AAUW California Public Policy*

**Calling all AAUW Advocates - get ready for Lobby Days 2026!** Lobby Days offer an important opportunity for you to meet with legislative offices. We encourage all members to participate and help advance our priority legislation, including an AAUW California-sponsored bill package focused on human trafficking and enforcement.

#### **Key Lobby Days Dates:**

**January 6** - Lobby Day Interest Survey sent

**January 16** - Survey responses due

**January 30** - Team rosters published

**February 9** - Begin scheduling in-district meetings.

**March 23** - Lobby Day Training Webinar

**March 27-April 17** - Meeting window for in-district meetings

**April 8-10** - Meeting window for Zoom meetings

What kinds of bills will you be advocating for in 2026? In the fall of 2025, AAUW California was approached by Asm. Krell's office to sponsor two bills related to human trafficking education and enforcement. We are currently in the process of working with Asm. Krell and her staff to shape the language and direction of this legislation. In early March, the Public Policy Committee will work together to select at least one additional bill from our Legislative Agenda to prioritize. All of our top bills are carefully chosen based on their timeliness, likelihood of passage, and alignment with our core values and public policy priorities.

**This year we're also introducing a new approach to Lobby Days that prioritizes in-district meetings.** This shift was inspired, in part, by our recent trials and tribulations with Lobby Days meetings in Sacramento. Specifically, over the past two years, it has become increasingly difficult to secure meetings with legislative offices in the capital as they are routinely overbooked. Overbooking means that meetings tend to be confirmed at the last minute, short (most last no more than 15 minutes), and held with staffers rather than legislators (84 of 94 in 2025).

This proposed shift to in-district meetings for Lobby Days was also inspired, in part, by the experiences of the Redlands Branch, who took a different approach and saw remarkable results. By scheduling Lobby Days in-district, they were able to secure eight in-person meetings. These

meetings were confirmed well in advance, were longer, and offered a much better chance of speaking directly with legislators. We highlighted their success in our November Public Policy survey, and members overwhelmingly indicated a preference for meeting with district offices.

For all of these reasons, **in-district meetings will be our primary strategy for Lobby Day 2026**. As we transition to this model, we will also keep a zoom meeting option for members who are unable to travel to in-district meetings.

To be involved in this year's Lobby Days, please complete and return this [Sign-up Form](#) by January 16 and let us know whether you prefer to participate in person in the district office or virtually via Zoom. We are also seeking volunteers to serve as **Team Leaders** - a critical role responsible for scheduling district office meetings, coordinating team members, and ensuring everyone understands their tasks and logistics.

**We look forward to your participation!**

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#### **Get the Full Story from AAUW California's Public Policy Team!**

Are you intrigued by the public policy articles excerpted here in the Advocate? You can learn more by reading the full editions of the monthly AAUW California Public Policy News in an engaging, graphic format. The January newsletter includes more details about Lobby Day plans and more great ideas for taking action to promote AAUW's mission.



To access the AAUW California Public Policy News webpage, [click here](#).

### **Membership Corner**

#### **DAW's Membership Directory for 2025 – 2026 Is Published**

*By Joanne Quijano, Directory and Database Manager*

The latest edition of our branch's annual Membership Directory was mailed out early in December. I hope you received your copy and are enjoying the updated listings in the 2025-2026 edition.

While most of us find the printed directory very useful, there is also an online version that is kept up to date throughout the year as new members join and others update their contact information. In addition to the member listings as found in the printed version, there is another report that lists members according to their Neighborhood Groups. To access this information, you'll need your DAW member password (that you'll find in the middle of page 6 of the printed Directory) to enter after you click on the "DAW AAUW Branch Directory" link on the "Members Only" webpage.

Please contact me at [jtq@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jtq@sbcglobal.net) if you have any questions, suggestions, additions, or updates regarding the Membership Directory.

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## In Memoriam

We are saddened to report that Sandra (Sandy) Varco, a founding member and the first president of our AAUW Danville-Alamo branch, passed away on December 7, 2025. She was a very talented interior designer (owner of Design Concepts in Alamo), and active in St. Timothy's Church for many years. She was also a very involved member of the community, so much so that the Town of Danville declared December 22, 2023 "Sandy Varco Day".



Sandy and others set the foundation for what was then the Danville-Alamo Branch in 1969. In her opening remarks for our first newsletter, she said "we shall strive to lay the foundation of a strong branch, dedicated to practical educational work aimed toward making a contribution to our community." A few months later, in January 1970, Sandy made a pitch in the branch newsletter "As you personally take stock of your new year, won't you pinch off a bit of time for AAUW?"

One of Sandy's long-time friends, Florence McAuley, says "Her laughter and friendship will long be remembered by all who knew her." A celebration of life will be held at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in Danville on January 3 at 3:00 pm. Please read more about this amazing woman in her obituary - [click here](#). We extend our sincere sympathy to Sandy's family and her many friends.

## AAUW California

### Step Out for Pro Choice – Webinar Marking Roe v. Wade Decision

With the support of AAUW California, AAUW Silicon Valley Branch invites you to join the branch's annual event, ***Step Out for Pro Choice***, held every year on January 22, the anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision. This year's theme is *No Rights, No Law - A discussion about the Supreme Court and attacks on reproductive rights and justice*. The featured keynote speaker will be Leah Litman, a leader for women's issues and well-known podcaster.



Professor Litman is a co-host of [Strict Scrutiny](#), a podcast about the Supreme Court of the United States, alongside Melissa Murray and Kate A. Shaw. She is a professor of law at the University of Michigan Law School and writes on constitutional law, federal courts, and federal post-conviction review. She is the author of a new book, *Lawless: How the Supreme Court Runs on Conservative Grievance, Fringe Theories, and Bad Vibes*.

The event will be held via Zoom on Thursday, January 22, at 1:00 pm. Mark your calendars!

To register for the event, [click here](#).

To learn more about Professor Litman's book – [click here](#)

## Heads Up – Avoiding Scam Emails

By Michelle Baer, AAUW California Director, Communications Chair

I have been advised by several members that early in November, one or more scam emails were sent that some members may have thought came from AAUW (but did not). Scam email senders are getting more clever, but a few quick checks can help identify suspicious emails. Read on for more information and tips on spotting scam versus legitimate emails, and steps to take if you've spotted a scam message.

### Step 1: Check who it's really from

- You may need to **tap, click, or hover over the “From” name** to see the full address.
- Make sure the **domain** (the part after the “@”) matches the actual organization.
  - Example: siteadmin@aauw-ca.org is legitimate; siteadmin@aauw-support.com or aauw-members@yahoo.com is not.
  - Watch for sneaky look-alikes: amaz0n.com (zero instead of “o”), aauw-help.org instead of aauw.org or aauw-ca.org.

### Step 2: Scan for common red flags

- Urgent messages: “You must read this attachment/click this link right away!”
- Unexpected offers or prizes: “Click here to redeem.”
- Requests for personal info or money, especially gift cards or wire transfers.
- Links and attachments you weren’t expecting. Hover your mouse over links (or press and hold on mobile) to preview the real web address. *If you’re unsure whether the message is legitimate, don’t click if it looks unfamiliar or is shortened (like bit.ly).*
- Spelling or grammatical mistakes or unusual wording. This isn’t always present, but it is a clue if spotted.

### Step 3: What to do

#### If the message appears to be a scam

- Do not respond to the email.
- Do not click links or open attachments.
- Report it as spam/phishing in your email program.
- Delete it.

#### If you are not sure whether the message is a scam or not

- Contact the purported originating agency through established channels to determine whether it is legitimate. Use an email, website, or phone number you have used before or know to be correct.

### A quick summary of the high points:

- Look past the sender’s display name: verify the full email address and domain.
- Be wary of urgency, prizes, and requests for personal info.
- Do not click on links or open attachments unless you’re comfortable that the message is legitimate.
- Delete suspicious messages.

I hope this information is helpful. It’s a rough world out there, but with a bit of knowledge and good habits, you can keep yourself safe.

### The AAUW Action Network Needs You!

*By Meghan Kissell, Senior Director, Policy and Member Advocacy*

We need you to make your voice heard right now. On December 10, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) issued a rule that rolls back how part of the **Civil Rights Act** will be enforced. DOJ is trying to frame this change as a return to “equal protection” and “merit” — but we know “merit” has too often been used as a smokescreen to keep women, especially women of color, out of classrooms, labs, boardrooms, and leadership.

The Department of Justice has changed how it enforces the section of the Civil Rights Act that bans discrimination in federally funded programs. For decades, DOJ could act when a policy looked “neutral” on paper but, in practice, disproportionately harmed people of color. Now, DOJ will focus only on the most blatant, intentional discrimination — even when the data show clear and preventable harm.

Consider an all-too-common example: A school district’s “zero-tolerance” discipline policy applies to everyone on paper, but data show that Black and Latina girls are suspended or expelled at far higher rates than white peers for similar behavior. Under DOJ’s new rule, that kind of discrimination could go unchallenged.

These rollbacks might sound familiar. The Departments of Energy and Education are also working to rescind the same protections in the education programs they fund. We need you with us in this fight! Your voice can help remind Congress that our civil rights laws are meant to protect people in real life, not just on paper.

*Call on Congress to conduct oversight of DOJ and defend protections against systemic discrimination.*

**To take action with AAUW for DOJ oversight, [click here](#).**

**To learn more about AAUW’s many advocacy opportunities – [click here](#).**

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### 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 or update your contact information 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 [itq@sbcglobal.net](mailto:itq@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).

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## 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/>



monica perrone  
landscape architecture

*Needs based landscape design for  
dynamic site and local conditions.*

**Monica Perrone**

<https://monicaperrone.com/>



*Negotiate today's residential real estate market with confidence.*

**Marsha Anderson \***

[marsha888@comcast.net](mailto:marsha888@comcast.net)



*Estate, trust, and probate specialist serving individuals in the  
Danville area.*

**Sarah Nix, Attorney at Law \***

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



*Eliminating barriers and enhancing capabilities to improve the  
safety, health and wellness of every CC County resident.*

**Bette Felton, CCRHF Board Chair \***

<https://www.ccrhf.org/>



*Take advantage of advanced technologies  
to communicate more effectively.*

**Louis Leveriza**

<http://www.diablopainting.com/>

\* 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