



# NUHW NEWS AND VIEWS

## UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital Oakland

**JANUARY 2022**



**STEWARD SPOTLIGHT  
LAURA NAKAMURA**

Laura Nakamura, a cardiac sonographer at Children’s Hospital since 2005, has been an NUHW steward since 2019.

“Being a steward has given me lots of opportunities to learn about what’s important to people,” Laura said. And as an elected member of the contract bargaining team, she’s learned to advocate for her co-workers to make sure “everyone has what they need to live in the community where they serve, where they work.”

But her activism extends beyond the hospital.

Democracy from the ground up is the basis of the grassroots organization Concord Communities Alliance, which Laura Nakamura co-founded to work for just and equitable conditions for Concord residents.

*continued on back*

## HEADING TO THE BARGAINING TABLE



NUHW members in our Service and Tech and Business Office Clerical units are getting ready to start bargaining a new contract.

Our current contract expires in April and the first day to discuss the next contract is Thursday,

*continued on back*

**NEXT  
BARGAINING  
SESSION**

February 1  
5:30 P.M.  
VIA ZOOM

## UCSF POLICE IN OUR HOSPITAL

What is the role of the UCSF Police Department in our hospital?

That’s the question we need to ask ourselves after several incidents involving our members

The law enforcement agency replaced the Alameda County Sheriff’s Department . It’s true that the hospital needs police in case there’s a violent patient or another emergency that requires attention. But in the past year, the UCSF Police have acted more like an enforcement agency.

In five instances in the past year, management has used UCSF Police to investigate and escort employees for disciplinary purposes.

What do you think the role of UCSF Police should be at the hospital? Share your thoughts with your shop steward or NUHW organizer.

**For more information, contact NUHW Organizers Beverly Griffith at (510) 978-7454 or bgriffith@nuhw.org, or Jake Doolittle at (203) 430-6688 or jdoolittle@nuhw.org**

## BARGAINING UPDATE

*continued from front*



February 1 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. There is much to discuss that affects us all in the short term and the long run.

If there is something you've wanted to change in the current contract or have ideas for what you would like to see in the next contract, this is your chance to bring your ideas to the table.

This is the moment to make a difference for you and your co-workers in the next collective agreement. Get involved and give your input. Your opinion matters!

To join the bargaining team, contact your shop steward or bargaining representative.



**NUHW GEAR**  
[NUHW.org/store](https://www.nuhw.org/store)



**ONLINE CE**  
[NUHW.org/CE](https://www.nuhw.org/CE)



**NUHW NEWS**  
[NUHW.org/pulse](https://www.nuhw.org/pulse)



## COVID SAFETY

The country is going through another epidemic surge and COVID numbers have increased significantly in the hospital. In December, the positivity rate at Children's Hospital Oakland hovered around one percent to two percent. Right now it stands at 33 percent.

This calls for added vigilance and safety protocols. First and foremost, every employee has the right to request and use an N-95 mask and you should talk to your manager about getting fit tested.

Also, make sure to stay masked while working or when in crowded areas, get tested regularly, and maintain social distancing.

Avoid large gatherings and close contact with people who may be experiencing symptoms.



## STEWARD SPOTLIGHT LAURA NAKAMURA

*continued from front*

Laura's activism in her hometown of Concord began when she started commuting by bicycle. She began attending Concord City Council meetings, where she advocated for safer bicycle infrastructure, and then expanded her activism to other issues. In 2017, she co-founded Concord Communities Alliance, a grassroots organization that advocates for just and equitable conditions for city residents, and began tackling issues like development protecting tenants and local businesses from displacement due to high rents.

Now's she's taking her activism a step further.

Laura is running for District 5 seat on the Concord City Council in the November 2022 election. If she wins, she hopes to "change the status quo in Concord" by revitalizing and stabilizing the different communities that call the city home.

Her candidacy has also reinforced her conviction that NUHW members need to be politically engaged.

"We know that management is political and corporations are political," Laura said. "Unions and union members have to be political too so we can advocate for our needs."

She urges her fellow Children's Hospital workers to make monthly contributions to the union's Committee on Political Education (C.O.P.E.), the fund that the union uses to support federal issues and candidates.

And she stressed the need for members to take action in political campaigns. "It's important to raise your hand and volunteer. Bodies are needed to help with the ground game wherever people live," she said. "Our political organizers at NUHW do a good job of letting people know where campaigns are. People have to figure out where they could sign up for volunteer shifts."

"You don't have to devote your whole life to it, Laura said. "You just have to be willing to help out your community."