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AAUW  **California
Connection**



March 2025

Well, at least we still have this:



Dear <<First Name>>,
Welcome to the *California Connection*, the monthly missive sent to every member from your state organization for a quick and informal read of things to know and do in AAUW!

Things to Know





What a bunch of overachievers we are. Only 17 branches in the whole country earned all five stars in AAUW's Five-Star Recognition Program. Seven of them were in California, more than one-third! These branches met rigorous criteria in several areas, such as Advancement, Public Policy, Programming, Communications, and, of course, Pole Vaulting.

Kudos to:

- Morgan Hill
- Fremont Inc.
- Marin Inc.
- California Online
- Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette Inc.
- La Mesa-El Cajon
- Lompoc-Vandenburg

They earned national mention, bragging rights, and a fancy emblem for their websites. It does not appear that stone edifices will be erected in their honor.



Last March, one of our readers chided us for forgetting to acknowledge [International Women's Day](#). It's March 8th. We remembered. Hooray for us!





SAVE THE DATE!! Usually, this command means there's a wedding and you have to gift wrap a three-piece sectional couch with mismatched scraps of leftover baby shower paper. But you can save this date without hesitation or depleting your hoard of Scotch® tape: The AAUW California Annual Event is Saturday, April 26th, 10 am - 2 pm. This year's theme is *Pivoting 4 Our Future*. We'll gather on Zoom to recap accomplishments, be inspired by speakers, applaud the winners of state awards, hear the Speech Trek finalists, chat in multiple breakout rooms, and think about how AAUW—and YOU—can respond to today's dramatic social changes. Watch for registration information. The only gift you have to bring is you.



Things to Do



The conventional wisdom from the world of marketing is that people need to hear something SEVEN times to absorb it. That's also how many times you have to write your address on a medical form or beseech a kid to wipe a snotty nose. We are exercising restraint. Here is our second and final reminder:

There's still time to step up and run for a position on the state AAUW Board of Directors. What's up for grabs?

- President-Elect: three-year term 2025-2028 (one year as president-elect and two years as president)
- Chief Financial Officer (CFO): two-year term 2025-2027
- Directors (3): two-year term 2025-2027

Find out more about these opportunities to steer the ship [HERE](#), [HERE](#), [HERE](#), [HERE](#), [HERE](#), and [HERE](#) (you counted seven, right?). **Deadline to apply: March 15th.**

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We think we just heard your head explode. It was very loud. You may be suffering from Too. Much. News. Our Public Policy Committee suggests this [guide](#) to learn how to read the news strategically and save your sanity. Detect what's important and what's piffle (what a delightful word). And to reinforce your understanding of the news and its relevance to AAUW, read the committee's [newsletters](#) that outline issues and give you tools to take action on the non-piffle topics that you care about. And don't forget to just breathe, sip water (or whatever, no judgment), and remember "[I will survive.](#)"

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Sometimes we forget things. Keys. Anniversaries. The Pythagorean theorem. But we shouldn't forget AAUW's impressive accomplishments. Luckily, the national office has written them all down for us. Although reading the [AAUW Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Report](#) sounds as interesting as the list of ingredients on a 50-lb. bag of Purina® Dog Chow, you may be surprised that you won't doze off. You can't ignore feats like sending 47,000 Two-Minute Activist messages to elected officials, granting \$6.3M to AAUW Fellows and community organizations, or training 6,157 women to be smart about job compensation. Take a gander at the report's easy-to-read pages and remember why you're a part of AAUW! P.S. The charts and graphs are pretty.



See you in April. Meanwhile, here's a little quiz:

All of the following women were HERstorical "firsts" in their fields:

- ~~ Jeannette Rankin
- ~~ Shirley Chisholm
- ~~ Marjorie Child Husted
- ~~ Janet Reno
- ~~ Nancy Pelosi

What else do they have in common? Look for the answer hidden in next month's issue.

This quiz will not count toward your grade.



AAUW's mission: To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

AAUW.org

AAUW California's mission: AAUW California facilitates California branches in meeting the vision and mission of AAUW by providing programs, education and resources.

www.aauw-ca.org



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