

[View this email in your browser](#)



April 2024

**"April hath put a spirit of youth in everything."**

*— William Shakespeare*



**Get out your roller skates.**

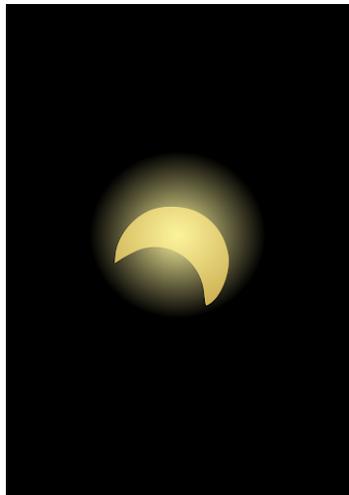
Dear Randa,  
Welcome to the *California Connection*, the monthly missive sent to every member from your state organization for a quick and informal read of things to know and do in AAUW!

**Things to Know**



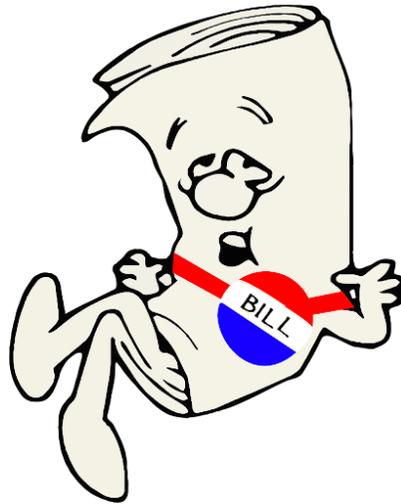


1,400. What is that? The number of unfound Easter eggs decomposing in California backyards? The number of times people write *your* instead of *you're* in a day? The number of sensory hairs on a fly's leg? All wrong guesses (although we do detect the odor of rotten eggs in the breeze). 1,400 is the number of applications received for Tech Trek so far this year! Of those, 1,200 have been completed. There will be a lot of horsetrading to juggle the girls into the 800 spots in our ten weeks of camp at seven campuses plus Virtual Camp. All this machinery is kept running by our Program Director, Mary Isaac. We owe her 1,400 thank-yous.



The eclipse happened. We might have missed it because we were typing this. If you're an umbraphile, you might not have. But we hope you didn't miss watching the Gov Trek finale and the tough competition among five teams who created videos of simulated election campaigns. These high school girls committed seven (yes, SEVEN) Saturdays to explore careers in public service. We can't even get to Yoga that often. Prepare to be amazed [HERE](#). It is not necessary to wear special glasses.





Cue up award-winning *Schoohouse Rock!*'s 48-year-old song, [I'm Just a Bill](#) to listen to while reading this segment. Is it playing? Okay, here's the news: AAUW California is sponsoring a bill! AB 2843, titled "Health Care Coverage for Rape and Sexual Assault Survivors," would eliminate cost-sharing, including deductibles, from being imposed on any rape survivor seeking medical care following a rape. It's a terribly important bill, but as the jingle says, it has a long journey to becoming a law. That's why he looks so tired. You can follow Bill on our [Bill Tracker](#) to be sure he doesn't poop out from exhaustion or is declared dead in committee. What can you do? Write to your local assembly member. Stomping your feet is not effective political activism.

.....

## Things to Do

.....



Let's have an honest discussion about Spam. Not that deliciously greasy substance made of ingredients you'd rather not think about (but possibly eat in secret). We mean Spam in your email. If you did not receive the critical email with your election ballot from National on April 3rd, you should crack open that yucky-sounding Spam folder and look for it. The sender is **AAUW** and the subject line is **AAUW Election 2024**. Like Spam®'s grease spreading on the paper towel while draining, emails can leak into other places, such as Gmail's special folders. To be thorough, search for the subject line in the previous sentence. Found it? Now vote! You have the chance to approve the elimination

of the degree requirement for membership. Wait! Do we hear something very, very greasy of unknown composition sizzling in your kitchen? Sorry if we made you hungry.

---



We're handing out detention slips if you haven't registered yet for our Annual Event, Back to School with AAUW California. We expect to see you in the classroom on April 27th from 9 am–noon via Zoom. Even the most tear-jerking, pitiable, heart-wrenching fake note from your mother will not excuse you. Learn what your state committees accomplished this past year, find out who earned awards, and be put to shame by the youthful talent you'll see in our Gov Trek and Speech Trek winning videos. Stay in your PJs until noon. No need to bring your 1970s *Charlie's Angels* lunchbox.

Click [HERE](#) to register and see the agenda.

---



How does that joke go? A camel is a horse designed by a committee? Or was it a bison? No, wait, wasn't it a gerbil? Whatever it was, our state committees do not mistakenly produce furry mammals. Instead, they work collaboratively to provide services, programs, and resources in many areas to help branches. You can have a role on one of the committees that make this organization work so impressively. Start thinking now about what AAUW work gets you fired up. Then check the website after May 1st for the updated listings of the committees

that are just waiting for your talent and ideas. This is your big chance to be sure we don't design camels and gerbils.



## My AAUW Moment

We want to hear your story of an “aha” AAUW moment, a time when you had a sudden heartwarming flash of happiness, gratitude, pride, excitement, or hilarity because you're part of this organization.

Keep it under 75 words and send it with your name and branch to [cc@aauw-ca.org](mailto:cc@aauw-ca.org).



*Our January branch meeting featured a presentation by a Stockton Branch member on the topic of DEI. The presentation ended with attendees sharing poems we had created mirroring Langston Hughes' "I, Too."*

*The interactive activities made us do some soul-searching and self examination to write freely from our hearts. It was moving, awakening, and possibly the best meeting I have attended.*

*Sandra Mazzuola  
Stockton Branch*



AAUW's mission: To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.  
[AAUW.org](http://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](http://www.aauw-ca.org)



*Copyright © 2024 AAUW California, All rights reserved.*

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).