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March 2023

Okay, okay, March . . . we get it!!



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

Things to Know

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The month of March is dominated by women, which is probably one of the few times that's true. March 1st kicks off Women's History Month. March 9th is Harriet Tubman Day. March 14th is Equal Pay Day. March 20th is National Rosie the Riveter Day. Happily, you don't have to pull out that ratty green scarf from your bottom drawer for



any of those dates, but do take a moment to reflect on what they signify. Of course, that's not to say that [Key Deer Awareness Day](#) on March 11th isn't also worthy of note. Reflect on that too.



In 1918, the first elected women entered the halls of power of the California State Legislature. There were four of them. The Associated Press wrote at the time: *California is perfectly willing that her daughters should vote, but she is somewhat dubious about the advisability of putting them in office.* Setting aside the irony that California is described as “she,” we should think about how things have changed. At our upcoming Lobby Days event, 132 AAUW members and five Gov Trek students will enter those same halls in person or virtually to meet legislators 1:1 and advocate for the bills we support. The difference is that there will be 50 women, not four, behind those doors. AP will have to write something different.



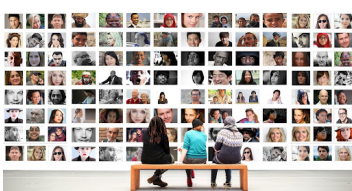
It pays to publicize. Not much, but it pays. An article in a local newspaper about the Long Beach Branch's dedication to Tech Trek was picked up by the newsletter of the prestigious organization [BoardSource](#), whose mission is “To inspire and support nonprofit boards and executives to lead justly and with purpose.” That's a far cry from an ad in PennySaver. Thanks for the exposure, Long Beach and *BoardSource*.



Things to Do



Jabberwocky starts with a “J.” So does JABEID. If JABEID sounds like Jabberwocky to you, join us for the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Chat on March 27th at 6 pm to learn what JABEID stands for and how you can bring its important principles to your branch. The speaker, Dr. Lata Muri, is an associate professor and author and



makes far more sense than the Cheshire Cat. Register [HERE](#). Unlike Alice, you won't need a mirror to read the backwards text. That's good, because some of us don't want to look in one anyway.

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The poet [T.S. Eliot](#) was wrong. Our new state program, Gov Trek, will end with a BANG, not a whimper. After inspiring remarks by Senator Toni G. Atkins, the final competition between teams of high school girls for the best simulated electoral campaign will be Saturday, March 25th from 10-12:30. And YOU can join us to see these talented students' stump speeches and campaign ads, then vote for YOUR favorite. (Disclaimer: Just like the Electoral College, your choice may not match the official judges' decision.) Go to a political rally without the unflattering baseball caps emblazoned with cryptic campaign acronyms by registering [HERE](#).



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Just in case the storms have shut off your power and you've missed the urgent messages from AAUW California that you care about so deeply, we want to remind you that we're planning a year-end extravaganza. Remember to register [HERE](#) to be starstruck by the *Academy AAUWards* on April 22nd at 9:00 am. For a theatrical trailer, download a few episodes of the 1959 sitcom [The Many Loves of Dobie Gillis](#) and try to guess which actor became a political figure who will speak at our event!



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Leaning into Leadership

**We have been asking you to tell us why you became a leader in your branch (or anywhere).
And some of you did!
Here's another one:**



Feel free to send one or two (no more!) sentences to cc@aauw-ca.org and answer the question:

Becoming a leader: why'd ya do it?



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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