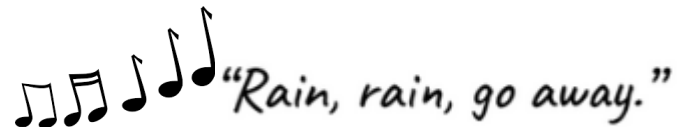




April 2023



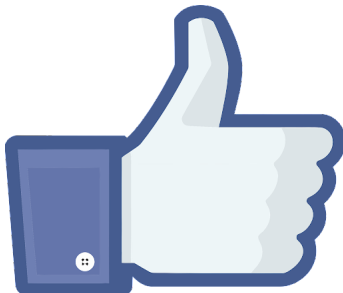
Doesn't anyone listen to us?

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

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If you're a member of AAUW, you don't have to pay for a plane ticket to spread your wings beyond the U.S. Our reach is far and wide. Example: our Facebook page received a "Like" from an AAUW Puerto Rico member 3,400 miles away (in Puerto Rico, that would be 5,532 kilometers, which sounds even farther!). The coveted Thumbs Up was a response to our post about Albert Einstein's wife, who helped him solve mathematical problems. It's rewarding to know we have friends all over the world, both the Facebook kind and the real kind. Feel free to thank us for saving you from nine hours in Economy with one bag of snack crackers baked sometime around WWII.

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We like to boast that our programs can be life-changing. Evidently, humility is not our strong suit. But we do make an impact and a case in point comes from Speech Trek. While researching this year's topic on voting rights, one of the contestants discovered that 16-year-olds can pre-register to vote when they turn 18. And she did! Does that qualify as life-changing? Maybe. One thing for certain is that we can't wait for her to join AAUW.



The **New York Times** challenged students to come up with words that they thought were missing from the English language.



Spell Check does not like them.

enterdraining = something that is entertaining and funny at first, but becomes tiresome after some time

polifickle = switching political views often and without commitment

foodio = the perfect video to watch while you eat your food

covect = a lasting effect of the Covid-19 restrictions and lockdowns

fidogeivity = the average age of particular breeds of dogs

gestiferous = to be actively and passionately gesturing

trendxiety = the fear of not keeping up with today's fast-cycling trends

We think these tongue twisters show the talent of our youth and demonstrate why we are committed to our programs that cultivate that talent: Speech Trek, Tech Trek, and Gov Trek. Other than that, we have no particular reason for sharing these with you.



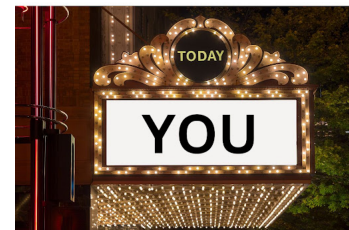
Things to Do



Get your popcorn because the show's about to begin. If you're troubled by the vexing problem of the butter failing to ooze to the lower strata of a popcorn bag big enough to hold New York City, try [THIS](#). Then join us on April 22nd to celebrate AAUW California's biggest hits. Watch our directors' red carpet interviews. Hear from inspiring speakers (and see why we keep mentioning *The Many Loves of Dobie Gillis*). Feel the tension of opening the envelopes for the Branch Activity of the Year, State Named Gift Honoree, and Equity Champion awards. See dancing zebras (huh?). Watch the polished presentations of the Speech Trek and Gov Trek students. And be sure to stay for the after-parties! We promise no see-through gowns, no weepy acceptance speeches, and no face slapping. Get your ticket [HERE](#).



So you weren't nominated for an Academy Award? Alas. But you can still have your name on the marquee. Be a leading actor on our social media stage by telling our Facebook and Instagram friends what YOU get out of being in AAUW. We'll post your story. This is your big chance. Don't blow your lines. We need your headshot, name, branch, year you joined, and answers to two questions: "Why did I join AAUW?" and "What is my favorite part of being an AAUW member?" Email your script to socialmedia@aauw-ca.org. We'll do the rest and you'll look fab. We'd tell you to break a leg, but . . .pain.



You may have noticed that we haven't mentioned spring yet. This is normally the month to wax poetic about flowers a-flowering and buds a-budding. We do have things budding, but not the botanical kind. Nearly 50 "budding" leaders (told ya) completed the Gov Trek program and will blossom into our future political leaders. Their final campaign simulation projects reflected passion, talent, dedication, and brains. Watch their videos [HERE](#). Gov Trek has taken permanent root in AAUW California and the Linnaean plant classification system will need



new nomenclature for this crop of future movers and shakers. All hail Gov Trek and high school biology.

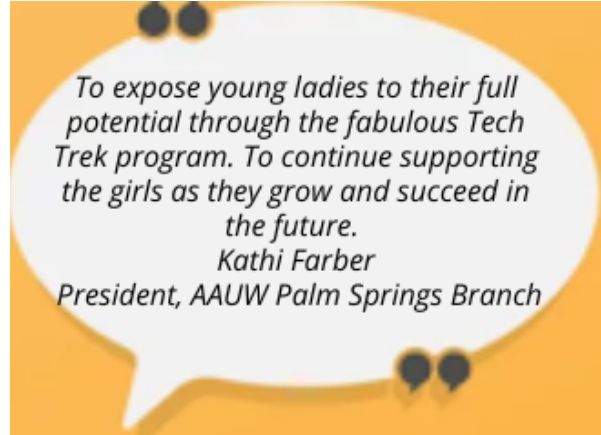
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Leaning into Leadership

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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