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March 2024

It's March already.



Hare today and gone tomorrow.

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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You've got a VIP hall pass! Find out what's happening in the hallways of AAUW California at the 2024 Annual Event. Join the state leadership team online for a campus tour, classroom visits, pep assemblies, and awards to star pupils. Learn what AAUW California is doing for your branch. View the winning Speech Trek and Gov Trek videos. Find out who was awarded Branch Activity of the Year and State Named Gift Honoree. Then choose an "elective" for extra study in breakout rooms with state leaders. Warning: there will be pop quizzes! Pack a snack and register [HERE](#) to meet us in the principal's office. Don't make us hand out detention notices.

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What do you have that Eleanor Roosevelt didn't? A college degree. You heard that right. No all-nighter study sessions for her. No blue books. No Top Ramen®. No fashion-backward mortarboard. Eleanor Roosevelt—yes, Eleanor Roosevelt—would technically not be able to join AAUW today as she did not earn a traditional degree by attending college. If you think something is wrong with that picture, vote Yes in April on the proposed amendment to National's bylaws to drop the degree requirement for membership. AAUW California supports it and here's [why](#). You can support it too by adding your personal endorsement [HERE](#). There are a lot of Eleanors waiting to be invited in.

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Seems like good news is as scarce as hen's teeth, free checked luggage, and the [Stanley 40 oz Stainless Steel H2.0 Flowstate Quencher Tumbler in Cosmo Pink](#). But AAUW California is bucking the trend with some good news to share. National's preliminary reports show that California members donated approximately \$534,000 to the Greatest Needs Fund for 2023. That's about \$84,000 above our projected amount. Apparently we like to go big or go home. We'd love to give you a tumbler as a thank-you gift, but we're fragile and fear being trampled in the aisles of Target®.

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Things to Do

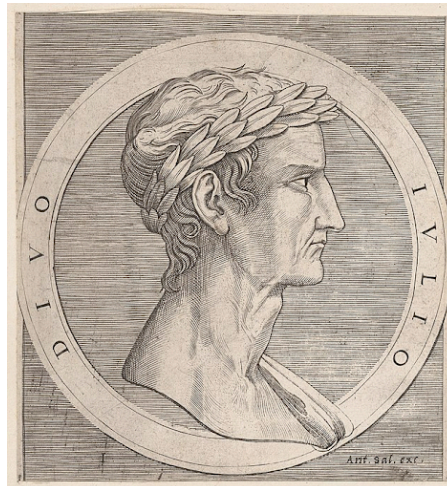
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We do love a good acronym, LOL. So, ICYMI because you were perhaps daydreaming about Greek statuary or the periodic table, we suggest you watch the [recording](#) of our first-rate webinar, *Mary Church Terrell and the Fight to Integrate AAUW*. You'll be glued to the presentation by the biographer of this trailblazing Black woman who co-founded the NAACP (more acronyms!) and supported a winning anti-discrimination lawsuit against AAUW (oh dear, another acronym). BTW, ICYMI stands for *In Case You Missed It*. And now you never will again.



We just can't leave a good acronym alone. Here's another one: NCCWSL. Yikes. Could it be the *National Cow, Caribou, & Wallaby Singing League* or the *Natty Clothing Collection for Worshippers of Sassy Librarians*? Give up? NCCWSL = National Conference for College Women Student Leaders. This annual in-person conference in the DC area exposes young women to leadership training, networking, impactful women from many careers, and very likely assorted pastries. Registration opens April 14th. If you know any promising students, text them the NCCWSL acronym ASAP, then go look for BOGO bargains on Glade® PlugIns®.



"Beware the Ides of March." The soothsayer's portent had a grave outcome for Caesar, but it won't for you! For one thing, we don't have any senate steps. For another, March 15th is simply the newly extended deadline to apply to serve on the AAUW California Board of Directors. Bring your talents, ideas, and enthusiasm to one of the six open positions and help guide an army of volunteers to success. Find all the details and the application [HERE](#). You will not be required to wear leaves in your hair and it's always possible we'll name a salad dressing after you.

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.



I attended our Napa County Branch's Tech Trek dinner and was stunned, surprised, pleased, and proud. Our first Tech Trekker, 25 years ago, was there as our speaker, now being 38 and owning her own production company in Atlanta. She was so eager to go to Stanford for her week, and indeed it made a difference in her life. At that time, she was the only one we could send, and we didn't have the money to do so, but took up a collection on the suggestion of a member, and sent her! Warm and fuzzy, and so very proud to be a member of AAUW and supporting these young women.

*Linda Feutz
Napa County Branch*



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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