



**November 2024**

**Go ahead. Jump in.**



**Emergency personnel are standing by.**

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

.....



No one wants to hear the bad news first. But we'll start our newsletter with just that and get it over with. AAUW mourns the passing of Lilly Ledbetter, the inspiring warrior for equal pay who epitomized the grit and persistence we need to meet our mission. Her long-running and trailblazing challenge of *Goodyear Tire & Rubber* for pay discrimination went to the Supreme Court and finally to President Obama's desk for passage into law as the *Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009*. Click [HERE](#) to learn more from our Public Policy Committee. Our hat is off to her.

.....



Getting 100% isn't always that great. We don't want 100% absence of our luggage on the carousel, or 100% inflation, or 100% germination of Duck Lettuce seeds (see [Federal Noxious Weed List](#)). Sometimes, getting less than 100% is just fine. And that's why we're proud of the 86.2% success rate for our AAUW California legislative agenda. (Note the decimal precision for you numbers geeks.) 25 of 29 bills that aligned with our Public Policy [pillars](#) were signed into law by Governor Newsom. Some died along the way and were given a proper burial. We won't sing *Taps* for them, because that would be punishing to your ears, but we will sing the praises of our state lobbying efforts for this success.

.....



**Jaws** had flaws. The film boat sank and the actors fought. But the worst problem was that the mechanical shark broke down repeatedly and flopped over. A listing shark is not a scary shark. What did Spielberg do? He changed his perspective. He reduced the footage of the slumping shark and focused more on the faces of the spectators. He adjusted. And that's what AAUW will do. Regardless of the election's outcome, any turmoil it causes, and our opinions about it, be assured that AAUW will adjust its perspective and steadfastly persist in advocating for women and girls. Our job is to make it safe to go in the water.

.....

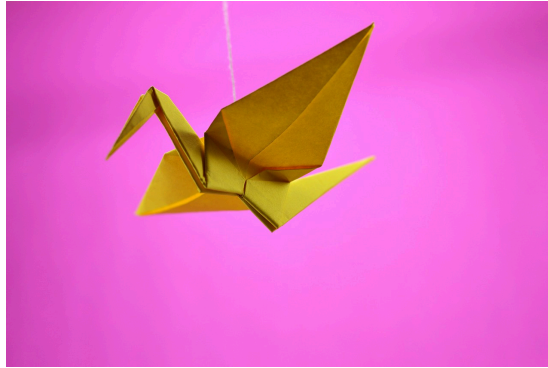
## Things to Do

.....



Not this.

.....



Are you a parent? Know a parent? (Note that this does not include parenting goofy pets like Labradoodles and [Sphynxes](#).) If the children involved are of the human variety (or, at least, most of the time), you should read and share the parent brochure prepared by our Public Policy Committee's [School Board Project](#). It can help parents understand and address troubling issues in their schools' curriculum. Download a copy [HERE](#) and do a little origami folding to turn it into a tri-fold brochure that you can hand out or leave at public locations. If it looks like a crane, you did it wrong.

.....



Vincent Van Gogh liked stars. We do too. So here's the deal: you can look at stars all you want without purchasing a \$100 million painting or 4-wheeling to a remote [Dark Skies](#) spot that might not have a bathroom. Just help your branch earn a five-star rating in AAUW National's branch recognition program. The requirements, which support AAUW's goals, are laid out [HERE](#). They are very achievable; your branch probably already has qualified for some stars. Pick a few activities that you can help with and bask in the stars' glow. An alternative is to embarrass yourself with [this](#).

.....

**Yosemite National Park turned 134 years old last month.**

**You didn't.**

**Be grateful.**



AAUW's mission: To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.  
[AAUW.org](https://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](https://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](#).