



September 2023

**School has started.
So have your branch's activities.
Don't play hooky.**

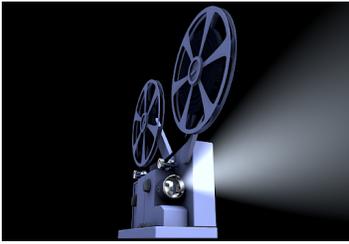


Dear <<First Name>>,
Welcome to the *California Connection*, the monthly missive sent to every member from your state organization for a quick and informal read of things to know and do in AAUW!

Things to Know

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Remember when you walked into class and saw a substitute teacher threading a projector to show a film? Oh happy day! We are pleased to replicate that memory. Click [HERE](#) to see a film about AAUW California Committee Day instead of a pop quiz on photosynthesis. This in-person event was a working session for the 50+ volunteers on various state committees that serve



branches and members. Besides discovering that people's bodies do actually extend below their necks, we shared AAUW news, drafted goals for the year, and did all kinds of synergy-building-type things. Spoiler: marshmallows were involved.



Talking about school makes us think of college. And thinking of college makes us mourn how expensive it is. And mourning how expensive it is makes us think of how many local branches offer scholarships to help. So we pulled out a slightly outdated, but still impressive, report. From 2019-2021, California branches held enough fundraisers to award \$765,500 to support their local students. That buys a lot of laundry soap and highlighters. Now aren't you glad you bought that raffle ticket for a gerbil cage?



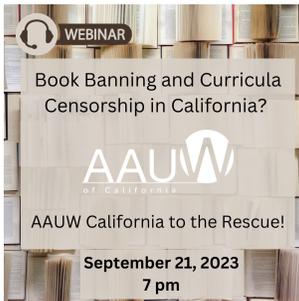
We pay it forward. Remembering how AAUW members rallied to help victims of the Paradise, CA fire, we notified you of ways you could help victims of the disaster in Maui. Many of you stepped up to help. Here are a few of your stories:

- *Thank you very much for showing AAUW's support of Maui. It's heartwarming to be compassionate and generous to another state that's a part of our USA!*
- *Thank you for sharing this information and the link to the Hawaii Community Foundation.*
- *Thank you for this, as I have been wanting to donate but I wasn't sure where.*
- *I just made a small donation to the Hawaii Community Foundation (Maui Strong Fund).*
- *As a longtime annual Maui visitor, I am already collecting and sending medical and personal care items to my Maui AAUW friends.*
- *I was in a hurricane years ago on Kauai and was impressed with the local Red Cross and will donate to them.*
- *I've donated to the food bank.*

- *I've donated to Maui Strong and the Maui Humane Society. I understand that animals already waiting to be adopted are on their way to the mainland in order to make room for those pets found wandering around, some with burns on their fur.*
- *Nice ideas. Thank you.*

AAUWers have a lot of heart. If you still want to give, rummage through your inbox for the August 24th email from President Sandi Gabe with the list of donation sites.

Things to Do



We can't talk about school without talking about Public Policy's School Board Project, which was voted the "most exciting project for branches" by the attendees at Committee Day. Find out how AAUW California is taking a stand against the creeping trend of book banning that might land on our schools' doorsteps. Your homework assignment is to register [HERE](#) for our webinar on Thursday, September 21st, at 7:00 pm and earn extra credit by speaking out at a school board meeting. This will count toward your final grade.



In the category of "Bet You Didn't Know This," we're serving up this trivia: "SWAG" is an acronym for "Stuff We All Get." And now you want some, right? Luckily, your branch can purchase the new [AAUW California pins!](#) They're handsome; they're discreet; they're a badge of honor. Members can wear them with pride to meetings, community events, or Burning Man. Be prepared to gush about AAUW when people ask you what it is. The small print: We will not be held responsible if you poke yourself with it.

Chances are your branch leaders have planned a packed year of worthy activities. Be a part of things. Attend the events. Wear a lanyard that makes you look like a TSA agent and eat a



Costco cookie the size of a hubcap. Engage with your peers to support AAUW's mission, build friendships, and sport your new, but likely lopsided, pin (see our shameless sales pitch above). Be the one who earns the school Perfect Attendance award.



Class dismissed. See you next month.



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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