



February 2024

Mother Nature is an overachiever.



She must be in AAUW.

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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The AAUW California Board of Directors is not weak-kneed, weak-minded, wishy-washy (or any other hyphenated, alliterative adjective) about its position on National's proposed bylaws amendment to remove the degree requirement for AAUW membership. The directors voted unanimously and convincingly to support its passage. You'll hear more from us later about why. You can be decisive too. Watch for your ballot from National in early April and vote. No shilly-shallying or dilly-dallying.



Good things come in pairs. Like Valentine's Day chocolates, contact lenses, and pieces of bacon. That's true with Tech Trek too. We're excited to have two new camps for the 2024 season: Camp Carson at California State University, Monterey Bay, and Camp Hopper at Santa Clara University. That means STEM-loving girls will be attending eight residential and virtual camps. The new camps are named after famous women scientists. Who are they? There will be a pop quiz after refreshments.





Apparently bragging is not an admirable thing to do. But we'll do it anyway. Because we are contrarian. Our state Public Policy team's [School Board Project](#) to combat regressive school board policies, such as book banning, is so impressive that they were asked to share it with other states. Project chair Kathi Harper presented a nationwide webinar *School Boards: The Battleground for the Education Culture Wars*. Nationwide! That's like going to the Super Bowl. Except for the cleats. (Go Niners!)

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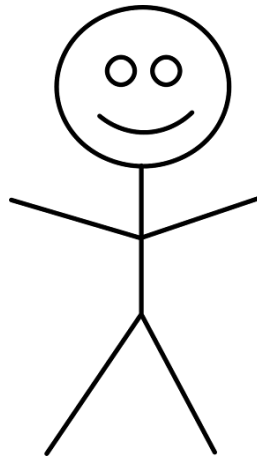
Things to Do

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In the category of "Bet you didn't know this," when confronted with underwater noise from shipping, oil exploration, etc., dolphins have to actually shout to communicate. So do we. Tell your legislators what you want by participating in Lobby Days, an opportunity to meet in-person or online with legislative representatives. Advocate for the top bills that AAUW California supports. Sign up [HERE](#) by February 15th to participate and register for the mandatory training webinar. You can use your words. Just think if dolphins could.

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We promise you: the entries in the annual AAUW art contest are better than this. See for yourself and vote for ten of your favorites [HERE](#). The winners will end up on lovely AAUW note cards, perfect for those of you who practice the quaint art of writing letters or wish to send money to a long-lost third cousin twice removed who is imprisoned in a small country in South America.

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You know that miraculous wireless technology that lets you stick in your earbuds, listen to a podcast about unsolved murders on your phone, and ignore other people? It was named after a 10th-century Danish Viking king who also “connected” things, namely feuding Nordic fiefs. What an honor for good old Harald Bluetooth. Your branch can honor AAUW members for their outstanding contributions too. Submit a candidate for the prestigious State Named Gift Honoree or Branch Named Gift Honoree by March 1st and 31st respectively. Try to pick someone with an interesting last name.

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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 was getting close to retirement as an engineer and was worried “What will I do with my time?”

Good friend said “Don’t worry, we’ve got you covered.” She meant AAUW.

I went to my first meeting the month I retired and met the Tech Trek team.

Happily they recruited me with gusto and my feelings were both relief and enthusiasm for this new avocation.

Twelve years later, I still feel the enthusiasm and pride for what we do for those girls – life-changing for them and for me.

*Gail Chesler
Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette 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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