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January 2025

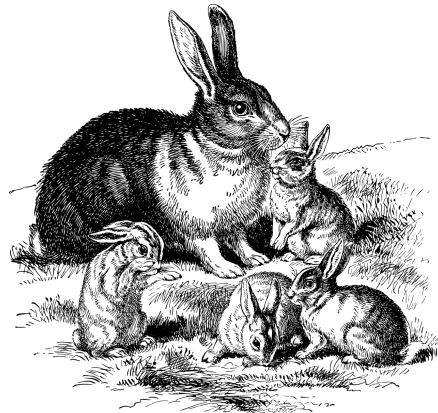
It's been eight days.



How many resolutions have you broken?

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



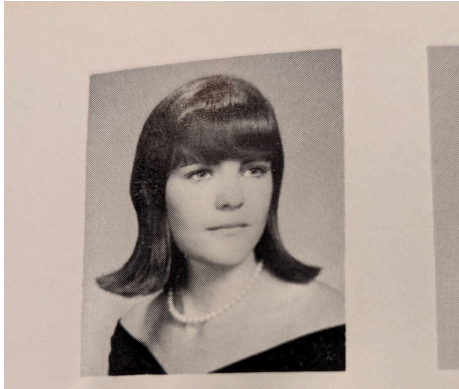
Here's a funny superstition: you should always say "rabbit, rabbit" before speaking anything else on the first day of the month to ensure your good fortune. That means that on this New Year's Day, your first words should not have been "Where's the aspirin?" The origin of the belief is unclear, as most origins are, but is referenced in the literature of yore, whenever the heck that was. It is likely based on the idea that rabbits represent good luck, prosperity, and success. AAUW will need a rabbit's foot in its pocket to navigate the possible challenges to its mission over the next four years. We are asking all members to yell "rabbit, rabbit" loud and clear every month. Note: the words "bunny, bunny" are equally effective, but "gerbil, gerbil" may have unintended consequences.

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Legend has it that Ian Fleming randomly saw an obscure book on birds while writing his first spy novel. He borrowed the name of the ornithologist who wrote it: James Bond. Looks like borrowing can be a good thing! We urge branches to borrow successful programs and ideas too. To enable that, we offer the annual [Branch Activity of the Year](#) contest. The winning entry is a branch activity that was novel, inspirational, and mission-related with a DEI component. The activity must be reproducible (AKA "borrowable") by other branches. If a branch program requires a football stadium or radium, it won't win our award. Honored branches will receive a small monetary award and bragging rights at the AAUW California Annual Event on April 26th. Click [HERE](#) for the application and submit it any time before the deadline of March 15th. And while you're helping your branch produce its award-winning program, take time to consider this [burning question](#).

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We can't compete with the Golden Globes, the Oscars, or the "Best Bangs in a 1966 High School Yearbook Photo" award, but we can still honor members whose dedication to AAUW is exemplary. For every \$750 contributed to AAUW Fund last year, branches may honor a worthy volunteer with the *Branch Named Gift Honoree* award. It's not a cash prize or a trip to see the world's largest catfish statue in Trempealeau, Wisconsin, but it's a darn handsome certificate suitable for framing. Branches may also nominate a member for the *State Named Gift Honoree* in recognition of exceptional service and leadership beyond the branch. No trip to Wisconsin, but very prestigious. Nomination forms for both are [HERE](#).

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Things to Do

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We are swamped with prequels and origin stories. *Wicked* is the backstory of *The Wizard of Oz* and *1883* is the prequel to *Yellowstone*. AAUW has an origin story too. And you, our members, have a chance to tell it every year during [Lobby Days](#). You can meet in small groups with state legislators either in person or on Zoom on April 8th and 9th. Tell them what AAUW is, what it stands for, and what top three bills it is supporting. Be a storyteller like the 140 members who participated last year. Information on the three bills will be available and "how to" training will be provided in a mandatory webinar on March 31st at 7 pm. Click [HERE](#) and [HERE](#) by February 21st to sign up as a Lobby Days participant and register for the training webinar. You must sign up for both, but you don't have to sing *Defying Gravity* or wear chaps, for which we are all grateful.

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It's the post-holiday period. We think you are ready to do something besides culture penicillin from your moldy leftovers or pluck errant tree needles from your lasagna. We have two thought-provoking webinars for you to attend instead:

2024 Revisions to Title IX: How they Impact AAUW Values and Public Policy Priorities Learn about the changes from the Trump to the Biden administrations and what the future challenges might be.

- Presented by: Kathi Harper, Public Policy Committee member and chair of the School Board Project
- Thursday, January 9th (Yep, that's tomorrow.)
- 3 - 4 pm
- Register [HERE](#).

Reproductive Rights: Where Do We Go from Here? Mark the 52nd anniversary of Roe v. Wade. Join this Zoom presentation hosted by AAUW Silicon Valley Branch to explore shifts in American jurisprudence regarding women, the law, and the future of reproductive rights.

- Presented by: AAUW Silicon Valley, featuring Emily Bazelon, New York Times journalist, Yale Law professor and research fellow, Political Gabfest co-host, and author
- Wednesday, January 22nd
- 1 - 2 pm
- Register [HERE](#).

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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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