



Camarillo (CA) Branch

# BEACON

October 2020

## ***A Message from Jan Demonsy, Co-President***

Dear Fellow Members,

It's about time to pat ourselves on the back - many members in our AAUW Branch have learned to do the "Pandemic Pivot"! No, this is not a dance or a calisthenic. It is an exercise in resilience demonstrating the ability to recover quickly from difficulties and spring back from the misfortunes of life. Resilience is not about avoiding stress, rather it's more about learning to thrive within the stress. Camarillo AAUW Branch has met that mark.

All of us have been hunkered down, living in the limited conditions of COVID-19 since mid-March. Nonetheless, as the months go by, our AAUW Branch finds ways not only to continue group activities, but also to add new and interesting offerings. Now we have three book clubs – Fiction, Non-Fiction and the new Antiracist Book Group. As noted in last month's Beacon, Karen Allen worked her fingers off and kept our summer Creative Arts Workshop alive by making hundreds of do-it-yourself kits and an on-line magician program. Our Women in History (WIH) Committee has pivoted by reducing the number of women to be portrayed in 2021 and are making plans to videotape three selected WIH for issuing to the schools in March 2021. The Author's Day Committee is currently discussing a plan for a pared-down program in November. We've instituted a "Happy Hour" gathering to offer both members and newcomers a social opportunity to relax and chat over a beverage of choice. Also, we're all getting better at Zooming to AAUW meetings and the attendance is growing. The Kick-Off Meeting in September was attended by over 40 people.

Please do not miss our next General Meeting on October 12, 2020. This meeting will be both interesting and timely as it features AAUW Camarillo members who are running for office this November and a speaker from the League of Women Voters. Further, there appear to be more new opportunities. We are looking into offering a Speech Trek Program sponsored by California AAUW for the high school crowd. The Knowledge Bowl does not fit within the COVID 19 guidelines for gatherings. Our Branch speech contest would be held in early 2021, one winner is selected by March 1, 2021. The Branch winner advances to the state level contest where one state winner is chosen who in turn participates in the National AAUW Speech Contest. A final winner will be chosen there.

In closing, I encourage all of you to assist in our branch's growth and continued resilience. We need your support to add to member numbers and offer suggestions for further creative ideas as to new programs, meeting topics or new committees. Together we can all exercise a resilient pivot toward a successful AAUW Branch despite the pandemic.

Here's to bouncing back!

Jan Demonsy – pocaterraj@aol.com ; aauwcamarillo.copres@gmail.com



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October 2020

## October General Meeting – All Things Voting!



### AAUW Camarillo General Membership Meeting

**COUNTDOWN to Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Running for Office, GOTV and  
Important Ballot Propositions**

**WHEN:** Monday, October 12, 2020

**TIME:** 7 pm – 8:30 pm

**WHERE:** Zoom Meeting

**Register here:** : <http://bit.ly/AAUWOctoberMeeting>

**Questions? Email to** [aauwcamarillo.programs@gmail.com](mailto:aauwcamarillo.programs@gmail.com)

Please join us via Zoom for our October general meeting featuring all things voting. Meet our AAUW Camarillo members running for office in the November 3, 2020 election.

- Bev Dransfeldt, candidate for Director of Pleasant Valley Recreation & Park District
- Tiffany Lewis, candidate for Camarillo City Council, District 3
- Celina Zacarias, candidate for Oxnard Harbor District Board of Commissioners.

Betsy Patterson, President of the League of Women Voters Ventura County, will also join us to review Voting/Mail-in Ballot procedures and will speak on some of the Ballot Propositions that tie in with AAUW's Mission:

- 15 – Schools & Communities First
- 16 – Opportunity for All
- 18 – Voting Rights for 17 Year Olds
- 21 – Local Governments and Rent Control

All are welcome, members & non-members alike.

**Meet our AAUW  
Members Running for  
Office**

**Hear from the League  
of Women Voters  
Ventura County**

**Ballots will arrive  
after October 5th!  
Have you made a  
Plan to VOTE?**

**Join via Zoom with  
Others Dedicated to  
Equity & Equality for  
Women & Girls**



## 2020 Snip and Save Calendar

October 6, 20 – 7pm – Anti-Racist Book Group – White Fragility

October 12, 7pm, General Meeting. Get Ready to Vote!

October 13, 10am, Nonfiction Book Group

October 14, 5pm, Board Meeting. <https://ucla.zoom.us/j/7380534357>

Meeting ID: 738 053 4357, Dial in: 16699006833. 7380534357#

October 26- 7pm,. PM Book Group

October 28, 5pm, Happy Hour

November 7, 10am. Author's Day – Local author Sarah Scheerger will discuss her young adult novels. Free will donation. More to come.

## 2020 Kick Off Meeting

Thanks to PVSD Superintendent Angelica Ramsey, PVSD Trustee Rebecca Cramer, and OUHSD Board Chair Karen Sher for sharing their district's plans for education during COVID. We are lucky to have these educational leaders serving our children and community. [Watch the recording here](#). Also find the presentation highlighting our AAUW programs and activities in the [Kickoff presentation here](#).



## Women in History Planning Ahead



As we prepare for next year's offerings, which will be via video, we are looking to borrow a wetsuit and other diving equipment for the portrayal of marine biologist Sylvia Earle.

VIDEOGRAPHER ALSO NEEDED! If you have some skills in video capture, editing and production, contact Jan Demonsy - [pocaterraj@aol.com](mailto:pocaterraj@aol.com) ; [aauwcamarillo.copres@gmail.com](mailto:aauwcamarillo.copres@gmail.com)



Happy Hour, Wednesday, October 28th

**Due to low attendance at our monthly breakfast meeting, we are having a Happy Hour instead!**

**Join us at 5pm, Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup> with your favorite beverage and/or snack for a casual, social meet and greet.**

Online via tablet/computer/smartphone

<https://ucla.zoom.us/j/7380534357>

By phone

+1 669 900 6833 Meeting ID: 7380534357#



*DID YOU KNOW?* You can just use the phone feature to call into the audio of the meeting?

## AAUW Votes

**WHEN WOMEN VOTE,  
THEY CHANGE THE CONVERSATION.**

[bit.ly/its-my-vote](https://bit.ly/its-my-vote) | [#itsmyvote](https://twitter.com/itsmyvote)



Let's Get Out the Vote!! AAUW has a host of resources and an easy to follow social media campaign.

Visit <https://www.aauwaction.org/voter-education/get-out-the-vote-using-social-media/> for more information.

## Nonfiction Book Group

Our next meeting is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month, October 13 at 10am, when we will be discussing ***The Splendid and the Vile*** by Erik Larson.

Planned selections for the remainder of the year include:

***Inheritance*** by Dani Shapiro—November

***Talking to Strangers*** by Malcom Gladwell—December

Other books we may consider:

***Walking with the Wind*** by John Lewis

***Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*** by Isabel Wilkerson

***The Woman Behind the New Deal: The Life and Legacy of Frances Perkins*** by Kirstin Downey. Reviewed by Kirkus Reviews, Publishers Weekly and the New Yorker magazine.

Contact Barbara Hilburn for more info. Hilburndesigns@gmail.com

## PM Book Group

Our next zoom meeting will be on Oct, 26, 2020 at 7:00 PM where we will discuss our first selection of the season--*Girl in Translation* by Jean Kwok. This debut novel is part autobiographical, and moves the reader through a moving story of hardship and triumph. Those wishing to read ahead, we will be reading and discussing *The Other Einstein* by Marie Benedict on Dec. 7, 2021. Call Diana Dingler (805) 987-8013.

## Antiracist Book Group

The Antiracist Book Group continues with the selection, "White Fragility. Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk about Racism." Join us **Oct 6** to discuss Chapters 1-6 and **Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>** to discuss Chapters 7 through 12. All meetings start at 7pm.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://ucla.zoom.us/j/7380534357>

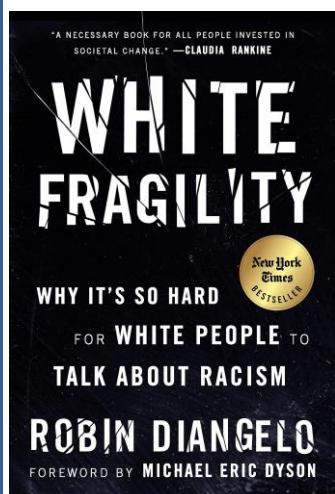
Meeting ID: 738 053 4357

Dial in:

16699006833

7380534357#

[Join the Facebook group](#)



## Great Decisions

Now that 2020 is a wrap, would you be interested in joining us in 2021? Are you curious about how foreign policy takes shape? You can learn more with the AAUW Great Decisions group. Our chapter's Great Decisions meetings – **the fourth Friday of each month at 3:30pm** – are informal and invite discussion. Here is a preliminary list of topics for the 2021 season. They look very interesting!

Topic 1: The role of international organizations in a Global Pandemic

Topic 2: Global supply chains and national security

Topic 3: China and Africa

Topic 4: Korean Peninsula

Topic 5: Persian Gulf Security

Topic 6: Brexit and the European Union

Topic 7: The fight over the melting Arctic

Topic 8: The End of Globalization?

Before the meeting we read a brief chapter about the topic in our book at home.

If we are still meeting online in early 2021, we also watch a 20-minute video on the month's topic at home on YouTube. (You can see 2020's videos [here](#) if you'd like to get an idea.) On the meeting day and time, we sign into the GoToMeeting website and discuss the topic for about an hour. If you're not familiar with GoToMeeting, don't worry: the host will send an explanatory email about GoToMeeting to you and subsequently will email the group sign-in number to you each month.

If we can meet in person next winter, we will announce the meeting location then.

This is a safe, informative, and non-political venue to discuss important and current foreign policy matters. No experience is necessary! If you are interested in joining us or just trying it out, please call any of the following group members – we'd love to have you join us and will be ordering books soon!

- Nancy Walters [nejwalters285@gmail.com](mailto:nejwalters285@gmail.com) (805) 465-0362,
- Ann Wasson [amwasson@gmail.com](mailto:amwasson@gmail.com) (805) 419-4509, or
- Jerrie Newman [martjerrie@roadrunner.com](mailto:martjerrie@roadrunner.com) (805) 389-3064.

## Author's Day 2020 – 10am, Saturday, November 7th

Our popular Authors' Day event is going virtual with a local author, Sarah Lynn Scheerger, who will talk about social-emotional learning through reading and her own journey as an author. The event is free, but we will set up a donation link for fundraising, as well as info on how to purchase Sarah's books. In the meantime, **SAVE THE DATE!**



## Public Policy – Use Your Voice, Use Your Vote!

Next month, on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, democracy is on the ballot. Voting is a proud American action exercised to have our voices heard, our leadership chosen and the direction of our country to be guided. For all of the current chaos in our country, this election will set that direction for the next decade and the next generation. So, here is some information to help you/your family/your friends to be prepared and to be engaged, and to VOTE.

The CA Secretary of State website is excellent and might help address concerns/questions/anxiety. <https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov/> Additionally, his office is offering **Where's My Ballot?** – a service powered by BallotTrax which sends notifications on the status of any mail-in-ballot. Each voter in every county can now track his or her mail-in-ballot from the time it is mailed, then received and finally counted. All you need to do is sign up for this service to receive an automatic email, or SMS (text), or voice call notification about your ballot. Just copy and paste this link: [WheresMyBallot.sos.ca.gov](https://WheresMyBallot.sos.ca.gov)

Besides voting, you may want to Help Get Out The Vote. Check out Rock the Vote, Moms Rising, Reclaim Our Vote, Vote Forward, Fair Fight, #AAUW\_CA #GOTV2020 @AAUW

All registered voters in California will receive a Vote-by-Mail (VBM) ballot in early October. You have choices for using that ballot:

- 1) Complete it and mail it in – if you do this, mail early. Ballots must be postmarked by Nov 3. They have 17 days after that date to reach the Registrar's office, but the postmark must be by Nov 3. If you put it in a mailbox on Nov 3 it will not be postmarked in time. Be early!
  - 2) Complete the ballot and drop it in an official drop box. Your Registrar of Voters will post locations of drop boxes. The Registrar regularly collects the ballots from the boxes.
  - 3) Take your completed ballot to a Vote Center and hand it in.
- You don't have to use the VBM ballot. You can vote in person and just hand in your unused ballot at a Vote Center.

What about propositions? [Here's a link](#) from the League of Women Voters on the statewide initiatives. The League does an excellent non-partisan analysis and worthy of a read. Betsy Patterson, President of the VC League, will be joining us Oct. 12<sup>th</sup> to highlight some of the propositions important to AAUW's mission. Join us for a review.

Voting matters, electing the best leadership matters. Here's an update on laws worked on by our elected leaders and signed into law by the Governor:

'Karen' law: Calling 911 to harass or otherwise violate the rights of a person based only on their race would be classified as a hate crime that could lead to jail time and a fine under a bill passed by California lawmakers. (continued)

## Public Policy, Continued

Senator Hannah Beth Jackson championed Paid Leave: Lawmakers voted to remove a key hurdle that new parents and employees caring for sick family members say keeps them from using the state's paid leave program by offering job protections to those workers. Senate Bill 1383 would provide millions of employees who work for smaller businesses with the same 12 weeks of job protections while taking family leave as those who work for larger companies. Access to family leave is especially critical amid COVID-19, when workers need to take time off to care for themselves or their loved ones.

Jury discrimination: Assembly Bill 3070, sponsored by California Attorneys for Criminal Justice and introduced by Assemblywoman Shirley Weber (D-San Diego), would limit the removal of prospective jurors without cause, a change intended to prevent discrimination based on race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin or religious affiliation.

Gun control: Legislation that prohibits the sale of rifles to people under age 21 unless they have a valid hunting license.

Voting matters, leadership matters –vote November 3<sup>rd</sup>!

Kathy Long, Public Policy Chair

## RIP RBG

It seemed as though she'd live forever. Now a Supreme Court seat is in the balance, unimaginable given the precedent set in 2016 when the Senate refused to take up a nomination for an empty seat for 9 months. How will you honor the legacy of RBG, whose work gave women the right to a credit card, to sign loan documents without a cosigner, to have a right to make her own health care decisions? Pictured, right, people planking in her honor in front of the Supreme Court.

May her memory be a revolution!





## Your Membership VP Message, by Cathy Trevino

It's not too late to invite your friends as prospective members to join our upcoming Branch Program on Mon Oct. 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm – see flyer on P.2 for details. If they attend our program on Elections and put their name on the “Shape-The-Future” list and pay the branch within a few days, **NEW** members can join for a discounted amount of \$70.50.

### Here are some highlights of new/returning members:

**Diane Rennell**, MA PhD, is a new dual member with Prescott, AZ branch and lives in Oxnard. She is from New York state and has lived in 9 states and 5 countries. It can be said Diane has had an interesting life with many varied careers from teaching college, journalism, financial advisor and ESL teacher. She has been a naturalist at Channel Islands National Park for over 15 years and loves opera, classical piano and lives in Oxnard with her African Gray Parrot and toy poodle. Diane is always looking for a good book club, especially non-fiction, which we just happen to have.

**Bev Dransfeldt** is a first-generation immigrant having grown up in a small central valley town. Camarillo became her second home in college and fell in love with it so much she made it her permanent home over 4 years ago. Bev is a mother to Pazita and their 3 rescue dogs, with lots of support from her husband, Cory. A graduate in Political Science from the University of California, Berkeley —the first of her family to graduate from a four year university – Bev has been a music industry manager and later moved into the public sector, mixing her passion for the arts and public service by working in the Cultural Affairs Department for the City of Thousand Oaks and recently as a Recreation Specialist for Pleasant Valley Recreation & Park District. Raised on a farm in a small town and working in the fields with her immigrant mother, Bev is keenly aware of her blessings and seeks to “pay it forward” by advocating for those without a voice and remaining politically active within the community. She is part of our Oct. 12<sup>th</sup> highlight of members running for office!

Welcome to the Camarillo Branch--Diane and Bev, welcome back!

Cathy Trevino  
VP Membership  
CathyTrevino47@gmail.com  
(805) 757-3677

## Welcome New Members Since June!

Leah Harris, Sally Herman, Tiffany Lewis, Karen Sher, Maria Tagliaferri

## AAUW Fund – Fellowships and More

AAUW is excited to announce more than 200 awards and \$3.5 million in funding for fellows and grantees in the 2020–21 award year. These exceptional recipients, who were notified by email on April 15, will pursue academic work and lead innovative community projects to empower women and girls. For questions about your status, please email [aauw@applyists.com](mailto:aauw@applyists.com).

**Career Development Grants.** For women pursuing full-time study to complete dissertations or conduct postdoctoral research, or to those preparing research for publication for eight consecutive weeks. For women pursuing a certificate or degree to advance their careers, change careers, or reenter the workforce in education, health and medical sciences, or social sciences and whose bachelor's degree was received at least eight years before the award period.

**International Fellowships.** For women pursuing full-time graduate or postdoctoral study in the United States who are not U.S. citizens or permanent residents.

**Community Action Grants.** For individuals, AAUW branches and states, and nonprofit organizations that fund innovative programs or that promote education and equity through projects focused on encouraging girls to select, before entering college, the physical sciences or engineering as a career. [Deadline December 1](#)

**Research Publication Grant in Engineering, Medicine and Science.** For women conducting basic research in engineering, medicine or the physical or biological sciences and who have a doctorate degree in one of those fields. Grantees are required to publish their research in a scholarly scientific publication and be listed as a primary author.

**AAUW Fund Virtual Lunch with the Fellows/Grant Recipients** *The 2020-21 Fund luncheons will be replaced by two webinars, which will be held on two dates at one location - your computer. While we will miss the social gathering aspect of the luncheons, the webinars may afford the opportunity for those hampered by distance or other physical constraints to participate.* There will be different speakers at each event, so you are welcome to attend one or both webinars. Please go to <https://www.aauw-ca.org/aauw-fund-luncheons> to see some of the CA recipients.

Please note these dates in your branch calendars: **Saturday, October 10th and Saturday, October 24th. Both webinars will begin at 1:00 p.m.** The October 24th webinar will feature Claire Breining, a Career Development Grant recipient who is studying under our Lompoc-Vandenberg Branch Research & Projects Endowment (plus 24 other sponsors! It takes a number of Research and Project endowments to award one Grant). Claire is pursuing a master of science in nursing, specializing in nurse midwifery and women's health. After years of working as a full-time project manager in tech and as a part-time birth doula, she looks forward to dedicating herself fully to increasing access to midwifery care for underserved populations with the goal of reducing racial disparities in birth outcomes. She is studying at the University of California, San Francisco. **Don't forget to register for the Zoom webinars at <https://www.aauw-ca.org/2020-2021-webinars>**

## Member News

What's new with you?? Please share your member news so we can keep up with the wonderful activities our members are doing. Email [camarillo.beacon@gmail.com](mailto:camarillo.beacon@gmail.com) with your news!

Know a new mom who could use some support?

Free resources through Dignity Health.



### Mommy Support Groups Now Available via Zoom

**Baby Bistro Breastfeeding Support Group**  
Meet other breastfeeding moms and learn how to work through various infant feeding concerns, milestones, and topics that may come up after leaving the hospital.  
Every Wednesday (except holidays) Noon to 1 p.m.

**Mom to Mom Peer Support Group (for Pregnant & Postpartum Women)**  
This group is designed to give women a time to explore the complex emotions that often come along with motherhood.  
Every Tuesday (except holidays) 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**Mommy and Me Support Group (birth to 6 months)**  
This support group focuses on infant care and parenting issues.  
Every Thursday (except holidays) 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Support groups are FREE. For more information, please call to sign up 805.988.2784.



Studio Channel Islands new exhibition, Neighbors, opens Saturday, Oct. 3. California artist John Raymond Mireles is using portraits to unify us in this unprecedented time of racial divide. Member Martita Martinez-Bravo and AAUW friends are featured.



## Camarillo Branch

### Board of Directors and Chairs 2020-2021

**Gloria Miele**

**Jan Demonsy**

Co-Presidents

[Aauw.camarillo.president@gmail.com](mailto:Aauw.camarillo.president@gmail.com)

[Aauwcamarillo.copres@gmail.com](mailto:Aauwcamarillo.copres@gmail.com)

**Gladys Ochangco**

VP, Programs

**Cathy Trevino**

VP, Membership

**Mary Goldberg**

Recording Secretary

**Vanessa Otto**

Treasurer

**Jennie Baker**

Membership Treasurer

**Diana Dingler**

Corresponding Secretary

**Kathy Long**

Public Policy

**Pam Perkins-Dwyer**

Past President

**Nancy Walters/Janet Lindquist**

Hospitality

**Kay Ito**

Communications and PR

**Kathy Long**

Beacon Editor

**Gloria Miele**

Beacon Design and Layout

**Open position:**

Co-President-Elect

## More on Membership

### Dues are Due!

Did you see your personal membership renewal email?? If not, please contact Cathy Trevino, 805-757-3677 or email [cathytrevino47@gmail.com](mailto:cathytrevino47@gmail.com).

New members can also use the link below to join.

[AAUW Camarillo Branch New Member Join Link](#)

This is a direct link to The Camarillo (CA) AAUW Branch. You will select New Member and for Member Type choose MOB-Branch Member. Annual dues are due by June 30<sup>th</sup> of the same year.

Join and pay with a check by printing this page, then completing the Member Form at right. Follow the instructions on the Form.

Bring a friend to one of our meetings or social events to see if membership is right for

Visit the Branch Website for more info: [AAUW Camarillo \(CA\) Branch website](#)

Please contact Cathy Trevino, 805-757-3677 or email [cathytrevino47@gmail.com](mailto:cathytrevino47@gmail.com) for any other membership questions or how to get involved in the membership committee!

American Association of University Women



**Member Form – Please print, complete and mail**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (Home) (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

(Cell) (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Highest College degree: \_\_\_\_\_

University/College: \_\_\_\_\_

Student:

Student Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Degree Sought: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues Schedule:

**Circle one:**

General Member, Renew \$100

NEW General Member \$100

Life Member \$41

Student Affiliate \$ 0

*(Includes local, state & national dues)*

Write check payable to: "AAUW Camarillo Branch" and  
and mail to:

Camarillo AAUW  
P. O Box 862  
Camarillo, CA 93011

Visit our website! <https://camarillo-ca.aauw.net/>