

A Message from Gloria Miele, Co-President

Happy Election Week! Actually, “happy” doesn’t quite capture it for me. More fraught, anxious, full of hope, full of dread – it’s a roller coaster. No matter who are you voting for, dealing with a contentious national election during a pandemic has not been easy on anyone. I know MANY of our members have been writing cards and letters, doing phone and text banking, donating, and whatever else you can to encourage our democracy. Thank you!!

In our meeting last month, we featured our members who are candidates for public office. I admire each woman’s dedication and wish our members luck in their campaigns. Having women run for office is an AAUW priority. As they say, if you’re not at the table, you’re on the menu.

But women still face so many barriers to running for office, not least of which is threats of violence. We all heard of the shocking, thankfully foiled plan by armed vigilantes to kidnap Gov. Gretchen Whitmer of Michigan. Locally, women candidates, including one of our members, have received harassing, intimidating, and threatening messages. Women are investing their talents, time, passion and expertise to make our community a better place and are receiving hostility in return. I am so distressed by a culture emboldened to threaten, bully, and insult.

100 years of women’s suffrage, and we are still facing intimidation and threats for speaking our minds and taking a seat at the table. Women are also bearing a disproportionate economic loss and burden from COVID-19. Last month, 80% of people who left the workforce were women. The new term, “shecession,” reflects the economic devastation that’s eroding the strides women have made over the past decade. AAUW’s work and mission are more important than ever.

Even during the pandemic, our branch continues to do the work. We are meeting regularly and moving ahead with Women in History, offering a new program, Speech Trek, for High School students, and will continue to offer merit and need-based scholarships to women and girls in our community when they need it most. Education is one of the best ways to lift women up, and we will continue to do so.

Speaking of uplifting, you can join us Saturday morning, November 7th for a free online celebration, Morning with an Author. Details inside. This is the same date we would have been gathering at Spanish Hills for Authors’ Day, our biggest fundraiser of the year. If you’d still like to make a tax-deductible donation to support AAUW programs, we have set up a PayPal account to make it easy! See details on event flyer. Of course checks to our PO Box are also gratefully accepted.

Thank you for being part of AAUW and doing what you can to advocate for women and girls. See you all on the other side of Election Day. It’ll be Thanksgiving before you know it.

Gloria
Aauw.camarillo.president@gmail.com
805-216-8403



Camarillo (CA) Branch

BEACON

November 2020

November Morning with an Author



AAUW Camarillo Morning with an Author

Guest Speaker: Sarah Lynn Scheerger

WHEN: Saturday, November 7, 2020

TIME: 10:00 am – 11:30 am

Register here: <http://bit.ly/AAUWAuthor>

Questions? Email to aauwcamarillo.programs@gmail.com

Our traditional annual Author's Day Event has been postponed to next year, so join us for a virtual event and spend the morning with local author, Sarah Lynn Scheerger, who writes children's books for young readers, middle graders, and teens (YA). Her newest book, *How to Live on the Edge*, was published this summer.

In addition to discussing her books, Sarah will share her journey as an author and talk about the power of diversity and inclusion in literature. Her middle grade book, *Operation Frog Effect*, is written from diverse points of view and has been nominated for multiple awards including the 2020-2021 Sunshine State Young Readers List, the 2020-2021 Maryland Black Eyed Susan, the 2020-2021 Surrey Schools Book of the Year, the VA Reads 2020-2021 list, and the 2021-2022 Louisiana Young Readers Choice Award.

Looking for holiday gifts? Sarah's books are available locally at The Bookworm or at Barnes and Noble. And she is happy to sign them for you.

**Featuring
Guest Speaker
Local Author
Sarah Scheerger**

**Looking for holiday
presents for the kids
and young adults in
your life? Books
make great gifts!**

Not a Member?

No problem!

All are welcome!

No Charge for This Event

Spotted! Operation Frog Effect on Regional Lists for 2020-2021



Nominees for 2020-2021

Grades 4-6

Cline-Ransome, Lisa - *Finding Langston*
Hahn, Mary Downing - Guest: *A Changeling Tale*
Scheerger, Sarah - *Operation Frog Effect*
Parry, Rosanne - *A Wolf Called Wander*
Woods, Brenda - *The Unsung Hero of Birdsong USA*
<https://readmemberslicks.net/assets/docs/Nominees2020-2021.pdf>

Hashimoto, Meika - *The Trail*
Kelly, Lynne - *Song for a Whale*
Nilsen, Jennifer - *Words on Fire*
Korman, Gordon - *Unteachables*
Thompson, Lisa - *The Light Jar*
www.sarahlynnbooks.com

It's an honor to be included on these lists along with books I respect and love. Happy reading, everyone!



www.sarahlynnbooks.com



CLICK HERE

Scan the QR code or [click here](#) to donate! Authors' Day is usually our largest fundraiser and helps support local programs, like Women in History, CSUCI and, Tech Trek Scholarships, and more.

2020 Snip and Save Calendar

November 7, 10am. Morning with an Author –Register at <http://bit.ly/AAUWAuthor>

November 10 – 7pm – Anti-Racist Book Group* – *Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?* Meeting 1 of 2

November 11, 5pm, Board Meeting*

November 13, 10am, Nonfiction Book Group

November 26 - Happy Thanksgiving!!

December 1, 7pm, Antiracist Book Group*, Meeting 2 of 2

December 6, 1pm. Holiday Sweater Party*

December 7, 7pm, PM Book Group

*Online via tablet/computer/smartphone

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

By phone: +1 669 900 6833 Meeting ID: 7380534357#

Candidate's Forum Recap

Thanks to AAUW Camarillo Branch member candidates Bev Dransfeldt (PVRPD), Tiffany Lewis (Camarillo City Council District 3), and Celina Zacarias (Oxnard Harbor Commisioner) for making the time to talk about your vision and priorities. [Watch the recording here.](#) We also learned that member Suzanne Kitchens is running for PVSD Board. Good luck to all the candidates, and THANK YOU for running!!



AAUW VOTES!

≥ WHEN WOMEN VOTE, ≤
THEY CHANGE THE CONVERSATION.

bit.ly/its-my-vote | #itsmyvote



Vision 2020 VC's Toast to Tenacity celebrating 100 years of women's suffrage is online! [Check out the videos on YouTube](#) and get inspired!

Holiday Gathering

Since we're still not at the pot-luck stage of the pandemic, join us for a Holiday Zoom event



Holiday Sweater Contest

Wear your ugliest, gaudiest, fanciest or favorite and share some holiday cheer.



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 in to Zoom?

Speech Trek 2020-2021

Has social media helped or hindered the breaking down of barriers for women and girls?

What do you think?

Our branch is participating in the AAUW-CA's 15th Annual Speech Trek competition. It is open to all California high school boys and girls. Each student will give a 5-6-minute speech on the topic above in February 2021. Our branch winner will continue to the state level competition where the top prize is \$1,500.

We need member volunteers to contact principals & teachers, encourage students to sign-up, and coach the participants. We also need non AAUW-CA members to judge our contest per AAUW-CA rules.

Let us know if you are interested in helping with this project.

JoAnn Cataldo email: esytlk@att.net (805) 394-6579

Mary Goldberg email: marymgoldberg@gmail.com 805-248-4572

Nonfiction Book Group

Meetings the remainder of the year:

Inheritance by Dani Shapiro—November 10

Talking to Strangers by Malcom Gladwell—December 8

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

Because of the Thanksgiving holiday being so close to our regular meeting date of the fourth Monday of the month, the book club will be having a Zoom meeting on Dec. 7, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. instead of in the month of November. We'll be discussing the book *The Other Einstein* by Marie Benedict. Call Diana Dingler (805) 987-8013.

Antiracist Book Group

The Antiracist Book Group continues with the selection, *Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?*, a book recommended by many of our members. Join us **Nov 10th** to discuss the first half of the book, then Dec. 1 for the second half. All meetings start at 7pm.

This group provides a safe, thoughtful place to discuss issues of race. Please join us.

Join Zoom Meeting

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

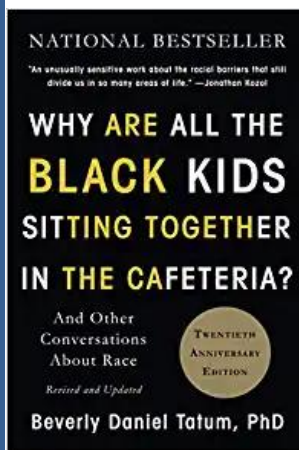
Meeting ID: 738 053 4357

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 (805) 465-0362,
- Ann Wasson amwasson@gmail.com (805) 419-4509, or
- Jerrie Newman martjerrie@roadrunner.com (805) 389-3064.

Save the Date for Authors' Day 2021 –Saturday, November 6th

While we celebrate Author's Day this year differently than ever before, we are also working on a writeup highlighting some of the people and events from the past 17 years. It will be a short trip down memory lane and a look forward to our next scheduled Authors' Day on Nov. 6, 2021 at Spanish Hills Country Club.

Public Policy – The General Plan, by Merrill Berge

On September 15, 2020, the County of Ventura completed a comprehensive update to its General Plan for the first time in almost 30 years. The update process began in 2015 with a wide-ranging community engagement effort and now the recently adopted 2040 General Plan which will guide decision makers and help to shape the next 20 years of Ventura County's growth and change. The entire document can be found at <https://vc2040.org/review/documents>, with individual links to 8 elements and 9 unincorporated area plans.

These are just a few of the highlights of the General Plan Update that will both improve the health, safety and welfare of county residents while also helping our county to meet the greenhouse gas reduction goals set by the state:

Oil & Gas: New limitations would triple the size of set-back zones for new oil drilling, establishing a minimum of 1500 feet from homes and 2,500 feet from any school. The strongest set-back limits in the nation. No new flaring of gas emissions or trucking of oil is allowed, and all new oil projects are now subject to a thorough environmental review.

Trees: The county has established a goal to plant 2 million trees throughout the county and cities by 2040, with a goal of 1,000 trees planted annually.

Electrification: Since buildings are a significant source of Green House Gases, the County has committed to "Zero Net Energy and Zero Net Carbon" buildings including electrification of all new buildings, phasing out the installation of natural gas in new homes, making them healthier for people and the planet.

Agriculture: Carbon sequestration farming practices are being encouraged and supported by the county, as well as the use of Integrated Pest Management practices to reduce pesticide use and human health risks.

Open Space: A new Open Space zone will be created for public lands that are now parks and recreational uses.

Economic Development/Green Economy: Industries and businesses that promote and enhance environmental sustainability and renewable energy generation and storage are to be supported with job training in green energy and building techniques.

Throughout the General Plan you will find colorful icons for EJ (Environmental Justice), HC (Healthy Communities) and CAP (Climate Action Plan) that identify policies and programs directly related to one or more of these topics. The informative charts at the end of each Element list the programs and which policy it implements, the responsible county departments and the time frames for that implementation.

Though Climate Action was initially not a consideration, with the increase in wildfires, sea level rise reports, and weather impacts on agriculture and communities, Climate Action policies are now included throughout the General Plan. To help keep these important actions moving forward, a new Climate Emergency Council of 10 citizens appointed by the Board of Supervisors and selected by the County CEO, will be created.

And now similar community engagement efforts are being undertaken at the city level. Thousand Oaks, Oxnard and Ventura are all beginning initial outreach for their Climate Action Plans. Do not be overwhelmed...get involved! It is inspiring, interesting and fun to join others and help to determine the future we make for ourselves...and the one we leave to our children.

Public Policy – Broadband Update and Action, by Betsy Metzgar

The CA Broadband Council is holding public hearings for Governor Newsom's California Executive Order N-73-20 that would deploy affordable and reliable broadband networks throughout the state. In support of our mission for equity in education, AAUW Camarillo has submitted the following statement to CA Superintendent of Public Education Tony Thurmond:

Statement: A primary mission of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) is to advocate for equity in education. That is why we are writing to you today. With the need for distance learning during the COVID-19 pandemic, there is absolutely no way we can claim equity in our schools if we cannot provide certainty that all students have access to high quality broadband. Ventura County has been able to provide home computers and hot spots for our students but that's only the half of it. If students live in an area that does not allow reliable high-speed internet, then they are at a disadvantage. Economics is not always a factor. There are students who live in wealthy remote areas of our county who do not have quality internet access.

And we cannot forget the teachers. They, too, must have reliable broadband so they can teach from their homes. If not, they are forced to teach from their classrooms. With the uncertain COVID surges and constant changes in school openings and closures, if teachers are required to teach from their classrooms because they have inadequate broadband in their homes, then they put their health at risk.

The Camarillo branch of the AAUW urges you to adopt the California State Broadband Action Plan to deploy affordable and reliable broadband networks throughout California.

Take Action! Please send your own message regarding the need for accessible broadband to your representatives, including Tony Thurmond. Thank you to Karen Sher, AAUW member and OUHSD Board of Trustees president, for bringing this urgent matter to our attention.

Meet The Board!

Cathy Trevino, VP of Membership

Cathy first joined the Camarillo Branch in 1984 when the Kid's Coop was active, and she enjoyed the many activities with her two toddlers. After 7 years in Camarillo, Cathy moved to Ojai, Bakersfield, Lompoc and is now back in Oxnard. Cathy maintained her AAUW Life membership throughout the years and served in various capacities on those branch boards. Tech Trek is Cathy's true passion as she served as Dorm Mom for over 20 years and a few years as Director of the CSU Fresno Camp while living in Bakersfield. As the VP of Membership this year, she wants everyone to know what a great organization we have and how important the mission is in today's world. Cathy is looking for recruits to assist in a Tech Trek Alumni Group to keep in touch with former campers and follow them throughout their academic careers and beyond.



Gladys Ochangco, VP Programs.

I was born in the Philippines and came with my parents to Los Angeles at 18 months old

during the wave of immigration following the 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act that welcomed Nurses like my Mom into the country. I grew up in a neighborhood of immigrants, with aunts (many of whom were also Nurses), uncles and cousins nearby. As a teen I lived for a year with relatives in the Philippines before moving to the Bay Area for high school. I graduated from UC Berkeley (Go Bears!) where I met my husband, Ben Zulueta, and we eventually moved to Santa Barbara for his PhD program at UCSB (History of Science). Our daughter, Dylan, is a Sophomore at Rio Mesa High School, and is a proud Tech Trek Alum (2018). I work at Wells Fargo where I've held various positions over my career, and am currently with the Commercial Banking Division. (next page)

Camarillo Branch Board of Directors and Chairs 2020-2021

Gloria Miele

Jan Demonsy

Co-Presidents

Aauw.camarillo.president@gmail.com

Aauwcamarillo.copres@gmail.com

Gladys Ochangco

VP, Programs

Cathy Trevino

VP, Membership

Mary Goldberg

Recording Secretary

Vanessa Otto

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Jennie Baker

Membership Treasurer

Diana Dingler

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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

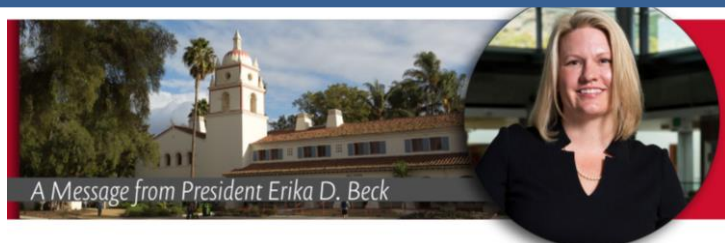
Open position:

Co-President-Elect

Member News

[Meet Gladys, contd] I very much enjoy relaxing with my family but have also kept busy as an active volunteer and community member. Over the past 10 years, the bulk of my volunteering time has been as part of Dylan's Girl Scout Troops where I serve as a Co-Troop Leader and have enjoyed fostering Girl leadership from their youngest ages.

I joined AAUW after Dylan's life-changing Tech Trek summer, and AAUW's emphasis on equity for Women and Girls has been a natural fit. It's also very meaningful to me that AAUW is an antiracist organization, and I've enjoyed being a part of our branch's antiracist book group where we can learn together and have honest conversations in a safe environment. As your newest VP Programs, I have been enjoying getting to know the Board and fellow AAUW members and bringing speakers and Panelists who educate and inspire (many of whom are fellow AAUW members!). Thank you for the program ideas you have already provided. I would appreciate feedback and suggestions you have and am looking forward to meeting more of you – hopefully in person -- one day soon.



CI News – Dr. Beck Appointed President of CSU Northridge. After four and a half years of tremendous leadership, Dr. Beck will become President of CSUN. We are grateful for her time at CSUCI and look forward to supporting the CSUCI community under new leadership.

Congratulations

to our members recently recognized for their good work.

Celina Zacarias

Girl Scout's Women of Distinction

Karen Allen

Volunteer of the Year, Association of Fundraising Professionals, Santa Barbara/Ventura Counties

Reflections on Race by Michele Vivirito

My tears mix with yours,
White tears with Black tears,
Not separate and certainly not equal.
Not equal in grief
Since your towering grief of 400 years
Is not something I can ease by sharing.
It's not even something
I can ever completely understand.
But I swear to you --
I will try.

(Editor's note: Michele wrote this as part of a faith and racial healing class. She agreed to let us publish it in the Beacon.)



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.

 **Dignity Health.**
St. John's Regional Medical Center



Know a new mom who could use some support?

Free resources through Dignity Health.

More on Membership

Not a member? Join anytime!

Program year is July-June, but first-time discounts are available throughout the year.

Contact Cathy Trevino, 805-757-3677 or email cathytreviso47@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 30th 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 you.

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

Please contact Cathy Trevino, 805-757-3677 or email cathytreviso47@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 mail to:

Camarillo AAUW
P. O Box 862
Camarillo, CA 93011

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