

A Message from Jan Demonsy, Co-President

Dear Members,

Every Inauguration Day is a significant milestone, but this year's transition of power is particularly special as we celebrate history being made and glass ceilings being shattered. We can all stand a little taller – Kamala Harris is now the first woman to take the title of Vice President of the United States. She is also the first Black American and the first South Asian American to be elected Vice President. It's clear that Vice President Harris has never been afraid to speak her mind – and we're all the better for it. She recalls that her mother would look at her and say, "Kamala, you may be the first to do many things, but make sure you are not the last." She also remembers how she aligned herself with her goals, "At every step of the way, I've been guided by the words I spoke from the first time I stood in a courtroom: Kamala Harris, for the People."

Clearly, she's been training for this job her whole career. Kamala started out as San Francisco's district attorney and California's attorney general, then as our U.S. senator. Now as VP she will be making her case on some of the biggest challenges facing our country, including the stark divisions in our land. On that issue she believes, "There is no vaccine for racism." Also, there are pressing and important legislative matters such as maternal health care. She has strong views on this, "If we do not lift up women and families, everyone will fall short." Additionally, Kamala believes in having women in leadership positions. She observed, "We don't have enough women who are making decisions about what public policy will be. We need greater representation." It will be wonderful to watch our VP in her new role. She seems to have a great deal of positivity, confidence and courage. Her outlook on the future is bright; she believes, "If we have faith to see what can be – unburdened by what has been – we can move mountains." Finally, there's a woman in the highest level of government. She and President Biden have multiple crises to resolve; let's reach out to find ways to help.

Big news for Tech Trek! We are starting a TTAG group (Tech Trek Alumni Group) for all former campers sponsored by our Camarillo Branch. Tech Trek 2021 (TT) will take place online in July, 2021. There will be heavy emphasis on robotics and various workshops in the afternoon and evening. TT needs volunteers to coach the classes; volunteers will receive a stipend and 2-6 hours of training. Please help if you can.

(Continued, next page)

2021 Snip and Save Calendar

Feb. 7 – AAUW TO, Building Equity-Centered Conversations
 Feb 9, 10am, Non-Fiction Book Group
 Feb 9, 7pm - Antiracist Book Group*
 Feb 10, 5pm. Board Meeting*
 Feb 22, 7pm, PM Book Group
 Feb. 24, 6pm– Speech Trek- Register at <http://bit.ly/SpeechTrek>
 March 9, 10am, Non-Fiction Book Group
 March 9, 7pm - Antiracist Book Group*
 March 10, 5pm, Board Meeting*
 March. 22, 7pm, PM Book Group
 March 24, 7pm, General Meeting Featuring Women in History!

* <http://bit.ly/AAUWzoom>

Co-President's Message, Continued

Women in History is busy creating video portrayals of three outstanding women: Harriet Tubman, Carmen Camarillo and Sylvia Earle. The videos will be offered to local schools for use online – “Virtual History”! We’ll be sharing these videos with you at our March meeting.

The Thousand Oaks Branch has invited us to Zoom with them for their General Meeting on Sunday, February 7 from 2-4. The speaker, Lisa Miller, the Assistant Superintendent of CVUSD, will speak on “Building Equity Centered Conversation”. See next page for info.

Here’s to our new VP – may she move some mountains!

Jan Demonsy

pocaterraj@aol.com

aauwcamarillo.copres@gmail.com



Why it's a big deal that Kamala is VP: Here's a simple visual aid—

Until the red box she would have been enslaved.

Until the blue box she couldn't vote

Until the yellow box she had to attend a segregated school. And

until the green one she couldn't have her own bank account.



Camarillo (CA) Branch

BEACON

February 2021

Speech Trek, 6pm, Feb 24th



AAUW California Speech Trek

Join us on Wednesday, February 24, 2021 at 6pm for the finals of our first Speech Trek Competition. Watch our bright local high school students as they give 5-6 minute speeches on the topic: "Has social media helped or hindered the breaking down of barriers for women and girls?" The winner of this contest will advance to the AAUW-CA competition which will be held in March. The top winner of that event will receive \$1,500. Let's support our Ventura County students!

Please register to receive Zoom login info:

<http://bit.ly/SpeechTrek>

For more information contact:

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

Mary Goldberg marymgoldberg@gmail.com (805) 248-4572 (cell)

AAUW-Camarillo Speech Trek Coordinators

Invitation from TO Branch

Building Equity Centered Conversations

led by Dr. Lisa Miller

Asst. Supt., Student Services, CVUSD

Sunday, Feb. 7, 2-4pm

RSVP required (for Zoom Invitation)
to Betty Stapleford at
bstaple4rd@aol.com



AM Book Review

Next Zoom meetings and books on the second Tuesday of the month at 10am.

February 9, 2021 *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.

March 9, 2021 *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson (author of *The Warmth of Other Suns* and Pulitzer Prize winner). See NY Times Book Review, recent interviews on NPR.

A Book to Consider: *Promised Land* by Barack Obama, currently a best seller.

Contact Barbara Hilburn with suggestions and instructions on joining. hilburndesigns@gmail.com

PM Book Group

On **Feb. 22** we will be discussing Judi Picoult's novel ***Plain Truth***. In it she explores the complex choices of the heart for a young Amish woman, and the compelling journey of discovery for an urban lawyer who befriends her. For those wishing to read ahead: March's book selection is ***The Book of Lost Friends*** by Lisa Wingate. A truly compelling read. April's book is ***American Dirt***, also an unforgettable story. And, the book for May is ***The Vanishing Half*** by Brit Bennett. If you have any questions, please phone Diana Dingler, 805 987-8013 .

Antiracist Book Group

The Antiracist Book Group continues with the selection, *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson. We will finish the book this month and choose our next selection. You can also join the AM Book review next month to discuss!

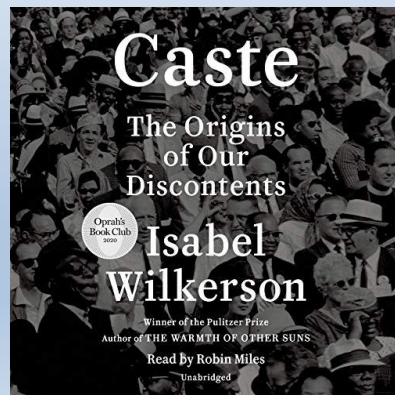
February 9, 7pm - Parts 6-end

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

<http://bit.ly/AAUWzoom>

[Join the Facebook group](#)

Also see end of Beacon for info on a calendar for sale:
A History of Racial Injustice



Great Decisions

Global Supply Chains and National Security

Friday, February 26th, 3:30p.m., Online

The shutdown of global supply chains due to the Covid-19 pandemic brought to the fore an issue with the high level of global economic interdependence: what happens when one country is the main source for an item, say face masks, and then can no longer supply the item? Countries suddenly unable to meet the demand for certain supplies are faced with growing calls for economic nationalism. What are some of the lasting effects that the pandemic could have on global supply chains and trade? How would this affect national security?

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, beginning this month** – are informal and invite discussion. First, before the meeting, at home, we read a brief chapter in our booklet and watch a 20-minute video on the month's topic. You will get an email from Nancy Walters with information about the video disc for viewing at home.

On the meeting day and time, we sign into the GoToMeeting website and discuss the topic for about an hour. This is a safe, informative, and non-political venue to discuss important and current foreign policy matters. No experience is necessary!

Please contact Nancy Walters at Nancy Walters nejwalters285@gmail.com or 719-395-6531 if you would like to join us. You will receive an explanatory email about GoToMeeting along with the group sign-in number for the February meeting. The sign-in number is emailed to each group member every month. We encourage all members and guests to join in the conversation.

You may see a complete list of topics for the year and more information at the Foreign Policy Association Great Decisions website: https://www.fpa.org/great_decisions/.

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

ROLLIN' ROLLIN' ROLLIN': We are still moving forward preparing for our upcoming **Authors' Day on Nov. 6, 2021**. Please keep that date on your calendar of events. We will need our usual bevy of workers to ensure another successful event. [Enjoy the Authors' Day recap here](#).

Membership News from Cathy Trevino

In a few months we will get a chance to vote and prove our AAUW membership criteria match our mission and values. Just as our Camarillo Branch gives scholarships to returning students, we recognize the value and contribution of women still trying to achieve their educational goals. Now is the chance for us to really prove we mean it. From the AAUW National Board of Directors:

“Proposals to eliminate the degree requirement for membership have come before our membership for vote a number of times. The AAUW Board feels very strongly that while the degree requirement made perfect sense at AAUW’s inception, this requirement is now counter to our mission, and limits our ability to build the capacity needed to increase our impact as an organization.”

Respectful debate and comments are encouraged and can be placed on the [AAUW-
org election page through Feb. 5, 2021](https://www.aauw.org/election) with voting from April 7 to May 27, 2021 5:00 PM ET. Some previously posted comments include:

“AAUW is unique due to our breadth of programming, research, policy and advocacy fellowship & grants, and most importantly a grassroots membership that can be mobilized to fight for what we believe in. We should open this powerful grassroots network up to all who want to join the fight.”

“Education comes in many forms. Those who do not have degrees can still be strong advocates for our mission.”

“Just like our founding mothers we can be role models for positive change in the world. But we cannot have the impact we seek when our membership criteria don’t match our mission and values.”

We hope all members weigh in. You can also post your thoughts and comments on our [Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/aaucamarillo).

Tech Trek 2021 Update

The State-level management team for the Tech Trek program has determined that the program in 2021 will be a one-week online course, not a campus-based experience. The 5 mornings will be a robotics class/project, and in the afternoons two different short workshops will be streamed. Some of the workshops will be the same as have been delivered previously at camps. Robotics kits and kits for the workshops will be provided to the girls. There may be some evening events too, such as the much-loved event with role models from science careers, or a seminar for parents on college planning.

There will be at least three weeks of Virtual Camp available, with capacity for several hundred girls each time. To run this, many volunteer assistants will be needed. Girls will be in break-out groups of about 6, and each group will have two “coaches”. One coach will assist with the technical issues of the robotics project and will be provided with appropriate training and the build kit. The other coach with the “Social” one to attend to all other concerns. Coaches can be old or young (in fact TT alumnae are being solicited). To perform coaching duties, you would need a computer (not just a phone, though a Chrome book may be OK), adequate bandwidth connectivity and the Zoom application. **Please consider volunteering to work** as a Tech Trek coach this year yourself. It would be a lot less wearing than giving a whole week away at a college campus, but still give a significant boost to the next generation of female scientists. If you have a young female scientist or college student in your family, please **encourage them to participate** too. A stipend will be paid to coaches.

The cost per girl will be significantly less, of course, and our Branch Exec team has decided to fund about 5 girls this year, if we are able to generate sufficient nominations. We will also have to generate Branch funding for this project. Our two main sources of support for Tech Trek are not available this year, so donations from Branch members will be key. **Please consider making a donation to the Branch** to cover Tech Trek program this year.

Finally, I will be needing assistance this year to generate nominations. If you have contacts or influence at middle schools, please let me know. Contact me by e-mail. I do not yet have the information necessary to interact with schools or teachers but expect to get that later in January.

Vanessa Otto
votto@ootto.com

Public Policy –2021 Full Steam Ahead, by Kathy Long, Chair

Since January 20th, hope rose up and public policy became the focus for the advancement and healing of our country. As AAUW National issued its [Equity Wish List](#), encompassing language for racial justice, gender equity and education reform; President Biden was in sync with the issuing of 33 Executive orders focused on the economy, Coronavirus, equity, environment, census, immigration, ethics and regulations. The President's actions will pause Student Debt repayments loans to Sept. 30th; work to establish \$15 national minimum wage; rejoin the Paris Accord; stop the Keystone XL project; call for the Census count to include non-citizens; fortify DACA; prevent workplace discrimination; and stop the building of border walls just to mention a few.

The Equity Wish List included the requirement for federal contractors to include salary ranges in job announcements and prohibit them from relying on job applicants' salary history to set wages; and require employers to collect and report compensation data by race, ethnicity and gender, then make that information readily available so it can be used to adjust salaries appropriately. Also calling for the administration to take steps to stop workplace harassment. These recommendations include enacting anti-retaliation provisions, prohibiting non-disparagement and non-disclosure agreements unless requested by the employee, banning pre-dispute mandatory arbitration, instituting strong penalties, and eliminating caps on damages awarded to workers who have experienced discrimination. AAUW will also be working with Congress to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act; work to eliminate the gender divide in STEM programs; and to tackle the student debt crisis, where women are especially burdened holding nearly two-thirds of all outstanding loans,—around \$929 billion – crippling their educational advancement and economic security. Finally, COVID-19 has further exacerbated educational inequities in our K-12 schools and institutions of higher education, demonstrating that we need to continue working to provide safer, more inclusive, and culturally responsive institutions.

With the battle at the U.S. Senate underway, but with the majority now with the Democrats, and the goal of unity, perhaps the 350 bills that have languished in McConnell's reign will be taken up for consideration for the good of the country.

(Continued, next page)

Public Policy, Continued.

(From previous page:)

Big issues to tackle, and more women in Congress to get the job done! A record number of women in the 117th Congress: total of 144 of the 539 seats. 120 in the House of Representatives and 24 in the Senate. This represents a 50% increase from a decade ago with the 112th Congress. This still equates to 27% women representation overall. Locally, we have 10 cities, 52-elected positions, with 20 women serving -38% overall. On the Board of Supervisors, we have three women out of 5 serving. Progress, but more work to do to get to 50% representation!

The work on Broadband countywide access is underway. Our AAUW, along with other non-profits have agreed to form a Digital Inclusion Task Force, that will inform and advocate for greater broadband access in our county. February 9th the first convening will take place. Report out next month!

AAUW Free Webinars



Upcoming Webinars

Tuesday, February 2, 4-5p.m. ET

AAUW Public Policy Talks: 2021 Priorities and the New Administration

As our elected officials get to work in the new Congress and administration, AAUW continues to advance gender equity for all. Join AAUW's public policy team for an overview of our public policy priorities, critical bills and executive orders already announced, and how to leverage your individual advocacy power in 2021.

Register Now

Thursday, February 11, 3-4:30p.m. ET

Creating a Diversity Structure and Planning for Success

Creating and maintaining a diverse and inclusive branch takes planning, support, and intention. Wherever your branch is in its journey to build DEI capacity, we encourage you to attend this webinar. Using the DEI Toolkit and related resources, AAUW's Inclusion and Equity Committee will highlight the process for beginning to engage your branch in the conversation and creating an effective diversity and inclusion plan. We will also feature a discussion with Linda J. Carpenter, PhD, co-chair of the Diversity Committee of AAUW's Lake / Sumter (FL) branch, to discuss their experience with the diversity planning process and to share some practical insights for branches looking to undertake this process for themselves.

Register Now

Member News

Happy Birthday,
Dr. Jerrie Newman

95 sure looks good on you!



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

Treasurer

Jennie Baker

Membership Treasurer

Diana Dingler

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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

Peggy Bryant

1928-2021

Longtime member Peggy Bryant passed away earlier this month. A past Branch President, Named Grant Honoree, and one of the founders of Creative Arts Workshop, she led an adventurous and accomplished life. Full obituary on our FB page or in the VC Star. The family has generously asked for donations in her memory to AAUW Camarillo scholarship fund. Please include Peggy's name in the memo line or use [the branch PayPal account](#) for online donations.



February is Black History Month

We have a dozen 2021 calendars for sale from the Equal Justice Initiative:
A History of Racial Injustice.

The realities of racial injustice are staggering, but so important to acknowledge this part of our history which is often ignored. \$5 minimum donation. Contact

Gloria – aauw.camarillo.president@gmail.com to get yours.



Have news to share? Email camarillo.beacon@gmail.com

Membership

Not a member? Join anytime!

Program year is July-June, but first-time discounts are available through the year. Contact Cathy Trevino, 805-757-3677 or email cathytrevino47@gmail.com.

New members can also use the link below to join.

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

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.

Share with a friend!

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

Please contact Cathy Trevino, 805-757-3677 or email 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/>



Want to make a donation? Mail your check to the address above, or scan the QR code to make an online, tax deductible donation to keep our programs going!