

## ***A Message from Gloria Miele, Co-President***

It's Women's History Month and our COVID-versary. It's hard to believe that our lives have been impacted for a full year with COVID. My heart goes out to everyone who has lost family and friends. I hope you and yours are well as we start to see a light at the end of the tunnel. By now, many have had at least one dose of the vaccine. I am so fortunate to work for UCLA Health, where they offered vaccinations to all staff – over 35,000 people! – after the health care workers, of course! I'm feeling a glimmer of hope that we may be able to gather again sometime this year. Fingers crossed.

It seems like yesterday yet a lifetime ago we were enjoying a year full of activities celebrating Women's History Month and the centennial of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment at events throughout the county before everything changed. Because last year's Centennial celebrations were stymied, the theme this year continues to celebrate women's suffrage with the theme: "Valiant Women of the Vote: Refusing to Be Silenced." It surely continues to be applicable as women once again were key in getting out the vote in November and working for equity all around.

We have adapted and continue to run our programs: another instance of women making history! Our own Women in History program goes virtual this year and will be the focus of our March meeting. Details on that and other programs inside.

March is also Equal Pay month, when on March 24<sup>th</sup> women finally catch up to what men made the prior year for the same work. AAUW supports pay equity and legislation that can narrow the pay gap. See a special article from Pat Ehret under Public Policy.

Speech Trek was an inspiration. These young women (and one man) from county high schools gave impressive speeches about whether social media has helped or hindered women. Great work Speech Trek team who made our first ever event a success. More inside on the winners and a link to our YouTube channel to view the speeches.

We continue our commitment to racial equity and justice with our antiracist book and discussion group. All are welcome! I wrote an extra piece later in The Beacon that talks about the City Council recall in the context of racial justice. Finally, see Cathy Trevino's membership article about voting for new membership requirements. Next month we can vote to become a truly inclusive organization and open our doors to women who share our values, vision, and mission, but do not yet have a degree. More to come.

Gloria Miele, [aauw.camarillo.president@gmail.com](mailto:aauw.camarillo.president@gmail.com)

## 2021 Snip and Save Calendar

March 9, 10am, Non-Fiction Book Group

March 9, 23, 7pm - Antiracist Book Group\*

March 10, 5pm, Board Meeting\*

March 18, 7pm. Changemaker Program, with Delores Huerta and Monique Limon

March. 22, 7pm, PM Book Group

March 24, 7pm, General Meeting Featuring Women in History

March 24 – Equal Pay Day

April 13, 10am, Non-Fiction Book Group

April 13, 7pm - Antiracist Book Group\*

April 14, 5pm, Board Meeting\*

April 21, 7pm, General Meeting featuring new Ventura County Supervisor Carmen Ramirez

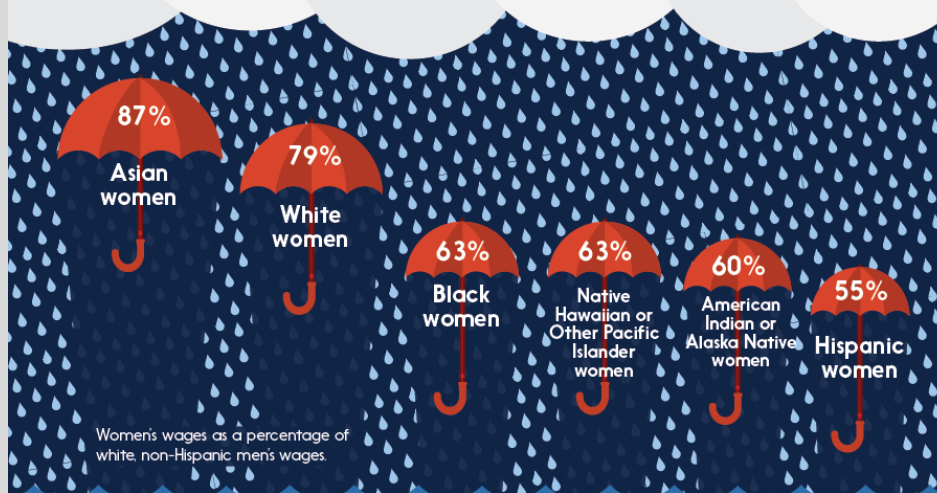
April 26, 7pm, PM Book Group

May 2 – Save the Date: IBC Fund Luncheon

Nov 6, Authors' Day

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

**Because of the gender pay gap women  
have less money for a rainy day.**



**Help AAUW close the gap.**

Source: AAUW, *The Simple Truth about the Gender Pay Gap* (2020)



Camarillo (CA) Branch

# BEACON

March 2021

## ***Celebrating Women's History Month***



Join us on Wednesday, March 24, 2021 at 7pm as we celebrate women's history month!

We will enjoy a group viewing of AAUW Camarillo's 2021 Virtual Women in History program, featuring oceanographer Sylvia Earle and local Carmen Camarillo.

Experience small group activities for each accomplished woman

Preview plans for 2022

Register at <http://bit.ly/AAUWWIH>



## ***More on Women in History***

It's often said, "Where there's a will, there's a way!" That was the motto for our Women in History Committee this year -- we were determined to make history come alive in the schools despite Covid-19. March is Women's History month, so efforts were made to provide video WIH performances in March to replace our normal "in person" portrayals. The school personnel were delighted. Just days ago, Merrill Berge forwarded the videos of Carmen Camarillo, our local woman in history, and Sylvia Earle, a record-breaking oceanographer, to 12 Camarillo area schools. Along with the videos were background information for the teachers, suggested activities for children of various ages, and evaluation links to get feedback for the committee. Committee members assisting with portrayals were Nance Chaubell - Sylvia Earle, and Suzanne Maraboto - Carmen Camarillo. Editing done by her daughter Xochitl Kollinzas. We're looking forward to reviewing the evaluations on this program. However, we look forward even more to March 2022 when WIH return to the schools in person.

Join us at our meeting this month to see the finished products and celebrate Women in History!



Camarillo (CA) Branch

# BEACON

March 2021

## ***Congratulations to Our Speech Trek Winners!***

After an excellent semi-final round (see Zoom screen photo, below) with students from all over Ventura County answering the question, "Has social media helped or hindered the breaking down of barriers for women and girls,?" three finalists were chosen to deliver their speeches live at our February meeting. All of the videos can be found on our [YouTube Channel](#).

First place and \$200 goes to



Dylan Zulueta,  
Rio Mesa High School

Tied for 2<sup>nd</sup> and receiving \$150 each



Amanda Vega, Oxnard Middle  
College High School



Kaitlin Sysavath,  
Adolfo Camarillo High School

Dylan advances to the AAUW-CA semifinals. The top three winners of that competition advance to the AAUW-CA finals held in April.

We appreciate the chapter's support of this program. Thank you to our final's judges Colleen Scott and KayDee Wood.

Your Speech Trek Team,

Mary Goldberg  
JoAnn Cataldo  
Kay Wolverton Ito







Camarillo (CA) Branch

# BEACON

March 2021

## 2021 Snip and Save Calendar

The Lompoc-Vandenberg Branch of AAUW, in collaboration with Allan Hancock College Associated Student Body Government, invites the community to a virtual celebration:

### THE CHANGEMAKERS

Celebrating women leaders making change  
and Women's History Month

#### Guest Speakers



**Senator  
Monique Limón**



**Ms. Dolores Huerta**



**The Simmons  
Sisters**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 2021  
7 - 8 P.M. VIA ZOOM**

Register at  
[lompocvandenberg-ca.aauw.net](http://lompocvandenberg-ca.aauw.net)



No charge to attend  
Live interpretation in Spanish will be available  
Simulcast on TAP TV and KPEG Radio



## AM Book Review

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

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](mailto:hilburndesigns@gmail.com)

## PM Book Group

Our virtual meeting is scheduled for March 22, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. We will be discussing *The Book of Lost Friends* by Lisa Wingate. It is a powerful novel, full of history, based somewhat on fact.

Looking ahead, our upcoming books are:

American Dirt by Jeanine Cummins - 4/26/21

The Vanishing Half by Brit Bennett - 5/24/21

If you have any questions, please phone Diana Dingler, 805 987-8013 .

## Antiracist Book Group

The Antiracist Book Group continues with the selection, *The Purpose of Power* by Alicia Garza, one of the founders of Black Lives Matter. We should all know more about her and the Black Lives Matter movement, given all the misinformation about it. A great book about movements.

March 9, 7pm - Parts I and II (through Chapter Seven)

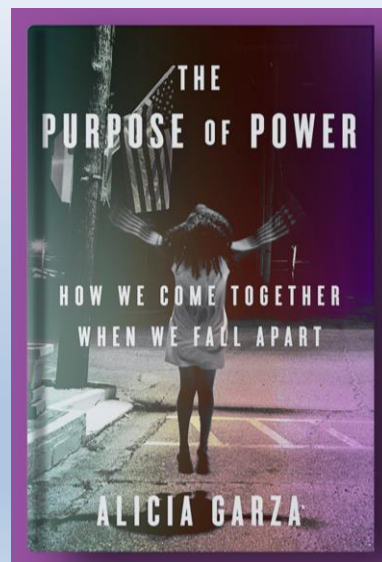
March 23, 7pm – Part III through end

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, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 3:30p.m., Online

*The Persian Gulf remains tense as the rivalry between the regional powers of Saudi Arabia and Iran continues. Tensions escalated in early 2020 as the United States began to intervene in the Gulf, launching an airstrike that killed two Iranian military commanders. What are the historical influences that have led to these tensions? What role, if any, should the United States play? Is using military force a viable foreign policy option for 2021 and beyond?*

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](mailto: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/](https://www.fpa.org/great_decisions/).

## Books, Books, Books! Authors' Day, Nov. 6, 2021

As you recall, a major part of our table decorations for Authors' Day includes books. We try to provide only clean, semi- new, gently used books for this purpose. So, we are starting to collect donated books for this purpose. We hope you can be as generous as you've been in the past and donate some of the books you perhaps read during our year of semi-quarantine. We would really appreciate your help again, especially since Friends of the Library is not open at this juncture to provide any donations. Box or bag them and leave at the following locations. Thank you.

Anita Kuzas (Mission Oaks)  
1625 Heritage Trail  
[805] 987-6078

Diana Dingler (Central Camarillo)  
938 Fairchild Ave.  
[805] 987-8013

## Public Policy –Progress!! by Kathy Long, Chair

Our elected leaders at the Federal and State levels are fully underway with bill introduction for the new legislative cycle. Most are focused on Covid recovery and certainly the disaster response in Texas. President Biden's administration is moving ahead to advance and realign the many issues inherited from the prior administration. A significant proposal on Immigration, The U.S. Citizenship ACT – provides an eight-year path to citizenship for 11 million immigrants, without legal status, with a five-year wait for permanent legal status (green card) and three more years before citizenship is granted. Also offers Green Cards to DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) program. Farmworkers who can show backward-looking work history will also be able to go directly to permanent legal status, with all categories required to pass security checks. President Biden set the tone for the Immigration focus, along with top priorities for: Climate, Racial Equity, Economy, Health Care, and Restoring America's Global Standing.

On the State level, our two Assemblymembers Jacqui Irwin and Steve Bennett have put forward 25 and 13 bills respectively to start the legislative review process. Newest Assemblyman Steve Bennett has authored AB 941, modeled after a successful program here in Ventura County that would establish Farmworker Resource Centers statewide. As they progress, we'll report out on those that gain momentum. New Senator Monique Limon has put forward 20 Bill proposals. She also announced that Senator Dave Min has put forward SB 264 that would ban the sale of firearms/ammunition on all state-owned properties, i.e., Fairgrounds. Senator Min is from Orange County and a Law Professor. With our great interest in this issue, will continue to track the legislation. You can look at all bills proposed at the state by going to: [leginfo.legislature.ca.gov](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov)

Quick update on the Broadband – Digital Inclusion Task Force. First meeting took place on Feb.9<sup>th</sup>. General background on current conditions/assessment in our county. Issues with infrastructure, deployment, and affordability. Group being convened by the Economic Development Collaborative of Ventura County. Proposed 3-4 meetings. Next one to focus on community "best practices." Betsy Metzger and I representing AAUW.



## Equal Pay Day, March 24th



March 2021 is once again the month that brings us Equal Pay Day. Women who worked throughout 2020 will have to continue working until **March 24** of this year in order to earn what men earned in the 2020 calendar year alone. We work almost 15 months for wages that the men have earned in 12! In the typical 9 to 5 workday, women start working for free at 2:40 p.m.!

Equal pay for equal responsibility in equivalent circumstances (location, performance, tenure) has been a goal of AAUW down through the years. Are we making progress? Well, in 1963, women earned 59 *cents* for every *dollar* that a man made. In 1992 it was 77 *cents*. Now it's all the way up to 82 *cents*! Of course, that's the average for *all women*. Women of color make even less. More information at <https://www.aauw.org/resources/article/equal-pay-day-calendar/> and <http://www.equajlpaytoday.org/overview-2021>.

Women's pay affects not only their current income but their future circumstances as well. It affects how much they are able to save in IRAs and personal savings accounts. And it determines the amount of Social Security for which they'll be eligible. And women are the major breadwinners in an increasing number of households. What about the loan or credit they may need or want? Women's pay affects that too! AAUW also has a free online salary negotiation course to help equalize the pay gap. Visit <https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/salary/>.

So, though we've come a long way, we still have a significant way to go to achieve equity. The **Paycheck Fairness Act** (a needed companion to the Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009), would add procedural protections to the Equal Pay Act of 1963 and amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of gender. It has been introduced into the House and/or Senate in every Congress since the 105<sup>th</sup> in 1997 and finally passed the House in 2019 but was never given consideration in the Senate. In January of this year, Sponsor Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) re-introduced it to House. **Ever persistent, let's advocate loudly and clearly for its passage in both chambers of Congress!**

## 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.”

Voting will take place 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.”

## 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.

## Member News

### Defund the Police! Marxists! Recall!!

Do these terms sound familiar? They've become part of the extremist sound bites that have taken our country by storm. Look no further than Camarillo grocery store parking lots for Defund the Police and recall banners.

If you don't know, a group has started a recall petition of two of our city council members: Susan Santangelo and Shawn Mulchay. Usually recalls are held because someone does their job poorly. Not this one. The main complaint is that these two council members proposed that the city join nearly every other in the county and put forward a Black Lives Matter proclamation after the death of George Floyd. This widely practiced recognition would show support of Camarillo's Black community and solidarity over the racial injustices that were the focus of demonstrations and protests last summer. The other reason for recall is that the two members suggested Council work with the Sherriff's office to review the current contract, something that had not been done for many years. Instead of applauding appropriate oversight, they have been accused of wanting to "defund the police."

We see this kind of rhetoric in the national news, but to see it here is alarming. Why can't our city proclaim that Black Lives Matter? Why can't we show solidarity over racial injustice in our country and in our community? AAUW is an Antiracist organization and proudly affirms Black Lives Matter.

The petition, which makes multiple inaccurate claims about BLM and the council members' intentions, needs nearly 9,500 valid signatures to go to special election, which would cost taxpayers over \$200,000. This recall wasn't even started by a Camarillo resident, but his actions have already cost us plenty.

If you are asked to sign this petition, you should be shown the recall statement, rebuttal, and list of major funders. If not, take note of the interaction and let the city know, as the validity of the signatures may be in question.

Do your research. Don't fall for extremist rhetoric.  
Black Lives Matter -GM

### **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



## Member News

**Which AAUW Camarillo Member received the same recognition as Oprah AND the Duke and Duchess of Sussex?**

**Celina Zacarias, Community and Gov't Relations, CSUCI**

was voted one of the

50 Most Influential People in the Region

By the Pacific Coast Business Times.

Congratulations, Celina, and thank for you all you do in the community!

February 12-18, 2021 • Vol. 27, No. 48

**50 MOST INFLUENTIAL People in the Region**

**Lynda Weinman**  
Founder, Lynda.com

**Ron Werft**  
President & CEO, Cottage Health

**Oprah Winfrey**  
Media Mogul, Oprah Winfrey Show/Network

**Dick Wolf**  
Former, MCHM Museum

**Henry Yang**  
Chairman, UC Santa Barbara

**Celina Zacarias**  
Sr. Director of Gov't/Community Relations, CSUCI

Sponsored by:

PM Tue Feb 23

February 12-18, 2021

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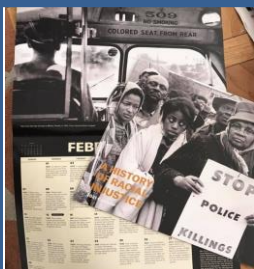
**Celina Zacarias**  
Sr. Director of Gov't/Community Relations, CSUCI

## History of Racial Injustice Calendars Still Available

We have a few 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](mailto:aauw.camarillo.president@gmail.com) to get yours.

Gloria – [aauw.camarillo.president@gmail.com](mailto:aauw.camarillo.president@gmail.com) to get yours.



Have news to share? Email [camarillo.beacon@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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 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.

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](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/>



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!