

A Message from Gloria Miele, Co-President

It's hard to believe that this is my last front page message to our members after 4 years as President/Co-President. I volunteered to serve after the 2016 election to put my energy toward AAUW's mission and policy priorities that were under attack. After 2 years as President, I was lucky to have Jan Demonsy join me for the past 2 years as Co-President. What a ride!

Our organization has continued to evolve and grow and adapt, especially this year, and is still making an impact in our community as we've been doing for 57 years. This year's pivot brought Zoom meetings, Speech Trek, virtual [Women in History](#), take-home Creative Arts, and other events. Even our centennial celebration of the 19th amendment with VC Vision 2020 was online, as was our honor as Service Organization of the Year. The pandemic dragged us into the age of technology that many of us were dabbling in or resisting altogether. I couldn't be more proud of our board and members who have tackled this challenge head on and are still learning every day.

Thanks to all the board members over the years, especially Jan, for being a great partner in leadership and friend. Special kudos to Vanessa Otto, our unwavering Treasurer, past President, and Tech Trek coordinator. Thanks to Mary Goldberg, Cathy Trevino, Gladys Ochangco who have made this year's board so fun and productive, and Maria Tagliaferri who has stepped in without meeting any of us in person! Thanks to all others who have served the past few years, especially Pam Perkins Dwyer, Bea Lutterbeck, Ann Kahng, Shari Zaiger, Elizabeth Holder, Jennie Baker, Diana Dingler, Jan Ackerman, Karen Allen, Kathy Long, Kay Ito, Sarah Therriault, Rebecca Pecsok, Janet Lindquist, Nancy Walters, Celina Zacarias, Ann Wasson, JoAnn Cataldo, Faye Villa, Kathy Van Slyke (RIP), the WIH team, and all our wonderful volunteers, donors, and founding members, without whom none of this would be possible. See inside for our nominated slate of officers for next year. It's not too late for additional nominations. We will vote June 6th. And don't forget to renew your membership! I'm looking forward to staying involved as Past President, especially in helping with programs and our continued efforts toward greater diversity, equity, and inclusion.

If you haven't already voted in the National and State AAUW elections, please do so. More information inside. The most important is your vote on the degree requirement. I believe it's time for AAUW to remove the degree requirement, so we can become a truly open, equitable, and intersectional organization. When businesses and other organizations look to see if they should support us, we want them to see an organization that welcomes all women who share our values. Organizations that are more diverse achieve better outcomes. Please consider voting to remove the degree requirement at this important juncture.

Speaking of intersectionality, [register today](#) for the IBC Fellows Webinar Sunday May 2, 2-330pm. Learn more about the work AAUW-funded scholars are doing at this exciting program.

Thank you all for your continued dedication to equity for women and girls. I look forward to this work together in the coming years. As more of us are vaccinated and we continue to emerge from the pandemic, I look forward to seeing you, hopefully at our June 6th meeting. All my best, Gloria



Camarillo (CA) Branch

BEACON

May 2021

Register Today for May 2nd Event!



empowering women since 1881

**Ventura County Interbranch Council
Presents**

Intersectionality: Making A Place For All

**Live Webinar on Zoom
Sunday May 2, 2021 at
2:00 pm**

Register at the link below:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ
EufuCvqzloEt2b39LmJddDz61qFh_ogJb4](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ
EufuCvqzloEt2b39LmJddDz61qFh_ogJb4)

Keynote Speakers

Feather Ives



Career Development Grant

Sponsored by Camarillo and Simi Valley Branches

Master's Candidate in Public Health

LaToya Council



American Fellowship

Sponsored by Thousand Oaks 30th Anniversary
Fellowship

PhD Candidate in Sociology

Find information about LaToya's book, *Intersectional Allies*, at <https://www.dottirpress.com/intersection-allies>

2021 Snip and Save Calendar

May 2, 2pm. IBC Fund Meeting, "Intersectionality: Making a Place for All." Online.
May 11, 10am, Non-Fiction Book Group
May 12, 5pm, Board Meeting (watch for updates for a possible in person dinner meeting)
May 24, 7pm, PM Book Group
May 25, 7pm - Antiracist Book Group*
May 28, 3:30pm, Great Decisions
June 6. 1pm, Year End Meeting and Board Installation. Pleasant Valley Historical Society Garden Gazebo. Keynote speaker: Kristin Decas, CEO and Port Director, Port of Hueneme.
June 9, Board Meeting*
September Kick Off - TBD
Nov 6, Authors' Day, Spanish Hills Country Club. [* http://bit.ly/AAUWzoom](http://bit.ly/AAUWzoom)

2021-2022 Board Nominations

Co-President	Jan Demonsy
Co-President	Cathy Trevino
Treasurer	Vanessa Otto
Secretary	Mary Goldberg
VP Programs	Gladys Ochangco
VP Membership	Maria Tagliaferri

Nominations are still being accepted (contact Gloria@strongerleader.com). Voting will take place at our June 6th meeting.

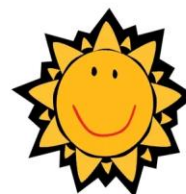
Creative Arts Workshop is Underway!

Thank you to those who spread the word and to those who picked up kits for the month of May! Please check the website for new activities in each class, and some new classes coming for June and July: cawregistration.net These kits are wonderful ways for children to explore, create and have exciting fun at home: starting at grade TK. Many thanks!
Fondly, Karen Allen Director CAW



CREATIVE ARTS WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

AAUW CREATIVE ARTS WORKSHOP



Exploring, Discovering & Experiencing
Yourself in the Universe



Authors Day is Coming!

November 6, 2021, Spanish Hills Country Club

10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Tickets - \$60 each (\$30 tax deductible)

We have the location, we have the indoor schematic, we have the authors, we have the bookseller, and we're finalizing the menu. We are working on the flyer and tickets, so will have all those ready by the end of summer. Please put the date on your calendar. We are very excited to get this event rolling once again and to see your smiling enthusiastic faces in the audience.

This year's authors are:

Sue Cameron – She is a writer-journalist who has been a daily columnist and TV editor, magazine editor, director of daytime program development for ABC Network, and is an original founder of Women in Film. She has appeared as a Hollywood commentator on Dateline NBC, the E Channel, Inside Edition, CNN's Show Biz Today, and more. She is now busy working on her fifth book.

J. Ryan Stradal – From southern Minnesota, he is a writer of novels and foodie culture of the Midwest. His first novel landed on the New York Times Hardback best sellers list, and was awarded the Midwest Bestsellers Choice Award, The Indies Book of the Year Award, and named the year's top novel choice by the Southern California Independent Booksellers Association. His novel has been acquired for publication in 12 overseas countries.

Betty Hechtman – She is the national bestselling author of the Crochet Mysteries and the Yarn Retreat Mysteries where she has been able to combine her lifelong love of handicrafts with storytelling mysteries. She has up to 24 published novels.

Isla Morley – Originally from South Africa, she has lived in Johannesburg, London, Honolulu, and now Southern California. For more than decade she pursued a career in non-profit work, focusing on the needs of women and children. She then turned to writing novels, of which she has four publications.

We Joined In Solidarity with the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Community Against Racial Violence



AAUW Camarillo members, friends and family showed up to support the AAPI community and speak out against anti-Asian hate and violence at a student-led vigil in Oxnard.

Pictured left to right: Dylan Zulueta, Gladys Ochangco, Ebony Ann Blaze, Cathy Trevino, Gloria Miele, Dave Epelone. Not pictured: Kay Ito, Martita Bravo, Ben Zulueta).

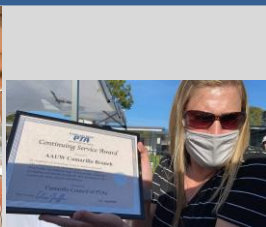
Thank you to all the Women in History who paved the way for this historic moment as the Vice President and Speaker of the House took their places at the joint session of Congress.

Can't wait until we have a woman President making the address.

Thanks to Betsy Metzgar for this image and intention.



A Drive-Through Honor



Co-Presidents Gloria Miele and Jan Demonsy proudly accepted the Honorary Service Award for our branch's contribution to PVSD schools, including Women in History and Creative Arts Workshop. See the Camarillo Council PTA's lovely recognition video [here](#). You can also see video of the drive through experience and more photos [here](#).



Nonfiction Book Group

We will meet on May 11 at 10:00 at Jerrie Newman's
872 Grada, Camarillo. 805 389-3064 (H) 805 443-4276 (C).

- May 11 *The Code Breaker*: by Walter Isaacson
June 8 *Heart: A History* by Sandeep Jauhar January book--NY Times, PBS Book Selection
July 13 *The Girl with Seven Names: A North Korean Defector's Story* by Hyeonseo Lee

Possible Future Books (after July):; *Promised Land* by Barak Obama (700+ pages); *Trick Mirror: Reflections on Self-Delusion* by Jia Tolentino, from the PBS Book Club; *Harriet Tubman: The Road to Freedom* by Catherine Clinton; *In the Country of Women: A Memoir* by Susan Straight
On the House: A Washington Memoir, John Boehner

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

PM Book Group

Our next book is *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett. We'll resume our regular Zoom discussion on Monday, **May 24, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.** Please note that this will be our last book club read for the season. We will resume our meetings again in September--whether on Zoom or in someone's home, time will tell. In the meantime, enjoy your personal choice summer reads. For further info contact Diana Dingler 805 987-8013.

Antiracism Book Group

We've read several excellent books on race this past year. Our plan is to continue to read and have conversations about diversity, equity, and inclusion and what actions we can take to address racist policies in our community. This month, we will meet Tuesday, May 25 at 7pm via zoom to discuss:

Minor Feelings: An Asian American Reckoning by Cathy Park Hong.

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

<http://bit.ly/AAUWzoom>

[Join the Facebook group](#)



Great Decisions

Next Meeting

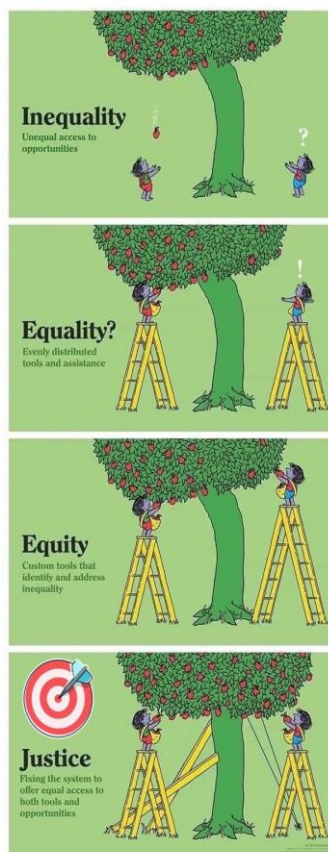
Friday, May 28th, 3:30p.m.

GoToMeeting (we are temporarily meeting online).

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 – 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. I will be communicating with you via email 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 meeting. The sign-in information 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:

A Statement from the AAUW Racial and Social Justice Working Group

As members of this working group, we are passionate about ensuring that AAUW become more diverse and inclusive. **Eliminating the educational requirement for membership is an essential step toward that goal: If we are truly committed to advancing equity for all, we need to become more equitable ourselves.** While the requirement may have made sense early in our history, by today's standards it is perceived as elitist, exclusionary and out of touch. To remain relevant, every organization must evolve. It is essential that we send a loud and clear message that we welcome all who share our values and goals — regardless of whether they hold a college degree. Education remains a top priority for AAUW, of course, and we continue to advocate for opening doors to schooling, training, and career opportunities to advance economic security for women and girls. But we will be better positioned to do our work by welcoming a more diverse membership, not turning people away. We urge you to initiate robust discussion about this proposal within your branch and state organizations. Please share your comments with this working group and with the national Board. And we encourage you to weigh in on this important proposal by casting your vote this spring. Julia Brown, Board Chair Malinda Gaul, Board Vice Chair Joanna Amberger, Former National Board Member Sandy Bernard, Former National Board President Joe Bertolino, National Board Member Patricia Fae Ho, Former National Board Chair Lisette Garcia, Inclusion & Equity Committee Chair Carolyn Garfein, Former National Board President Elizabeth Haynes, National Board Member Karen Kirkwood, National Board Member Dot McLane, Former National Board Member Nancy Rustad, Former National Board President Ruth Sweetser, Former National Board President



Public Policy – The Future for Roe v Wade and Choice by Claire Noonan, AAUW California Public Policy Committee

The times they are changing – a new president and vice-president who support pro-choice, but a sixth very conservative justice is added to the Supreme Court.

Abortion rights activists stress state-by-state vigilance to be aware of how reproductive choice is now used as a political tool, says Ilyse Hogue, recently retired president of NARAL. New anti-choice bills are mainly introduced by the white male religious minority, except in Montana with six abortion-limiting bills introduced this year by conservative female legislators and one male.

For instance, extreme 2021 legislation in Tennessee will allow fathers to veto an abortion. A Texas bill will require a fetus to have a lawyer. Arizona's new bills propose to criminalize a woman who gets an abortion and the doctor who performs it. During a pandemic telemedicine is valuable to prescribe pills for medication abortions. In July 2020 the federal courts temporarily suspended the doctor's visit rule for the first pill, Mifeprestone, but in January 2021 SCOTUS reinstated the rule. Patients again must visit a doctor for the first pill and get a prescription to obtain the second, Misoprostol. These restrictions have a particularly significant impact on low-income communities, which often include women of color, which are stressed economically by the year-long and counting pandemic.

Clinics especially in the South, like [West Alabama Women's Center](#), are constantly searching for money sources to provide reproductive services as well as current needs for newborn assistance. The center focuses on providing financial assistance to the under-served, even when services are 'temporarily' deemed "non-essential". Despite efforts to provide full-spectrum reproductive health care access, dwindling numbers of clinics from the Sun Belt across the Deep South curb the availability of services. In the Navajo Nation, Covid infection is so high that patients need a doctor's note to leave the tribal area for a clinic appointment. Consequently, vigilance means watching the power of the courts, encouraging reversal of the Hyde Amendment, and backing codification of the Roe v Wade decision. As you know, each woman in California can choose, but support for organizations that oversee the reproductive health rights of women in America are worth the effort.

Public Policy – Bits and Pieces from Kathy Long, Public Policy Chair

President Biden launched an historic “American Families Plan”, a plan encompassing: Extending the Child Tax Credit; lowering the cost of Child Care so families pay no more than 7% of their income on care for children under 5 years old; add four years of tuition free schooling—two for Universal Pre-Kindergarten and two years for Community College; and a 10-year phase-in of paid family leave of 12-weeks for parental, family and personal illness. All of this must go through the legislative process, and will face hurdles, but expect to see some success for families.

Tracking statewide legislation priorities following our AAUW Lobby Day: Assembly Bill 92 on Childcare and Preschool Family Fees. Recap: Currently, low-income families are eligible to receive state subsidy for childcare and preschool costs. However, in addition to the subsidy, low-income families must pay out of pocket “Family Fees.” These fees are not affordable for most families. AB92 would waive the Family Fees until October 2022 and cover the waived fees with state and federal funds. After that, the Family Fees would be assessed on a more equitable sliding scale based on family income. Affordable childcare helps to stabilize the economy. Update: On 4/21/21, the Committee on Human Services voted unanimously that the bill be passed and re-referred to the Committee on Education where the hearing date will be 4/28/21. Support: AAUW California is co-sponsor of AB92 which means our organization considers it the highest priority that the bill be passed. 51 other organizations are on record as supporting the bill. There is no opposition on record.

Senate Bill 373, authored by Sen. Dave Min (SD 37), was read for the first time on February 10 and was referred to the Banking & Financial Institutions (B&FI) Committee and the Judiciary Committee on February 17. Five days later the Senate voted to dispense with Article IV, Sec. 8a, and to suspend Joint Rule 55, making the bill eligible to be heard and acted upon by committee or the Senate without waiting until it had been in print 31 days. The bill emerged from the B&FI Committee with the author's amendments and was read for a second time and amended on March 24. It was re-referred to the Committee on B&FI. The B&FI hearing set for April 7 was canceled at the request of the author. The subsequent hearing scheduled for April 21 was postponed by the B&FI Committee. We await further developments.

Senate Bill 373 would amend one section of the Civil Code and add another, relating to consumer debt resulting from financial abuse. This bill would prohibit creditors and debt collectors from being able to collect from an individual who can demonstrate that the debt was incurred through economic abuse. “Economic Abuse” occurs when a person causes an individual to have impaired financial stability by maintaining control over the individual’s financial resources. SB 373 also will prevent the debt from being reported to credit agencies. This legislation is primarily focused on survivors of domestic violence, elder or dependent adult abuse, and foster youth. Debts taken out in their names without their knowledge or consent damage the victims' credit and force them into years of debt repayment, reducing their economic stability and leaving them vulnerable to future abuse, poverty, and housing instability or homelessness. While these issues can impact people of all genders, domestic violence, and its consequences disproportionately harm women.

The final bill tracking is SB62 re: garment workers protection act. On April 21 the bill was placed in suspension by Senate Appropriations committee. We’ll continue to follow if it gets out.

Tech Trek 2021 Update

I'm pleased to tell you that we have now recruited 11 girls to sponsor to the digital Tech Trek camp this summer. They come from six different schools throughout the county. We had no fundraising events to fund Tech Trek this year, but generous members have covered all except \$295 of the Branch costs.

The new online application and document management process worked surprisingly well (and saved us quite a bit in copying and mailing costs). We have also been able to involve some of our older Tech Trek alumnae as coaches for this session. I hope to have more news about this for you later.

The girls will be making an animated hat as their robotics project, so they will be able to bring them to show to us at our September meeting. Thank you to generous members for supporting this project and to my committee for their enthusiasm and assistance. Last month's Beacon detailed the new structure for the Tech Trek 2021.

Any questions, please contact votto@ootto.com

VC Supervisors Resolution for Women's History Month



Grateful to Ventura County District 5 Supervisor Carmen Ramirez, who spearheaded this recognition, then joined us as our speaker in April, where she highlighted the health of our county, especially related to COVID and the environment. We appreciate her time and efforts!



Did you know that making a donation to AAUW Camarillo is as easy as opening the camera app on your phone? If you point the camera at that box on the left (a QR code!), you will go directly to our donation page on PayPal! You can always go "old school" and send a check. Info at the end of the Beacon.



Membership News: Time to Renew!

Thank you for being part of an organization that promotes equity for women, girls, and all members of our community. Don't miss a minute of AAUW programs your board has planned for the coming year. As a member, you are part of a dynamic, impactful, historic organization.

\$100 includes: National - \$62, State - \$20, Branch - \$18

Check your email for renewal instructions. You may also renew with your credit card online: Visit AAUW.org; click on Membership tab on top right corner. Select Member Services Database; Enter Member Services Database. (If this is your first time you must create a password); Renew my membership along left side; Enter your credit card information. OR You may send a \$100 check payable to AAUW Camarillo Branch and mail it to our Treasurer, Vanessa Otto, at 3286 Penzance Ave Camarillo, CA 93012.

AAUW Fellowships and Grants: Did You Know!?

Since 1888, AAUW has been one of the largest funders of women's graduate education, investing in women who go on to change the world, funding the educations of countless women so they could follow their dreams. From astronauts to zoologists, the recipients of AAUW's fellowships, grants and awards represent nearly every imaginable field of endeavor. Overall, we've given more than \$115 million to over 13,000 women and nonprofit organizations around the world. Our recipients include some of the most influential voices of the past two centuries — women who have helped shape history — as well as nonprofit organizations at the forefront of driving social change.

Fellowships and grants were awarded to 259 women and community projects in 2019-20. In 2020-21 academic year, AAUW awarded nearly \$4M in fellowships and grants. This funding helps to ease the burden of student debt, which disproportionately affects women, so that promising women can excel in their fields and become leaders in business, government, academia, community activism, the arts and sciences. The Camarillo Branch Grant # 1593, Career Development Grant, is currently one of the sponsors of Feather Ives, for the 2020-21 school year. Feather transitioned to a career in science in 2016 through a STEM career education program at a community college. She is earning a master of public health and is implementing a college food-security resources program for The Richmond Promise in Richmond, CA. Don't miss Feather's story and a chance to hear about the work we are helping to sponsor at our May 2nd Zoom Meeting sponsored by our IBC, Ventura County Interbranch Council. Registration information in this issue of "The Beacon".

Our scholarship applications are open to re-entry students at CSUCI. More information at <https://camarillo-ca.aauw.net/scholarship/>. Please spread the word!

Member News

Congratulations Kristie Akl of KidSTREAM who is nominated as a finalist for a Spirit of Entrepreneurship award for her leadership in the nonprofit sector!

Help with Odd Lots History!

Were you a member of the Odd Lots investment group? Peggy Bryant's son Karl has some questions. Anyone with any info, please email him at bryantk@newpaltz.edu



To all who mother others....

YOU'RE INVITED TO A
**Celebration of the life of
Eileen Rinde***

At the Poinsettia Pavilion
3451 Foothill Rd. Ventura CA

On Saturday, May 22, 2021@3pm
Please RSVP to: erik@tmjconcepts.com

*As stipulated by Eileen, dress will be festive,
boring black memorial attire is unacceptable

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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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

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!

