

A Message from Jan Demonsy, Co-President

Dear Members, The Holiday Season is upon us and it offers a myriad of wonderful opportunities to give to others, not only with physical gifts, but through donations and volunteering. When you donate time or money to others, you give yourself a lift. As Mother Theresa observed, "It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving." Volunteering also brings out the best in us since "Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart." Remember, "Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless!".

Let's all save the date for our AAUW Holiday Party on Sunday, December 12, 2021 at Jerrie Newman's home, 877 Grada Ave., Camarillo from 2:00-4:00 pm. We're asking attendees to contribute by name: last name "A—M a savory dish and "N—Z" a sweet dish. Please see the link in the enclosed flyer and [respond via Eventbrite](#) as soon as possible.

Speaking of giving, our Holiday Fundraiser for CASA of Ventura County presents an opportunity for all of us to help foster kids have a happier holiday. This year we will boost the Kid's Enrichment Fund (KEF) which enables CASA Volunteers to shop with the children for gifts. Let's "put a lot of love into our giving" to gather a robust amount. Extra funds will enable the kids to have back-to-school items. This fund is 100% for the CASA kids not administrative costs. We have a deadline of December 15, 2021 to "stuff this wonderful stocking" for many of the 290 CASA kids in Ventura County. You can bring your checks to the Holiday Party or mail them to Cathy Trevino, 1574 Seabridge Ln., Oxnard, CA 93035-1453.

Last but certainly not least, our AAUW Inter-Branch Council (IBC) is hosting a luncheon at Los Robles Greens, 299 South Moorpark Road, Thousand Oaks on Saturday, January 15, 2022 from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm. The theme of our program is "The Road to Elected Office" with three of our Ventura County AAUW members from Camarillo, Simi Valley and Thousand Oaks who became elected officials. Our own Celina L. Zacarias will head the line followed by Ruth Luevanos from Simi Valley and Jacqui Irwin from Thousand Oaks in sharing what sparked their interest in being elected to public office. Tickets are \$40 and Jan Demonsy is collecting checks; 744 Valley Vista Dr. Camarillo, CA 93010. Questions: 805-419-4607.

May your Holidays be Jollidays,

Jan Demonsy

Holiday Pot Luck

Sunday, December 12, 2pm

The home of Jerri Newman
872 Grada Ave, Camarillo

Those with last names beginning with A-M bring savory finger foods; those N-Z bring holiday sweets!

Click link below to RSVP on Eventbrite by Dec. 6th.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/aauw-holiday-potluck-party-tickets-214504487697>

Or contact Gladys with questions: ochangcogp@yahoo.com

Show UP To Help CASA of Ventura County

There are over 290 foster children and young adults in the system in Ventura County who need some help to have a good holiday. The AAUW Camarillo Board has adopted the CASA, Court Appointed Special Advocates of Ventura County, Kids' Enrichment Fund, for our holiday philanthropy. These KEF funds are restricted to be used only for the foster kids. Advocates take their "appointee" to buy holiday gifts - a special item for themselves or a loved one. The shopping budget is determined by the balance in the account. Excess funds are kept until the start of school or for times when other funding is not available. You can double the impact of your donation, because all gifts made during November through December 31, 2021 will be matched by the Rick and Marcie Sexauer Foundation up to \$20,000. Please bring your check to our holiday party on Sunday, December 12th or mail your check to Cathy Trevino at 1574 Seabridge Lane, Oxnard, CA 93035 before December 15th. Our unopened envelopes will be given en masse to CASA so they know donations are from AAUW Camarillo.

Questions: Reach out to Cathy at AAUW.Camarillo.President@gmail.com or (805) 757-3677.



Camarillo (CA) Branch

BEACON

December 2021



AAUW Interbranch Council Luncheon
Saturday, January 15
11:30 AM Los Robles Greens
299 South Moorpark Rd. Thousand Oaks

The Road to Elected Office



Three women will speak about their careers, their education path to office and what life events sparked their interest in being elected to public office.

Celine L. Zacarias ~ Oxnard Harbor
District Commissioner



Jacqui Irwin ~ Assemblymember
for the CA 44th Assembly District

Ruth Luevanos ~ Simi Valley City Council Member



Reservations can be made by mailing your **\$40 check**-made out to AAUW-
Jan Demonsy

744 Valley Vista Dr. Camarillo, CA 93010

Please have all reservations in by January 4.

Proof of vaccination or a negative covid test within 72 hours is required

Masks will be required at event.

2021-2022 Snip and Save Calendar

12/8 – 5pm, Board Meeting. All are welcome on Zoom *

12/10– Bridge

12/12, 2pm. Holiday Pot Luck.

1/14/22 - Bridge

1/15/22– Inter Branch Council Luncheon, Los Robles Greens

1/29 – Meet and Greet Breakfast

March 16, 23, 30, 2022 – 58th Knowledge Bowl

July 5-22- Creative Arts Workshop at KidSTREAM

*[Zoom meeting ID: 434 977 1701. Passcode 631686](#)

Authors' Day Highlights

Many thanks to those of you who attended this year's event, and to those of you who sent in a donation in support of our scholarship fund. It was a huge success, and everyone seemed to enjoy being together once again. The baskets were fabulous as were the table decorations, so many kudos go to our committee members who worked hard to ensure that the event looked great and ran smoothly. We are sorry that one of our speakers could not attend. He phoned saying he wasn't feeling his best. His books, nonetheless, were on sale via Mrs. Figs' Bookworm. And, a special thanks goes to Rebecca Pecsok for once again providing the authors with those delicious gift packs of nuts from her store, The Somis Nut House. We hope to see you all again next year. We will keep you apprised of the date and location once they are finalized. Diana Dingler

More pictures from the event [here](#) (thanks to Kay Wolverton Ito)



PM Book Group

Hoping everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday. Being that we were dark during the month of November, our December book group meeting was moved up to Monday, **Dec. 6, 2021** where we'll review and discuss *The Queen of Paris* by Pamela Binings Ewen about Coco Chanel during WWII. Our meeting will once again be via Zoom. Mary Rockwell will be sending out the url code as we get closer to that date. Those wishing to read ahead, the book for January is *The Last Flight*, a riveting book about changing identities. For info contact Diana Dingler, 805 987-8013

Bridge News

Our December 10 meeting will be at Janet Lindquist's and our January 14 Meeting will be hosted by Carol Haverty. If anyone is interested in being a substitute in this group, please let me know. Nancy Jaeger (805) 484-3778

Nonfiction Book Group

Our next book meeting is on December 14 at 10:00 at Nancy Walters' house, unless we have more than eight people. (It is a nice thought to imagine everyone being able to join us!) We will be discussing *The Premonition: A Pandemic Story* by Michael Lewis. (Lewis also wrote the earlier book, *The Fifth Risk* which we did not select.)

Our Next Books (voting results):

January ***Vanderbilt: The Rise and Fall of an American Dynasty*** by Anderson Cooper and Katherine Howe

February ***The Mother Tongue: English and How It Got That Way*** by Bill Bryson

March ***Come Fly the World: The Jet-Age Story of the Women of Pan Am*** by Julia Cooke

April ***Midnight in Washington: How We Almost Lost Our Democracy and Still Could*** by Adam Schiff

Contact Barbara Hilburn – hilburndesigns@gmail.com for more info.

Meet and Greet Breakfast Will Return January 29, 2022

Agave Maria's Mexican Restaurant

710 Arneill Rd, Camarillo (across from CV)

Join us for great food AND conversation the last Saturday of the month on the patio. Call Judi Gill if you have any questions. 805-482-7608

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR

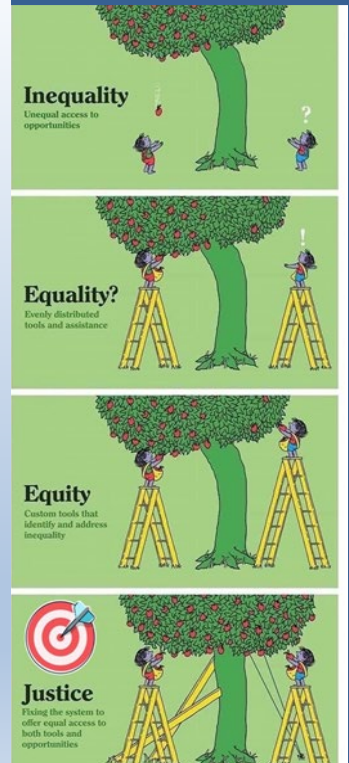


Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee

January 17th is Martin Luther King Jr. Day. We are waiting to hear if Oxnard has a plan to have an event, as they usually do. If so, a number of us are interested in attending. [Join the Facebook group](#). Email (Gloria@strongerleader.com) for info.

We will reconvene January 25th at 7pm with a discussion of Chapter 6 – “Is police brutality really about race?” from *So You Want to Talk About Race* by Ijeoma Oluo.

*[Zoom meeting ID: 434 977 1701. Passcode 631686](#)



Great Decisions Returns in 2022

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 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. Nancy Walters 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. 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: fpa.org/great_decisions/.

Public Policy by Kathy Long/Betsy Metzgar,

2021: It's a Wrap

President Biden and Congress have wrapped up 2021 by passing an historic \$1.2 Trillion Infrastructure bill. These funds will deliver \$550 billion of new federal investments in America's infrastructure over five years, touching everything from bridges and roads to the nation's broadband, water and energy systems. Experts say the money is sorely needed to ensure safe travel, as well as the efficient transport of goods and produce across the country. The nation's infrastructure system has earned a C-score from the American Society of Civil Engineers.

As our branch continues to advocate for accessible and affordable Broadband that closes the digital divide, it is very encouraging news that Congress passed the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. \$65 billion dollars will be allotted for high-speed internet access. Inspired by the national effort one hundred years ago to provide electricity to every American home, this bill aims to provide reliable connectivity to every American. Adrienne B. Furniss of the Benton Institute for Broadband & Society points out, "The infrastructure bill is about more than money in so far as the language in the bill is animated by a spirit of digital equity. This renewed and updated Congressional commitment to universal service is astounding. This really is our broadband moment—and Congress has stood up, recognizing broadband's essential role in modern life and providing the foundation to ensure everyone has affordable access." The Infrastructure Bill funds will be allocated by state and our branch will closely monitor California's roll-out.

The second bill that has passed the House of Representatives, the Build Back Better bill, IF approved by the Senate, will: lower health care and childcare costs; fights inflation by making corporations pay their fair share; makes the largest investment in addressing the climate crisis in history; and addresses the lack of affordable housing across the country. Contact our Senators to have your voice heard at: [Feinstein.senate.gov](https://www.feinstein.senate.gov) and [Padilla.senate.gov](https://www.padilla.senate.gov).

REDISTRICTING: the final Supervisorial Map for redistricting will be heard by the Board of Supervisors on December 7th. As submitted, it divides Camarillo into 2-Supervisor districts, joining with Thousand Oaks. Go to ventura.org/redistricting and put your address in to see which district you fall in. This is a result of the growth of Oxnard, and the requirements to have 5 districts with equal population. The map will be in place for 10 years, so take a look!

Tech Trek Committee Volunteers Needed

I need some committee volunteers to find and select our Campers for Tech Trek of 2022. The work takes place in the months of January through March.

We will be getting a very late start this year because many of the details about the state project are still unsettled and there is new staff at every level. It's not yet clear whether the process will be paper-based as in previous camp years, or whether the online process used in 2021 will be implemented. (Each has advantages and drawbacks.)

To serve on this AAUW Camarillo committee you would: accept assignment of one or more middle schools in Ventura County. Do you have connections with a Middle School in Camarillo, Oxnard, Ventura, or others in the county? That's a perfect fit.

When information and forms are finalized, contact or visit the Principal at your school(s) to explain the program and get the contact details for the science and math teachers there who have 7th grade girls in their classes. Then contact or visit those teachers to again explain the program and the nomination process to elicit 1-2 good Nominations from each of the teachers. The next task is to turn those Nominations into completed Applications. We need to get parental permission to talk to the girls, then disseminate information and forms. Not all Nominations turn into completed Applications! We aim to get 1-2 Applications from each of 6-8 schools.

If they go with the online process, you will have to be willing/able to check email twice a day during the 3 month application period.

Late in March, we interview the applicants and make selection of our Campers. The girls are delightful and this is the reward for all the work to get them on our program.

Let me know if you can adopt a Middle School:
Vanessa Otto 805-389-0063 votto@ootto.com



Speech Trek Update – Applications Still Open!

“Has the United States lived up to its pledge of liberty and justice for all? Would requiring a class in diversity, equity and inclusion in a high school setting help ensure liberty and justice for all?” These are the questions students will answer in a 5-6 minute speech as part of 2022’s Speech Trek competition.

The Speech Trek Committee has tried most avenues to encourage students to join this year’s program, yet none have been very successful. From contacting high school teachers, to their principals, to some who sit on School Boards, to past Tech Trek students, none has garnered great success. One of the past participants, Dylan Zulueta, even volunteered to make a new flyer for this year, and that has been posted at some school sites and on social media.

How did this happen? Likely, and according to a few high school students, high school teachers have increased the workload for students. Because last year students had online learning, and many families were also dealing with members of their families who were ill, teachers were fairly forgiving, including with missed or late assignments. This year, faculty are making up for time lost last year.

We currently have four students. High school students in Western Ventura County are welcome, regardless of gender. Two of the current students participated last year, and one is a past Tech Trek participant as well.

With our super small, current group, likely we will not have a semi-finals round but just a finals competition the last week of February. But we are happy to take any new, high school students who would like to join up in the coming weeks.

Do you know a student who would like to participate? They receive coaching from experienced speech teachers who help them learn how to develop an outline, how to look up quality research, and how to deliver a speech. Additionally, participants have the opportunity to win cash prizes. For further information, or to refer a student, please contact JoAnn Cataldo, esytlk@att.net, or Susan Seats, SusanSeats@gmail.com.

Membership Report from VP of Membership, Maria Tagliaferri

As we wrap up 2021, it is my great pleasure to report that since January 1 our branch has added 23 new members! After holding meetings virtually for most of 2020, our branch was finally able to host several live events this year which were responsible for just over half of the new members, including our Summer Social in July, Kick Off in September and, of course, our phenomenally successful Author's Day! Our impressive growth has been noticed by AAUW California and I had the pleasure to speak to Sharyn Siebert, AAUW CA Director of Marketing, who wanted to know our formula for recruiting success. I believe it is a perfect combination of strong current members who are vocal about our branch activities and initiatives as well as our commitment to being visible in our community through our monthly meetings and special events. Thanks to each and every one of our members for helping make this an extraordinary year for new membership!

Maria Tagliaferri, VP – Membership
805-236-0630 or Riatag62@gmail.com

Welcome New Members!!

Diane Narhi
Carol Cressy
Jeanne Biggs
Susan Parsons
Bea Sandy
Susan Seats
Arlene Chatenever
Marianne Flam
Karen Root
Laura Valdez
Ester Gonzalez
Danielle Cortes
Cindy Dow
Nancy Wood

Member News

Love to Garden?

Our new member Bea Sandy has a long standing volunteer commitment at Cornerstone Christian School (at the corner of Las Posas and Arneill Aves) to tend the school's demonstration gardens. She would like very much to have some additional volunteers to plant, weed and teach. They meet on Mondays and Thursdays from 3 to 4:15pm. If this is something you would be interested to join, contact Bea: 805-484-2245

Member News

Congratulations [to Top 10 Award Winners](#), longtime member Charlotte Cravens (left) for the Stan Daily Lifetime Achievement Award, and Karen Sher for Public Servant of the Year.



Brava!



Order Your Nametag Today!



The 1 ½ by 3" aluminum full color badge has a magnetic fastener. Follow these easy steps and the badge will be mailed directly to you from Aswell Trophy in Oxnard. The cost of the badge is \$16.00 (\$12.00 plus \$4.00 shipping).

1. Send an email to Aswell Trophy at aaaswell@aol.com.
2. Identify yourself as AAUW Camarillo branch member and you want to order a name badge.
3. Provide your name, home address, phone number and email contact information.
4. Aswell will send a photo of the badge in a few days via email for you to approve. They will also attach an invoice. Once approved, the badge goes into production.
5. When the badge is ready, Aswell will call you for credit/debit card payment and ship directly to you.

Camarillo Branch Board of Directors and Chairs 2021-2022

Jan Demonsy

Cathy Trevino

Co-Presidents

Aauwcamarillo.copres@gmail.com

Aauw.camarillo.president@gmail.com

Gladys Ochangco

VP, Programs

Maria Tagliaferri

VP, Membership

Mary Goldberg

Recording Secretary

Vanessa Otto

Treasurer

Jennie Baker

Membership Treasurer

Diana Dingler

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Gloria Miele

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!
Renew or Join Now!

New members can 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.

OR Join at a live event and new members receive 50% off National dues.

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](#)

Contact Membership VP Maria Tagllaferri at 805-236-0630 or riatag62@msn.com for any other membership questions or to find out 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 \$38

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/>

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!

