

Co-President's Message from Jan Demonsy

In the last several weeks I've been notified by my daughter, my walking buddy and two of my close friends that they have either tested positive for COVID-19 or are quarantining themselves due to COVID exposure. Now, I've been in the same quarantine boat. Many of you may be experiencing similar circumstances and asking yourselves my question – how long can this go on? Unfortunately, we all know the answer – no one knows. In this situation, my beloved grandmother would have offered her quote on resilience, “Tough times don't last but tough people do!”

It's a given that almost all people will experience some form of adversity or hardship in life; but adopting the ability to rebound leads to strength. As another wise woman quipped, “Life is not about how fast you run or how high you climb, but on how well you bounce.” Further, resilience does not have to be obtained all on one's own; reaching out to others can create important bridges of mutual support. If you find yourself or others near you who are struggling with this seemingly everlasting pandemic, speak up and reach out. We can “Embrace, Encourage and Empower” each other. Author Sharon Salzberg advises, “Resilience is based on compassion for ourselves as well as compassion for others.”

Speaking of “tough times”, our Women in History program has run into a COVID snag. Originally, WIH masked portrayals were to be allowed in the large school auditoriums. Omicron scotched that when the rules changed. We're currently crossing fingers for presentations in May. We'll keep our volunteers apprised.

On January 15, 2022, there were some hearty souls who attended our Inter-Branch Council (IBC) Luncheon in Thousand Oaks. Both the program and the food were great. We were pleased to see so many of you, but we also had a number of members who donated their tickets instead. Thank you! Fortunately, we raised enough to cover the entire luncheon bill and more. Most of the remaining IBC bank account will be given to KidSTREAM, where we will support our emerging children's museum and be one of the gears that helps it run!

Heads up! Our AAUW Branch has an artist. Patty McLoughlin, who submitted a lovely piece of art for the National AAUW Art Contest. See her painting and find a link to learn more about the contest and vote for Patty's entry. Voting begins on February 2, 2022.

And of course, February is Black History Month. See inside for a report from the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, including some reading and additional resources.

Let Resilience Reign!!

Jan Demonsy aauwcamarillo.copres@gmail.com



AAUW Camarillo General Meeting



WHEN Wednesday February 16, 2022
TIME 7:00pm – 8:30pm
WHERE ZOOM Meeting
Registration Required: <https://bit.ly/AAUWCamFeb>
Questions? aauwcamarillo.programs@gmail.com

A referendum question regarding the need for consistent permitting for oil drilling is scheduled to appear on the June ballot in Ventura County. Oil companies are operating with permits issued by Ventura County in the 1940's, 1950's, & 1960's. These permits give much greater latitude to the holders than newer permits allow. Two sides of the story will emerge this spring to convince voters to vote in favor or against. Come hear the "yes to a consistent oil permitting process" side of the story offered by Julie Henszey, Field Director for VC-SAFE (Ventura County – Save Agriculture and Freshwater for Everybody).

We will also be joined by our CSUCI AAUW Camarillo Branch Scholarship Winners, Jessica Aubrey and Rachel Holst. Meet these hardworking nursing students and hear about their experience as they finish up their degree.

Guest Speaker Julie Henszey VC-SAFE

Do you LOVE
safe, clean water?

Do you want to protect
our county's farmland?

Then come learn about
the oil permit referendum
on the
June 7, 2022 ballot
that will affect our water
and agriculture

Also meet our CSUCI
AAUW Scholarship
Awardees (2021)

All are welcome!
You do not need to be an
AAUW member to
attend.

2022 Snip and Save Calendar

- Feb 8 – Nonfiction Book Group, 10am
 - Feb 9 – Board Meeting, 5pm– all are welcome*
 - Feb 16– General Meeting and Guest Speaker, 7pm – [Zoom registration required](#)
 - Feb 22 –Black History Month DEI Meeting, 7pm*
 - Feb 23 – Speech Trek Semi Finals, 6:30pm*
 - Feb 26 – Meet and Greet Breakfast
 - Feb 28 – PM Book Group, 7pm
 - March 3 – Speech Trek Finals , 6:00pm*
 - March 9 - – Board Meeting, 5pm– all are welcome*
 - March 16, 23, 30, 2022 – 58th Knowledge Bowl
 - March 25 – Great Decisions
 - April 30th – AAUW California Annual Meeting
- *[Zoom meeting ID: 434 977 1701. Passcode 631686](#)

IBC Luncheon

The Annual Ventura County Inter-Branch Council Luncheon was a huge success with 60 registrations in all. Members from Camarillo, Simi Valley and Thousand Oaks AAUW branches met at Los Robles Greens to hear “The Road to Elected Office” from three inspirational speakers. The panel included Camarillo Branch member, Celina Zacarias, Harbor Commissioner for the Port of Hueneme and Community and Government Liaison for CSUCI; Simi Valley City Councilmember, Ruth Luevanos and California State Assemblymember, Jacqui Irwin, a member of AAUW Thousand Oaks. The common theme was how they each started out at the grassroots level of advocacy and kept filling a need to serve, often not seeing their skillset before friends and family suggested they were more than capable to do the job. It was pointed out that unlike men, women often do not see themselves accomplished or experienced enough to lead. It is our duty as family and friends of able women and girls to point it out to them and encourage them to step up. Attending the luncheon were Girl Scouts who are already making a difference as community leaders. Brava to all.



PM Book Group

Our selection for the month of February is ***The Reading List*** by Sara Nisha Adams. This is a book about chance encounters, and unexpected connections between readers. We will be meeting via Zoom once again, on **Monday Feb. 28, 2022** at 7:00 pm. Those of you wishing to read ahead, our future books are:

The Last Thing He Told Me - Laura Dave [March]
The Dictionary of Lost Words - Pip Williams [April]
A Better Man - Louise Penny [May]

For info contact Diana Dingler, 805 987-8013

Nonfiction Book Group

February 8 at 10:00 am, we will be meeting at Marianne Flam's house. Marianne's Address: 1856 Powell Dr., Ventura, Phone: (805) 766-7613. We will be discussing ***The Mother Tongue: English and How It Got That Way*** by Bill Bryson. ❤️ 📖 Barbara

Our Next Books:

March 8 ***Midnight in Washington: How We Almost Lost Our Democracy and Still Could*** by Adam Schiff

April 8--***Come Fly the World: The Jet-Age Story of the Women of Pan Am*** by Julia Cooke

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

Meet and Greet Breakfast February 26, 2022

Agave Maria's Mexican Restaurant

710 Arneill Rd, Camarillo (across from CVS)

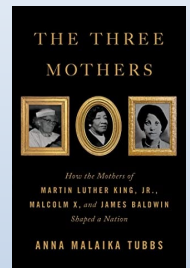
Join us for great food AND conversation the last Saturday of the month on the patio. Call Judi Gill with questions. 805-482-7608



Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee and Book Discussion Feb 22 , 7pm

February is Black History Month. This year's theme is "Black Health and Wellness," appropriate as racial differences in health equity have been highlighted during the pandemic. More on the theme and information about BHM [can be found here](#). Also historic was that over 400 people attended the 36th Annual Ventura County Martin Luther King Jr. Day. A few AAUW members from this committee participated. You can [watch the 90-minute program here](#). More info and the agenda at <https://www.mlkventuracounty.com/>

In recognition of Black History Month, we picked a new book for February and March: *The Three Mothers: How the Mothers of Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, and James Baldwin Shaped a Nation*, by Anna Malaika Tubbs. We will read the Introduction – Part 4 for February 22 and Parts 4-end for March 22 both at 7pm. We are excited to learn about these women to honor both Black History and Women's History months.



In our last meeting, our discussion of race and police brutality led us to investigate some of the data law enforcement is required to collect and report on race. You can dig deeper into local info on the [Ventura County Sheriff's website](#). We are also monitoring progress on the creation of a civilian oversight committee and will keep you posted.

[Join the Facebook group](#) for updates and other events and resources.

Did you know AAUW has a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion webinar series, toolkit, and more? Check out the resources at <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/dei-toolkit/>

Email Gloria@strongerleader.com for more info about the DEI Committee. Join us!

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

Great Decisions Returns

Our discussions on foreign policy-- Great Decisions --will resume Friday, March 25, and continue every fourth Friday for 8 months. The venue, indoor/outdoor/on-line, will be determined later. Given the complexity that the pandemic adds to foreign policy, we're likely to have some lively discussions!

We did not take orders for the briefing books this year. You can order a copy of the \$35 book at 1-800-477-5836 or at sales@fpa.org.

The briefing book might be available on Amazon, and it might also be available as a digital book—TBD: Stay tuned!

Save the Date for AAUW California's Annual Meeting Online

AAUW-California Annual Meeting, Saturday April 30th, 2022 Via Zoom for the third year in a row. Attend at no cost from your office, living room, kitchen, wherever.

Registration information will be available soon from the event website Find out what's been happening in California this past year. It's a lot!!!!

Do You Love Authors' Day? Then We'd LOVE Your Help!

We are looking for members who are willing to step up and take over the Chairmanship of our yearly fundraiser. Those of us who have been on the committee for many years still intend to work on it, and lend direction, but would like to pass the baton on to some younger, energetic folks with perhaps some new ideas. Some "fresh blood" as my former boss used to call it. I have an outline of the necessary duties that are needed to ensure a successful event, so please contact me if you are interested. Currently, we have approximately seven consistent members who work on the program. What we need is a leader(s) who will keep track of the elements that are needed for a successful completion. Looking forward to hearing from you: Diana Dingler, ddingler20285@gmail.com, [805] 987-5013.

The 2022-2023 Membership Directory is Coming

Thank you, Linda Stinebaugh, for updating our Membership Directory for 2022-2023. Soon all members will receive an email with the directory attached as a PDF which they can save and/or print. This was no small job for Linda to reformat the book to a PDF format so upon receipt of the new Membership Directory, please check your entry and submit any needed changes to: Co-President, Cathy Trevino at: AAUW.Camarillo.President@gmail.com .

Thanks to the
Gene Haas Foundation!



The Gene Haas foundation is a generous donor to our STEM programs and CSUCI scholarships. We are grateful!

Second Speech Trek Contest Zooming to You Soon

With the second, annual Speech Trek Contest in progress, the participating high school students in Ventura County are impressive. They have been articulate and passionate as they address the 2022 proposition: **Has the United States lived up to its pledge of liberty and justice for all? Would requiring the study of diversity, equity, and inclusion, in a high school setting, help ensure liberty and justice for all?"**

The teen speakers have been working on researching this proposition, developing the reasons and solutions, and added their own experiences to their 5- to 6-minute speeches. Coaches Susan Seats and JoAnn Cataldo have been meeting each of the students via Zoom to assist them with the development of the research, content, and delivery of their speeches.

The semi-finals will be held on Zoom **February 23, 6:30 PM**, and the finals will take place, again on Zoom, **March 3, 6 PM**. The top three semi-finalists will receive \$200 for First place, \$150 for Second place, and \$100 for Third place. A recording of the First-place winner's speech will then be forwarded to participate in the AAUW-CA state competition that will take place during the online AAUW-CA state meeting in April. The First-place winner for the state will receive \$1,500.

If you have some experience in the area of speech competitions and are interested in judging the semi-finals round, please contact Co-President Cathy Trevino, aauw.camarillo.president@gmail.com. The final round will have surprise judges from the community, so stay tuned! Join using the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4349771701>

Knowledge Bowl – KB2022!

Volunteers needed for our 58th annual Knowledge Bowl competitions!!

As we know, the pandemic has made it hard to plan events. KB 2022 is scheduled for March 16, 23, and 30th. However, we will review the COVID-19 restrictions and numbers on March 7th and cancel the competitions, if necessary.

Ten high school teams from all over Ventura County are participating in our 58th annual program. The dates and locations for Knowledge Bowl 2022 are:

March 16 Buena High School practice round and competitions starting at 5:30pm

March 23 Pacifica High School competitions starting at 5:30pm

March 30 Adolfo Camarillo High School competitions and awards starting at 5:30pm

Volunteers are needed to serve as question readers, judges and timers. You can volunteer for one, two, or all three nights. A shorter practice round on March 16 will give students, coaches and volunteers a chance to review the process. We ask that adult volunteers be vaccinated. All participants must wear a mask during the competitions. Sign up now on [SignUp Genius](#):

Teams are asked a variety of subjects including general knowledge, history, geography, current events, math and science. If you would like to submit questions for our competitions, please email them to me at marygoldberg@gmail.com by February 12, 2022.

Mary Goldberg
Knowledge Bowl Chair

Vote for Branch Member's Painting in AAUW's National Art Contest

This lovely painting is entered into the National AAUW Art contest, submitted by AAUW Camarillo member Patty McLoughlin. Patty took up watercolor at the beginning of the pandemic. It was a skill she always wanted to try because it is such a beautiful and expressive medium. In addition to watching her grandchildren and helping friends and family with real estate, it has become one of her favorite things to do. It's especially gratifying when someone asks her to paint a specific subject, and then it becomes a part of their home. She is honored to display a piece among the other amazing entries.

You can view all the excellent submissions from members around the country. at <https://artcontest.aauw.org/contest/>. Voting starts February 2.. The top 6 winners will be featured on note cards we receive later in the year. Find "Posies" in the dropdown list. Good luck, Patty!



Public Policy by Kathy Long

ERA UPDATE--According to Article V of the Constitution, in order to add an amendment to the Constitution, it must be passed by both houses of Congress (done in March 1972), and it is necessary that 38 of the 50 states ratify it (done as of January 2020). March 17, 2021, the House moved to enact the amendment. It now awaits the Senate. As soon as this is done, the amendment should become part of the Constitution.

Two years ago on January 27th, Virginia became the 38th state to approve the Equal Rights Amendment. The ERA Coalition, along with almost 50 other equality groups, have filed an amicus brief in the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals case brought by the Attorneys General of Nevada, Illinois, and Virginia to force U.S. Archivist to publish the Equal Rights Amendment, being held up by the U.S. Archivist. An amicus brief is filed when it is thought that the information in the brief will be helpful to the court's interpretation. As a reminder, the Amendment states: "**Section 1:** Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex. **Section 2:** The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article. **Section 3:** This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification." Once again, the Senate's failure to act is denying equality for all women. AAUW stands with this effort to add the ERA Amendment.

Exciting news on Broadband: California Broadband for All , signed by the Governor of California in December 2020, and set the stage for a historic policy platform. The plan brings a focus to three goal areas, speed, access and training, and affordability. In 2021, legislation passed to support broadband deployment so California can achieve the goals that will lead to digital equity and inclusion and continue the work to close the digital divide. 1 out of 8 households lack high speed internet access.

Of key interest at the state level are the following:

- SB 156 – Authorizes JPA's to issue bonds for development
- AB 14 – Internet for All Act of 2021 – Prioritizes broadband for rural communities (1 out of 8 households lack high-speed internet)
- AB 41 – Broadband infrastructure Deployment to update California's "Dig Once" policies to expedite – CalTrans
- SB 4- The Broadband for All Act – secure continuous funding and implement reforms for the CASF Program

February starts the legislative cycle for our state. We'll continue to track these bills and those put forward to improve the lives of women, children and families. In Washington, we wait for action on voting rights, Build Back Better, and some bi-partisan cooperation for the good of the country.

Stay tuned. Contact me if you'd like to get involved in the Public Policy Committee, tracking issues for our branch.

Update: Ventura Coast Milk Bank by Betsy Metzger

In the November Beacon, we reported on the development of the Ventura Coast Milk Bank (VCMB) to provide breast milk that helps premature infants thrive. At the time, the VCMB was recruiting local lactating donor mothers and referring them to the UC Health Milk Bank in San Diego for the donation process. The VCMB has just announced this exciting news:

“Ventura County’s very first milk depot is scheduled to open in 2022 at the Ventura County Health Agency’s Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)’s North Oxnard Clinic! The launch of this milk depot will allow Ventura County donors to donate milk in person, simplifying the donation process.”

The donated milk is used by Neonatal Intensive Care Units in hospitals and provided by prescription to individual mothers in need. If you know a local mother who may be interested in donating breast milk, please refer her to the VCMB Web site: <https://www.vcmilkbank.org>. Information on monetary contributions to this developing milk bank is available on the website.

Congratulations to Our Members!



We are pleased to announce and congratulate Dr Martita Martinez-Bravo on receiving the Social Justice Activist of the Year Award and Bev Dransfeldt on the Blue Vigor Award for Outstanding New Democratic Leader from the Ventura County Democratic Central Committee. Other honorees included Carmen Ramirez, Juliette Brownley, and Jacqui Irwin. Congratulations and thanks to all these servant leaders!



Member News – Gardening Teachers Needed

Member Bea Sandy is a long-standing volunteer at Cornerstone Christian School (at the corner of Las Posas and Arneill) to tend the school’s demonstration gardens. She would like to have 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



News from CSUCI

The California State University (CSU) Board of Trustees appointed Richard Yao, Ph.D., to serve as the fourth president of California State University Channel Islands (CSUCI). Yao, who identifies as a Chinese Filipino American, currently serves as interim president of CSUCI, a role he has held since January 2021.



Yao will immediately assume the campus presidency.

Order Your Name Tag 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

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Aauwcamarillo.copres@gmail.com
Aauw.camarillo.president@gmail.com

Gladys Ochangco

VP, Programs

Maria Tagliaferri

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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!

