

President's Message from Cathy Trevino

February greetings ladies of AAUW Camarillo. We had a very enlightening IBC (Interbranch Council) luncheon in January with Ventura County AAUW members from Camarillo, Thousand Oaks and Simi Valley. The program theme was "Keep Your Bans Off Our Books" and featured three panelists who spoke on a variety of historical as well as present day examples of attempts to censor and challenge books and curriculum. We were given a "call to action" to keep on top of things and not lose sight of attempts to challenge authentic works that represent real lives. AAUW-Ca has a new initiative, The School Board Project, and encourages us to stay vigilant and ensure students are mirrored in the things they read and are taught in their classroom. Please reach out to Kathy Long, our Public Policy Chair if you would like to assist in monitoring local school board meetings and candidates for those positions.

February is Black History Month, dating back to 1976 when scholar, Carter G Woodson's extensive work standing up for Black Americans, led to the chosen time period, Feb. 1-March 1. This month was chosen because it is the birthday of two great Americans who played prominent roles in shaping black history, Abraham Lincoln, and Booker T Washington, and whose birthdays were the 12th and 14th respectively. Although enslaving human beings is against the law in the United States, Walk Free, the international labor organization, states that in 2022, 49.6 million people live in modern slavery – in forced labor and forced marriage, which disproportionately impact Black people. Roughly a quarter of all victims of modern slavery are children.

Be sure to enjoy the 14th with a little extra chocolate and some loved ones around; you deserve it. Be on the lookout for and sign up to help with our upcoming signature programs, Women in History, and Knowledge Bowl, both during March. There is a job for you, no matter how much time you can commit. Kudos are due to Linda Stinebaugh, editor of our Membership Directory. She has completed the 2023-2024 issue which you should have received in your email. I look forward to seeing you during March at one of our special programs. Read on for details.

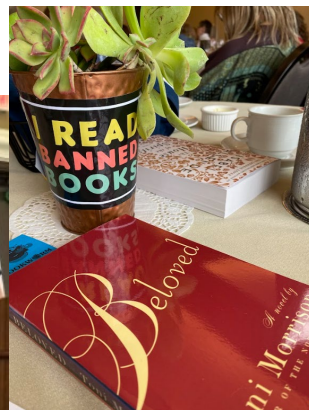
2024 Calendar Highlights

- 2/4/24 – Author Talk at Thousand Oaks Library
- 2/13/24 - (note date change to Tuesday) Board Meeting – All are welcome. Zoom link below.*
- 2/13 – Nonfiction book group
- 2/20/24 – Desalination Plant Tour
- 3/3 – New West Symphony
- 3/12 – Nonfiction book group
- 3/6, 3/13, 3/20/24 – 60th Knowledge Bowl
- 3/4-15 – Women’s History performances
- 4/9 – Nonfiction book group
- 4/10 -Board Meeting – All are welcome. Zoom link below.*

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

Bans off our Books

A well-attended IBC luncheon with three excellent speakers. Well-done committee, from the shirts to the centerpieces. The call to action is to advocate for certificated teacher librarians and funding for new and diverse books for public schools.



Ashlee Nishiya,
MS
Ventura County
office of education
Literacy
Coordinator



Nicole Vines,
PhD
Cal State
Channel Islands,
Professor of
Black Studies



Yvonne Wilber,
PhD
Cal Lutheran
University
Librarian, Head of
Undergrad Instruction

Volunteers Needed for 60th Knowledge Bowl

Which team will take the Betty Rutherford Perpetual Trophy back to their school? Join us for this exciting program and meet our terrific students, coaches and volunteers. Volunteers are needed serve as question readers, judges and timers. You can volunteer for one, two, or all three nights. If you are new to this program, you will be paired with our returning volunteers.

Sign up now on SignUp Genius

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0A49AF28A5FA7-46959680-knowledge>

Check-in and instructions are at 5:30pm, followed by the rounds each night. The dates and locations for Knowledge Bowl 2024 are:

March 6	St. Bonaventure High School	Mini practice round, Rounds 1-4
March 13	Del Sol High School.	Rounds 5-9
March 20	Adolfo Camarillo High School	Rounds 10-13 and awards


Can you answer these questions from last year?

- What is the capital of South Australia that is named after Admiral Byrd's wife? (Adelaide)
- What is one of the earliest and strategically most important Roman road of the ancient republic. (Appian Way)
- What three heavenly bodies are able to cast shadows onto the Earth? (Moon, sun, and Venus)
- What are the stone statues of human figures on Easter Island known as? (Moai)
- From 1812 to 1821, the region that became Kansas was part of what larger territory? (Missouri Territory)

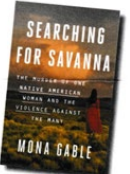
For more information, contact Mary Goldberg at 805-248-4572 or email marygoldberg@gmail.com

Out and About: Literature, Science and Art!

AUTHOR TALK
& BOOK SIGNING



Mona Gable
Author of *Searching for Savanna*




SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4
2:00 PM

GRANT R. BRIMHALL LIBRARY
MARVIN E. SMITH COMMUNITY ROOM

L.A. Times writer and author Mona Gable will discuss her book *Searching for Savanna: The Murder of One Native American Woman and the Violence Against the Many* and the crisis of violence against Native women.

Presented by
AAUW (American Association of University Women) Thousand Oaks
and Thousand Oaks Library

All programs are subject to change or cancellation without prior notice.
Grant R. Brimhall Library | 1401 E. Santa Rosa, Thousand Oaks, CA 91320 • 805-499-2000
Marvin E. Smith Library | 2338 Birchwood Road, Thousand Oaks, CA 91320 • 805-498-2250
www.tollibrary.org



AAUW Thousand Oaks is cosponsoring a program with local author, Mona Gable, who will talk about her book, *Searching for Savanna: The Murder of One Native American Woman and the Violence Against Many* at the Thousand Oaks Library. The book addresses the crisis of violence for Native women.

Guided Tours of Camarillo's Desalination Plant, 2727 Somis Road

Camarillo now gets almost 60% of its water from the new plant treating brackish groundwater from the Calleguas Creek Watershed. Julie Mohr has set up a free tour on Tuesday February 20th at 2 pm

Max on each tour is 20 people. If you reserve spots, please attend as docents are counting on your attendance.

Contact Julie Mohr for reservations for your free tour.

Julie Mohr: 805 217-1394 or MohrJ2000@hotmail.com

Beautiful Music – New West Symphony in Camarillo!



The New West Symphony has a show in Camarillo Sunday March 3 at 3:00 at the Rancho Campana Center in Camarillo.

Purchase your tickets online or call 866-776-8400 starting at \$35. Or visit the website for more information: <https://newwestsymphony.org/>

Join us for dinner optional after performance at Toppers Pizza in Camarillo. Contact Julie Mohr for information at 805 217 1394.

Non-Fiction Book Group

The AAUW Nonfiction Group meets on the second Tuesdays of the month at 1:00 a member's houses. For February 13, Tuesday, Nancy Walters will host, and we will discuss ***Finding Freedom, A Cook's Story: Remaking a Life from Scratch*** by Erin French. Address: 1104 Paquita St. Camarillo Phone: (719) 395-6531. I have added two recommended books from the meeting to the reading list below, so April and May are covered.

Future Books: ***Why We Sleep: Unlocking the Power of Sleep and Dreams*** by Matthew Walker PhD, March 12; ***The Bystanders*** by Victoria Barnett, April 9.

The Happiness Advantage: The Seven Principles of Positive Psychology by Shawn Achor, May 14

Contact   Barbara Hilburn (hilburndesigns@gmail.com) for more information.

2023-2024 Membership Directory

Keep an eye on your email for the latest, updated 2023-2024 AAUW Camarillo Membership Directory which includes all new members through December 2023. You will be able to easily download and save a copy to your personal computer or phone or you can print a copy if you prefer a paper version for your personal use.

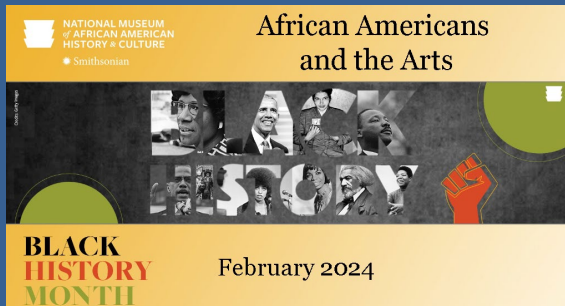
If you would like AAUW Camarillo to provide you with a paper copy of the updated Directory, please mail a check payable for \$15 to AAUW Camarillo, PO Box 862, Camarillo, CA 93011. Once the check is received, a 2-sided copy of the Directory in 8 1/2 X 11" paper format will be mailed to your current address of record. We are no longer printing and mailing the old booklet format directory so we can keep printing/ mailing costs to a minimum. Email requests for a paper copy will no longer be accepted.

Tech Trek Update

The AAUW-CA Board of Directors has decided to put our two week-long summer STEM camps for 8th grade girls at UCSB on hiatus following adult disagreements re curriculum and camp climate. Our girls were offered space at the Whittier or Fresno Camps for June of 2024, and we will send 5 girls to Whittier. Co-Branch Coordinators, Vanessa Otto and Pam Cwiklo, can use some help with paperwork and interviews before April 15th. If this interests you, please contact one of them. We need to thank our dedicated former Camp Director, AAUW member and Camarillo native, Susan Pease, for 18 years of tireless efforts providing over 125 girls from our Branch, this opportunity at UCSB. The first camp at Stanford University will be phased out due to escalating costs and two new camps will be added this summer. Northern CA girls will enjoy their experience at the University of Santa Clara or Cal State Monterey Bay. We look forward to a closer camp in the near future.

Vanessa Otto
votto@ootto.com

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: Black History Month



The National Museum of African American History and Culture has identified the theme for this year's Black History month: [African Americans and the Arts](#), emphasizing the role art has in justice movements.

Let's support Black artists by going to the movies. Director Ava Duvernay's new film *Origin* tells the story of Isabel Wilkerson's journey writing the book *Caste*, which we read in the DEI book group. We will plan a trip to the movies this in the [AAUW DEI Facebook Group](#). Email Gloria for more info.



Public Policy from Kathy Long and Karen Sher

Committee Member and OUHSD Trustee Karen Sher reported out: The Oxnard Union High School District Board recently adopted a Resolution in support of the Assembly Bill 1078 which added Education Code section 202, in which the Legislature reaffirms that its laws and public policy support accurate and inclusive education in all of California's schools. The Legislature specifically included references to instructional and supplemental materials written by or featuring LGBTQ+ individuals, or materials that touch on "race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or other protected characteristics." The Legislature stated restricting access to such materials because they feature or were written by individuals from such groups is discrimination and constitutes censorship in violation of California law and policy. Kudos OUHSD!

TID BITS: There is a group in Ventura County wishing to return to the "old style of voting" i.e. one day voting, no mail in ballots, no drop boxes, hand counting etc. See: <https://restorethevoteventura.org/> if you wish more information. They have been speaking out at the Board of Supervisors meetings and we would like to have members of the public speak out in support of the VCA (Voter's Choice ACc) as well as in support of our County Registrar of Voters Michelle Ascencion. Michelle is a member and has spoken to our association. It's important to have our voices heard and protect our local democracy. We will be following and engaging on this important issue all year.

REMINDER: TUESDAY MARCH 5, 2024, is the state Primary Election. Vote by Mail ballots go out Feb 5; early voting sites open Feb 5th and Vote Centers open Feb. 24th. The ballot includes Federal, State and Local elections/candidates. Hueneme and Santa Paula have school measures.

FYI: "Starting January 1, all undocumented immigrants, regardless of age, will qualify for Medi-Cal, California's version of the federal Medicaid program for people with low incomes." [Source: ABC News] This change will expand access to healthcare for adult undocumented immigrant women across the state who previously were not eligible for Medi-Cal. AAUW supports access to healthcare as a basic human right and applauds this step forward for immigrant women in our state.

Public Policy Committee continuing work on The School Board Project, Title IX, women's health and the many upcoming election issues with a DEI lens. Please join us!

Membership Matters

It seems obvious what the word “membership” means but I thought I’d share a few interesting and fun synonyms according to Merriam-Webster.com!

Community: A feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests and goals.

Sisterhood: The power of female voices!

Party: A group of people acting together within a larger group. We meet in interest groups, work together to volunteer and advocate for others but I think we can also use that word in a different context since we also have fun while we gather. I think we can say “Party!”

If you know of anyone who might be interested in joining us, please let me know and I’ll be happy to reach out to them to join our Community, Sisterhood, Party!

If it is time for you to renew, it is easy online using AAUW’s Community Hub or by check payable to AAUW Camarillo Branch in the mail (see the end of the newsletter for specific renewal instructions).

If you have any questions about when your membership expires or how to renew, please don’t hesitate to contact me, Maria Tagliaferri 805-236-0630, riatag62@gmail.com.

We are 60!

We are meeting with the City of Camarillo soon to discuss possibilities for collaboration in celebrating both of our 60th anniversaries. Contact Gloria – gloria@strongerleader.com – 805-216-8403 to join the planning committee and/or send pictures, stories, and memories!



Welcome New Member Kay Wilson-Bolton

Kay is a full-time property manager and REALTOR® for Century 21 Everest and has been in the same business since 1976. A member of AAUW in Bakersfield, she holds a BS degree from Cal Poly Pomona and a BA from the Master's College with post graduate work at the Master's University.

Kay served as Mayor for the City of Santa Paula and three times President of the Santa Clara Valley Boys and Girls Club and served as President of the Santa Paula Chamber of Commerce.

In 2015, Kay was named one of three Champions of Home by the California Association of Realtors and received one of five Good Neighbor Awards from the National Association of Realtors in 2017. One of the founders of SPIRIT of Santa Paula, a non-profit corporation serving Santa Paula's least powerful and most vulnerable population in the Santa Clara River Valley. Author of a book on homelessness called "Harvard Shelter."

Kay is also Lead Chaplain serving Ventura County Fire Department and serves as an Ethics Advocate for the Ventura County Coastal Association of Realtors Professional Standards Committee. Named as the Most Distinguished Alumnus from Cal Poly Pomona in 1992, Realtor of the Year in 1996 and 2017, she also received the Humanitarian of the Year Award from Latino Town Hall in 2016 and the Douglas Shively Award for Community Advocacy from the United Way.

We are delighted to have her join our membership. Welcome, Kay!

Thank you to the Gene Haas Foundation!



Thank you to the Gene Haas Foundation for their generous, continued support of our efforts in sending 8th grade girls to Tech Trek camp at UCSB, providing local scholarships for returning female students to CSUCI, and encouraging our Tech Trek Alumni group.

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
2023-2024**

Cathy Trevino

President

Aauw.camarillo.president@gmail.com

Gloria Miele

VP, Programs

Maria Tagliaferri

VP, Membership

Barbara Britt

Recording Secretary

Vanessa Otto

Treasurer

Diana Dingler

Corresponding Secretary

Kathy Long

Public Policy

Jan Demonsy

Past President

Nancy Walters/Janet Lindquist

Hospitality

Kay Wolverton Ito

Communications and PR

Kathy Long

Beacon Editor

Gloria Miele

Beacon Design and Layout

Open position:

Co-President-Elect

Membership

AAUW Camarillo Branch – Need to renew?

Annual dues are \$115

(\$72 National, \$20 CA, \$23 Branch).

1. Mail a check for \$115 payable to “AAUW Camarillo Branch” to: AAUW Camarillo Branch, P.O. Box 862, Camarillo, CA 93011.

2. Online at AAUW National – my.aauw.org

Scroll down to “Don’t have an account?” to reset your password and begin the online process using your email address, not your member number. Once logged in, you will join by selecting 3 membership types: National (\$72), California (\$20) and Camarillo Branch Member \$23 (select CA-0132 Camarillo).

Tips and reminders for the online renewal:

Complete the password reset the first time you login.

- If you don’t receive the password reset email, be sure to check your spam folder!

The password reset email will come from: American Association of University Women infosf@aauw.org. Subject Line: AAUW Password Reset Requested.

- Make sure to use your email address and not your member number when logging in.
- Use the same email address you renewed with in 2022.
- You can login but account says you’re not a member. You have created a new account in error and a duplicate record new member number. National must fix this so please let me know if this happens to you!

Short step by step videos help with logging in and joining online: <https://www.aauw.org/membership/new-systems-update>.

If you have any questions at all, please don’t hesitate to contact, Maria Tagliaferri, Membership VP at riatag62@gmail.com or 805-236-0630.



New Member Form: Please print

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone: (H) (____) _____

(C) (____) _____

E-Mail: _____

Highest College Degree: _____

University/college: _____

Graduation Date: _____

Dues Schedule: Circle one:

General Member **\$115**

Student Affiliate \$0

(Includes local, state & National Dues)

Check Payable: “AAUW Camarillo Branch” and mail to:

AAUW Camarillo Branch
P. O. Box 862
Camarillo, CA 93011
aauw.camarillo.president@gmail.com