

President's Message from Cathy Trevino

MARCH is the month we celebrate Women. We have International Women's Day and Women's History Month, our branch Women in History Program for Camarillo schools, our amazing Knowledge Bowl, as well as St. Patrick's Day, Ramadan, Easter, and International Transgender Day of Visibility, all packed into one 31-day period, Whew!

I am also calling March Opportunity Month, because it is when our AAUW Camarillo branch starts to organize ourselves for the 2024-25 year. We are so lucky to have Board Members who have served in many capacities over the years. These long-time and newer members are again willing to continue when our year starts July 1, 2024, which is wonderful. We also would love some new energy on our team.

We still have opportunities for members who are attracted to the idea of further engagement in the workings of our branch and its many program offerings. Use your skill set, or develop a new one, while helping us keep the membership and public informed about our quest to advance gender equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research. Our Board meets once each month, typically via Zoom, and our various program offerings always need more help. Most of the time one spends is seasonal. We have opportunities for short-term, or long-term commitments, as one's schedule permits.

When our year begins in July, we will switch the role of President to that of Administrator and will work in two-person teams rotating quarterly throughout the year. There are shadowing opportunities available for new recruits to be mentored through the process. So, please accept this invitation to participate more fully as a member of AAUW Camarillo through one of the following opportunities, listed on the next page.

President's Message. Opportunity Month, Continued

Board meetings generally are held once a month via Zoom. Time and location to be determined by the new board.

Recording Secretary takes the board meeting minutes and distributes them to the board members for approval.

Corresponding Secretary writes thank you notes and timely cards to our members, donors, and others as needed. Branch pays for postage, etc.

Program person/s Committee to prepare and present 3 mission-based general membership meetings between July 1 and June 30th.

IBC Liaison (Inter Branch Council) attends via Zoom with the administrator to help plan and implement our annual January luncheon with the Thousand Oaks and Simi Valley branches

Scholarship Chair organizes our scholarship program for CSUCI returning students. Most of the work takes place from April to July.

Administrative trainees to learn the workings of the branch and delegate and implement the various activities while accepting communication from AAUW-CA and national.

All these jobs can be shared, so don't be shy, we need your help. Grab a friend, get involved. Please respond to this invitation **by March 10th** with questions and areas of interest so we can discuss your options and interests and be ready to present our slate of officers and vote on them during our June election, and speaker program event.

Cathy Trevino, President
(805) 757-3677 or AAUW.Camarillo.President@gmail.com

2024 Calendar Highlights

- 3/3 – New West Symphony
- 3/4-15 – Women's History performances
- 3/8 – International Women's Day
- 3/12 – Nonfiction book group
- 3/6, 3/13, 3/20/24 – 60th Knowledge Bowl
- 4/9 – Nonfiction book group
- 4/10 – Camarillo Desalination Plant Tour
- 4/10 -Board Meeting – All are welcome. New Zoom link coming soon.
- 4/20 – Home Tour, Ventura

TBD:

- General meeting with Amber's Light Lions and Magic Yarn Project workshop
- June Membership Meeting: Speaker – Carol Leish, Call Me Capable.
- September Kick Off: Celebrating 60 Years

2024 Bylaws Changes for AAUW National

Overview and Reasons for the Proposed Amendment

The AAUW Board of Directors and Governance Committee recommend approval of the following bylaw amendment to eliminate the degree requirement for membership in AAUW. This change will align our membership practices with our purpose of advancing equity for women and girls and enable us to include members with the diverse backgrounds and perspectives needed to achieve our purpose in today's world.

We remain committed to higher education as a pathway to eliminate barriers that hold women back and to enhance their leadership opportunities at all levels. We admire the effort of the inspiring women who have led the way in earning their degrees. We recognize, however, that in today's world higher education degrees are one of several paths needed to advance equity for women and girls. Professional certifications, on the job training, career technical experience and life experience all are alternative paths to obtaining education and the skills needed to become leaders and advocates for ending discrimination against women.

When AAUW began its work, higher education and professional careers were denied to most women. That is no longer the case. More than 50% of college degrees are currently being awarded to women, and women are now attaining powerful positions in business and government. Yet discrimination against women continues. Eliminating the degree requirement enables us to expand our voice and our reach, our ability to fulfill our purpose, and will open more opportunities to address the needs of all women.

AAUW's name, which continues to have significant brand recognition for AAUW as a women's rights organization, will remain the same if the amendment is adopted.

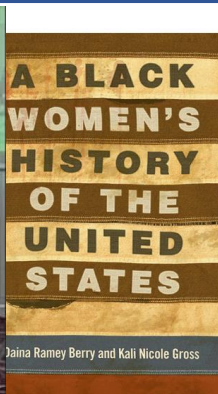
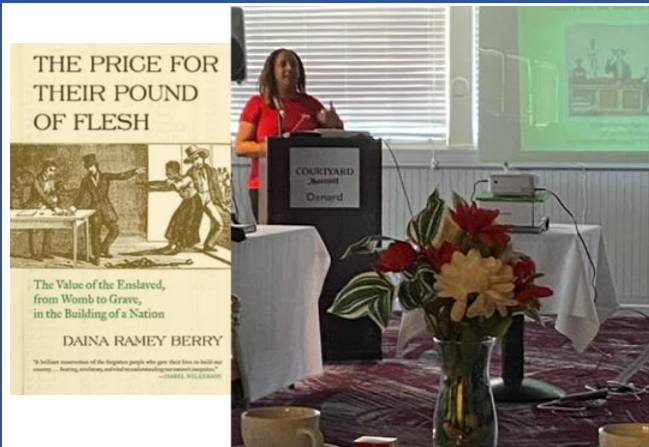
The board recognizes that some members have strong views on the proposed change in the requirement for membership and encourages respectful debate on this important issue.

The board firmly believes that the proposed amendment is in the best interests of AAUW and its future relevance and sustainability as an inclusive and forward-thinking organization committed to advancing equity for women and girls. The board urges a vote in favor of the amendment.

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/2024-aauw-proposed-bylaws-changes/>

How to vote? These emails will be sent prior to April 3rd. Watch your in box. AAUW's third-party voting vendor, Simply Voting, will provide Elector IDs and Passwords to all members. This information will be e-mailed to members before voting begins (and voters will receive regular reminders if they have not yet voted). Voters without a valid email address on file or who have unsubscribed to AAUW's emails will be mailed a paper ballot.

Out and About: Celebrating Black History Month



L-R: Cathy Trevino, Gladys Ochangco, Links President Betty Patterson, Gloria Miele, Pam Perkins Dwyer.

Thank you to Past-AAUW President Pamela Perkins Dwyer and friend of AAUW Debra Bagley for the invitation to the [Channel Islands Chapter of The Links, Incorporated](#) meeting to hear speaker Daina Ramey Berry, PhD, the Michael Douglas Dean of Humanities and Fine Arts at the University of California, Santa Barbara. She is a scholar of the enslaved and the award-winning author/editor of six books. She spoke about the research that underlies her book, [The Price for Their Pound of Flesh](#), "...the first book to explore the economic value of enslaved people through every phase of their lives...in the early American domestic slave trade." She is co-editor of [A Black Women's History of the United States](#). This is a perfect read for Women's History Month. We are also grateful to the many Links members who continue to volunteer for our Women in History program. We look forward to more collaborations!

Beautiful Music – New West Symphony in Camarillo!

[The New West Symphony](#) presents Cirque de la Symphonie 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: All are welcome to join us after the performance at Toppers Pizza in Camarillo. Contact Julie Mohr for information at 805 217 1394.

RESCHEDULED! Guided Tour 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.

Join us for a free tour on Wednesday, April 10 at 2 pm. Space is still available. If you reserve spots, please attend as docents are counting on your attendance.

Contact Julie Mohr for reservations for your free tour. 805 217-1394 or MohrJ2000@hotmail.com

Non-Fiction Book Group

The AAUW Nonfiction Group meets on the second Tuesdays of the month. We will meet on March 12 at Maxine Elliott's house 13210 Village 13, Camarillo. Phone: (719) 395-6531. 910-448-0348 mjecis@gmail.co

We will discuss ***Why We Sleep: Unlocking the Power of Sleep and Dreams*** by Matthew Walker PhD

Future Books:

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.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

This Women's History Month, a reminder that AAUW believes in the need to end white supremacy and address structural and systemic racism. Efforts to improve racial, ethnic, and gender justice must be embedded into every initiative. This includes working to eradicate intersectional bias and creating a culture of involvement, respect, inclusion, and connection, where the richness of diverse ideas, backgrounds, and perspectives is fully appreciated, understood and utilized. Proposed bylaws changes support these priorities. Learn more about AAUW's [public policy priorities](#).

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.

Public Policy from Kathy Long and the Public Policy Committee

STATE LEGISLATURE: A statement from Assemblymember Steve Bennett: “As respective chairs of the Water Parks and Wildlife Committee and the Budget Subcommittee No. 4 on Climate Crisis, Resources, Energy & Transportation, Assemblymember Papan and I held a joint oversight hearing on the implementation of our landmark groundwater law, Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) resources. We heard from state departments and groundwater sustainability agency stakeholders on the progress made since SGMA passed and discussed the steps ahead of us as we try to manage our groundwater in a changing climate.” As reported in prior Beacons, the Assemblymember has been leading on protecting our groundwater in our county. Although complex, important to follow and be informed on the many pieces that intersect.

AB2091: State Superintendent Tony Thurmond stood alongside Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, CTA, and California’s teachers as a sponsor of #AB2091, the Pregnancy Leave for Educators Act. Currently, there is no paid pregnancy leave for teachers in California. This means that educators across the state must spend their sick leave to care for newborn children. This effort to establish #PregnancyLeaveNow will ensure that educators are supported to stay in the classroom while growing their families, and not penalized for it. We will track this bill.

LOCAL Reports: The Public Policy committee members recently met with Ventura County Superintendent office of Education, Dr. Cesar Morales, and his staff members. Our focus was on Title 1X and how we would assess the successful application of the law, the performance locally, and the public knowledge and engagement of parent’s rights. He informed us that his office has no authority over Title 1X, it’s handled by the individual school districts. He suggested we could explore the Parents Handbooks provided from the schools to begin our information gathering. Our committee will continue to explore.

We asked how the schools are performing post-pandemic: Enrollment is down, but great success with the establishment of Wellness Centers on school campuses, such as the OUHSD centers having over 17,000 self-referrals. These centers are valuable to families and students. More interaction with the County’s Behavioral Health Department could be an enhancement.

Our final focus on threats of book banning were addressed with the prior action of the state’s strong oversight and the threat of loss of funds; the requirement to use certain approved books; and the requirement to have a Certified Teacher Librarian to service school libraries, especially those without librarians. The Office of Education provides that position. Overall, we felt it was good first meeting. The door is open for future discussions.

Black History Month was in February, and our member and school Board Trustee Karen Sher reported on and supported a Resolution 24-07, passed by the OUHSD, Board, to support black students, calling for the practice of equity, building understanding, employing practices developmentally appropriate and to generally listen to the students. The Board committed to revisit reports thorough the year.

AAUW-CA Lobby Days are April 2-3. Their bills will be identified, and meetings held with electeds to advocate our position. We will participate and report out on the proposed bills.

Member News

-----ATTENTION-----

What is Happening with the Camarillo Airport? Community Meeting

Not organized by the City, County or Camarillo Airport.

This is a meeting *for* the community put on *by* members of the community.

What: Community Meeting for residents who are concerned about the increased jet traffic at the Camarillo Airport and impacts of the noise, pollution and safety on our town.

When: Thursday, March 7, 2024 starting at 6:30 pm

Where: Studio Channel Islands Art Center (SCIART Center Auditorium)
2222 Ventura Blvd, Old Town Camarillo, 93010

Presented by: Members of Save Our Skies Camarillo

For more information: saveourskiescamarillo.com & [saveourskiescamarillo](#) on fb and instagram

The Airport's panel of paid suits continued to dismiss our concerns at their last meeting.


Now it's time for those who actually live in and care about the community to come together and learn what is really happening with the Airport Layout Plan and Part 150 Noise Study and work together on solutions!

-----ATTENTION-----

SAVE THE DATE
April 20, 2024
**Rising from the Ashes:
Home Tour**
Visions to See - Stories to Tell
The Thomas Fire caused devastation, but not defeat. Join us and witness the resilience of Ventura, as we tour some of the beautifully rebuilt homes and hear the stories of rebirth.

Tickets available at
www.vclibraryfoundation.org
on March 1, 2024.

Proceeds will benefit the Ventura County Libraries



For information contact Kathy Long - kathylong220@gmail.com

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

Tech Trek Thank You!

Dylan Zulueta, Tech Trek camper at UCSB the summer of 2018 and a counselor later at the Virtual Camp during the pandemic, sent a note to our branch to let us know the impact Tech Trek has had on her. Dylan attended CAPE Charter School, then graduated from Rio Mesa's International Baccalaureate Program in 2023. All the while staying engaged with our Tech Trek Alumni group, she applied for, and received, one of our six Tech Trek Alumni Group scholarships for graduating high school seniors. She is a freshman at Pomona College taking Linear Algebra and credits Tech Trek and its STEM curriculum with showing her a potential career area. Dylan mentored the younger girls in the Alumni group and gathered knowledge from the older ones as they returned to share their path through college course work. When she is stressed over course work, Dylan remembers she can just buckle down and "set her mind to it" and she will ultimately succeed. She thanks AAUW Camarillo for our support over the past years.

Membership Matters

Help us keep your contact information current!

Our 2023-2024 branch directory was sent to all members via email in January which lists our current members and includes your contact information (phone, email, address). Your contact information is downloaded from the national AAUW website membership database to create the Directory, so it is very important that the national database is kept current. There are two ways that this can be accomplished if you have changes/updates to your contact information:

- 1) Send me an email (riatag62@gmail.com) and I will login to the AAUW national database and update your contact information. As your Membership VP, I have the ability to do this on your behalf and I am more than happy to do it for our members.
- 2) Login to your AAUW National account and you can update your contact information. Once logged in, you'll look for the "My Contact Information" tab on the left side of the page and click. This is the page you'll complete your update and then don't forget to "save" when done.

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!

Watch for more information on opportunities to celebrate our anniversary serving Camarillo for 60 years!



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