

Co-President's Message from Kay Wolverton-Ito

Much has happened locally, nationally, and globally since the last Beacon. The morning after the election left some of us reeling, but politics took an immediate back seat to the Mountain Fire that erupted in our community. It's likely we all know people who sustained damage to or total loss of their homes, including some of our current and past branch members.

The path to recovery has just started, and as we know from past disasters it will be long and difficult. There have been numerous ways for us as individuals to contribute time and money—especially during the holiday season—but long-term recovery will require access to and cooperation among financial institutions and a multitude of agencies, especially public ones.

So back to that fateful Wednesday morning, the day after an historic election... When I feel overwhelmed by situations out of my control, I turn to the expression “Think globally, act locally.” Some may find it trite or an oversimplification, but I take it to mean that we can all play some part in effecting positive change in the world, and that our actions can have a ripple effect. It's why I continue to be involved with the Camarillo branch of AAUW and agreed to a co-presidency with Peg Eldredge for the next four months. I find hope in belonging to “a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women and girls have a fair chance.”

We hope to see as many members as possible at the holiday open house on December 8 at Gloria Miele's new home. However you celebrate the holiday season, may your time together with loved ones bring you contentment, and may we all begin 2025 with energy and resolve.

Peace,

Kay Wolverton Ito, Co-President (Dec 2024 - Mar 2025)

Holiday Open House



Holiday Open House

SUNDAY DECEMBER 8

2PM to 5PM

Our members and community have been through a lot, so the AAUW Camarillo Leadership Team invites you to connect, recharge, and enjoy some holiday cheer at this casual event.

Cookies and other treats will be provided. Feel free to bring something to share or come as you are! Stop by between errands or stay the whole time. We'd love to see you.

We will also be accepting donations for Food Share.

Home of Gloria Miele and Dave Epelone

2172 Dunnigan St
Camarillo, CA 93010

Call or text Gloria with questions – 805-216-8403

Opportunities to assist those impacted by the Mountain Fire

Our hearts go out to all our members, friends, and neighbors who lost their homes and all who have been affected by the Mountain Fire.

Listed below are some organizations and agencies to contact if you would like to support recovery efforts with monetary donations or by volunteering:

- Donate to the [Ventura County Wildfire Relief & Recovery Fund](#) through the Ventura County Community Foundation vccf.org
- Contact [Volunteer Ventura County](#) to volunteer at the Local Assistance Center (LAC) now open at the Ventura County Office of Education
- Click [here](#) to support Local Love Project's disaster relief efforts
- Consider a donation to [Friends of Fieldworkers](#) to direct your assistance to farmworker families in Ventura County

IBC Luncheon – January 25, 2025

Ventura County Interbranch Council Luncheon

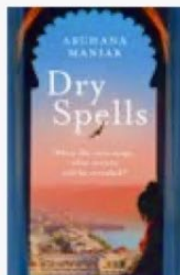
Saturday, January 25, 11:30

Los Robles Greens 299 South Moorpark Rd. Thousand Oaks

Archana Maniar

presents

Cross Roads and Detours



A former recipient of a Simi Valley Branch College Scholarship, Archana Maniar is an Infectious Disease specialist and a Professor of Medicine at UC Davis Health Systems. With a longtime obsession for creative writing, she recently signed a two-book deal with Lake Union Publishing.

Her first novel, *Dry Spells*, was published in May 2024.

Tickets available at <https://AAUWIBC2025.eventbrite.com> (preferred) or email gloria@strongerleader.com if you'd like to pay by check.

Author's Day Rescheduled to Saturday, February 8, 2025

During the Mountain Fire, Las Posas Country Club was spared due to the Herculean efforts of our local first responders and all those who came to help during the days as the fire storm passed out of control throughout our community. Thankfully, no lives were lost, but the loss of homes and property is devastating and will remain so for some time.

We hope that everyone interested in a good book, good friends, and fabulous cuisine, is still able to join us for our event. Let's come together and appreciate what we still have and go forward with renewed vigor, to advance gender equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

Now is the time to invite anyone who was not able to attend in November. We have 147 reservations, but have room for a few more attendees. All reservations made prior to Nov. 9th are still in place and there is no need to register again.

Please reach out to Cathy Trevino for questions or reservations at (805) 757-3677 or CathyTrevino47@gmail.com. The price is still \$95 which includes 6 raffle tickets. Anyone holding a current reservation and unable to attend will be issued a refund. But please remember, this is our only fundraiser, and any and all contributions will be gratefully accepted.

2024 -2025 Calendar Highlights

12/1/24 – World AIDS Day

12/8/24 – Holiday Open House at Gloria Miele's home

1/8/25 - 5pm Board Meeting – All are welcome. Join using the [New Zoom link](#)

1/25/25 Saturday – Interbranch Luncheon – Los Robles Greens/Thousand Oaks

2/8/25 Saturday - Author's Day Fundraiser, Las Posas Country Club

2/12/25 - 5pm Board Meeting – All are welcome. Join using the [New Zoom link](#)

3/5, 3/12. 3/19/25 (Wednesdays) – 61st Knowledge Bowl

Author's Day Flyer

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN
CAMARILLO BRANCH

AUTHORS' DAY

Fundraising Luncheon 2024-25

AAUW Camarillo Branch's *only* fundraising event of the year

Illuminate Your Life With Books

Lunch · Author Speakers · Book Purchase/Signing · Door & Drawing Prizes

Saturday, February 8, 2025

10am - 2:30pm

Las Posas Country Club

Tickets \$95

*Includes your choice of entrée - oven roasted chicken, pan seared salmon, or vegetarian pilaf
AND six tickets for prize drawings
(tax-deductible portion is \$50 per ticket)*

This year's authors:

Rebecca Langston-George, Children's Non-Fiction

Virginia Hall: Clever Spy of WWII

For the Right to Learn: Malala Yousafzai's Story

Orphan Trains - Taking the Rails to a New Life

Deborah Holt Larkin, True Crime

A Lovely Girl: The Tragedy of Olga Duncan and the Trial of One of California's Most Notorious Killers

Colleen Delaney, Nonfiction

Rancho Guadaluasca: Last Ranch of California's Central Coast

Alison Louise Hubbard, Historical Fiction, Lyricist

The Kelsey Outrage: The Crime of the Century

Scan here



Or go to
bit.ly/CamAuthorsDay2024

Books for purchase provided by:


TIMBRE
BOOKS

Questions or wish to contribute?

Call 805-757-3677 or email CathyTrevino47@gmail.com

Women in History Committee Needs Help!

Calling on you terrific AAUW hostesses

The committee is working hard to ensure we have a successful 2025 program. Volunteers are signing up to portray our 6 wonderful women. Training sessions will be held the first 2 weeks in February. We plan one night for each woman but some volunteers can't make it and attend another session. **Are you willing to open your home for 1-3 nights to welcome volunteers and a group leader?** This is a fun, quick way that you can help. No time working on a committee. You can choose your night(s). Estimated time is 6-8 PM. I like to do 2 nights in a row-it saves time but 1 night is perfectly acceptable. Light refreshments are nice-nothing fancy. I do fruit, cheese and crackers and water or juice. Sometimes I make cookies. You can serve wine if you want.

Yes, we are asking for a commitment 2 months in advance. That's because we notify the volunteers when they sign up when their training session will be held. We know life is fluid; if your plans change, we understand.

Next year, we will need additional support to manage the volunteer database (MS Access familiarity helpful but will be trained) and outreach activities to schools. Please reach out to [Judi Gill](#) for more information.



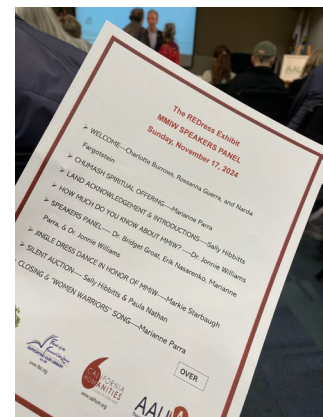
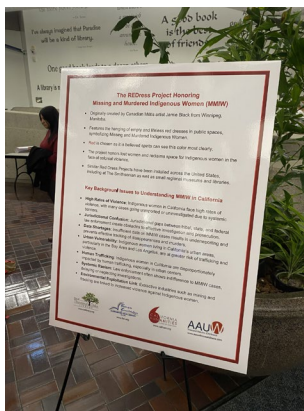
Are you interested in helping to make history come to life for Camarillo's children and having a lot of fun portraying one of these famous women? If so, please click on the WIH Volunteer Interest Form link below, sign up and join us!

[Women In History Volunteer Interest Form](#)

REDress Exhibit

The REDdress project is meant to bring attention to the crisis of missing and murdered indigenous women and girls (MMIW) in Canada and the US. The moving event at the TO Library did just that, with a 3-day exhibit that culminated in an informative panel discussion from members of the community and DA Erik Nasarenko. Did you know that murder is the third leading cause of death for native women? The statistics are shocking, as are the lives lost that they represent. One presenter talked about strength-based indigenous feminism and the need for an intersectional approach. Over 100 people were in attendance and learned about how to be an ally, including elevating the voices of native women and supporting their businesses and economic development. Learn more at nativehope.org.

Kudos to AAUW Thousand Oaks for organizing this powerful community event, and important discussion about the crisis of missing and murdered indigenous women in the US and Canada.





AAUW's Continues to Advocate for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

In anticipation of the incoming Presidential administration, congress is already trying to introduce bills that would eliminate DEI programs and initiatives from organizations that receive federal funding. This will impact schools, universities, and other workplaces around the country and may target Title IX. AAUW will continue to work for more diverse, inclusive, and equitable spaces for women and girls, especially in education, pay equity, and health care. [Click here](#) for efforts at the state and branch level. Join the Public Policy committee to get more involved.

Non-Fiction Book Group, Barbara Hilburn

The AAUW Nonfiction Book Club will meet at 10:30 am the second Tuesday of the month at Panera Bread Co. in The Collection, Oxnard.

Any people wishing to come to any of our meetings or who have any questions should email Barbara Hilburn   hilburndesigns@gmail.com

Next meeting is December 10 - *Empire & An Odyssey* by Rock Brynner. (Yule Brynner's son)

Some of our Future Books:

- ***The First Lady of Under Fashions*** by Christin Erteszek. (Olga bras, LA & Ventura Counties) – Jan 14
- ***The Elephant Whisperer*** by Lawrence Anthony – Feb. 11
- ***Making It So: A Memoir*** by Patrick Stewart – Mar 11
- ***Swing Democracy*** by David Pepper – April 8
- ***The Boys: A Memoir of Hollywood and Family*** by Ron Howard and Clint Howard – May 13
- ***Rough Sleepers: Dr. Jim O'Connell's Urgent Mission to Bring Healing to Homeless People*** by Tracy Kidder – June 10
- ***Something Lost, Something Gained: Reflections on Life, Love, and Liberty*** by Hillary Rodham Clinton – July 8

P.M. BOOK REVIEW, Diana Dingler

Our next meeting will be on **Dec 16 at 7:00 PM** when we'll discuss the book ***Small Things Like These*** by Claire Keegan. Sandy Klein will be our hostess for the evening. Please let her know if you plan to attend or not. She lives at 281 Brister Park Ct., sandyaklein@gmail.com.

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 and Whittier College, providing local scholarships for returning female students to CSUCI, and encouraging our Tech Trek Alumnae Group (TTAG).

Public Policy by Kathy Long

Wrapping up the year on some high and some low notes; the election held many surprises, a few wins and certainly a message of much work ahead for the state and nation to find common ground for the greater good.

The reproductive rights for women found some success in 7 of the 10 states where it won an affirmative vote on their Constitution. Here in California, AB 2099 was a priority bill of AAUW CA, and signed into law that makes it possible for the District Attorney to pursue felony charges for the posting of information about reproductive health care patients or providers if the posting and subsequent actions result in bodily injury.

Two other AAUW priority bills signed into law: AB 2843 eliminates cost sharing, including deductibles, from being imposed on any rape survivor seeking medical care following a rape. It also ensures they receive care following a traumatic sexual attack. And AB 2326, requires the Chancellors of the Community Colleges and the State Universities, and the President of the University of California, to provide an annual report, publicly and orally presented, of their schools' compliance with Title IX, one that we will closely follow as we also track our local performance with the high school districts.

Our committee welcomes all interested in public policy, tracking environmental, social justice, and mission focus issues. Please contact me to join the committee. Meeting held via Zoom.

Additional article below focus on AI and the challenges with environmental balance, submitted by former Supervisor Linda Parks.

URGENT ACTION NEEDED: Contact Senate about **HR 9495**

HR 9495 unfortunately passed the house last week, the bill that “terminates the tax-exempt status of terrorist supporting organizations.” If passed it could “grant the executive branch extraordinary power to investigate, harass, and effectively dismantle any nonprofit organization — including news outlets, universities, and civil liberties organizations like ours[ACLU] — by stripping them of their tax-exempt status based on a unilateral accusation of wrongdoing.” With women’s rights under attack, it’s not outlandish to imagine AAUW being impacted. [More via ACLU.](#)

Public Policy by Linda Parks

The recent news that Microsoft has made a deal to [restart the Three Mile Island Nuclear Power Plant](#) to run its AI data centers brings together two technologies that have each been described as having the potential for a “[nuclear-level catastrophe](#).” Putting aside whether AI is mature enough to be feeding it with astronomical amounts of our energy supplies, powering it with renewable energy is critical for our energy future and safety.

Mark Jacobson, director of Stanford’s atmosphere and energy program, finds that “Every dollar spent on nuclear is one less dollar spent on clean renewable energy and one more dollar spent on making the world a comparatively dirtier and more dangerous place, because nuclear power and nuclear weapons go hand in hand.”

It is a fallacy to think that nuclear power is reasonable when compared with renewable energy sources. In fact, nuclear energy and its carcinogenic radioactive waste is the most dangerous and fiscally risky energy option.

[The deal](#) that Gov. [Gavin Newsom](#) and California State Legislature struck with Pacific Gas and Electric to extend the life of its last nuclear plant, the Diablo Nuclear Power Plant, will saddle California ratepayers with some of the highest electricity rates in the nation for years to come. Yet such rate increases are unnecessary thanks to the state’s rapid transition to renewable energy and an estimated [13,391 MW](#) of battery storage — well above the 2,200 MW produced by Diablo Canyon’s reactors.

Now is the time to be clear-eyed and double down on renewable energy. With the [energy demands of AI increasing](#), other states are considering following the same expensive and dangerous path as Pennsylvania’s Three Mile Island Nuclear Power Plant, the site of the country’s [worst commercial nuclear accident](#). Even with Microsoft’s investment, the deal is reliant on massive government subsidies. Without those government handouts, powering AI data centers with nuclear power doesn’t pencil out.

Public Policy, Continued

Nuclear plants cost billions of dollars to build and billions of dollars to upgrade. That's why the nuclear industry depends on tax dollars, tax credits (like Three Mile Island), and ratepayers to pay higher electricity bills.

That same transfer of costs onto the backs of the public occurs if there's a nuclear accident. A "nuclear-level catastrophe" at a nuclear power plant would leave the public with uninsurable property loss, astronomical clean-up costs and, more importantly, the very real human costs — particularly to young children, who are most vulnerable to radiation. The [lack of any solution for nuclear waste disposal](#) further extends the risk of radiation exposure out tens of thousands of years into the future.

When the safety of nuclear plants becomes questionable, like at Diablo Canyon ([unknowingly built along active earthquake faults](#)) and with [Fukushima](#), Three Mile Island, [Chernobyl](#) and the [Santa Susana Field Lab](#) all happening in our lifetimes, it becomes abundantly clear that nuclear accidents happen. The fallout isn't worth the risk.

Big tech needs to find more energy-efficient ways to run AI data centers, and direct its major energy investments, along with the government, to clean renewable energy that doesn't make our world dirtier and more dangerous.

Linda Parks is on the board of Mothers for Peace, an organization committed to the decommissioning of the Diablo Nuclear Power Plant. She is executive director of Save Open-space and Agricultural Resources in Ventura County and is on the board of the Environmental Defense Center. She served on the Ventura County Board of Supervisors from 2003-2022 and was a mayor and councilmember of Thousand Oaks. While a supervisor, she chaired the Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance and was a founding member and vice chair of the Clean Power Alliance.

Membership News, Maria Tagliaferri

Members will receive reminders from both AAUW national and from me to renew in the month that they joined. If you have any questions about when your membership expires or how to renew, please don't hesitate to contact me. - your Membership Chairperson, Maria Tagliaferri
805-236-0630, riatag62@gmail.com.

Welcome our New Member, Cassie Wanda Mich!

Cassie Wanda Mich

I am an artist with a passion for creating - from whimsical wedding gowns to crocheting, painting, photography - anything to express myself! I tend to blend my personal love for creativity with my professional work.

I found the AAUW through the Women in History Program - thanks to my incredible 8-year-old's school. Last year I enjoyed performing Mary Cassatt and look forward to representing Abigail Adams this year.

The kindness and support I've experienced with the women organizing WIH (Women in History) have inspired me to join the AAUW directly. I am thrilled to have a path to creatively help build a brighter future for my daughter and her peers!



Member News



Congratulations to Member Bev Dransfeldt for her re-election to the Pleasant Valley Recreation & Park District Board!

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 \$30: \$18.00 plus \$12.00 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
2024-2025**

**Kay Wolverton Ito & Peg
Eldredge**

Co-Presidents (Dec 2024-Mar 2025)
Aauw.camarillo.president@gmail.com

Maria Tagliaferri

VP, Membership
VP, Programs: **Open**

Colleen Robertson
Recording Secretary

Vanessa Otto
Treasurer

Barbara Britt
Corresponding Secretary

Kathy Long
Public Policy
Gloria Miele
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Scholarships: **Open**
Cathy Trevino
Past President

Kay Wolverton Ito
Communications and PR
Jennie Baker

Tech Trek Alumnae Group (TTAG)
Gloria Miele
Beacon Editor

Gladys Ochangco
Beacon Design and Layout

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 very 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.**
- **You can log in but my account says I'm 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!

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