

## Co-President's Message from Kay Wolverton Ito

Like me, you've probably been hunkering down inside in recent weeks due to the continuing fires, smoke and wind (and thankfully the rain coming down as I write this). This forced isolation has mucked up our routines and taken a toll both mentally and physically during a time that, primarily because of post-inaugural events, has left so many feeling bereft and powerless. I acknowledge my position of privilege and good fortune and don't mean to trivialize others' tremendous loss or actual - as opposed to my perceived - powerlessness, but there's no denying an intense, collective anxiety.

Now more than ever I believe people, especially women, need to find a path back to some sense of hope and control, but personally I'm taking my time doing that. It's not a sprint but a marathon, as they say, and I'm feeling woefully out of shape. Conventional wisdom says we should focus on self-care and mindfulness and cut out negativity, but at this exact moment I don't feel I have the means to do all that. When and where I'm able, I will turn to the people in my life (nearly all women in my case) to give me strength, and hopefully I can in turn give strength to others. I will seek out community where I can, especially in person as opposed to online.

Yesterday I enjoyed the excellent presentation at the Interbranch Council luncheon by medical researcher and fiction author Archana Maniar and plan to escape soon into her book *Dry Spells*. I'm also looking forward to our Authors' Day event and next month's Knowledge Bowl competitions. I hope we all find things to look forward to, healthy ways to escape reality or combat anxiety, and a path to strength, positivity, and community.

Onward,

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

Author's Day February 8th

**YEAH YEAH AUTHOR'S DAY**

**Our long-awaited fabulous fundraiser is finally upon us**

**And we are SOLD OUT at 165**

**See you Sat. February 8<sup>th</sup> 2025 at 10 am  
Las Posas Country Club will be ready to receive you**

Plan to have a fabulous lunch, hear great authors talk about their books, buy some books, greet friends new and old, win raffle baskets, door prizes, and, and, and, even some silent auction items.

***BETTER YET, CONTRIBUTE TO THE VAST ARRAY OF  
MEANINGFUL PROGRAMS AND EVENTS SPONSORED BY  
AAUW CAMARILLO***

**Remember to bring your return address labels for raffle tickets, your credit card, and more cash for raffle tickets and a silent auction item.**

Questions, etc. [CathyTrevino47@gmail.com](mailto:CathyTrevino47@gmail.com) or (805) 757-3677

## 61<sup>st</sup> Knowledge Bowl!!

A few spots remain for volunteers for our 61<sup>th</sup> Knowledge Bowl competitions. Teams from 12 public and private schools will be participating. Topics include math, science, social studies, literature and current events. Volunteers are needed to be readers, judges, and timers.

Check-in and instructions are at 5:30pm, followed by the rounds each night. We are usually finished by 8pm.

### **The dates and locations for Knowledge Bowl 2025 are:**

**March 5 Buena High School**, Mini practice and Rounds 1-4  
5670 Telegraph Road, Ventura

**March 12 Rio Mesa High School**, Rounds 5-8  
545 Central Avenue, Camarillo

**March 19 Adolfo Camarillo High School**, Rounds 9-11 and Awards  
4660 Mission Oaks Blvd, Camarillo

To volunteer, go to the **Sign-up Genius link**:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0A49AF28A5FA7-54151941-knowledge>

OR through the link provided in the QR code. For information contact Mary Goldberg at [marymgoldberg@gmail.com](mailto:marymgoldberg@gmail.com)



## 2024 -2025 Calendar Highlights

February – Black History Month

2/5/25 Online Member Gathering – Zoom meeting hosted by AAUW National

2/8/25 Saturday – Authors’ Day Fundraiser, Las Posas Country Club

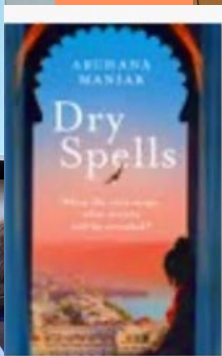
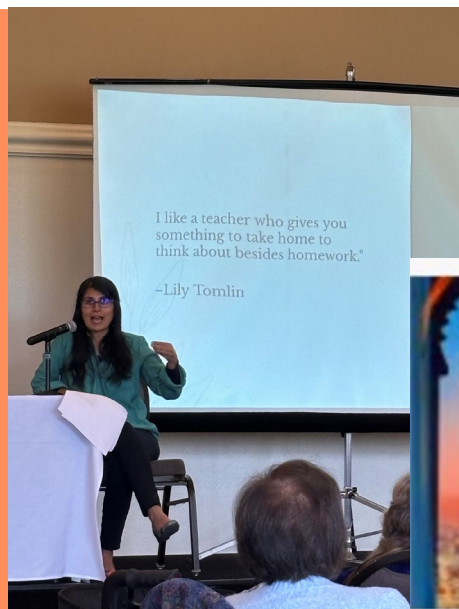
2/12/25 - 5pm Board Meeting – All are welcome. Join using the [New Zoom link](#)

March – Women’s History Month and WIH School Program

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

## IBC Luncheon with Archana Maniar

Physician, author, and prior AAUW Simi Branch scholarship winner Archana Maniar discussed her journey writing her first novel while juggling family, a career in medicine, and “writing in the cracks and corners” to publish *Dry Spells*.



## Member Gathering – Zoom Event hosted by AAUW National



On Wednesday, February 5, at 4 p.m. ET, we'll come together to recognize our achievements, share important updates, and celebrate the strength of our community. As we navigate this new administration and the challenges that lie ahead of us, it is critical that we leverage our collective advocacy to defend our mission.

[You can sign up right here.](#) Hope you can join us!

In Solidarity,



**Katrina Sun Breese**  
Senior Director of Institutional Advancement

## Non-Fiction Book Group, Barbara Hilburn

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

For information about the group, please contact Barbara Hilburn, [hilburndesigns@gmail.com](mailto:hilburndesigns@gmail.com)

**Next meeting is February 11 - *The Elephant Whisperer* by Lawrence Anthony**

### Future Books:

- ***The Boys: A Memoir of Hollywood and Family*** by Ron Howard and Clint Howard – Mar 11
- ***Rough Sleepers: Dr. Jim O'Connell's Urgent Mission to Bring Healing to Homeless People*** by Tracy Kidder – April 8
- ***Something Lost, Something Gained: Reflections on Life, Love, and Liberty*** by [Hillary Rodham Clinton](#) – May 13  
(Optional essay from ***What Will It Take to Make a Woman President?*** by Marianne Schnall)
- ***Sociopath: A Memoire*** by Patric Gagne – June 10
- ***The Lady in Gold: The Extraordinary Tale of Gustav Klimt's Masterpiece, Portrait of Adele Block-Bauer*** by Anne-Marie O'Connor – July 8 (Also a movie with Helen Mirren)
- ***The Audacity of Hope: Thoughts on Reclaiming the American Dream*** by Barack Obama – Aug. 12

## P.M. BOOK REVIEW, Diana Dingler

We will be discussing the book ***Solito*** by Javier Zamora on Monday, **Feb. 24, at 7:00 p.m.** at the home of Anita Kuzas. Please contact her if you plan to attend or not [[anita77kuzas@gmail.com](mailto:anita77kuzas@gmail.com)].

Our March selection is ***James*** by Percival Everett. It is a marvelous book about Tom Sawyer given from the slave's point of view. Very well written.

**Note:** We do not have a physical location for our meetings for March or April. So, if no one steps forward, we will do a Zoom for those two months [March 24 and April 28].

## Thank you to the Gene Haas Foundation!



Thank you to the Gene Haas Foundation for their generous, continued support of our efforts in sending 8<sup>th</sup> 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).



## Happy Black History Month DEI Committee Chair, Gloria Miele

I had the opportunity to visit the [National Museum of African American History and Culture](#) in Washington, DC . From the striking building architecture, to the artifacts and stories, indoor and outdoor spaces and exhibits, it is a moving, inspiring and enlightening journey through over 400 years of African American history. As Founding Director, Lonnie Bunch said, “This museum will tell the American story through the lens of African American history and culture.” See [photos](#) from my visit.



On a more local level, Black history is being made by a like-minded women’s organization: The [Channel Islands \(CA\) Chapter](#) of [The Links Incorporated](#). An international non-profit established in 1946, The Links is one of the nation’s oldest and largest volunteer service organizations of extraordinary women who are committed to enriching, sustaining and ensuring the culture and economic survival of African Americans and other persons of African ancestry. We are always grateful for their help with Women in History portrayals and appreciate all they do in the community. Thanks to Debra Bagley, along with Pam Perkins Dwyer, members of both AAUW and The Links, for the invitation to the CI Link’s upcoming Black History Month Celebration.

AAUW Remains Committed to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion  
<https://www.aauw-ca.org/public-policy/>



**EMPOWERING WOMEN IN CALIFORNIA**

## Black History Month Celebration!



THE CHANNEL ISLANDS  
CHAPTER OF THE  
LINKS, INC.



Presents

# Black History Month Celebration

Featuring:

Award-Winning  
Animator

## Ron Myrick

One of America's Leading  
African American Animators  
With Over Four Decades Of  
Experience.



**SATURDAY**

February 22, 2025  
2PM - 4PM

**COURTYARD  
MARRIOTT**

600 E. Esplanade Dr.  
Oxnard, CA 93036

**Tickets: \$30/pp**

Accepted by Venmo, Checks, or Cash



## Public Policy by Kathy Long

AAUW at all levels has long advocated for the adoption of the Equal Rights Amendment, which has been promoted through the states since 1972!

On January 27, 2020, the Commonwealth of Virginia became the 38<sup>th</sup> state to ratify the inclusion of the ERA as the 28<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution. Since then, Congress has held up action with procedural challenges as to timing and states suggesting “rescinding” their positions. This compelled President Biden to act in the closing days of his Presidency:

### **Statement from President Joe Biden on the Equal Rights Amendment**

“I have supported the Equal Rights Amendment for more than 50 years, and I have long been clear that no one should be discriminated against based on their sex. We, as a nation, must affirm and protect women’s full equality once and for all.

On January 27, 2020, the Commonwealth of Virginia became the 38th state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment. The American Bar Association (ABA) has recognized that the Equal Rights Amendment has cleared all necessary hurdles to be formally added to the Constitution as the 28th Amendment. I agree with the ABA and with leading legal constitutional scholars that the Equal Rights Amendment has become part of our Constitution.

It is long past time to recognize the will of the American people. In keeping with my oath and duty to Constitution and country, I affirm what I believe and what three-fourths of the states have ratified: the 28th Amendment is the law of the land, guaranteeing all Americans equal rights and protections under the law regardless of their sex. “

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As you may have seen since, the U.S. Archivist Dr. Colleen Shogan recently issued a statement on the ERA ratification process. Gloria Blackwell, AAUW CEO, responded: “We are extremely frustrated at the National Archivist’s refusal to publish the ERA.



## Public Policy by Kathy Long, Cont'd

Her decision to side with the Trump administration and against legal scholars and the American Bar Association is reprehensible. Dr. Shogan, publish the ERA. Women around the country have waited long enough.

AAUW will never give up on the ERA and encourage folks to continue taking action by making our voices heard.”

The exact wording: **“Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.”** Simple, straightforward, yet here we are over 50 years, still in the fight for our rights. There are many ways you can voice your support and advocate through our AAUW.org and direct through ERA Coalition.org. It matters for our daughters, granddaughters, and our legacy of never giving up and to stand up for our rights.

Interested in public policy, contact [kathylong220@gmail.com](mailto:kathylong220@gmail.com)

## 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](mailto:riatag62@gmail.com).

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**Welcome our New Member, Becky Hosseini!**

## Member News

One adjective to describe AAUW members is “busy.” We are involved in so many activities beyond AAUW - other nonprofits, our kids’ school and extracurricular activities, social events, and taking care of ourselves, our families and community.

A person who wears the badge of busy like a dazzling star is longtime member **Jerrie Newman, who recently celebrated her 99th birthday** and was feted by over sixty friends at a luncheon. People talked about Jerrie’s kindness, good humor, and hospitality, involvement in book groups and scrabble clubs, Great Decisions world discussion group, and lunch and dinner meet-ups to name a few. Celina Biniáz stood to talk about the 30-year friendship that started when Jerrie approached her at a Newcomer’s meeting and asked, “Do you need a friend?” The rest, as they say, is history.

I was most inspired by Jerrie’s own reflections. “I wanted to say a few words about why I have lived so long.” She talked about the people and activities that keep her calendar full, mind and body active, and days structured. It’s a “busy” that is focused on connection, socializing, and learning.

So today let’s celebrate busy - the kind that leads to community, love, and longevity. Happy Birthday, Jerrie!



## Camarillo Academic Olympics

CAO is looking for a few more volunteers for this community event for 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Graders. **Art Judges** are needed to review student drawings and determine the CAO Art Finalist Winners on 2/11/25 at the Camarillo Boys and Girls Club. **Speech Judges** are also needed for Round 2 at the Boys and Girls Club on 2/11 and 2/13 and also for Speech Finals at the Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE) during the last week of February. (Previous experience in speech competitions desired but not mandatory).

CAO also needs help with subject test FINALS during the last week of February. Looking for scorers or question readers. The shifts are about 45 minutes to 1 hour per subject (Math, Science, Geography, History – California/US/World, Current Events).

Please reach out to Gladys Ochangco at [CAOVolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:CAOVolunteers@gmail.com) or 805.453.7357 if you are interested/available in helping out, have questions or need more information.

Thank you to the AAUW members who have already volunteered or have referred friends to be judges!

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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:aauw.camarillo.president@gmail.com)