

Co-President's Message from Janet Lindquist

Every girl, no matter where she lives, deserves the opportunity to develop the promise inside her.

Michelle Obama

Greetings from your new co-presidents, Cathy Trevino and Janet Lindquist.

This year we have a new program of sharing the leadership, not only with co-presidents, but also shorter terms for those presidents, and involving more of our members.

When we wake up and read the paper or listen to the news, it is very difficult for many of us to feel positive about what is happening around us. It makes us feel helpless (and angry).

Many of our members remember the days in the 1940's, 50's, 60's, when doors were shut in our faces: "We only hire men for that job. But can you type and take shorthand?" After Title IX, there were many improvements (although discrimination was still rampant, but no longer so overt). We did make strides and, in some jobs, even equal pay. But we never received universal equality.

Now we see our gains backsliding. And we feel powerless to stop what is happening. Can we change our leaders into rational, intelligent human beings? NO. Can we change millions of lives? NO. But we are not powerless!! We have the power and resources to change lives of women in our own community. We can fight back against ignorance. We can do something, individually and as Camarillo AAUW. To quote Michelle Obama again, "If there is one thing I've learned in life, it's the power of using your voice." (and **money!**—my words)

We need to provide more opportunities for women to continue their educations. We already have that program providing scholarships to women attending CSUCI. All of us have the financial resources to provide more scholarships. Instead of 2 or 3 scholarships, why not 15? Educate a woman and you educate a family.

Let us not sink back and say there is nothing we can do about our current political fiasco. We can fight **back!** **Now more than ever, we all need to become more involved and committed. Start right now by volunteering and supporting AAUW and its programs. Become more than just a dues-paying member; act upon what you believe and become involved. Courage is contagious.**

I believe this is what AAUW members stand for and that is why we belong to AAUW.

United we stand, divided we fall.

In unity,
Janet

Janet Lindquist, Co-President (April 2025 - June 2025)

Seeking New Officers and Committee Members for 2025-2026! Interested in learning more about serving on the board or other leadership position? Please reach out to a President for more information. We need your help to keep our organization strong.

2025 Knowledge Bowl Re-cap

Mary Goldberg, Knowledge Bowl Chair

Our **60th** Knowledge Bowl competitions were held on three Wednesday nights in March. This program is possible because of the hardworking and enthusiastic coaches, students and volunteers who work to make it happen.

A special **Thank You** to our group of terrific volunteers who reviewed the questions and participated in the competitions. They include new and long standing members, friends and family:

Kay Wolverton Ito
Cynthia See
Kim Dallape
Gladys Ochangco
Kathy Long
Pam Holley-Wilcox
Sally Anderson

Rebecca Pecsok
Colleen Robertson
Max Copenhagen
Dylan Zulueta
Colleen Scott
Maxine Elliott
Andrew Goldheart

Laura McAvoy
Sue Parsons
Melayna Moore
Maria Tagliaferri
Sue Hughes
Carol Dietz
Nathan Giusti

Cathy Trevino
Mary Ann Novak
Jim McCrory
Jack Ito
Debra Creadick
Barbara Britt
Brian Robinson

Participating Schools:

Adolfo Camarillo High School
Del Sol High School
Pacifica High
St. Bonaventura High School

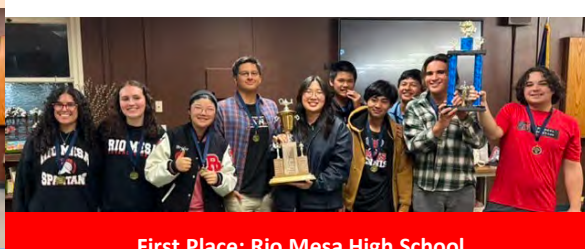
Buena High School
Hueneme High School
Rio Mesa High School
Villanova Preparatory School

Channel Islands High School
Oxnard High School
Rancho Campana High School

AND THE WINNERS ARE:



Second Place: Buena High School



First Place: Rio Mesa High School



Third Place: Pacifica High School



Let's Play! May Meeting at Zander's Game House



GAME NIGHT
TUESDAY MAY 13, 6-8PM



We can all use more play in our lives! Here's a chance to do just that at our May meeting at Zander's Game House. Owner, Jeanne Sikoff, will get us started for a great night of fun.

\$10 PER PERSON AT CHECK IN



2270 Ventura Blvd., Camarillo

Space is limited. RSVP by May 5
aauw.camarillo.president@gmail.com

Questions? Contact Gloria - 805-216-8403

2025 Calendar Highlights

- 4/9/25 - 5pm Board Meeting – All are welcome. Join using the [Zoom link](#)
- 5/13/25 – 5pm Board Meeting and 6pm Game Night at Zander's Game House
- June membership meeting date coming soon!!

Women in History Did It Again!

Another year in the books for our beloved Women's History program. This year's committee carried on despite the Mountain Fire and other challenges inherent in running a program meant for all schools in Camarillo. Over half participated, all having enthusiastic feedback from performers, teachers, students, and principals.

In these times where women's accomplishments are being removed from federal websites, WIH is what we need to keep amplifying women's achievements.

Deep thanks for our persistent committee: Merrill Berge, Jan Demonsy, Judi Gill, Cheryl Mastrovito, Betsy Metzgar, and Cassie Wanda Mich. And thank you to all the performers, especially Betty Patterson and her colleagues from The Links, Inc., who help us ensure diversity in the women portrayed in the program.

Planning will begin for next year's program in the coming months. Some of our longstanding committee are moving on, so we are in need of new members to keep this important program running. Please reach out to a member listed above to find out more!



Musician Gloria Estephan was one of this year's featured women, here portrayed by Martita Martinez Bravo.



Mathematician Katherine Johnson helped send Apollo 11 to the moon. Betty Patterson did the portrayal, pictured here with Betsy Metzgar's grandson, Alex, who built the model for the presentation.

AAUW Scholarship Applications Due June 2!

AAUW Camarillo awards scholarships to women CSUCI students who have taken a "non-traditional" path to a college degree and had a break in their education between high school and college. Scholarships range from \$1,500-\$2,000. Details and application form available on our website:

<https://camarillo-ca.aauw.net/scholarship/>

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

Next meeting is April 8 - *Rough Sleepers: Dr. Jim O'Connell's Urgent Mission to Bring Healing to Homeless People* by Tracy Kidder

Future Books:

- ***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 Bloch-Bauer*** by Anne-Marie O'Connor – July 8 (Also a movie with Helen Mirren)

P.M. BOOK REVIEW, Diana Dinger

NOTE: Please note that our meeting time has changed once again. Our final two meetings will now begin at 3:00 p.m. See the following for the full schedule. After May, we will be off for the summer to read our own selections.

Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday, April 30 from 3-5 p.m.** in the Marie Callender's side conference room. We will be discussing ***The Paris Novel*** by Ruth Reichl.

Our May meeting will be on **Wednesday, May 28 from 3-5 p.m.** in the Marie Callender's side conference room. We will discuss ***The Henna Artist*** by Alka Joshi.

For further questions please contact Diana Dinger at 805-987-8013.

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 – DOE Closure

By Beckie Cramer (PVSD Board Clerk) and Patty Lerner (PVSD Trustee, AAUW Member)

We have all heard about President Trump's dismantling of the Department of Education. This situation is still evolving, with the outcome yet to be determined at the local level. We want to assure our community that PVSD is carefully monitoring the potential local impact of these changes.

The vast majority of our school funding comes from state and local sources. Less than 4% of PVSD's funding comes from the federal government for the specific, targeted purposes of Title I and IDEA. Title I provides additional funding to schools that serve low-income students who are at risk of not meeting academic standards. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act – IDEA - guarantees a "free and appropriate public education" tailored to a student's physical and developmental needs.

By far, the most impactful of the Department of Education programs here in PVSD are the funding streams for Title I and IDEA. The Trump Administration has repeatedly stated that funding for Title I and IDEA will be "fully preserved," and will send the funding to states directly. Both funding streams are allocated by Congress, and reducing or ending them would require Congressional approval.

In addition to the uncertainty of Federal funding for Title 1 and IDEA, concerns have been raised about the role of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion programs in TK 12. This is an area where state and local control have a voice. State Attorney General, Rob Bonta, and the State Superintendent of Public Education, Tony Thurmond released statements in Early February exerting that California schools will continue protecting all students from discrimination. You can read their full statements here:

Rob Bonta: <https://oag.ca.gov/news/press-releases/attorney-general-bonta-california-schools-will-remain-welcoming-inclusive-safe>

Tony Thurmond: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/nr/ne/yr25/yr25rel08.asp>

Decision making at PVSD is grounded by our Vision of "Excellence for All" and our Core Values: Student Centered, Equity, Teamwork, Integrity, and Embracing and Celebrating Diversity. As we move through these changing times, PVSD is committed to upholding our Vision and Core Values, fulfilling the promise of a free and appropriate education by providing a high-quality instruction for every child.

As school board trustees, we relentlessly advocate for increasing IDEA funding to cover the mandates set by the federal government and equitably meeting every student's needs through

Public Policy – DOE Closure Cont'd

our state's education budget. We want to assure our community that we are committed to fulfilling the promise of inclusive public education for every child, and we will continue our advocacy with federal and state lawmakers to those ends.

If you have further questions, please feel free to email us at RCramer@pleasantvalleysd.org or PLerner@pleasantvalleysd.org

Public Policy by Kathy Long

Public Education is a priority for AAUW National and local and is under attack. We are fortunate to have AAUW member/school Board Trustees keeping us informed at the local level on how our schools are faring with the challenges coming our way. The many Executive orders targeting diversity and equity are making schools question if they can still commit to inclusive education. A "Dear Colleague" letter from the Department of Education warns schools against such initiatives creating a chilling effect that impacts the equality of college campuses. Congress is considering deep cuts to Pell Grants, work-study, and campus childcare — jeopardizing access to higher education for pregnant and parenting students. The Office for Civil Rights in the Department of Education has stopped investigating race, disability, and sex discrimination claims, weakening the protections for students across the country. We must all work to be informed and be advocates for our schools and our students.

April is Sexual Assault Violence Prevention Month and AAUW National joins many groups nationwide calling for the creation of safer communities. Addressing the root causes of this kind of violence is difficult as it involves a multi-pronged approach, including improving street and housing conditions, providing education, and offering support services. We should work to advance policies at workplaces and schools, discuss sexual assault and its consequences with friends and family, and prioritize prevention in our communities. At the state level, in September 2024 Governor Newsom signed eight bills on domestic violence. The legislation created a new victims' services fund using penalties from white-collar crimes and expanded the ability of victims to access restraining orders.

Interested in public policy, contact kathylong220@gmail.com

TTAG Happenings – February & March, by Gladys Ochangco

Tera Creech, head of Rancho Campana High School's Academy of Health Sciences was our guest speaker for our February Meeting. She shared her interesting and winding career path starting with her goal of becoming a Vet. She gained experience at her part-time Vet Clinic job during high school which she credits for teaching her so much about patient care. Ms. Creech did not end up at Vet School, but worked in a corporate software job and at Amgen for several years before finding her dream job as a science teacher.

Ms. Creech led TTAG in a medical science wound care training using cubes with varying wounds to pack, both shallow and deep. She also brought Glo Germ Gel to teach us how to properly wash our hands according to the World Health Organization standards. (There's a lot more to washing hands properly!) It was an informative and fun meeting! Thank you, Carla Davis, for inviting her.



For March, TTAG Camarillo enjoyed a beautiful Sunday afternoon with a lovely hike at Hill Canyon as Jennie Baker stopped periodically to share her knowledge of the local flora. We were joined by family including sweet 4-legged ones, and we welcomed a new TT Alumna from the AAUW Mariposa Branch who recently moved to Ventura County. (Thank you Mr. Friedl for taking our group pic and thank you to Cynthia See for carpool/driving)



Membership News, Maria Tagliaferri

In recent weeks, AAUW National sent an email to all members announcing the National Membership dues increase of \$2 per year over the next two years. Starting April 1, 2025, National dues will increase to \$74 and on April 1, 2026, dues will increase again to \$76.

What does this mean for 2025-2026 membership dues? Members who renew after April 1, 2025 will pay a total of \$117 (\$74 National, \$20 CA and \$23 Branch). Please keep in mind the important work of AAUW especially in our current challenging environment and I hope you will continue to join us in advocating for women and girls not just locally but on a national level.

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 New Member, Colleen Delaney!

New Member Bio: Marni Eng

I have known about AAUW for a long time, as for many years I have participated in the Women in History program. I love doing that and kids have seen me in the grocery store and said, "You were Sally Ride or Deborah Samson or Laura Ingalls Wilder!" I haven't done it since the pandemic, however.

I have lived in Camarillo since 1982 and my husband Steve and I raised our three children here. For a number of years I taught science lab and GATE at Las Posas School and after that I taught German at Camarillo High School. My husband passed away in September of 2021 and since then I have been doing a lot of traveling, especially to visit my children and grandchildren and to take language classes in Europe.

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

Janet Lindquist & Cathy Trevino

Co-Presidents (April 2025-June 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 **\$117**
(\$74 National, \$20 CA, \$23 Branch).

1. Mail a check for \$117 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 (\$74)**, 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