

Co-President's Message from Kay Wolverton Ito

Welcome back to the monthly communication from our branch, the Beacon. The name of our newsletter was determined long before my time with our branch, but I can only assume it was chosen with specific intent. Merriam-Webster's online dictionary defines a beacon as both a physical signal for guidance, such as a lighthouse or radio transmitter, as well as a metaphorical light giving hope or inspiration. AAUW has been and will continue to be a beacon of hope, inspiration, and action, working to achieve equity for women and girls.

Scrolling down the (web) page, the first example of beacon in a sentence is "These countries are beacons of democracy" and the next is "Our nation should be a beacon of peace to people around the world." How painfully ironic that at this moment, many citizens within and outside of our country feel the United States is no longer a beacon of democracy, and hardly a beacon of peace considering the increasingly violent actions perpetrated against immigrant residents. To that end, I will be participating in the Labor Day protest at the Ventura County Government Center and welcome you to join me. Additional information appears in this issue of the Beacon.

One of our most important branch events is in just three weeks - our annual Kick-Off. This event highlights our many programs and events and brings us all together to regroup for the coming year and reconnect after our summer hiatus. The annual Kick-Off serves not only to inspire branch members but to showcase to potential new members the meaningful work we do and connections we make. Our keynote speaker is branch member and Camarillo City Councilmember Martita Martinez-Bravo, who will discuss her work as Executive Director of Friends of Fieldworkers.

I have been remiss in not recruiting more friends, colleagues and acquaintances to AAUW who would bring so much to our branch, and in turn, I believe, serve to be a beacon of hope for them. Please consider inviting those you know who could add to our branch's impact and could use some hope, inspiration, and sisterhood.

Onward,
Kay

Join us for Kick-Off!!



AAUW Camarillo 2025-2026

Kick-Off Meeting

WHEN: September 21, 2025
TIME: 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
WHERE: Las Posas Country Club

Please RSVP with the number of of guests by
September 17th

RVSP & Questions: aauwcamarillo.programs@gmail.com

Reconnect with friends, meet new and prospective members, enjoy light refreshments and celebrate AAUW programs like Knowledge Bowl, Tech Trek, Women in History, and more! Meet our Tech Trek Campers and CSUCI Scholarship Awardees and learn what we have planned for the year ahead and how you can get involved in promoting equity for women and girls in our community and beyond.



DONATIONS

We are collecting new & packaged items

- TOILET PAPER
- PAPER TOWELS
- SOAP
- SHAMPOO
- DIAPERS
- DEODORANT
- BAGGED PASTA
- TOMATO SAUCE
- TOOTHPASTE/BRUSHES
- DISH & LAUNDRY SOAP
- FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS
- BAGGED BEANS & RICE



Bring your donations for
Friends of Fieldworkers!

Larger sized diapers are
in high demand.

See the list at left and
contribute if you can.

More info at:
friendsoffieldworkers.org

Learn about our mission-
driven programs and events

Meet our Tech Trek Campers
and CSUCI Re-entry
Scholarship Winners

Light refreshments

All are welcome
You do not need to be an
AAUW Member to Attend

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Martita Martinez-Bravo

Executive Director,
Friends of Field Workers

Elected official and
AAUW Member

Martita will discuss how
Friends of Fieldworkers
is supporting families during
federal actions in our community
and specifically the impact on
women and girls.



Labor Day Protest

This Labor Day, join some of your fellow branch members at the local Workers Over Billionaires event to hear guest speakers, access community resources, and peacefully protest. Local organizations taking part include [Indivisible Ventura](#), [50501 Ventura County](#), [Justice for All Ventura County](#), and [League of Women Voters Ventura County](#). Takes place 10am to 1pm at the Ventura County Government Center, 800 S Victoria Ave

Questions? Contact Kay at aauw.camarillo.president@gmail.com

VENTURA COUNTY LABOR DAY PROTEST



MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1 10 AM - 1 PM VC GOVERNMENT CENTER 800 S VICTORIA AVE, VENTURA, CA



- Guest Speakers
- Community Resources
- Peaceful Protest



Welcome to Our New Board – June Installation of Officers

In June, Jerri Newman hosted a lovely garden party to celebrate our election and installation of officers for the 2025-2026 year. Janice Lindsay and her partner, the musical duo Bonhomie, provided lovely entertainment, and Janet Lindquist single-handedly catered the event.

We thank last year's Co-Presidents, Kathy Long, Gloria Miele, Kay Ito, Peg Eldredge, Janet Lindquist, and of course, and Cathy Trevino, who pulled double duty in our shared leadership model.

We had a great presentation from the League of Women Voters on Eliminating the Electoral College. We were honored that our Ventura County Clerk and Recorder, Michelle Ascencion, was there to swear in our board members. Thanks to all our volunteers and board members, past, current AND future.

[See photos here.](#)

Your 2025-2026 AAUW Camarillo Leadership Team

Kay Wolverton Ito and Gloria Miele, Co-Presidents

Glabe Siegfried, VP of Membership

Vanessa Otto, Treasurer

Colleen Robertson, Recording Secretary

2025 -2026 Calendar Highlights

9/1/25 Labor Day Holiday / Ventura County Labor Day Protest

9/10/25 5pm Board Meeting – All are welcome. Join using the [New Zoom link](#)

9/21/25 AAUW Camarillo Kickoff Meeting

10/8/25 5pm Board Meeting – All are welcome. Join using the [New Zoom link](#)

11/4/25 California Statewide Special Election-Proposition 50

August Planning Meeting

The yearly planning meeting took place at Gloria's house and was fun and well attended. People mixed and mingled, then got to work brainstorming strategies and plans for the year ahead, including ideas for programs and fundraising and ways to increase our presence in the community. Some highlights included discussions of:

- A mentoring program that can leverage the vast knowledge and experience of our accomplished members and support our current scholarship awardees, Tech Trek alum, and members of the community
- A Women in History fashion show fundraiser
- Ways to streamline Women in History program tracking
- Ideas to increase membership with greater visibility at community events
- Programs that highlight other community partners doing similar work

Want to learn more? [Review the detailed notes](#) and make sure to come to the Kick- Off Meeting. We'd love your input!

Ackerman Family Trust Bequest

The Camarillo Branch of AAUW is the recipient of a bequest from the estate of Jan Ackerman, Charter Branch Member who passed away last fall (see the [November Beacon](#) to read about Jan's full life and generous spirit). According to the estate's attorney, "Jan loved AAUW and talked about it a lot." The generosity of the Ackerman Family Trust will help our branch continue to fund priorities such as Tech Trek and college scholarships.

If you are interested in a bequest or other planned gift for the branch, we recommend you consult your tax advisor.

Tech Trek and TTAG Happenings



Tech Trek 2025 at UCSB - AAUW Camarillo Campers with AAUW Members Kim Dallape and Amy Campbell who volunteered as Dorm Monitors

In July we sent 8 girls from middle schools throughout the county to Tech Trek summer camp at UCSB and Whittier College. By all reports they had a wonderful time. We're looking forward to hearing from them at our kickoff meeting. **Thank you to AAUW Members Kim Dallape and Amy Campbell for volunteering a week of your summer to be TT Dorm Monitors!** And thank you to all AAUW Members for your support in making this experience possible for these girls.



In June, TTAG (Tech Trek Alumnae Group) enjoyed their year-end pool party to celebrate another TTAG year and plan their 2025-2026 year. TTAG "Graduation Award" was presented to Malani. TTAG alums Sivana, Emmie, and Dylan joined us from their respective colleges for summer break. Always nice to welcome our college alums and fun to hear them share college experiences, answer questions and give advice. **Thank you to AAUW Member Carla Davis for hosting most of our meetings!**

Malani del Rosario, TT Graduation Award Recipient and active TTAG member starts at USC this fall, majoring in biomedical engineering with an emphasis on molecular and cellular engineering. Malani credits Tech Trek & TTAG with the foundation it laid for her future as a woman in STEM. She is looking forward to being an active alumna to support Tech Trek/TTAG and other TT alums.

1st TTAG Activity for 2025-2026 – College Tour



TTAG students voted on activities for 2025-2026 and decided to include college tours this year.

TTAG Member Isla D shared the info for the CSUCI tour. In August, 8 Girls and some parents met at CSUCI for our 1st TTAG activity of this year. The tour gave the girls a lot of info and much to think about re: the many factors that go into a college list and college decision.



Non-Fiction Book Group, Barbara Hilburn

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

Please email me if you are interested. Thanks.

Barbara Hilburn

hilburndesigns@gmail.com

Next meeting is Sept 9 - *A Fever in the Heartland: The Ku Klux Klan's Plot to Take Over America, and the Woman Who Stopped Them* by [Timothy Egan](#)

Future Books:

- ***Breaking Through: My Life in Science*** by Katalin Kariko - Oct. 14
- ***Kingmaker: Pamela Harriman's Astonishing Life of Power, Seduction, and Intrigue*** by Sonia Purnell - November 11 (Veteran's Day—We may change this mtg date.)
- ***Something Lost, Something Gained: Reflections on Life, Love, and Liberty*** by Hillary Clinton - December 9

P.M. BOOK REVIEW, Diana Dinger

We will be meeting at the home of Jane Akune for our first get-together of the season where we will make our reading selections for the next upcoming nine months.

All are welcome to attend: **Sept 22, 7 p.m.** at Jane's home, 2462 Brookhill Dr. in Camarillo. Future monthly meetings will be held at Marie Callendar's restaurant.

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

It has been a short yet busy summer with chaos in Washington invading Los Angeles and our county with immigration raids by ICE; and our community's response so resoundingly to fight back with peaceful demonstrations and rallies. Our AAUW members have been visible at the rallies, on-line and in public forums to express support for the rights of due process and those granted under the constitution to all residents of our communities.

Under Ventura County Supervisor Vianey Lopez's leadership, a strong letter to the Board of Supervisors advocating for specific actions to secure funding, legal representation, and outreach services was presented with over 130 public speakers, a super majority supporting her requests:

- Protection for Migrant Education Programs – Up to \$1.9 million over 3 years, if federal funding is cut.
- Ventura County Immigration Legal Defense Fund – \$250,000 for legal, educational, and outreach services.
- Immigrant Defense Unit in the Public Defender's Office – 7 new positions.
- Countywide Policies & Training – Ensuring staff know how to respond to immigration enforcement in county facilities.
- State & Federal Advocacy – Supporting due process, transparency, and comprehensive immigration reform.
- Redirect Supervisor Lopez's recent salary increases directly to the Legal Defense Fund.

The Board rejected Supervisor Lopez's requests at their August 26 meeting. We will continue to monitor and advocate support.

The City of Camarillo has received many public comments regarding the ICE raids and recently launched a You-Tube video series available on [You-Tube@TheCityofCamarillo](#) for more information.

Public Policy Cont'd

On the positive federal level, our Congresswoman Julia Brownley, the Ranking Member of House Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Health, has authored the Reproductive Freedom for Veterans Act to counter the Trump administrations proposed cruel rule to reinstate a near-total abortion ban at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), even in cases of rape or incest. This would roll back a Biden-era policy that allowed VA health providers to offer abortion counseling and services in cases of rape, incest, and when the life or health of the veteran was at risk. Under Trump's proposal, only the narrowest exception would remain, putting essential care out of reach for countless women veterans and making the VA the only federal health provider with such an extreme restriction. The Congresswoman's legislation would guarantee that veterans and eligible dependents can access abortion care, medication, and counseling through the VA, protected by law and free from partisan interference.

LOOKING AHEAD: November 4, 2025, special election: California Proposition 50, Use of Legislative Congressional Redistricting Map Amendment –this will be flooding the news for the next couple of months. It will not impact local or state election lines, only congressional; The Camarillo Airport held a public meeting to update the public on the airport approach and procedure/Part 150 Noise Compatibility Study. Underway, the study will continue to submission to the FAA projected in summer of 2026. Possible changes to the glide approach, permanent noise measuring devices as requested by public, and other abatements are under review. More information: www.cma-approach-procedure-study.com

If interested in Public Policy committee, contact Kathy at kathylong220@gmail.com

AAUW Fellowships & Grants



Looking for
fellowships
for women?



Since 1888, AAUW has been one of the largest funders of women's graduate education, investing in women who go on to change the world. Applications for this year's round of fellowship and grant opportunities close September 30. Funding for individuals include dissertation and research fellowships, research publication and project grants, and more. Find all the information on AAUW National's website [here](https://www.aauw.org).

Membership News – New Membership Chairperson

My name is Glabe Siegfriedt and I am excited to be your new VP of Membership! 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 via phone at 805-415-9516 or email glabesiegfriedt@gmail.com.

Member News

For information,
contact Kathy Long:
kathylong220@gmail.com

Ventura County Library Foundation
PRESENTS

BOOKS, BUTTERFLIES & THE BOTANICAL GARDENS

PLEASE JOIN US FOR
AN AFTERNOON IN THE GARDENS

Sunday, October 19, 2025
12PM - 4PM
Ventura Botanical Gardens
567 Polk St., Ventura

FEATURING

Woody Woodburn,
Author of *The Butterfly Tree*
Ventura County Star Columnist

Jana Johnson, Ph.D.,
Moorpark College &
Lead Biologist
The Endangered Butterfly Project

Joe Cahill
Executive Director
Ventura Botanical Gardens

Dallas Woodburn
Award Winning YA author

Self Guided Garden Tour
Book Signing
Desserts, Raffles
Gift Shop

\$40 Advanced Registration
by October 17

\$50 at the Door

Scan to purchase tickets

VCLibraryFoundation.org | 501(c)(3) Fed Tax Id#46-2770894

Member News - Diana Hagen Celebrates a Century of Life!

AAUW's illustrious beginnings date back to 1881, when a small group of female college graduates joined forces to promote higher education, career opportunity and advancement for women. Born May 28th, 1925, AAUW life member Diana Hagen epitomizes this early spirit of cooperation and positivity with her many decades of contributions not only to AAUW but to her community and church in Camarillo and California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks.

A century of living through a spectrum of world events spanning wars, Depression, space travel, the internet and now Artificial Intelligence bestows rare insights and perspectives treasured by Diana's many friends. Tina Arredondo, Diana's close neighbor for many years says, "As my neighbor, Diana was my go-to advisor, problem solver, librarian, and cherished friend."

In May, Diana celebrated her 100th birthday centennial with family, friends, neighbors, fellow parishioners and community members as they gathered in small groups throughout the month to pay tribute to her remarkable life. A 50-year resident of Camarillo, Diana culminated the month's festivities on her birthday with family from as far away as Wisconsin, Florida and Southern California.

In addition to AAUW, Diana has been active in local bridge groups, book clubs, used book sales, and has served as newsletter editor. More recently, Diana was honored in 2022 by the Pleasant Valley Historical Society as a "Doña Camarillo" in recognition for three decades as volunteer leader of the Senior Exercise class at the Camarillo Community Center. Exercise is both a passion and a mission for Diana, inspiring hundreds of seniors to stay fit and live independently. Longtime friend and regular attendee of Diana's Senior Exercise class Bonnie Ng says, "Diana has been a fabulous friend since meeting her in AAUW over 40 years ago!"

Mount Cross Lutheran Church hosted a centennial party for Diana, who has been an active member of the church for 50 years, leading service, bible study, advocacy and fellowship groups. She has knitted hundreds of comforting shawls for the Prayer Shawl Ministry and worked on an equal number of hand-sewn quilts for Lutheran World Relief's global assistance efforts. In honor of her navy veteran husband Charles, Diana initiated the annual Hagen Family scholarship at Cal Lutheran, awarded to veterans enrolled in scientific studies.

While the month of May was a busy one with lots of social soirees, Diana hasn't slowed down one bit. She still partakes in daily exercise and activities at AlmaVia Camarillo, where she now resides. Her daughter Sue sums up what inspires her about her mom, "Daily exercise, surrounding herself with good friends and people who lift her spirits, being firm in her convictions but also compassionate."



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.

Send an email to Aswell Trophy at aaaswell@aol.com.

1. Identify yourself as AAUW Camarillo branch member and you want to order a name badge.
2. Provide your name, home address, phone number and email contact information.
3. 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.
4. 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
2025-2026

Kay Ito & Gloria Miele

Co-Presidents

Aauw.camarillo.president@gmail.com

Glabe Siegfriedt

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, Janet Lindquist,

Kathy Long, Peg Eldredge

Past Presidents

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 **\$130**
(\$74 National, \$30 CA, \$26 Branch).

1. Mail a check for **\$130** 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, California and Camarillo Branch Member (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, Glabe Siegfriedt Membership VP at glabesiegfriedt@gmail.com or 805-415-9516.



New Member Form: *Please print*

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone: (H) (____) _____

(C) (____) _____

E-Mail: _____

Dues Schedule: Circle one:

General Member **\$130**

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