

Messages from the Board

Vice President of Membership, Glabe Siegfriedt

Hello!

My name is Glabe Siegfriedt and I am the new VP of Membership. I had the opportunity to meet some of you at our Kick-Off event recently or we have engaged via email or phone as I navigate this role for the Camarillo AAUW chapter. I was introduced to this wonderful group of women by my lovely neighbor Pat. She is a lifetime member and has invited me to past Author's Day events. I always look forward to it because of the books, the authors and talking to other AAUW members that are like minded about the mission and values of AAUW. Also let's be honest the lunch and dessert at this event are delicious too.

I joined AAUW because it represents things I believe in. I am online a lot like so many I follow people, however it's a whole different thing to join a group or organization in real life that is making a difference for the future of women and others at all levels.

So many things are under attack! I am concerned.

The women in this chapter have been marching since the 60s. I am 51, married with one daughter and part of the sandwich generation. I am raising a family while at the same time caring for aging parents. I worry about the future of my daughter and all others that have seen rights diminished. It's important for me to be part of a community that is involved in civic action. It is disturbing to see the rise of apathy, misinformation, cultural issues in politics, the rise of the "trad wife" aesthetic, autocrat and fascist individuals and actions, attacks on LGBTQ and other marginalized groups, fringe views on motherhood and women being discussed at the highest levels of government. As the oldest daughter of Mexican immigrants and field workers the latest attacks with ICE has been so overwhelming and sad. I must admit I have questioned the meaning of the American Dream. The to-do list is long! We got some work to do and I won't lose hope.

It makes me feel less alone to know that other people are here ready to stand up to these attacks on our rights. I want to help make things better. It gives me hope and courage to keep standing up for people and the courage to keep showing up. If I can be a conduit to help people be more engaged, I'm here. I run into a lot of people that are politically disengaged and it's not their cup of tea. Our government is shut down and so many are going to struggle soon with our government institution and a missing East Wing at the White House. So here I am and hopefully we can work together somehow.

I leave you with this quote from the poet Amanda Gorman, "For while we have our eyes on the future, history has its eyes on us".

November Program: AAUW Five Star Program & Member Check-In

We will be meeting over Zoom on Wednesday, November 12 to discuss our branch's past Five Star Program successes and future potential. This will also be a time to check in with each other post-Election Day and before the holiday season is in full swing.

The Board meeting begins at 5pm on Zoom, with the check-in and Five Star Program discussion beginning at 6pm. Members are always welcome at Board meetings, so feel free to join the Zoom whenever you would like. [AAUW Camarillo Zoom Link](#)

THE AAUW PROGRAM

AAUW Five Star Program – What is it?

The AAUW Five Star Program is designed to help branches align with AAUW's strategic priorities and advance our mission of achieving gender equity for women and girls. By participating in this program, our branch contributes to a strong network of advocates, elevating both our local impact and AAUW's collective efforts nationwide. Additionally, the program aims to provide branches with a framework to ensure they are financially healthy and sustainable.

The Camarillo Branch regularly achieves one or more stars in this recognition program. This year we achieved three stars in the following areas:

Public Policy & Advocacy
Governance & Sustainability
Communications & External Relations

This achievement reflects our branch's commitment to advancing gender equity and aligning our programs, advocacy, and sustainability efforts with AAUW's strategic priorities.

Please take some time to explore the Five Star Program on the national website:
aauw.org/resources/member/5-star-program/

SUFFS Musical at the Pantages

Suffs tickets are still available!

At the time of this writing, we have a few tickets left to join our group going to the matinee showing of the musical Suffs on Saturday, November 22 at the Hollywood Pantages Theatre. Tickets cost \$111.50 each. We plan to carpool, but attendees are not obligated to drive together.

Text, call, or email Kay directly as soon as possible if you are interested in joining us. She can be reached at 805-216-7395 or kayzdaze@gmail.com.

Can't see the show but would like to experience how the musical depicts the story of America's women's suffrage movement? Click the button below to access the education guide for this Tony Award-winning production.

[Suffs Education Guide](#)



2025 -2026 Calendar Highlights

- 11/4/25 California Statewide Special Election-Proposition 50
- 11/6/25 6pm-7pm Stories from the Heart Show, Call 805-388-1952 to reserve your seat
- 11/11/25 10:30am Non-fiction Book Group - Panera Bread Oxnard at The Collection
- 11/12/25 5pm Board Meeting – All are welcome. [AAUW Camarillo Zoom Link](#)
- 11/12/25 November Program via Zoom [AAUW Camarillo Zoom Link](#)
- 11/14/25 Bridge Group
- 11/17/25 4pm PM Book Review at Marie Callendar's
- 11/22/25 SUFFS matinee at the Pantages
- 11/28/25 Bridge Group
- 12/9/25 10:30am Non-fiction Book Group - Panera Bread Oxnard at The Collection
- 12/10/25 5pm Board Meeting – All are welcome. [AAUW Camarillo Zoom Link](#)
- 1/13/25 10:30am Non-fiction Book Group - Panera Bread Oxnard at The Collection
- 1/14/25 5pm Board Meeting – All are welcome. [AAUW Camarillo Zoom Link](#)
- 1/24/26 11am-3pm IBC Luncheon, Los Robles Greens Thousand Oaks
- 3/2026 Women In History and Knowledge Bowl
- 4/18/26 2-4pm Women in History Fashion Show Fundraiser

Non-Fiction Book Group, Barbara Hilburn

The AAUW Nonfiction Book Club meets once a month on the second Tuesday 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 November 11 - *Kingmaker: Pamela Harriman's Astonishing Life of Power, Seduction, and Intrigue* by Sonia Purnell

Future Books:

- ***Something Lost, Something Gained: Reflections on Life, Love, and Liberty*** by Hillary Clinton - December 9
- ***Plagues Upon the Earth: Disease and the Course of Human History*** by Kyle Harper – January 13, 2026 (704 pages)
- ***Apple in China: The Capture of the World's Greatest Company*** by Patrick McGee - February 10

P.M. BOOK REVIEW, Diana Dinger

Our book selection for the month of November is ***The Phone Booth at the Edge of the World*** by Laura Imai Messina. It is a moving story following the 9.1 catastrophic earthquake event of 2011, and the resultant tsunami. There is a real-life "Wind Phone" created by Itaru Susaki for the purpose of sharing details of their daily lives with those loved ones they have lost.

We will be meeting on **Nov. 17 at 4 p.m.** in Marie Callendar's, which is a week earlier because of Thanksgiving.

AAUW Camarillo Bridge Group, Cyndy King- LeVander

Did you know that AAUW Camarillo has a Bridge group? We meet every second and fourth Friday of the month at 1:00 PM, at the hostess's homes. We have two tables and meet for about 3 hours of playing bridge plus enjoying a sumptuous dessert. We take off major holidays.

If you're interested in joining or have questions, please contact Cyndy via email at:
cking5151@gmail.com

Tech Trek Alumnae Group (TTAG), Carla Davis & Gladys Ochangco

Megan (TT'23) and Kadance (TT'24) partnered up for the October Meeting and decided we check out the new Conejo Family Farm Pumpkin Patch in Camarillo.

We conquered the corn maze not once but two times!! After many tries and wrong turns. (while collaborating, learning from mistakes and being persistent!) Fun fact: did you know you can only make popcorn with certain types of corn?? While standing in the middle of the corn maze, we learned about what makes popcorn pop. A popcorn kernel has a strong pericarp and water and starch inside. When the kernel is heated the water turns to steam, and the starch turns from a gel-like liquid to a solid after the pressure breaks through the pericarp.

Megan also brought handouts about photosynthesis, so we discussed that plus the reverse reaction called cellular respiration -- how pumpkins take in carbon dioxide to make glucose and how we use the glucose and oxygen to make carbon dioxide. We also discussed how carbon dioxide is related to greenhouse gases and how we need photosynthesis.

Our 9th and 10th grade TT Alums welcomed 2 of our newest 8th grade TT Alums who attended camp this summer. AAUW Member & TTAG Mom Cynthia See joined Carla and Gladys as another adult chaperone. A fun time was had by all 🍂🍁🍂



Thank you to the Gene Haas Foundation!



Thank you to the [GENE HAAS Foundation](#) for their generous, continued support with a 2025-2026 grant for \$11,000. These funds advance 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

As we head into a fourth week of government shut down, the pain is being felt in the homes of the working middle class, those who depend on food assistance, those who live close to the paycheck, and the already unemployed. All work has stopped in Washington. Our Congressional representative Julia Brownley 26th District, has worked to introduce 58 bills addressing needs of veterans, women and agriculture. The bills are stalled in committees. She is also working to address the injustices of ICE in our communities along with the Governor and state representatives.

At the state level, work is getting done. State Senator Monique Limon, 21st District, successfully introduced a bill signed by the Governor, [SB 642](#), which makes reforms to the California Equal Pay Act to ensure workers can effectively enforce their rights by harmonizing the statute of limitations with other wage statutes and allowing workers to recover for all lost pay for up to six years. Additionally, this bill updates the definition of “pay scale” to require a good-faith estimate of the salary or hourly wage that an employer reasonably expects to pay, allowing potential employees to have a clearer understanding of what they can negotiate for. The Senator has worked on The Fair Pay Act since 2022 addressing the inequity of earnings for Latinas who make up 20% of the population in the state and have the lowest median hourly wage of any racial or ethnic group.

Senator Monique Limón and Senator Tim Grayson also authored a bill signed by the Governor, SB 825, to protect California consumers from financial harm and provides the Department of Financial Protection and Innovation with clear authority to take enforcement actions against financial institutions engaging in unfair, deceptive, or abusive practices.

State Assemblymember Steve Bennett 38th District, successfully authored [Wildfire Backup Power bill, AB 367](#), and has been signed by Governor Newsom. The bill increases preparation by Ventura County water suppliers for wildfires. The legislation ensures fire hydrants work as designed during wildfires by creating baseline standards of emergency preparedness for water districts servicing homes in high fire risk areas of Ventura County [as mapped by CAL FIRE](#)

Public Policy Cont'd (page 2 of 3)

The new law takes effect on July 1, 2030. It requires water districts to:

1. Develop emergency preparedness plans including appropriately filling tanks during red flag warnings.
2. Ensure prompt backup power is available to keep water pumps working after power shutoffs.
3. Fire harden appropriate water infrastructure and backup generators.

The bill also requires a report after major fires on tank water levels, performance of backup power and effectiveness of the fire hardening structures around water pumps and backup power.

Assemblymember Bennett also successfully authored AB1143 Home Hardening Certification Program: This bill would require, on or before January 1, 2027, the State Fire Marshal's Wildfire Mitigation Advisory Committee to develop a home hardening certification program that identifies home hardening measures, including defensible space that can be implemented during renovation or property improvement projects, or both, to substantially reduce the risk of loss during a fire and bring existing building stock into alignment with state building standards for wildland-urban interface areas. The bill would authorize the Office of the State Fire Marshal to expend funds from the Building Standards Administration Special Revolving Fund, upon an appropriation by the Legislature, for the purposes of developing the home hardening certification program.

Meanwhile, our AAUW-CA worked on the following bills that have now been signed by the Governor:

AB 621
(Bauer-Kahan)

This measure expands existing law, which prohibits a person from posting sexually explicit material if the person knows that the depicted individual did not consent to its creation or disclosure. The bill would add to the statute digitized sexually explicit material in which the depicted individual is at least 18 years of age who did not consent to the creation or posting of the material. The measure also includes depicted individuals who are under 18, wherein consent would not be a relevant factor. AB 621 would grant a cause of action to that depicted individual against a person who knowingly or recklessly facilitates, aids, or abets conduct prohibited by that provision.

Public Policy Cont'd (page 3 of 3)

AB 260
(Aguiar-Curry)

AB 260 protects medication abortion by establishing that the current standard of care for the use of mifepristone will remain legal in this state, protecting providers that legally provide mifepristone, requiring the continuation of existing coverage for medication abortion, and expanding access to reproductive health care through telehealth.

AB 772
(Lowenthal)

Requires the State Dept. of Education to develop, post on its internet website, and distribute to each local educational agency, a model policy on how to address certain acts of bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, sexual harassment, or intimidation occurring outside of school hours and outside of the campus.

Exciting news in education with the passing of this landmark [AB 715](#), the Antisemitism/hate bill protecting K-12 students, establishing a statewide Coordinator who will provide training for educators; track incidents, guide for accountability, make recommendations for future reforms, and ensure schools respond swiftly to incidents. Two years in the making, this bill along with [SB 48](#) which expands the Office of Civil Rights, adding statewide Coordinators to address religious, racial and ethnic, gender, and LGBTQ discrimination, both bills a result of grassroots organizations working to protect students and the school community.

That's highlights for now. We must continue to call on our local City Council to support our immigrant community, the non-profits stepping up to fill the gaps we know are coming from the shut down in Washington.

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

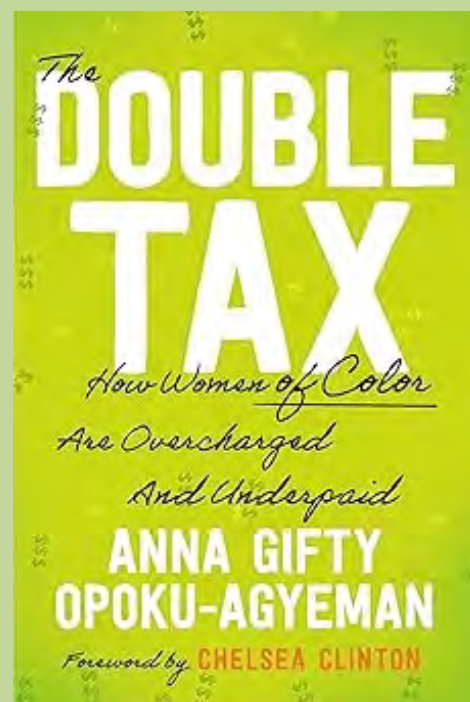
The Double Tax: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Reads

Looking for another good read?

The Double Tax: How Women of Color Are Overcharged and Underpaid by Anna Gifty Opoku-Agyeman is a groundbreaking analysis of the disparities women navigate that require extra money, time, and effort, as well as the unique barriers Black women face, compounding the costs of racism and sexism.

Meticulously researched with a combination of research and personal stories, Harvard PhD candidate in Economics, Anna Gifty Opoku-Agyeman highlights these gaps while offering solutions from a local to global scale.

Contact Gloria at Gloria@strongerleader.com if you're interested to meet to discuss the book (Zoom or in person) in January.



Your Donations Mean A Lot

Thank you to all our supporters and donors. We could not run our amazing programs without you.

Kathy Long and Debra Bagley used this **QR code** to make donations at Kick Off! Give it a try!

Or you can [CLICK HERE](#)

Vanessa is always willing to take a check too!



Member News

Presenting the 2025 Dons and Doñas Recipients



Back Row: Larry Kennedy, Darrin Parrent, Bob Taylor, Rick Peña, "Buddy" Kelley
Front Row: Stephanie Zierhut, Mike Ritchie, Sheryl Gonzalez, Dick Bellman, Kim Dallape

Congratulations to all the Pleasant Valley Historical Society's Dons and Doñas, especially AAUW members Stephanie Zierhut and Kim Dallape. Thanks for all you do. Learn more about the PVHS recognitions in the [event brochure](#). Make sure to read the welcome from AAUW member Mary Ann Novak! AAUW Camarillo members make a difference in our community!

In Memory

It is with sadness that we share the recent passing of Janet Lindgren, who had been an active member of our AAUW Branch. She was 97. A memorial service will be held at the Camarillo United Methodist Church in a few months. Her obituary will appear in <https://www.vcstar.com/obituaries> around November 1st.



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