

Co-President's Message from Gloria Miele

Happy October, friends. Thanks to all who joined us at Kick Off last month. One of my favorite gatherings of the year, it's a time to reconnect and celebrate the many accomplishments of our branch. We heard from Tech Trek campers, our remarkable program and committee leaders, and speaker, Friends of Fieldworkers' (FoF) Executive Director Dr. Martita Martinez-Bravo. FoF is providing support to farmworkers and their families, many of whom have been impacted by recent federal actions in Ventura County. The needs are great, and we are grateful for the amazing work of Martita, FoF, and the AAUW members who brought generous donations of supplies for families. See photos and recap on the following pages.

On September 26th AAUW Thousand Oaks' Fall Breakfast featured Beth Pratt, an environmentalist who leads the #SaveLACougars campaign to build the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing at Liberty Canyon. The \$110,000,000 wildlife crossing is the largest in the world and will link habitats for hundreds of species separated by the 101. Beth talked about her story and highlighted many of the other amazing women who have been instrumental in making this project happen. She reminded us to be bold in the world. Information at <https://101wildlifecrossing.org/>.

Amidst all the bad news coming out of DC, gatherings of women like these bring me hope. Women are changemakers. We are at the center of movements for a better environment, to protect immigrant rights, to serve the community. Sharing space and connecting with like minded women taking action for a better world gives me hope.

We really have come so far since some of the first women college graduates in the United States started AAUW in 1881. But recent federal policies are threatening women, with attacks on education, health care, food assistance, scientific research, and more. We owe it to our children, youth and future generations to keep speaking up, keep participating, keep connecting and keep moving forward. AAUW is a great place to do that. Join us on 10/14 at 6pm on Zoom for our next general meeting.

All that said, one of my favorite signs this time of year? "My favorite season is the fall of the patriarchy." Let's work with a caring model of matriarchy as our guide and keep moving forward together.

Best, Gloria

Kick-Off 2025

Over 50 folks enjoyed this year's Kick-Off, including a number of guests who joined our branch that day. Along with updates on Public Policy and plans for Women in History, a number of our Tech Trek campers shared highlights of their camp experiences at UC Santa Barbara and Whittier this past summer. Our keynote speaker, Friends of Fieldworkers Executive Director Martita Martinez-Bravo, explained how her organization has responded to the dramatically increased needs of fieldworkers in Ventura County. Donations of much-needed items from our event attendees filled two cars! For more information and additional ways to get involved, go to <https://friendsoffieldworkers.org>



SUFFS Musical at the Pantages

Interested in seeing the Tony Award-Winning Musical about the Suffrage Movement? SUFFS is coming to the Pantages from Nov 18th – Dec 7th. We can get discounted tickets with a group of 10 or more. Contact us if interested at aauw.camarillo.president@gmail.com



PLAYBILL
THE PUBLIC THEATER



2025 -2026 Calendar Highlights

- 10/8/25 5pm Board Meeting – All are welcome. [AAUW Camarillo Zoom Link](#)
- 10/10/25 1:30pm AAUW CA Public Policy Peer Group Meeting: [AAUW CA Zoom link](#)
- 10/14/25 10:30am Non-fiction Book Group - Panera Bread Oxnard at The Collection
- 10/14/25 6pm General Meeting! Banned Books and Difficult Conversations. Watch your email for more details coming soon.
- 10/19/25 12pm-4pm Books Butterflies & The Botanical Gardens
- 10/27/25 4pm P.M. Book Review - Marie Callender's Camarillo
- 11/4/25 California Statewide Special Election-Proposition 50
- 11/6/25 6pm-7pm Stories from the Heart Show, Camarillo Public Library
- 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](#)
- 12/5/25 1:30pm AAUW CA Public Policy Peer Group Meeting: [AAUW CA Zoom link](#)
- 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

Successful Tech Trek Camps at UCSB and Whittier College!

We were happy to hear from 4 of the 8 Tech Trek Campers who attended UCSB or Whittier College this summer. Emily O, Emily A., Sofia G, Annie S. all did such a great job sharing some of their favorite parts about their camp experience -- from College Night (getting introduced to what colleges offer and what they look for from students applying to college, differences between public and private colleges, costs for college), Women in STEM Career Night Panel (a banker, a water chemist, an aerospace/industrial safety manager, and OBGYN – and how they taught her to be flexible with her career paths and the importance of work/life balance), Anatomy Class and her surprise at how much she enjoyed dissecting a fetal pig (and how she can see medical school as a possibility now), Chemistry workshop and learning about how chemical reactions are all around us and also just getting to be on a college campus to see what it might be like along with having a roommate to share her day with and compare notes. They all expressed their thanks and appreciation for such an amazing opportunity.

“One of the best experiences of my summer and life”
“Wouldn’t trade it for anything”



Tech Trek Alumnae Group (TTAG), Gladys Ochangco

On 9/20, TTAG participated in California Coastal/Inland Waterways Cleanup Day. We had TTAG representation from 8th, 9th, 10th and 12th graders. After cleaning up trash and recycling at the Mission Oaks Park Barranca we ended the morning with a lovely picnic, and the girls shared what they were most excited or proud about and most anxious about at the start of this new school year. Answers ranged from being proud for working hard to do well in their first high school math class, being anxious about college applications, being proud for recognition on their volunteer efforts at Westminster Free Clinic, feeling proud for balancing school/academics and volleyball, making the travel soccer team, enjoying their AP Chemistry class/teacher and being excited for homecoming. Jennie, Carla and I always enjoy their camaraderie and the supportive network they are for each other. Special thanks to Sydney F for coordinating this TTAG activity for all of us and for making such delicious picnic sandwiches, and for all the girls who brought fruit, cookies, drinks and plates/napkins to share for the picnic.

Also want to thank TTAGer Rafaella G for being kind enough to volunteer again on Sunday at our AAUW Camarillo Kickoff Event the next day to represent TTAG and welcome the newest TT Campers.



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 Oct 14 - *Breaking Through: My Life in Science* by Katalin Kariko

Future Books:

- ***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
- ***Plagues Upon the Earth: Disease and the Course of Human History*** by Kyle Harper – January 13, 2026 (This book has 704 pages. We may want to allow an extra month to read it.)

P.M. BOOK REVIEW, Diana Dingler

Our next meeting will be held on **October 27 at 4:00 p.m.** at Marie Callendar's restaurant in Camarillo. We will be discussing the book *The Sweetness of Water* by Nathan Harris. It is an Oprah book club selection. It is a book about two freedmen who are brothers, and the Georgia farmer whose alliance will alter their lives and his forever.

For those who wish to read ahead, next on our list is *The Phone Booth at the Edge of the World* by Laura Imai Henry.

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).

Women in History 2026

Greetings! Our long-running program, Women in History, is gearing up for our 39th year! This year we will be presenting seven amazing women to Camarillo elementary school children. This program depends on volunteer performers and we invite you, our members, to be part of this fun and educational program! Volunteers will be provided with scripts, props, costumes and training.

The women chosen for WIH 2026 are:

Mary Anning (Grades K-2) 19th century fossil hunter from England whose discoveries contributed to the development of paleontology.

Mary Blair (Grades K-5) Artist, animator and designer who revolutionized Disney's visual style with bold, modern designs for films and theme park attractions.

Ellen Ochoa (Grades 2-5) First Hispanic/Latina woman in space who flew in 4 space shuttle missions and was the first Hispanic/Latina director of NASA's Space Center.

Eleanor Roosevelt (Grades 3-6) Diplomat, activist and longest serving First Lady. This script also briefly acknowledges other influential women in American political history in honor of the U.S. 250th anniversary.

Madame C.J. Walker (Grades 3-6) An African-American entrepreneur in the beauty industry, philanthropist, political and social activist and the first female self-made millionaire in America.

Maya Lin (Grades 3-8) Chinese-American architect, sculptor and artist best known for designing the Vietnam Memorial in Washington D.C. and environmentally themed works that address environmental decline.

Marie Curie (Grades 5-8) Discovered radioactivity, pioneered cancer treatments and was the first person to win a Nobel Prize in both chemistry and physics for her groundbreaking research and received an AAUW grant for radium used in her research.

Performances at all PVSD elementary schools will be the week of March 2, 2026 and for all non PVSD elementary schools the week of March 9, 2026. In addition to committing to a day or two of performances, we ask all volunteers to participate in one training session for their chosen character to be scheduled the last week of January and the first week of February 2026. These training sessions are mandatory for all volunteers. We will specifically focus on each woman to be portrayed, clarify volunteer responsibilities and provide more time for individual performers to ask questions and go over the scripts. Also, performers will be able to select their costumes if their character requires one.

Please consider volunteering! Your friends and family members who are not in AAUW are welcome to volunteer too! If schools cannot recruit volunteers, those students miss out on the program. We need YOU to make this program available to any school that wants it.

Volunteers are encouraged to share the same racial identity as the characters they portray.

For information, please contact Cheryl Mastrovito: aauwcamarillowihistory@gmail.com
Here is the [link to the volunteer form](#). Please submit by December 8.

Public Policy by Kathy Long

A Victory for Education:

On August 14, 2025, a federal judge delivered a major legal victory for public education and civil rights. In *American Federation of Teachers et al. v. U.S. Department of Education et al.*, the court struck down the Trump–Vance administration’s attempt to force schools nationwide to censor lessons, eliminate diversity and inclusion programs, and sign unlawful compliance certifications under threat of losing federal funding and facing criminal penalties. The judge ruled that both the administration’s February 14 “Dear Colleague Letter” and its mandatory certification, violated the Constitution and the Administrative Procedures Act. This decision vacates both policies, protecting the ability of educators to teach honest history, support students, and foster inclusive learning environments.

In March, AAUW joined a coalition letter to the Department of Education urging the rescission of the February 14, 2025, “Dear Colleague” letter. In April, we joined a letter to Elementary and Secondary Education Leaders urging continued investment in programs that lawfully advance diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility.

CALIFORNIA: Governor Newsom signed into law bills to protect our school students and families from immigration operations on campus. AB49/Muratsuchi will bar immigration agents from nonpublic areas of a school without a judicial warrant or court order and will prohibit school districts from providing information about pupils, their families, teachers and school employees to immigration authorities without a warrant. Over 26 new bills have been signed to date.

VENTURA COUNTY: As reported last month, immigration raids locally have made significant impacts on families in our communities. Although Supervisor Vianey Lopez put forth a board letter detailing opportunities for the Board of Supervisors to provide for the health and safety of the community, they voted to do nothing in support. Since, the cities of Oxnard and Santa Paula have formed internal council committees to work with their impacted migrant community and have joined the City of Los Angeles litigation to challenge the constitutionality of immigration and Customs Enforcement tactics.

Public Policy Cont'd

CITY OF CAMARILLO: Councilwoman Martita Martinez-Bravo advocated for funding from the city to support the Neighbors Coalition & Community Support Funding/VCCF. After much deliberation the Council supported \$70,000 going directly to Food Share to support the greater Camarillo/CSU-CI community need. As we are seeing daily, it takes a village.

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

AAUW CA OVERALL STATEMENT ON PROPOSITION 50 (2025)

Illegal mid-term congressional redistricting efforts outside of California have been initiated in an attempt to eliminate the seats of federal House members who oppose a federal agenda that advances Project 2025 and authoritarian goals to elect candidates who will support such an agenda.

Although illegal mid-term congressional redistricting efforts outside of California seem like a federal issue, they are now incredibly pertinent to Californians.

- Although CA continues to maintain strong protections for women and girls, marginalized peoples, free speech, accurate history, sound science, and democratic norms—things that are in line with AAUW California's mission and public policy priorities—we are still subject to the laws, rules, and enforcement actions of a federal government that is influenced by the directives of Project 2025, instead of the will of the people.
- We should seek to support all efforts to preserve and advance democracy and AAUW California's public policy priorities around gender-based equity and social justice.

The approval of [Proposition 50](#) by California voters in November 2025 will seek to combat illegal efforts to silence opposition voices and advance an executive agenda influenced heavily by [Project 2025](#).

- Approval of Prop 50 will do so by approving redistricting efforts in CA for the next election cycles, until maps are redrawn after the next census in 2030, triggered as a proportional response.

While this kind of redistricting response is often framed as an escalation of a partisan conflict, in the current political environment, we should think carefully about what is being labeled as partisan. Partisan labeling can be reductive when the choice has become one of supporting authoritarianism or preserving functional democracy and protecting the rights of all people.

In line with democratic preservation, unlike redistricting efforts in states like Texas, Proposition 50 was created [to meet specific fairness criteria put forward to protect the voices of marginalized communities and people-centered redistricting in the future](#), including that the proposed changes set forth in Proposition 50 are:

- only being done as a proportional response, triggered by other states' illegal efforts, and therefore necessary to protect democracy
- not further diluting the voices of historically marginalized communities
- only a temporary move away from independent and people-centered redistricting in CA
- only being done if approved by the people of CA



2025-2027
PUBLIC
POLICY
PRIORITIES

- Economic Security for All Women
- Equal Access to Quality Public Education for All Students
- Social and Racial Justice for All Members of Society
- Increased Representation of Women in Leadership Roles

Membership News, Glabe Siegfriedt

For some members, it's time to renew your membership. I will be reaching out to see if there is anything I can do to help you renew your membership for the 2025-2026 year.

We had our Kick-off event for the new year recently and we had 6 new members sign up! Congratulations and welcome to the AAUW Camarillo chapter.

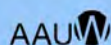
Your member dues help support amazing programs and interest groups that include Tech Trek, Knowledge Bowl, Women in History and important information and updates on Public Policy, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) to name just a few. We cannot do this without each and every one of you! If for some reason, you have decided not to renew, please drop me a line via email or text.

Joining and renewing is easy electronically using AAUW's Community Hub or by check payable to AAUW Camarillo Branch in the mail (see the end of the newsletter for specific renewal instructions).

AAUW is a national organization with three levels of membership: National \$74 (As of January 2024, all National dues are fully tax deductible), State \$30, and Branch \$26. So your total renewal fee for 2025- 2026 is now \$130.

If you have any questions about when your membership expires or how to renew, please don't hesitate to contact me - your Membership Chairperson, Glabe Siegfriedt at 805-415-9516 or email siegfriedtg@gmail.com.

AAUW Fellowships & Grants



Looking for
fellowships
for women?



**GOOD NEWS — OUR
DEADLINE HAS BEEN
EXTENDED!**

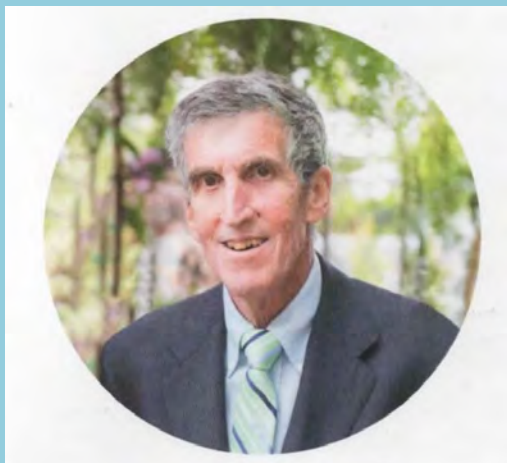
OCTOBER
7

APPLY NOW

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 October 7. 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).

Member News

We send our sympathies to Mary Goldberg, whose husband Alan Goldberg, passed away in September.



Obituary

Alan Maurice Goldberg of Camarillo passed away on Wednesday, September 17. He was born in San Fernando, CA to Helen and Sanford, where he attended Polytechnic High School and CSU Northridge to study Mechanical Engineering. Alan married his wife Mary in 1983, and they lived in Agoura Hills before moving to their Camarillo home in 1986.

He was a dedicated and supportive husband, father, grandfather, and friend. He will be dearly missed by his wife Mary, his daughter Sarah Summe, her husband Maximilian and their children Hannah, Leo, Lucy, and Zechariah, and his son Andrew Goldheart, his wife Samantha and their child Ambrose.



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



stories
FROM THE HEART
SHOW

Inspiring Tales of Life, Love and Learning

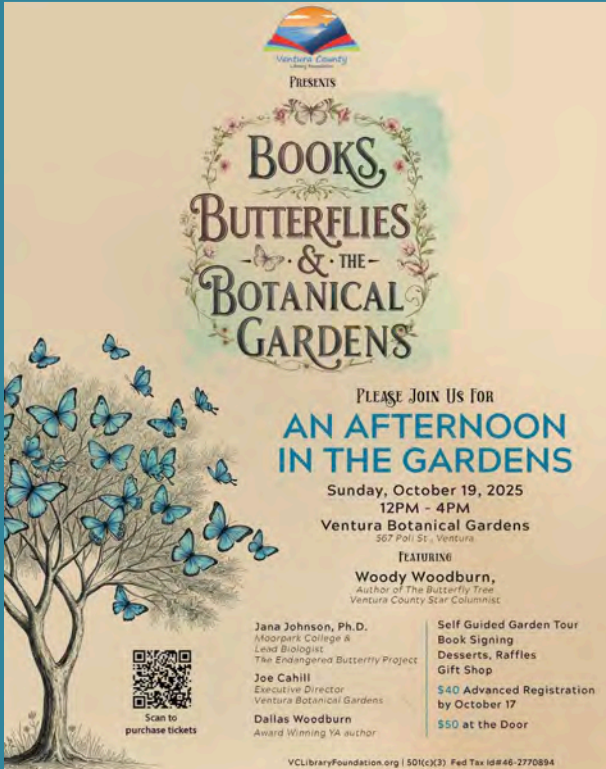
stories from
NANCY AND GREG
ADRIANA
SUSAN
CAROL

THURS **NOVEMBER 6** 6-7 PM

CAMARILLO PUBLIC LIBRARY
4101 Las Posas Road
Admission is free
Registration is required

EMCEED BY MICHELLE ROGERS
Camarillo Health Care District
Community Services Manager
Formerly of USA TODAY's Storytellers Project

CALL 805-388-1952 TO RESERVE YOUR SEAT




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 R
Lead Biologist
The Endangered Butterfly Project

Joe Cahill
Executive Director
Ventura Botanical Gardens

Dallas Woodburn
Award Winning YA author

Self Guided Garden Tour
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Desserts, Raffles
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\$40 Advanced Registration
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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**

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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