OUR SCHOOL KIDS NEED YOU!

For more than 35 years members from our AAUW Branch as well as mothers, grandmothers, aunts, and community members have come into the classrooms and portrayed extraordinary women for the students. Volunteers will be provided with scripts, props, costumes and training. This year we have selected the following notable women.

Annie Lee- Acclaimed African American artist whose stunning paintings depict aspects of Black America.

Emma Lazarus- Victorian era poet who aided immigrants in New York City and whose compelling poem graces the Statue of Liberty: “Give me your tired and poor.”

Eugenie Clark- Asian American marine biologist known as “The Shark Lady” for her important discoveries about shark behavior and introducing scuba diving for research.

Margaret Hamilton- Computer scientist who developed the in-flight software for Apollo 11 that saved the mission during an emergency moments before Armstrong was to land on the moon.

Marla Runyan- Ran track at Camarillo High School and competed in two international Olympics, the first legally blind athlete to do so. Today is an advocate for disability equity.

Ruth Handler- Entrepreneur owner of Mattel who created the Barbie Doll and Hot Wheels and grew her small business into one of the biggest manufacturers in the world.

Ysabel Yorba- Latina landowner who in the mid 1800’s managed and developed the expansive, thriving Rancho Guadalasca which today is much of Ventura County.

Performances at all PVSD elementary schools will be the week of March 8, 2027 and for all non PVSD elementary schools the week of March 15, 2027. In addition to committing to a day or two of performances, we ask all volunteers to participate in a training session for their chosen character to be scheduled the first 2 weeks of February 2027. **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.

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

Women in History Volunteer Form 2026