



The Oak Twig

Thousand Oaks Branch, Inc.

Volume 50, Issue 5

January 2016



COMING EVENTS

Ventura County AAUW Inter Branch Council (IBC) Buffet Luncheon

Saturday, January 23

Noon

Los Robles Greens
Thousand Oaks

Guest Speaker:
Captain Valerie Overstreet



"From Math to Medals"

(see pages 5 & 6)

Younger Women's Career Conference

Saturday, March 5

10:00 AM

Camarillo

Co-sponsored with Assemblywoman and Branch Member, Jacqui Irwin. Lunch entertainment will be our Women's History program. New Branch member, Dr. Anne Beaubrun, is participating as well as a panelist.



SAVE THESE DATES

April 12	Equal Pay Day at CLU
April 14	Equal Pay Celebration with Sen. Hannah Beth Jackson
April 15-17	AAUW CA Convention
May 21	50th Anniversary Gala Brunch

January 2016 Events

- ***Saturday, January 2 - Coffee and Chat.** Stella's Gourmet Restaurant, Newbury Park. 9:00 AM.
- ***Tuesday, January 5 - Museums and Gardens Trip: Broad Museum.** Los Angeles. 10:00 AM. (see page 9)
- **Tuesday, January 12 - Board Meeting.** Wildwood Condo Recreation Center, Thousand Oaks. 6:30 PM.
- **Wednesday, January 13 - 50th Anniversary Committee Meeting.** Home of Wendy Hoffman, Thousand Oaks. 9:30 AM. (see page 11)
- **Saturday, January 23 - Inter Branch Council (IBC) Luncheon.** Los Robles Greens, Thousand Oaks. Noon. (see page 5)
- ***Monday, January 25 - Common Core Study Group Panel Discussion.** Cameron Center, Thousand Oaks. 4:30 PM. (see page 10)

February 2016 Events

- ***Saturday, February 6 - Coffee and Chat.** Stella's Gourmet Restaurant, Newbury Park. 9:00 AM.
- **Tuesday, February 9 - Board Meeting.** Wildwood Condo Recreation Center, Thousand Oaks. 6:30 PM.
- **Saturday, February 20 - Branch Event Panel Discussion: Putting Your Hat into the Ring.** CLU Lundryng Hall, Thousand Oaks. 9:00 AM

March 2016 Events

- ***Saturday, March 5 - Coffee and Chat.** Stella's Gourmet Restaurant, Newbury Park. 9:00 AM.
- **Saturday, March 5 - Younger Women's Career Conference.** Camarillo. 10:00 AM. (see this page)
- **Tuesday, March 8 - Board Meeting.** Wildwood Condo Recreation Center, Thousand Oaks. 6:30 PM.
- **Tuesday, March 8 - Women's History Project's Event.** Thousand Oaks Library, Thousand Oaks. 6:00 PM.
- **Saturday, March 12 - Brighter Horizons.** California Lutheran University, Thousand Oaks. 8:00 AM. (see page 6)

***Indicates Special Interest Group Activity.**

- **Indicates Branch Event.**

Visit us online at aauwto.org

A Note from the President...

Wishing you the very best of greetings for a wonderful New Year filled with love, laughter, and much prosperity!



As we continue our journey of "Stepping Up and Speaking Out," one of the areas that needs to be addressed by our Branch is the issue of "diversity" or the lack thereof, within our own membership. Look around you at the next event you attend. We all pretty much look like each other, not only in age and gender, but also racially and ethnically. Diversity is critical to AAUW's mission. Issues of equity, from fair pay to sexual assault to access to health care, affect all women, and women in marginalized groups often disproportionately experience the effects of these issues. To succeed in empowering women and girls, we must have diverse voices contributing different perspectives.

We all know that our local region is changing demographically in many significant ways. It is to these many "new" groups here in the Conejo Valley that I believe that we should try to reach out and create new community relationships. We will never lose sight of our mission, but rather see how our mission can be enhanced through the acquisition of a broader spectrum of voices...all "Stepping Up and Speaking Out" for Women and Girls.

As a membership organization, AAUW depends on its ability to attract and retain new members. How many new members have you been able to enlist to our ranks? When was the last time you brought someone "new" to an event or meeting? How are you helping to connect with our many new members? (See page 15 of this issue for an updated list.) To continue to grow and thrive, we must be responsive to changes in our demographics and include individuals with diverse backgrounds and perspectives.

As we face this election year, it is imperative that our Branch reach out to create new and more meaningful connections to other women's groups in our area. With so many election issues dealing with Equal Pay, sexual discrimination, encouraging women in STEM careers, promoting Title IX, supporting a healthy environment for our community, and the whole range of our related

goals, it is to the advantage of all area women that we start speaking out with one voice, united to improve the status of all women, together.

AAUW National has created a thoughtful and much needed "Diversity and Inclusion Toolkit" for Branches to use to address this issue. I will be establishing an Ad Hoc committee to consider how our own Branch can address this issue and make recommendations to the Board. Please let me know if you would like to be involved in this interesting and valuable committee.

Sally Hibbitts



December Board Meeting "Tidbits"

- President, Sally Hibbitts, reported that a meeting was held with Senator Jacqui Irwin's staff about an upcoming all day conference for young women and STEM careers. AAUW-TO and Lori Peters' Women's History class will be doing scripts on women who break barriers.
- Treasurer, Bonnie Shubb, circulated copies of the AAUW-TO Quarterly budget report dated from July 1, 2015 to December 8, 2015.
- Membership director, Judi Robinson, reported that we now have 150 members. To connect with new members, a list was circulated for Board members to "adopt" a new member to invite to meetings, etc.
- SOAR initiative forms are available for members to circulate in the community.
- Named Gift Honorees will be announced and presented at the May 21 Anniversary Brunch.
- The Holiday Party was well attended and had a very successful raffle and wine donation.

Sharon Dyer, Secretary

Visit us online at aauwto.org

Sad and Glad News Concerning Our Members

from the Sunshine Committee



☀️ Shel Magnuson had three paintings shown at the Swan Song exhibition put on by the Cultural Affairs Commission at the Kavli Theatre Gallery at the Civic Arts Plaza in December. A special honor was bestowed upon Shel by the organizer of the exhibition when she went to Shel's house to select the paintings she wanted for the show. What a talented lady we have in our midst. Our congratulations to you, Shel!

☀️ Lily and husband Ken Sugino will remember the 2015 AAUW holiday party as an unplanned eventful event. It was at that time between dessert and entertainment, when members and guests were finding a place to sit for the Newbury Park High School entertainers, that Ken walked up three tile steps, lost his balance and fell down the steps, fracturing his hip. 911 was called and within minutes the firemen and ambulance arrived. Ken was admitted to Los Robles Hospital and subsequently had three screws put in to hold the bones together. Three days after his surgery, he was transferred to East Campus for acute physical therapy. The screws put into Ken's fractured hip are helping with healing. He's getting a lot of OT & PT at East Campus and was scheduled to be released toward the end of December. Therapists will come to the house to continue their work. He is not to put any weight on his left foot, so will depend on a walker and wheelchair for mobility. His attitude is good and he plans to work hard to strengthen his muscles while not putting weight on the injured side.

☀️ Update on Gerri Wissot: Gerri is finally home with nurses every day, but in great agony from the four deep incisions, muscle spasms and healing. Her husband, Jeffrey, advises that our prayers will do her good. She appreciates our thoughtful good wishes and perhaps she is motivated to get through all of this so she can be of some help to their daughter who is expecting twins in May. Gerri, the ladies of AAUW surely hope you will be free of pain very soon and able to experience the joy of helping your daughter with the twins. We're all thinking positive thoughts for all the family.

If you learn of a newsworthy event concerning you or another Branch member—be it Sad, Glad or merely factual—and you would like to have it published in the Oak Twig, please let us know. The particulars will be included in the forthcoming issue or, for time-sensitive information, will be sent to all Branch members via email. Thanks for keeping us informed! Please contact Audrey Giuffrida.

YEAR END AAUW FUNDS REPORT

Jeanette Hosek, Funds Director

At the December Board meeting the final numbers for the Branch's contribution to AAUW Funds were tallied. Thanks to the donations of members through personal contributions and Branch fundraisers, the following amounts were credited to our Thousand Oaks Branch:

- \$2,226.00 for general AAUW Funds—from Phantom Tea and personal contributions
- \$3,500.00 for leadership funds e.g. # 2522 Elect Her training—from Elect Her fundraiser
- \$1,000.00 for Legal Advocacy Funds—from Fall Breakfast (pigs) and poinsettia sales.

If you didn't get a chance to participate in any of our Branch fundraisers, you can still contribute to AAUW funds for your favorite fund. Our Branch ID # is CA-0139 and your donation will be credited to our Branch. Please indicate on your contribution the particular fund you wish to support. Visit aauw.org to make your tax-deductible contribution.



Member Birthdays January

- 1 Helene Rosen
- 2 Julie Land
- 3 Helen Follmer
- 6 Catherine Inbar
- 7 Bonnie Shubb
- 15 Nina Bublitz
- 15 Eloda Linehan
- 17 Shel Magnuson
- 22 Caren Murray
- 25 Yvonne Brockwell
- 28 Therese Hughes



With Your Help, We Can Renew SOAR

If you like the idea of keeping our cities from sprawling together; you like the fact that open space filters storm water and replenishes our aquifers; you like seeing our productive farmland; you like protecting wildlife corridors and native habitat and you would like to see all of this continue here in the Conejo Valley and Ventura County, then we can't let SOAR expire.

If SOAR is allowed to expire in 2020, we risk losing almost all the open space that surrounds us now. The developers will have a field day.

By putting SOAR on the November 8, 2016 ballot, voters will have a chance to extend SOAR to 2050. We need grassroots volunteer signature gatherers to collect thousands of signatures. This means YOU. Please join the Thousand Oaks Branch of AAUW and play your part in preserving our beautiful open space for our grandchildren and their grandchildren.

If you can help, please contact Yvonne Brockwell or Joan Edwards. We will supply you with petitions and information.



WHAT ARE THE OPTIONS? Ann E. Bancroft, right, a polar explorer and educator and the keynote speaker at Saturday's Creative Options forum at Cal Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks, talks to committee member Kateri Alexander during the lunch break. (Thousand Oaks Star, March 8, 1998)

From the Thousand Oaks Star, March 8, 1998:

CLU event: Speakers debate whether S.O.A.R. initiative would protect open space and agriculture in the county.

The preservation of farmland and open space to prevent urban sprawl in Ventura County was the focus of Saturday's Creative Options forum at Cal Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks.

About 900 people attended the workshop for women, where much of the discussion dealt with a proposed initiative aimed at blocking development of open space and farmland.

Linda Parks, a Thousand Oaks city council woman, said state and local plans for development ought to be followed without exception to prevent "hopscoth development."

"If property is zoned for a single-family home, then a builder doesn't have the right to build a McDonald's in its place," Parks said. "I'm a purist when it comes to sticking to the general plan. But our several plan guidelines aren't being upheld."

"A healthy organism can work well," Parks said. "But when I think of growth I think of a malignant tumor. It goes beyond what is sustainable and consumes the host."

Parks favors passage of the initiative, sponsored by Save Open Space and Agricultural Resources, in unincorporated Ventura County and its cities. If the measure makes it on November's ballot and passes, it would require a vote before farmland and open space could be developed.

But panel member Roz McGrath, whose family runs a farm along the freeway in Camarillo argued that restricting a farmer's right to decide who to sell to presents a huge hardship.

....

Parks called McGrath's idea of funding an agricultural land trust to preserve farmland a good one, which could only be strengthened by passage of the S.O.A.R. initiative. A land trust to preserve farmland was passed in 1992, but no funds have been set aside to make it work, McGrath said.

Mary Weisbrok, founder of S.O.A.R., said her group is working to preserve Ahmanson Ranch in eastern Ventura County from development of more than 3,000 homes. She showed an aerial photo of the San Fernando Valley as it butts up against Ahmanson Ranch.

"The San Fernando Valley was orchards, and now the 5,000-acre Ahmanson Ranch is the open space buffer against wall-to-wall buildings," she said.



Left to Right: Lori Kissinger, Sally Hibbitts, Andrea Martinez, and Angie Simpson.



**VENTURA COUNTY IBC BUFFET LUNCHEON
FEATURING CAPT. VALERIE OVERSTREET****

NAVAL PILOT

**DEPUTY COMMODORE FOR COMMANDER, AIRBORNE COMMAND
CONTROL AND LOGISTICS WING IN POINT MUGU, CA**



"FROM MATH TO MEDALS"

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 2016

12 NOON - 2:30 P.M

LOS ROBLES GREENS GOLF COURSE

299 SOUTH MOORPARK RD, THOUSAND OAKS

\$35.00

PROCEEDS WILL BE USED FOR A LOCAL COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP



RSVP BY SENDING CHECK AND THIS SLIP TO:

AAUW - P.O. BOX 4223, THOUSAND OAKS, CA 91359

NO LATER THAN JANUARY 15, 2016

NAME _____

BRANCH _____

*** Read Captain Overstreet's impressive profile on the following page...*

Meet Captain Valerie Overstreet, Guest Speaker at the Ventura County AAUW Inter Branch Council (IBC) Luncheon



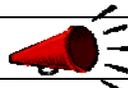
Captain Overstreet, a native of Lemoore, California, graduated from Virginia Tech in May 1991, where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics. Upon graduation, she was commissioned as an Ensign through the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC).

Overstreet's initial fleet assignment was with the SEAHAWKS of VAW-126 at NS Norfolk. She deployed onboard USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN 71) and USS ENTERPRISE (CVN 65) in support of Operations DESERT FOX and SOUTHERN WATCH over Iraq and Operation DELIBERATE FORGE over Bosnia. Her Department Head tour was with VAW-123, deploying onboard USS ENTERPRISE in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM and Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. In February 2009, CAPT Overstreet took over as Commanding Officer of VAW-117. Her tour was culminated by an eight-month combat deployment in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM onboard USS NIMITZ (CVN 68) in which the squadron earned TOP HOOK honors.

Captain Overstreet's tours ashore include VAW-120 for duty as an Instructor Pilot, Naval War College, Joint Forces Command as the J9 Joint Experimentation Operations Office, and Battalion Officer at the United States Naval Academy.

Overstreet's personal awards include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Strike/Flight Air Medal (4), Navy Commendation Medal (3), and Navy Achievement Medal (2), along with numerous campaign and unit awards. CDR Overstreet has accumulated over 4300 flight hours, and 425 carrier arrested landings.

Captain Valerie Overstreet is currently serving as the Deputy Commodore for Commander, Airborne Command Control and Logistics Wing in Point Mugu, CA.



Stepping Up and Speaking Out!

1966/2016
AAUW THOUSAND
OAKS
50 YEARS!

Volunteers Needed for Brighter Horizons



We can use your help to create another successful Brighter Horizons event.

We need 50 volunteers to work at the event on the morning of Saturday, March 12, 8:00 AM at California Lutheran University. There are several tasks that need to be supported such as registration and workshop hostesses. You don't have to be an AAUW member to volunteer, so bring a friend or family

member to help. If you are available please contact: Judy Pfeil or Karen Cunningham.

Later this month, we will be releasing the workshop brochure and registration website for the event. You can direct anyone who wants to attend to the website below. It is a first come, first serve situation for the workshop selections. So we suggest that they sign up early - aauw-brighterhorizons.org.

Brighter Horizons is a math, science conference for students in the 5th through 9th grades. The purpose is to encourage these young minds to stay engaged in their math and science education so that they can be prepared to pursue STEM careers.

Please pass along any suggestions to: leader@aauw-brighterhorizons.org.

You can also learn more about this incredible event at: aauw-brighterhorizons.org.

The Power of One Volunteer



Sometimes we underestimate the power of one volunteer! Dianna Campbell began coordinating the Poinsettia Project 15 years ago when then President, Susan Witting, asked her to take on this new fundraiser. The funds raised with this project go to the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF). Dianna was very supportive of this project because as a full-time worker she felt that she had experienced wage discrimination in her career and wanted other women to have legal options to fight against such discrimination.

Through the years, Dianna has organized this fundraiser by creating flyers, generating enthusiasm for sales of the plants, recruiting volunteers to help her get the flowers from growers, and using her entire home to keep the plants in boxes until members can retrieve them just before the holidays. Although this is an estimate, Dianna's volunteer time has raised over \$15,000 for the LAF project and women who need legal assistance, while providing us with lovely and colorful decoration for our homes. Dianna is retiring from this volunteer activity, so we will need someone to replace her for next year's Poinsettia Project.

Thank you Dianna for your many, many years of volunteer service to help the LAF fund. See photos below of Dianna handing out some of the many plants that fill her house every year.

Jeanette Hosek, Funds director

Right:
Eleanor Rasnow and
Dianna Campbell.



Left:
Dianna Campbell and
Betty Stapleford

The following letter is the third in a series of "Thank You" letters which will appear in the Oak Twig over the next few months. They are written to our Branch by Tech Trek participants and demonstrate just how meaningful our donations are to these girls. Thank you to Cynthia Perry for her transcription work.

techtrek!



Dear Thousand Oaks AAUW Branch,

I would like to thank you so much! Tech Trek has been an amazing experience! I have already learned so much and made so many new friends!

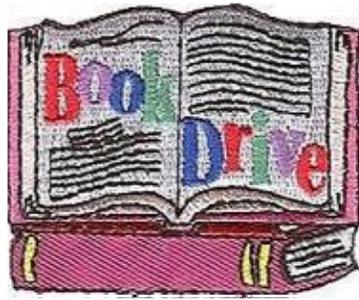
My core class is Marine Science, because UCSB is on the beach we are able to have a very good hands on experience. I have learned things that you can't learn from just reading a text book. On the first day of class I learned that sharks are fish and they lay eggs. After learning that information I got to touch a shark and see shark eggs. In Marine Science we have had the opportunity to look through microscopes and learn about the things that interest us. Another thing I learned is that kelp is not a plant.

Living in dorms with a roommate has given me college experience. I have become very good friends with my roommate and with the other people under my dorm mom's care.

I especially loved how our Marine Science teacher let us choose what we wanted to learn about and then taught it to us. When we got to use microscopes we viewed zooplankton that had been caught in the ocean very close to the camp.

Tech Trek has given me a hands on experience that I [don't] normally get in school. I appreciate, and am taking full advantage of this opportunity.

A very thankful camper,
Zoë Siman-Tov



Cadette Girl Scout Troop 60229
is collecting
Children's/Teen's/Young Adult Books
for Hope Gardens Family Center!

We are building bookcases for Hope Gardens, an oasis of hope on 77 acres in the foothills of Sylmar, California. This transitional housing campus offers sanctuary to single women and children who are experiencing homelessness.

Hope Gardens helps women transition from homelessness to independence by offering long-term rehabilitation programs, services, and spiritual care.

Hope Gardens is a place for precious women and children to have a safe place to live while they receive counseling, training, encouragement, and the real help they need to escape homelessness forever.

Please help us fill the bookcases by donating any used books you might have sitting around.

Please email or call Carol Schmidt to arrange pick up:

Thank you!!



Pictured here are some of the hard working girls from Cadette Troop #60229. These girls are working on their Silver Award by building bookcases and then filling them with donated books for a homeless shelter in Sylmar, California called Hope Gardens. The books were donated by our AAUW members at the Fall Breakfast last September. This is a great example of how our AAUW Branch can help other like-minded community groups, especially the Girl Scouts!

Museums and Gardens Group Plans Trip to the New Broad Museum



Please join a nice-sized group of Branch members (and a few others) for the **Broad Museum trip on Tuesday, January 5**. The Broad is the exciting new contemporary art museum

established through the generous gift of Eli and Edythe Broad to showcase their extensive private collection of major works. The museum is home to over 2,000 works of art, ranging from contemporary to pop...graphics, photography, sculpture, and many other unique and amazing forms. With its innovative "veil-and-vault" concept, the 120,000-square-foot, \$140-million building features two floors of gallery space to showcase The Broad's comprehensive collection. It recently opened in October and is located next door to the Walt Disney Hall on Grand Avenue in Los Angeles.



Your cost will be a share of the gasoline expense, approximately \$5 (your share) for parking, and your

own lunch costs. The admission to the museum is free as an on-going gift to the public from the Broads. Lunch will tentatively be in the Disney Hall Concert Café. On January 5, please plan on meeting at the Barnes and Noble in Westlake at 9:15 AM to arrange our carpools. As there will be a large group of us going, we will need at least 5 or 6 drivers.

Please let Sally Hibbitts know if you are interested in signing up for this trip and if you can help with the driving of a carpool!

Plans are being made to go to the new Museum of Neon Art in Glendale, perhaps the beginning of February, and more information will be available soon about that trip.

Holiday Party Enjoyed By All

The beautifully decorated home of Liz and Juris Priedkalns greeted a large crowd of members and friends for our annual Holiday Party on Sunday, December 7. Everyone was in their best Yuletide spirit and we donated a large quantity of toiletry items to a local domestic violence shelter. The two beautiful raffle baskets, created by Penny Strowger, were raffled off and won by Ed and JoAnn Jones along with Janet Wall. From the raffle and a voluntary contribution for the wine, we raised \$380 which will be used towards our Branch operating funds.

The entertainment was a wonderful brass instrumental ensemble from Newbury Park High School, which was arranged by party chair, Yvonne Brockwell.

Thank you so much to Liz and Juris Priedkalns for their constant support and generosity in sharing their lovely home for this special evening. Yvonne Brockwell and her committee did an amazing job of setting up, keeping the dining room table filled with goodies, selling raffle tickets, collecting SOAR signatures, and then cleaning up afterwards. Thank you one and all for a wonderful job in creating a stellar evening for all to enjoy!

Whoever left this cute little bowl at the party, please call Liz Priedkalns to claim it.



AAUW Thousand Oaks 2015-2016 Board of Directors

President	Sally Hibbitts
Vice President	Marilyn Carpenter (one-year term: not President Elect)
Secretary	Sharon Dyer
Treasurer	Bonnie Shubb

Directors

Narda Fargotstein, Deanna Franke,
Jeanette Hosek, Bev Khoshnevisan,
Lori Kissinger, Betty Nordahl,
Pat O'Donnell, Linda Pochter,
Judi Robinson, Betty Stapleford

Common Core Study Group

Monday, January 25, 2016
4:30 – 6:00, Cameron Center
(directions below)



The final meeting of the Common Core study group will feature a panel presenting a variety of personal perspectives on the standards and an opportunity to ask more questions.

Our meetings on Math and English Language Arts provided the overview of how the standards are implemented in the classroom.

The process focuses on 21st Century skills stressing four elements learned and practiced across the curriculum: Collaboration, Communication, Creativity and Critical Thinking.

Standards were designed with the end in mind – twelfth grade. A key to successful implementation of the standards is that states, districts, schools and teachers lead the way with curriculum, materials and tools. That is the challenge.

Please join us for this excellent opportunity to learn about an important key to education today.

Lori Kissinger
Director, Public Policy

Directions to the Cameron Center, 288 Greenmeadow Drive, Thousand Oaks:

South on Lynn Road to Greenmeadow Drive. Turn left, drive three blocks. Greenmeadow Drive dead-ends into the driveway of the Cameron Center.

AAUW's Mission

A major tenet of AAUW's mission is working toward achievement of gender equity. Our nation's Branches work tirelessly for improvement in the treatment of women, equal pay and the status of women and girls in education. It appears that another group has ventured into studying these issues, as reported by the Huffington Post.

A United Nations delegation of human rights experts toured the U.S. to report on discrimination against women. They will present a report to the U.N. Human Rights Council in June 2016 on their observations and offer recommendations. They found the U.S. was not meeting international human rights standards in several areas. These include "gender pay gap, maternity leave, affordable childcare, and treatment of female migrants in detention centers."

The U.S. is one of three advanced countries in the world that does not guarantee women paid maternity leave. Additionally, they found a "lack of accommodation in the workplace for women's pregnancy, birth and post-natal needs." Other concerns were the numerous abortion restrictions and gun violence against women, where "women are 11 times more likely to be killed by a gun in the U.S. than in other high-income countries."

It is unclear why the U.N. delegation was sent to the United States when discrimination against women is a worldwide problem. But let's hope that bringing additional attention to these issues in the U.S. will aid AAUW in its quest for gender equity.

Lori Kissinger
Director Public Policy



*Stepping Up and
Speaking Out!*

*When you've finished reading this
issue, print it, give it to a
friend or neighbor and invite them to
join AAUW Thousand Oaks!*

Fiftieth Anniversary Planning Committee: We Need You!

Do you have talents to share with the Branch?
We are looking for:

- A writer for the program notes
- A solicitor for program sponsor ads
- An interest in music: a singer, a performer, a pianist
- A videographer to work with photos and Branch history articles
- A user of "e-vite," or other digital programs, to design invitations and manage reservations.

Lots to do... and only a few more months to get it done. We need your help! It's fun to get involved and you don't need to attend all committee meetings if times don't work for you.

The next committee meeting will be held January 13 at 9:30 AM, at the home of Wendy Hoffman.

Contact Wendy or Jeanette Hosek for more information or to find out how you can help.

AAUW Thousand Oaks Branch Memorabilia Wanted!



Are you the person who never throws anything away? Good!! The 50th Anniversary Committee is looking for "Branch related" items that you may have in a closet. We need these items for display purposes at our 50th Anniversary Brunch on May 21, 2016. We are especially looking for:

Branch cookbook, coffee mugs, tee shirts from Youth Cultural, Creative Options, Brighter Horizons, Tech Trek and any pictures taken at past Branch events (please identify people in pictures), pictures from tennis matches, jazz concerts, old programs notes. Items will be lovingly handled and returned to you after the event unless you want to donate them to the Branch!

We thank you for being a "saver!" Otherwise, we will have some empty display tables. If you would like to work on the display tables, let us know.

Contact Wendy Hoffman or Jeanette Hosek, if you find a treasure in your closet or want to assist with display set-up.

Calling All Singers!



Do you remember Helen Reddy, Lesley Gore, Aretha Franklin...? Do you love to sing? Do you want to make a fun contribution to the 50th Gala? If so, we need your voice to present an entertaining medley of songs of the decades at our celebration May 21, 2016. Please email me with your name, contact information, and availability for rehearsing.

Looking forward to hearing from you,
Cynthia Perry

Oak Twig Editors Needed for 2016-2017!

Pattie Dix and Donna Langley will be retiring in June, 2016 as co-editors of the *Oak Twig*. We are looking for replacements now so the new editor(s) can work with the current editors to learn the "ropes." They have been using Microsoft Publisher to produce the *Oak Twig* and they would be happy to share their skills concerning this program. Please contact Pattie or Donna if you might be interested. Remember, as editor, you're always up to date on the Branch news and happenings.

Special Interest Groups



One of the privileges of Branch membership is the opportunity to participate in one or more of our special interest groups. Any member is welcome to join as many as are of interest. If you would like to initiate a new interest group, let us know prior to the 10th of the month preceding your event. It will be listed in the next *Oak Twig*, to recruit participants. **Contact Pat O'Donnell.**

Coffee and Chat

Meets the 1st Saturday of every month: 9:00 AM at Stella's Gourmet Restaurant, 2385 Michael Drive, Newbury Park. (driving directions on page 21.) This is a very pleasant way to get acquainted and stay connected. Please join us! **Contact Pat O'Donnell or Sally Hibbitts.**

Common Core Study Group

The final meeting of the Common Core Study group will be an open-ended panel discussion Monday, January 25, 4:30 PM at the Cameron Center in Thousand Oaks. (see page 10) **Contact Lori Kissinger.**

Daytime Literature Group

Join us for a lively discussion on the 4th Monday of each month (unless indicated by *) at 10:00 AM in the Marvin Smith Community Room at the Thousand Oaks Library. **Contact Joan Udani.**

Our upcoming schedule:

January 25, 2016: *The Circle* by Dave Eggers
February 29: *The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd
March 28: *The Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins

Evening Literature Group

The Evening Literature Group meets the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM (unless indicated by *) at different members' homes. Please join us - everyone is welcome. **Contact Ellen Kossoris or Sharon Dyer.**

Our upcoming schedule:

January 21, 2016: *The Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins
February 18: *Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese
March 17: *The Forgotten Seamstress* by Liz Trenow

Exploring Religions of the World Through the Eyes of Women

We meet two or three times throughout the year in a private home. Each time we meet, our goal is to invite a woman with a particular religious background to facilitate an open and nonjudgmental discussion with the group. Join us at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, January, 19, 2016 when we meet with Mariam Assifi, a Muslim woman. **Contact Wendy Hoffman or Jeanette Hosek**

Global Awareness and Action for Girls (GAAG)

Primary focus will be on projects assisting adolescent girls living outside the U.S. who have difficulties obtaining an education. Members can suggest projects they are currently aware of or look into future projects. **Contact Jeanette Hosek.**

Joyful Volunteering Group

Celebrate the gift of giving time! This group is designed to give members an opportunity to help women through involvement with other volunteer groups. Participants bring to the group ideas for service that will make a difference in our community. This way, new avenues will be explored and the group will continue on a positive road. New participants are *always* welcome! **Contact Sachi Stark or Sally Hibbitts.**

Morning Walking Group

Meets every Thursday at 7:15 AM rain or shine for a moderate walk, approximately 45 minutes. We meet inside the Oaks Mall by the Cheesecake Factory. Some of the group continue on for coffee and to do crossword puzzles. **Contact Claudia Spelman.**

The Movie Ladies Group

If you are interested in having your name (partners are welcome, too) added to the Movie group, please **contact Linda Harley**. If no answer, do leave a message: please speak slowly and clearly. Thank you!

Museums and Gardens

The Museums and Gardens group visits a variety of beautiful museums and gardens on a different day each month, depending upon venue location and member response. On Tuesday, January 5, the group will visit The Broad Museum in Los Angeles. (see page 9) If you'd like to take part, **contact Pat O'Donnell or Sally Hibbitts.**

Our Community Environment **NEW!**

This group looks into what is happening with the environment right here in the Conejo Valley. A range of environmental issues with local impact will be explored throughout the year. **Contact Yvonne Brockwell.**

Photography Group

Meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 10:00 AM. We are "budding" photographers who meet once a month to learn about our digital cameras and how to take the "perfect" picture and have lots of fun along the way. **Contact Wendy Hoffman.**

Women's Health Issues **NEW!**

This group focuses on the many health topics faced daily by women in our Branch. Topics might include the growth of breast cancer rates in the Conejo, new directions in menopause management, nutritional needs and the role of supplements, etc. **Contact Angie Simpson.**

Great Gift Ideas from AAUW



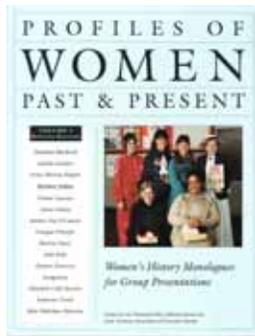
Do you have a hard-to-buy-for person on your gift list? We've got three great ideas for you!



How about a box of beautiful note cards, created by local women artists? Each box of eight is \$10.00 or you can buy individual cards for \$2.00

each. We can also assemble a special box of eight of your favorite cards.

For the history or theater buff on your list, give one or all three volumes of *Profiles of Women: Past & Present*. Created by members of our Branch, each volume provides well-written monologues showing women as positive role models.



The gifts above help provide fellowships and scholarships through AAUW Funds. **Contact Jeanette Hosek or Kateri Alexander.**



Finally, give the gift of membership! Sign up a family member or friend (with an AA degree or higher) to join the Thousand Oaks Branch of AAUW. She/he gets a great gift: you get a friend with whom you can attend Branch events. Win/Win! **Contact Judi Robinson.**

Order New Name Tags



For information contact Judi Robinson.

Ralph's Markets Support Your AAUW Branch!

Attention all Ralph's shoppers: You may not be aware but over this last year, the very small number of AAUW members who are registered in the Ralph's Community Contribution Program have contributed about \$250.00 to our Branch. This is actually quite a bit of money as we may only have about three or four members registered! Therefore, we encourage you, when you can, to shop at your local Ralph's Market. No other markets have this type of very easy-to-use Community Contribution Program: in fact, many of the markets have done away with these programs entirely! So remember, please shop at Ralphs and use their handy system to send more funds our way!

Also, as a reminder... those of you who've already registered your Ralph's Rewards card contribution to our organization MUST re-register it after September 1st every year. The same SCANBAR letter used to sign up for the program can also be used to re-register.

For more information, or to pick up your letter, contact Sally Hibbitts.



Looking for a Phone Number?

If you're seeking contact information for people leading various Branch activities, please see the final page of this newsletter. The *Oak Twig* is now being published on our Branch website, aauwto.org, without our members' personal information. The "Contact Page" will NOT appear on our website.

Oak Twig Staff

Pattie Dix, Co-editor
Donna Langley, Co-editor



Dorothy Robinson, Circulation
Betty Nordahl, Email Alerts

Email articles to Pattie Dix by the 20th of each month prior to publication.

Support Your *Oak Twig* Advertisers

You may have noticed it is a brand new advertising year for *Oak Twig* readers and we have several new business owners taking part in our very inexpensive rates. Like one of our users reflected, "Where else could I possibly get monthly advertising for only \$12 a month....and to a quality audience?" This income is vital to the Branch as it is serving us to help start up our new year, until the majority of our budget funds arrive from national.

So, this is a reminder to **PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!** They all provide valuable services and quality items that have a strong positive reputation in our area. Also, next time you see one of our advertisers in person, please thank them personally for their ongoing and much needed financial support!



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