



THE OAK TWIG



Calendar of Upcoming Events

October 1, Saturday---Happy Hikers, 8:30 AM, Greenmeadow Trail Hike

October 1, Saturday---Coffee and Chat, Stella's Café Newbury Park, 9 AM

October 3, Monday---Women and Religion, Wendy Hoffman's Home, 6:30 PM

October 5, Wednesday---Board Meeting, Wildwood Condo Rm, 6:30 PM

October 6, Thursday---AAUW/PTA CVUSD Forum, TOHS PAC, 7 PM

October 13, Thursday---BRANCH EVENT, Walk on the Wild Side Panel, Library, 6:30PM

October 17, Monday---Mentoring Cloud Meeting, Lenore Arab's home, 7 PM

October 18, Tuesday---Museums and Gardens Trip

October 19, Wednesday---InterBranch Council, Mimi's, 9:30 AM

October 20, Thursday---Evening Literature Group, OCOB event at CLU

October 21, Friday---Dreamers Support, TOHS, 3 PM

October 24, Monday – Daytime Literature, 10 AM, TO Library

October 27, Thursday---Diversity Book Club, Shoshana Brower's Home, 6:30 PM

OCTOBER 2016

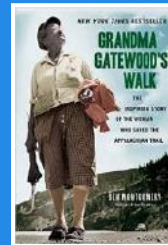
Key Events this Month



<http://registertovote.ca.gov>

Check your voter registration at <https://recorder.countyofventura.org/elections/voter-lookups/am-i-a-registeredvoter/#VoterEligibilitySearch>

Vote by Mail starts October 10!



Walk on the Wild Side, Panel
Discussion at the Thousand Oaks Library – Find out about Grandma Gatewood and listen to an interesting panel discussion



Learn something new in a Special Interest group! Read a new book or visit a museum!

*"The only safe ship in a storm is leadership." --
Faye Wattleton*

Setting the Record Straight

Errata - Correction to page 7 of September, 2016 edition of *The Oak Twig*: The photo from the TO Children's Library sculpture dedication incorrectly identified our charter member Toni Hagopian as Kay. The sculpture, entitled "Two Children Reading," was donated by Toni (a longtime chair of the TO Library Foundation) and family to honor her husband, J.



Michael Hagopian, for his lifetime of leadership and many contributions to our community. Mike played a uniquely important role in the evolution of Thousand Oaks. The Oak Twig staff apologizes for the error.

Message from the President – Sally Hibbitts

Welcome to Fall! Our Branch is all set to venture into a fabulous year, especially after enjoying such a wonderful Fall Membership Breakfast. A special thank you is sent to our amazing Committee and its highly capable Chair, Bonnie Shubb.

I sincerely hope all of you will be able to participate in at least one or more of our stellar Special Interest Groups or "SIGs" this month.

Of special note is our newest Book Group, which will focus authors and themes emphasizing Diversity. It will give us something else to consider as we read the fabulous books that may have missed our first glance. Maria Jabor and Shoshana Brower are helping with this group.

Long-time member, Judy Gindi is stepping forward, leading an energetic new "Happy Hikers." You'll need to connect with Judy via text and she will fill you in on

where to meet her for a short day hike under her expert guidance...by the way, she is an RN so help is handy if needed! These will occur on different days of the week.

After a Branch event two years ago, Betty Stapleford took the lead to partner our Branch with the CLUE organization to start a Dreamer Support Group to help local high school students who yearn for more education. Their precarious immigration status may make this elusive. We have established a connection with the CVUSD and our helpful members will work to help see that some of these student's dreams come true!

New groups are forming all the time and I have heard rumors about a Music SIG as well as a special project focusing on Native Americans facing drought! So, open up your calendars and join your fellow members to explore and develop a new interest!



Coffee and Chat

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

Robert "Bob" Giuffrida

IN MEMORIAM

Our hearts are broken by the recent death of the husband of our long-time member, Audrey Giuffrida. Robert "Bob" Giuffrida was a lovely man with a brilliant mind and a keen interest in art and science. Bob was a retired chemist and a true gentleman of class and uncommon sophistication. Audrey and Bob attended several functions together and had been married for 62 years. The twinkle in his eye will not be forgotten as he delighted in many interests, but his primary one was his life partner, Audrey. Our thoughts are with Audrey and her family in this difficult time.

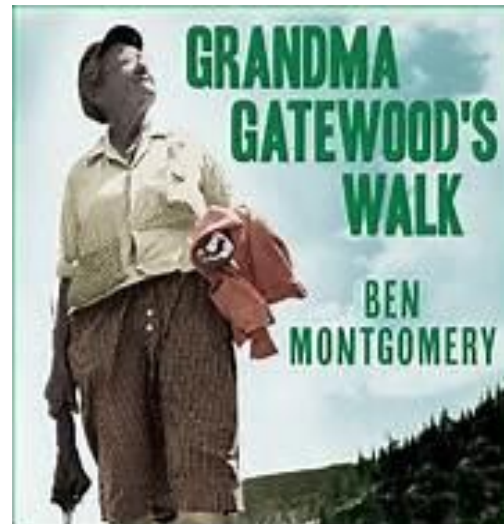
Taking a Walk on the Wild Side!

Panel Discussion October Branch Event

What is it like to take a long hike? How about when it's 2000 miles and you're 67 plus you hike alone? This year's Thousand Oaks selection for One City One Book is *Grandma Gatewood's Walk*--a book about a woman who did just that in 1955. And it's brought admiration and discussions among both long-distance hikers and non-hikers about the challenges faced. What does it take for such an ambitious walk?

Join us for "Walking on the Wild Side", an event co-sponsored with the Thousand Oaks library. The panel will be moderated by our own member, VC Supervisor Linda Parks who is a life-long backpacker and will include women from our branch, the Sierra Club, VC Search & Rescue, Conejo Open Space Rangers, and the SM Mountain Parks. They have hiked long distances in the wilderness, both domestically and internationally, and will share their experiences. We can find out what inspired them to undertake such daunting and daring adventures? What type of preparation was necessary and what challenges were faced? Come hear what these women have to say! Thursday, October 13, 6:30 - 8:00PM Thousand Oaks Library, 1401 E. Janss Road, Thousand Oaks

For more information, please contact Bev Khoshnevisan or Sally Hibbitts.



Note for Non-hikers. This is part of the One City/One Book program. Grandma Gatewood was an interesting woman of courage and limited opportunity. Her story and the difference she was able to make live on 40 years after her death.

September Board Meeting Tidbits

- The final budget for 2016-17 will be reviewed by the Executive Committee and will be presented at the FMB.
- We have approximately 141 members.
- Kristin Hoover, the *Oak Twig* editor, reviewed the new guidelines for the newsletter.
- Narda Fargotstein has been working with National to make our website look like the other branches.
- We need signups for Adopt a Poll for the November Election.

Participate in the Democratic Process!

With the national election fast approaching, your AAUW Branch has several opportunities to take part in election related events. More information available from Betty Stapleford or Sally Hibbitts.

Thursday, October 6. Thousand Oaks High, at 7 PM
AAUW/PTA Election Forum for the CVUSD Board
(Helpers are needed)

SOAR Vote YES Measure C and No Measure F
helpers needed to phone bank. Contact Linda Parks
at voteforparks@gmail.com

Please volunteer to help with a shift at our VC
Adopt-a-Poll Precinct location on Election Day,
November 8. Easy training is required. This helps us
earn money for our branch!

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SAD & GLAD NEWS



Betty Stapleford and her husband, Tom, were on yet another exciting journey this past July, this time to the far shores of Iceland where they had an amazing time. They landed in Reykjavik on July 27 and returned to Thousand Oaks on August 3rd.

Caroline Tsaw and her lovely group of Hawaiian dancers won first place in their division at the recent International Hawaiian Dance Competition in Maui.

Sharon Dyer and her husband are headed to the Panama Canal (again) on another cruise.

Pattie Dix and her husband just returned from a wonderful trip to Sweden.

Editor's note: Audrey Giuffrida normally authors this column. Our hearts go out to her in the death of her husband, Bob.

Support Your Oak Twig

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. 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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A new program year for Ralphs Market begins on September 1, 2016. Our organization is still active and will remain active in the program. All of you who have previously signed up as supporters, however, will continue donating only through **August 31, 2016**. We earned nearly \$200 this past year alone.

Participants can start registering for the new term on September 1st 2016. To ensure we continue to receive the benefits of the program, you will need to register and/or re-register as quickly as possible on or after that date at www.ralphs.com.

All previous participants are required to register for the new term online at www.ralphs.com or by calling 800-443-4438.



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Special Interest Groups



Photography - Learn to use your digital camera while enjoying photo outings. Group usually meets once a month at a private home or for a photography expedition. Date and time varies depending on the activity. Contact: Wendy Hoffman.

Group meets 3-4 times a year in a private home for a discussion with a woman who has been invited to talk about her religion. Contact Wendy Hoffman or Jeanette Hosek.

The group will meet on Tuesday, October 4 at 6:30 pm. The guest will be Barbara Likovich, a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Please contact Wendy Hoffman at to reserve a space.

Exploring the Religions of the World through the Eye of the Women

Daytime Literature Group

The AAUW daytime literature group meets on the fourth Monday of the month (with some exceptions for holidays) at The Thousand Oaks Library from 10:00am to 11:30am to discuss books chosen by the group. Contact for the group is Joan Udani. October meeting will be on Monday, October 24 and we will discuss *Grandma Gatewood's Walk* by Ben Montgomery.

Evening Literature Group

We meet on the third Thursday of the month,(with some exceptions for holidays) at member's homes at 7:30pm to discuss books that are suggested by the group members. For October we will be participating in The One City One Book event at California Lutheran University, Lundring Events Center on Thursday, October 20 at 7:30pm. Panelists will be discussing, *Grandma Gatewood's Walk* by Ben Montgomery. Contacts for this group are Sharon Dyer or Ellen Kossoris.

Global Awareness and Action 4 Girls

This is an "e-mail" group of members who want information about global projects that may be of interest. **Please send your name and email address to Jeanette Hosek.**

Movie Group

About once a month we will attend a movie at a local theatre. Members of the group will be contacted by email with date, time and location. If interested, please contact Shel Magnuson to be added to the contact list.

PLEASE NOTE: Special Interest Groups - Participation in these groups is a benefit of Branch membership. Guests of members may attend two group meetings with the member, however on the third meeting they will need to be dues paying Branch members.

NEW---Mentoring Cloud

Members of this new group will assist, using web technology, young women who are seeking their advice. This is a collaborative with the VC Women's Economic Roundtable and will use the new Mentor Cloud to connect members with mentees all across the county. First meeting will be at the home of Lenore Arab on Monday, October 17. This is an exciting opportunity for all members!

NEW---Diversity Book Club

Join us for lively discussions on topics of diversity. The first book we will be discussing is *What Is Visible?* by Kimberly Elkins. Please join us on Thursday, October 27, at 6:30pm at Shoshana Brower's home. Please contact either of the leaders, Maria Jambor or Shoshana Brower if you are interested in this terrific new group.

NEW---Happy Hikers

We will hike easy to moderate trails in various parts of Thousand Oaks and the surrounding areas. The schedule is open to suggestions from the group and can include a hike on the beach. For our first hike, we will meet at the trail head off of Green Meadow in Thousand Oaks. . Remember to wear sun block, a hat and bring water and a snack. It is 3 to 3 ½ miles and we can decide then if the group wants to hike a much more flat route or a switch back hike that leads to a lovely vista. **Our first hike will be on Saturday, October 1st at 8:30am.** Please contact Judy Gindi

Museum 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. The cost is minimal, your own cost for lunch, and your share of gas costs. Everyone is always welcome. You never know where we will end up each month! These trips occur on different days each month. For this month, we will visit Bolton Hall in Tujunga on Tuesday, October 18. More info will be sent via email. Please contact Sally Hibbitts.

NEW---Dreamers Without Borders Support

This new Interest Group will support the "Dreamers Without Borders" who are undocumented students at Thousand Oaks High. In collaboration with CVUSD staff and members of CLUE VC, we will support these students in gaining their DACA status and expanding their leadership skills. In addition we will help them acquire information and resources for reaching their dreams of higher education, etc.

AAUW members will also benefit by understanding immigrant rights and many related issues, while working to inspire Dreamers and their families to advocate for their rightful place in society.

For more information, about this meaningful and educational interest group, please contact Public Policy Director, Betty Stapleford

Branch News: Members Step Forward as Candidates

No endorsement expressed or implied

Janna Orkney...Long-time local resident who serves in the Triunfo Water District is running for a seat on the Calleguas Municipal Water District Board.

Julia Brownley...Incumbent in the 26th Congressional District has an A+ rating by AAUW on issues of importance to our organization's goals.

Henry Stern...Running for the seat of retiring member Sen. Fran Pavley, he was her senior policy advisor and participated in our Forum last February for beginning candidates.

Jacqui Irwin...Incumbent in the 44th CA Assembly seat voted for the Fair Pay Law which is so important as we celebrate Equal Pay Day each year.

Angie Simpson...Amgen employee, parent and President of the Village Homes HOA, is running to be a trustee in the CVUSD Board of Education.

Anne LaFianza...Appointed to the City Social Service Commission, active in the oak tree preservation group, COTA, Anne is now trying for a seat on the Thousand Oaks City Council.

Branch members currently elected to offices include: retiring State Senator Fran Pavley, Angela Cutbill who is an elected member of the Las Virgenes School District Board, Ed Jones of the Conejo Parks and Recreation District and Dianne McKay who sits on the Board of Trustees of the VC Community College District.



November 8th is Election Day. Vote-by-Mail begins October 10. Please vote. The liberal/conservative balance of the Supreme Court is one of the many issues that will hinge on the results of this election. Your vote really does matter!

THANK YOU FOR RENEWING YOUR DUES!

Membership Chronicles by Linda Pochter, Membership Director

Thanks to all our new and renewing members for your continued support for the AAUW Mission of advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research. National has just sent a letter highlighting new research which states that U.S. working women working full time were paid 80 cents for every dollar paid to men. This is up from 79 cents in the last data. At this rate it will take women 136 years to catch up! As an example of pay inequity "one year after college, women graduates make only 82 percent as much as their male counterparts". AAUW is working to raise awareness and close this gap. Let's continue to do our part by supporting AAUW.