



THE OAK TWIG



Annual Ventura County IBC Luncheon Saturday, January 28th, NOON-2:30 PM

Los Robles Greens
299 South Moorpark Road, Thousand Oaks, CA



Leadership:
Yesterday,
Today,
and
Tomorrow

Melissa Baffa

Featuring Melissa Baffa

Speaking on Women and Leadership

Saturday, January 28th, 12 noon -2:30 pm
Los Robles Greens Golf Course
299 South Moorpark Rd, Thousand Oaks
\$35.00

Proceeds will be used for a local College Scholarship

Please see page 5 for registration and payment
information.

Melissa has a rich and varied background in the biological sciences using her scientific and leadership skills in many capacities. She has worked for the Girl Scouts, served as the executive director of Gull Wings Children's Museum, served as the executive director of the Friends of Channel Coast State Parks, taught middle school science, and worked as a research associate at Amgen.

Many of us know of Melissa from her voyages with the crew of the research submarine, *The Nautilus*. She has written extensively of these experiences for the *VC Star* and she has been a "live underwater guest" in countless school rooms!

Melissa is active in her community, serving on the board of directors of the VC Leadership Academy and the VC Women's Political Council, and the Steering Committee of the Nonprofit Leadership Council. She currently serves as a Development Officer for The Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History.

Coming in January

January 4, Wednesday---Board Meeting, Home of Linda Pochter, 6:30 PM
January 7, Saturday----Coffee and Chat at Stella's Café in Newbury Park, 9 AM
January 11, Wednesday, Museums and Gardens trip to Pasadena California Museum
January 16, Monday-----Mentoring Group, home of Lenore Arab, 7 PM

Upcoming Events

January 19, Thursday---Evening Literature Group, home of Ellen Kossoris, 7:30 PM

January 23, Monday---Daytime Lit Group, 10 AM

★ **January 28, Saturday---Annual InterBranch Council Luncheon, 11 AM, Los Robles Greens.**
(January Branch event)

Coming in February

★ **February 15, Wed.---Sisters in Crime, 6:30 PM , Thousand Oaks Library (February Branch Event)**

Message from the President – Sally Hibbitts

Wishing all of you the very best of New Year Greetings and let us hope that 2017 will be a positive period for all of us as we deal with a drastically changing country and world.

The significant transformation of CVUSD school Board following the November election, may provide challenges which AAUW will need to address this year. We have over the last 50 years, worked carefully to be a positive influence for the schools and the children in this district. Therefore, we will continue to aggressively advocate for various issues as they arise and project only the strongest support for meaningful change, positive policy initiatives, and appropriate responses using our AAUW Public Policy Goals for guidance.

The first issue that has arisen deals with the state approved updates to

the new History/Soc Studies Curriculum Framework and the associated implementation of the Fair Act. The new Board majority appears to have some concerns regarding these updates and may prefer keeping the status quo, which could deny our children the best education possible. Instead enlightened, age appropriate curriculum materials, need to be developed, which accurately reflect the changes in our society.

Historical interpretations are constantly changing. George Washington became a highly revered president only in the late 19th century. Historical facts do not change but the societal influences which make the lessons of history do change.

It is those new lessons of history, which our children must be

taught in order to be prepared for the 21st century and not the 20th century!

Please join your AAUW leadership and speak out in support of these changes at the CVUSD Board meetings on January 3 and 17 or by sending letters to the *Acorn* or *VC Star* newspapers. This is a great opportunity for all of us to **STEP UP AND SPEAK OUT!**

(Here is the link to the CA Framework)
http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/hs/cf/sbe_drafthssfw.asp



Update on Nathalie Gosset Sexual Harassment Lawsuit



Nathalie Gosset

Please consider adding your name to the petition "USC President C. L. Nikias: Women in Engineering Matter," in support of our own Thousand Oaks AAUW member Nathalie Gosset, in her sexual harassment case against USC. Her case has been vetted and approved for support by AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund.

Our goal is to reach a benchmark of 500 signatures! It's very important that you sign & forward this to others to support Nathalie.

https://www.change.org/p/usc-president-c-l-nikias-women-in-engineering-matter?recruiter=91619192&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=share_email_responsive

We're with you, Nathalie!

It's Not Too Late to Nominate Named Gift Honorees for 2017

AAUW Thousand Oaks has been awarding Named Gift Honoree status to members since 1968. Since that time, branch members have been given this special honor in recognition of their service to the branch.

Each year nominee names are sent to national AAUW together with the monies collected by the branch in support of the various scholarships and programs of the national organization such as the Legal Advocacy Fund, the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund, the Educational Fund and the Student Leadership Fund.

To nominate a member of the branch for this honor, please send their name and a short paragraph of why you believe this person should be recognized by the branch. Named Gift Honorees will be announced at the branch's annual meeting in May. Send your suggestions to: Jeanette Hosek, AAUW Funds Director, by Jan. 31st. jhosek@roadrunner.com

Enjoying the Holiday Party - Betsy and Ann Berry (mother and daughter) wearing their matching holiday sweaters!



Left at the Holiday Party - Please claim!



There was also a toothpick holder left. Please contact Liz Priedkalns to claim.

Thanks to all of those who attended to make this a successful holiday celebration!

Sad and Glad News

Several of our members attended a very moving memorial service for Debbie Gately on Saturday, December 17. For many years Debbie was a devoted member of AAUW who served selflessly in many capacities, including being an active member of the Evening Book Group, as financial secretary and as a leader of the Brighter Horizons program. She exemplified what the philosopher, Kahlil Gibran, wrote in "The Prophet", that "You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give". Debbie certainly gave of herself to AAUW.

Debbie's untimely death was a jolt to us all and leaves a large void in our organization. Our lives will be diminished without her.

We also announce with sadness the death of Santina Fanara Wunderman, mother of RuthAnn Cooper, on November 16, 2016, after a courageous struggle with COPD and dementia. To RuthAnn and her family we send sincere condolences and hope that each day will be easier to handle than the day before.

On a happier note, Sally and Ken Hibbitts spent 14 days on a leisurely full transit Panama Canal cruise in early December. Seeing the Mayan market in Nicaragua and the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Antigua, Guatemala along with the Panama Canal, were highlights.

Earlier this fall we said a fond farewell to one of our own members, Dr. Anne Beaubrun, as she headed to the Bay Area after being recruited for an exciting new position in that area. Anne has an amazing career ahead of her and she sends her best to her many friends that she met here locally, while working as an Epidemiologist at Amgen.

Dr. Lenore Arab has been appointed to chair the Women's Economic Roundtable for the County of Ventura. Lenore is a fairly new member who has enthusiastically created our Mentoring Project.

Please be sure to send your own cards and messages to Nathalie Gosset wishing her well in the challenges that she faces daily pursuing justice.

~~~~Audrey Giuffrida



## AAUW End of the Year Accomplishments

AAUW has achieved many important milestones since January 2016, thanks to the support of AAUW members and supporters like yourself.

AAUW Action Network supporters in all 50 states sent over 200,000 messages to state and federal legislators in advocating for AAUW issues. We played a key role in achieving six new equal pay laws in California, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nebraska, and Utah.

We celebrated 44 years of Title IX with Sen. Harry Reid and 714 resource guides were delivered to Title IX coordinators in 29 states.

In addition, members organized more than 900 get-out-the-vote events in 46 states and hosted more than 200 Equal Pay Day events nationwide.

We also launched the AAUW In the Statehouse newsletter, which to date has 1,767 subscribers.

We thank all our members and supporters who helped make these accomplishments possible. We can't wait to surpass them in 2017!

### National Women's March - January 21, 2017

AAUW California will be participating in the national movement to assert that "Women's rights are human rights". In coordination with the event taking place in Washington DC, California grassroots organizers have created "sister" marches in several cities across the state. We encourage AAUW members to participate as a visible group marching together and wearing any attire sporting the current AAUW logo. Please contact Sally Hibbitts for more information.

## Ventura County IBC Annual Luncheon

You're invited to the Ventura County IBC Annual Luncheon

Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017

12 Noon to 2:30 PM

Los Robles Greens Golf Club

299 South Moorpark Rd, Thousand Oaks, CA

\$35.00

Checks should be sent to:

AAUW - 2999 Yucca Dr. Santa Rosa Valley, CA 93012

**No later than January 20, 2017**

**Featured Speaker - Melissa Baffa**  
**Speaking on Women and Leadership**

Melissa is Development Officer of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History and Sea Center

She is a graduate of California Lutheran University

(see page one for additional speaker information)

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RSVP by sending your \$35 check payable "AAUW IBC" and this slip to:

2999 Yucca Dr. Santa Rosa Valley, CA 93012

**No later than January 20, 2017**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Branch \_\_\_\_\_

## 2017 Celebration of Roe vs. Wade

Contact Sally Hibbitts for more information

**VENTURA COUNTY REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS NETWORK**


**2017  
Roe vs Wade**

Each January, the Ventura County Reproductive Rights Network (VCRRN) celebrates the anniversary of the landmark Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision by publishing a signature ad in the local press.

The newly elected national leadership has clearly stated its intention to overturn Roe v Wade and has threatened to reverse many of the protections to reproductive health care services that we have fought so hard to gain. We cannot stand idly by while so much is at stake.

Stand with us in pledging to protect Roe v. Wade by signing our annual anniversary newspaper ad.

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 **Save the Date for the 2017 Roe v. Wade Anniversary Event**  
**SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 2017, 2:00-4:00pm**  
Temple Beth Torah, 7620 Foothill Rd., Ventura

**WHAT'S NEXT FOR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS?**

A panel of experts representing Political, Healthcare, Legal, Reproductive Rights advocacy and Religious perspectives will discuss what's at stake and what we can do to hold on to our rights.

Your purchase of poinsettias this holiday season directly contributed to our branch's donation to

### THE AAUW LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND.

LAF allows us to give money for case support to women fighting sex discrimination and/or pay inequality cases. A huge thank you to *Jeanette Hosek* for tirelessly taking on this major fundraising task!



To the right is a partial view of the 124 Poinsettia plants sold to raise funds for AAUW's Legal Action Fund!



**Special Interest Groups - A Member benefit.** Guests may attend two meetings with a member and must be dues paying members by the third meeting, of that particular group.

### *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.

### *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. For information, contact: Wendy Hoffman.

### *Exploring the Religions of the World Through the Eyes of Women*

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

### *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. The next meeting of the Daytime literature group will meet on Monday, Jan. 23 at 10:00 A.M. at the Thousand Oaks library. We will discuss *Circling the Sun* by Paula McLain. Our reviewer will be Jeanette Hosek. If you have any questions, please contact Joan Udani.

### *NEW: Happy Hikers*

If you are interested in hiking please send your email address and other contact information to judygindi@gmail.com. We usually hike approximately 3 miles at a gentle to moderate pace. I will email you as to when our next hike will be. Please let me know if you would like to lead a hike also. Thank you, Judy Gindi.

### *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. Our meeting is on January 19, 2017 at the home of Ellen Kossoris. The book we will be discussing is: *The Japanese Lover* by Isabelle Allende. In addition, our meeting next month will be on February 16, 2017 at the home of Pat Helton. Cathy Whitney will be leading the discussion of *The Art of Hearing* by Jan-Phillipp Sendker. These evening gatherings start at 7:30 PM.

### *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 to them. Please send your name and email address to Jeanette Hosek.



**Special Interest Groups - A Member benefit.** Guests may attend two meetings with a member and must be dues paying members by the third meeting, of that particular group.

### *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 are held on different days each month. Contact Pat O'Donnell or Sally Hibbits.

We will be traveling to the Pasadena Museum of California Art to see the well-received exhibit called, "In the Land of Sunshine: Imaging the California Coast Culture". Approximately, 90 paintings inspired by the stunning vistas, lifestyles, and industries existing along the 840 miles of California coastline. Spanning from the mid-1800s to the present day, the oils, acrylics, and watercolors represent the diversity of California's artistic style as well as the surfers, sailors, sport fisherman, and residents who have settled in the beaches, harbors, cities, and ranches that dot the coast. Please contact Sally Hibbits for further information. This trip was postponed from November and will take place on January 11<sup>th</sup>. Expected time of departure is 10 AM from Barnes and Noble in Westlake. Your cost is the share of gas expenses, your own lunch, and the senior admission fee of \$5.

### *NEW: Mentoring Cloud*

Assisting young women seek the advice of others skilled in knowledge areas is the focus of this new group. This is a collaborative with the VC Women's Economic Roundtable and will use the new Mentor Cloud to connect members with mentees both near and far. The next meeting will be on Monday, January 16 at 6 pm. Please contact Lenore Arab for more information.

### *NEW- Diversity Book Club*

Join us for lively discussions on topics of diversity. On Thursday, February 2, 2017 at 6:30 pm we will be meeting to discuss our next selection, *The Firebrand and the First Lady* by Patricia Bell-Scott. This award winning biography "tells the story of the life of civil rights activist and lawyer Pauli Murray and her friendship with First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt." This outstanding book has been lauded as being "Bold, fast-paced, and vividly written."

Please RSVP to Shoshana Brower and to receive the directions to her home, which is the location for the meeting. Leaders for this group are Maria Jambor or Shoshana Brower

### *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.

### *New -- Dreamers Support*

This group will help support undocumented high school students in the Conejo Valley to gaining their DACA status, developing their leadership skills, reaching their dreams of a higher education, and finding safe spaces in our community. Associated with this will be learning more about immigrant rights, resources, and to inspire the Dreamers. Contact Betty Stapleford for meeting information.



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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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**For more information, contact Linda Pochter**

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## Legal Advocacy Fund Luncheon in Orange County!

Our own AAUW TO member, Nathalie Gosset, will be speaking at an AAUW Interbranch Council function in Orange County on January 21<sup>st</sup>. Please contact Nathalie or Sally Hibbitts for more information. See why we are fighting so hard for her and her cause against sexual harassment in the workplace.



Nathalie Gosset

### **Legal Advocacy Fund Luncheon**

**January 21, 2017**

**11:00 am – 2:00 pm**

**Laguna Woods Village Clubhouse 7**

**Sponsored by the  
American Association of University Women  
Laguna Hills Branch and  
Orange County Interbranch Council**

*Remember to "Like"  
AAUW-TO on Facebook!*

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*The Oak Twig* newsletter is published ten times a year by AAUW Thousand Oaks, Inc. A copy is available online at our website found at <http://aauwto-ca.aauw.net>

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**AAUW THOUSAND OAKS**

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Thousand Oaks, CA