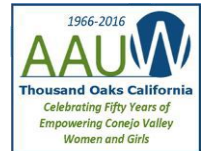




THE OAK TWIG



Come and enjoy our stimulating February Branch Program

Hardboiled Valentines: The Challenges and Heartaches of Diversity in Publishing Modern Crime Fiction

(See also page 2)

The national organization called "Sisters in Crime" will be providing authors Gary Phillips, Rachel Howzell Hall, Desiree Zamorano, Stephanie Cha, and Avril Adams for a lively panel discussion about the many faces of crime fiction. All of the panel members are from various backgrounds and have written books of different genres. Hear them speak on the challenges they face in publishing today as writers of color. How do they market themselves and their work, writing about characters of color, and the market place? For more information about Sisters in Crime, please see <http://www.sistersincrime.org/page/Mission>

**Join in the free program & discussion
Wednesday, February 15, 6:30 PM
Thousand Oaks Library**

Upcoming Events

February 1, Wednesday---Board Meeting at Oak Knoll Villa, 6:30 PM
February 2, Thursday---Diversity Book Group, home of Shoshana Brower, 6:30 PM
February 4, Saturday---Coffee and Chat at Stella's Café in Newbury Park, 9 AM
February 9, Thursday---Museum Trip, 10 AM to Clayton Library
February 15, Wednesday---Sisters in Crime Branch Event, Co-sponsored with the T.O. Library, 6:30 PM. (Monthly Branch event)
February 16, Thursday---Evening Literature Group, 7:30 PM at Ellen Kossoris' home.

February 20, Monday-Mentoring Group, 6:30 PM at Lenore Arab's home
February 27, Monday---Daytime Literature Group, 10AM at TO Library.

Coming in March (two special branch events)

March 6, Monday---Women's History Night, TO Library 6 PM
March 27, Monday---Women and the Arts Special Program, 6 PM at Newbury Park Library

Thousand Oaks Library and AAUW present

SISTERS IN CRIME PANEL

Hardboiled Valentines: The Challenges and Heartaches for Diversity in Publishing Modern Crime Fiction

Wednesday, February 15, 2017 • 6:30-8:00pm

Grant R. Brimhall Library

1401 E. Janss Road • Thousand Oaks



Gary Phillips



Rachel Howzell Hall

Come learn about the many faces of crime fiction.

Gary Phillips has published various novels, novellas, comics, short stories and edited or co-edited several anthologies. **Désirée Zamorano**

is a Pushcart prize nominee novelist and award-winning short story writer. **Rachel Howzell Hall**

is the author of seven novels, including the critically-acclaimed Detective Elouise Norton series. **Avril**

Adams' crime fiction is the noir genre and she also writes science fiction with a humanist twist, and children's stories. **Steph Cha**

is the author of several books and is editor for the *Los Angeles Review of Books* and a regular contributor to the

Los Angeles Times and *USA Today*.



Désirée Zamorano



Avril Adams



Steph Cha

This program is free and open to the public.
For more information, please call 805-381-7358.



Grant R. Brimhall Library - 1401 E. Janss Road, Thousand Oaks, CA 91382 • 805-448-2680
Newbury Park Library - 2331 Borchard Road, Newbury Park, CA 91320 • 805-498-2139
www.toaks.org/library



Message from the President – Sally Hibbitts

Our First Pillar Starts With “A”

At the core of our organization are four pillars: **advocacy**, education, philanthropy, and research. We base our AAUW mission and policy goals upon these essential components.

The first pillar is obviously “**ADVOCACY**” and I believe, since it's first in the group, it is the most important for our organization. AAUW was founded as an **advocacy** group for women who desired more educational opportunities. Therefore, without **advocacy**, we would not exist.

Our recent **advocacy** at the CVUSD Board has been successful in that this body chose to follow the state law; however, watchful waiting is the key with this new Board!

Advocating that “Women's Rights are Human Rights” was the theme of all of the amazing marches held nationwide on January 21. AAUW TO had a sizable representation not only

in Ventura, but several members trooped to LA and we even had members marching down Pennsylvania Ave in Washington!

Now is the time to put our combined energy from all of these Women's Marches into **Advocacy**! Unite together to put our words into true action! It is essential that if you have not done so, to please participate in our “Two Minute Activist” web site. Please sign up now and take those steps on becoming a true AAUW **Advocate**! While you're at it, also sign up for Washington Update, the weekly newsletter straight from Washington.

<http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/two-minute-activist/>

Thank you for being such terrific **ADVOCATES** for AAUW TO! You are the best!

We Stand With Nathalie!

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 new benchmark of 2000 signatures! It's very important that you sign & forward this to others to support Nathalie.

Go to www.stand4nat.org

January Board Tidbits by Sharon Dyer

- SOAR won because of great support!
- Nathalie Gosset appreciates and is very grateful for the support of our branch.
- Branch Archives Update, Elect Her Project and Named Gift Honoree Selection Committee were tabled until February.
- Our branch will continue to advocate that the school board support state law concerning CA History/Social Studies Framework and the FAIR Act. Both National and State AAUWs have responded that the FAIR act falls within the parameters of AAUW policies.
- We are involved with the Dreamers group at Thousand Oaks High School



The outcome of the November election and subsequent events have raised concerns in organizations that focus on women's issues, including AAUW and its coalition partners in California, the California Coalition for Reproductive Freedom, and Stronger California. We see issues that we thought had been “settled” now have become front-page news, such as access to health care for people at all income levels, forthcoming challenges to Roe v. Wade, and freedom to make personal reproductive choices. “Rights” that women have taken for granted are now at risk!

When you are signed up on national's Two-Minute Activist, you are automatically signed up for AAUW CA Action Alerts. As this state legislative session moves forward you will also be receiving messages about taking action on CA bills and other actions that might require immediate responses from members. Change takes place only when we collectively demand it...Act now!

AAUW FUNDS REPORT 2016 *By Jeanette Hosek, FUNDS Director*

Approximately \$6500 was sent to our AAUW national office as our branch's contribution to AAUW funds for 2016. Profits from our 50th Anniversary event were submitted for Tech Trek scholarships. Several members wrote personal checks also for Tech Trek donations, while at this event.

Additionally AAUW funds were at the fall breakfast for TT and LAF. The sale of poinsettia plants was strong due to several large orders. The sale of Named Gift Honoree pins was good with 14 branches ordering pins. The sales of our Profiles of Women books were minimal with 5 CD's sold and 3 books. The Women of Conejo notecards were good at public events. The stock of cards is low with less than 200 sets left.

Final figures for all aspects of AAUW funds will be available when the branch receives the 4th quarter report from the national office. The amount of money contributed to AAUW FUNDS determines how many members we can honor with a Name Gift Recognition.

Sad and Glad News *By Audrey Giuffrida*

Pat and Mike O'Donnell recently returned from three months of traveling. Their trip included a Viking Excursion through China, the highlights of which were climbing the Great Wall, seeing the Terra Cotta Warriors and visiting a panda reserve.

They took a Princess Cruise from Beijing to Australia with stops in Vietnam, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Osaka and Bali where they rode an elephant.

In Australia they attended a concert at the Sydney Opera House, enjoyed a hot air balloon ride over Melbourne and had an up-close and personal koala encounter.

In New Zealand they took a helicopter to The Franz Joseph and Fox Glaciers and hiked on an active volcano on White Island. They ended the trip with ten days of relaxing in Fiji.

It was quite an adventure but they were happy to be home in time for Christmas.

VOTER REGISTRATION FOR **HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS**

The League of Women Voters Ventura County has worked with the City of Thousand Oaks and the Conejo Valley School District to provide graduating high school seniors in this area with voter registration forms. Melanie Ashen, a LWV and AAUW member is coordinating this year's effort. Melanie is looking for about 20 volunteers from various organizations to help with the folding, stuffing and labeling of 2240 packets for distribution to schools. AAUW has partnered with the LWV for many years to work on this project and it goes very quickly

The work will take place at the school district offices on Janss Rd. on WEDNESDAY, FEB 22, 2017 FROM 9AM-NOON. If you are able to come, even for one hour, it would be very helpful. The city provides some snacks and water. Call Melanie and let her know you can help!

Dreamers and Allies Group at Thousand Oaks High School Expands

The Thousand Oaks AAUW-sponsored Dreamers and Allies group at Thousand Oaks High School, begun in the fall, has continued to have a vital role in meeting with Immigrant students in the face of their concerns over potential changes in United States laws and policies as a result of our November elections.

We have been able to provide information and support for these students through Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice (CLUE), and CSUCI. We have also made contact with the DACA/Dreamers Group advisor at CLU to find mentors and other services for our group.

In addition, there are now Westlake High School students who have been coming to our bi-monthly meetings. The members of our Branch who have been involved with this program include: Sally Hibbitts, Anne LaFianza, Shoshana Brower, and Linda Bergthold. Additional members are bringing their expertise to the group. If you would like to participate or get further information, please contact Betty Stapleford.



Pictured above at the Oxnard Dreamer Meeting are left to right: Jessica Ordonez, Anne LaFianza, Congresswoman Brownley, Sandra Martinez (TOHS Teacher) and Wendy Garcia. Both of these students attend TOHS and are active "Allies" for their Dreamer Friends.

Congresswoman Brownley Meets with Dreamers/Allies

By Anne LaFianza,
Director of Branch Community Outreach

Congresswoman Julia Brownley, a member of our Branch, recently held a Dreamers Town Hall at Pacifica High School in Oxnard. We heard from three Dreamers who shared their stories of great academic success, as well as their struggles and fears. The most important support for these young folks is community building with those who are in a similar position and with those that support them. We also heard from two prominent immigration attorneys. Congresswoman Brownley was clear that she is dedicated to fight for the support and protection of immigrants and dreamers. She spoke to protecting DACA, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, and to the rights of those who do not yet have documentation. She spoke about the California Dream Act and financial aid for undocumented students. Congresswoman Brownley was firm, "I'm ready and my colleagues are ready to fight for dreamers all the way." She encouraged all of us to reach out to our elected officials to let them know of our concerns.

Message Sent to All Branches By Lisa M. Maatz, AAUW Vice President, Government Relations

In January, the Senate began its consideration of the new president's nominations for cabinet level positions. AAUW believes that any nominee must be a fair-minded individual committed to equal opportunity and justice under the law for all Americans. A full vetting of each Cabinet nominee must include close examination of the candidate's record, and meaningful answers to threshold questions concerning qualifications, temperament, and enforcement of current law. Most critically, senators should not move forward any nominee whose background check and ethics screening remains incomplete.

AAUW has grave and deep concerns regarding the nomination of four individuals: Betsy DeVos for Secretary of Education, Sen. Jeff Sessions for Attorney General, Andrew Puzder for Secretary of Labor, and Rep. Tom Price for Secretary of Health and Human Services. These individuals stand to have significant influence over issues affecting women and families, but their records on AAUW's public policy priorities leave much unanswered and much to be desired.

Why do presidential cabinet picks matter to women and girls? From campus sexual assault to sex discrimination in employment to reproductive health care, all kinds of critical issues are at stake in a new administration.

The president's personnel decisions are really policy decisions, and they matter to women and girls. AAUW members will be watching these confirmation hearings with our mission in mind. Make sure Senators Dianne Feinstein and Senator Kamela Harris know that AAUW has strong concerns about these nominees. (At time of this writing, the info was correct).

All members and friends are invited to this special regional luncheon. Carpools will be created based upon interest. Please contact Sally Hibbitts if interested.



IBC FELLOWS LUNCHEON

Sponsored by Santa Barbara & San Luis Obispo County Interbranch Councils



Leadership for Women, by Women

Saturday, February 25, 2017

11:00 AM-2:00 PM

Santa Maria Country Club
505 W. Waller Lane, Santa Maria

Tickets: \$30

Opening Remarks

Donna Mertens, AAUW CA President

Sharon Westafer, AAUW Fund

Keynote Speaker

Aileen RIZO, AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund Case, 2015

Please RSVP by February 12 to Dianne Owens, Dianneowens9@gmail.com or (805) 733-1734.
Include your menu choice (beef stroganoff, cobb salad or vegetarian cobb salad) on your check payable to AAUW Lompoc-Vandenberg and mail to 70 Aldebaran Ave., Lompoc, CA 93436.



Aileen Rizo has worked in math education for nearly 20 years in roles such as a classroom teacher, curriculum designer, educational consultant, academic coach, adjunct university faculty, and is currently a Statewide Network Educator for the Smarter Balanced Digital Library. Recently, Aileen has become the face of wage discrimination. She gained the attention of national media and has been interviewed by Maria Shriver of NBC, among others. Her testimony supported the Fair Pay Act as it made it's way through the California Legislature becoming the strongest equal pay bill in the nation.





Linda Eckhouse (left) marched with her family members in Washington DC



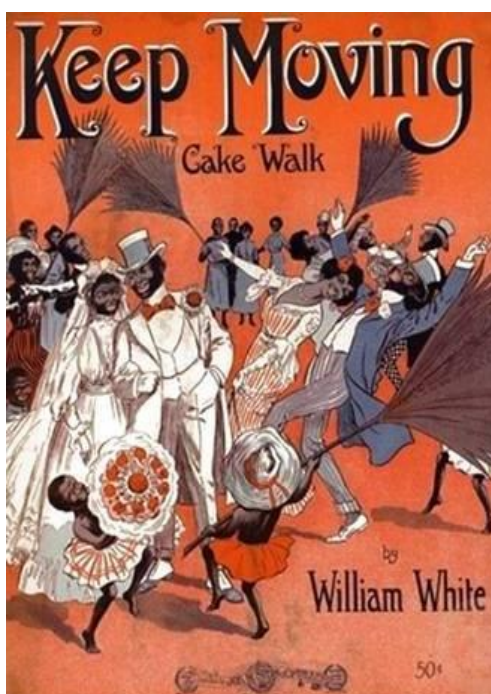
Lori Kissinger (center) is joined by her daughters prior to heading to LA



Our Marchers headed to Ventura! Included among those who went were: Barbara Gilmore, Jeanette and Bill Hosek, Narda and Paul Fargotstein, Bev and Monte Khoshnevisan, Joan Edwards, Bakula Maniar (Simi), Janet Wall, Anne La Fianza, Sandra Martinez, Reese and her Daddy Dusty Russell along with her Mom Chelsee Bente (not pictured), Pat O'Donnell, Linda Parks, Bonnie Shubb and Family. In addition Branch members including Lori Peters, Bette Empol, Jacqui Irwin, Marie Lakin, Karen Oxider, and others participated in the Great March of Jan. 20, both in Ventura and in Los Angeles.



Phyllis Wheatley original editions are housed at the Clayton Library.



EXPLORING RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD THROUGH THE EYES OF WOMEN

Holly Sacks, a certified Mindfulness Facilitator and Branch member, will be our guest at our next Women and Religion meeting. She will talk about how mindfulness relates to spirituality and will facilitate several different practices

This special meeting will be held at the home of Wendy Hoffman in Thousand Oaks on Monday, February 27 at 6:30 PM. Please RSVP by Thursday, February 23 as space is limited.

Ever Hear of the Mayme Clayton Library and Archives? Join us on the Museums and Gardens Trip

We will carpool to the Mayme Clayton Museum and Archives in Culver City for a private tour given by Lloyd Clayton, the son of the founder. This absolutely astonishing collection contains over two million rare books, films, documents, photographs, artifacts, and works of art related to the history and culture of African Americans in the US. The collection is one of the most important collections chronicling the history and culture of Americans of African descent. This trip will provide a rare opportunity for us to also see "the best of the best" in this collection, as Lloyd opens up special collections for us. **Today this is the largest privately held and the most academically substantial archive of African American history and culture in the world.**

Dr. Mayme Clayton, a librarian for both USC and UCLA, started her collection about 50 years ago, which she housed initially in her garage. Over time, she single-handedly collected rare books (e.g., Phillis Wheatley first edition); manuscripts and archival documents (e.g., letters of Booker T. Washington); film and recorded sound items (e.g. early jazz recordings); photographs and prints collection (e.g., Gordon Parks photography); and art and artifacts (e.g., Civil War era dolls). Today the collection is housed in a former historic LA county courthouse, which has been modernized and refurbished. (For more information, see <http://www.claytonmuseum.org/>)

This will be a wonderful opportunity to see a very rare collection, which was nearly single-handedly created by an amazing woman. Tour arrangements have been made for us for **Thursday, Feb. 9.** We will be meeting to arrange our carpools from the Barnes and Noble in **Westlake at 10 AM.** I'm expecting that we should return sometime before 3:30 pm. The cost will be your share of gas (cash only), a library tour fee (\$10 cash), and your own lunch costs. We will have a late lunch at a nearby cafe.

Please RSVP to Sally Hibbitts for this wonderful and enriching trip! All are welcome; no previous participation necessary!

Forget diamonds
this Valentine's Day.
Fair pay is a girl's best friend.

#whatwomenneed

AAUW



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 this month's meeting, please see details on page 8 or 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, February 27 at 10:00 A.M. at the Thousand Oaks library. We will discuss *The Marriage of Opposites*. Our reviewer will be Joan Udani. 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 7:30 pm to discuss books that are suggested by the group members. Our meeting is on February 16, 2017 at the home of Pat Helton. The discussion of *The Art of Hearing Heartbeats* by Jan-Phillipp Sendker will be led by Cathy Whitney. 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. For details of this month's trip, please see page 8 or contact Sally Hibbitts.

NEW: Mentoring Cloud

Assisting young women to 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, February 20 at 6 pm. Please contact Lenore Arab for more information.

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.

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 advantage of our very inexpensive rates. As one of our users reflected, "Where else could I possibly get monthly advertising for only \$12 a month....and to a quality audience?"

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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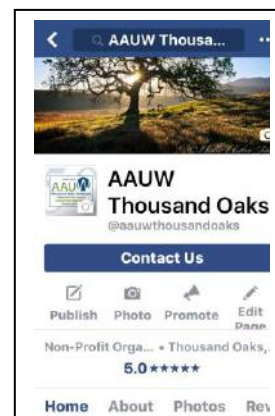
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AAUW THOUSAND OAKS

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