AAUW Thousand Oaks, Inc.

Volume 51, Issue #7. March 2017





Come and Celebrate Women's History at our two terrific Branch Events!

Our Annual Profiles in Women's History

on Wednesday, March 8th

and

• Born for Liberty : Three Waves of Feminism in

Art and Music

on Monday, March 27

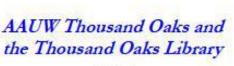
(for more information see inserts on pages 2 & 3)

March 1, Wednesday---Board Meeting at Oak Knoll Villa, 6:30 PM March 4, Saturday----Coffee and Chat at Stella's Café in NP, 9 AM March 8, Wednesday---Women's History Night, TO Library 6 PM March 16, Thursday---Evening Literature Group, 7:30 PM March 25, Saturday---New Member Morning Mimosas, March 25, Saturday---New Member Morning Mimosas, March 24, Friday---Museum and Garden's Trip, 8:30 AM Poppy Fields March 27, Monday---Born for Liberty, 6 PM at Newbury Park Library March 27, Monday---Daytime Literature Group, 10AM at TO Library.

March Events

Coming in April---April 1, Saturday Parent Conference volunteers needed April 4, Tuesday, CLU, 5:30, Hoops and Hurdles of Pay Equity (Branch event) April 8, Earth Day Community Outreach







present

WOMEN'S HISTORY PROJECT 2017

Wednesday, March 8, 2017

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Marvin E. Smith Community Room Thousand Oaks Library 1401 E. Janss Road, Thousand Oaks

Come meet these five notable women as presented by Lori Peters' students from One Spark Academy.

Rachel Carson (1907 - 1964) Marine Biologist, Environmentalist Shirley Chisholm (1924 - 2005) Politician, Educator Eugenie Clark (1922 - 2015) Ichthyologist, Shark Expert Misty Copeland (1982 -) Principal Ballerina J. K. Rowling (1965 -) Author



Rachel Carson





Misty Copeland



Following the presentations, there will be light refreshments and a video interview with Misty Copeland.



BORN FOR LIBERTY: THREE WAVES OF FEMINISM IN ART & MUSIC



Monday, March 27, 2017 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Community Room, Newbury Park Branch Library 2331 Borchard Road, Newbury Park

Presenters: Cynthia Perry & Vicki Sonstegard

This will be a fun interactive evening designed to showcase differing eras and their related styles of feminist art and music.

Information: Bev Khoshnevisan at bkhosh29@gmail.com

This program is not a Thousand Oaks Library sponsored event.

Our Second Pillar Starts With "E"

Last month, I offered some thoughts about the first pillar of AAUW, that being advocacy. For March, I continue these thoughts with how our branch is fulfilling the second pillar, education. Remember, there are four pillars that support the mission of AAUW: advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

When we look at AAUW and education, it calls to mind two focal points....our own personal education as members for selfimprovement and educating the community at large. As members of AAUW we also actively promote educational outreach to help break down those proverbial barriers to equity and opportunity.

In our Special Interest Groups, we have several opportunities to improve our own education through the book groups, learning about world religions, participating in new groups like mentors or photography, and venturing to an usual museum or nature walk that we would never had given a second look, without AAUW. Learning about previously forgotten women and their life successes is a focus of our Women's History Project. Did you know

February Board Tidbits by Sharon Dyer, Branch Secretary

- ----There was a midyear budget review.
- ----A couple of short biographies of new members
- will be in the Oak Twig each month
- -----We need to continue our vigilance and advocacy with the CVUSD.

-----We are very pleased with the Dreamer Support and the ties we are developing with CLU and their DACA program.

-----Named Gift Honoree Selection Committee is working on selecting nominees who will be recognized at the May 6th FUNDS Luncheon. about Inez Milholland before attending an AAUW meeting?

But it falls to us to look further into our community and nation as we promote education to break down those proverbial antifeminist barriers. Thousand Oaks AAUW is actively promoting increased education through so many activities. This includes raising money so more girls can attend our STEM Summer Camp, Tech Trek, is essential to this work. Have you joined in the Phantom Tea Party or bought the wonderful new book, First Woman? In addition we are actively working on trying to have more undocumented high school students complete their education in spite of so much increased fear and anxiety in their communities. We have been advocating at the CVUSD Board meetings, for more educational opportunities by teaching the Fair Act and currently to retain the Infant and Toddler Program at the City Center NFL Preschool. Equal Pay education outreach in early April at the Equal Pay Day event is appropriate for one and all to learn about this difficult topic. Also please see information our newest education outreach program on page 9, called "Literacy and Laundromats"!

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



PLEASE DO THIS ASAP!

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 Thousand Oaks in cooperation with the National Women's History Project (NWHP) present a Commemorative Edition Honoring Hillary Rodham Clinton's Campaign and Other First Women in Government

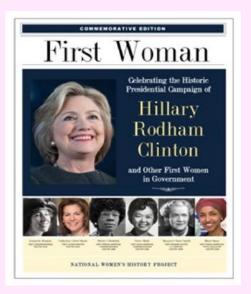
Inspired by Hillary Rodham Clinton's historic campaign, the National Women's History Project (NWHP) has published a special Commemorative Edition, **First Woman**, to pay tribute to women's long and distinguished record in government and public service.

This lavishly illustrated, 48-page volume places Hillary Clinton's unprecedented campaign in the context of women's history and celebrates the many women who first ran for and held office in American government. Here are the first women to run for President, Congress and the Senate. Here are the first mayors, state legislators and governors. Here are the first four-star general, the first Supreme Court Justice and so many more. Timelines trace the progress of Women in Government, the Women's Suffrage Movement, and the Modern Women's Movement.

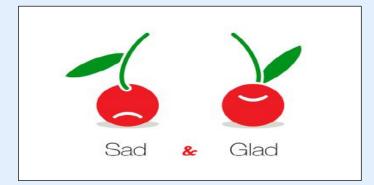
First Woman also recognizes American suffragists who worked successfully for women's civil rights. The wealth of detail included here irrefutably shows the growing contributions women have made to our national life. These courageous women smoothed the path that led our nation to where it is today.

First Woman also recognizes young feminists who are working today for women's advancement. This beautiful publication pays tribute to the deep and lasting contributions women have made - and are making - to our nation's progress.

AAUW Thousand Oaks is proud to include this book as part of its thirty-year history of providing Women's History materials to schools and individuals. All of the branch's Women's History resources are available for sale through its website, www.aauwto.ca.aauw.net. Copies of <u>FIRST WOMAN</u> are still available and would make a lovely gift for Woman's History Month.







By Audrey Giuffrida

Pattie Dix and husband, Dan, are leaving the Thousand Oaks area and moving to Corvallis, Oregon. We are all so sorry to see them go. Pattie has been an active member of AAUW for many years (serving as an outstanding President) and has participated in many AAUW activities, primarily as a co-editor of the Oak Twig. She certainly will be missed very much in that capacity.

For those who would like to keep in touch with Pattie, her interim address (while their house is being built) is P.O. Box 1893, Corvallis, Oregon 97339 for the next few months. Her email address is the same as that listed in the current Directory.

We all wish Pattie and Dan happiness, good health and good luck in their new surroundings and harbor the sentiment expressed by many AAUW members that our city's loss is Corvallis' gain.

* * * * *

Mini Madan's son, Evan, is in the Naval ROTC at UCLA and was awarded a scholarship from the Navy to go to the school of his choice. He is currently a student and in June of this year will be a full commissioned officer for the US Navy. He was selected by the Navy to be part of the Navy submarine program and will be going to nuclear power school in Charlestown South Carolina.

We send congratulations to Mini and her husband, Kanwar, along with their son for continued success in this outstanding achievement.

* * * * *

In Memory, we remember our former member and past President, Frances Prince. She will be long remembered for creating an enormous legacy of public service for our community. Cards and notes may be sent to the family of Frances Prince at 2720 Granvia Place, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360



Enjoying a farewell to Pattie Dix were: Judy Gindi, Pattie, Jeanette Hosek, Linda Pochter, Dorothy Robinson, Donna Lanalev. and Sallv Hibbitts

HIGH SCHOOL VOTER REGISTRATION PROJECT

The goal of having high school seniors register to vote began many years ago when Dot Engel of the Ventura League of Women Voters approached the Thousand Oaks Mayor's office about the project. Every year since, members of the community prepare envelopes addressed to high school seniors with a voter registration form and a letter from current mayor encouraging them to register. The project has expanded to include some private high schools also.

This year, under the leadership of Melanie Ashen (AAUW & LWVVC member) over two thousand letters were delivered to graduating seniors. A change in the law now allows students who will be 18 prior to the next election to be registered.

The AAUW members who participated in the High School Voter Registration were: Jeanette Hosek, Audrey Giuffrida, Wendy Hoffman, Pat Murray, and Melanie Ashen. Thank you all!.



(I to r) Melanie Ashen, Audrey Giuffrida, Nancy Klein (former member) and Wendy Hoffman. Not pictured is Pat Murray.

STANDING TALL TOGETHER WITH AAUW

By Betty Stapleford, Director Public Policy

This month, Congress' phones and inboxes have been flooded by energized AAUW members and supporters nationwide. You may be among the hundreds of thousands of Americans who recently called, emailed, or even faxed members of Congress. AAUW's momentum is growing stronger each day, and we're seeing results. . . . Over the next 100 days, you'll have the opportunity to take advantage of this momentum by taking action. For over 135 years, AAUW has been the nation's leading voice promoting equity and education for women and girls – and thanks to members like you, we aren't backing down now.

Some of the ways you can support women in our country are:

Knowing the issues and honing your skills to advocate for issues that affect women and girls by supporting the Biennial Action Priorities listed in the AAUW Public Policy Program outlined below.

- 1) To support a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity, and diversity,
- 2) To achieve economic self-sufficiency for all women.
- 3) To guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse society, (for additional information go to www.aauw.org)

Dreamers and Allies Group for CVUSD High Schools

Our AAUW Dreamers and Allies Group at Thousand Oaks High School is really making a difference for students and for our members. We have been having larger and larger groups coming to our two meetings each month, and students from Westlake High have joined us for many of these gatherings. In fact, a recent meeting was held at Thousand Oaks High for both groups of students. The program at the most recent meeting was a presentation by U.S. Congresswoman Julia Brownley with approximately 30 students and adults attending. We are also very fortunate to be collaborating with two terrific and caring teachers at the two high schools - Sandra Martinez Galvin from T.O. and Julieta Rodriguez Martinez from Westlake.

If you would like to know more about this exciting and beneficial program, please contact Betty Stapleford, our Public Policy Chair.

A BIG SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THESE MEMBERS WHO HEARD THE REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL SUPPORT DRIVERS AND HAVE STEPPED UP:

Melanie Ashen, Shoshana Brower, Holly Sacks, Wendy Hoffman, Jeanette Hosek, Anne La Fianza, Betty Stapleford, Margaret Tennant, and Sally Hibbitts.



Shown on left standing in front of several of our high school dreamers, whose backs are turned to keep their confidentiality, are (I to r) Sally Hibbitts, Betty Stapleford, Anne LaFianza, Julieta Rodriquez, Shoshana Brower, and Sandra



TECH TREK HELPING GIRLS BECOME STEM LEADERS!





Drinking "Trek Tech Tea" is the best, longest lasting and most rewarding "tea" you will ever enjoy!

Join us in a cup, you won't regret it!

Tech Trek Updates for Summer 2017 UCSB Camp

By Susan Fagan, Branch Coordinator for Tech Trek

I have sent letters to the principals and science chairs at our five Conejo Valley Middle schools, and two middle schools in Moorpark. The letter has requested that 7th grade science teachers recommend students that they feel would greatly benefit from the opportunity of Tech Trek. Last week a group of women met to stuff letters and seal envelopes to 160 members and friends asking for contributions (see below). We hope to reach our goal of sending four girls this summer! We have confirmation from Jan Price, the treasurer for Tech Trek UCSB, that she has received our initial payment of \$2,204.

Look for further information this spring for a fundraiser at the Pit Fire in Westlake!

PHANTOM TEA LETTER

All branch members recently received a <u>Phantom Tea letter</u>. This long tradition of the branch encourages you to have a cup of tea while writing a check to support a program of AAUW. This year the board is asking you to make a contribution to our Tech Trek program. The branch wants to send four girls to the UCSB Tech Trek camp this summer and needs additional funding. Every year girls who are recommended by their science teachers apply for this program and we have to turn down a many <u>qualified girls due to lack of funding!</u>

In the past we have had members donate a full scholarship (\$950). Others have contributed \$10. The amount is not as important as your participation. <u>Tech Trek is a totally local program, with girls from local middle schools families!</u> You can make a difference for someone with your generous contribution.

If you have misplaced your Phantom Tea letter, please write your check payable to "AAUW" and on memo line indicate for "Tech Trek UCSB" and mail it to <u>AAUW Thousand Oaks, P.O. Box 4223, Thousand Oaks, CA 91359. Attention of:</u> <u>Susan Fagan, Tech Trek Director.</u>

FLASH UPDATE----Thank you to all who have given so generously in February and there is still time to make a difference in a young girl's life

YOU'RE WANTED AND NEEDED FOR COMMUNITY OUTREACHI PLEASE CONTACT ANNE LA FIANZA FOR MORE INFO.

• CVUSD Latino Parent Outreach Conference "Imagine Science the Path to Knowledge" on Saturday morning, April 1 Short time commitments are needed for a couple of hours to help with registration and our tabling. This is a highly rewarding experience and helps you provide positive action in our community. Spanish speakers preferred but definitely not necessary.



Helpers last year were Anne LaFianza, Dianna Houser, Susi Gomez

- EARTH DAY ON APRIL 8.....IN HONOR OF RACHEL CARSON! (SAVE THE DATE)
- BRAND NEW SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP CALLED "LAUNDROMATS AND LITERACY" (SEE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IN SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS)....GOAL TO IMPROVE READING LITERACY AMONG OUR LOWER INCOME RESIDENTS BY PROVIDING DONATED PRESCHOOL BOOKS IN LAUNDROMATS.



Enjoy the Antelope Poppy Fields on March 24 with the Museum and Gardens Group

<u>On Friday, March 24</u>, we will carpool to the Antelope Valley State Poppy Reserve for a tour given by one of the State Interpreter Rangers. Each spring, the Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve comes alive with the seasonal surprises of the Mojave Desert Grassland habitat. The duration and intensity of colors and scents vary from year to year. So, we will keep our fingers crossed for nice weather and blooms! The wildflower season generally lasts from as early as mid-February through May, with a variety of wildflowers creating a mosaic of color that changes daily.

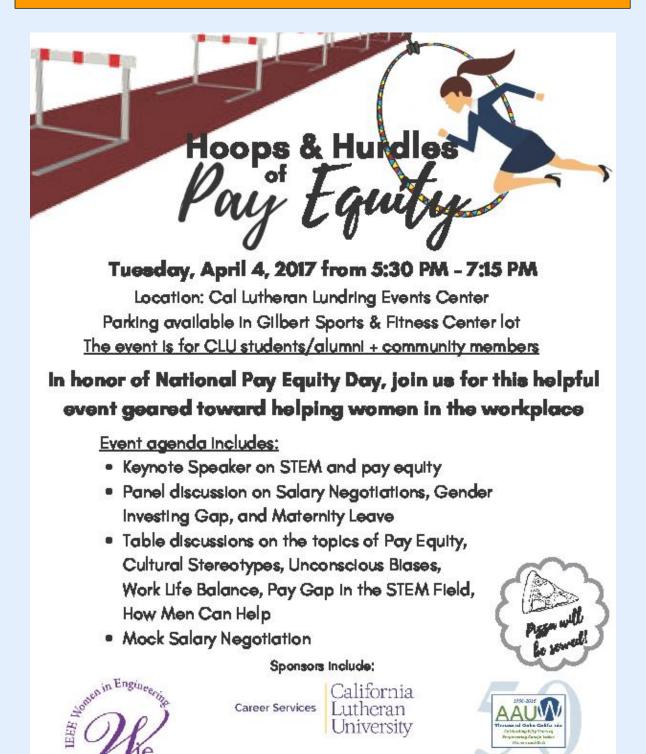
The Ranger indicated she will go a measured pace, but be sure to bring your hiking/walking shoes, water, sunscreen and your picnic lunch with drink, I will not accompany the hikers, but plan to keep to the close by trails and benches, still enjoying the experience! I will also stake out a perfect picnic table!

This will be a wonderful opportunity to experience these fields....if you've never done this trip, well now is your chance! We will be meeting to arrange our carpools from the Barnes and Noble in <u>Westlake at 8:30 AM</u>. (it's a 2 hour trip) I'm expecting that we should return sometime before 4 pm. The cost will be only your share of gas (cash only) as the tour is free, We will have a picnic lunch after the 11 AM tour, so if you are used to eating earlier, please bring a snack.

Please RSVP to Sally Hibbitts for this wonderful and fun trip. If you can volunteer to drive, please let me know.



Coming on Tuesday, April 4.....special Branch Event in Honor of Equal Pay Day...in partnership with Career Services at CLU and the IEEE, we will be having a full evening of fun and interesting table talks. As refreshments will be served and seating is limited, please contact Sally Hibbitts for further details. Spread the word to others, especially those in STEM careers!



Contact Natalie Luna at nlunascallutheran.edu for more information

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 the next group meeting, please 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 Daytime Book Group will meet <u>on Monday, March 27 at 10:00 A.M.</u>. We will discuss <u>The Aviator's Wife</u> by Melanie Benjamin. Our reviewer will be Audrey Giuffrida. For information 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. The March selection is Eligible by Curtis Sittenfield. We will meet at the home of Audrey Giuffrida and Pamela Petrangelo will lead the discussion.

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

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.

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 mer 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 earlier information 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 information, please contact Lenore Arab for more information.

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.

NEW---Laundromats and Literacy

"Laundromats and Literacy" is a Community Outreach project to promote literacy and early reading skills to those families who use our local laundromats. We will be providing a reading corner with some donated books. This will be an easy outreach, once it gets established and one that really will help our littlest residents. It is doubtful that meetings of this group will occur and most organizing will be done through email. Come and join in this wonderful new endeavor. It is modeled after a similar AAUW program in North Carolina. For more information, contact Anne LaFianza.

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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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AAUW THOUSAND OAKS

Thousand Oaks, CA