

# The Oak Twig

Thousand Oaks Branch, Inc.

Volume 50, Issue 8

April 2016



**California Fair Pay Act**

This Act is more strict than the Equal Pay Act. California employers must pay equal wages to employees performing similar work.

The Act also allows employees to openly discuss their wages.

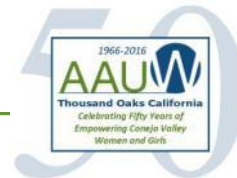
**Join us April 14th to learn more. See page 4.**

## Fun and Fundraising for 50th Anniversary Celebration

There are still a few unique opportunities to help raise funds for Tech Trek scholarships via the Branch's 50th Anniversary celebration, to take place May 21st. They include:

- Attend the celebration on May 21st and bring a friend(s) with you. See the reservation form on page 8 or online at [aauwto.org](http://aauwto.org). Tickets are \$50 for a champagne brunch — plus entertainment, guest speaker, auction items, and lots of fun!
- Encourage community businesses to support AAUW by purchasing small (\$35) ads in the event program. A solicitation letter with advertising options is available.
- Purchase a table sponsorship to advertise a personal business, honor a special person, or to simply gather a group of friends together. Table sponsorships are \$50 each.

Tech Trek is one of our Branch's most popular scholarship programs, yet there are always more applicants each year than the Branch can afford to send. You can help turn that around! Contact Jeanette Hosek about program ads or table sponsorships.



### April 2016 Events

- **\*Saturday, April 2 - Coffee and Chat.** Stella's Gourmet Restaurant, Newbury Park. 9:00 AM.
- **Monday, April 11 - 50th Anniversary Planning Committee Meeting.** Home of Wendy Hoffman. 9:30 AM
- **Tuesday, April 12 - Official Equal Pay Day.** Campus of CLU, for students. Thousand Oaks. Noon.
- **Tuesday, April 12 - Board Meeting.** Wildwood Condo Recreation Center, Thousand Oaks. 6:30 PM.
- **\*Thursday, April 14 - Equal Pay Celebration.** Cal Lutheran Overton Hall, Thousand Oaks. 7:00 PM. (see page 4)
- **Saturday, April 16 - Arbor/Earth Day Celebration.** Thousand Oaks Community Park. 10:00 AM. (see page 7)
- **April 15-17 - AAUW-CA State Convention. San Mateo, CA.** Visit website: [AAUW.CA](http://AAUW.CA)
- **\* Wednesday, April 27 - Museums and Gardens Trip: William S. Hart Park and Museum.** Newhall. 10:00 AM (see page 7)
- **\*Thursday, April 28 - Branch 50th Anniversary Oak Tree and Plaque Unveiling.** Thousand Oaks. 10:00 AM (see page 5)
- **\*Tuesday, April 29 - New Members Happy Hour Spring Fling.** Location and time TBD. (see page 7)

### May 2016 Events

- **\*Saturday, May 7 - Coffee and Chat.** Stella's Gourmet Restaurant, Newbury Park. 9:00 AM.
- **Tuesday, May 10 - Board Meeting.** Wildwood Condo Recreation Center, Thousand Oaks. 6:30 PM.
- **\* Saturday, May 21 - 50th Anniversary Brunch.** North Ranch Country Club, Thousand Oaks. 10:00 AM. (see page 8)

**\*Indicates Special Interest Group Activity.**

**\* Indicates Branch Event.**



**Visit us online at [aauwto.org](http://aauwto.org)**

## A Note from the President...

April is always an exciting month, when we anticipate the coming of longer days, warmer evenings and, soon, summertime! April is also a time to reflect upon our earnings and economic value as women, and the issue of Equal Pay.

On the evening of April 14, be sure to attend our multi-branch event at CLU, highlighting the successful work of CA Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson in sponsoring the new CA Fair Pay Act. Senator Jackson will be our special guest speaker and will share her insights on this new legislation and how it affects all of us in this state. She will also tell us about the next steps needed to minimize the inequity in pay for men and women.

Governor Jerry Brown signed the Fair Pay Act into law last October, expanding a 1963 federal regulation prohibiting companies from paying men and women differently for equal work. For example, women working as "maids" in hotels were often paid much less than men doing similar work in the same hotel, but as "custodians." The "similar work" provision is important, legal experts say, because the "equal work" rule was very narrow, allowing employers to use any differences in job responsibilities as a rationale for pay disparities.

"Most differences in pay scales between men and women aren't because they're in the same job, but because they're in female- or male-dominated job categories," said Martha West, professor of law at the UC Davis, School of Law. So, in the example of "maids vs custodians" mentioned above, these two job categories were historically and traditionally either "female" or "male" thus creating pay inequities based upon job title rather than on actual work performed.

Helping women advance not only in their salary but also in leadership roles within the structure of the company is good not just for women and their families—it's good for their companies, as well. A recent study led by the National Association of Female Executives showed companies with 30 percent women leaders have a 15 percent higher profitability rate than companies with no female leaders—and the more women there are at the top, the better the companies do!

So, as April "springs" upon us, we all need to reflect on the gains we have made in California with our new Fair Pay Act and seek those opportunities to improve our leadership roles in all aspects of both our work day and private lives! See you on Thursday, April 14 at CLU.

Sally



## March Board Meeting "Tidbits"

- We now have 160 members — a 17% increase in membership over last year. Two lifetime memberships have been requested from national.
- Due to the election of new officers and proposed dues increase, the Annual meeting will be held in connection with the 50th Anniversary brunch.
- Our Branch provided tremendous support for SOAR signature gathering. County petitions have been turned in; signatures for City of T.O. petitions are still being collected.

## Member Birthdays April



3 Barbara Gilmore  
6 Shoshana Brower  
14 Susan Fagan  
16 Tracy Eriks  
19 Lori Kissinger  
19 Lily Sugino  
23 Deborah Klein Lopez  
30 Tila Meinhart

## AAUW Thousand Oaks 2015-2016 Board of Directors

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

### Directors

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

## Sad and Glad News Concerning Our Members

from the Sunshine Committee



☀️ Sheila Sullivan has been out of circulation these many months due to a painful spinal stenosis condition. Sheila is going to the UCLA Spine Center in Beverly Hills for a second opinion on whether or not she will have surgery for this condition. She is very upset because she is missing all the “fun stuff” (her own words) at AAUW but hopes to join us all soon and be able to attend the 50th anniversary celebration in May even if she “has to come in a wheelchair.” We hope so too, Sheila, and we admire your gumption and positive attitude!

☀️ Narda Fargotstein will be a presenter at Women TechMakers Los Angeles 2016. Women TechMakers is Google’s brand and global program for women in technology. It provides visibility, community, and resources for women in technology to drive innovation and participation in the field. Their events are designed to promote an environment of inclusivity for women in technology, as well as celebrate women leading the industry. Congratulations, Narda, on being selected for this honor. We wish you continued success and growth in your chosen field.

☀️ Many of us were given a delightful treat on the evening of Tuesday, March 8 when we went to the Women’s History event at the T.O. Library, to see a performance by the students at the One Spark Academy. They portrayed several women whose accomplishments were noteworthy in the history of our country. We are indeed indebted to Lori Peters and her students for presenting us with this outstanding performance.

☀️ Megan Kissinger, daughter of our member, Lori, and husband, Glenn, has been invited to participate in the UC Women’s Initiative for Empowerment. Its goal is to improve the professional development and advancement of women who demonstrate the potential to advance their careers at the University of California. Two women, one staff and one faculty, from each UC campus, will be part of the four session program. Congratulations to Megan on this significant achievement. We applaud her ability to carry on AAUW’s mission of empowerment of women.

☀️ Linda Pochter’s 15 year old grandson, Jack Green, has earned a Black Belt in karate, which he has trained in for eight years. This is very meaningful to him because, in his own words, “it has taught him to be self-confident, more focused and protective of himself and those around him, and to trust people outside of his family.” Our congratulations to Jack on the successful achievement of this goal and our good wishes to him in pursuing additional milestones.

*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.*

## AAUW Member Appointed to County Women's Roundtable

Ventura County Supervisor Linda Parks has appointed AAUW member Dr. Anne Beaubrun, as a regional representative to the Ventura County Women's Economic Roundtable. Anne joined the Thousand Oaks Branch this past fall and is jumping into several leadership roles. AAUW President Sally Hibbitts wrote a letter in support of Anne's appointment to this important post.



The 10-member Women's Economic Roundtable (WER) is composed of women appointed by the County Board of Supervisors to address pay equity issues, educational opportunities and career advancement for women in Ventura County. The group links together existing regional women's organizations to further its mission of enhancing the economic status of women, coordinating efforts and sharing resources. Dr. Beaubrun is a research Epidemiologist at Amgen and AAUW is proud to have her represent our Branch with this important county organization.



**AAUW Thousand Oaks, California Lutheran University, and the  
Office of Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson  
invite you to**

# **AN EQUAL PAY CELEBRATION!**



**Thursday, April 14, 2016**

**7:00 - 9:00 PM**

**Overton Hall, Memorial Parkway at Regent Avenue, California Lutheran University**

(Free general parking in main lot at corner of Mt. Clef/Olsen Road and  
accessible street parking on Memorial Parkway or Regent Avenue)

A new era for women arrived when the California Fair Pay Act, the nation's strongest equal pay law, was signed by Governor Jerry Brown last fall. This ground-breaking legislation was authored by Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson (D-Santa Barbara) who will be the guest speaker at this celebration. AAUW California was a strong advocate for this legislation.

Senator Jackson will share the story of the fight for pay equity in California, what it means for women and the state, and what our next steps should be in the ongoing struggle for equality. Come and celebrate with us and thank Senator Jackson for her hard work serving the women and families of California!

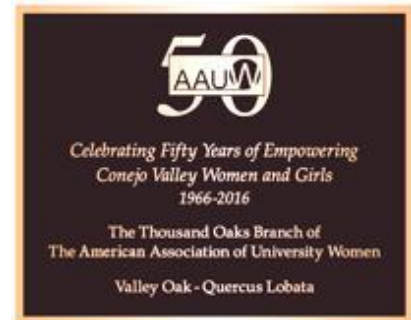
**California Lutheran**  
UNIVERSITY

## AAUW Commemorative Oak to be Planted April 28



Kick off the Branch's 50th Anniversary celebration by attending the planting of an oak tree, with a commemorative plaque, on Thursday, April 28 at 10:00 AM.

The site will be at the corner of Erbes and Avendia De Los Arboles. There is no street parking in this area: park your car in the Von's parking lot close to the Starbucks coffee shop. There is a walkway next to Starbucks which will bring you up to Erbes. Cross Erbes to the opposite corner. Arboles and Erbes is a very busy intersection, so be careful in crossing the street.



Special thanks go to Marilyn Carpenter for contributing the oak tree, Joan Edwards for making a substantial contribution to the plaque, Melissa Cam for handling all the details of the casting and the City of Thousand Oaks for handling the details of the planting.

## Pay Equity: Why has There Been Such Little Progress?

This month, as AAUW looks forward to promoting the importance of equal pay for women, there is disturbing new research finding that the pay gap between men and women is a deeply held cultural structure. The evidence suggests that "Work done by women simply isn't valued as highly" as that done by men. This phenomenon exists "even though women are better educated than men, have nearly as much work experience and often pursue high-paying careers."

A study at Cornell University found that when women enter fields that were previously dominated by men, pay declines. Hourly wages were reduced significantly in fields as varied as a ticket agent, parks/recreation staff, a designer and biologist when the job went from predominately male to female. When the job is in the same field, there continues to be a pay gap. "Female physicians earn 71% of what male physicians earn and lawyers earn 82%."

While raising the minimum wage and legislating equal pay are policies being pursued to narrow the gap, there is more work to be done on a variety of fronts.

Source:

*New York Times*

*The Upshot, March 18, 2016*

*Economic View By Claire Cain Miller*

**Public Policy**



**Reminder: Your AAUW dues renewal is coming July 1st!**

*Stepping Up  
and Speaking Out!*

## Mission Statement of AAUW

Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) is the nation's leading voice promoting equity and education for women and girls. Since our founding in 1881, AAUW members have examined and taken positions on the fundamental issues of the day — educational, social, economic, and political.



## AAUW Needs You! Expand Your Involvement



Our Thousand Oaks Branch of AAUW will formally elect its 2016-2017 leadership team at the upcoming Branch Meeting and 50th Anniversary Celebration, planned for May 21st at the North Ranch Country Club.

The Nominating Committee encourages you to look for ways to lend a hand next year and expand your involvement. Opportunities abound! Check page five of the current Membership Directory for ideas about where your interests and talents might best be applied.

Questions? Contact Sally Hibbitts or Marilyn Carpenter

IF YOU THINK YOU'RE TOO  
SMALL TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE  
YOU HAVEN'T SPENT A NIGHT  
WITH A MOSQUITO.  
- AFRICAN PROVERB

## 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."

Donna and Pattie have been using Microsoft Publisher to produce the *Oak Twig* and would be happy to share their skills concerning this program. Please contact either Pattie or Donna if you're interested.

Remember, as editor, you're always up to date on the Branch news and happenings!



## SOAR Volunteers Still Needed in Thousand Oaks



**SOAR**  
SAVE OPEN SPACE & AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

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, contact **Yvonne Brockwell or Joan Edwards**. We will supply you with petitions and information.

## Museums and Gardens Group Heads to Newhall in April

The 1925 silent film "Tumbleweeds," about the Oklahoma land rush started in 1889, was the last of William S. Hart's 69 pictures. Yet this largely-forgotten star from the early days of motion picture history left an extraordinary legacy, one that few Hollywood celebrities of any era could match: the William S. Hart Park and Museum, a gift to the public that had made him one of the top-grossing movie actors in the world from 1914 to the mid-1920s.



This 166-acre park consists of eight early-20th-century buildings on what was once a working ranch; a collection of farm animals; a herd of bison; a picnic area; and four miles of hiking trails. And atop a hill affording views of the surrounding Santa Clarita Valley is the museum, a 22-room Spanish Colonial Revival mansion that Mr. Hart called home for the last 19 years of his life.

The Hart mansion is that rare thing in the museum world: the home of a famous person that has become a historic house museum with no intervening owners. Also, most of the original contents are intact: not just the furnishings, but intimate objects associated with the man himself.

On Wednesday, April 27, we will depart at 10:00 AM from the Barnes and Noble in Westlake and return prior to 4:00 PM. We will plan to have a fun, pot luck picnic lunch on the beautiful grounds. Your cost is your share of the gasoline costs to your driver, and your contribution to the picnic lunch. The museum is free.



Please contact Sally Hibbitts if you're interested in this wonderful trip to one of the great Hollywood mansions from a bygone era! All members/guests are welcome.

## Help Promote AAUW at April's Arbor/Earth Day Event

Your help is needed to reach out to the community during the City of Thousand Oaks' annual Arbor/Earth Day Celebration, set for Saturday April 16 at the Thousand Oaks Community Park.



Help us promote our AAUW Branch by distributing Rachel Carson bookmarks to the families who attend this wonderful spring event! It's always a lot of fun, especially to see the children get excited about promoting a healthy and clean environment.

There are short, two-hour shifts available from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Come and enjoy the day! For more information, contact Susan Fagan.



*Attention  
New Members:  
SAVE THE DATE!*

**Tuesday, April 29th**

**New Members'  
Happy Hour Spring Fling!**

**Watch your mail  
for your invitation  
with all the details**

## *Please Join Us in Celebration!*

### **50th Anniversary of AAUW - Thousand Oaks Branch**



**Saturday, May 21st**  
10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

**North Ranch Country Club**  
4761 Valley Spring Road  
Westlake Village, California

*Enjoy a glass of champagne with friends, old and new,  
as we gather to celebrate and remember fifty years of  
AAUW programs and projects in the Conejo Valley community*

Guest speaker Michaela Reaves, PhD. California Lutheran University Historian

Musical Program: Thousand Oaks High School Vocal Ensemble, directed by Janna Santangelo

A festive brunch, photo video, memorabilia displays and Branch recognitions will complete the event

**Tickets are \$50 per person**  
**Proceeds to benefit Tech Trek scholarships and local programs**

*Join us. It won't be a celebration without you!*

Make your reservation by printing this invitation and returning the tear-off section below

#### **AAUW-THOUSAND OAKS 50th ANNIVERSARY BRUNCH –MAY 21, 2016**

*Please Print*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

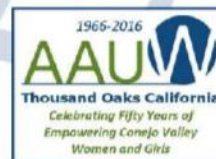
EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF TICKETS at \$50 each: \_\_\_\_\_ BRUNCH CHECK ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I am unable to attend but will contribute \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the  
Tech Trek scholarship fund. My check is enclosed.

***Please make checks payable to AAUW T.O. • RSVP due by May 14th***

Mail your check and completed form to:  
Wendy Hoffman • 330 Somerset Circle • Thousand Oaks, CA 91360



For questions or further information, contact Wendy Hoffman: 805-496-2764 or Jeanette Hosek: 805-523-3488



## Brighter Horizons 2016 an Inspiring Success!

Another successful Brighter Horizons has come and gone! More than 550 students attended 35 workshops, where they were exposed to fascinating experiments and inspiring role models. The goal of Brighter Horizons is to keep students involved in math and science at their current grade level by giving them a passion and purpose to stay engaged through high school, college and beyond.



Parents also benefited from informative sessions held just for the adults. Topics included "Finding a College that Fits" and "Jobs of the Future."

None of this could have happened without months of hard work by the BH planning committee, led by Betty Nordahl. The day-of volunteers also provided an invaluable service. There were so many people from the Thousand Oaks, Simi Valley and Camarillo AAUW branches [see the list of Thousand Oaks Branch volunteers below] who served as workshop hosts and student registration workers.

We are very proud of our fabulous volunteers from the Thousand Oaks Branch of AAUW. All of you provided valuable assistance on the morning of Brighter Horizons. A HUGE and VERY SINCERE thank you to the following people:

Melanie Ashen  
Anne Beaubrun  
Fran Blair  
Nina Bublit  
Connie Carman  
Marilyn Carpenter  
Peg DeRose  
Marianne Escaron

Deanna Franke  
Debbie Gately  
Sally Hibbitts  
Jeannette Hosek  
Yvonne Lux  
Mini Madan  
Lori Mahoney  
Leesa McBurnie

Betty Nordahl  
Lori Peters  
Dorothy Robinson  
Bonnie Shubb  
Betty Stapleford  
Lydia Steadman  
Joan Udani  
Susie Wedel

## DREAMers Within Our Borders

Imagine for a moment that you are a teenager and have just discovered you're not really an American citizen and could be deported at any time... to a country you don't even remember. You also learn you will not be able to get a legal drivers license or a job.

That is the situation for a number of students in the high schools of the Conejo Valley.

Now, imagine you could help that young person to learn about the rights that she or he could have under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Act. Imagine helping this young person feel supported and safe around other students and around school staff members.

If you would like to connect with other AAUW members who are trying to find ways to help these undocumented students in our community, please contact Betty Stapleford, Anne LaFianza, or Sally Hibbitts. We need your help!



To learn more, visit <https://citizenpath.com/california-universities-dreamers-resource-centers/>

## March 2016 Women's History Event Thousand Oaks Library



Students from One Spark Academy portrayed the 2016 "Profiles of Women." Soshana Brower (as Clara Barton) and Jeanette Hosek (as Amelia Earhart) presented the girls with gifts after their performance.



Jana Covell, Adult Services Supervisor for the Thousand Oaks Library, became an AAUW Named Gift Honoree for her valued assistance to community groups.



Lisa Okazaki, Park Ranger from the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, watches as students portray the story of female park rangers during the National Park Service's 100th anniversary.



Clara Barton and Annie Oakley (aka Soshana Brower and Bev Khoshnevisan) were on hand to celebrate the 30th anniversary of AAUW Thousand Oaks' Women in History Project.

The League of Women Voters of Ventura County Invites YOU to

### An Educational Forum on "Our Aging Roads and Bridges: Ventura County's Way Forward"

Friday, April 29  
9:30 a.m. - Coffee  
10:00 a.m. - Program

Ventura County Office of Education  
5100 Adolfo Road, Salon C, Camarillo

This is an educational forum to explore the status of our transportation infrastructure, the critical needs for additional maintenance and improvements, and alternatives for filling the gap between what is and what we'd like to see.

Open to the public at no cost.  
No RSVP required.

**Invited speakers:**

- ◆ Senator Fran Pavley, (D-27)
- ◆ Keith Millhouse, Member, So Cal Assn. of Governments, Metrolink, Moorpark City Council
- ◆ Darren Kettle, Executive Director, Ventura County Transportation Commission
- ◆ David Fleisch, Director, Transportation Department, Ventura County Public Works Agency

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF VENTURA COUNTY**

**DANGER  
AGING  
INFRASTRUCTURE**

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

### Daytime Literature Group

Join us for a lively discussion on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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:

April 25: *Still Alice* by Lisa Genova

May 23: *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr

June 22: We will discuss next year's books.

### Evening Literature Group

The Evening Literature Group meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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:

April 21: *Lady in Gold* by Anne Marie O'Connor

May 19: *Brain On Fire* by Susannah Callahan

June 16: *The Rent Collector* by Cameron Wright

### 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.

**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.**

### Reminder:

**Your AAUW dues renewal is coming July 1st!**

### 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 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 **Wednesday, April 27** the group will visit the William S. Hart Park and Museum, in Newhall. (see page 7)

**Contact Pat O'Donnell or Sally Hibbitts.**

### Our Community Environment

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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

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.**

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



## Great Gift Ideas from AAUW



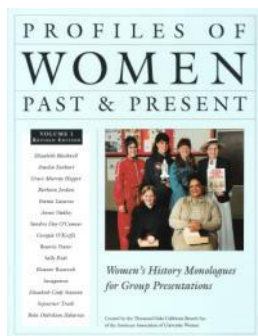
Do you have a hard-to-buy-for person on your gift list? We've got three great ideas for you!



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.**



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.**

### 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 20<sup>th</sup> of each month prior to publication.

## 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* appears on our Branch website, [auwto.org](http://auwto.org), without our members' personal information.

## Ralph's Markets Support Your AAUW Branch!

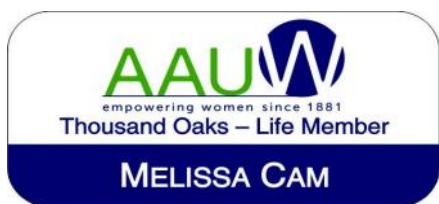
Attention all Ralph's shoppers: You may not be aware but over this last year, the very small number of AAUW members who are registered in the Ralph's Community Contribution Program have contributed about \$250.00 to our Branch. This is actually quite a bit of money as we may only have about three or 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.



## Order New Name Tags



For information contact Judi Robinson.



## 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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