



The Oak Twig

Thousand Oaks Branch, Inc.

Volume 50, Issue 1

August/September 2015



*Stepping Up
and Speaking Out*

Please Join Us ...

AAUW Thousand Oaks 49th Annual Fall Breakfast

**Saturday,
September 19th**

8:00 AM
Moorpark Country Club

(see pages 4, 5 & 6)

FUN RAISE HER

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18TH

3:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Home of Larry Janss



(see pages 5 & 6)

Visit us online at aauwto.org

August 2015 Events

- **Monday, August 31 - Fall Breakfast Committee Meeting,** Home of Sharon Dyers, 10:00 AM.

September 2015 Events

- **Saturday, September 5 - Coffee and Chat.** Stella's Gourmet Restaurant, Newbury Park. 9:00 AM. (see page 18 for driving directions)
- **Tuesday, September 8 - Board Meeting.** Wildwood Condo Recreation Center, Thousand Oaks, 6:30 PM. (see page 18 for driving directions)
- **Wednesday, September 9 - Fun Raise Her Committee Meeting.** Home of Judy Robinson, 7:00 PM.
- **Thursday, September 17 - Fiftieth Anniversary Planning Committee Meeting.** Home of Wendy Hoffman, Thousand Oaks, 10:30 AM. (see page 10)
- **Saturday, September 19 - Annual Fall Breakfast.** Moorpark Country Club, Moorpark, 8:00 AM. (see pages 4, 5, & 6)

October 2015 Events

- **Saturday, October 3 - Coffee and Chat.** Stella's Gourmet Restaurant, Newbury Park. 9:00 AM.
- **Saturday, October 10 - AAUW/CLU/ IEEE Players of the Light Event,** CLU, 11:30 AM - 3:00 PM. (see page 7)
- **Tuesday, October 13 - Board Meeting.** Wildwood Condo Recreation Center, Thousand Oaks, 6:30 PM.
- **Wednesday, October 14 - Jacqui Irwin & AAUW: Financial Literacy,** CSUCI, 7:00 PM. (see page 13)
- **Sunday, October 18 - Fun Raise Her.** Home of Larry Janss, Thousand Oaks, 3:00 PM. (see pages 5 & 6)
- **Saturday, October 24 - Womentum Conference,** CSUCI, 9:00 AM.

Save These Dates

- **Monday, November 2, 2015 - Library Panel One City One Book AAUW Branch Meeting,** 6:30 PM.
- **Saturday, March 12, 2016 - Brighter Horizons Math, Science and Technology Conference,** California Lutheran University, Thousand Oaks. (see page 3)
- **Sunday, December 5 - Branch Holiday Party,** Home of Liz Priedkalns, 5:00 PM

A Note from the President...

We are "Stepping Up and Speaking Out" for AAUW!

Thank you for electing me as your new president for the upcoming year. I trust that I will continue the extraordinary level of excellence established by so many, and far abler women, prior to me! I'm definitely looking forward to addressing my new responsibilities in a positive and forthright manner, in order to keep to the high standards of this amazing organization.

Our theme for this year is one that I have selected because it personifies what I believe AAUW has always tried to do.... "Step Up and Speak Out" about all sorts of issues, programs, and problems, not only in the Conejo Valley, but across our state and nation. The common thread to these many issues has been, and will continue to always be, promoting our mission of improving life for women and girls.

In the past, we have become involved with many local issues such as: prevention of the county airport expansion, creation of the Thousand Oaks Master Plan, restrictions on the scope of the Oaks Mall, actively campaigning for the Slow Growth Measure A, and don't forget our highly public push for the expansion and building of our fabulous library....remember the old tiny place on Wilbur Road? Today, we are continuing our tradition of "Stepping Up and Speaking Out" about improving Title IX equity in our local schools, humanizing conditions for undocumented women, networking for Reproductive Health, promoting more STEM programs in our universities, and establishing an environment in which all living creatures can flourish now and in the future.

Our recent past president, Linda Pochter, and her committee have planned a fabulous Fall Breakfast for September 19th. (see pages 4, 5 & 6) Once again we will be "Stepping Up and Speaking Out," this time for public education, as we welcome our keynote speaker, Superintendent Ann Bonitatibus of the Conejo Valley School District. (see Bio on page 6) She is the first female superintendent for our local district and will be making one of her first major public appearances at our function.

Learning the necessary skills of "Stepping Up and Speaking Out" in a political career is the focus for our **Fun Raise Her** on October 18th. This afternoon event will be held in the art-filled home of Larry Janss, where we will enjoy a little live jazz while sipping some wine. The lack of younger women candidates at all levels of government is a concern AAUW takes seriously. Therefore, national AAUW has created a fabulous new

non-partisan program to support and train university-aged women to become more active in their student body elections. (see pages 5 & 6)

Our dedicated Director of Programs, Narda Fargotstein, and her committee have been working all summer creating some really outstanding and intellectually stimulating programs for the upcoming year. Most of these will be free and open to the public, so be sure to invite your friends. If you haven't started to read the One City One Book (OCOB) selection, *The Unknown Americans*, you may want to do so as our November 2nd program will be an outstanding panel discussion at the library. With this program, we will be "Stepping Up and Speaking Out" about the number of local high school age girls who live in the shadows of the undocumented world.

Please join us at all of the above events this fall, as we all continue our 50 years of tradition by proudly "Stepping Up and Speaking Out" for our AAUW mission to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

New Home for Board!

Thanks to the quick thinking of our long time member, Melissa Cam, the Board of Directors has a new home for its monthly meetings! We will be at the Wildwood Condominium Recreation Room on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM. This facility is convenient, centrally located, and the best part...it's free! Thank you Melissa, for helping us find a new and much more appropriate location. The library was becoming a hassle due to its shortened evening hours. For directions see page 17 or contact Sally Hibbits.

AAUW Thousand Oaks 2015-2016 Board of Directors

President	Sally Hibbits
Vice President	Marilyn Carpenter (one-year term: not President Elect)
Secretary	Sharon Dyer
Treasurer	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



☀ Martha Nielson celebrated her 95th birthday on July 11th. Congratulations, Martha, on reaching this milestone. May you celebrate many more birthdays in good health and happy days.

☀ Donna Langley and husband, Keith, have become first-time grandparents. Their only son, Jeff, and his wife, Pia, are the proud parents of a son, Markus, born on July 16th in San Luis Obispo. We congratulate Donna and the entire family and hope this child will be an ever-abiding source of joy and pride to them all.

☀ Pat O'Donnell had knee replacement surgery on June 8th. She is currently undergoing physical therapy which has been hampered somewhat by issues with her back and a sciatica condition. Not one to be held back by minor (or major) physical disabilities, Pat and her husband, Mike, are planning a trip to Italy and France in the fall, which Pat considers a great motivator. Carry on, Pat! We hope your recovery will continue unimpeded and we wish you a delightful European trip.

☀ Update on Pearl Solomon: Pearl remains at Mary Health of the Sick Home and is expected to remain there for another 3 months. The best times to visit are between 11:00 AM-12:00 N or 2:00 PM-3:00 PM, but it is suggested that you call first to ascertain the activity schedule. Dinner is at 6:00 PM. (See page 17 for address and phone number.) We hope Pearl will heal quickly and have an uneventful recovery.

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.



**WELCOME TO OUR
NEWEST MEMBERS**

(see page 17)

SAVE THE DATE! MARCH 12, 2016



Brighter Horizons Math, Science and Technology Conference will take place on Saturday, March 12, 2016 at California Lutheran University, 60 West Olsen Rd, Thousand Oaks, CA. Come join us for a great morning of learning and fun!

For workshop leader information visit our webpage at <http://www.aauw-brighterhorizons.org/>

Member Birthdays

August

Ann Berry	3
JoAnn Jones	5
Nancy Lehnardt	7
Pearl Solomon	8
Gerri Wissot	14
Clauda Bill-de la Pena	24
Wendy Hoffman	28
Claudia Spelman	30

September

Cynthia Perry	3
Pat Helton	4
Ed Jones	6
Patricia Gross	9
Angela Cutbill	14
Phyllis Benson	16
Kathleen Heller	17
Sue Pelman	19
Christine Nuttall	22
Narda Fargotstein	23
Betsy Berry	26
Dianna Campbell	26
Colleen Briner-Schmidt	27
Betty Nordahl	30



*Stepping Up
and
Speaking Out*

Please Join Us ...
AAUW
Thousand Oaks
49th Annual
Fall Breakfast

Saturday, September 19th

Moorpark Country Club

11800 Championship Drive

Moorpark, CA

(Driving directions on page 19)



8:00 AM Registration Begins, plus:
 Special Interest Groups, Branch Support Groups,
 Collection for Casa Pacifica, and
 Ticket Sales for "Fun Raise Her."

8:45 AM Hot Buffet Breakfast

9:30 AM Welcome and Program Begins

Special Guest Speaker

Making one of her first major public appearances in our area, Dr. Ann Bonitatibus, the new Superintendent of the Conejo Unified School District, will provide us with her valuable insights as she "Steps Up and Speaks Out" about public education. Dr. Bonitatibus is the first female superintendent of our local school district and she brings a fresh and unique approach in her management style. Don't miss the more detailed article about Dr. Bonitatibus in the *Oak Twig*. (see page 6)



Dr. Ann Bonitatibus

\$35.00 per person. RSVP due by September 11th.

Please use registration form on following page or register on our website: aauwto.org.



Casa Pacifica serves abused and neglected children and adolescents, and those with severe emotional, social, behavioral and mental health challenges here in Ventura County.

Please bring a generous donation to the Fall Membership Breakfast for Angels Cottage, which houses girls ages 12-18. Suggested needs are toiletries, such as shampoo, conditioner, face wash, body lotion and fun hair accessories and jewelry that teenagers would like. Also gift cards are welcome for Target and Bed, Bath and Beyond. There are wish lists posted on casapacifica.org.

FUN RAISE HER

Don't miss out on the very limited ticket availability for ***Fun Raise Her: Supporting Tomorrow's Leaders on Sunday, October 18th from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM*** at the private home of Larry Janss in Thousand Oaks. This unique opportunity will focus on fund raising while appreciating an amazing art collection, enjoying a glass of terrific wine, and all while listening to the mellow sounds of live jazz!

The event will solicit funds for "Elect Her - Campus Women Win," which is a new non-partisan program for AAUW FUNDS. This new program provides training and ongoing support for college and university women to run for student body government positions and pursue a future in public service as an elected official.

Purchase \$50.00 tickets with cash, check or on the Branch website, aauwto.org, with credit card.



REGISTRATION *Please Print*

_____ Yes, I look forward to attending the Fall Breakfast and have included my check for \$35.00 per ticket.

_____ Yes, I can help defray the cost for a Tech Trek scholarship winner to attend this event and am enclosing an additional \$35.00 per winner, to cover the ticket(s).

_____ Sorry, I am unable to attend. I am enclosing a contribution to AAUW TO.

My Name: _____

My Guests' Name(s): _____

My telephone number and email: _____

Total Number Attending: _____ @ \$35.00 each

Amount of Check Enclosed (ticket(s) plus Donation, if desired): \$ _____

Make checks payable to AAUW-TO and mail, along with this form, to Vera King or register online at aauwto.org.

RSVP deadline is Friday, September 11, 2015.

For further information, contact Linda Pochter.

A Little About Dr. Ann Bonitatibus



Late one May evening, the local CVUSD Board announced their decision as to whom they had selected to be the new district superintendent. Surprisingly, they selected an outsider to our area and even more surprisingly, in some ways, a woman! Her name is Dr. Ann Bonitatibus. She has recently moved here from the East

Coast and has kindly agreed to be our keynote speaker at the Fall Breakfast on September 19th. This speaking opportunity will mark one of her first public appearances in the Conejo Area and we are all quite excited to welcome her that morning!

So, who is this new education leader? "Dr. Ann" arrives here with more than twenty-eight years of experience in the public schools, as well as an unwavering commitment to do what is best for all students. Her teaching background was at the secondary level having taught English and Mathematics in grades 9-12.

Her university educational background started with a B.S. in communications education from Indiana University in Pennsylvania, followed by her M.S. in school administration. Three years ago she completed her Doctor of Education in organizational leadership from the University of Pennsylvania.

Over ten years of site administrative experience at both the middle school and high school levels were followed by several years of central office leadership as the director of high schools in a 12,000 student enrollment-sized district in Frederick County, Maryland. In this position, she saw the development and implementation of STEM programs, served as liaison officer to several area colleges for transitioning students, and expanded the use of online courses. Her final position in Maryland was as the Chief Operating Officer, overseeing a wide variety of departments serving 66 schools with a total of 40,000 students.

Dr. Ann is excited to be moving to the West Coast as one of her sisters lives in southern California, but she will travel back to New York to visit her twin nieces. She also enjoys traveling, playing the clarinet, and being an avid Pittsburgh Steelers fan!



WOW!!! Are You Ready to Sip, See, and Sway?

SAVE THE DATE
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18th
3:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Sip, See, and Sway? Well, that is what all ticketed guests will be able to do from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM on the afternoon of **Sunday, October 18th**.

Mr. Larry Janss of Thousand Oaks is opening his art filled residence for our **"Fun Raise Her: Supporting Tomorrow's Leaders"** for a fabulous wine and live jazz focused afternoon. This unique opportunity will center on fund raising while appreciating an amazing art collection, enjoying a glass of terrific wine, and all while listening to the mellow sounds of live jazz! Limited tickets will go on sale in early September and you'll be able to purchase them for \$50 each at The Annual Fall Breakfast on September 19th or online at www.aauwto.org!



This major event will solicit funds for "Elect Her--- Campus Women Win" which is a new non-partisan program for AAUW FUNDS (501.c3). This new program provides training and ongoing support for college and university women to run for student body government positions and pursue a future in public service as elected officials. AAUW will be partnering with regional colleges and universities to provide this amazing program. AAUW FUNDS addresses the need for more female candidates in both major parties, by expanding the pipeline of women running for office and helping to diminish the longstanding political leadership gender gap.



After September 5th, watch for ticket updates via our web site www.aauwto.org. There is limited availability for tickets and they will be sold on a first come, first served basis.

For more information or how you can help out with this fun event, please contact Sally Hibbitts

PLAYERS OF THE LIGHT EVENT

Inspiring girls to play a role in science, technology, engineering and math

Oct 10, 2015

CLU, 60 Olsen Road

Thousand Oaks, CA

11:30 am to 3 pm



LEARN HOW TO
CREATE LIGHT
SENSE LIGHT
SHAPE LIGHT
GUIDE LIGHT

Register at

www.introtoengineering.Eventbrite.com

Girls age 11 to 15 will become scientists for a day and use the properties of light to create emitting or light sensing tools that they will integrate into a light show for their parents to enjoy at the end of the program.

Parents will learn how their daughters can pursue careers in science and engineering, how they will change the world in these fields, what they can do in the early years to make college entrance easier in science or engineering programs.

Connected for the long term - This exposure won't stop at the end of the day. For girls and parents interested, the IEEE Buena Ventura Section will facilitate conversations with college students in engineering, professors in engineering, and we will invite you to all the events and talks organized by us so that Engineering becomes your destiny.

With the participation of the IEEE Photonics Society, the IEEE Buena Ventura Section, the Engineering in Medicine Society, the California Lutheran University, the Ventura County Office of Education, the American Association of University Women, TO Branch, Members of Women in Engineering, and the Society of Women Engineers.

THIS IS
OUR DAY
TO BE A
SCIENTIST
AND
A LIGHT
SHOW
PRODUCER

Trek to Tech Trek at UCSB



Two Tech Trek girls and their families at Orientation.



Two Tech Trek campers working on a project to teach cause and effect



Two senior counselors completing a poster project for the dorm.



Do you know what "Rotational Encoding" is? Well, these Tech Trek campers sure do!



(Clockwise) Sally Hibbits, Melanie Ashen, Marilyn Carpenter, Lori Kissinger, Betty Nordahl, Sharon Dyer, and Bonnie Shubb enjoying lunch at The Cliff House at Mussel Shoals on the beach between Ventura and Carpinteria after the "Trek!"



In front are Betty Nordahl and Bonnie Shubb observing the live feed transmission at UCSB from the submarine Nautilus, explaining underwater sea volcanoes and the highly unique sea life related to those areas.

Branch Committees

Members who wish to support the overall mission of the Branch are encouraged to help out on these very important committees. Your involvement supports the Branch Director/Board Member who is responsible for a specific area. We really need your help!!!

Membership Team

Did you feel a little "lost" when you joined our Branch? This group will help expand the work of our terrific Membership Director, Judi Robinson, in a new direction by providing additional support for our many new members as they learn to navigate the benefits of our great organization. This will be a help to all of us as we strive to maintain and increase our membership. You'll make many new friends who have amazing lives to share with all! With our Membership Team, the growth of our Branch will be maintained. **Contact Judi Robinson.**

AAUW FUNDS Team

Working with our FUNDS Director, Jeanette Hosek, your assistance will help the Branch expand our outreach in new directions as we seek financial support for our many endeavors. We are looking to expand our mission directly into the community with increased contact for grant and foundation money to support not only Tech Trek and Brighter Horizons, but also more local scholarships as well as our traditional groups, such as LAF and EF. This will be a wonderful way for you to improve your skills in public speaking, grant writing, organizational activities, etc. Put those hidden talents that you would like to use or want to further develop to good work while learning from that experience! **Contact Jeanette Hosek**

Tech Trek Team

Contact Linda Pochter and Deanna Franke

Women's History Team

Contact Marianne Escaron

Title IX Team

Contact Sally Hibbitts

Public Policy (Special Study of Common Core) Team

Contact Lori Kissinger

Brighter Horizons and STEM Team

Contact Betty Nordahl

College/University Partnership Students Team

Contact Narda Fargotstein and Deanna Franke

Local Scholarships Team

Contact Deanna Franke

AAUW FUNDS Report

As of June 30th, our Branch members have contributed \$2313 to the various projects of AAUW Funds. The three endowments that the Branch has established over the years now have a value of \$103,600. The three women who received awards from our endowments for 2015-2016 have just been announced. The American Fellow award went Parisa Mansourifard, PhD, in Electrical Engineering at USC. The Marilyn Carpenter Career Development award went to Fay Chang, California College of the Arts in San Francisco, and the Ann Bratmon Community Action grant went to Ashley Greenway of Central Coast Link Girls Circle in Paso Robles. More information about these women will appear in the next Oak Twig. **Remember, you can donate to AAUW FUNDS at any time by contacting Jeanette Hosek, Funds Director, or by going to www.aauw.org.**

Public Policy

AAUW connects advocates at all levels to support empowerment of women and girls. Tap into your inner activist as you track AAUW focus issues of Equity, Economic Self-Sufficiency, Quality Education, and Individual Rights. Sign up for Action Alerts and make your voice heard. Visit www.aauw.org/actionnetwork and enroll in the CA Action Alert system. You can be a **TWO MINUTE ACTIVIST**. Yes, in just two minutes you can respond to legislation currently under consideration and connect with members of Congress.

Look for the Public Policy Program Brochure at the Fall Breakfast for detailed information.

Common Core Study Group



How many times have you heard references to the Common Core State Standards or been asked, "What do you think of Common

Core?" It is hard to answer that question when you are out of the classroom but need some quality information. You cannot depend on the media and political stands. So, AAUW is joining with Delta Kappa Gamma to learn about the standards. We will meet once a month and when we are through, we will be able to answer the question for ourselves. Look for the signup sheet at the Fall Breakfast and become informed. **Contact Lori Kissinger, Public Policy Director.**

Visit us online at aauwto.org

Fiftieth Anniversary Planning Committee: We Need You!



The next meeting of the planning committee for the Branch's 50th anniversary will be at Wendy Hoffman's home on ,Thursday, September 17th at 10:30 AM.

Do you have the talents to share with the Branch? We are looking for:

- A writer for the program notes....
- A solicitor for program sponsor ads.....
- An interest in music....a singer, a performer, a pianist
- A videographer to work with photos and Branch history articles
- A user of "e-vite," or other digital programs to design invitations and manage reservations.

Lots to do... and less than a year to get it done. We need your help! It's fun to get involved and you don't need to attend all committee meetings if times don't work for you. **Contact Wendy or Jeanette Hosek to volunteer.**



**A
A
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W**

Thousand Oaks, CA

For More Info:

Sally Hibbits, President
AAUW Thousand Oaks
805-750-3119
sjhibbits@aol.com
www.aauwto.org

Reach Out to Women Through Advertising !

**American Association of University Women.
Thousand Oaks Branch**

Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research since 1881.

AAUW Thousand Oaks in celebration of its 50th Anniversary is making available limited advertising sponsorships. Be one of the businesses to advertise in the monthly *AAUW Oak Twig E-Newsletter*, our organizational website, and the Yearly Membership Directory.

Our predominately female membership is locally based, well educated, family oriented, community aware, environmentally attentive, and physically energetic! Distribution is to the 140 strong membership base from Newbury Park to Woodland Hills, including Moorpark.

For a limited time the following options are offered:

Option A---*Oak Twig E-Newsletter* (monthly) and website space for business card size advertising space is only \$125.00 per year (ten issues). Format in JPEG or provide business card for scanning.

Option B---2015-16 Membership Directory space for the September release is only \$50 for business card size ad or \$100 for full page ad. Format in JPEG or provide business card for scanning.

Option C---Combo pack (Newsletter, web page, and full page in the Membership Directory) for only \$200.00.

Option D---Special "Fun Raise Her: Supporting Tomorrow's Leaders" Major Event on October 18 and 50th Anniversary Gala Event on May 21. Select audience for special events. Pricing details are available, upon request.



AAUW 50th Anniversary Valley Oak

AAUW Thousand Oaks will be celebrating it's 50th anniversary in 2016 by planting a young valley oak tree, which is being donated by our very own Charter Member, Marilyn Carpenter. The toddler, *Quercus lobata*, is currently in Marilyn's back yard, in a planter, and is busily getting ready to be planted on a welcoming corner in Thousand Oaks next to a plaque commemorating our first 50 years.

We already have several suggestions of possible corners on which to plant our young oak tree. Most are on Thousand Oaks Blvd., several on Hillcrest Dr. and some on Moorpark Rd.

If you have a suggestion for such a corner, it needs to be near a sidewalk, and have some water access for at least the first year. Please send your ideas to Joan Edwards. We will submit our list to Kevin Wilson, our city forester, for a final decision.

AAUW Thousand Oaks Takes Role in the World Games 2015



Special Olympics
**WORLD
GAMES**
LOS ANGELES 2015

Thank you to AAUW Volunteers at Special Olympics Host Town Days

This July, Thousand Oaks was proud to be the Host Town for four teams in the Special Olympics World Games. Those teams were: San Marino, Kazakhstan, The Grenadines and St. Thomas. Approximately 85 athletes from these countries, as well as their coaches and interpreters were here for three days as they acclimated themselves prior to the games beginning July 25th in Los Angeles.

A group of enthusiastic AAUW members patiently waited and escorted athletes from the California Lutheran University dorms (where they were staying) to their training areas on days 2 and 3. In addition, they spent hours with them in the afternoon playing games, smiling and showing appreciation for their skills as athletes, and making them feel welcome in our fair city.

Those wonderful volunteers who deserve a big thank you are: Annette Broersma, Sally Hibbitts, Linda Pochter, Jeanette Hosek, Wendy Hoffman, Shoshana Brower, Liz Priedkalns, Joan Edwards, Nina Bublitz, Tila Meinhart, and Fran Blair. Several of these great supporters also trekked down to Los Angeles to watch the games as well.

We are all busy people, but these athletes were blown away by the enthusiasm and kindness shown by our AAUW volunteers. On behalf of the city of Thousand Oaks, the Conejo Recreation and Parks District, and the City Council, thank you all for your part in this important event! **A huge thank you to Annette Broersma for leading our volunteer effort.**



Visit us online at aauwto.org

Adopt a Poll June 2nd



Back row (l to r). Sally Hibbitts, Jeanette Hosek, Bill Hosek, Sue Pelman and front row (l to r) Joan Edwards and Wendy Hoffman

An early morning set-up time required a group of very dedicated members to rise bright and early for our volunteer job of running a precinct polling station and earning much needed income for our operating budget. Working in shifts were poll workers:

Colleen Briner-Schmidt, Audrey Giuffrida, Vera King, Jeanette Hosek, Joan Edwards, Patrice O'Donnell, Deanna Franke, Wendy Hoffman and Linda Pochter. Poll Inspector was Sally Hibbitts. A bigger than normal thank you also to the wonderful Colleen for helping out for two shifts! Colleen is Queen of the AVC Edge, that's for sure! Also thanks to Bill Hosek for being the "heavy lifter" at 6:00 AM. At the early morning set-up, all hands were definitely needed.

So, all in all, this Adopt a Poll went very well and it was certainly good practice for the "jungle" primary a year from now in June 2016. Therefore, mark the date down - **June 7, 2016** - for our next Adopt a Poll as your help will definitely be needed! No experience is necessary to help out with this opportunity to raise money for the Branch. For questions please contact Sally Hibbitts or Lori Kissinger.



Later in the day crew: (l to r) Colleen Briner-Schmidt, Audrey Giuffrida, Pat O'Donnell with Deanna Franke seated in front

How to Find the Best Surgeon

If you or a family member ever has to have surgery, I'm sure you hope that the surgeon you have is the best. Up until recently, we have only had another physician's recommendation or that of a friend, but neither is based on evidence like how many operations a surgeon has done or whether there were complications due to a surgeon's performance.

Now, a nonprofit group has analyzed the data from thousands of surgeries and released profiles - by name - of surgeons all over the country. In the website below, you can insert your zip code or a hospital name and see every surgeon's performance in that hospital. The number of surgeries is important, because, in general, the more a surgeon does, the better their outcomes are likely to be.

Check out Los Robles and other hospitals in our area! <https://www.propublica.org/article/surgery-risks-patient-safety-surgeon-matters>.

Linda Berghold

Bag a Bargain Book Sale



Given the dismal financial status of the operating budget, the Board has decided to bring back a popular way of generating small amounts of money, which will help support the Branch. It is our wonderful mobile "Bargain Book Bag"

sale, which will appear at all of our Branch events featuring new and gently used quality paperback books, which will be especially selected for your reading pleasure. To get this sale up and running, please bring your new or gently used paperback novels to the Fall Breakfast or drop them at the home of Sally Hibbitts at anytime. Don't take your old paperbacks to the library or the thrift shop - instead, please donate them to AAUW. Your Branch truly appreciates your support! Also, if you'd like to help with this easy and ongoing effort, please contact Sally Hibbitts .

Hey, We've Got a Great Group for You!

At the upcoming Fall Breakfast, be sure to check out which of the **many** Special Interest Groups and Board Committees you would like to participate in this year. The new Special Interest Group Chair is Patrice (Pat) O'Donnell and if you are interested in any of these new activities, please contact Pat or the contact name provided. There will be much more information at the Fall Breakfast.

New Special Interest Groups:

These groups are designed for social, education, service, or advocacy activities. You are encouraged to participate in as many of these outstanding groups as you wish. The other Special Interest Groups, listed on page 14, will continue from previous years.

Share What You Know

You've got the talent so let's share what you already know... from amazing travel experiences, to professional knowledge, to community activities, to volunteer experiences, to wonderful hobbies, to current events, to current health issues, to diet/nutrition, to exercise fanatics, who knows what else? If you know it, why not share it? This group will form a Branch Speaker's Bureau which will interconnect with community groups and organizations across the Conejo Valley.

Contact **Annette Broersma**.

Collecting the Voices of Women

Have you ever wondered about how an Oral Historian collects the data and stories from the past? When you help with this project, you will assist a highly experienced Branch member who has professional skills in this area. This project will document the history of our Branch through the wonderful tales as told by our earliest Branch members. We will be seeking out not only the storytellers, but the story collectors in this wonderful project. There are some great plans for this group as we build an archive of data which will then be available for future users to appreciate.

Contact **Barbara Gilmore**.

Supporting Financial Literacy

We will be starting the year off right with a great opportunity on October 14th for Building Financial Literacy among the students at CSUCI. With this program, we will be able to reach out to those who may really benefit from our experienced members in the finance fields. This will be a great springboard for more community programs in this field.

Contact **Patricia Adrian and Sally Hibbits**.

Our Community Environment

In this exciting new group, the focus will be on all issues relating to our growing Community here in the Conejo Valley, including the Boulevard Improvement District (urban planning), SOAR,

and all issues related to the environmental life of our region (ie., drought, water, oak trees, etc.). Contact **Yvonne Brockwell**.

Women's Health Issues

This significant and stimulating issues group will focus on the many health topics that are 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, Big Pharma pros and cons, etc. This will be a dynamic and interesting group dealing with the many health issues that we all have in common. Contact **Angie Simpson**.

Love to Write

Are you the next Erma Bombeck or Edna St. Vincent Millay? Or more likely, you love to write and are looking for others to share your thoughts, scribbles, and passion for writing. So, join your fellow members to sound out and read through your work to gain that extra incentive along with intelligent feedback that you may be seeking. Contact **TBD**.



AAUW Name Tags Order Form

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P.O. Box 4223
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**For more information contact
Judy Robinson.**

Special Interest Groups



Coffee & Chat

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, please contact Pat O'Donnell prior to the 10th of the month preceding your event. It will be listed in the next *Oak Twig*, to advertise and recruit members who would like to help start or join the new group. **Contact Pat O'Donnell.**

Coffee and Chat

Meets the 1st Saturday of every month. We meet at 9:00 AM at Stella's Gourmet Restaurant, 2385 Michael Drive, Newbury Park. (driving directions on page 18) This is a very pleasant way to get acquainted and stay connected. We hope you will be able to join us. For further information, **contact Pat O'Donnell or Sally Hibbitts.**

Daytime Literature Group

We invite you to join us for a lively discussion on the 4th Monday of each month (unless indicated by *) at 10:00 AM in the Marvin Smith Community Room at the Thousand Oaks Library on Janss Road. For more information, please **contact Joan Udani.**

Our upcoming schedule:

September 28: *The Book of Unknown Americans* by Christina Henriquez (OCOB)

October 26: *The Lowland* by Jumphah Lahiri

*November 16: *The English Teacher* by Lily King

December 28: *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown

Evening Literature Group

The Evening Literature Group meets the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM (unless indicated by *) at different members' homes. Please join us - everyone is welcome. For more information, please **contact Ellen Kossoris or Sharon Dyer.**

Our upcoming schedule:

August 20: *The Book of Unknown Americans* by Christina Henriquez (OCOB)

September 17: *The Children's Crusade* by Ann Packer

October 15: *Just Mercy* by Brian Stevenson

November 19: *Still Alice* by Lisa Genova

December 17: *In the Unlikely Event* by Judy Blume (**POTLUCK**)

Exploring Religions of the World Through the Eyes of Women

We will meet 3 or 4 times over the year in someone's home. Each time we meet, our hope is to invite a woman with a particular religious background to facilitate an open and nonjudgmental discussion with the group. **Contact Wendy Hoffman.**

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.**

Joyful Volunteering Group

Celebrate the gift of giving time! This group is designed to give our members an opportunity to help make lives better for women through involvement with other volunteer groups. To add new energy and to further reach out this coming year, Joyful Volunteering participants are being asked to please choose a month to come up with an idea for service that will make a difference in the community. This way, new avenues will be explored and the group will continue on a positive road. New participants are *always* welcome! **Contact Pat O'Donnell or 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 by the Cheesecake Factory in the Oaks Mall. 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, too) added to either/both Interest Groups--Movie and/or Theatre--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. If you'd like to take part, **contact Pat O'Donnell or Sally Hibbitts.**

Photography Group

Meets the 3rd 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.**

Theater Goers Group

Members will attend weekend productions at local venues such as Conejo Players Theater in Thousand Oaks, the High Street Arts Center in Moorpark and Simi Valley Community Arts Center. Husbands/partners are invited to participate as well. **Contact Linda Harley.**

Joyful Volunteering at Its Best!



On August 29th, AAUW members Colleen Briner-Schmidt, Sally Hibbitts, Pat O'Donnell, and Marian Fleming helped out at the offices of Jacqui Irwin, California State Assembly member and member of our Branch, by filling backpacks for lower-income school-age children.

Support Your *Oak Twig* Advertisers

You may have noticed it is a brand new advertising year for *Oak Twig* readers (see page 10) 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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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 or Kateri Alexander.



Finally, give the gift of membership! Sign up a family member or friend to join the Thousand Oaks Branch of AAUW. She/he gets a great gift and you get a friend with whom you can attend Branch events. Win/Win!

Contact Judi Robinson.

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 three or four members registered! Therefore, we will be making a bigger "push" for ALL members to shop, when you can, at your local Ralph's Market. Sign up information and a simple-to-follow SCANBAR letter will be provided at the Fall Breakfast for this purpose. 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 have already registered your Ralph's Rewards card contribution to our organization MUST re-register it after **September 1st**, every year. The same SCANBAR letter (see above) can be used for this purpose. Pick up your letter at the Fall Breakfast or contact Sally Hibbitts.



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

Looking for a Phone Number?

If you're seeking contact information for people leading various Branch activities, please see page 17 of this newsletter. The *Oak Twig* is now being published on our Branch website, aauwto.org, without our members' personal information. The "Contact Page" will NOT appear on our website.

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