

Thousand Oaks Branch, Inc.

Volume 50, Issue 4

December 2015



Giftng with STEM in Mind

During this holiday season, as we are busy looking for gifts for children and grandchildren, it is obvious that children's toys and clothes have once again become more gendered. This is happening while AAUW's commitment to STEM education for girls has a high priority, with Tech Trek support being embraced nationwide. But it looks as if there is more work to do.

A recent *New York Times* article (October 30, 2015) reports that toys are more gendered than they were 50 years ago, and pink and blue clothes once again define infant gender from birth.

The 2012 Disney Store website displayed gender-identified toys with over 90% of the boy toys as small vehicles, weapons and building items. The girl toys were over 90% dolls, beauty cosmetics, jewelry and domestic replicas.

"It's impossible to disentangle all the elements that shape children's notions of gender roles or to separate nature from nurture as no major studies have been done. But researchers say drawing clear distinctions between genders play a *significant* role in pushing children down particular paths and creating stereotypes."

AAUW members already know this, but now the broader *New York Times* readership knows.



November 2015 Events

- **Monday, November 30 - Common Core Meeting.** Cameron Center, Thousand Oaks. 4:00 PM. (see page 11)

December 2015 Events

- **Saturday, December 5 - Coffee and Chat.** Stella's Gourmet Restaurant, Newbury Park. 9:00 AM.
- **Saturday, December 5 - Poinsettia Pick-Up Day,** Dianna Campbell's home, WLV. 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM (see page 18)
- **Sunday, December 6 - SOAR Workshop.** Rancho Santa Rosa Clubhouse, Camarillo. 10:00 AM. (see page 11)
- **Sunday, December 6 - Branch Holiday Party.** Home of Liz Priedkalns, Thousand Oaks. 5:00 PM (see page 4)
- **Tuesday, December 8 - Board Meeting.** Home of Jeanette Hosek, Thousand Oaks. 6:30 PM.
- **Friday, December 18 - Museums and Gardens Trip: Angels Attic.** Santa Monica. 10:00 AM. (see page 10)

January 2016 Events

- **Saturday, January 2 - Coffee and Chat.** Stella's Gourmet Restaurant, Newbury Park. 9:00 AM.
- **Tuesday, January 5 - Museums and Gardens Trip: Broad Museum.** Los Angeles. 10:00 AM. (see page 10)
- **Wednesday, January 13 - 50th Anniversary Committee Meeting.** Home of Wendy Hoffman, Thousand Oaks. 10:30 AM. (see page 12)
- **Saturday, January 23 - IBC Luncheon.** Los Robles Greens, Thousand Oaks. Noon. (see page 5)

Save These Dates in 2016 - See Page 2

Don't Miss the Festivities!
It Won't Be a
(Holiday) Party
Without You!
(see page 4)



Visit us online at aauwto.org

A Note from the President...

Wow! Did our branch of AAUW ever "Step Up and Speak Out" during the month of November! Thank you to Betty Stapleford and Wendy Hoffman for starting the month off in a very meaningful manner, by presenting a significant and informative panel discussion concerning The Dreamers. It raised the awareness level for all in attendance and helped us to start seeing how the international immigration crisis affects so many students here on a local level.

The first meetings of our two newest Special Interest Groups were also held in November: Women's Health Issues met November 5 and Our Community Environment met November 19. Both these meetings were well attended and highly interesting to the members who participated. Thank you to Angie Simpson and Yvonne Brockwell for making such strides in leadership by developing these great groups!

Don't overlook our annual Holiday Party set for Sunday, December 6 and feel free to come solo or with your spouse, significant other, or someone special in your life....that choice is entirely up to you! Whatever you choose, be sure to come: it will be a smashing success, especially if you're there! The Board reluctantly decided to charge a minimal amount for the wine that evening and we will have a fabulous raffle to tempt you with, as well. All proceeds help support our operating expenses.

In the new year, we will continue to "Step Up and Speak Out" with many exciting programs, so mark your 2016 calendar now! January 23: the annual IBC Luncheon; February 20: our "Running for Office 101" Panel at CLU; March 5: a special program of a Women's Conference planned with Assemblywoman Jacqui Irwin; March 8: Women's History presentation at the Thousand Oaks library; March 12: Brighter Horizons at CLU; April 12 & 14: Equal Pay Day Celebrations; and finally, on May 21, our fabulous 50th Anniversary Gala Brunch!

As you can see, there will be even more opportunities to help our Branch and impact the community by "Stepping Up and Speaking Out" in support of breaking more barriers for women and girls!

Sally Hibbitts



November Board Meeting "Tidbits"

- The "Fun Raise Her" did very well.
- We are still looking into getting a 501 (c)3 classification but it will be expensive.
- The board is concerned about the lack of operating expenses for the Branch.
- The location for planting the anniversary tree has been decided.
- We are allowed to have up to four nominees for named gift honorees.

Sharon Dyer, Secretary

SAVE THESE DATES IN 2016:

January 23	IBC Luncheon
February 20	Running for Office 101 Panel
March 5	Women's Conference
March 8	Women's History Event
March 12	Brighter Horizons at CLU
April 12	Equal Pay Day at CLU
April 14	Equal Pay Celebration with Sen. Hannah Beth Jackson
April 15-17	AAUW CA Convention
May 21	50th Anniversary Gala Brunch

AAUW Thousand Oaks 2015-2016 Board of Directors

President	Sally Hibbitts
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



☀ Gerri Wissot underwent spinal surgery in November at Cedars Sinai Hospital. It is anticipated that she will have a lengthy stay there and she is asking that members please hold all emails for four weeks. Prayers (in any faith) would be welcome. We are all hoping for a most favorable outcome and that Gerri will be up and about and well again very soon.

☀ This is to give you an update on the condition of Rita Peters, mother of AAUW member Lori Peters. Sadly, Rita is suffering from dementia and is rapidly declining. She is generally in good spirits, but is losing many daily living skills in her decline. Rita is living in a private home here in Thousand Oaks, with the care of dedicated, loving staff. Because of her condition, visitors are not encouraged unless accompanied by one of her children. Our wish for Lori is that she be granted the strength to change what can be changed, the courage to accept what cannot be changed, and the wisdom to know the difference.

☀ It is with much sadness that we inform you of three deaths touching the lives of AAUW members in recent months:

- Margie Price's son Mark, age 53, died in November following two heart and two emergency surgeries, in Prescott, Arizona. Margie spent over a month at the hospital in Arizona, watching over her son, who will be buried in Valley Oaks Westlake Village. The graveside service will take place December 11 at 1:00 PM, at Pierce Brothers Westlake Village.
- Nancy Healey's husband, Tom, died on October 23 after a one-year battle with lung cancer. He died peacefully at home in Thousand Oaks with his family at his side.
- Wendy Hoffman's sister-in-law, Eleanor Marie Frank, died at home in Santa Fe. She worked as a CPA in Los Angeles for many years, after which she retired with her husband, Peter, to Santa Fe, New Mexico. She was very active in the arts, having worked with the Center Theater Group in Los Angeles and then with various cultural organizations in Santa Fe.

AAUW sends sincere condolences to Margie, Nancy and Wendy and hopes the happy memories of their loved ones will help to assuage the pain that death has brought.

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.



Member Birthdays
December

7	Patrice O'Donnell
15	Janet Wall
24	Lisa Brennan
31	Lydia Steadman

About That Check You Wrote...

SPECIAL NOTICE TO MEMBERS:

Please be aware that if you submit a personal check for a particular item (poinsettia order, luncheon reservation, etc.) it may take the Branch leadership 10-12 days to get your check cleared through our banking process. Our hardworking Treasurer, aside from working full time, goes to the Branch post office box two times a week and then makes weekly bank deposits. So please be patient and allow plenty of time for your check to clear!

AAUW Thousand Oaks
Cordially Invites You to Its



ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY!

Fun, Food, Wine, Surprises and Music!

Sunday, December 6
5:00 PM

At the lovely home of Liz and Juris Priedkalns
(see page 18 for address and directions)

This is a potluck affair, so please bring a dish to share!

Last names beginning with:

A through M ♦♦♦ bring an appetizer

N through Z ♦♦♦ bring a dessert

*Please bring donations of cosmetics and other items for
Women in the Military and Victims of Domestic Abuse.*

Questions will be gladly answered by the event chair, Yvonne Brockwell.

**VENTURA COUNTY IBC BUFFET LUNCHEON
FEATURING CAPT. VALERIE OVERSTREET****

NAVAL PILOT

DEPUTY COMMODORE FOR COMMANDER, AIRBORNE COMMAND
CONTROL AND LOGISTICS WING IN POINT MUGU, CA



"FROM MATH TO MEDALS"

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 2016

12 NOON - 2:30 P.M

LOS ROBLES GREENS GOLF COURSE

299 SOUTH MOORPARK RD, THOUSAND OAKS

\$35.00

PROCEEDS WILL BE USED FOR A LOCAL COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP



RSVP BY SENDING CHECK AND THIS SLIP TO:

AAUW - P.O. BOX 4223, THOUSAND OAKS, CA 91359

NO LATER THAN JANUARY 15, 2016

NAME _____

BRANCH _____

**** Read Captain Overstreet's impressive profile on the following page...**

Meet Captain Valerie Overstreet, Guest Speaker, IBC Luncheon

Captain Overstreet, a native of Lemoore, California, graduated from Virginia Tech in May 1991, where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics. Upon graduation, she was commissioned as an Ensign through the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC).



Overstreet's initial fleet assignment was with the SEAHAWKS of VAW-126 at NS Norfolk. She deployed

onboard USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN 71) and USS ENTERPRISE (CVN 65) in support of Operations DESERT FOX and SOUTHERN WATCH over Iraq and Operation DELIBERATE FORGE over Bosnia. Her Department Head tour was with VAW-123, deploying onboard USS ENTERPRISE in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM and Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. In February 2009, CAPT Overstreet took over as Commanding Officer of VAW-117. Her tour was culminated by an eight-month combat deployment in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM onboard USS NIMITZ (CVN 68) in which the squadron earned TOP HOOK honors.

Captain Overstreet's tours ashore include VAW-120 for duty as an Instructor Pilot, Naval War College, Joint Forces Command as the J9 Joint Experimentation Operations Office, and Battalion Officer at the United States Naval Academy.

Overstreet's personal awards include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Strike/Flight Air Medal (4), Navy Commendation Medal (3), and Navy Achievement Medal (2), along with numerous campaign and unit awards. CDR Overstreet has accumulated over 4300 flight hours, and 425 carrier arrested landings.

Captain Valerie Overstreet is currently serving as the Deputy Commodore for Commander, Airborne Command Control and Logistics Wing in Point Mugu, CA.

Volunteers Needed for Brighter Horizons



What STEM careers will be in demand for the next generation?

Brighter Horizons is a math, science conference for students in the 5th through 9th grades. The purpose is to encourage these young minds to stay engaged in their math and science education so they can be prepared to pursue STEM careers.

We need your help!

We're seeking volunteers for the planning committee and for support on the day of the event. We are expecting 800 students, and it takes a huge support team to make this day so successful.

We are in the process of finalizing the workshop leaders and are thrilled to have a varied assortment of engaging workshops. There is still time to submit an application, however. In early January, we will post the event registration on our website.

Brighter Horizons will be held on the morning of Saturday, March 12, 2016 on the campus of CLU.

Please pass along any suggestions to:
leader@aauw-brighterhorizons.org.

You can also learn more about this incredible event at:
aauw-brighterhorizons.org.

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." They have been using Microsoft Publisher to produce the *Oak Twig* and they would be happy to share their skills concerning this program. Please contact Pattie or Donna if you might be interested. Remember, as editor, you're always up to date on the Branch news and happenings.



The following letter is the second in a series of "Thank You" letters which will appear in the Oak Twig over the next few months. They are written to our Branch by Tech Trek participants and demonstrate just how meaningful our donations are to these girls. Thank you to Cynthia Perry for her transcription work.



Dear Branch Members of AAUW
Thousand Oaks,

Thank you for sending me to Tech Trek. You should be proud of yourselves for making this possible! Thank you for all your hard work and energy. You put all your effort into fundraising money for me to come here to learn new things. All we do here is because of you guys and I am very thankful for that.

I have learned many new things in my core class. It was computer coding which is when I learned how to programs apps. Tonight I am making my own app: it's a coloring book for kids, and it's going great. I learn new things every day which I like. My roommate is really funny and we get along really well. I've learned many new facts about coding: for example, how to make a coloring book and a ladybug smash app. I learned many new blocks which program the apps (some make it able to color or push buttons).

My project group and I are making a way to stop hunger and how to produce more food. We also went on a boat ride, which was my first time on a boat and we learned about under-water pressure, like putting Styrofoam cups into the way deep and they came out smaller. We also learned about plankton and seafood.

I am really happy you chose me to have this opportunity and a once in a lifetime chance. Thank you for your hard work and making this possible. God bless all of you.

Sincerely,
Mariah Contreras

P.S. THE FOOD WAS GREAT!!

Join the 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.**



Don't Be Misled! Action Needed

Senate Bill 2200, the Workplace Advancement Act, seems to be a bill that will cause more harm than good. While AAUW has and is committed to eliminating the gender pay gap, this bill fails to close any of the existing loopholes in equal pay laws.

The AAUW Action Network is asking members to "Contact your Senators to urge them to oppose the Workplace Advancement Act (S. 2200) and vote no on cloture when the bill comes to a vote."

Subscribe to the Action Network through advocacy@aauw.org and keep abreast of congressional action such as this that may seem adequate but not be a solution.

AAUW LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND TAKES ON NEW CASE

Rizo v. Fresno County Office of Education



Pay equity is a matter of simple fairness. Yet in 2014, women who worked full time were paid on average just 79 cents for every dollar paid to men. When the gender pay gap is broken down across different populations, the numbers become even starker. *Rizo v. Fresno County Office of Education* highlights a significant underlying factor that contributes to the wage gap: employers' practice of relying on an employee's prior salary history to set new salary levels. AAUW is proud to support the case through its Legal Advocacy Fund.

The Story Behind the *Rizo* Case. Rizo works as a math consultant for the Fresno County Office of Education (FCOE) in Fresno, California, training instructors in new ways of teaching math. Rizo was hired by the FCOE in 2009 after earning a master's degree and teaching for 13 years.

In 2012, Rizo says, a male colleague who had recently been hired mentioned that he had been placed at step nine on the county's 10-step pay scale. Rizo was shocked — she had been placed at step one on the scale when she began her job, even though she understood that she had more experience and seniority than her male colleague. Rizo says that after filing an internal complaint, she was told that the FCOE based new employees' salaries on just one factor: the employee's prior salary history. Based on the county's policy, it seemed that Rizo's less-experienced colleague was given a higher salary only because he had been paid more at his previous job than she had been paid at her previous job. Rizo filed suit under the Equal Pay Act and California sex status discrimination statutes. The case was filed in California state court in 2014.

Why *Rizo* Matters. Basing pay on salary history is one factor that can perpetuate the wage gap, precisely because women are generally paid less than men. But many people don't understand the domino effect that pay inequity can have; Rizo's case could help shed light on this important yet often unrecognized factor that contributes to the wage gap.

AAUW Thousand Oaks members who attended the Fall Membership breakfast and "fed the pigs" contributed close to \$400 to the Legal Advocacy Fund. The case support program provides financial and organizational backing for plaintiffs who are challenging gender discrimination in education and the workplace. The funds come directly from the generous contributions of AAUW members. Another \$400 (approximately) will be raised by our Branch from the sale of poinsettia plants. Remember: you can always contribute to LAF by making an individual donation on the AAUW.org webpage.

because
equity
is
still
an **issue**

A Holiday Reminder from the Global Awareness and Action for Girls (GAAG) Special Interest Group

Recently when in Chicago visiting my grandchildren, we sat down and talked about children living in other parts of the world. I suggested they each pick a gift from the *Save the Children* catalog and, in lieu of them receiving a present, we would send that gift to a child in need. They looked very seriously over the choices... one grandchild chose to give soccer balls; another chose art and music materials; the third grandchild chose a share in a clean water project.

There are many charitable organizations that provide holiday catalogs with inexpensive items to be sent to children who have very little in their lives. AAUW does not endorse any particular charity and we cannot collect funds for any organization other than AAUW, but I hope if a catalog comes in your mailbox, you and your children/grandchildren will consider sending a rabbit or goat, books, soccer balls, a malaria net, etc. I hope my grandchildren's awareness of those with less will continue throughout their lives.

Submitted by Jeanette Hosek

New Schools Become Partners

College/University Partnerships Committee

This is an exciting time for all Ventura County AAUW Branches. With the addition of the three VCCCD college sites, Moorpark College, Ventura College, and Oxnard College into our ranks of partner schools, we have a tremendous opportunity to provide service to more college-age young women. Each college, including CLU and CSUCI, has an assigned faculty or staff liaison who will be working with the Branches to develop programs of interest to their student population.

We are looking for AAUW members who particularly like working with the young adults or “transitioning students” who make up the college student population today. Usually, there is an already-established student club on campus with which AAUW would merge to provide appropriate opportunities. For more information, please contact Sally Hibbitts.



You Can Be Part of the Dream



At a November program cosponsored by AAUW-TO and Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice of Ventura County (CLUE VC) two students shared their immigration stories. Both had arrived at a young age in the United States, with their parents, coming from

Mexico. Their accounts were told to a very receptive audience.

These young people, along with many others, are now protected in the short term by DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) - also known as the Dream Act. Through this Executive Action, these young people are allowed to get work permits, driver licenses, financial support for college, and other benefits. In Ventura County, groups of these students have formed *Dreamers Without Borders*, with support from CLUE VC. This group of college and high school students, from Oxnard and Port Hueneme, has provided a support system that encourages others in achieving their dreams. It also helps them feel connected to those who have had common experiences of marginalization because of their undocumented status.



During the question and answer period at the end of the program, a number of audience members asked if we had students in the Conejo Valley who might benefit from such a program. And we do! If you are interested in forming an AAUW task force to investigate possibilities for such a program in the CVUSD, or if you would like additional information, please contact Betty Stapleford via cell or email. You can be a part of the Dream!



**WELCOME TO OUR
NEWEST MEMBERS!**

(see page 17)

Museums and Gardens Group to Visit Doll Museum

All members are welcome to join the Museum and Gardens Group for our visit to the beautiful Angels Attic Doll Museum in Santa Monica on Friday, December 18 from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. We will meet at the Barnes and Noble in Westlake and arrange our carpools from there.



The museum is housed in a fully restored Queen Anne Victorian home built in 1895. It is one of the last surviving Victorian homes remaining in the Santa Monica area.

As everyone knows, there is something universally magical and fascinating about dollhouses and miniatures. They have captivated young and old from the beginning of recorded history. Dollhouses and miniatures are not only an art form, but they are social history. Through these works of



art, we can follow the changing styles in architecture and interior design, the lessening drudgery of keeping house, the growing and preparation of food, the changing fashions, paintings and books, even the growth of the toy industry. The museum will be spectacular at this time of year, as it is beautifully decorated in the holiday spirit!

In addition to this lovely trip, please mark your calendar for the next Group excursion to the Broad Museum of Contemporary Art on Tuesday, January 5, 2016.

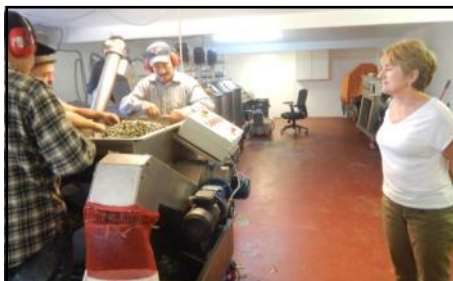
To reserve your place for either of these trips, please contact Sally Hibbitts. Your cost for the December trip is \$7 (senior rate) for the museum, along with your lunch, plus a share of the gas costs. If you can, please try to assist with the carpool driving.



The Museums and Gardens group visiting the Norton Simon Museum in October. (L-R): Liz Priedkalns, Nina Bublitz, Penny Strowger, Sally Hibbitts, Marian Fleming, Joan Udani and Betty Nordahl.



Group members visited the Ojai Olive Oil Co. in November, enjoying lunch together before touring the facility. Around the table are (L-R): Liz Priedkalns, Pattie Dix, Betty Nordahl, Joan Edwards, Caren Murray, Linda Pochter, Caroline Tsaw, Sally Hibbitts, Lori Kissinger, Nina Bublitz and Jeanne Ricci.



Left: Liz Priedkalns watches as workers grind harvested olives.

Common Core Group to Meet

Common Core Standards are in place for Math and English Language Arts, Science and History. The first meeting focused on general information and math standards with presenter Vicki Vierra, from the Ventura County Office of Education.



Attendees learned that Common Core Standards are not a Federal program, a curriculum or a mandate, although *Race To The Top* money was an incentive to adopt them by state. The overriding focus in K-12 is developing skills in Communication, Collaboration, Creativity and Critical Thinking. The goals will be accomplished through "teaching less and learning more" by going deeper into a subject or concept. Most importantly, the Districts, schools and teachers are in charge of how to teach.

The second of three Common Core meetings is Monday, November 30, 2015. The focus will be English Language Arts, and standards and teaching materials will be discussed. The presenter is Dede Dryer from the Curriculum Department of CVUSD. As Teacher on Special Assignment, Dede brings experience as a teacher and administrator. She works with Common Core development K-12.

Please arrive at 4:00 and the meeting will begin at 4:15. The meeting will take place at the

Cameron Center
288 Greenmeadow Drive
Thousand Oaks

Directions: South on Lynn Road to Greenmeadow Drive, Turn left, drive three blocks. Greenmeadow Drive dead-ends into the driveway of the Cameron Center.

The final meeting of the Common Core Study group will be an open-ended panel discussion. Please contact Lori Kissinger if you would like to be notified of the date and time.

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



New members visit and learn about AAUW—T.O. at the New Members Morning Mimosas welcome event, held in November. Pictured above (L-R): Ann LaFianza, Yvonne Brockwell and Janet Wall. Pictured below are Vicki Fishman (L) and Anne Beaubrun. Welcome all new members!



SOAR Workshop Rescheduled

The SOAR Signature Gathering Workshop had to be postponed as the petitions were not back from the printer in time. The meeting has been re-scheduled for Sunday, December 6 at 10:00 AM.



The Workshop will be held at the Rancho Santa Rosa Clubhouse: 11701 E. Las Posas, just North of Santa Rosa Valley Rd.

Coffee, bagels and orange juice will be served. For further information, contact Joan Edwards.

Name Tag Order Form



\$20.00 with magnet back

\$19.00 with pin back

Name: _____
(as you want it to appear on your name tag)

Branch: _____

Title: _____
(if applicable)

Contact Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

City & Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Mailed to you: \$2.50 extra

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Send form and check payable to AAUW T.O. to:

**AAUW T.O.
P.O. Box 4223
Thousand Oaks, CA 91359**

For more information contact Judy Robinson

**OAKBROOK AWARDS
& PROMOTIONS
Melissa Cam**

805-494-1694 Fax 494-3676
www.Oakbrook-Awards.com
Melissa@Oakbrook-Awards.com
756 Lakefield Rd. Suite A, Westlake Village, CA 91361

AAUW Value Promise:

By joining AAUW, you belong
to a community that
breaks through educational and
economic barriers so that all women
have a fair chance.

Fiftieth Anniversary Planning Committee: We Need You!

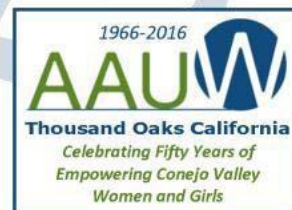
Do you have talents to share with the Branch?
We are looking for:

- 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 only a few more months 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.

The next committee meeting will be held January 13 at 10:30 AM, at the home of Wendy Hoffman.

Contact Wendy or Jeanette Hosek for more information or to find out how you can help.



A Time for Thanksgiving, and for Giving to Others

Our Branch "stepped Up" in November to assist local Girl Scout Troop #60497 in providing Thanksgiving baskets of food for very low income families. Our Branch members proudly donated four full baskets plus 18 bags of additional groceries! This was a fun and very fulfilling project: thank you to all who donated food, gift cards, and time!



(Back row, L-R) AAUW members Sally Hibbitts and Joan Edwards, along with Troop Leader Karen Kennedy. In front are three hard-working members of Troop #60497.

Below, right: AAUW member Joan Edwards with two Girl Scouts who are busily making hand crafted soaps to be included in the Thanksgiving baskets for needy families.

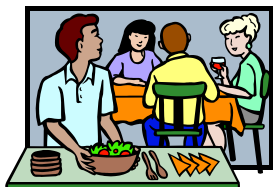
The Girl Scout slogan, which has been used since 1912, is "Do a good turn daily." The slogan is a reminder of the many ways girls can contribute positively to the lives of others.



Helping sort the large quantity of food and other items donated by AAUW-TO members are (L-R): Vicki Fishman and "special helper" granddaughter Ellie, Cathy Whitney, and Sachi Stark.



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 10th 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 1st Saturday of every month: 9:00 AM at Stella's Gourmet Restaurant, 2385 Michael Drive, Newbury Park. (driving directions on page 21.) This is a very pleasant way to get acquainted and stay connected. Please join us! **Contact Pat O'Donnell or Sally Hibbits.**

Common Core Study Group

Our second meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 30th from 4:15 PM to 5:45 PM at the Cameron Center in Thousand Oaks. We will review English Language Arts standards. **Contact Lori Kissinger.** (see page 11)

Daytime Literature Group

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. **Contact Joan Udani.**

Our upcoming schedule:

December 28: *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown
January 25, 2016: *The Circle* by Dave Eggers
February 29: *The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd

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. **Contact Ellen Kossoris or Sharon Dyer.**

Our upcoming schedule:

December 17: *In the Unlikely Event* by Judy Blume (**POTLUCK**)*
January 21, 2016: *The Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins
February 18: *Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese

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. Join us at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, January, 19, 2016 when we meet with Mariam Assifi, a Muslim woman. **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.**

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 Sachi Stark or Sally Hibbits.**

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. If you'd like to take part, **contact Pat O'Donnell or Sally Hibbits.** (see page 10)

Our Community Environment **NEW!**

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 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.**

Women's Health Issues **NEW!**

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.**

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 (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.**



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.



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* is now being published on our Branch website, aauwto.org, without our members' personal information. The "Contact Page" will NOT appear on our website.

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 20th of each month prior to publication.

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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AAUW Thousand Oaks Welcomes Its Newest Members

This information is for the personal use and convenience of members of the Branch.
If you wish, please print and add this information to your current Directory.

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Please note:

Linda Bergthold's home phone is: (818) 852-7028.

Sharen Shapiro's correct email address is
sharen1224@roadrunner.com.

Debra Boyd's correct phone # is (805) 444 6997.

Marian Fleming's education information:
Santa Monica College, UCLA; AA, Anthropology;
BA, Geography

Visit us online at aauwto.org