

The Oak Twig

Thousand Oaks Branch, Inc.

Volume 50, Issue 7

March 2016

Come Celebrate 30 Years of Women's History



Tuesday, March 8
6:00 to 8:00 PM
Thousand Oaks Library

see page 5



Brighter Horizons

Saturday, March 12

8:00 AM

Cal Lutheran

Register Now!

5th - 9th grade students

Volunteers Still Needed!

see page 6

Please Join Assemblywoman Jacqui Irwin at the AAUW Co-sponsored Women's Leadership Forum

Saturday, March 5
10:00 AM

Rancho Campana
High School, Camarillo
see page 4



March 2016 Events

- ***Saturday, March 5 - Coffee and Chat.** Stella's Gourmet Restaurant, Newbury Park. 9:00 AM.
- ***Saturday, March 5 - Women's Leadership Forum.** Rancho Campana High School, Camarillo. 10:00 AM. (see page 4)
- ***Tuesday, March 8 - Women's History Project Event.** Thousand Oaks Library, Thousand Oaks. 6:00 PM. (see page 5)
- ***Saturday, March 12 - Brighter Horizons.** California Lutheran University, Thousand Oaks. 8:00 AM. (see page 6)
- **Tuesday, March 15 - 50th Anniversary Committee Meeting.** Home of Wendy Hoffman. 1:30 PM. (see pages 11-13)
- **Tuesday, March 15 - Board Meeting.** Wildwood Condo Recreation Center, Thousand Oaks. 6:30 PM.
- ***Monday, March 21 - Museums and Gardens Group Trip to NOAA Facility and Woolworth Museum.** Oxnard. 10:00 AM. (see page 9)

April 2016 Events

- ***Saturday, April 2 - Coffee and Chat.** Stella's Gourmet Restaurant, Newbury Park. 9:00 AM.
- **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 7)
- **April 15-17 - AAUW-CA State Convention.** San Mateo, CA. Visit website: AAUW.CA
- ***Thursday, April 28 - Branch 50th Anniversary Oak Tree and Plaque Unveiling.** Thousand Oaks. 10:00 AM (see page 2)
- ***Tuesday, April 29 - New Members Happy Hour Spring Fling.** Location and time TBD.

***Indicates Special Interest Group Activity.**

*** Indicates Branch Event.**

SAVE THE DATE!
MAY 21
50 YEARS
TO CELEBRATE



Visit us online at aauwto.org

A Note from the President...

Spring is in the air, especially with all of our surprisingly warm weather. With the coming of spring, our Branch is bursting with many wonderful activities and fabulous opportunities! Your Board hopes to see all of you at our biggest event of the year, our fabulous ***Gala 50th Anniversary Brunch on May 21st!*** Invitations will be out very soon and I hope you've been saving that date.

With the coming of spring, we also need to start some preliminary planning for next year. There are many opportunities for you to help as a leader on our Board, for our very quickly expanding Branch. I invite you to contact Marilyn Carpenter if you think you'd like to "Step Up" to help in this role for the Branch.

With the planning that has started for next year, the Board has recently completed a review of our budget. As all of you know, the Branch receives only \$15 of your \$84 combined dues.....the majority of it goes to National and then to AAUW CA. Our operating costs are always increasing....for example, just copying our flyers for public distribution consumes a good part of our budget. In addition, we have been hoping to raise \$1500 to pay for the expense of creating our own 501c3 fund to receive local scholarship money in a far easier fashion. Our program expenses are kept quite reasonable, but our monthly events that are open to the public must be kept free if we have them at the library or Cal Lutheran.

With this multitude of financial demands made upon the small budget we currently have, the Board of Directors unanimously passed a \$6 increase in local dues for the 2016-17 year. There is no increase for either the National or state levels, but the local dues will increase from \$15 to \$21, making total dues \$90. Just to clarify, this is the first local dues increase we've had in many, many years. The additional money will be put directly back into the Branch for operating expenses and to save for our tax deductible special account. If you have questions about this please contact Bonnie Shubb, our fabulous Director of Finance, or me.

With your support, not only to help us on the Board, but also with our dues increase....we will make AAUW Thousand Oaks the strongest Branch in our region! It's time to "Step Up" and Support Your Branch!

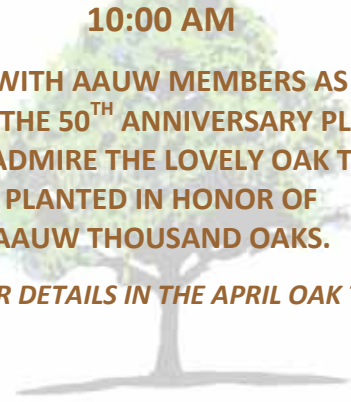
Sally

SAVE THE DATE!

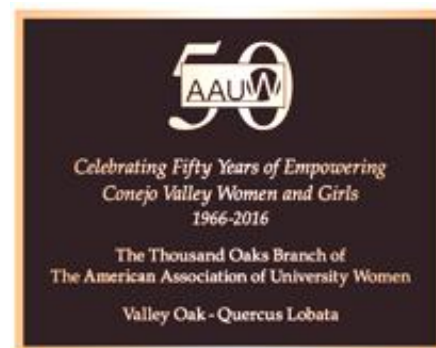
**THURSDAY, APRIL 28TH
10:00 AM**

**JOIN WITH AAUW MEMBERS AS WE
UNVEIL THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY PLAQUE
AND ADMIRE THE LOVELY OAK TREE
PLANTED IN HONOR OF
AAUW THOUSAND OAKS.**

FURTHER DETAILS IN THE APRIL OAK TWIG.



www.aauwusa.org | 800.424.2476



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



☀ Kateri Alexander's late husband Karl's papers have been accepted into the American Heritage Center's Writers of the West collection at the University of Wyoming. His works are included as part of the significant papers of modern science fiction writers. He is the author of several novels including four science fiction books. His first book, *Time After Time*, was made into a major motion picture. His novel, *Time-Crossed Lovers*, was an award-winning finalist in the science fiction category for the 2013 International Books Awards. He has been dubbed a Knight of Mark Twain for his contribution to American Literature.

Congratulations, Kateri, on this recognition for your husband. How nice for you that his memory remains alive in the hearts and minds of so many people.

☀ Gen Gunis has been in the hospital recently and is now at home recovering with the help of Home Health care. She is feeling stronger each day. We wish her an uneventful recovery and hope she will be up and about and well again very soon.

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.



More SOAR Volunteers Needed!

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

Member Birthdays March



4 Elsa Nanson
5 Barbara Seal
6 Lois Girskey
13 Deanna Franke
15 Cathy Whitney
18 Carolyn Tsaw
19 Joan Edwards
20 Vera King
21 Patricia Adrian
21 Kateri Alexander
23 Debbie Gately
24 Margaret DeRose
28 Pattie Dix
30 Barbara Gooch
30 Pamela Petrangelo
31 Melissa Cam
31 Nancy Healey
31 Bev Khoshnevisan

Victory in Sex Discrimination Suit

After a decade of litigation, educators Michelle (Jaureguito) Henley and Laurel Wartluft have successfully settled their cases against Feather River Community College in California. Along with another AAUW LAF-supported plaintiff, Paul Thein, they filed whistleblower lawsuits in 2006 against the college. They alleged that the college violated Title IX by retaliating against them for complaining about sex discrimination, among other claims. All three cases were eventually referred to California's State Personnel Board. In August 2009, a California State Personnel Board judge issued a decision in favor of all three plaintiffs, ordering their reinstatement and awarding them back pay and damages. Feather River appealed the judge's decision. After a lengthy appeal, the full State Personnel Board upheld the judge's 2009 decision in the plaintiffs' favor. Their cases highlighted Title IX's important role in protecting faculty and staff who advocate for gender equity.

AAUW is thrilled for the plaintiffs and proud to have supported their cases. Thein is still pursuing his case.

PLEASE JOIN
ASSEMBLYMEMBER JACQUI IRWIN

— WOMEN'S —
LEADERSHIP FORUM

SATURDAY, MARCH 5
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

RANCHO CAMPANA HIGH SCHOOL
4235 MAR VISTA DRIVE | CAMARILLO

THIS EVENT IS DESIGNED TO EDUCATE, INFORM,
INSPIRE AND CIVICALLY ENGAGE ALL WOMEN THROUGH
DYNAMIC DISCUSSIONS AND PRESENTATIONS.
KICK OFF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH WITH PROMINENT WOMEN
THAT ARE AREA LEADERS IN YOUR COMMUNITY.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
CALL JULIA JUSTUS IN THE DISTRICT OFFICE AT
(805) 482-1904

OR VISIT
www.asmdc.org/irwin



AAUW Thousand Oaks
Celebrates the 30th Anniversary of
THE WOMEN'S HISTORY PROJECT

Tuesday, March 8, 2016

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

**Thousand Oaks Library
 1401 E. Janss Road
 Thousand Oaks**

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



Ruby Bridges
 (1954 -)
 Civil Rights Activist

Attendees are encouraged to "dress up!"
 Come as your favorite notable woman.

Join us for a special recognition and
 refreshments following the
 student presentations.

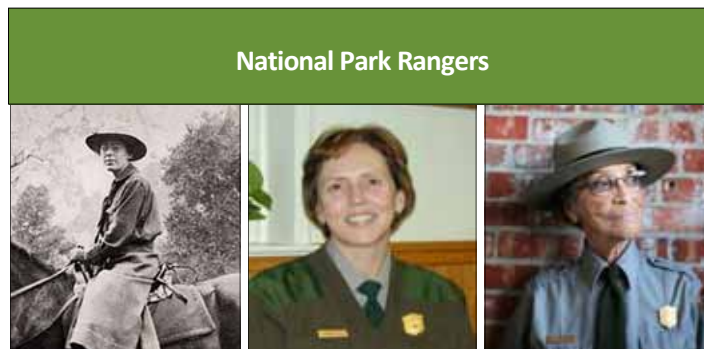
***Co-sponsored by the
 Thousand Oaks Library.***



Rell Sunn
 (1950 - 1998)
 Professional Surfer



Irene Gomez
 (1980 -)
 Program Manager,
 Mixteco
 Indigenous
 Community
 Organizing Group



Claire Marie Hodges
 (1890 - 1970)
 First Female
 National Park
 Ranger

Suzanne Lewis
 (1958 -)
 First Female
 National Park
 Superintendent

Betty Reid Soskin
 (1921 -)
 Oldest Active
 National Park
 Ranger



Patsy Mink
 (1927 - 2002)
 U.S. House of
 Representatives,
 Hawaii



Brighter Horizons Registration Is Open. Volunteers Still Needed on March 12.

Registration is open. Please pass along the website to parents and students in the 5th to 9th Grades. Don't wait too long. We are expecting close to 900 students. aaaw-brighterhorizons.org.

The Brighter Horizons Committee has put in hours of planning and coordinating that culminate on Saturday, March 12. Many thanks to Betty Nordahl, Brighter Horizons Committee Chair, and everyone who helped by finding leaders, volunteering to help on the day of the event, and helping with all of the supporting tasks.

The following letter is the fifth and last in a series of "Thank You" letters that have appeared in the Oak Twig over the past 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 Thousand Oaks Branch,

Tech Trek was so amazing! I got to experience and do things I probably wouldn't have done on my own. We also learned loads of stuff that isn't in the school curriculum.

Some of highlights were the food, the core class I got, and my group. For my core class I got Marine Science. It was loads of fun! We went to this place called the REEF, where we held marine animals such as sea urchins, sea stars, and we even got to pet a shark! We also got the chance to go on a boat where all the girls in the camp had to work together to come up with a solution to sinking a bag full of Styrofoam cups. I'm really happy because I figured out how to attach the weights to sink the bags. We caught phyto and zooplankton and we looked at them under a microscope. My group was great because it was full of other girls who shared a similar interest in Marine Science.

Some of the other things I got to experience was a group project, and a chemistry demo. The group project was different campers that were a mix from the other core classes. We were supposed to come up with a way to enhance food stability. My group came up with a backyard greenhouse kit that we would sell to urban cities to promote healthy eating and help the growing obesity problem. We also got to watch a chemistry demonstration where they told us about atoms, chemical reactions, and did cool experiments.

Overall, thank you so much for allowing me to go to this amazing camp! I'm so happy and I loved learning more about my favorite subject. This is definitely one of the most memorable experiences for me.

Sincerely,
Rylinn Cafferty



**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

Common Core Study Group Summary and Discussion

The AAUW-TO and DKG (Delta Kappa Gamma) Common Core Study Group Committee led the effort to inform members about Common Core Standards. Two overview presentations and a final panel discussion provided content information and personal experiences with the Standards, which start with the end in mind - reflecting the skills and knowledge students will need to succeed in college, career and life.

Mathematics, English Language Arts and Literacy, and History and Science Standards incorporate basic understandings and methods of teaching that stress Communication, Collaboration, Creativity and Critical Thinking across the curriculum.

English Language Arts Standards focus on text complexity with development of reading comprehension progressing through grade levels. Non-fiction and informational text comprise 80% of reading by high school while building content knowledge starts in kindergarten. Students use evidence from texts to present careful analyses, well-defended claims, and clear information. Audience and purpose drive writing that is evidence-based, showing an ability to inform and persuade. Additionally, academic vocabulary is stressed, as words appear in a variety of content areas with usage extending across reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

Three major shifts in Mathematics Standards stress *focus*, *coherence* and *rigor*. First the *focus* is to narrow and deepen the way the subject is taught. No more "mile-wide inch-deep curriculum." Then, through the *rigor* of the Standards, students gain strong foundations, a solid understanding of concepts, procedural skills and fluency, and the ability to apply math they know to solve problems inside and outside the classroom. Students learn to persevere in problem solving and make sense of their work. And finally *coherence* results when learning is connected across grades so that students build new understandings onto foundations taught in previous years.

Written evaluations of the meetings seemed to coalesce around one important aspect apparently needing improvement in CVUSD. The need as expressed by panelists and attendees centered on communication about the implementation of the Standards:

- *CVUSD to Parents
- *School to Home
- *Classroom to Parent

As with any major change in the schools, there are doubts, confusion, and frustration that something is now different. Homework is not understood, some teachers don't seem to adequately communicate with parents, and the school can stand apart from the need to inform.

As we enter the election season with School Board elections in the fall, it is important to have a critical mass of parents and other community members informed of the teaching/learning process that is being embraced in the District. The District will then be ready for the inevitable politicizing of Common Core and the teaching/learning practices that will be part of the discourse.

What is being done in the area of communication? How can Principals, Teachers, DAC, and School Clusters become more involved? What can be done to facilitate important aspects of communication?

The Standards were created by people in leadership positions in the States – not at the U.S. Government level, as some fear. Hopefully, the discussion will continue at the local level on this topic of critical importance for all.

References:

- Key Shifts in Mathematics and English Language Arts
- Common Core State Standards Initiative



Museums & Gardens Group: Staying Local This Month

The Museums and Gardens group will stay in our local region this month with an interesting trip, especially appropriate for these El Niño times!



"WORKING
TOGETHER
TO
SAVE
LIVES"

On Monday, March 21st, we will be going on a double trip to Oxnard, where we will first take a guided tour of the NOAA Facility....aka, the National

Weather Service Station. The SoCal regional headquarters of the National Weather Service is actually located very close to us, in Oxnard! This headquarters is filled with complicated technological equipment for their vital mission in our region. Other local groups have taken this tour and have indicated that it is quite interesting and obviously very seasonal!

We will then stay close by for lunch at a fun and very unique restaurant, called "Fresh and Fabulous." It is located in the historic 1950s Woolworth Building



in old town Oxnard and also provides us access to the only Woolworth Museum in the nation! This small (takes half an hour to view) museum contains all sorts of memorabilia associated with the F. W. Woolworth Company, one of the original "five and dime" stores. It will be a fun walk down Memory Lane for many of us!

The cost for this trip will be your share of the gasoline costs and your own lunch costs. There is no charge for the Weather Service tour. I'm expecting to return to the Westlake area by about 2:00 PM.

If you are interested in this double trip, please let Sally Hibbitts know of your interest no later than March 18th. We will once again arrange car pools, and depart from the Barnes and Noble store located in Westlake Village at **10:00 AM on Monday, March 21st**. Your assistance with the driving is appreciated.

Hope to see you then and there....rain or shine!

This letter was published in the February 18, 2016 issue of the Acorn newspaper. (Read Bill of Rights on page 10.)

Dear Editor Acorn Thousand Oaks,

AAUW (formerly the American Association of University Women) advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. Since 1881, AAUW has been one of the nation's leading voices promoting education and equity for women and girls. Our Thousand Oaks Branch, organized in 1966, works toward this mission via many ongoing committees and special projects.

We are writing in strong support of a proposed Farmworker Bill of Rights in the Ventura County area. The Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy (CAUSE) is leading the campaign to improve conditions for farmworkers in our community. We are particularly concerned about the need for unpaid pregnancy leave for women and the need to make sure all workers have ten minutes to rest, drink water and use bathrooms once they reach rest areas. Female farmworkers are especially vulnerable to sexual harassment and assault, and they need assistance to navigate the court system and find the support services they need.

Although some members of our community have stated that there are sufficient regulations currently in place to protect workers, the recent survey of 300 farmworkers conducted by CAUSE suggests that there is room for improvement, both in the enforcement of existing regulations and the need for continuing evaluation and oversight of working conditions for women.

We urge the Ventura Board of Supervisors to bring the Farmworker Bill of Rights to a vote, as soon as possible.

Sincerely yours,

Sally Hibbitts, President
AAUW Thousand Oaks



*Stepping Up and
Speaking Out!*

Ventura County Farmworker Bill of Rights

Curbing Extreme Overwork

Protect pregnant women from pesticide exposure by mandating job status protected unpaid pregnancy leave. Farmworker women often work during pregnancy because they cannot afford to lose their job. However, exposure to many pesticides is linked to serious reproductive health issues. This is especially dangerous given the Central Coast's heavy levels of fumigant pesticides in the strawberry industry.

Require real rest breaks by defining breaks as beginning when a worker reaches a break area including water, shade and bathrooms. In many large fields, during a legally mandated 10 minute paid rest break, workers do not have time to walk back to rest areas, make use of shade, water and bathrooms, and walk back through the fields before their break is over.

Cracking Down on Wage Theft

Increase resources for investigation of wage theft by hiring county investigators to ensure employers are in compliance with wage and hour laws. Although it is widely known that farmworkers are often victimized by wage theft, because of fear, immigration status, and seasonal employment, wage theft claims are rarely filed in agriculture.

Create meaningful penalties for wage theft, including fines of \$100 per employee per day for violations, back pay, and possible revocation of the county business tax certificate. In wage theft claims filed and won by workers in the tri-counties area, only 18% of workers ever receive any compensation collected from the employer.

Protect workers from retaliation by creating an anonymous tip hotline and a \$5,000 penalty for retaliation against a worker who files a complaint. Widespread retaliation or the threat of retaliation for complaining about working conditions or filing a complaint helps to create a culture of fear in agricultural work, preventing workers from speaking up about labor abuses.

Protecting Health and Safety

Provide grant funding to local service organizations to conduct health and safety education workshops for farmworkers. Many farmworkers have little information on the necessary and legally required precautions for heat and water, pesticides, safety equipment, injuries, and sexual assault.

Inspect farms for access to clean bathrooms, duplicating a successful program in Monterey County. Lack of sanitary field toilets is a major problem for workers, and creates a public health concern by contributing to E. coli and other diseases spread through fresh produce.

Help growers who want to transition away from harmful pesticides or reduce their use by adding an Integrated Pest Management position in the county Agricultural Commissioner's office. Many growers interested in reducing their use of harmful pesticides need resources and information to help them make the transition, and the county can help facilitate this process.

Aid victims of sexual assault by adding a Crime Victim Advocate position to the District Attorney's office focused on farmworker sexual assault. Women make up a growing share of the agricultural workforce. Farmworkers are especially vulnerable to sexual harassment and assault and often need assistance navigating the court system and accessing services.

*The Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy (CAUSE) wrote the above document.
(See letter on page 9.)*

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



Fiftieth Anniversary Planning Committee: We Need You!

The next meeting of the planning committee for the Branch's 50th anniversary will be **Tuesday, March 15th at 1:30 PM**, at the home of Wendy Hoffman.

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

- A greeter(s) to assist attendees with seating or finding a special table.
- A sign maker to make and place outdoor signage for event.
- A decorator to assist with the hanging of posters inside event.
- A person to raise funds by selling program ads.
- A person to assist with the placement of memorabilia items day of event.
- A public relations person for day of event.
- A person(s) to help with the auction items and sell tickets day of event.

Also needed are stuffing, cellophane and gift cards for auction baskets.

Lots to do....and less than three months to get it done. **We need your help!** It's fun to get involved and you don't need to attend committee meetings if the times don't work for you.

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

Fundraising for the 50th Anniversary Celebration

The 50th Anniversary Committee, with approval from the AAUW-TO Board, has designated Tech Trek Scholarships as the focus of its fundraising for the May 21st anniversary celebration. Tech Trek scholarships for local middle school girls to attend a STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) camp at UCSB are approximately \$950 per girl for a week-long college experience.

Tech Trek is one of the Branch's popular scholarship programs and, due to limited funds, there are more applicants each year than the Branch can send. Therefore, the Anniversary program revenue and attendance on May 21st must be outstanding! **FOR THIS TO HAPPEN, WE NEED YOU TO:**

- Attend the celebration on May 21st and bring a friend(s) with you. See reservation flyer on page 11 and online at aauwto.org. Tickets are \$50 for a champagne brunch with guest speaker — plus entertainment, auction items, and lots of fun!
- Encourage community businesses to support the event by purchasing ads in the event program. The Board and 50th Committee have a solicitation letter with advertising options available. Please email Jeanette Hosek if you are willing to help out. All AAUW members spend money for shopping and personal services, so don't be shy about asking these businesses to support AAUW scholarships.
- 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.

The Thousand Oaks Branch has endowed three scholarships over the course of its 50 year history, yet none have focused on local girls. Let's make this 50th Anniversary a success so we can give our Conejo Valley girls an opportunity to explore career options!

AAUW Thousand Oaks Branch Memorabilia Wanted



Are you the person who never throws anything away? *Good!!* The 50th Anniversary Committee is looking for "Branch related" items that you may have in a closet. We need these items for

display purposes at our 50th Anniversary Brunch on May 21st. We are especially looking for:

Branch cookbook, coffee mugs, tee shirts from Youth Cultural, Creative Options, Brighter Horizons, Tech Trek and any pictures taken at past Branch events (please identify people in pictures), pictures from tennis matches, jazz concerts, old programs notes. Items will be lovingly handled and returned to you after the event unless you want to donate them to the Branch!

We thank you for being a "saver!" Otherwise, we will have some empty display tables. If you would like to work on the display tables, let us know.

Contact Wendy Hoffman or Jeanette Hosek, if you find a treasure in your closet or want to assist with display set-up.



"Toss Your Hat" Branch Event Well Received

Saturday, February 20th was the day of our "Toss Your Hat" panel discussion. Experienced political leaders provided helpful insights into their work serving the public. With our own Branch members: Carla Castilla (Field Director for Sen. Jackson), Angela Cutbill (LVUSD Board), Jacqui Irwin (Assembly Member), Dianne McKay (VCCCD Board), and Henry Stern (Senior Policy Director for Sen. Pavley) participating on the panel, the public gained a wealth of knowledge. The panel is pictured above, left to right, as listed.



SAVE THE DATE!



Tuesday, April 29th

New Members Happy Hour Spring Fling

Time and Place TBD



Appoint a Supreme Court Justice

The AAUW Washington Update issued a Supreme Court Special Edition that supports the nomination and appointment of a Supreme Court justice by President Barack Obama and the U.S. Senate to fill the vacancy created by the passing of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia. The Constitution requires a fully staffed Supreme Court to address and decide critical issues facing the American people.

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!

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 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 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:

March 28: *The Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins

April 25: *Still Alice* by Lisa Genova

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

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:

March 17: *The Forgotten Seamstress* by Liz Trenow

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

May 19: *Brain On Fire* by Susannah Callahan

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. We will meet on **Tuesday, March 29 at 6:30 PM.** Our guest will be Natasha Trenow who is of the Bahai Faith. Please RSVP to Wendy or Jeanette by Saturday, March 26, as space is limited. Thank you.

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 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 **Monday, March 21st** the group will visit the NOAA Facility and the Woolworth Museum in Oxnard. (see page 9)

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 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

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.**

Order New Name Tags



For information 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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