

The Oak Twig

Thousand Oaks Branch, Inc.

Volume 50, Issue 3

November 2015



Thousand Oaks Reads: One City One Book The Dreamers: A Panel Discussion



Monday, November 2
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM
Thousand Oaks Library
(see page 4)



New Members Morning Mimosas
Saturday, November 14
9:00 AM
Home of Sally Hibbits
(see page 8)



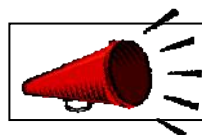
**SOAR Signature
Gatherers' Gathering**
Saturday, November 21
Rancho Santa Rosa Clubhouse
Santa Rosa Valley
10:00 AM
(see page 12)

November 2015 Events

- **Monday, November 2 - "Dreamers" Panel Discussion/AAUW Branch Meeting.** Thousand Oaks Library. 6:30 PM. (see page 4)
- **Thursday, November 5 - Women's Healthcare group meets.** Village Homes Club House, Westlake. 6:30 PM. (see page 9)
- **Saturday, November 7 - Coffee and Chat.** Stella's Gourmet Restaurant, Newbury Park. 9:00 AM.
- **Sunday, November 8 - One City One Book Author Event.** T.O. Civic Arts Plaza, Thousand Oaks. 3:00 PM (see page 7)
- **Tuesday, November 10 - Board Meeting.** Wildwood Condo Recreation Center, Thousand Oaks. 6:30 PM.
- **Saturday, November 14 - Poinsettia orders due.** (see page 11)
- **Saturday, November 14 - New Member Morning Mimosas.** Home of Sally Hibbits, Thousand Oaks. 9:00 AM. (see page 8)
- **Wednesday, November 18 - Museum and Gardens group:** Ojai Valley Olive Oil Company, Ojai. 10:00 AM (see page 15)
- **Thursday, November 19 - Our Community Environment group meeting.** Mimi's Cafe, Thousand Oaks. 7:00 PM. (see page 15)
- **Friday, November 20 - Girl Scout Thanksgiving Baskets donation deadline.** (see page 16)
- **Saturday, November 21 - SOAR Signature Gatherers' Gathering,** Rancho Santa Rosa Clubhouse, Santa Rosa Valley. 10:00 AM. (see page 12)
- **Friday, November 27 - Named Gift Honoree nominations due.** (see page 3)
- **Monday, November 30 - Common Core Study group,** Cameron Center, Thousand Oaks. 4:15 PM. (see page 13)

December 2015 Events

- **Saturday, December 5 - Coffee and Chat.** Stella's Gourmet Restaurant, Newbury Park. 9:00 AM.
- **Sunday, December 6 - Branch Holiday Party.** Home of Liz Priedkalns, Thousand Oaks. 5:00 PM (see page 10)
- **Tuesday, December 8 - Board Meeting.** Wildwood Condo Recreation Center, Thousand Oaks. 6:30 PM.



*Stepping Up and
Speaking Out!*

Visit us online at aauwto.org

A Note from the President...

It may seem a little trite to be beginning the month of November thinking about "thankfulness"...however, that is my reality!

As I am writing this note to all of you, we have just completed the successful event of October 18th, "Fun Raise Her," at the home of Larry Janss. Yes, I am sincerely thankful to the large group of members who collaboratively came together to create such an exceptional event! We were able to raise over \$3,500 to provide a unique opportunity for college age women to follow their dream of some day pursuing a political career. There are so many people who helped, but a few of you spent a huge amount of "overtime" on this project including, Donna Langley, Joan Edwards, Bonnie Shubb, Yvonne Brockwell, Sachi Stark, Lori Peters, Bev Khoshnevisan, Shoshana Brower, Sharon Dyer, Jeanette Hosek, Audrey Giuffrida, Judi Robinson, Angie Simpson, and Penny Strowger. You also heard the call to "Step Up and Speak Out" by demonstrating your support for helping us raise those needed funds for "Elect Her." Without this great team of terrific "worker bees," we would never have been able to have the event. So, a **very special** "thank you" is sent your way in this month of "thankfulness!"

Need I forget to also deeply thank those who have recently "Stepped Up and Spoken Out" in our community regarding the horrific violence perpetrated toward our sister organization, Planned Parenthood. These women heard the call to "Step Up and Speak Out" against violence to women and in favor of protection of women's reproductive rights. Each of them was "awarded" a special megaphone award for doing what was right in supporting Planned Parenthood: Jeanette Hosek, Audrey Giuffrida, Lori Kissinger, Leesa McBurnie, Linda Bergthold, and Shoshana Brower. Thank you for being what was needed in this situation, members who were willing to "Step Up and Speak Out" in favor of choice!

Wishing all of you a wonderful and thankful Thanksgiving holiday and a special time for you to enjoy your family and friends.

Sally Hibbitts



October Board Meeting "Tidbits"

- We now have 146 members and discussed ways to keep in contact with new members.
- The Fun Raise Her ticket sales are going well and have sold about nine ads.
- SOAR roll out will be in several weeks.
- The Special Interest Groups are meeting and planning programs.
- Names are being solicited for the Named Gift Honorees.
- The Fall Membership Breakfast was very successful.
- About 50 paperback books have been donated for the Bargain Book Bag and someone to be in charge of the fundraiser is needed.

Sharon Dyer, Secretary



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



☀ Debbie Gately is steadily improving. She had a second surgery on September 2nd which necessitated a stay in the hospital for 2½ weeks and then went back to work on October 5th and is glad to be there. Her employers have been very generous to her, having given her a month off with total compensation for the entire time. We infer from that that they recognize a valuable employee when they see one! We hope your recovery will be uneventful, Debbie, and that you will go from strength to strength.

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.

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.**



**WELCOME TO OUR
NEWEST MEMBERS**
(see page 20)



Member Birthdays November

Ruth Ann Cooper	1
Mary Schwabauer	3
Andrea McFadden	7
Marie Lakin	9
Fran Pavley	11
Sheila Sullivan	11
Annette Broersma	15
Armecia Medlock	17
Wilma Ann Rosenberg	21
Marina Mehlman	21
Louise Willard	24
Rhonda Lou Yancey	25

Named Gift Honoree Nominations Being Accepted

The following Board directors have been appointed to this year’s Named Gift Honoree committee: Narda Fargotstein, Linda Pochter, Dorothy Robinson, Jeanette Hosek, chair, and one member-at-large, Joan Edwards. The committee is seeking nominations from Branch members for the 2015-2016 Named Gift Honorees of the Branch. Nominees should have served in leadership positions or participated in interest groups or assisted with Branch programs or provided some unique contribution to the Branch. Please submit names and a brief reason for your nomination. Recipients of this year’s recognition will be honored at the Branch’s 50th Anniversary Brunch on May 21, 2016. Please submit your recommendation to any committee member by November 27th.

Jeanette Hosek

Thousand Oaks Reads: One City One Book

THOUSAND OAKS
READS
2015
ONE CITY ONE BOOK

The Dreamers: A Panel Discussion



An important panel discussion presented by The American Association of University Women and CLUE (Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice), featuring young Latino students who, while they live in the shadows of society, strive to reach the American dream.



Monday, November 2, 2015
6:30 – 8:00 PM

Grant R. Brimhall Library
1401 E. Janss Road • Thousand Oaks

This event is free and open to the public.

For more information, please call 805-449-2660, option 5
or visit www.thousandoaksreads.org



Grant R. Brimhall Library - 1401 E. Janss Road, Thousand Oaks, CA 91362 • 805-449-2660
Newbury Park Branch Library - 2331 Borchard Road, Newbury Park, CA 91320 • 805-498-2139
www.toaks.org/library

Fun Raise Her: Supporting Tomorrow's Leaders is a Wrap!



Wow! What a great time was had by all who attended this wonderful event! We've tentatively netted \$3,500 and are still enjoying the "golden glow" of the high expectations which were realized from such an event!

Elect Her is the only program in the country that encourages and trains college women to run for student government and future political office. A collaboration between AAUW and Running Start, **Elect Her** addresses the need to expand the pipeline of women candidates and to diminish the longstanding political leadership gender gap. The **Elect Her** training is planned for all colleges in Ventura County in the Spring of 2017.

A huge thank you to so many people who worked very hard on this project! Just listing all of the many members, who contributed in both large and small ways to make this afternoon a success, in reality does not provide enough of a genuine thank you! But, here goes anyway:

Organizing Committee:

Shoshana Brower	Jean Maxwell
Marilyn Carpenter	Dianne McKay
Sharon Dyer	Betty Nordahl
Joan Edwards	Lori Peters
Audrey Giuffrida	Linda Pochter
Sally Hibbitts	Liz Priedkalns
Jeanette Hosek	Judi Robinson
Beverly Khoshnevisan	Bonnie Shubb
Vera King	Angie Simpson
Lori Kissinger	Sachi Stark
Donna Langley	Penny Strowger

Donors for Raffle Items

BJs Restaurant, Thousand Oaks
 Boccacios, Westlake Village
 Holdren's Steakhouse, Newbury Park
 Paul Martin's, Westlake Village
 Pickles, Newbury Park
 Roma Deli, Newbury Park
 Sundowner Tasting Room, Westlake Village
 Sunland Vintage Tasting Room, Thousand Oaks
 Zin Bistro, Westlake Village

Sponsoring Retail Outlets:

Mark Adler, North Ranch Cleaners II,
 Westlake Village
 David Bell, Texture Hair Salon
 Betsy and Wade Berry, Atlas Vineyard
 Management
 Graver Agency, KellerWilliams Realty
 Heidi Hainback
 Kathy Orr, Berkshire Hathaway Home
 Services, California Realty
 The Seeger Team, KellerWilliams Realty,
 Westlake Village
 Stella's Italian Restaurant, Newbury Park
 Ventura County Women's Political Council
 Wades Wines

Food Donors:

Please, the next time you shop at these retailers, thank them for their generous support for our event. Every time you thank them personally, it helps us the next time that we need their support! We were able to actually spend very little on food for our spectacular appetizer buffet.

*Albertson's Market, Newbury Park
 Belmont Village, Thousand Oaks
 Bristol Farms Market, Westlake Village
 Corner Bakery Westlake Village
 Costco, Simi Valley
 Costco, Westlake Village
 Creations by Sharon, Agoura Hills
 Mimi's Restaurant, Thousand Oaks
 Ralph's Market, Newbury Park
 Ralph's Market, Thousand Oaks
 Ralph's Market, Westlake Village
 Sprouts Market, Thousand Oaks
 Sprouts Market, Westlake Village
 The Reserve, Thousand Oaks
 Trader Joe's, Thousand Oaks
 Trader Joe's, Westlake Village
 University Village, Thousand Oaks*

Please thank all community donors!



FUN RAISE HER: SUPPORTING TOMORROW'S LEADERS A HUGE SUCCESS!



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



Dear Thousand Oaks AAUW Branch,
I want to thank you for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. I am so honored to have gone to such an amazing camp with such amazing girls. My week at Tech Trek was a life-changing chance.

I will never forget all the incredible things I experienced here at Tech Trek. I learned so much in my engineering core class. I never knew about eco-friendly energy sources. I really like wind power and how windmills work. We saw unbelievable chemistry demos like lighting methane bubbles on fire! I saw a whale for the first time on our boat trip. I know so much more than before I came to camp. I even loved the activities at the beach too. Basically, this week was unforgettable!

One thing that I really enjoyed was building a model windmill in Engineering class. I liked to learn about wind power, and how it contributes to the world. In addition, we learned how volts and amps play a role in the engineering behind wind powered science.

Another activity that I really took something out of was the chemistry demonstration. It was so neat to be in a huge lecture building, and watch two awesome female teachers show us chemistry with lots of cool experiments. Atoms showing color when on fire, liquid nitrogen breaking things, dry ice bubbling, and I had the opportunity to light a methane bubble on fire. This demo was absolutely one of the biggest highlights of my week.

Again I can't begin to explain to you how grateful I am for all the work you do in order for girls like me to attend the Tech Trek camp! Thanks-a-million!

Sincerely,
(a very appreciative)
Jayna Rogers

Workshop Leaders Still Needed for Brighter Horizons



We are still looking for a few good workshop leaders for our event on March 12, 2016. The qualifications are a female professional who can be a role model for children in the 5th to 9th grade. We are looking for a variety of careers that use Math and Science skills and knowledge.

It is important that we have workshop leaders who are STEM educated. We want the person who has a college degree in Math or Science. Some examples are: Mechanical Engineer, Biomedical Engineer, Software Designer, Medical professional, Aerospace or Biologist.

You can help by simply sending us contact information to the email address below. Brighter Horizons will be held on Saturday, March 12, 2016 at CLU.

The workshop leaders will present three workshops, each 50 minutes in length, to a group size of about 30 students. Her workshop should include a hands on component, and a career path or careers available in the field.

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

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



AAUW's Daytime and Evening Literature Groups have both read the Thousand Oaks One City/One Book 2015 selection, *The Book of Unknown Americans*. Author Cristina Henríquez will speak at the Civic Arts Plaza on Sunday, November 8 at 3:00 PM. This annual event is always interesting and well-attended. Contact Joan Udani or Ellen Kossoris for information on tickets.

Our newer members (since September 2014)
are specially invited to attend the fun and informative:

Morning Mimosas!

(or if you prefer, Coffee and Chat)

On

Saturday, November 14

At the home of

Sally Hibbitts

3119 W. Adirondack Ct., Westlake Village

9:00 AM to 10:30 AM

You will learn all about how AAUW-TO can better
serve your needs and provide you with
the membership opportunities you desire.

Please RSVP to Judi Robinson

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 Hibbits.



Special Community Information:

One of our members is State Senator Fran Pavley, who has a long-time commitment to the goals of our organization. As many people in her large senate district know, she will be retiring from active public life next fall. However, she continues to serve her constituents in very meaningful ways. In order to help keep you tuned into the latest information about Sacramento and the SD 27, Senator Pavley offers an excellent and informative monthly E-newsletter.

If you would like to receive a copy by email, please sign up for it on Senator Pavley's website "Contact Me" form at <http://sd27.senate.ca.gov/contact>, where you'll fill in the required fields - name, home address and email. Then select an issue from the drop down menu - select "Newsletter Website" and click on Submit. This information is offered as a public service and is part of promoting more community involvement by the AAUW membership.

JOIN US

AAUW THOUSAND OAKS

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP: WOMEN'S HEALTHCARE

IN AN EDUCATIONAL NETWORKING EVENT



Understanding Cancer Clusters, & Demographic Markers for Increased Risks

Guest Speaker: Erin Slack, MPH

Epidemiologist, Ventura County Public Health

Hosted by AAUW Special Interest Group Leader

Angie Simpson, EMHA

November 5th, 2015 6:30pm

Village Homes Club House • 1040 Evanstar Ave • Westlake Village

2015 Legislative Year End Report

Through an advocacy coalition organized by the *Women's Policy Institute*, AAUW California focused on two dozen bills guided by the four pillars of the California women's economic agenda: *Fair Pay and Job Opportunities, Access to Childcare, Family Friendly Workplace and Eradicating Poverty*.

AAUW California's agenda focused on *Fair Pay and Job Opportunities*. Passage of SB 358 was a big victory as an important update to California's Fair Pay Act. It prohibits retaliation for disclosing wages amongst coworkers and closes a loophole used by employers when employees sue for wage discrimination based on gender.

It was disappointing, however, to have bills vetoed by the Governor that would have made further progress in gender wage gap issues. Important provisions to prohibit using prior salary history to establish new pay and the requirement that state contractors have plans in place for fighting gender pay inequities are still to be addressed. AAUW CA announced, "We will be back."

The new legislative year will begin January 4, 2016. The aauw.com website will be updated with our new agenda after the March Public Policy Committee meeting.

Continue your involvement with TWO-Minute Activist. This provides you an opportunity for rapid response to important policy issues of the day.

Lori Kissinger, Public Policy

AAUW Thousand Oaks
Cordially Invites You to Our



ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY!

Fun, Food, Wine, Surprises and Music!

Sunday, December 6
5:00 PM

At the lovely home of Liz and Juris Priedkalns

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.

Please R.S.V. P. to Sally Hibbitts, by November 29.

Order Holiday Poinsettias from AAUW

Beautiful RED, PINK and WHITE plants in large 6" pots. The perfect way to decorate a home or office, give as gifts or replant in your garden!

Plus, proceeds benefit AAUW FUNDS-Legal Advocacy.

Orders must be received by November 14, 2015.



Name: _____

Home #: _____ Cell #: _____

Specify how many plants you want of each color: _____ RED _____ PINK _____ WHITE

_____ TOTAL Plants Ordered x \$10.00 each = \$_____ Amount Enclosed

**Mail this form and your check made payable to AAUW T.O. to
Dianna Campbell (address is on contact page at the back of this newsletter.)**

**Pick up day for poinsettias is SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2015
between 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM at the home of Dianna Campbell**

Joyful Volunteering

Our hard working Joyful Volunteer, new member Sachi Stark, and her puppet friends from the Red Cross. Sachi helped with the classroom puppet show to increase emergency preparedness. More volunteers are needed to help with this easy special project. Please contact Sally Hibbitts or Sachi Stark.



Save the Date!

Saturday, January 23, 2016 - IBC Luncheon. Los Robles Greens, Thousand Oaks. Time TBA.

Please note: At the AAUW TO Branch Meeting at the Fall Brunch on September 19, membership unanimously endorsed the SOAR initiatives and encourages all members to actively participate in the passage of these important protections for our precious agricultural and open space lands.



SIGNATURE GATHERERS' GATHERING

Would you like to play a part in preserving the legacy of open space protection in Ventura County?

If you are interested in volunteering to collect signatures for the SOAR petition, please join us on:

November 21st

At 10 AM

**Rancho Santa Rosa Clubhouse
11701 East Las Posas Road, Santa Rosa Valley**

- to pick up petitions,
- learn effective ways to gather signatures
- meet fellow volunteers
- launch the signature gathering drive

**to extend the SOAR laws that Save Open space and
Agricultural Resources until the year 2050.**

**To RSVP and get driving directions,
please contact Karen Schmidt at kschmidt@soarvc.org**

Contact Joan Edwards to volunteer to work one shift at the SOAR booth at the Bird Fest, Saturday, December 5th, 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM at the Santa Monica Mountains Interagency Visitor Center, King Gillette Ranch, Calabasas. To volunteer, it is necessary to attend the above training.

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 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.**



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 21, 2016. 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 the closet or want to assist with display set-up.

Book Bag Coordinator Needed!



Are you a reader? Would you like to share your enthusiasm about books with other members? Then, there is an opportunity for you to do all of that plus help this Branch earn some needed funds for operating expenses. *The Book Bag is back!*

Several years ago, a member thought it would be a great idea if gently-used books would be available for purchase at Branch meetings, interest groups, community events, etc. The source of these books would be Branch members who bring donated books to meetings. The books are sold for very reasonable prices (\$1 or less) and the money goes to our treasury.

The traveling book bag (26" suitcase on wheels) has been revived and an initial collection of paperback books has been donated. Now we need someone to get it started! There are some Branch events scheduled for November so many potential buyers are out there. This is a great job for several people to share. If you want more information or just want to say "YES, I'LL STEP UP AND HELP," email Sally Hibbitts who has the bag and books!



Common Core Study Group

Vicki Vierra, from the Ventura County Office of Education, presented the math portion of Common Core with some additional general information and understandings. She was an amazing presenter and we all went away feeling that we had learned a great deal.

The next meeting will address the English Language Arts standards and questions you may have. It is scheduled for Monday, November 30th at 4:15 PM at the Cameron Center in Thousand Oaks.

Contact Lori Kissinger

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.**

Due to a lack of interest and associated leadership, the "Share What You Know" and "Writers" groups are not able to get started this year. We are hopeful to get them initiated next year, or if leadership "Steps Up and Speaks Out" in support of these groups, a lot sooner!

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 13)

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:

*November 16: *The English Teacher* by Lily King
December 28: *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown
January 25, 2016: *The Circle* by Dave Eggers

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:

November 19: *Still Alice* by Lisa Genova
December 17: *In the Unlikely Event* by Judy Blume (**POTLUCK**)
January 21, 2016: *The Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins

Exploring Religions of the World Through the Eyes of Women

We will meet three or four 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.** (see page 17)

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!

The Ventura County Office of Education is having a competition called VEX Robotics on Saturday, November 14th from 8:30 AM-3:30 PM at the VCOE Conference & Educational Services Center in Camarillo. Presently, they need 7-8 more volunteers to assist as inspectors, referees, field reset people, on deck managers and award judges. To register, go to <https://goo.gl/xaRsfc>. **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 15)

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.** (see page 15)

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.** (see page 9)

Our Community Environment

Our Community Environment is a new Special Interest Group formed to look into what is happening with the environment here in the Conejo Valley. Join us on Thursday, November 19th at 7:00 PM at Mimi's on Moorpark, when Tim Gallagher from the 20/20 Network will present information on the three- and four-story mixed-use/apartment buildings developers want to build along Thousand Oaks Blvd. Come with your questions.



Future topics to be covered include: the drought; the state of the beautiful old oak trees along Thousand Oaks Blvd; what is SOAR and how to insure open spaces and parks are protected; the use of Round-up in city parks and can it be halted; field trips plus possible hands-on volunteer work.

AAUW Thousand Oaks has a nearly 50-year history of community involvement with the environment, so let's keep it going! For further information, contact Yvonne Brockwell.



Attending the "10 x 10 Planning Event" sponsored by the Conejo Future Foundation were AAUW Branch members (left to right): Kateri Alexander, Penny Strowger, Angie Simpson, Marilyn Carpenter, and Yvonne Brockwell.

Museums and Gardens Group to Visit Olive Oil Company



On Wednesday, November 18th, we are venturing a little closer to our home base for this different type of experience! Instead of a traditional garden, we are seeing a slightly larger scale "garden"...actually a working farm! All members are welcome to join us on a trip to the Ojai Valley Olive Oil Company for a tour of the beautiful farm and an olive oil tasting! This trip is being planned to coincide with all of the winter time holiday cooking and baking.

We will meet at the Barnes and Noble Bookstore at the Promenade in Westlake Village at 10:00 AM to allow time for the drive, an early lunch in the Ojai Village area, and maybe a little shopping time. We will then drive out to the Ojai Olive Oil Company, which is located on the Asquith Ranch property in the east end of the valley. The Mediterranean climate in the Ojai Valley is perfect for a wide range of agriculture and happens to be particularly ideal for olives. The main olive grove on the ranch was planted in the 1880s, back in the era of the Spanish Missions, when there was a communal olive press in the valley. At that time, the valley produced a good quantity of olive oil and the trees thrived. Their suitability to the Ojai climate is evident in the fact that the trees on the ranch have survived for over a century. Through droughts, wildfires, and storms, the olive trees have persevered.

The cost of this trip is your share of the gas money payable in cash to your driver and your own lunch expenses. There is no cost for the olive grove tour or tasting. Obviously, it is hoped by the company that purchases of their excellent products will be made in their gift shop!



If you would like to participate, please RSVP to Sally Hibbitts. Willing drivers are always appreciated! This trip will be postponed if the weather is inclement.

Please also note that reservations have been obtained for a large group of AAUW members to see the new Broad Museum on Tuesday, January 5...so mark that date down now! The museum is not doing any group tours yet, but we will have timed entry reservations for that date. Carpools will definitely be needed.



Calling All AAUW Branch Members and Joyful Volunteers!

We have a special opportunity to help with an immediate project that our AAUW partner organization, Girl Scouts, is working on locally.

The 8th Grade Girl Scout Troop 60497 is trying to pull together 130 Thanksgiving Food Baskets for no/low income Conejo families. How many baskets can we help fill? Who will "STEP UP AND SPEAK OUT" by supporting Girl Scouts and Many Mansions with this short term project? What a deal - it's a *twofer*!!! This is an immediate need for hungry families. Drop off locations for your donations are the homes of either Lori Kissinger or Sally Hibbitts.

Deadline is Friday, November 20th.

8th Grade Girl Scout Troop 60497 "Harvest Baskets" for Thanksgiving

We are raising awareness of food shortages and hunger in urban/suburban families
By collecting food for families in the Many Mansion's Communities

What's in a basket?

Fill a laundry basket with:

- 2 cans of turkey gravy
- 1 small bag of potatoes
- 1 bag of carrots (with the skin on, not baby carrots that need refrigeration)
- 1 package of dinner rolls
- 1 box of stuffing mix
- 2 cans of cranberry sauce
- 2 boxes of "mac & cheese"
- 2 cans of green beans & 2 cans of fruit cocktail
- \$25 grocery gift card (for ham or turkey)
- A greeting card with holiday wishes
- Anything else you may want to add!!!!

Suggestions for additional items: non-perishable dessert, paper goods, flavored drink mixes, salad dressings, can opener, decorations. Items in the basket cannot require refrigeration. All products need to be OK for 5 days at room temperature & be fresh for Thursday 11/26.



Many Mansions provides housing to low-income and no-income families in the Conejo Area, serving over 1300 residents, approximately 1000 adults and 300 children.

Our goal is to provide 130 baskets for the residents to have a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner.

Please have your baskets ready on Friday 11/20 or you can drop-off on Sunday 11/22 between 9am-3pm.

Any questions? Need to Schedule pick-up or need address for drop-off? Please email Karen Kennedy WOSUgirlscouts@outlook.com

Global Awareness & Action 4 Girls

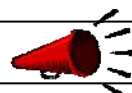
At the Fall Breakfast, a number of people signed up for this interest group. As many are new to AAUW, we thought a brief summary of the interest group might be valuable. This group is an electronic interest group and doesn't have fixed meetings.

About a year ago, Jeanette Hosek was in South Africa with her daughter and grandson. While there, she had the opportunity to visit the Desmond Tutu Health Clinic in Cape Town. This clinic is located next to a high school and large settlement. The clinic offers health information for teens and others regarding HIV-AIDS, plus other services. South Africa has a high incidence of infection for several reasons. So when Jeanette returned, she started this e-interest group for members who would be willing to purchase sanitary supplies for the clinic. Several members assisted with this project and we managed to send three shipments of sanitary pads, tampons and other items. The expense of shipping these packages was high and not knowing when or whether they arrived was concerning.

Now, the group needs to choose a project for this year. We can continue with the sanitary supplies and find a partner to help with shipping expenses, or we can find another project. At the Fall Breakfast, several people suggested we look into helping the children of Syrian refugees. Do you have an idea? If so, please briefly let Jeanette know.

To start, you may want to look at Days4Girls website which has similar concerns but has a U.S. location where items can be sent. Or you may have some other completely different path. After we get your suggestions, we will email them out and decide where to focus.

Thanks for your interest.
Jeanette Hosek



Stepping Up and Speaking Out!

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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 (with an AA degree or higher) to join the Thousand Oaks Branch of AAUW. She/he gets a great gift: you get a friend with whom you can attend Branch events. Win/Win! **Contact Judi Robinson.**

Oak Twig 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 that 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.

Looking for a Phone Number?

If you're seeking contact information for people leading various Branch activities, please see page 21 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.

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.



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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