

**Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup>**

## **Annual Fall Breakfast**

### **CALENDAR OF COMING ATTRACTIONS:**

**Saturday, September 3, 9 AM,** Coffee and Chat, Stella's Café, NP

**Wednesday, September 7, 6:30 PM,** AAUW TO Board Meeting, Wildwood Condo Complex

**Saturday, September 24--**Annual Fall Breakfast, Los Robles Greens, Thousand Oaks. Registration starts at 8:30 AM  
(**September Branch Event**)

**Wednesday, September 28 --** League of Women Voters/ AAUW Forum for Thousand Oaks City Council candidates, City Hall, 7 PM

**Saturday, October 1,** 9 AM---Coffee and Chat, Stella's Café, NP

**Wednesday, October 5 -** PTA/ AAUW Forum for CVUSD School Board candidates, Thousand Oaks High School Performing Arts Center, Time 7 PM

**October Board Meeting,** TBD

**Thursday, October 13 -** "Walking on the Wild Side" Thousand Oaks Library, 6:30-8:00 p.m.  
(**October Branch Event**)

Look at our fabulous new web page at (see page 18):

**[www.aauwto-ca.aauw.net](http://www.aauwto-ca.aauw.net)**

**"Breaking Many Glass Ceilings..."**

**...and it's going to be Smashing!"**



**You are cordially invited to the**  
**AAUW Thousand Oaks**  
**Fall Membership Breakfast**

**Saturday September 24 – 8:30 AM**

**Los Robles Golf Greens - Sunset  
Ballroom**

**229 S Moorpark Road – Thousand Oaks**

(see pages 8 and 9 for more

information and registration)

## A Message from Our President – Sally Hibbitts

Welcome to our newest issue of the Oak Twig! Branch Leadership and Oak Twig staff take a couple of months in the summer to do the planning necessary for the new term of office. Our new *Oak Twig* Editor, Kristin Hoover, established a few new procedures as she takes the helm of this very important job!

Many exciting changes are in the air for our AAUW Branch! We will announce more at our wonderful Annual Fall Brunch on Saturday, September 24 (see the insert info). Some of these changes are:

Our web site is being redone due to outdated technology. Your patience is appreciated as Narda Fargotstein transitions from the role previously held by Betty Nordahl.

We are transitioning our entire Membership Roster and Database to newer technology. Bonnie Shubb did an amazing job last year keying in *all* the data so that our new Finance and Membership team (Caroline Tsaw, Linda Pochter, and Mini Madan) will have up to date record management systems.

Our Special Interest Groups are changing a bit too with an interesting new group to help harness that right side of your brain!

Details will be announced soon of our new Mentoring Cloud Project to provide guidance to younger women.

We are following through

with our Branch commitment to support and work for the successful passage of SOAR, as determined by the unanimous vote at last year's Brunch.

We have two newer initiatives in conjunction with the Conejo Valley USD to provide community support for elementary school children of non-English speakers and High School Dreamers.

This year's One City: One Book selection, *Grandma Gatewood's Walk: The Inspiring Story of the Woman Who Saved the Appalachian Trail* by Ben Montgomery, provides us with an unique opportunity for an interesting October panel discussion called "Women Walking on the Wild Side" moderated by Supervisor Linda Parks (a highly experienced backpacker).

AAUW Board Leadership, in conjunction with our university partners CLU and CSUCI, will be completing the application to bring the nationally recognized AAUW program called, Elect Her, to our area in the spring of 2017. Elect Her is the only training program for female college students, which teaches them the necessary skills to pursue elected office.

We can't forget the rest.....Poinsettia sales for LAF, a Fun Holiday Party, IBC Luncheon, Women's History Project, Women in STEM Careers, Equal Pay Day, and more!

I am sincerely looking forward to seeing all of you on Saturday, September 24, for you to hear more details about these activities!



**AAUW President Hibbitts**  
*discussing the many accomplishments of the Thousand Oaks Branch at an area community meeting*

### September Cake-Days

- 3 Cynthia Perry
- 5 Pat Helton
- 9 Patricia Gross
- 9 Patricia Murray
- 14 Angela Cutbill
- 16 Phyllis Benson
- 17 Kathleen Heller
- 19 Sue Pelman
- 22 Christine Nuttall
- 23 Narda Fargotstein
- 23 Kristin Hoover
- 26 Betsy Berry
- 26 Dianna Campbell
- 27 Colleen Briner-Schmidt



## Sad and Glad News

By Audrey Giuffrida

Sunshine Committee

[Dorothy Robinson](#) is especially proud of her granddaughter, Jessica Robinson, who graduated in June from the University of Washington with a doctor's degree in physical therapy. To top off her degree, she was also presented with an engagement ring that same weekend from her boyfriend of four years. Physical therapy sounds like a great field to be in and, of course, being married is certainly another event to look forward to. We congratulate [Dorothy and her granddaughter on these happy occasions and wish Jessica much happiness in the future.](#)

[Wendy Hoffman](#) and husband, Alan, celebrated their upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary by taking their family on a trip to Grand Teton National Park and Yellowstone National Park in July. They took their son and his family (2 granddaughters, ages 12 and 10) from Boston and their daughter and her family (2 grandchildren, ages 7 1/2 and 5 1/2) from San Jose, CA.

They enjoyed hiking, horseback riding, a float trip on the Snake River, beautiful scenery and lots of animal life. While in their car, they were chased down by a bison, who elected to avoid the car and continue wandering down the road. It sounds like a wonderful family experience was had by all and we are happy that the family had such a delightful trip.

[Betty Stapelford](#) is another world traveler in our group who, along with her husband, Tom, went on a trip to the Zulu Nyala Game Lodge near Durban, South Africa. They left for South Africa on May 22 and arrived in Capetown on May 24, a very long flight. After a day of sightseeing with friends in Capetown, they flew to Durban where they were met at the airport for a drive to the lodge.

During each of the 7 days of their stay, their ranger took them out twice a day to see the wildlife at the 49 acre preserve and other locations. During that time they saw elephants, rhinos, hippos, nyala, zebras, warthogs, leopards, cheetahs and many other animals. It was a trip of a lifetime. Just ask Betty to show you some of her pictures.

We are indeed eager to see your pictures, Betty, and are happy you had this exciting experience.



## Sad and Glad News - Continued

[Jeanette Hosek](#), and her daughter, Sybil and husband, Gary, and their three children embarked on a trip to South Africa to attend a World AIDS Conference, where Sybil was part of a symposium on adolescents and AIDS. The conference, held in Durban, South Africa, attracted thousands of AIDS activists including Prince Harry and Elton John.

They rented a van following the conference for a two-week safari visiting three wild animal preserves. The first was the Simangalisco Wetland Park, home to thousands of hippos, crocodiles and birds. Their journey brought them to Kruger National Park, considered to be one of the best destinations in South Africa for viewing wildlife. It is a very rural part of the country and they took self-guided tours and saw many impala and other related antelope species, herds of elephants, Cape Buffalos, a huge family of baboons, rhinos, water bucks, bush bucks and warthogs. People on self-driving safaris are not allowed to leave their cars and they were advised against getting too close to young animals. At one point they saw several huge ostrich.

Crocodiles are in all the water bodies and some are really big. One day they took a guided night safari where they hoped to see lions and leopards, which are rarely seen during the day. Although they heard several lions roaring, the animals never appeared. The rest areas (cabins) close by 5:30 p.m. and no one is allowed to leave the electrified

area. They headed for the Sabi Sands Bush Camp, known for its large cats. It is in another preserve close to the park. Bush camps are in areas where the animals are all around and there is minimal fencing. The ranger drives the jeep right up to the place where the animal is standing, so they finally got to see a pride of lions and two leopards. Poaching is a problem so there are armed anti-poaching teams that ride around in the dark to protect the rhinos and elephants. At the end of the day, they were escorted back to their cabins after dinner, with lanterns lighting the way. Sybil had some hyenas visit her cabin later in the night for a howling competition. The children loved seeing the cats, but Jeanette was nervous about how close to them the rangers drove.

To conclude the trip, the family spent three days in Johannesburg. They had a tour of the city, Constitutional Hill, and historical sites such as the township of Soweto. It was Election Day and a National holiday in South Africa so that people are able to vote easily. The family did have the trip of a lifetime and were glad to be back home again, but the memories of South Africa will linger for a long time.



*Sabi Sands Bush Camp*

## Sad and Glad News - Continued

We always knew the AAUW ladies were a traveling group and recent events have not proven us wrong. [Cathy Whitney](#) & husband, Jay, have just returned from a four month world cruise, where they visited many diverse ports, among them Petra, Jordan the recently excavated city carved in the rocks, Dubai with the world's tallest building and a gold jewelry market where dresses and shawls of gold were for sale, the Panama Canal where their ship was pulled along the locks by trains called mules, and the Suez Canal, with a military escort. They also rode a wicker sled down the roads of Funchal, Portugal and saw the crystal clear waters of the charming town of Korcula, Croatia, exiting the ship in Tonga and getting drenched after 5 minutes from the 100% humidity and heat. They viewed the old town of Rhodes, Greece with its narrow, winding unnamed streets, and saw whole families squeezed onto a motor scooter as they rode the highways of Saigon, Vietnam, and also viewed the immaculate subway in Singapore, with a panel to block the tracks until the trains arrived.

Cathy & Jay were away 111 days, with 40 port days and 71 days at sea. What surprised them was that most of the cruisers expressed a preference for sea days, and for some it was a way of life, taking a world cruise each year, with one cruiser permanently residing on the ship.

Upon their return they encountered an unexpected - and uninvited - visitor in their house. A bird had decided to take up residence in their vacant abode. That just added to the many diverse experiences they witnessed. We are all happy they had this enjoyable, enriching voyage and are sure it was a trip they will never forget.



*Petra, Jordan*



**Get your reservation in for  
Breaking Many Glass Ceilings on  
Sept. 24!**

**AAUW FUNDS - EDUCATIONAL FUNDING  
AND AWARDS--2016**

AAUW fellowships and grants have provided more than \$100 million to more than 12,000 women. For the 2016-17 academic year, more than 230 women and community projects serving women and girls will receive \$3.7 million.

The awards will help AAUW fellows and grantees achieve their educational and professional goals, allowing women to break through barriers in fields where they are traditionally underrepresented. In fact, 43 percent of AAUW fellowships and grants support women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields. They provide women from all fields with the funding, confidence, and exposure that comes with a prestigious award.

But the impact will extend far beyond the hard-won accomplishments of our fellows and grantees. Their work will reverberate around the globe. AAUW alumnae have demonstrated their commitment to helping women and girls in their communities. Fellows and grantees often dedicate their work to fields that empower, but they also personally serve others through mentorship and community service. The AAUW Thousand Oaks branch's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary American fellowship was awarded this year to Christine Morrison of California Institute of Technology. Christine is completing her PhD in Organic Chemistry with the project name: *Learning from Nature to Fertilize the World's Crops with Less Energy and Environmental Impact.*

**If you are interested in assisting with any of the scholarships and awards AAUW FUNDS provides, please contact Jeanette Hosek, Funds Director. [jhosek@roadrunner.com](mailto:jhosek@roadrunner.com)**

*Congratulations to  
Christine Morrison!*



<http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration/>



**When Women Vote, it changes the conversation!**

Since 1881, AAUW has been the leading voice promoting education and equity for women and girls. AAUW encourages women voters to get involved in the political process and gain a better understanding of the impact that legislative action – or inaction – can have on their lives. In the current partisan climate, we need to be aware of what's at stake in the upcoming Federal, State and local election.

We will be bombarded with political advertising in the media and in our mailboxes until November 8th. There will be information from candidates for office and from proponents and opponents of ballot initiatives. As you sort through all this, it may be helpful to reflect on priority issues affecting us, our daughters and granddaughters, and evaluate candidates' positions on these issues. Find out how incumbents voted.

## Non-Partisan Voter Resources

### AAUW CA website:

[www.aauw-ca.org](http://www.aauw-ca.org) Public Policy section - will soon have more detail on priority issues, and questions to ask of candidates

**Fall Perspective** - will be distributed to all members in September, with Ballot Initiatives recommendations

### AAUW website:

[www.aauwaction.org](http://www.aauwaction.org) or [VoterEd@aauw.org](mailto:VoterEd@aauw.org) - has a Get Out the Vote (GOTV) toolkit available to download, including ideas for branch activities, College/University partners, and specifics for 501(c)3 and 501(c)4 branches

### CA Secretary of State

**website:** [www.sos.ca.gov](http://www.sos.ca.gov) - voter information, Ballot Initiatives

State and County Voter guides - mailed to all registered voters in October.

If you have signed up to vote by mail, start your research soon, as your ballot will arrive in mid-October. If you recently moved, information must be updated with the County Registrar of Voters! Register to vote, if you haven't already. Voting is a powerful tool to bring about change!

## Dedication of New Sculpture at Children's Library



Members joined in celebrating the dedication of the new sculpture in front of the Thousand Oaks Children's Library over the summer. AAUW TO is a long time community supporter of the library. From left to right are: Joan Udani, Marilyn Carpenter, Sally Hibbitts, Kay Hogopian, Lori Kissinger, Claudia Bill de la Pena (back), Anne LaFianza, and Barbara Gilmore.

### What is a Gift Card Tree?

How would you like another way to contribute to the Thousand Oaks Branch of the AAUW at our Fall Membership Breakfast? It's easy. Just give us a gift card of any amount for our raffle tree to support Tech Trek. You may contribute one you already have, get one donated, or purchase one. All you need to do is contact Betty Stapleford to let her know what you are donating and how she can get it from you. Thanks so much!

**You are cordially invited to the**

## **AAUW Thousand Oaks**

### **Fall Membership Breakfast**

**“Breaking Many Glass Ceilings...**

**...and it's going to be Smashing!”**

**Saturday September 24 – 8:30 AM**

**Los Robles Golf Greens - Sunset Ballroom**

**229 S Moorpark Road ,Thousand Oaks**

*Keynote Speaker:* Breaking through many glass ceilings in her career, we welcome Commander Cheryl Wade of the Ventura County Sheriff's Office.

*Charitable Donation:* Please bring a donation of one of the items on the attached list—all are desperately needed at the Coalition for Family Harmony (Battered Women Shelter) in Ventura County. These women have to break a glass ceiling just to be safe!



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**REGISTRATION - PLEASE PRINT Deadline Friday 9/16**

-----YES, I look forward to attending the Fall Breakfast. Check included for \$35.00 per ticket.

-----YES, I can help defray the cost for a Tech Trek scholarship winner to attend this event.

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

My Name \_\_\_\_\_ My Guest's Name \_\_\_\_\_

My telephone number \_\_\_\_\_ Total number attending: \_\_\_\_\_

My Em \_\_\_\_\_ Amount of check enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to AAUW-TO and mail along with this form to:

**PO BOX 4223 Thousand Oaks CA 91359**

Credit Card payment instructions are available upon request. For further information contact: Bonnie Shubb.



**Keynote Speaker – Commander Cheryl Wade**

**Fall Membership Breakfast**

**“Breaking Many Glass Ceilings...**

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Commander Cheryl Wade, a member of the Sheriff's Office since 1985, has worked in all 4 divisions – Patrol (Thousand Oaks, Camarillo, & West County), Detention (Courts, Honor Farm, & Pre-Trial Detention Facility), Special Services (Sex Crimes & Homicide), and Support Services (Sheriff's Administration, Internal Affairs, & Professional Standards). She has also managed the following units or programs: Cold Cases, Narcotics, Criminal Intelligence, DRMO, SWAT, Bomb/Arson, Air Unit, Information Systems, Crime Analysis, Data Entry, and Forgery/Fraud.

Commander Wade is currently assigned to the Support Services Division where she commands the following units or programs: Professional Standards/Internal Affairs, Audits & Inspections, Division Budget, Academy, In-Service Training, Range, and Peer Support.

Commander Cheryl Wade has a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration/Management from California Lutheran University, a Master's degree in Public Administration from California State University, Northridge, and a Master's degree in Security Studies from the Naval Postgraduate School Center for Homeland Defense and Security.

**Donation Boxes will be available for:**

## **Coalition for Family Harmony**

To provide direct services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault; to educate the community regarding violence against women, children, and men; to prevent the cycle of violence.

Current Primary Needs\*:

Towels - Twin-size sheets – Pillowcases - Comforters or Bedspreads - Hair Needs: Brushes - Hair Dryer – Scrunchies – Rollers



**Coalition for Family Harmony**

*Building Stronger Families*

## CVUSD AND THE CVLC Update (as of mid August)

By Lori Kissinger,

AAUW Observer

Establishment of the Conejo Valley Learning Center (CVLC) has been a school district goal for many years. The concept is to merge multiple programs into one building, including Conejo Valley High School (the district continuation school), Century Academy (Independent Learning) and Career Technical Education (CTE) programs.

The continuation school property in Newbury Park was sold several years ago and plans for construction of the new CVLC on the Janss Road property adjacent to the School District Offices were developed. However, soil mitigation issues related to potential earthquake hazards were identified. Costs were well over budget and on May 3 district administration presented three alternatives to the School Board for CVLC and/or CVHS:

## Three Options Identified by CVUSD

☒ Use (old) Triunfo School and Horizon Hills sites and relocate their current programs, which include:

- Triunfo leased through June 2017 to Carden School (a private school), not renewed
- Place Century Academy and Horizon Hills Parenting Program at the old Triunfo site
- Relocate Conejo Valley High School and developed CTE programs at the Horizon Hills site

☒ Use an underutilized elementary school

- Move Horizon Hills Parenting Program
- CTE programs developed
- CVHS and Century Academy to Horizon Hills

☒ Relocate only CVHS to Janss Road property

An immediate community concern and highly vocal response prompted the creation of an *Ad Hoc* committee charged with reviewing the administrative recommendations and identifying other possibilities. Three *Ad Hoc* meetings were held and an expanded list of recommendations was presented to the Superintendent on August 26<sup>th</sup>.



Inadequate and substandard facilities of Conejo Valley High School need to be replaced.



### ***Community Relations----Anne LaFianza***

For the next year I will be attending community events on behalf of AAUW in order to keep our membership informed on issues impacting our community.

**Senior Housing Committee:** My first assignment was to attend a community meeting that was put on by Walter Knauss. This gentleman is a CPA who is very interested in finding solutions to the challenges that Thousand Oaks faces with regard to senior housing.

“The Purpose of the meeting: Community collective sharing of key information on senior support. Determine if there is interest in pursuing a grass roots group to help develop a plan of action based on real senior desires and needs and to help educate our city leaders in decision making on a proactive basis.”

One of the particularly interesting items is that the old Pinecrest property is a possible location for future senior housing. The biggest issue is making housing affordable and not just for the higher income levels. There were several informative presentations from not only city staff members but community agencies as well, including Senior Concerns, Conejo Village, Many Mansions, etc.

There were no decisions made at this meeting. Mr. Knauss was going to research further into the Pinecrest School location.

**September 11 Commemoration to Include Peace Heroes Walk:** This family-friendly, educational community event is designed to promote peace literacy (i.e. the art of living peaceably) through the stories of peace heroes. It is endorsed and supported by many organizations in our region, including Rotary International. The walk strives to unify diverse groups of people around ideals that all peace heroes have in common: recognition of the interconnections, promotion of justice, rejection of vengeance and fostering reconciliation. Lifting up the stories of peace heroes and celebrating the ideals that guide them helps inspire and educate a new generation of peace leaders. The walk is neither a march nor a protest. Organizers and participants do not take positions on current conflicts anywhere in the world; instead, they work to bridge differences among people who share a desire to create a culture of peace and nonviolence. If AAUW members are interested in this event, please contact me.



## August 16, 2016 Remarks from AAUW President Hibbitts at CVUSD Board Meeting Regarding Update of the Sexual Health Education Curriculum

Good evening, President Phelps, Members of the Board, and Dr Bonitatibus :

AAUW Thousand Oaks, has since the creation of this unified school district, consistently stepped up and spoken out about issues of the day, especially those that have the potential for hurting the education of our youth. Tonight, we find ourselves in that situation once again and not surprisingly, the issue is focused on Sexual Health Education.

The comprehensive sexual health education law combines education on HIV prevention, which already is mandatory, with sexual health education, which has been optional, into a single, mandatory course of instruction with an updated curriculum, as determined by Assembly Bill 329 adopted and signed last year. Parents will also have the option of excusing their child from instruction.

This new law will remedy the uneven instruction in sexual health in many public schools in our state, as documented in a study by researchers at UC San Francisco and in a lawsuit against the Clovis Unified School District brought by two parents and several advocacy groups that alleged inaccurate and biased information about sexual health was being taught. The parents alleged that a textbook on HIV prevention did not mention condoms and a video on sexual health featured a man on his wedding night comparing a woman to a dirty shoe because she was not a virgin.

However, because instruction was not mandated, the districts were “picking and choosing” what they wanted to teach. In some cases, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students have been “made to feel invisible – or worse, stigmatized – in health classes”. This tragic behavior only perpetuates a bullying mentality and increases intolerance among our student population.

The new law states that curriculum “affirmatively recognize that people have different sexual orientations.”

Further among the new areas required, the curriculum will include information about “sexual harassment, sexual assault, adolescent relationship abuse, intimate partner violence, and sex trafficking.” Schools must provide “comprehensive, accurate and unbiased” information on sexual health and HIV prevention and provide students with “the knowledge and skills they need to develop healthy attitudes concerning adolescent growth and development, body image, gender, sexual orientation, relationships, marriage, and family.”

AAUW Thousand Oaks strongly supports this new mandated state law, as it provides an improved sexual health curriculum for our students, which will more thoroughly prepare them for the realities of our modern society.

Thank you.



## Mentoring Initiative with the Women's Economic Roundtable of Ventura County

By Lenore Arab

Recognizing the power of mentoring in career development and job satisfaction, the Ventura County Women's Economic Roundtable (WER) has set mentoring as a priority. Therefore, AAUW TO will be engaging with the WER in developing a plan for making various mentoring opportunities readily accessible to our area young women at all stages in their lives. WER in collaborating closely with Million Women Mentoring in California (MWM) is exploring the use of a sophisticated software platform (Mentor Cloud) that can assist in matching and connecting mentors and mentees. Key to all of this is the development of a mentor pool of women willing to share their experience with others and help support the growth of other women.



At the Annual Fall Membership Brunch, we will launch this exciting outreach campaign. A meeting dedicated to discussing this mentoring opportunity will be held on [October 17 at 7 pm, so please save this date.](#) If you would like to help with this initiative and reach out to other young women who are seeking your expertise and knowledge, please contact [Lenore Arab](#).

## Confused By The November Ballot? Guide to Propositions

The November ballot in California will contain 17 ballot measures, of which the AAUW CA Public Policy Committee reviewed and evaluated those related to AAUW's priorities and mission and took a position on five:

Proposition 51, **support** – School Bonds. Funding for K-12 and Community College Facilities

Proposition 52, **support** – The Medi-Cal Funding and Accountability Act, hospital fees that help fund Medi-Cal;

Proposition 53, **oppose** – voter approval on specified bonds;

Proposition 55, **support** – extend taxes for schools voted in Proposition 30;

Proposition 58, **support**– The California Multilingual Education Act. allows structured bilingual education programs for English learners.

A full report will be in the September edition of AAUW CA Perspective.

Also, please don't forget that our AAUW Branch endorsed the SOAR initiative a year ago....so, be sure to vote **FOR** Measures C and W and **AGAINST** Measure F. Think in terms of supporting a Clean Wilderness (for Measures C and W) and wanting Measure F to fail!

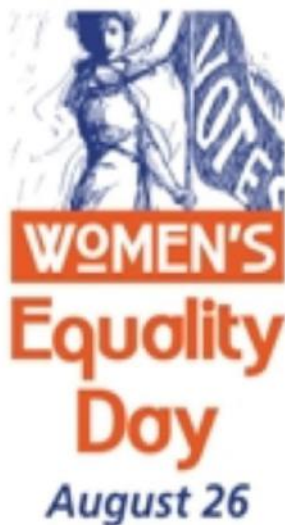


*Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) through CSU Channel Islands to offer classes in Agoura Hills.*

OLLI stimulates, challenges, encourages socialization, satisfies the thirst for knowledge and much more. For those 50 or older, you can enjoy OLLI today and renew all the benefits of an exciting learning environment. No homework, no tests, just great academic classes. New this Fall aware two four-week classes which begin Monday, Sept. 12, 2016 at the Agoura Hills Recreation and Event Center (other classes also held at the Marin Center near the Oaks in TO).

- John Snibbe : The Police: What Life on the Street is Really Like
- Bob Stellwagen (Oct. 10-31): The Molecules of Life

Call (805) 437-2748 for more information



**On August 26, 1920, women in the United States won the right to vote with the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment.** To honor this historic event, Congress declared that the date would be celebrated as **Women's Equality Day** on August 26<sup>th</sup> of each year!

The National Women's History Project is planning a big celebration in 2020. That year will be the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment giving women full voting equality. If you are interested in finding out more about the preparations for celebrating the Centennial of the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment, you can go to the website of the National Women's History Project [www.nwhp.org](http://www.nwhp.org) and join the Women's History Alliance.

**The most important thing you can do is VOTE November 8th. And if you know a woman who isn't voting, tell about Women's Equality Day.**



**Get your reservation in for Breaking Many Glass Ceilings on Sept. 24!**



Get your reservation in for  
Breaking Many Glass Ceilings  
on Sept. 24!

## *Women Legislators Accomplish More in Office*

According to a study of Congress since 2009, women legislators passed twice as many bills as their male counterparts. Women are more likely to introduce legislation focused on women, such as increasing paid leave, equal pay, and prosecuting violence against women. Women legislators are even better at securing funds for their home districts, bringing nine percent more federal funds – for improving programs such as early education and local infrastructure – back to their home districts than their male colleagues. Today, about one-fifth of Congress is made up of women (104 women), compared to just 33 women 25 years ago. However, barriers persist in women's access to higher offices. Women are less likely to feel qualified for political office and are less likely to have a colleague or mentor encourage them to run. In addition, Brookings research found that women running for office are 15 times more likely to be responsible for child care and are six times more likely to do the majority of housework than their male political opponents.

## August Board Meeting Tidbits

- The draft proposal for the 2016-17 Budget was reviewed.
- As of early August, we have 102 members who have renewed their memberships according to the national database
- Exciting plans are being made for the Fall Membership Brunch scheduled for September 24, 2016 at Los Robles Greens.
- The program committee met and is planning some interesting programs for this year.
- We are continuing to support Elect Her.
- We are supporting two forums for the upcoming elections: On September 28 with the League of Women Voters for the City of Thousand Oaks city council and on Oct. 5 with the PTA for CVUSD school board.

## AAUW Thousand Oaks Special Interest Groups

DATE	TITLE	AUTHOR	PAGES	GENRE	HOSTESS	DISCUSSION LEADER
August 18, 2016	The Storyteller	Jody Picoult	460	Fiction	Pat O'Donnell	Pat O'Donnell
September 15, 2016	The Boys in the Boat	Daniel James Brown	469	Non Fiction	Sharon Dyer	Sharon Dyer
October 20, 2016	Grandma Gatewood's Walk	Ben Montgomery	288	History/ Biography	CLU	CLU
November 6, 2016	Author Event at Kavli theater	Ben Montgomery		Memoir	CLU	CLU
December 15, 2016 POTLUCK	The Nightingale	Kristin Hannah	411	Fiction	Sharon Dyer	Audrey Giuffrida
January 19, 2017	The Japanese Lover	Isabelle Allende	322	Fiction	Sharen Shapiro	Sharen Shapiro
February 16, 2017	The Art of Hearing Heartbeats	Jan-Philipp Sendker	325	Fiction	Pat Helton	Cathy Whitney
March 16, 2017	Eligible	Curtis Sittenfield	492	Fiction	Audrey Giuffrida	Pam Petrangelo
April 20, 2017	Longbourn	Jo Baker	352	Fiction	Nina Bublitz	Pat Helton

### Morning Book Group

This group meets at the Thousand Oaks Library on the fourth Monday of the month at 10 AM. For more information, please contact Joan Udani.

- Sept. 26 *Under the Wide and Starry Sky* by Nancy Horan reviewer Jean Maxwell
- Oct. 24 *Grandma Gatewood's Walk* by Ben Montgomery reviewer Jeane Rose
- Nov. 28 *Dead Wake* by Erik Larsen reviewer Berniece Reed
- Dec. 19 *Gray Mountain* by John Grisham reviewer Betsy Berry
- Jan. 23 *Circling the Sun* by Paula Mc Lain reviewer Jeanette Hosek
- Feb. 27 *The Marriage of Opposites* by Alice Hoffman reviewer Pat O'Donnell
- Mar. 27 *The Aviator's Wife* by Melanie Benjamin reviewer Audrey Giuffrida
- Apr. 24 *The Art Forger* by B. A. Shapiro reviewer Claudia Spelman
- May 22 *The Nightingale* by Kristen Hannah reviewer Shel Magnuson
- June 26 Discussion of books for next year

The Evening Book group meets at member's homes on the third Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm, with some exceptions. [Sharon Dyer](#) has taken over leadership of the group from [Ellen Kossoris](#) who did a great job the past few years.

The news about other Special Interest Groups will be all updated next month with exciting new groups and additional information. Returning groups will include Coffee and Chat, Museums and Gardens, Women and Religion, among many others. Anyone who has an idea for an interest group they would like to lead to please contact either [Pat O'Donnell](#) or [Sally Hibbitts](#).

[Shel Magnuson](#) has taken over leadership of the movie group from [Linda Harley](#) who did a great job for us last year.



## Membership Chronicle

By Linda Pochter

Welcome one and all to our new AAUW-Thousand Oaks year. There are so many wonderful programs planned as well as social events and our Interest Groups. Last year our Membership grew enormously because so many of you brought your friends to our events and encourage them to join. I hope you will keep that wonderful momentum going this year.

I will have extra Membership applications available at the Fall Membership Breakfast and encourage you to take a few to hand out to friends and encourage them to join. The Membership Team will work to welcome these new members and get them involved. Some of you have Granddaughters who have graduated this year from college and membership in AAUW is a wonderful gift that will give them new friends and help them focus on women's issues.

If you have not paid your dues yet, please send them in today. The dues are \$90.00 and should be made out to AAUW-TO. Please mail to AAUW-TO, PO Box 4223, Thousand Oaks, CA, 91359.

Thanks so much and I hope to see you at the Fall Membership Breakfast on September 24.

Thanks,

Linda Pochter

Membership Director



SOAR is heating up with the upcoming election and is in need of people to do phone banking to talk to voters about the importance of passing SOAR. Voters also need to be sure to vote **FOR Measures C and W** and **AGAINST Measure F**. Think in terms of supporting a Clean Wilderness (for Measures C and W) and wanting **Measure F to fail!** Remember, SOAR is an AAUW Thousand Oaks Branch endorsed ballot measure, approved at the September 2015 Branch meeting at the Fall Breakfast. If you would like to make calls, contact Sally Hibbitts or Linda Parks.

**ANNOUNCING OUR NEW WEBSITE: NOTE: [www.aauwto-ca.aauw.net](http://www.aauwto-ca.aauw.net)**

AAUW Thousand Oaks has a new website. You will be directed from the old website to our new website for the time being. Please change your favorite to access our new website directly. We have joined AAUW National and our branch will reflect special activities at National on our website.

Please review the new website and let me know how you like it and how we can evolve. You can contact me through the website. – Narda Fargotstein, Webher.

AAUW Thousand Oaks 2016 – 2017 Board of Directors

(Elected on May 21, 2016)

- |   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| 1. President                            | Sally Hibbitts       |
| 2. Vice President                       | Bonnie Shubb         |
| 3. Secretary                            | Sharon Dyer          |
| 4. Treasurer                            | Caroline Tsaw        |
| 5. Parliamentarian/ AAUW Funds          | Jeanette Hosek       |
| 6. Director – Membership Outreach       | Linda Pochter        |
| 7. Director – Membership Treasurer      | Mini Madan           |
| 8. Director – Public Policy             | Betty Stapleford     |
| 9. Director –Community Outreach.        | Anne LaFianza        |
| 10. Director – Oak Twig                 | Kristin Hoover       |
| 11. Director--- Web Site and Directory. | Narda Fargotstein    |
| 12. Director---Tech Trek                | Susan Fagan          |
| 13. Director---Programs                 | Beverly Khoshnevisan |

Associates to the Board (non-voting)

- |  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| 1. Sad and Glad Column                 | Audrey Giuffrida |
| 2. Oak Twig Distribution               | Dorothy Robinson |
| 3. Local Scholarships.                 | Deanna Franke    |
| 4. Special Interest Groups Coordinator | Pat O'Donnell    |

Please note that all contacts are in the printed Directory....if there is someone you can't locate....please contact our Membership Chair, Linda Pochter or Mini Madan.

Thank you!

**Directions to Stella's for Coffee and Chat:** Take 101 to Borchard Road Exit. Take a right on Michael and go past Baskin Robbins. Turn right into the parking lot to Stella's.

**Directions to Wildwood Condo Recreation Center** (for AAUW Board meetings): contact Sally Hibbitts.

## 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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The new program year for Ralphs Market begins on September 1, 2016. Our organization is still active and will remain active in the program. All of you who have previously signed up as supporters, however, will continue donating only through **August 31, 2016**. We have earned nearly \$200 this past year alone.

Participants can start registering for the new term on September 1st 2016. To ensure we continue to receive the benefits of the program, you will need to register and/or re-register as quickly as possible on or after that date at [www.ralphs.com](http://www.ralphs.com).

All previous participants are required to register for the new term online at [www.ralphs.com](http://www.ralphs.com) or by calling 800-443-4438 starting September 1, 2016.



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