



Thousand Oaks Branch, Inc.

Volume 53, Issue 5

January 2018

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Bonnie Shubb



We are flying high after a successful AAUW IBC event learning about how Title IX is implemented in our public schools from Kindergarten through University levels. A panel of experts (educators/administrators/attorney) described their struggles and successes in ensuring that both Federal and State Laws against sex discrimination are being upheld in our local schools. These laws cover students, staff, teachers, as well as contractors on the campus. We are lucky in California to have state laws to make up for what has recently been diluted in the federal law. The IBC is the Ventura County Inter-branch Council, made up of representatives from the three branches: Camarillo, Simi Valley, and Thousand Oaks.



Meanwhile, back at the "B" ranch—we thank **Sofia Bowden** and her daughters for "stickering" AAUW brochures about Title IX so that students will know who to contact for any Title IX questions or issues. These brochures have been delivered to students via the Athletics Department at each of the three larger public high schools in Thousand Oaks. Thanks also to **Sally Hibbitts** for her work on this project.

Now we look forward to a "LOVEly" February (kiss someone you love on Valentine's Day) and we are planning for two major March activities. Check out our calendar and be sure to attend!

Bonnie



SAVE THE DATES – FEBRUARY 2018 CALENDAR

February 3 - Coffee and Chat 9:00AM

Just show up! Stella's Café in Newbury Park

February 7 – Board Meeting 6:30PM

All members are welcome. Contact Bonnie Shubb for location

February 15 – Evening Book Group 7:00PM

Contact Sharon Dyer for location confirmation

February 21 – WET – A DACamented Journey

one-man show brought to Thousand Oaks by CLU upon our recommendation (More info on Page 3)

February 26 – Daytime Book Group 9:30AM

Thousand Oaks Library - Contact Joan Udani

February 27 – Exploring Religions of the World

through the Eyes of Women – RSVP to Wendy Hoffman or Jeanette Hosek by February 23

February 28 – Public Policy Committee Meeting

– Contact Betty Stapleford

Mindful Awareness Group - Contact Holly Sacks for information.

Branch Events coming up next month....

March 11 – Suffrage Tea for AAUW Funds

1:30PM Oak Knolls Clubhouse – 300 McCloud Ave., Thousand Oaks

March 22 – Women's History Program – Save the Date – Details next month

As explained on Page 1, our AAUW Branch is part of Ventura County IBC. We are also members of California AAUW. An important message from California AAUW follows:

As of January 22nd, 2018 the vote to change AAUW California back to a Public Benefit Corporation **failed due to four “no” votes.**

As explained in the pre-vote materials and on the ballot, just one “no” vote causes the measure to fail per California Corporate regulations governing Mutual Benefit Corporations (our current classification). Our pre-vote materials extensively explained the ramifications of a “no” vote and its long-term impact to the organization. We are now facing a lengthy and expensive legal process to reclassify AAUW CA to a Public Benefit Corporation. The ballot measure members recently voted on was the most efficient and cost-effective process. AAUW CA must be reclassified, one way or another, in order to remain an affiliate of AAUW and to participate in all AAUW programs, to include Tech Trek.

Any member who cast a “no” vote has the opportunity to change that vote to a “yes” vote up until February 10, 2018, by contacting governance@aauw-ca.org and requesting that their vote be changed. After that date, AAUW CA will move into a complex and costly appeal process with the State of California.



**SAVE THE DATE:
April 27-29 2018 for the
AAUW California Convention!
Location: Irvine**

AND HERE IS AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM AAUW NATIONAL:

Membership Dues Update

The AAUW Board of Directors voted in June 2017 to enact the first dues change in almost a decade. Effective March 16, 2018, national dues will increase from \$49 to \$59.

Annual dues currently account for 13 percent of AAUW’s annual budget. They help to sustain and grow AAUW’s programs and work that advances equity for women and girls. A combination of dues, donations, and corporate and foundation funding is critical to supporting AAUW’s [salary negotiation workshops](#), groundbreaking [research](#), [advocacy](#) efforts, [campus leadership programs](#), and so much more.

We believe we can do great things together and thank you for your continued support.

Watch a video about this from AAUW Board Chair Julia Brown, J.D., and Chief Executive Officer Kim Churches on www.aauw.org under the Tools and References tab.

WET: A DACAmended Journey written by and starring
Alex Alpharaoh
Wednesday, February 21st
7pm
California Lutheran University - Preus-Brandt Forum
Students Free
A donation will be requested for others

On February 21, our branch is helping sponsor an event with CLU, bringing this critically acclaimed one-man show to Thousand Oaks. Alex Alpharoah tells his own story of coming to the United States with his mother and becoming a Dreamer. We hope to collect donations at this show to support Dreamers via our branch's Conejo Conexiones group, under our Public Policy Committee chair, Betty Stapleford. This group provides resources and support for high-school aged dreamers in our community. We especially want to thank Sally Hibbitts, who saw this show and recommended it to Cynthia Duarte, the faculty sponsor of our AAUW-TO student affiliate group at CLU. It is a one-time special opportunity!



The 2018 Voter Registration drive for Conejo High School seniors.

Our member, **Melanie Ashen**, is looking for volunteers to assist with voter registration for Conejo high school seniors. This year the activity will take place on February 23 between 9 & 12 noon at University Elementary School multi-purpose room, 2801 Atlas Ave, near the intersection of Avenida de los Arboles and Mountclef Blvd. Park in the low lot. Melanie needs 20 workers to help fold, stuff and apply labels for 2200 graduating seniors from area public high schools and two private schools. Contact Melanie at [805-497-6773](tel:805-497-6773)



SUFFRAGE TEA

In the early 1900's, tea parties and receptions were used by the women's suffrage activists to raise money for the cause and to get together to plan their activities and actions. If you would like to learn more about the suffrage movement, enjoy a fun-filled afternoon, and help us raise money for AAUW Funds, join us on March 11. Flyer is on the next page.

AAUW FUNDS

Submitted by Jeanette Hosek

A Look Back – Since 1981, LAF has provided millions of dollars to balance the scales of justice for people working toward gender equity through the legal system. For example there was the case of Janet Conney v. The Regents of the University of California et al.

Janet claimed that she began experiencing a hostile work environment in 2001, after male colleagues made inappropriate comments about her and other women, including comments about their bodies. She also learned that men working in positions similar to hers were making 50–100 percent more than she was. She complained about the harassment and pay inequity and her position was subsequently terminated in 2002. Conney filed a claim in 2003, and LAF began supporting the case in 2004.

After trial in 2004, she was awarded a total of \$2.95 million in damages. The university appealed, but in 2006, the California Supreme Court declined to contest the original verdict and awarded Conney an additional \$4.07 million.

As sexual harassment allegations and instances of the gender pay gap continue to come to light in media, it is plain to see that while we have come a long way in establishing and defending women's safety and equity in the workplace, we still have a long way to go before we achieve true equity. AAUW has a 37-year record of standing with plaintiffs who have made a difference for women and girls across the country, and with your help we will continue to support and amplify the voices of our plaintiffs in years to come. Our branch raised close to \$1000 for LAF through contributions and poinsettia sales. Thanks to our members.



AAUW THOUSAND OAKS SUFFRAGE TEA***
SUNDAY, MARCH 11, 2018 1:30-3:30 PM
OAK KNOLLS CLUBHOUSE- 300 McCloud Ave --Thousand Oaks, CA

The women's suffrage activists were great tea drinkers. They used tea parties and receptions to raise money for the cause and as occasions to get together and plan their activities and actions. By 1914, tea continued to foster the fight for women's rights when porcelain tableware including a teapot with 'votes for women' emblazoned on the front was used. The events raised money for the suffrage movement and guests at each event took home "votes for women" teacups and saucers. Tea was literally helping to get the word out! The tireless efforts of these strong women were rewarded in 1920 with the addition of the Nineteenth Amendment granting women the right to vote.

 Yes, I will attend the Suffrage Tea. Please reserve a place for my guest and me! The cost is \$15 per person with the proceeds going to support AAUW FUNDS***.

Name _____ Guest _____

Send your reservation w/check payable to AAUW Thousand Oaks. Mail to Wendy Hoffman at 330 Somerset Circle, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360 by March 7, 2018.

 No, I cannot attend the Suffrage Tea. However, please accept my donation to AAUW FUNDS. Send your tax-deductible AAUW FUNDS contribution to: AAUW T.O., P.O. Box 4223, Thousand Oaks, 91359. Note on your check: AAUW FUNDS.

*** I AM INTERESTED IN HELPING WITH THIS EVENT? I WILL BE A:

 TABLE HOST – needs to have a teapot(s), tablecloth and a smile!

 SUFFRAGIST— read some sentences as part of script, and wear a sash/hat!

 BAKER—contribute cookies, scones, teacakes and help with tea service.

PLEASE CONTACT WENDY HOFFMAN (wendyhof@gmail.com), JEANETTE HOSEK (jhosek@roadrunner.com) OR BEV KHOSHEVISAN (BKHOSH29@gmail.com) TO LET US KNOW WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO DO.

**PUBLIC POLICY
SUBMITTED BY BETTY STAPLEFORD**

For those of you who may have been concerned about our support of Dreamers in in our local schools through our Conejo Conexiones program, please note the following information from the AAUW National Office.

“The Federal District Court in San Francisco issued an injunction on Tuesday (January 16) that temporarily blocks the end of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. President Donald Trump ordered a stop to the Obama-era program in September, giving Congress until March to find a legislative solution. The judge’s ruling requires the administration to begin accepting renewal applications again, but does not require they process new applications. While the injunction offers temporary relief for DACA recipients, a permanent legislative fix is still necessary. AAUW opposed the decision to end DACA and will continue to stand by Dreamers and defend their right to an education by advocating for timely action and passage of a clean Dream Act.”

“Tell Congress we must protect Dreamers and pass the Dream Act today!

The Dream Act is a bipartisan, bicameral bill that would offer many, including DACA recipients, protection from deportation while allowing them to continue to access education or work and contribute to our society. Our higher education system and our economy are stronger because of the contributions of DACA recipients. . . . Send a message to your members of Congress that urges their support for a clean Dream Act.”

We are hoping to see some new faces at our Public Policy Committee meeting on February 28 at 7:00pm at the home of Betty Stapleford. Contact Betty if you would like to attend and have not previously been part of the committee.

Women’s History Program

On the evening of March 22, we will again be delighted with the presentation by students of the women chosen this year by our Women’s History Program. This is the 32nd year that scripts and instructions, either newly written or updated by Thousand Oak’s Branch members each year, are performed by adults or students in our community and beyond. For Thousand Oaks, again this year, they will be presented by students from One Spark Academy, under the direction of Lori Peters, our member and long-time participant in our Women’s History Committee. The event is free and open to the public. It is always a treat and an opportunity to learn something new every year!

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Submitted by Sharon Dyer

Special Interest Groups – Participation in these activities is a member benefit. Guests may attend two meetings with a member and must be dues paying members by the third meeting of that particular group.

Coffee and Chat, February 3 at 9:00 A.M. Just show up! Stella's Café in Newbury Park.

The **Evening Book Group** will meet Thursday, February 15 at 7:00 P.M., at the home of Pat Helton. Pam Petrangelo will lead the discussion on the book *Since We Fell* by Dennis Lehane. Please contact **Sharon Dyer** if you have any questions.

The **Daytime Book Group** will meet on Monday, Feb.26 at 9:30 A. M. at the Thousand Oaks library. We will discuss *Daring to Drive* by Manal-Al-Sharif. Our reviewer will be Berniece Reed. For info contact **Joan Udani**.

Exploring Religions of the World through The Eyes of Women Interest Group will meet on Tuesday, February 27, at 6:30 p.m. in a private home. The speaker is Jenni Buchanan who practices Wicca. Please rsvp to **Wendy Hoffman** or **Jeanette Hosek** by Friday, February 23 as seating is limited.
wendyhof@gmail.com jhosek@roadrunner.com

For information on the next meeting of the **Mindful Awareness Group** meeting please contact **Holly Sacks** at sacks2748@verizon.net or (805) 402-0110. The Mindful Awareness Group includes facilitated group discussions and mindfulness meditation practice related to paying attention, staying present, stress resilience, cultivating kindness and compassion, and gratitude, with insights into recent advancements in the science of neuroplasticity.

If you are interested in attending the next **Movie Group** outing please contact **Shel Magnuson** at shelgolf@aol.com to be added to her email list.

Global Awareness and Action for Girls (GAAG) – an e-group for members interested in international projects focused on women and girls. Please email your name and address to **Jeanette Hosek** jhosek@roadrunner.com to be put on the list. A new project is being developed around books for two schools in Africa--Malawi and Zambia. Let Jeanette know if you'd liked to be informed about and participate in this project. And see more about Global Awareness on Page 11.

The **Happy Hikers Group** is currently inactive. If you are interested in joining or leading this group please contact **Sharon Dyer**.

Museums and Gardens Group does not have a trip planned at this time. We are looking for a new permanent leader for this group and thank Sally Hibbitts for the many wonderful trips she planned for our members and friends. In the interim, if you have any ideas for future trip locations and plan to attend them, please contact Sally.

Special “Named Gift Tech Trek Branch Scholarships” Available Now to Support Submitted by Sally Hibbitts, Tech Trek Branch Director

At the September Fall Membership Breakfast, the creation of our new “Branch Tech Trek Named Gift Donation Fund” was announced. This fund is now fully established and we are ready to receive your much needed donations. To qualify as a Named Gift Scholarship donation, a minimum amount of \$1000 is required. This donation may be made in memory of a loved one or in honor of a special person or significant life event.



As a reminder, Tech Trek is our all-scholarship, all volunteer science and math camp for local girls entering 8th grade. These campers spend a week living the life of a college student at UCSB, complete with dormitory, dining hall and hands-on labs. Because they are exposed to many kinds of exciting science, technology, engineering and math and to women working in these areas, a great many of our campers will choose college majors and careers in those fields – far beyond normally expected rates. This is part of the continuing effort which AAUW participates in increasing the number of women in STEM careers. From a 1999

Tech Trekker: “Nothing done for a child is ever wasted. They are the future. One of the girls sponsored through this program may find the cure for cancer, save people from AIDS, become president, or change the world in some other amazing manner. And she will need all the help and encouragement she can get. The most powerful thing you can do for someone is to believe in her more than she dares believe in herself. I can personally guarantee you, it will change her life.”

To recognize your generosity, as a Named Gift Donor, the Branch will be creating some unique and special opportunities. As part of this recognition, we will be having exclusive activities for you to meet and interact with your special camper in a more personal manner, over the upcoming year. In addition, you will be specially invited to assist in the actual selection process. This is always a very meaningful and fun evening! Of course your involvement is entirely optional, but it would be nice for the campers to make a connection to the donors of their scholarship.

Our goal this year is to substantially increase the number of girls who will benefit the most from the Tech Trek scholarships. We have developed a significant new relationship with our local school districts and will be able to work to attract the most appropriate candidates. This is an exciting time for girls to be captivated by the opportunities, which lie ahead of them in STEM careers! With your support, you will definitely be changing a girl's life.....we guarantee it! Thank you very much.

For further information about donating a Named Gift Tech Trek Scholarship, please contact Sally Hibbitts.

It doesn't
matter what
OTHERS are
doing. It
matters what
YOU are doing.

AAUW THOUSAND OAKS MEMORIAL FUND

Memorial contributions are a thoughtful and caring way to remember members, friends of AAUW and family members by giving a monetary gift to AAUW in their name.

The branch will acknowledge your gift and send a note to the family. The gift amount remains confidential between you and AAUW. All donations to AAUW Funds are tax deductible. Some giving options are listed below:

AAUW FUNDS: Funds that benefit women and girls e.g. Legal Advocacy Fund, Ed Foundation, Tech Savvy, Start Smart, Young Women's Task Force, etc.

TECH TREK: Thousand Oaks branch scholarships that send local seventh grade girls to STEM camp at UCSB during the summer.

MOORPARK COLLEGE: Scholarships for graduating Moorpark College women students to further their education and complete a four- year college degree.

OTHER LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS: The branch supports local scholarships for graduating high school students from under-represented groups when funds are available.

For information about AAUW FUNDS, please email Jeanette Hosek at jhosek@roadrunner.com

For information about TECH TREK, please email Sally Hibbitts, at sjhibbitts@aol.com

For information about Moorpark College, please email Deanna Frank at docatomus@yahoo.com

To: AAUW Thousand Oaks, P.O. Box 4223, Thousand Oaks, CA 91359

✓ Yes, I wish to make a donation in memory of:

Please direct my donation to the following fund:

My Name: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Send family note to: _____





UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE AFFILIATES

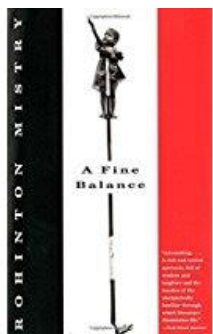
Our member and retired faculty member at Moorpark College, **Margaret Tennant**, has agreed to be our Board Representative to coordinate between our Board of Directors and our two college affiliate groups: Moorpark College, with faculty sponsor our own **Deanna Franke**; and Cal Lutheran University, with faculty sponsor, Dr. Cynthia Duarte. We look forward to hearing about wonderful activities from them. If you would like to be on a team to support them with planning or helping at their activities, let Margaret know. Also, if you know any students at either institution who might be interested in joining our AAUW affiliate, contact Margaret.

A few of our AAUW-TO affiliate students at CLU attended the IBC Lunch and were very appreciative of the information they received and the opportunity to see how events like this are planned and implemented. They were eager to get back to their membership and share their experience.

UNITY BOOK GROUP

The Unity Book Group is part of our AAUW Community Outreach. We are a small group of AAUW members who have connected with like minded Moslem women who attend the Conejo Valley Islamic Center. We meet to read and discuss books of mutual interest, while exploring the commonalities in our busy lives. All are welcome for our very interesting discussions!

Due to travel schedules, our next meeting won't be until **Thursday, April 5** at the home of Margaret Tennant at 6:30 pm. The book we agreed on is:



[A Fine Balance](#)

Vintage
International
~~\$17.00~~ **\$12.38**

WOMENtum

Although we are not official sponsors this year, as we were for their first Young Women's Conference, we think that any of you fitting in to the ages of 15 through 25, whether personally, daughters, granddaughters, friends or neighbors—this is a worthwhile program definitely in line with the AAUW mission.

The Ventura County Women's Economic Roundtable (WER) is pleased to host the 2nd bi-annual young women's conference, "WOMENtum: The Perfect Self(ie)—Building Your Professional Toolkit" from 8am to 3:30 pm Saturday, March 3, at the Ventura County Office of Education. To register, go to Eventbrite at :

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/womentum-the-perfect-selfie-building-your-professional-toolkit-tickets-40882176691>

GLOBAL AWARENESS AND ACTION FOR GIRLS - e-interest group

NICHOLAS KRISTOF, the author of Half The Sky and writer for the New York Times on global issues recently wrote an article titled "Why 2017 Was the Best Year in History". He begins the article by stating that you might think 2017 was the worst year ever, "but you'd be wrong....as 2017 was probably the very best year in the long history of humanity". He cites the following reasons:

- A smaller share of the world's people were hungry, impoverished or illiterate than any time before
- A smaller percentage of children died than ever before
- A smaller proportion of people were disfigured by leprosy, blinded by trachoma or suffering from other ailments.

Kristof goes on to say that:

- The number of people living in extreme poverty has gone down.
- The number of people who have gained access to electricity and clean water increased.
- Fewer than 15% of the global population are illiterate.
- Since 1990 more than 100 million children have been saved by vaccinations, diarrhea treatments, breast-feeding promotion and other simple steps.

The data comes from a website called Our World in Data maintained by Oxford University economist, Max Roser. Kristof concludes that the world "is a dangerous mess", but the most important thing to recognize is that there has been genuine progress with major gains in health, education and human welfare for women and children.

Source: Sunday Review. NY Times. Jan 7, 2018

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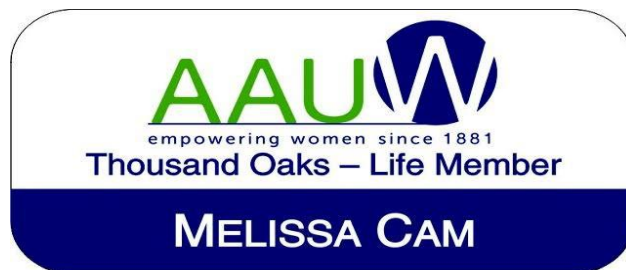
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