

Upcoming AAUW Events!

- Apr. 5 & May 4: Coffee & Chat @ Stella's in NP
- April 2 & 16: Happy Hikers
- April 9: Moorpark College Multicultural Day
- April 11 - Title IX Panel @ CLU
- April 18 & May 16: Evening Book Group
- April 22 & May 20: Day-time Book Group
- May 11: Annual Luncheon @ Los Robles Greens

Inside this issue:

President's Message	1
Annual Mtg Info	2
Title IX Panel Info	2
AAUW Events:	3
More Announcements:	4
Suffrage Tea Report	5
Tech Trek Campers	6
Book Groups	7
Special Interest Groups	8
AAUW Order Forms	9
Support Our Advertisers	11
Contact List	12

Oak Twig Spring 2019

Volume 54 No. 2

President's Message

Dear Members,

This past week I had the honor to meet the fourteen finalists for this year's Tech Trek class. Sally Hibbitts and her committee worked very hard to pick these young women to go to the Tech



Trek camp this summer. I was asked to greet these young women and their parents and introduce them to AAUW. I told them that AAUW, formerly known as the American Association of University Women, is a national organization that is 138 years old. It was founded in 1881 by a small group of women who were among the first generation of women college graduates. Today AAUW has 170,000 members and supporters, more than 100 student organizations, 800 college and university members and more than \$100 million awarded to women scholars and projects. Tech Trek is one of those projects.

Tech Trek started in California and is one of those projects that AAUW has sponsored since 1998. It has been a very successful program that has helped young women find interest in and pursue STEM careers. Our Thousand Oaks branch is very happy to sponsor Tech Trek at the local level. The following statistics shows how important your support is in contributing to this program.

In a brochure showing the results of 2013 survey conducted on Tech Trek alumnae who attended the camps in California shows "the program's lasting effects on many levels, including interest and confidence in STEM fields, decision to pursue STEM curricula, and future career plans. Ninety-one percent of the girls reported that Tech Trek boosted their self-confidence in their ability to be successful in science classes and 78% said the same for math classes. Eighty-two percent of the girls chose to take more science classes in high school. Eighty-seven percent completed algebra 2 compared to 78% of all female students. It also found that 77% of Tech Trek alumnae completed precalculus compared to the national average of 37%. Seventy-three percent of the respondents were enrolled in four-year college programs and expected to graduate in four years. Twenty-three percent were attending two-year colleges." Wishing you a Happy Spring, ~Sharon

Your AAUW Board

President: Sharon Dyer
Vice-President: Betty Stapleford
Secretary: Nathalie Gosset
Treasurer: Bonnie Shubb
Directors:
 1. Peggy Buckles (Public Policy)
 2. Sally Hibbitts
 3. Bev Khoshnevisan
 4. Vera King

5. Anne LaFianza
 6. Linda Pochter (Membership)
 7. Margaret Tennant (Oak Twig Editor)



*Meetings are held the first Weds of the month at 6:30 pm. All members are welcome! Contact **Sharon Dyer** for location.*

AAUW Thousand Oaks Annual Meeting Saturday May 11



Dr. Jenna Tosh, CEO Tri-Counties Planned Parenthood

The AAUW Thousand Oaks Annual meeting will be on Saturday, May 11TH at The Robles Greens. It will celebrate the special achievements of our members.

Celebrating 50 years of continuous membership will be Lily Sugino who joined the branch in 1969. Thanks to Lily her long-time support of the mission of AAUW. Lily will be joining a select group of 50 year continuous members: Dorothy Robinson, Marilyn Carpenter, Lori Kissinger, and Phyllis Benson.

Other branch recognitions will be the Named Gift Honoree

awards to three members of the branch for their volunteer contributions. Their names will be announced at the meeting. These women will join a long list of honored members who since 1968 have been recognized for their volunteer work on behalf of AAUW.

The luncheon which begins at 11:30 a.m. will include the election of AAUW board members for 2019-20. Betty Stapleford will introduce the new board. Accolades also to out-going board members for their service to the branch.

Special recognitions will be given to members and friends

of AAUW who donated to this year's Tech Trek Scholarships. Sally Hibbitts will introduce the donors.

Our special guest speaker will be Dr. Jenna Tosh, CEO of the Tri-Counties Planned Parenthood organization. She will speak on Protecting Women's Health.

Reservations for the luncheon (\$35) should be sent to Wendy Hoffman, by May 2. Reservations can also be made on Eventbrite, www.eventbrite.com/e/aauw-thousand-oaks. Additional information available from Bev Khoshevisan.

Two exciting
and
informative
events~not
to miss!

"A person in the United States, shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."

Title IX Educational Amendments of 1972

Panel Presentation on Title IX: *Know Your Rights!*

Hear an expert Panel discuss the state of Title IX in colleges today.

What are your rights? What should you know? What is at stake?

Panelists include:

Jacqui Irwin, California State Assembly, 44th District;

Christine Paul, Asst Dean of Students, Director of Student Life, & Deputy Title IX Coordinator;

Gary Paul, CSUN Head Coach of Women's Tennis

Event to be held at

Lundring Events Center
CLU Gilbert Sports & Events Center
60 W. Campus Road,
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

April 11, 7 pm



In 1967 (before Title IX) Kathrine Switzer challenged the all-male tradition of the Boston Marathon and entered the race under the name K. Switzer. Two miles in, a race official tried to physically re-

*Co-hosted by CLU and
AAUW Student Club*

AAUW Events

College Connection

Kleya Dhenin, CLU AAUW Student Club President

**Way to Go, Kleya!
Yay, CLU!**

A group of five AAUW student club members attended the National Young Feminist Leadership Conference in Washington DC hosted by the Feminist Majority Foundation on March 23 & 24th.. After two days of speakers and workshops, we headed to the Hill to lobby our Congresspeople on various women's issues, including reproductive care and the wage gap.

In addition, we are working with the Recreational Sports and Wellness Office on the Cal Lutheran campus to host a Women's NCAA March Madness Bracket Challenge. Through this event, we hope to challenge the notions that sports are a place for men and highlight the amazing female scholars who are playing NCAA basketball.

Lastly, we have partnered with the AAUW TO Public Policy Committee to host a Title IX event on the CLU capus in April. We are excited to welcome a panel of speakers, including Jacqui Irwin, and discuss Title IX in the Trump Era.

Women's History Project Report

Jeanette Hosek, AAUW WH Committee



Our branch has had a Women's History program since 1966, when one of our members, Sandy Hindy, wrote a script about Elizabeth Blackwell, the first American female doctor for her daughter's 4th grade class. Thirty-three years later, the branch has a library of 115 scripts available to anyone in the world by digital download on several platforms. This performance included three new scripts: Joan Baez, Peggy Whitson and Kristi Yamaguchi, and three previously performed scripts: Wangari Maathal, Patsy Mink, and Eleanor Roosevelt.

Lori Peters, Founder and Director of One Spark Academy provided us with our own ready- to-work cast of students. This year's students from One Spark Academy were Haiden Corwin, Bethany Hayes, Mia Rodriquez, Emily Rodgers, Carly Ungar and Olivia Bartolone.

Additionally, we had a video presentation by Congresswoman Julia Brownley on the importance of voting and increasing the number of women in Congress. Ashley Orozco, a representative from Brownley's office presented the girls with certificates. Refreshments were served by parents of One Spark Academy. AAUW branch's WH materials were available for purchase as well as membership information. An estimate of the audience was 90+.



<https://aauwto-ca.aauw.net/> and aauwto@yahoo.com

MORE AAUW ANNOUNCEMENTS

Joys and Concerns



CTA Officers with Sandra Martinez-Galvan

It is with profound sadness that we inform you of the death of Narda Fargotstein's mother in early March. Our thoughts and prayers are with Narda and her family at this difficult period and we hope that the passage of time will help to assuage the pain that death has brought.

Congratulations!

At the beginning of March Sandra Martinez received the Human Rights Award from the California Teachers Association for her work with Latino students at Thousand Oaks High School. She was nominated by Colleen Briner-Schmidt at the Awards ceremony held in San Jose and AAUW is extremely proud of San-

dra for being recognized for this prestigious award. We wish her continued success in her worthy endeavors."

~Audrey Guiffida

Public Policy~

Spread the Word about AAUW to College Students!

The Public Policy Committee will be hosting a table at Moorpark College's Multicultural Day.

Volunteers are needed to work the table on April 9, 2019. We need two people for each two hour shift beginning at 8:30 am and ending at 2:00 pm. You will be handing out brochures on AAUW but we will not be signing up members at this time. If you are on the Membership or Public Policy Committee, please sign up by emailing Peggy Buckles.

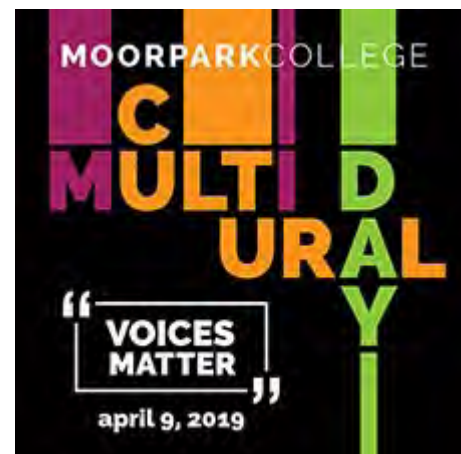
Shift 1 - 8:30-10:30

Shift 2 - 10:30-12:30

Shift 3 - 12:30-2:00

Thank you for all you do for our organization.

~Peggy Buckles



"The more we increase the active participation and partnership with young people, the better we serve them. ... And the more comprehensively we work with them as service partners, the more we increase our public value to the entire community." — Carmen Martinez

Suffrage Tea Report

A personal note from Audrey Giuffrida...

The Suffrage Tea was a great success! It displayed works by many local artists, who spoke about their works, including an enchanting ice sculpture and featuring an eloquent talk by Jeanette about the artists represented. It included many sweets and savories as well, to consume while viewing. This event, under the capable leadership of Wendy Hoffman and Jeanette Hosek, was an



unqualified success. These two ladies and their committee worked so diligently to enlist the support of many of our members to provide appropriate sustenance, which made for a feast for the eyes as well as the palate. Their efforts were exceeded only by their dedication to every detail, large and small. AAUW is enormously proud of these ladies and their committee for their outstanding work”.



*Brava, Jeanette, Wendy,
and all who contributed
to this fun day!*



Tech Trek~Announcing our 2019 Tech Trek Summer STEM Campers!

Sally Hibbits, Tech Trek Branch Coordinator

AAUW Thousand Oaks had a very difficult decision process this year in selecting our winners for the Tech Trek Camperships to the STEM Summer Camp at UCSB. The CVUSD principals from Colina, Sequoia, Los Cerritos, Redwood, and Sycamore Canyon submitted 44 nominees. Those students were all given the application packet and 24 girls sent in their application and essay. The team of Lenore Arab, Melanie Weerasinghe, Pat O'Donnell, Peggie Buckles, and Sally Hibbits reviewed all of these packets and the school ranking to determine the top 14 girls for the oral interview.



Clockwise from top Left: JC Arriaza (Redwood), Sydney Bandejas (Colina), Lesly Cruz-Castro (Colina), Samantha C (Colina), and Rubí De Alba (Colina).

A big thank you to all the hard working members of the Selection Committee (listed above)! We had a big job and their long hours going over essays and helping with the interviews was extremely helpful.

Lastly, but certainly not least, is a special thank you to the many donors who contributed their funds to our very meaningful and definitely worthwhile Tech Trek fund. Every year your contributions make a huge difference in a young girl's life, by providing a truly life changing opportunity.

Clockwise from top Left: Nicki-Jean Henderson (Colina), Natalie Juarez (Redwood), Jocelyn Morales (Colina), Alana Olin (Los Cerritos), and Ani Serrano-Long (Redwood),

On Wednesday, March 20. our top 14 girls had a small group hour-long interview. Going through this entire process is always a great learning experience for the girls as well. The interview panel was composed of Lenore Arab, Nancy Taylor-Walker, Aysha Hussain, Sharon Dyer and Sally Hibbits. After a long process, the Selection Committee successfully completed its difficult task and these wonderful girls were selected.

These girls are all outstanding representatives from their schools and we are sure their families are very proud of them. They are articulate, mature, intelligent and all very interested in learning more about STEM. They will have a wonderful experience at Tech Trek this summer and hopefully at some future time, you'll be able to meet each one of them. The first activity will be the camp orientation in May and the a pool party in late June.



SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS : BOOK GROUPS



The **Evening Book Group** will meet April 18th at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Audrey Giuffrida. The book *The Woman in the Window* by A.J. Finn will be discussed. The group will meet May 16th at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Judy Gindi and the book *Hillbilly Elegy* by J.D. Vance will be reviewed. If you have any questions email **Sharon Dyer**.

The **Daytime Book Group** will meet on Monday, April 22 at 9:30 a.m. at the Thousand Oaks Library and will discuss *Mao's Last Dancer* by Li Conxin. The reviewer will be Jeanette Hosek. They will again meet at the library on May 20th at 9:30 a.m. to discuss *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles. Any questions should be directed to **Joan Udani**.



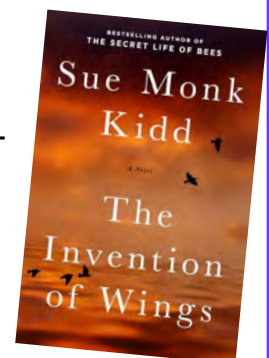
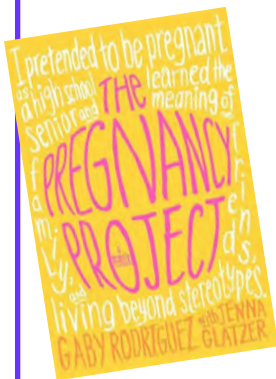
The **Unity Book Group** invites all members to participate in our terrific friendly group, which is a Community Outreach opportunity with the Islamic Center of the Conejo Valley. We meet every other month and our books have more of a multi-cultural focus and appeal. There is so much we have in common as women, rather than what keeps us apart.

For our next book, we return to looking at the complexities of Latin American culture with the issues surrounding a young Latina in high school who appears to be pregnant in her senior year. However, she's actually "faking" her pregnancy as part of her senior project in order to research the stereotypical expectations of her friends and family. This ghost written autobiography is called

The Pregnancy Project by Gabby Rodriguez.

Our next meeting will be at the home of Sally Hibbitts on Thursday, May 9 at 6:30 p.m.

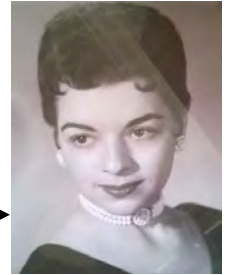
For **July**, we have selected Sue Monk Kidd's novel about the early feminists Sarah Grimke and her sister Angelina, called *The Invention of Wings*. Our meeting date and location will be determined.



More Special Interest Groups

Coffee and Chat will meet **Saturday, April 6th** and **May 4th, 9:00 a.m.** Just show up at Stella's Café in Newbury Park. Coffee and Chat always meets the first Saturday of the month. Even though the Acorn says it is for prospective members all are welcome.

This is Stella!



If you are interested in the **Exploring Religions of the World through the Eyes of Women Group** and are interested in being contacted about upcoming meetings, send an email to **Wendy Hoffman** or **Jeanette Hosek**, Co-chair/Women in Religion

Global Awareness & Action for Girls (GAAG) - an email group. GAAG (Global Action/Awareness for Girls) is an email interest group of AAUW Thousand Oaks (no meetings). Jeanette Hosek reports that after a slow start, she is mailing off two packages of primary storybooks for schools, one in Zambia and one in Malawi. These schools were started by local women who received start-up funding through FINCA. ORG. She will let you know if she gets a response. She has been buying used children's books at the Library for 50 cents each. If you are interested in participating in this project either by donating paperback books or paying for postage, let her know. For those not aware of FINCA, it is a self-help organization that provides funding to women starting up or expanding small businesses. They also assist women who have established local schools. If you want to participate contact **Jeanette Hosek**



Love to hike? Join the **Happy Hikers Group!** Two great hikes are upcoming: **April 2** at Satwiwa Meadow, and **April 16** at Windmill Trail. Call **Melanie Ashen** for more information.



Participation in AAUW Conejo 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. Also, we will be happy to hear your suggestion for a new group that reflects your interest. Contact Sharon Dyer with your idea!

Tech Trek-Providing Middle School Girls an Opportunity to Experience Science!



ANNOUNCING: TECH TREK 2019 NAMED GIFT DONATION OPPORTUNITY

Donations are now being accepted to support sending our new group of Tech Trek Campers in 2019.

Named Gift Donation; may be made in the amount of \$1000 to support an aspiring STEM camper. Recognize those near and dear to you in this special manner.

For more information, please contact Sally Hibbitts.

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- Linda Mead
AAUW-TO Member



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Sherr Forum Theater
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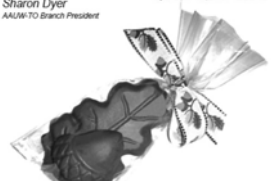
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free of charge
With pizza included.
Typically 3 to 4 events a month.
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