



Upcoming AAUW Events!

- September 4 Unity Book Group
- September 7: Coffee & Chat
- September 14: Fall Breakfast
- September 17: Hike
- September 19: Evening Book Group
- September 23: Daytime Book Group
- September 24: Hike
- October 24: Women's Reproductive Rights
- October 24-27: CLU play "The Wolves"

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Oak Twig Fall 2019

Volume 54 No. 4

President's Perspective – Betty Stapleford



Betty Stapleford, AAUW President

As the maturing process continues for me, I recognize that there are many advantages to years of experience, particularly considering the alternative. One thing I have learned is that I need to plan ahead to be sure that I don't miss out on things that I really want to do because I didn't put them on my calendar. Does that ever happen to you? So I would like to share some advice about planning the year ahead with AAUW because there will be lots of things to do.

The first entry on your calendar needs to be attendance at our "Get On Board" Fall Breakfast on September 14 at the Moorpark Country Club. In addition to sharing a delicious breakfast with many friends, both old and new, you will be treated to a speech by Fiona Ma, the California State Treasurer, about opportunities for leadership by women in California. And our own Nathalie Gosset will introduce a new program for our branch called "Women on Board 2020." You can also decide on your participation in many other activities and programs. Do reserve your tickets if you haven't done that yet!

Then, on October 24, our AAUW Public Policy Committee is sponsoring a panel on Women's Reproductive Rights with updates on current challenges by presenters from a variety of organizations. I guarantee you will learn a lot and be able to ask questions and talk with the speakers over refreshments in an informal setting after the program ends. November's program is still in the planning stage, but you can be sure it will pique your attention too. And then there is the Holiday Party in December at a new location this year.

Now, I know you can't do everything – something else I have learned over the years. There are interest groups on many different topics, Coffee and Chat on the first Saturday of every month, opportunities to work with Tech Trek girls or the Women's History Project, or even serving on our Thousand Oaks Board. And you can talk with me or another board member about an interest you have and would like to suggest.

So get out your calendar and plan your fall schedule. You owe it to yourself to get on board!

~Betty

P.S. I hope you will add attendance at one or more CVUSD Board meeting to your calendar this year. And wear your AAUW nametag.





GET ON BOARD!



You are cordially invited to the
Annual Fall Breakfast of
AAUW Thousand Oaks

Saturday, September 14, 2019, 8:15 am – 11:30 am
\$35.00 per person

Moorpark Country Club
11800 Championship Drive, Moorpark 93021

Please join us as we welcome The Honorable Fiona Ma, Treasurer of California, as she addresses how women can make an impact on the corporate boards in our region. Her talk will help initiate our new AAUW TO Branch Project: Conejo Women on Board 2020.

REGISTRATION – PLEASE PRINT - DEADLINE FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2019

- ☐ YES I look forward to attending the Fall Breakfast. Check included for \$35.00
- ☐ YES I will sponsor the cost for a Tech Trek camper or a student to attend this event @ \$35.00 ea.
- ☐ SORRY I am unable to attend. I am enclosing a contribution to AAUW/TO.

MY NAME _____

EMAIL _____

PHONE # _____

TOTAL _____

TOTAL ATTENDING

GUEST NAMES _____

\$ _____

Make check payable to AAUW-TO and mail along with this form to
AAUW TO, PO BOX 4223, THOUSAND OAKS 91359

For on-line and credit card tickets go to our website or click here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/aauw-thousand-oaks-fall-kickoff-breakfast-ca-state-treasurer-fiona-ma-tickets-66288118547?utm-medium=discovery&utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-source=strongmail&utm-term=listing>

GET ON BOARD (cont.)

Keynote Speaker

The Honorable Fiona Ma, Treasurer of the State of California



Fionna Ma has been serving as the elected California State Treasurer since January 7, 2019, after winning more votes than any other candidate for this office in the state's history. She served as a member of the State Board of Equalization from 2015 to 2019. Prior to that, Ms. Ma served three terms in the California State assembly and on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors from 2002 to 2006.

Her long advocacy for women's issues perhaps has its roots in her frustrations with the limitations on her career as a female accountant with a prestigious firm and not being able to advance too easily. Therefore, she started her own successful firm and used it as a springboard into San Francisco city politics.

Ms. Ma earned her accounting degree from Rochester Institute of Technology and additional graduate degrees in taxation and Business Administration. She is only the second CPA to be elected to her current office.

In addition, her husband, Jason Hodge, is a Ventura County Firefighter and was elected to the Port Hueneme/Oxnard Harbor Commission.



Please Bring Diapers and Wipes to help supply the Community Diaper Bank

The community diaper bank is a free supplemental resource for local Conejo Valley (and immediate surrounding areas) individuals and families in need of diapers and wipes.

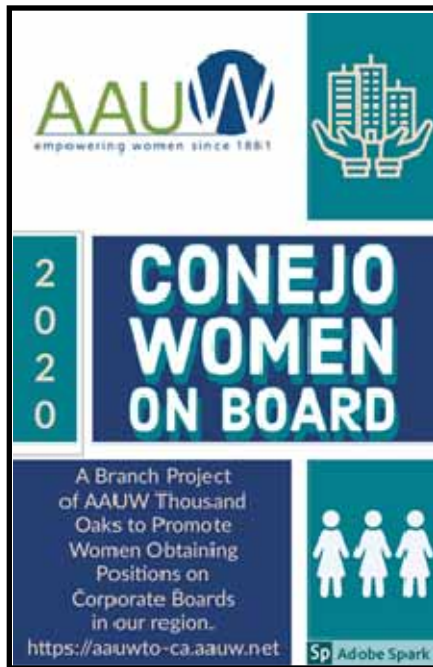
Government assistance does not cover diapers, and most daycares require mothers to bring their own diapers to cover their child. Did you know that a lack of diapers can keep a mom who wants to work from being able to, because their child cannot attend early education programs or daycare without them?

Conejo Community Outreach is dedicated to improving the lives of local families in our community by helping to connect local generosity with local need. Our community is stronger when our kids are appropriately fed, clothed, and diapered. Conejo Community Outreach is a recognized 501 (c)(3).



The diaper bank is in current need for their highest demand sizes of 4, 5, and 6 and preferred brands are Huggies or Pampers due to sensitive skin issues. Baby wipes are needed as well.

Announcing Our New Branch Project: Conejo Women on Board 2020



At the April 2019 Board meeting, Nathalie Gosset and Sally Hibbitts requested endorsement for a new Branch Project called "Conejo Women on Board 2020," which is designed to help support the implementation of SB 826 (Jackson). This new law requires an increase in the number of women sitting on corporate Boards of Directors in California. Every board by the end 2019 is required to have at least one female and by the end of 2021, the female number must increase to at least three members for all boards of six or more people (or two women for smaller boards.)

The purpose of SB826 is to not only give women more equal footing in the boardroom, but to improve overall profitability of corporations by improving working conditions, create true equal pay, improve product lines, etc. As noted in Forbes.com on May 21, 2018, *Women On Boards: Why The Conversation Matters*: "Creating a more diverse boardroom is essential, but so is addressing the inherent stereotypes that drive male-dominated executive leadership in the first place. Companies must work to objectively evaluate

worker performance, showcase female innovation and educate individuals about quashing the stereotyping process. We cannot ignore the fact that gender bias in the workplace exists. We are truly working toward gender parity when we address the underlying cause and spark a conversation about diversity in the boardroom."

With this project, members will analyze the available data to determine which corporations in our regional area of Santa Barbara to Woodland Hills are currently in compliance with SB 826 and those which need to improve. The overall goal is to share this information with the public, while at the same time increasing public pressure to coax lagging companies to improve. We will also be encouraging women to become more "Board Ready" perhaps through workshops or other activities. Most of the work can be done at home on your own computer by just following project guidelines.

This project complies with our national public policy guidelines to advocate for improved Economic Security for all women. With your help we will be able to succeed and definitely bring more "Conejo Women on Board 2020."

For more information, please contact Shan Sutherland, Nathalie Gosset, or Sally Hibbitts.



SUFFRAGE SISTERS--- JOIN WITH US!



Help us celebrate the 19th Amendment Centennial!
Interested in helping out with branch activities
related to the Centennial?

Email Jeanette Hosek or Wendy Hoffman
for details about upcoming branch and area events.

Meet Your New 2019-2020 Board!



President: Betty Stapleford
Vice-President/ President-elect quarterly rotation:
Vera King, Sally Hibbitts, Sharon Dyer, Bonnie Shubb
Secretary: Sharon Dyer
Treasurer: Vera King
Membership: *open*

Directors:

Peggy Buckles (Public Policy); Narda Fargotstein (Technology and Communications);
Judy Gindi; Sally Hibbitts (Tech Trek); Jeanette Hosek (AAUW Funds); Bev Khoshnevisan;
Anne LaFianza (Community Outreach); Bonnie Shubb; and Diane Turcott-Birchman

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS: BOOK GROUPS

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.

The Unity Book Group is looking forward to seeing everyone on **Wednesday, September 4 at 4 p.m.** for our next meeting. We will be discussing the interesting historical fiction novel called *The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd. Our meeting will be at the beautiful avocado ranch home of Salmeen Rashid in Somis. If you'd like to carpool please meet up at the home of Sally Hibbitts at 3:15 p.m. If you're planning on joining in the carpool, please contact Sally.

Our book, *The Invention of Wings*, is an award winning historical novel about the famous anti-slavery Grimke Sisters, Sarah and Angelina.

"Writing at the height of her narrative and imaginative gifts, Sue Monk Kidd presents a masterpiece of hope, daring, the quest for freedom, and the desire to have a voice in the world.

Hetty "Handful" Grimke, an urban slave in early nineteenth century Charleston, yearns for life beyond the suffocating walls that enclose her within the wealthy Grimke household. The Grimke's daughter, Sarah, has known from an early age she is meant to do something large in the world, but she is hemmed in by the limits imposed on women.

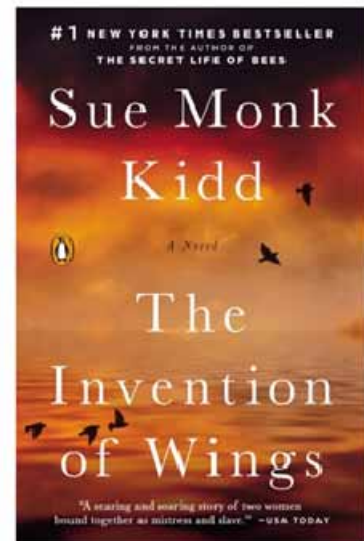
Kidd's sweeping novel is set in motion on Sarah's eleventh birthday, when she is given ownership of ten-year-old Handful, who is to be her handmaid. We follow their remarkable journeys over the next thirty-five years, as both strive for a life of their own, dramatically shaping each other's destinies and forming a complex relationship marked by guilt, defiance, estrangement and the uneasy ways of love.

As the stories build to a riveting climax, Handful will endure loss and sorrow, finding courage and a sense of self in the process. Sarah will experience crushed hopes, betrayal, unrequited love, and ostracism before leaving Charleston to find her place alongside her fearless younger sister, Angelina, as one of the early pioneers in the abolition and women's rights movements.

Inspired by the historical figure of Sarah Grimke, Kidd goes beyond the record to flesh out the rich interior lives of all of her characters, both real and invented, including Handful's cunning mother, Charlotte, who courts danger in her search for something better.

This exquisitely written novel is a triumph of storytelling that looks with unswerving eyes at a devastating wound in American history, through women whose struggles for liberation, empowerment, and expression will leave no reader unmoved." (Goodreads)

See you on September 4 at 4 p.m. and you'll love the avocado ranch...it's really special! The trees and the farm are all a very unique and memorable experience to be topped off with our always terrific discussion. All are welcome! If you have any questions, please call either Sally Hibbitts or Shoshana Brower.



SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS : BOOK GROUPS (cont.)

The Evening Book Group meets at 7 p.m. on the 3rd Thursday of the month in members' homes. Any questions should be directed to Sharon Dyer.

September 19

The Summer Before the War by Helen Simons
Hostess: Audrey Guiffrida

October 17

Home for Unwanted Girls by Joanna Goodman
Hostess: Pat O'Donnell

November 21

Sister of My Heart by Chitra Banerjee
Hostess: Pat Helton

The Daytime Book Group meets at 10 a.m. on the 4th Monday of the month at the Thousand Oaks Library. Any questions should be directed to Joan Udani.

September 23

Waiting by Ha Jin
Reviewer: Jean Maxwell

October 28

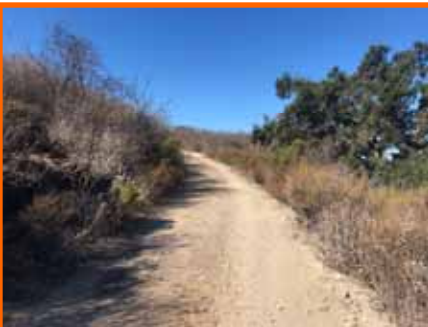
The Library Book by Susan Orlean
Reviewer: Holly Sacks

November 25

The Weight of Ink by Y. Rachel Kadish
Reviewer: Berniece Reed

December 30

The Island of Sea Women by Lisa See



HIKING GROUP

Two Great Fall Hikes with Happy Hiking!

Tuesday, September 17 - Triunfo Park at 9 am.

2-3 miles - Rain cancels.

Park in 2nd lot on Tamarack St. in Westlake Village.

Tuesday, September 24 - Sapwi Park at 9 am.

2-3 miles - Rain cancels.

Park in lot on Erbes Rd. across from Los Cerritos Middle School.

Questions? Call Melanie Ashen.

JOYS and CONCERNS

By Audrey Giuffrida

Penny Strowger was hospitalized at UCLA for several weeks due to complications from a blood infection. She is now at home recovering and cards and/or other appropriate greetings may be sent to her home address. She has been a successful recipient of a double transplant for over twenty years and we wish her a quick and complete recovery. May Penny go from strength to strength and be back among her friends at AAUW very soon.



Do you have news about a member or vacation plans? Let Audrey know!

Save the Date: October 24, 2019



Women's Reproductive Rights- Where They Stand Currently Panel Discussion

Public Policy Priorities 2019-2021 All work of AAUW branches must be based on National AAUW Priorities. Here is the Link to our latest priorities. www.aauw.org/resource/principles-and-priorities/

Contact: Peggy Buckles

Latino Youth Leadership Group (Formerly Conejo Conexiones)

For the last two and a half years, our branch has sponsored a program for underserved Latino and Latina students in the Conejo Valley high schools, starting in Thousand Oaks High School and then bringing in teens from Westlake and Newbury Park High Schools the second year. But last spring, we decided to modify the program to focus more on leadership and move back to a single school model in Thousand Oaks High.

The new program was invitational through teacher recommendations and an application form, even for those who had been in the former program. Officers were elected at the end of the last school year. They have already had two meetings during the summer to plan for activities they will run this year. Some of them will also be going to a CLUE VC conference in early October to increase their speech-giving, storytelling, leadership, and presentational skills and meet students from other similar high school groups in Ventura County.

If you are interested in finding out more about this important branch program, please contact Sally Hibbitts, Sandra Martinez-Galvan, or Betty Stapleford. And you can make a contribution to support the program at our Fall Breakfast.



Summer Tech Trek - Update & News

This summer got off to a blast in late June at our Second Annual Tech Trek Pool Party at the lovely home of Margaret Tennant, where our ten 2019 campers were joined by several of our TT Alumnae from other summers. As you can see from the photographs, they had a terrific time enjoying the pool, homemade sundaes, and hearing from our own STEM speakers.

Special thanks to Margaret Tennant for her wonderful and gracious hospitality along with STEM Speakers Jeni Gordon, Leesa McBurnie, and Linda Mead. Food helpers also included Aysha Hus-sain, Melanie Weerasinghe, Linda Pochter, Susan Fagan, Sharon Dyer, Peggy Buckles, Shoshana Brower, and Judy Gindi. Thank you one and all!

At the UCSB Tech Trek camp in late July, the girls had the usual outstanding time and came home energized about their unique STEM experiences. They had daily CORE classes in Math, Engineering, Marine Biology, and Aerodynamics. These lessons were interspersed with whale watching, which for many of them was their first time ever on a boat! The physics of surfing was also a huge hit!

Our 2019 campers will be greeting you at our Fall Breakfast on September 14, so be sure to ask them about how much they learned from this awesome experience.

We have already started on our fundraising for next year's group of ten Tech Trek campers, which will be made possible from your generous donations. Any gift amount is of course graciously accepted, but if you would like to honor someone special in your life, a Named Gift Recognition is available at the \$1000 giving level or if two people would like to join together, then \$500 each. Please see the form on following page for more information. Or, always feel free to contact Sally Hibbitts.



Margaret Tennant (hostess) along with 2010 Camper Madelaine Stearns and Rubi DeLeon

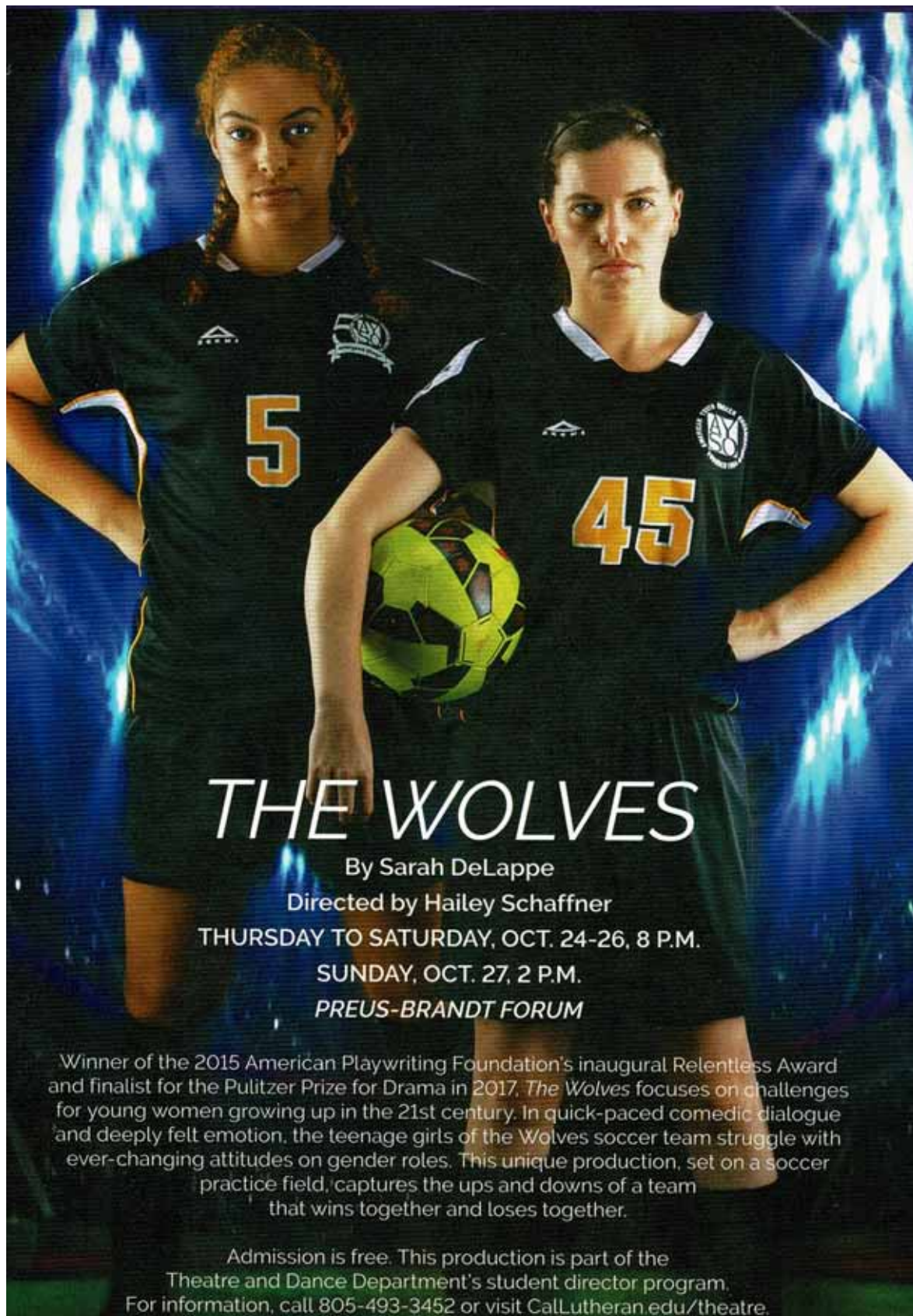


Our 2019 Tech Trek Campers, albeit a little on the "damp" side: (left to right) Jocelyn Morales, Sammy Gallegos, Sydney Bandejas, Natalie Juarez, Nikki-Jean Henderson, Ani Seranno-Long, Alana Olin, Rubi DeLeon, and in front J. C. Arriaza



Please complete this form and mail it, with your check to: Tech Trek AAUW, c/o Sally Hibbitts, 3119 W. Adirondack Ct., Westlake CA 91362) PLEASE PRINT!

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



THE WOLVES
By Sarah DeLappe
Directed by Hailey Schaffner
THURSDAY TO SATURDAY, OCT. 24-26, 8 P.M.
SUNDAY, OCT. 27, 2 P.M.
PREUS-BRANDT FORUM

Winner of the 2015 American Playwriting Foundation's inaugural Relentless Award and finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 2017, *The Wolves* focuses on challenges for young women growing up in the 21st century. In quick-paced comedic dialogue and deeply felt emotion, the teenage girls of the Wolves soccer team struggle with ever-changing attitudes on gender roles. This unique production, set on a soccer practice field, captures the ups and downs of a team that wins together and loses together.

Admission is free. This production is part of the Theatre and Dance Department's student director program. For information, call 805-493-3452 or visit CalLutheran.edu/theatre.

AAUW contact: Wendy Hoffman

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

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Branch: _____

Title: _____
(if applicable)

Contact Information

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City & Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

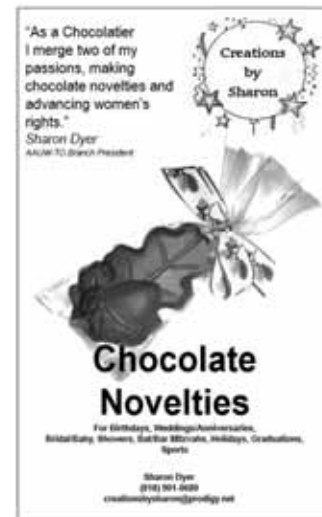
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Thank you to
Moises Mercado,
professional musician
for sharing his musical gift
with the AAUW Thousand Oaks
Branch members.

To contact Moises Mercado
818-489-4447

"I believe in the mission of the AAUW-TO branch: paving a better future for women through education and advocacy."
Pat Helton, AAUW-TO Member since 1985

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CONTACT INFORMATION

AAUW policy is to maintain member privacy by not publishing contact information online. Accordingly, this page will be deleted for the web version of the newsletter.

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