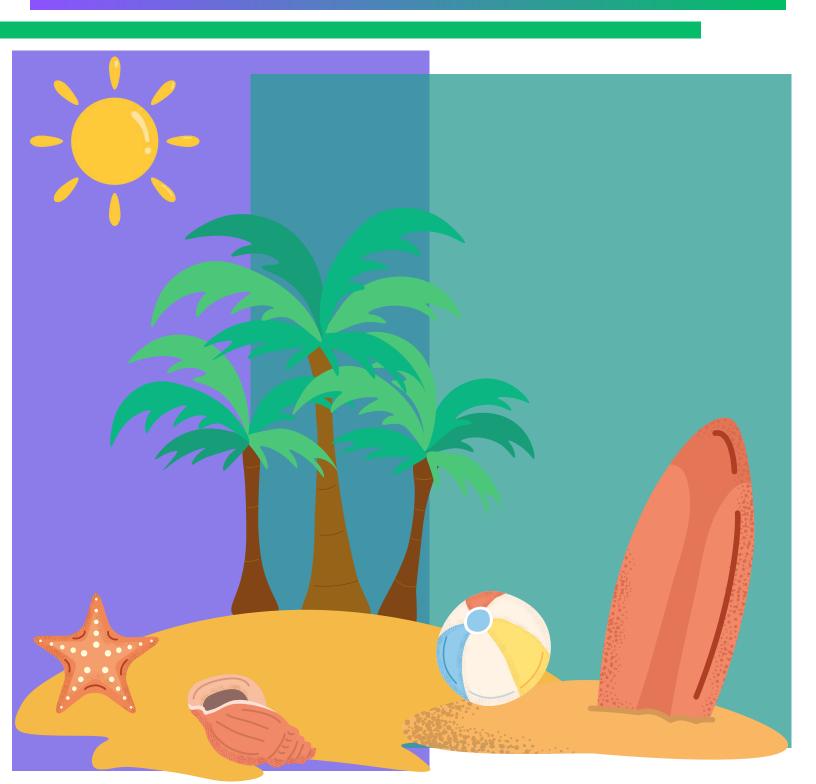


THE OAK TWIG

SUMMER 2025



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

WE COME TO THE END OF THE 2024-2025 YEAR OF AAUW THOUSAND OAKS. I WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL THOSE WHO SERVED ON OUR BOARD:

- NARDA FARGOTSTEIN CO-PRESIDENT
- BETTY STAPLEFORD CO-PRESIDENT
- SALLY HIBBITTS- CO-PRESIDENT AND TECH TREK
- SHARON DYER- SECRETARY
- DOROTHY HATFIELD TREASURER
- SAKEENA ALI- DIRECTOR AT-LARGE
- ROSSANNA GUERRA- PUBLIC POLICY AND DEI
- ELODA LINEHAN- MEMBERSHIP
- PAULA NATHAN- WEBSITE
- MELANIE WEERASINGHE- OAKTWIG
- DANIELLE BLUM DIRECTOR AT LARGE
- BEV KHOSHNEVISAN DIRECTOR AT-LARGE
- PEGGY BUCKLES JOYS AND CONCERNS

I WELCOME OUR NEW BOARD:

- PRESIDENT -NARDA FARGOTSTEIN
- VP/PROGRAM CHAIR NORMA DREW
- TREASURER -DOROTHY HATFIELD
- SECRETARY -SAKEENA ALI
- PUBLIC POLICY AND DEI- ROSANNA GUERRA/ELLY MUSCARELLA
- LYLG BETTY STAPLEFORD AND SALLY HIBBITTS
- MEMBERSHIP ELODA LINEHAN
- SPEECH TREK ELODA LINEHAN
- WEBSITE -PAULA NATHAN
- OAKTWIG -MELANIE WEERASINGHE NEED MID-YEAR REPLACEMENT
- EBLAST W/ VALLERIE AGUILAR BETTY STAPLEFORD
- DIRECTOR AT-LARGE SHARON DYER
- DIRECTOR AT LARGE MARCINE SOLARES
- DIRECTOR AT LARGE -SUSAN GOETZ
- JOYS AND CONCERNS PEGGY BUCKLES

I WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU FOR 2024 - 2025 TO JOIN ONE OF OUR SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS:

COFFEE & CHAT - PICKLES 9:30 AM THE 1ST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH HAPPY HIKERS - TUESDAYS AT 9:30 AM

LUNCH BUNCH BOOK GROUP

DAYTIME BOOK GROUP

UNITY & DIVERSITY BOOK GROUP

AS WE START THE NEW YEAR, WE NEED TO FILL OUT COMMITTEES. I WILL BE SCHEDULING A PROGRAM AND BUDGET MEETING. IF YOU HAVE ANY PROGRAMS YOU WOULD LIKE US TO START LET US KNOW.

OUR STANDING COMMITTEE ARE:.

HIGH TEA - 7/26/2025 NEEDS VOLUNTEERS - CONTACT PAULA AT tikimonkeys@gmail.com

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE - NARDA NFARGOTSTEIN@YAHOO

PROGRAMS - NORMA DREW/NARDA FARGOTSTEIN

NFARGOTSTEIN@YAHOO

TECH TREK/LYLG - SALLY HIBBITTS

FALL BREAKFAST COMMITTEE - SEPTEMBER 29, 2025

SPEAKER - BETH PRATT - WILDLIFE CROSSING

CENTERPIECES -

OPPORTUNITY DRAWING -

SPECIAL INTEREST TABLES -

PROGRAMS

AS WE FILL OUT THE PROGRAMS AND PROGRAM MEETINGS FOR THIS YEAR, WE WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED VIA E-BLAST.

AGAIN, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THESE LADIES FOR STEPPING UP TO SERVE OUR BRANCH FOR 2024-2025. ORGANIZATION WHICH WAS FOUNDED JANUARY 14, 1882 IN BOSTON, MA IS NEEDED MORE THAN EVER TO SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY AND WOMEN AND GIRLS.

NARDA FARGOTSTEIN



AFTERNOON TEA





UPCOMING BRANCH EVENTS

7/26 SATURDAY

Support our fundraiser by attending and the "Afternoon Tea"



9/27 SATURDAY

ANNUAL FALL BREAKFAST, 9-11 AM, Los Robles Greens. Speaker, Beth Pratt, Exec. Director CA-WLF.



10/5 SUNDAY

AAUW TO Fundraiser and Fun Entertainment





GUEST COLUMN

(THE FOLLOWING WAS PRINTED IN THE TOHS LANCER NEWSPAPER AND WRITTEN BY MIA OSCANOA, GRADUATING SENIOR TOHS, MEMBER LATINO YOUTH LEADERSHIP GROUP, AND AAUW SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT)

MY EXPERIENCE.....

I WAS BORN TO A 15-YEAR-OLD IMMIGRANT WHOSE ASPIRATIONS WERE PUT ON HOLD WHEN MY LIFE BEGAN. I STRUGGLED WITH THE PERSISTENT BELIEF THAT I WAS NOTHING MORE THAN AN ACCIDENT, A CONSEQUENCE OF MY PARENTS' POOR CHOICES. FOR YEARS, I LET MY PAST DICTATE MY FUTURE, THINKING I COULDN'T BE MORE THAN A PRODUCT OF MY ENVIRONMENT. THE IDEA OF COLLEGE FELT DISTANT AND UNREALISTIC. I OFTEN WONDERED, HOW COULD SOMEONE LIKE ME PURSUE HIGHER EDUCATION? IT SHAPED HOW I SAW MYSELF, MY FUTURE, MY WORTH AND CONSUMED ME ALL THROUGHOUT MIDDLE SCHOOL.

BUT THAT NARRATIVE SHIFTED IN MY FRESHMAN YEAR AT THOUSAND OAKS HIGH SCHOOL. MY PARTICIPATION IN ON-CAMPUS PROGRAMS LIKE LATINO YOUTH LEADERSHIP GROUP OPENED MY EYES TO HOW POWERFUL THE SUPPORT AND MOTIVATION OF A COMMUNITY CAN BE. I FOUND STRENGTH AND PURPOSE THROUGH LATINO YOUTH LEADERSHIP GROUP. BEING SURROUNDED BY A COMMUNITY WHO BELIEVED IN MY STRENGTHS AND FUTURE ALLOWED ME TO BELIEVE IN MYSELF TOO. I REALIZED ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE, NO MATTER THE CIRCUMSTANCES YOU WERE BORN INTO. MY PERSPECTIVE CHANGED FROM THINKING I WAS A MISTAKE, TO ADMIRING HOW FAR I'VE COME, AND HOW FAR I CAN GO.

THIS FUELED MY DESIRE TO PURSUE HIGHER EDUCATION BECAUSE I WANTED TO BE THE FIRST IN MY FAMILY TO GO TO COLLEGE. I HAVE ALWAYS ENVISIONED MY FUTURE AS A LATINA LAWYER WHO CAN INSPIRE OTHERS TO BE THE WRITERS OF THEIR OWN STORIES AND PURSUE HIGHER EDUCATION.

IN THE FALL, I WILL BE ATTENDING THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS AND MAJORING IN POLITICAL SCIENCE. MY HOPES FOR SUCCESS IN COLLEGE ARE NOT SOLELY BASED ON MY PERSONAL DESIRE TO SUCCEED IN LIFE, BUT TO MAKE MY FAMILY PROUD AND GET THE EDUCATION THAT MY PARENTS WERE NOT ABLE TO ATTAIN. GRADUATING FROM HIGH SCHOOL, I WANT TO BE AN EXAMPLE OF RESILIENCE FOR THOSE WHO THINK THEIR CIRCUMSTANCES DEFINE THEM.



GUEST COLUMN

MY JOURNEY HAS TAUGHT ME THAT REPRESENTATION AND COMMUNITY MATTERS. AS WELL AS JUST HOW MANY RESOURCES THERE ARE FOR THOSE WHO FEEL IN NEED OF SUPPORT. I AM ETERNALLY GRATEFUL FOR MY TIME AT THOUSAND OAKS HIGH SCHOOL AS IT HAS GIVEN ME NOT ONLY THE ACADEMIC FOUNDATION TO BUILD OFF OF BUT ALSO WITH A STRONG SENSE OF IDENTITY AND THE SUPPORT SYSTEMS I NEEDED IN ORDER TO THRIVE.





UNITY BOOK GROUP

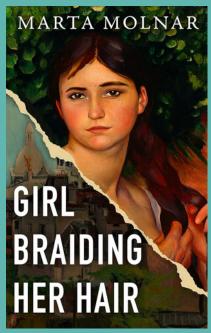


THE BOOK WILL BE READING IN AUGUST IS TITLED, GIRL BRAIDING HER HAIR BY MARTA MOLNAR. THE DATE AND LOCATION OF OUR AUGUST/SEPTEMBER MEETING WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN THE WEEKLY E-BLASTS. WE DO NEED A LOCATION, SO IF ANY OF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER, THAT WOULD BE WONDERFUL.

THIS INTRIGUING STORY OF A WOMAN WHO WAS BORN INTO SHAME AND POVERTY WHO FOUND A WAY TO FULFILL HER DREAMS OF BECOMING A GREAT ARTIST. ONCE AGAIN, MARTA MOLNAR BLENDS A MODERN STORY WITH A HISTORICAL ONE BY LINKING THE LIVES OF THE ARTIST, SUZANNE VALADON WITH ELLIE WHO DISCOVERS HER AND BUILDS A NEW LIFE FOR HERSELF THROUGH SUZANNE'S OWN STRUGGLES. BEAUTIFULLY WRITTEN AND AN INTERESTING READ THAT WILL HAVE YOU LOOKING UP PAINTINGS AND ARTISTS THAT ARE MENTIONED! (AMAZON REVIEWER)

ALSO, WITHIN THE NEXT MONTH, WOULD YOU PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR SUGGESTED BOOK TITLES FOR OUR NEXT READING YEAR? I WILL BE SENDING OUT A FULL LIST OF THE SUGGESTIONS FOR RESPONSE PROBABLY IN ABOUT A MONTH OR SO. I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE NEW BOOK LIST AVAILABLE FOR THE FALL BREAKFAST THE LATTER PART OF SEPTEMBER.

FOR QUESTIONS,, PLEASE CONTACT SALLY HIBBITTS AT 805-750-3119 OR SJHIBBITTS@AOL.COM

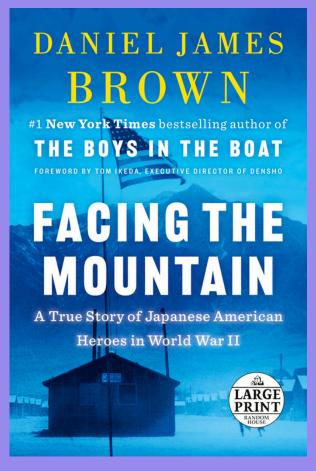


LUNCH BRUNCH BOOK GROUP

THE LUNCH BUNCH BOOK GROUP'S NEXT MEETING WILL BE JULY 17, 2025, AT 12:30 P.M. AT THE SUNROSE CALIFORNIA EATERY LOCATED AT 5046 CORNELL RD., AGOURA HILLS. (WHIZINS CENTER) WE WILL BE REVIEWING THE BOOK FACING THE MOUNTAIN BY DANIEL JAMES BROWN. NOMINEE FOR READERS' FAVORITE HISTORY & BIOGRAPHY (2021) FROM THE #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF THE BOYS IN THE BOAT, A GRIPPING WORLD WAR II SAGA OF PATRIOTISM AND COURAGE: THE SPECIAL JAPANESE-AMERICAN ARMY UNIT THAT OVERCAME BRUTAL ODDS IN EUROPE; THEIR FAMILIES, INCARCERATED BACK HOME; AND A YOUNG MAN WHO REFUSED TO SURRENDER HIS CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS, EVEN IF IT MEANT IMPRISONMENT.

WE MEET ON THE THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH AT LOCAL RESTAURANTS AND ENJOY GOOD FOOD, BOOK REVIEWS AND CONVERSATION. WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING TO EXPAND OUR GROUP SO IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, PLEASE COME AND CHECK US OUT. WE WILL BEGIN TO START CHOOSING OUR READING SELECTIONS FOR NEXT FALL AT THE JULY MEETING.

PLEASE CALL SHARON DYER (818) 903-4645 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS

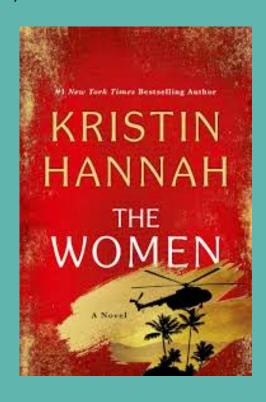


DAYTIME BOOK GROUP



THIS ACTIVITY HAS BEEN PART OF THE THOUSAND OAKS AAUW BRANCH FOR A LONG TIME, BUT WE'D LOVE TO HAVE YOU JOIN US. WE MEET ON THE 4TH. MONDAY OF EACH MONTH, EXCEPT WHEN HOLIDAYS INTERFERE, AT THE THOUSAND OAKS LIBRARY IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE CHILDREN'S LIBRARY AT 10 A.M. AND WE CHOOSE THE BOOKS TO READ AND DISCUSS FOR THE YEAR BY CONSENSUS. OUR DATES AND BOOKS FOR THE MONTH IS:

AUGUST 25 - THE WOMEN BY KRISTIN HANNAH (SUGGESTIONS OF BOOKS FOR THE NEXT YEAR) FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT BETTY STAPLEFORD.



LATINO LEADERSHIP GROUP

THE 9TH YEAR OF OUR SPONSORSHIP OF THE LYLG ENDED WITH A HISTORY AND EDUCATION-FIELD TRIP TO THE ADAMSON HOUSE AND PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY. BUT THE MEMBERS TOOK CARE OF ELECTING THEIR NEW OFFICERS FOR NEXT YEAR AND GOT COMMITMENTS FROM THOSE WHO WOULD CONTINUE THEIR MEMBERSHIP IN THE NEXT YEAR.

IN THE FALL, THEY WILL SEND INVITATIONS TO INCOMING STUDENTS TO SUBMIT APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP AND MAKE PLANS FOR THE YEAR AHEAD. IN THESE TROUBLING TIMES FOR IMMIGRANTS IN OUR COUNTRY, WE ARE GLAD WE CAN PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR THESE (MOSTLY) FIRST-GENERATION LATINO/A STUDENTS. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN US IN THIS IMPORTANT WORK, PLEASE CONTACT SALLY HIBBITTS, BETTY STAPLEFORD OR SANDRA MARTINEZ.



LYLG FIELD TRIP

ADAMON HOUSE STATE HISTORICAL PARK, MALIBU AND PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY, MALIBU

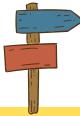






HAPPY HIKERS





MARCH 18, 2025 HAPPY HIKERS GROUP







HAPPY HIKERS



MAY 6, 2025 LIZ. PAT, JEANNE, MELANIE, AND ELODA.



JUNE 3, 2025





COFFEE & CHAT

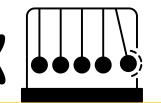


COFFEE AND CHAT MAY 3, 2025. CLAUDIA, SHARON, ELODA, AND BETTY ENJOYED EACH OTHERS' COMPANY.



WE HOPE TO SEE MANY OF YOU ON A FIRST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 9:30 A.M. AT PICKLES DELI RESTAURANT, 1940 KELLY RD., NEWBURY PARK, CA FOR BREAKFAST AND CONVERSATION. YOU'LL HAVE A CHANCE TO MEET NEW FOLKS AND GREET LONG-TIME FRIENDS FOR SOCIALIZING AND DISCUSSING COMMON ISSUES. THE DATES FOR THE NEXT 3 MONTHS ARE: JULY 5, AUGUST 2, AND SEPTEMBER 6. HOPE TO SEE YOU SOON! FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT BETTY STAPLEFORD AT BSTAPLE4D@GMAIL.COM.







OUR WONDERFUL AAUW BRANCH WILL BE SENDING FIVE GIRLS THE UCSB TRCH TREK CAMP THIS COMING JULY. THEY WERE SELECTED IN LATE MARCH BY OUR SELECTION COMMITTEE AFTER A COMPREHENSIVE APPLICATION PROCESS INCLUDING AN ORAL INTERVIEW.

OUR FUNDRAISING PAID OFF REALLY WELL THIS SPRING AND WE ARE VERY MUCH IN DEBT TO THE MANY GENEROUS DONORS. YOU HAVE PROVIDED THE FUNDS NECESSARY TO SEND THESE GIRLS TO THE AMAZING TECH TREK STEM SUMMER CAMP.

PICTURED BELOW ARE THE SELECTED TECH TREK CAMPERS:



LEFT TO RIGHT ARE: PLUM MARTIN (SEQUOIA), REAGAN LARUE (LOS CERRITOS), SEOYEON KIM (LOS CERRITOS), AVNI MANDAL (REDWOOD), AND MIKAYLA ARIYARATNE (REDWOOD). ALTERNATES NOT SHOWN ARE: LEILANI MARTINEZ (COLINA) AND THEA NAMBIAR (REDWOOD]. A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR TERRIFIC SELECTION COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF MEMBERS NANCY TAYLOR WALKER AND SHARRI LEAR ALONG WITH FORMER TECH TREKKERS ANA CHOW AND GRECELDY HAU.

WELCOME EVENT

JUNE 1, 2025 WELCOMING EVENT FOR NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS BETTY STAPLEFORD GRACIOUSLY ALLOWED US TO HOLD THIS EVENT AT HER HOME. WE SET UP OUR APPETIZERS, DESSERTS, AND DRINKS ON THE PATIO TABLE WHICH HAD AN ASTOUNDING VIEW OF OUR MOUNTAINS AND THE VALLEYS BELOW THEM.

IN ADDITION TO THIS EVENT, WE ALSO ACKNOWLEDGED ROSSANA GUERRA'S CONTRIBUTION TO OUR BRANCH THIS PAST YEAR. BETTY PRESENTED HER WITH A NAMED GIFT HONOREE AWARD. CONGRATULATIONS!

THE FEW OF US THAT WERE THERE DEFINITELY HAD FUN. NORMA DREW AND MARCINE SOLAREZ WERE OUR NEW MEMBERS WHO ATTENDED. OTHERS HAD UNEXPECTED OBLIGATIONS OCCUR OR JUST WERE UNABLE TO ATTEND. FIRST, WE ASKED WHAT OUR NEW MEMBERS WOULD LIKE TO SEE HAPPEN AT THE EVENTS OF OUR BRANCH. THEN, NARDA FARGOTSTEIN, SALLY HIBBITS, BETTY STAPLEFORD, ROSSANNA GUERRA, AND ELODA LINEHAN GAVE INSIGHT INTO THE POSITIONS THEY HOLD AND NORMA DREW OUTLINED HER PLAN FOR THIS COMING YEAR'S PROGRAMS.

THE CHILL OF THE EVENING STARTED TO SET IN AND FORCED US TO LEAVE FOR OUR HOMES. ALL WENT WITH THE CONTENTMENT THAT COMES WITH KNOWING EACH OTHER BETTER AND HAVING CONFIDENCE IN OUR MEMBERSHIP GOALS.







HONORING DR. SPELLMAN

AAUW THOUSAND OAKS MEMBER HONORED FOR INDUCTION IN VENTURA COUNTY EDUCATOR HALL OF FAME

AAUW THOUSAND OAKS IS PROUD TO CELEBRATE LONGTIME MEMBER DR. CLAUDIA SPELMAN ON HER VERY WELL-DESERVED INDUCTION INTO THE VENTURA COUNTY EDUCATOR HALL OF FAME.

A TRUE PIONEER IN THE FIGHT FOR EDUCATIONAL EQUITY, DR. SPELMAN'S CAREER HAS SPANNED DECADES—FROM LEADING DESEGREGATION EFFORTS IN LOS ANGELES IN THE 1970S, TO MENTORING THOUSANDS OF STUDENTS AND FUTURE EDUCATORS THROUGHOUT VENTURA COUNTY.

SHE IS PERHAPS BEST KNOWN LOCALLY FOR HER HANDS-ON WORK WITH ENGLISH LEARNERS IN THE CONEJO VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT, WHERE SHE HELPED STUDENTS NOT ONLY LEARN ENGLISH, BUT FIND THEIR VOICES, BUILD CONFIDENCE, AND REACH HIGHER EDUCATION GOALS. HER IMPACT HAS RIPPLED ACROSS GENERATIONS—AS ONE FORMER STUDENT AND NOW A CVUSD TEACHER WROTE, "SHE BELIEVED IN ME WHEN I DIDN'T YET BELIEVE IN MYSELF."

IN ADDITION TO HER WORK IN K-12 SCHOOLS, DR. SPELMAN TAUGHT AND TRAINED NEW TEACHERS AT CALIFORNIA LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY AND UCSANTA BARBARA, ALWAYS CENTERING HER WORK ON INCLUSION, ADVOCACY, AND EMPOWERMENT.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. CLAUDIA SPELMAN ON THIS EXTRAORDINARY HONOR—AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR ENDURING COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION AND JUSTICE.





SCHOLARSHIPS



THE AAUW THOUSAND OAKS BRANCH PROUDLY CELEBRATES THIS YEAR'S OUTSTANDING SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS.

FROM THOUSAND OAKS HIGH SCHOOL'S LATINO YOUTH LEADERSHIP GROUP, WE HONOR:

GRECELDY HAU - PUBLIC POLICY, UC RIVERSIDE MIA OSCANOA - POLITICAL SCIENCE, UC DAVIS JAQUI PACHECO - PUBLIC POLICY, CAL LUTHERAN

JOSE HERNANDEZ – NURSING, MOORPARK COLLEGE

ALL FOUR STUDENTS SERVED AS ACTIVE LEADERS IN THE PROGRAM AND ARE GRADUATING SENIORS.

(UNFORTUNATELY PICTURES WERE NOT AVAILABLE)

FROM CONEJO VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL, WE CONGRATULATE:

SAYRA RAMIREZ WHO WILL CONTINUE HER EDUCATION AND MOORPARK COLLEGE IN THE FIELD OF NUTRITION.

KAITLYN SIEMON, WHO PLANS TO STUDY MARINE BIOLOGY OR VETERINARY SCIENCE AND EXPRESSED DEEP GRATITUDE FOR THE SUPPORT.

THE VENTURA COUNTY INDIAN EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP WAS AWARDED AT THE 2025 INDIAN HONORING CEREMONY. SCHOLARSHIPS AND TRADITIONAL HONOR BLANKETS WERE PRESENTED, SUPPORTED BY OUR BRANCH AND A GENEROUS GIFT FROM PAULA NATHAN, WITH \$700 RAISED THROUGH OUR FALL RED DRESS PROJECT EVENT.

WE EXTEND OUR HEARTFELT CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL RECIPIENTS AND WISH THEM CONTINUED SUCCESS!





SCHOLARSHIPS



VENTURA COUNTY INDIAN EDUCATION, HONORING PROGRAM WITH GRADUATING SENIORS RECEIVING THEIR HONOR BLANKETS. IN ADDITION TO SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS, SOME OF WHICH WAS PROVIDED BY AAUW THOUSAND OAKS.







WEEKLY E-BLASTS



DO YOU WANT TO KEEP UP WITH AAUW OR COMMUNITY EVENTS THAT MAY HAVE BEEN ADDED SINCE THE QUARTERLY OAK TWIG? OR MAYBE YOU NEED DETAILS ABOUT THEM YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN TO PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR. IF SO, YOU WILL GET AN EMAIL, USUALLY ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON OR EVENING, EACH WEEK WITH THOSE THINGS. AND IF YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE SOMETHING OF INTEREST OR CONCERN TO OTHER AAUW MEMBERS, PLEASE SEND IT TO BETTY STAPLEFORD (BSTAPLE4D@GMAIL) BY AT LEAST FRIDAY AFTERNOON SO YOU CAN KEEP UP WITH THE MANY AVAILABLE OPPORTUNITIES WE PROVIDE.