

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM AAUW-THOUSAND OAKS

October 2026

President's Perspective

Editors: Rossanna Guerra & Vallerie Aguilar Quintanilla



PHOTOGRAPHY *by* Narda Fargotstein

Our 60th Year – President's Message – Narda Fargotstein

Welcome to our 60th Year 2026 – 2027

60th Anniversary Fall Membership Breakfast OCTOBER 17, 2026 9:00 AM Sunset Hills Country Club

October 17, 2026, at Sunset Hills Country Club, 4155 Erbes Rd, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360, from 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM
TICKETS ARE SELLING FAST! You can go to our website at STORE to purchase tickets or you can send a check to AAUW Thousand Oaks, PO BOX 4223, Thousand Oaks, CA 91359.
We have a wonderful speaker Michaela Reeves, Ph.D., who spoke at our 50th Anniversary! Our silent auction will be filled with all kinds of goodies to benefit our scholarships.
We look forward to seeing you! Entertainment will be provided by Katherine Reaves, vocalist and CLU alumni.

City of Thousand Oaks 60th Anniversary Proclamation – Tuesday, September 29 6:00 PM

The **City of Thousand Oaks 60th Anniversary AAUW Thousand Oaks Proclamation will be presented:**
Tuesday, September 29,6:00 – 7:00 pm at City of Thousand Oaks City Hall, 2100 E Thousand Oaks Blvd, Thousand Oaks. Join us as we receive from the City of Thousand Oaks, a proclamation in recognition of serving the community for 60 years!

CHARITY KARAOKE – SING FOR A CAUSE October 11, 2026 Doors open at 4:45. Showtime at 6 pm. At the Canyon Club, Agoura Hills. Get your tickets at Charity Karaoke Home Page
Chaise Rasheed and Michele Ascencion, will be singing together for the first time ever! Chaise helped to bring in more than $2,000 for our branch

League of Women Voters co-sponsors with AAUW-Thousand Oaks
Candidate Forum: Thursday, October 1, Time: 6:00-8:15pm, Scherr Forum, Thousand Oaks City Council Chambers.
6 – 6:45pm, Deborah Klein-Lopez, Ted Nordblum Assembly-District 42
7:00 – 8:15pm, City of Thousand Oaks Council District 1, District 2 and District 3

Ballot Propositions: **Sunday, October 4th, 2:00 PM**,
Grant Brimhall Library, Marvin E. Smith Community Room
The League will provide the pros and cons of all of the propositions on the November ballot.

Conejo Housing Coalition Candidate Forum for Thousand Oaks City Council
Tuesday, October 6th, 6pm California Lutheran Univ. Lundring Center
The debate will focus on issues surrounding housing and climate.

mentioned last month in addition to making a tax-deductible contribution to Tech Trek, we have now established the AAUW Thousand Oaks Education & Empowerment Fund at the Ventura County Community Foundation, where you can make a tax-deductible contributions to AAUW Thousand Oaks for other scholarships. For any questions, contact Dorothy Hatfield, Treasurer, AAUW Thousand Oaks Branch.

Want to connect with us?

Tap the link to our AAUW-Thousand Oaks Calendar

Please contact Narda Fargotstein 805-990-1885 (cell) to get involved and make our 60th celebration!

EVENTS

Fundraiser at Wood Ranch BBQ

AAUW-Thousand Oaks members and friends gathered at Wood Ranch- Oaks Mall for a restaurant fundraiser! Pictured are board members Sally Hibbitts, Eloda LInehan, and Sharon Dyer sampling from the yummy menu featured at Wood Ranch. Thank you to Eloda Linehan for reaching out to the staff at Wood Ranch to arrange for this all day fundraiser.

Our next restaurant fundraiser is scheduled for **Monday, November 9th** at **Fusion Grill Restaurant in Thousand Oaks (new American, French, Asian Fusion)**. Restaurant fundraisers are an easy and fun way to enjoy a yummy meal with family & friends while supporting AAUW-Thousand Oaks. Fusion Grill is happy to provide 20% of all receipts to AAUW-Thousand Oaks. Present the flyer below at the time of ordering. ***Fusion Grill has a Yelp Rating of 4.7 out of 5!***

Join us and support AAUW-Thousand Oaks!







CHARITY KAROKE RETURNS ON OCTOBER 11th!


SING IT. SUPPORT IT. CHANGE LIVES!
CHARITY KARAOKE
RETURNING FAVORITE
CHAISE RASHEED
SPECIAL GUEST PERFORMER
MICHELLE ASCENCION
SUNDAY
OCTOBER 11, 2026
6:00 PM
THE CANYON CLUB
AGOURA HILLS, CA
A FABULOUS NIGHT OF
Fun for the Whole Family!
ENTERTAINMENT • LAUGHTER • COMMUNITY
AAUW
Thousand Oaks Inc. (CA) Branch
www.aauwthousandoaks.com
ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT AAUW PROGRAMS AND SCHOLARSHIPS
which advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy.
TICKETS & INFORMATION FOR AAUW BRANCH MEMBERS:
Sally Hibbitts
SJhibbitts@aol.com
Sing your heart out! ★ FUN FOR ALL AGES! ★

community! **Charity Karaoke returns Sunday, October 11**, with **Chaise Rasheed** once again taking the stage for AAUW Thousand Oaks. Chaise was a big hit last year and helped bring in **more than $2,000 for our branch**—funds that strengthen our scholarships and programs and help us continue advancing equity for women and girls.

This year, Chaise won't be performing alone! Our surprise very special guest performer has been announced and that is the amazing Ventura County Clerk/Recorder, **Michelle Ascencion!** Michelle contacted our branch earlier this summer volunteering to help us at this big community fundraising event. Together Michelle and Chaise are unstoppable as they perform their brilliant routine on Sunday, October 11… Do not miss it!
If you can't make the event, then here's another opportunity in which you can support our fundraising work by donating through this portal:
https://www.givsum.com/opportunities/vote-for-your-favorite-contestant-2026-2c24aa423
Charity Karaoke is community spirit at its best—friends coming together, having fun, and supporting programs that make a difference. **Purchase your tickets and come cheer on Team AAUW!** Branch members can contact **Sally Hibbitts at SJhibbitts@aol.com** for tickets and information. Bring your family and friends and help us make this year's performance an even bigger success!

Celebrate 60 Years with AAUW–Thousand Oaks!
Tickets Are Selling *Fast*…

Celebrate, Connect, and Enjoy

Your morning will include:

- **A delicious buffet breakfast with a variety of options (Vegan available),**
- **Exciting silent-auction gift baskets and shopping opportunities,**
- **Entertainment by vocalist *Katherine Reeves*,**

supporters;

- **An update on new groups and activities planned for the coming year.**



In keeping with our tradition of collecting items for underserved populations in our community, we will be collecting canned goods in benefit of the clients of Adelante Communidad Conejo. Check our website to view the list of items:

be there.

Use the QR Code to purchase your $50.00 ticket or go to https://aauwthousandoaks.com/store/ols/products/aauw-fall-membership-breakfast-september-14th.
Checks can be mailed to:
AAUW Thousand Oaks PO BOX 4223, Thousand Oaks, CA 91359

Groups

Latino Youth Leadership Group

Thousand Oaks High School

Leaders: Betty Stapleford, Marcine Solarez, & Sally Hibbitts



LYLG Students Lead with Courage and Pride

at Thousand Oaks High School proudly represented their school and community at the September 15th Thousand Oaks City Council meeting. This team of student leaders accepted a proclamation recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month. Speaking confidently in both Spanish and English before a predominantly white audience, these 16- and 17-year-olds shared their heritage, inspired those in attendance, and demonstrated remarkable courage and leadership. Their presentation made such a strong impression that one audience member immediately offered a very generous donation to support the group!
We applaud the students and thank faculty adviser Sandra Martínez-Galván and AAUW-TO mentors Sally Hibbitts, Betty Stapleford, and Marcine Solarez for their tireless guidance and support. Click on the link below to view the video.

LYLG at Thousand Oaks City Hall

Our meetings are scheduled for **Tuesday afternoons** from **2:30 to 4 PM** in room I-8 at TOHS. We will be starting our full meeting schedule on **October 6th** where we will get to know our new members for this year followed by our next meeting on **October 22** where we will start with our outside speakers. This year promises to be an outstanding year for LYLG thanks primarily to the excellent leadership which the group has selected.
(Photo Credit Alijah Hernandez)

Our fabulous Latino Youth Leadership Group students come to their meetings hungry after a long day at school! We welcome donations of individually packaged snacks and drinks to keep them energized, engaged, and ready to be involved. Please see the additional information included in the description in this link, as it will guide you to assist us further. To learn how you can help, including providing much-needed snacks and other support, please contact Sally, Betty, or Marcine

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E084CAAAD2BA5FC1-65997342-aauw

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TECH TREK SUMMER 2026 UPDATE!



Now is the perfect time to make a difference and secure a 2026 tax deduction by supporting our incredible AAUW Thousand Oaks Tech Trek!



Your donation—no matter the size, from $1 to $100,000,000—directly impacts the lives of local girls, empowering them through hands-on STEM experiences next summer at UCSB. While every contribution counts, a $1,200 donation offers a meaningful opportunity to honor or remember a loved one in a very special way. Many members generously give around $100, knowing how profoundly Tech Trek shapes the futures of young women in our community.

There are two very simple ways to make your tax deductible donation:

- **Make your check payable to: *"AAUW CA SPF"* ,**

Mail: Sally Hibbitts

3119 W. Adirondack, Westlake Village, CA 91362

(Be sure to write "Tech Trek Thousand Oaks" on your check memo line.)

OR

- **Make an easy online donation by going to: *https://specialprojectsfund-ca.aauw.net/donate/* Please note that all credit cards are accepted and you do not need a PayPal account.**

on the form. We will not get credit unless our branch name is written on the note form.

Please contact Sally Hibbitts if you have any questions: 805-750-3119

Let us come together to invest in tomorrow's leaders—
our local girls deserve it! Thank you!

Public Policy

AAUW-Thousand Oaks Attends
7th Annual Conejo Valley Coalition for Youth & Family



AAUW Thousand Oaks attended the 7th Annual Conejo Coalition of Youth & Family gathering, which brought together more than 20 nonprofits supporting underserved youth and families. Jointly sponsored by the City of Thousand Oaks, the Conejo Valley Unified School District, and the Conejo Recreation and Park

ideas, discuss challenges, and work together.

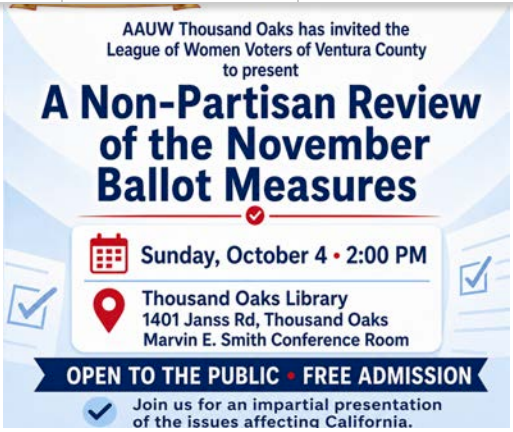
Participating in the Coalition is a natural fit for our branch's mission to empower women and girls. Through programs such as Tech Trek and the Latino Youth Leadership Group, along with scholarships that help young people pursue their educational goals, AAUW Thousand Oaks shares the Coalition's commitment to supporting local youth. To find out more about this coalition go to their website: https://www.crpd.org/conejo-coalition-for-youth-families.

Pictured: Thousand Oaks City Councilmember Connie "Tie" Gutierrez addressing the group. The Coalition will meet again in October; watch for an update in our next issue.



Election Season

AAUW–Thousand Oaks and the League of Women Voters of Ventura County are co-sponsoring two bipartisan election forums to help voters prepare for the November election. The candidate forum will feature those running for Assembly District 42 and Thousand Oaks City Council Districts 1, 2, and 3. The second forum will offer a pros-and-cons review of the ballot measures. As AAUW members, we know the importance of voting and of considering how each candidate



mission. For further information check out our website calendar https://aauwthousandoaks.com/calendar.

BOOK GROUPS

Diversity and Unity Book Group



Coming Attractions: A New Year of Great Books and Conversation!

Our new reading year begins with a meeting in November—date and location to be announced. We usually gather in a member's home on a Thursday in the late afternoon.

We are now considering a wonderfully long list of recommendations and will soon announce our six selections for 2026–27. The books under consideration include fiction and nonfiction from many countries and cultures—stories of women confronting war and displacement, novels

remarkable women whose accomplishments have too often been overlooked.

During the past year, our books took us from Malibu and Harlem to Egypt, Syria and South America. We recently had a terrific discussion, led by Shoshana, about Belle da Costa Greene and her remarkable career as J. P. Morgan's personal librarian. Our final book of the year is *Harlem Rhapsody* by Victoria Christopher Murray.

We are a very friendly group, and new faces are always welcome! We enjoy some of the best discussions—and some delicious afternoon treats—while honoring and learning about the wonderful diversity of cultures here in the United States and around the world. Please feel free to join us anytime!

Happy reading, and we look forward to seeing you! All are welcome. If you have any questions, please contact Sally Hibbitts at sjhibbitts@aol.com

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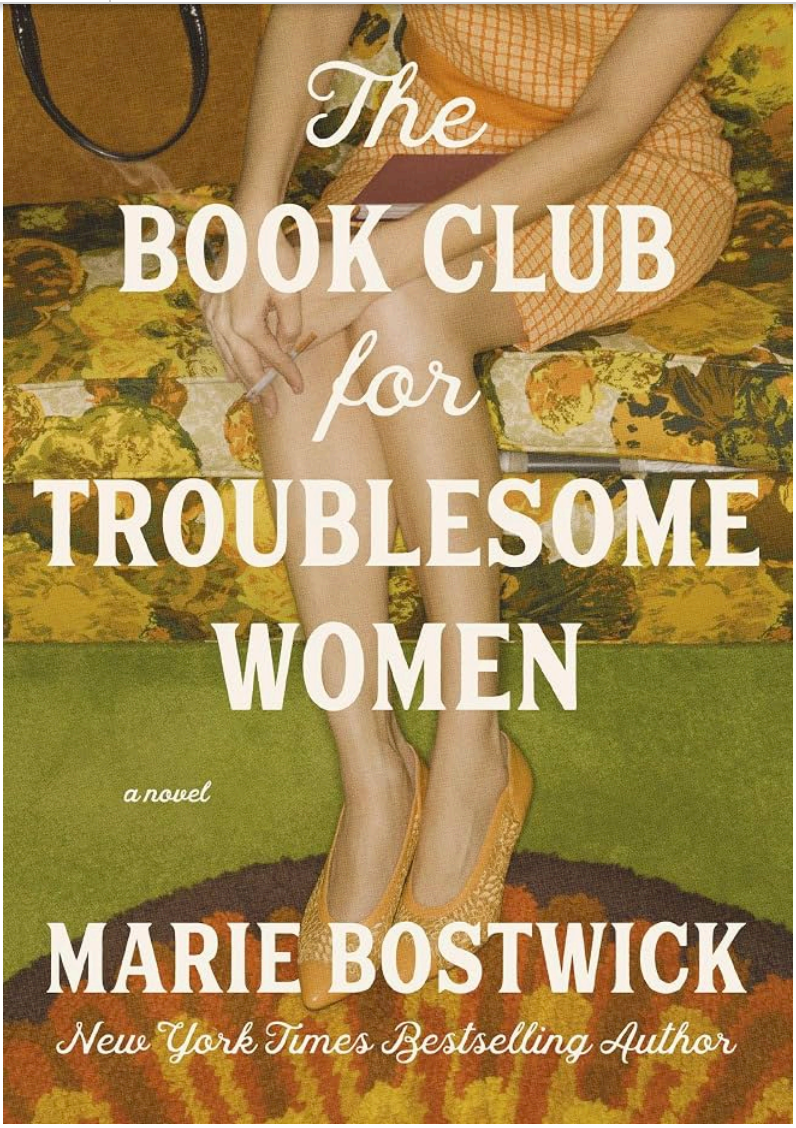
Daytime Book Group

October 2026 Book Selection



This month's selection is *The Book Club for Troublesome Women* by Marie Bostwick

The Book Club for Troublesome Women (2025) by Marie Bostwick follows four women in 1960s America who form a kinship through a book club. The first book they read is Betty Friedan's The Feminine Mystique, and it has long-lasting repercussions on the women's marriages and lives. The narrative that takes place largely in the year 1963, is peppered with references to historical US events as well, including Reverend Martin Luther King Jr.'s speech at the Lincoln Memorial and President Kennedy's assassination. The novel explores themes such as the pervasive nature of patriarchy, community as sanctuary for women, and the empowering nature of storytelling.

The Daytime Book Group meets on the 4th Monday of each month, or the 3rd Monday if there is a holiday conflict. **Join us on October 26th at 10am in the**

The book we will be reading is *The Book Club for Troublesome Women* by Marie Bostwick, with a facilitated discussion at the meeting by Claudia Spelman. If you have any questions, please contact Betty Stapleford at 805-630-8117 or bstaple4d@gmail.com

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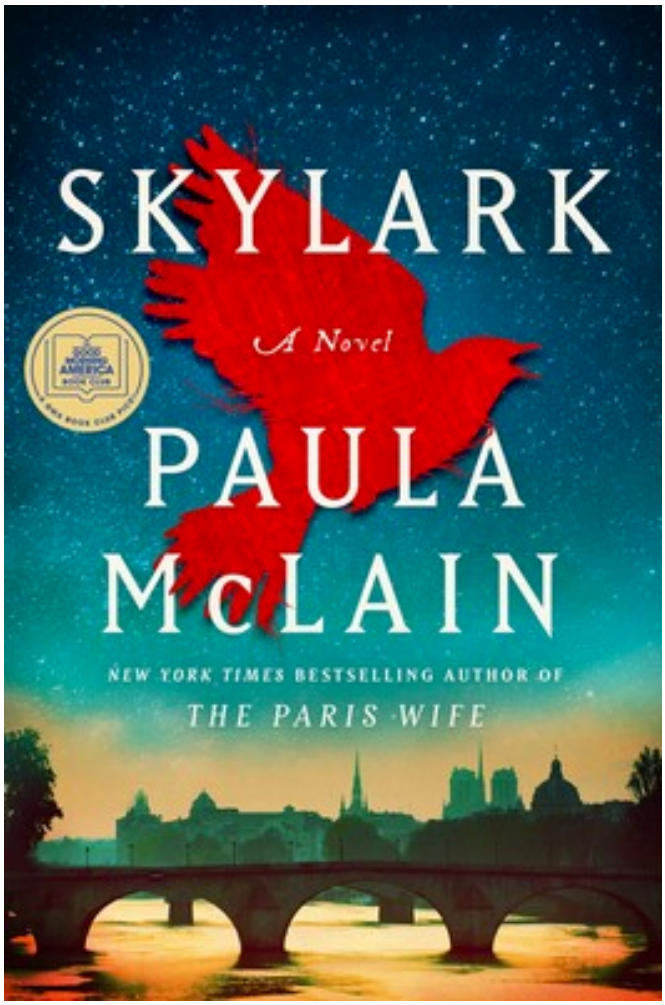
The Lunch Bunch Book Group

October 2026 Book Selection



The Lunch Bunch Book Group meets at local restaurants on the third Thursday of the month at 12:30 pm. We always welcome new members while reviewing books of different genres and enjoying a tasty lunch and maybe a little wine. We are thinking about adding some movies between meetings if something sounds interesting. Please contact Sharon Dyer by text at (818) 904-4645 if you have any questions.

Lindero Canyon Rd, Westlake Village, at 12:30 pm. We will be reviewing *Skylark* by Paula McLain.

The New York Times bestselling author of The Paris Wife weaves a mesmerizing tale of Paris above and below—where a woman's quest for artistic freedom in 1664 intertwines with a doctor's dangerous mission during the German occupation in the 1940s, revealing a story of courage and resistance that transcends time.

Movie Lovers Group



Introducing the AAUW-TO Movie Lovers Group

Love movies, old and new? Join our new **Movie Lovers** group! We'll meet at local theaters or gather at a member's home to stream a recent release. From the latest films to classics from Hollywood's golden age, we'll explore different genres and enjoy lively conversations about what we watch.

If you're interested, please contact **Rossanna Guerra** and share the days and times you're available. Would you enjoy hearing from guest speakers in the movie industry? Let Rossanna know that, too!

Members Giving Back

AAUW-TO HOLIDAY CANDY FUNDRAISER featuring
Hand Poured Chocolate* Candies for Halloween and Thanksgiving

*The chocolates are gluten-free but contain Milk & Soy. M&Ms may contain Peanuts



I have been providing hand poured chocolate lollipops for AAUW-TO events for many years. I provided the chocolate Eiffel Tower lollipops at the recent French Tea and will be providing lollipops for the Fall Membership Breakfast. I'm cutting down on the number of holiday boutiques I do, but will continue pouring chocolates.

This is why I'm offering an AAUW-TO HOLIDAY CANDY FUNDRAISER featuring my hand-poured chocolate* candies for Halloween, Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, and Christmas. Orders for Halloween and Thanksgiving are due by **October 8, 2026**, and will be available for pickup at my house by arrangement the week before Halloween. Under some circumstances, I can deliver.

AAUW-TO Halloween Candy Sale Fundraiser:

Halloween Candy Sale

Halloween Candy Order Sheet

AAUW-TO Thanksgiving Candy Sale Fundraiser:

Thanksgiving Candy Sale

Thanksgiving Candy Order Sheet

Oak Twig and are due by November 8, 2026, by text or email, and for pickup at my house after November 23, 2026.

20% of proceeds go to the AAUW-TO Branch



AAUW Oak Twig Calendar – October 2026

https://aauwthousandoaks.com/calendar

October 1 - LWV VC & AAUW-TO Candidate Forum - 6pm

October 3 - Coffee and Chat – 9:30 am, Pickles Restaurant, NP
October 4 - LWV VC Ballot Measures Pros & Cons- TO Library 2pm

October 6 - Conejo Housing Coalition Candidate Forum - Lundring Ctr 6pm
October 11- Charity Karaoke – The Canyon Club in Agoura Hills at 28912 Roadside Dr. Doors open at 4:45 p.m.

October 13 - Happy Hikers - Autumn Ridge Trail - 9:30pm - Take Westlake Blvd north until it dead ends at Autumn Ridge Drive in Lang Ranch - Turn right and park on street - Rain cancels. For more information call Eloda **(310) 809-0926**

October 15 - Lunch Bunch Book Group - 12:30 pm **-** This meeting will be at Bocccaccios Restaurant located at 32123 Lindero Canyon Rd, Westlake Village, at 12:30 pm. We will be reviewing *Skylark* by Paula McLain.
October 17 – 60th Anniversary Fall Breakfast – Sunset Hills Country Club, 4155 Erbes Rd, Thousand Oaks. Doors open at 8:30 a.m.

we will discuss is *The Book Club for Troublesome Women* by Marie Bostwick, discussion facilitated by Claudia Spelman.

Thousand Oaks Inc. (CA) Branch

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