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A NEWSLETTER FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT AAUW-THOUSAND OAKS

SEPTEMBER 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 , 1966 – 2026

So why be an AAUW member? if someone asks you – AAUW National has been advocating for women and girls since 1881. In 1920, the Association of Collegiate Alumnae (a predecessor to AAUW) helped raise money to purchase a gram of radium for Marie Curie.

What was it like for women in 1966:

- You could be fired for being pregnant.
- Employment ads were Help Wanted – Female, Help Wanted – Male.
- A bank could refuse to issue a credit card to an unmarried woman -1957 the FDA approved of the birth control pill only for “severe menstrual distress”.
- Yale and Princeton didn’t accept female students until 1969.
- Harvard didn’t admit women until 1977 when it merged with Radcliffe; Brown merged with Pembroke and admitted women in 1971, Dartmouth admitted women in 1972, and Columbia in 1981.
- Elementary schools lifted skirt-only dress codes between 1969 and 1972.
- Legislation 1945 proposed – passed in 1963 Equal Pay Act.

Since 1966 AAUW has advocated for

- Title IX (bans sex-based discrimination in any school or education program that receives Federal money) amendment in 1972, the Family and Medical Leave Act in 1993, the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act in 2009, the Paycheck Fairness Act passes in 2019 by the House; still waiting for the Senate.

AAUW Thousand Oaks Board for 2026 – 2027 at our Annual Meeting May 2, 2026

We welcomed the 2026-2027 AAUW Board at our In/Out Board Meeting:

President -Narda Fargotstein

Vice President - Rossanna Guerra

Secretary - Sakeena Ali

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)[Membership - Elooda Linenhan](#)[Latino Youth Leadership Group- Sally Hibbits, Betty Stapleford, Marcine Solarez](#)[Tech Trek - Sally Hibbits](#)[Website -Paula Nathan](#)[Scholarships/Public Policy - Paula Davis](#)[Members at Large -Sharon Dyer, Cindy Speakman](#)

I want to thank every one of them for stepping up to continue the work of AAUW Thousand Oaks. This will be my second full year of being your President.

Scholarship Goal for 2026-27

As AAUW Thousand Oaks mission is to promote the education of women and girls, we would like to be able to increase the number of scholarships to Moorpark College, in addition to the high school and Tech Trek scholarships.

In July 2026, AAUW-TO established the AAUW-Thousand Oaks Education and Empowerment Fund at the Ventura County Community Foundation.

Read more about this fund and how to donate in this issue.

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

Merci Beaucoup!

Our second annual tea, named “**Le Petit French Tea**” on August 1 was a wonderful afternoon—and a great success! The beautiful **Parish Hall at St. Patrick’s Episcopal Church in Thousand Oaks**, with its lovely view overlooking the Conejo Valley, provided the perfect setting. Thanks to our guests, donors, sponsors, and volunteers, the sold-out event raised **nearly \$4,000 for AAUW Thousand Oaks scholarships, Tech Trek, and our other local programs supporting women and girls.**

inspired savories and sweets, along with a generous *Plateau de Fromages et Fruits* in the center of the room. Six talented local women artists, **coordinated by Paula Davis**, displayed their work and added beautifully to the ambience. **John Spilker on piano and Smrithi Baradwaj on flute** provided musical accompaniment throughout the afternoon.



arrange access to our lovely venue and to **Dorothy Hatfield** for providing much-needed access to the Adelante kitchen hub for preparation and cleanup. Among the many special treats, were chocolate Eiffel Tower lollipops created by **Sharon Dyer** and an impressive array of freshly baked goodies from the kitchens of **Cindy Mayling, John Helton, Nancy Taylor-Walker, Sally Hibbitts, and Paula Nathan**.

We were especially pleased to have our wonderful student culinary helpers and servers, primarily from the **Latino Youth Leadership Group at Thousand Oaks High School and our Tech Trek alumnae**. They helped with everything from setup and serving to cleanup and did an outstanding job. **Melanie Ashen, Kaye Spilker, Mía Jurardo, Ron Nathan and Avalon Nathan** also deserve special thanks for lending a hand with the dishwashing at The Hub on Sunday afternoon.

Music, Science, and Giving Back to Tech Trek



AAUW Thousand Oaks extends heartfelt thanks to Smrithi Bharadwaj, a Westlake High School junior, former Tech Trek camper and junior counselor, and to her parents, Hari and Nandhini Bharadwaj, for an extraordinary evening benefiting Tech Trek. Smrithi conceived and organized the flute recital herself as a way to give back to the program she says helped spark her passion for science. About 150 family members, friends, and supporters attended at the Westlake High School Carpenter Theatre. Smrithi was joined by student and professional

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South Asian buffet dinner afterward. This was the first time a former camper from our branch has created a fundraiser of this scope for Tech Trek. Through Smrithi's talent, initiative, and hard work - and the generous support of her family and community - the evening raised an outstanding \$3,705 for our Tech Trek fund.

Thank you, Smrithi, Hari, Nandhini, and everyone who helped make this special evening possible! The Bharadwaj Family has generously provided photos taken from the evening to share. Click on the link to view <https://share.icloud.com/photos/06esKd7Tu06SsV3sztR2CQnxw>

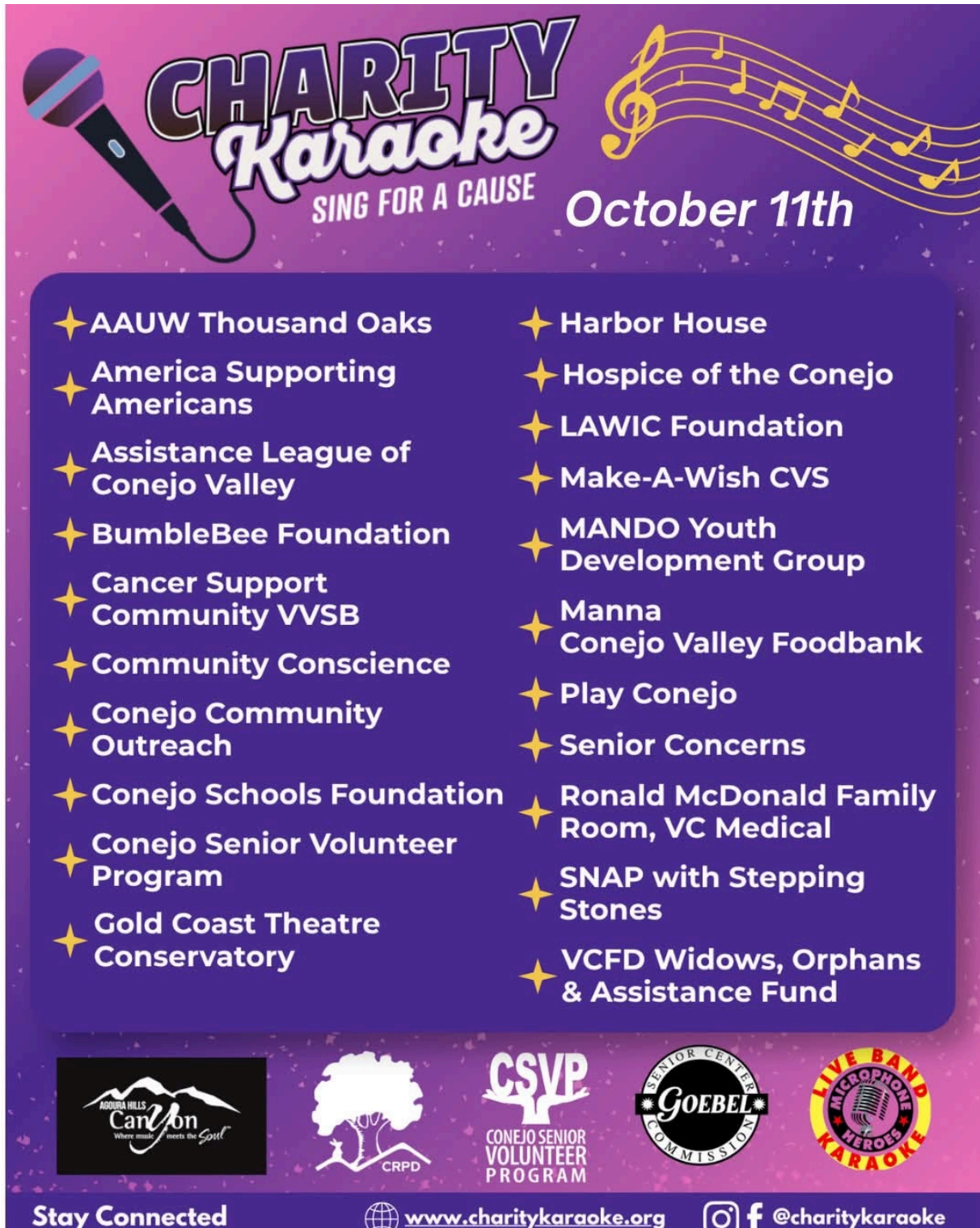
CHARITY KARAOKE-Sing for A Cause RETURNS ON OCTOBER 11th!



Here's a fun way to enjoy a great evening **and** support the work we do together in our 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

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equity for women and girls.



CHARITY Karaoke
SING FOR A CAUSE

October 11th

- ★ AAUW Thousand Oaks
- ★ Harbor House
- ★ America Supporting Americans
- ★ Hospice of the Conejo
- ★ Assistance League of Conejo Valley
- ★ LAWIC Foundation
- ★ BumbleBee Foundation
- ★ Make-A-Wish CVS
- ★ Cancer Support Community VVSB
- ★ MANDO Youth Development Group
- ★ Community Conscience
- ★ Manna Conejo Valley Foodbank
- ★ Conejo Community Outreach
- ★ Play Conejo
- ★ Senior Concerns
- ★ Conejo Schools Foundation
- ★ Ronald McDonald Family Room, VC Medical
- ★ Conejo Senior Volunteer Program
- ★ SNAP with Stepping Stones
- ★ Gold Coast Theatre Conservatory
- ★ VCFD Widows, Orphans & Assistance Fund

Stay Connected www.charitykaraoke.org @charitykaraoke

Logos: Agoura Hills Canyon, CRPD, CSVP Conejo Senior Volunteer Program, Goebel Senior Center Commission, Live Band Karaoke

And this year, Chaise won't be performing alone! **A surprise special guest performer** from our own AAUW community has volunteered to lend her considerable talents to the act. We're keeping her identity a secret for now, but we think you'll enjoy the surprise!

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run, 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!

Please join us as AAUW–Thousand Oaks celebrates 60 years of empowering women and girls in our community at our 60th Anniversary Fall Breakfast.

Happening Saturday, October 17, 2026, 9:00 am, Sunset Hills Country Club, Thousand Oaks, \$50 per person.

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AAUW
Thousand Oaks Inc. (CA) Branch

Empowering Women & Girls Since 1966

60th | *Anniversary*
CELEBRATION!



GUEST SPEAKER

Michaela Reeves, Ph.D.
Cal Lutheran University
History



DATE

Saturday, October 17th, 2026



TIME

9:00 AM



LOCATION

Sunset Hills Country Club
Thousand Oaks, CA

www.aauwthousandoaks.com

Our special guest speaker will be **Michaela Reeves, Ph.D.**, History (retired) professor from California Lutheran University. Dr. Reeves will present

“Taking a Stand: Civil Liberties Then & Now.”

This milestone celebration will bring together members, friends and community supporters to honor our branch’s history, recognize those who have contributed to its success and look forward to the future. The morning will include a delicious

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Thousand Oaks programs.

Can't attend? Please consider sponsoring a participant from Tech Trek or the Latino Youth Leadership Group.

Use the QR Code to purchase tickets or go to

<https://aauwthousandoaks.com/store/ols/products/aauw-fall-membership-breakfast-september-14th>

Groups

Latino Youth Leadership Group Thousand Oaks High School

Leaders: Betty Stapleford, Marcine Solarez, & Sally Hibbitts



Latino Youth Leadership Group

The Thousand Oaks High School Latino Youth Leadership Group (LYLG), under the guidance of TOHS teacher Sandra Martinez, is gearing up for another busy year of team building, speakers, participation in school and community events, and much more.

During these first weeks of school, students in grades 9-12 who wish to join the group are busy getting teacher recommendations and submitting applications which will be reviewed by Ms. Martinez, this year's LYLG officers and several AAUW sponsors. This year's officers were elected at the final meeting last year and are an enthusiastic, talented group. Because of increased concern for protecting student information, we will withhold names and identifying pictures at this time. Once new members are notified, regular biweekly meetings begin in early October.

On Tuesday, September 15th, LYLG officers will attend the Thousand Oaks City Council meeting to be recognized as part of Hispanic Heritage month.

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committee meetings as they explore aspects of leadership.

LYLG would love your help! Please sign up to provide snacks at a meeting or two this year. These hungry teens happily devour healthy foods and yummy sweets at the start of each meeting. Our next newsletter will have the Sign-Up Genius link for your convenience.

Watch for details on LYLK activities, speakers, field trips and more in upcoming Oak Twigs. If you would like more information on AAUW support of LYLK, please contact [Betty Stapleford](#), [Sally Hibbitts](#), or [Marcine Solarez](#).

TECH TREK SUMMER 2026 UPDATE!



school girls the opportunity to experience a week of hands-on STEM learning and college life at UC Santa Barbara. Their thank-you notes tell us just how meaningful that week can be. Pilar wrote that she “learned so much, made friends, and had a lot of fun.” Kaia, who extracted DNA from soil, came home with “an idea of what I want to study in college” and asked us to “do again to make another girl as happy as I was!” Aylin said she found “a community or family that supports me” and that camp “created a courage in me to keep going.” And Jayla summed up her experience simply: “this was an amazing experience,” adding her own enthusiastic **“#TechTrek is AWESOME.”**



We are especially grateful to Eloda Linehan, who volunteered as a Dorm Mom, and to TechTrek alums Ana Chow and Smrithi Bharadwaj, who returned to volunteer at camp—wonderful examples of girls giving back to the program that once inspired them. (See article about Smrithi’s successful Tech Trek fundraiser.) As we begin raising funds for our 2027 campers, these girls remind us why Tech Trek matters: building confidence, friendships and new possibilities for girls in STEM. For information or to support Tech Trek, please contact Sally Hibbitts at SJhibbitts@aol.com.

SCHOLARSHIPS

A New Way to Support Our Scholarships AAUW-Thousand Oaks Education & Empowerment Fund



AAUW Thousand Oaks is pleased to announce the establishment of the **AAUW Thousand Oaks Education & Empowerment Fund**, created this summer in partnership with the Ventura County Community Foundation (VCCF). This new fund provides a convenient way for members, friends and community supporters to make tax-deductible charitable contributions to strengthen our local scholarship program. Administered by VCCF, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, the fund will primarily support scholarships for deserving local students, particularly young women pursuing their educational goals. The fund is separate from Tech Trek, which already has its own tax-deductible fundraising program. Our new VCCF partnership gives AAUW Thousand Oaks an additional opportunity to reach individuals, businesses and community supporters who believe in expanding educational opportunities for women.

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check payable to Ventura County Community Foundation, with AAUW Thousand Oaks Education & Empowerment Fund in the memo line. VCCF can also accept stock, IRA distributions and other planned gifts. Every gift, large or small, helps us provide meaningful educational opportunities for deserving students in our community. Please consider contributing—and sharing this opportunity with others who support our mission. For additional information or questions, please contact Dorothy Hatfield, Treasurer, AAUW Thousand Oaks Branch, aauwthousandoakstreasurer@Gmail.com

VCCF AAUW TO EDUCATION & EMPOWERMENT FUND



AAUW Thousand Oaks Education &

— [Share...](#) —

MEMBERSHIP

Our national organization of AAUW has moved to an anniversary-based membership renewal system. Instead of everyone renewing at the same time each spring, members now renew annually according to the date they originally joined or most recently reactivated their membership. AAUW will send renewal reminders as each member's individual anniversary date approaches. So, be watchful for any type of dues renewal information. Coming directly to you from our National office.

AAUW National dues increased by \$2 on April 1, 2026, bringing annual National dues to \$76. This modest increase will help AAUW keep pace with inflation and continue providing essential member services, programs, advocacy and branch support. National dues remain fully tax-deductible.



How to Self-Renew for Existing Members

The Community Hub allows existing members to log in and renew their membership and donate. Follow these instructions to login to your Personal Snapshot to manage your membership.

www.aauw.org/membership/new-systems-update/#Tutorials

Please use this helpful tutorial which is available at www.aauw.org/membership/new-systems-update/#Tutorials. You will need to log in to your account and may need to change/update your password. Go to the

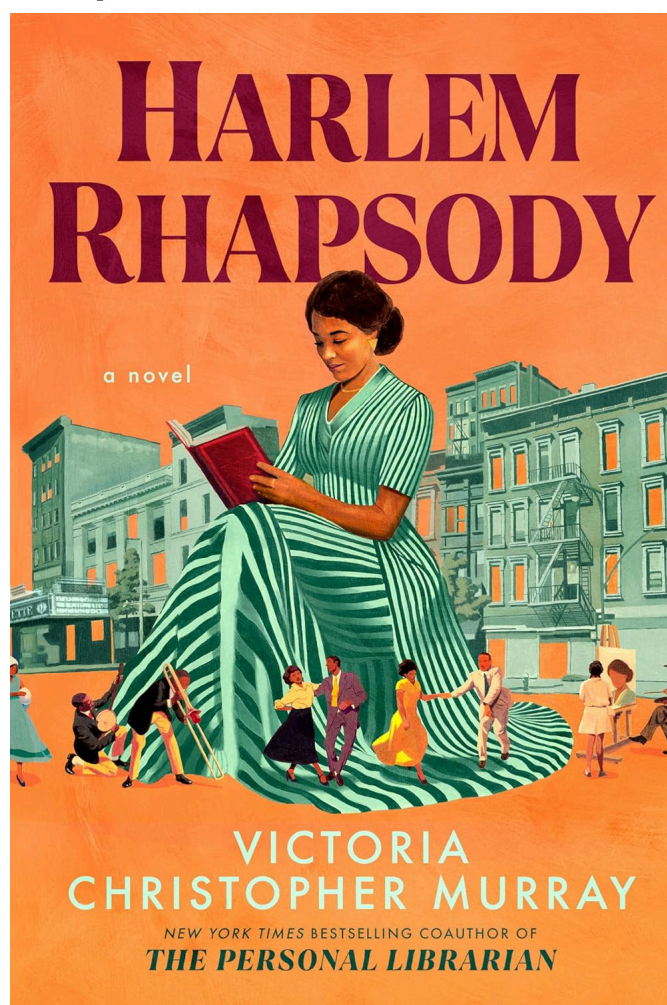
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members. For more information email Eloda Elendari
elodatom@verizon.net.

BOOK GROUPS

Diversity and Unity Book Group

September 2026 Book Selection



***Harlem Rhapsody* by Victoria Christopher Murray**

Date/Time/Place: Thursday, September 24th 4pm

Home of Wendy Hoffman 330 Somerset, Thousand Oaks

Our final selection for this year is *Harlem Rhapsody* by Victoria Christopher Murray, a historical novel about Jessie Redmon Fauset, the pioneering literary

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[Renaissance.](#)

Our Diversity & Unity Book Group is beginning to select titles for our new reading year, which starts in October 2026. Please send your recommendations to Sally Hibbitts within the next two or three weeks.

We especially look for books:

*by women authors whose work bridges cultures

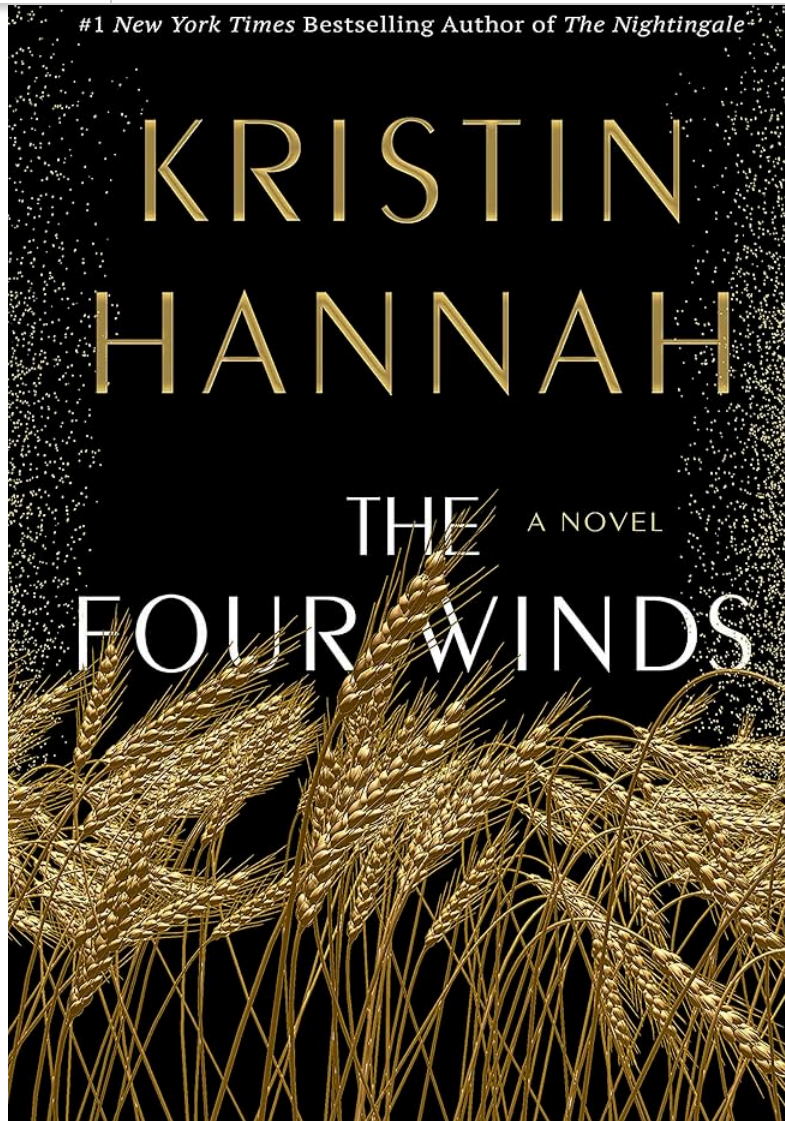
*either within the U.S. or around the world

*fiction or non-fiction

We'll gather the suggestions and vote to select our six books for the coming year. 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

Daytime Book Group

September 2026 Book Selection

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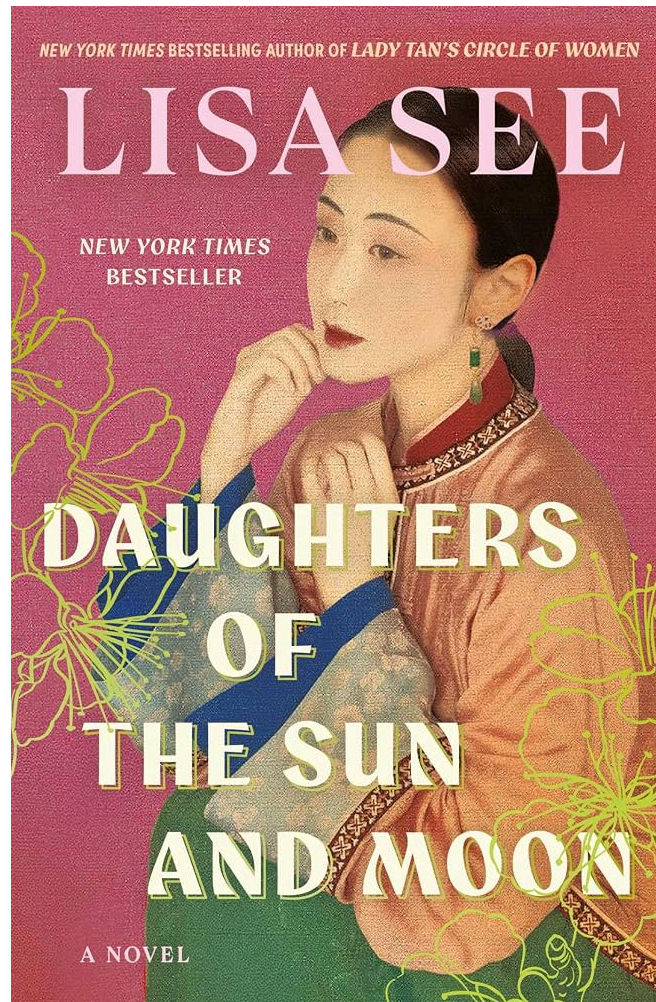
This month's selection is *The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah

The Four Winds by Kristin Hannah is historical women's fiction about the Great Depression. It's 1934 and on the Great Plains of Texas, Elsa Martinelli finally has the children she always longed for. Though life on their farm isn't easy, she works hard to ensure her family has all they need. With millions out of work since the 1929 financial crash, their modest lifestyle gets squeezed tighter and tighter. But when dust rains down on the fields and heatwaves scorch the earth, the family is tempted to go West and seek their fortunes in California.

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 Monday, September 28th at 10 am in the conference room of the Thousand Oaks Library- Children's Library**

The Lunch Bunch Book Group

September 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.

On September 17th, we'll be meeting at the new Osteria La Buca in the Westlake Target Center and will be reviewing *Daughters of the Sun and Moon* by Lisa See.

unexpected friendship helps them survive and, despite the odds, thrive, in the turmoil of post-Civil War Los Angeles.

Members Making News

Retired T.O. Pastor Makes Sure Adelanto Detainees are 'Seen and Heard'

Tom Kiskien, Ventura County Star

August 13, 2022



The Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford steers her hybrid Lexus on a two-hour journey each month through the high desert, past the sign on the edge of Adelanto that brands it "The City of Unlimited Possibilities." Leading a small group of Ventura County volunteers, she parks at the Adelanto ICE Processing Center, the 1,940-bed detention center often in the news for crowded conditions, mold in the bathrooms, inmates deaths and a federal judge's ruling ordering improvements. Inside the U.S. Immigration and Customs detention facility in San Bernardino County, people born in Mexico, Africa, Jamaica and elsewhere wait for hearings and outcomes on deportation and asylum. One man seeking to stay in the

asserting others leave the country after just days because "it can't get any worse than life in this detention facility.

A few of the detainees are visited by family members or friends regularly. Some haven't seen anyone since they arrived. Stapleford, a retired 83-year-old Unitarian Universalist pastor and immigration activist from Thousand Oaks, first started visiting Adelanto 15 years ago- sometimes to pray, mostly to let detainees know they haven't been forgotten.

"I have to let them know they were seen and heard," she said. "It's recognizing that they're human beings because they're treated in the facility like they are not."

An hour to talk

After the two-hour drive, Stapleford and the handful of others in her group leave food, notebooks, purses and everything else but their driver's licenses in the Lexus and make their way toward the detention center's entrance. Mostly retirees, they dress modestly, arms and toes carefully covered.

"We can't wear low-cut or sleeveless blouses," Stapleford said, rattling off rules that also prohibit sandals and running pants. They give up their licenses in the lobby in exchange for a clip-on visitor's pass. They provide an identification known as an alien registration number for the detainee they want to visit. When their person's last name is called out, they go through security screening that requires Stapleford to tell the guards she has a titanium knee.

They pass through two locked doors and enter a large room filled with small tables and plastic chairs. The inmates wait wearing jumpsuits that signify their criminal records. Red means they've been convicted previously of felonies, orange means misdemeanors, blue means no charges aside from entering the country without authorization .Everyone sits." Then you have an hour to talk," Stapleford said.

'The best healthcare'

U.S. District Judge Sunshine Sykes ruled on July 16 that treatment of detainees at Adelanto has likely violated constitutional rights. She ordered clean drinking water, more access to medical care and daily outdoor recreation. Stapleford said that when she visited a week later detainees wanted to talk about the order. They hadn't seen any changes. They said their daily allotment of two large water

to get out of bed was treated with Tylenol. Outdoor recreation was limited. "Their analysis was things are getting worse and worse," she said. They live in cells that grow hot in the summer and cold in the winter. Stapleford heard too about laundry protocols that sometimes mean detainees sleep without blankets and a toilet in a four-person cell that had been broken for a week. "One of the inmates had just gone to the bathroom in the shower because he needed to go," she said. Stapleford remembered one man she's visited before. Usually upbeat, he seemed different. "He's really down," she said, noting others were subdued, too. "People were very depressed and just feeling hopeless. Some had not gotten a visitor. They had been there close to a year and had not had anyone see them. "The GEO Group operates the Adelanto facility in a contract with the Department of Homeland Security. A company representative referred questions to the government. A Homeland Security spokeswoman declined to specify whether court-ordered changes have been made at Adelanto and defended conditions at the facility." Any claim that there are subprime condition sat Adelanto ICE processing facility are FALSE," spokeswoman Katherine Currie said in a written statement. "This is another example of a Biden appointed activist judge trying to smear our ICE law enforcement." Currie said the water used by detainees and ICE employees is tested and safe. It's the same water used throughout the city of Adelanto. Medical care includes dental and mental health services and emergency care, she said. "This is the best healthcare that many alien shave received in their entire lives," Currie said, adding that detainees are also given "opportunities to communicate with their family members and lawyers."

One visit a day

Stapleford said detainees are allowed one visit a day. It's why she and other volunteers make sure they meet with people who have no other planned appointments." If they see you, they can't see their family," she said .Stapleford was careful with her observations. She worried that if she said the wrong thing, detainees would be held accountable. "We're not the ones that are going to be punished," she said. Stapleford worked for nearly three decades as a high school English and theater teacher in Delaware. At age 52, she went to theology school, was ordained and later earned a doctoral degree. She became a minister at Conejo Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, a community of diversity that

retired 10 years ago but went on to work at Unitarian Universalist churches in La Crescenta and Santa Paula. Then she dabbled her toe again in retirement.

Now, she still preaches occasionally and helps lead the interfaith coalition Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice - Ventura County that takes on issues ranging from living wage ordinances to immigration.

Now, she still preaches occasionally and helps lead the interfaith coalition Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice - Ventura County that takes on issues ranging from living wage ordinances to immigration.

She started visiting Adelanto in about 2011. Then she led others there through CLUE and later the Adelanto Visitation Advocacy Network that helps volunteers from different regions visit the facility." At first I wanted to know what it was like," she said of the facility, noting she grew to see the visits as a way to affirm the importance of the detainees and what she sees as the injustice of their custody. She prays with those who want prayer, listens to people's stories and makes connections that continue outside of Adelanto. The inmates call her mom, sometimes Ms. Betty. A man from Africa who is still fighting a court battle over his immigration status stayed with her at her Thousand Oaks home. Another person deported to West Africa used Betty as the middle name for his newborn daughter. "For her, visitation has never been simply about showing up for someone while they are detained, said Blanca Malpartida-Girard, coordinator of the Adelanto Visitation Advocacy Network. "It is about recognizing another person's humanity and remaining" connected long after the visit is over." Stapleford sometimes puts money in detainee's commissary accounts so they can make phone calls. She has learned not to offer certain things.

"Don't promise anything you can't deliver," she said. "Don't say you can get them a lawyer. "She knows her conversations at Adelanto are recorded. She knows any messages she mails are read. She listens to whatever the detainees want to say but avoids asking about politics or anything else that might bring a reaction from guards or ICE. She sees her purpose in part as providing hope. Malpartida-Girard, who also visits Adelanto, echoed the thought. "A visit breaks through that isolation," she said in an email. "It reminds someone that they are seen, that they matter, and that they have not been forgotten. Sometimes simply having someone sit across from you, listen without judgment, and care about what is happening to you can make an enormous difference."

'Detention is a choice '

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who came to the country to improve their lives. Carrie, the Homeland Security spokeswoman, responded with the phrase her department uses often.

"Being in detention is a choice," she said in her written statement, urging people who have immigrated illegally to deport voluntarily and gain a stipend of \$2,600 and a free flight. "Every person here illegally can take advantage of this offer and reserve the chance to come back to the U.S. the right legal way to live the American dream. If not, you will be arrested and deported without a chance to return."

Stapleford and the other volunteers from Ventura County see one detainee in the late morning and another in the early afternoon. Because they can't bring anything inside the detention facility, they sometimes leave paper notes bearing names of detainees behind the artificial plants in the lobby. They pick up the notes at the end of the day. Then they drive back through the desert, talking about what they heard.

"I just feel kind of drained," Stapleford said. "You've heard these stories that are beyond your comprehension. It takes its toll. You do it anyways because it's important." She's 83. She wants to do more, including visiting twice a month. "It feels like we need to see more people," she said.

Members Around the Town



Jeanne Maxwell, Pat O'Donnell, Sharon Dyer, and Eloda Linehan toured the Museum of Ventura County, in the City of Ventura. Afterwards, we walked down Main Street to Winchester's Grill and Saloon where we had food and drink with live music in the background.

We were able to view "The Resiliency of Carol Rosenak". Her hyper-realist style works are primarily from 1979-1994. She juxtaposes everyday items with delicate flowers and vases. After her stroke in 1994, it impaired her vision and ability to paint fine details, Ms. Rosenak felt the need to continue her art and these



Also at the museum, George Stuart presented historical monologues about the last four centuries in the Americas, Europe, Russia, and China. To accurately capture the people in his monologues, George Stuart created miniature figurines that were so intricately done that even the tiny jewels of a gown and a person's eyelashes are part of the creations he made. An entire room displayed dozens of the historical figures he made.

We learned much about the history of Ventura County during the 1920s with the "All that Glitters Is Not Gold" exhibit and the "Tomols to Trains: County Transportation through the 1900s" exhibits. The Roaring 20s not only featured women marching for the right to vote but also marches for prohibition which didn't stop those clever enough to find ways of selling alcohol undetected. Tomols are plank-built boats which carried cargo and passengers in the early 1900s. Then trains and cars were added to the transportation industry later in that century. Many informative displays lined the walls capturing our attention regarding both of these exhibits.

Main St, Ventura

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windows displayed fascinating antiques, merchandise, and clothing. A variety of restaurants enabled us to take a whiff of a multitude of food items before we landed at Winchester's.

Members Giving Back

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

20% of proceeds go the AAUW-TO



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. I'm cutting down on the number of holiday boutiques I do but continue pouring the chocolates. This is why I would like to do an

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Hand Poured Chocolate* Candies for Halloween

20% of proceeds go the AAUW-TO

Orders for Halloween and Thanksgiving are due **September 10-15, 2026** and will be available for pickup at my house by arrangement **October 6th and 7th** or the week before Halloween. Another option is to pick up your orders at the Fall Holiday Boutique at the Simi Valley United Methodist Church located at 2394 Erringer Road, Simi Valley on October 9, 2026 from 10:00 am to 5:00pm and on October 10th from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm if you would like to attend. Under some circumstances can deliver. Orders for Hanukkah and Christmas candies will be advertised in the October Oat Twig due October 10-15 by text with options to pick up at my house or two other holiday boutiques if that is something you enjoy.

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

Item	Description	Price
1	#1 Skeleton Lollie	\$2.50
2	#2 Large Spider Lollie	\$1.60
3	#3 Small Spider Lollie	\$1.40
4	#4 Frankenstein Face	\$1.50
5	#5 Full Frankenstein	\$1.50
6	#6 Ghost Lollie	\$1.40

Page 1 of 2 ~ more Halloween treats on page 2

Item	Description	Price
7	#7 Silly Witch Piece	\$2.50
8	#8 Casket w/Skeleton	\$5.75
9	#9 Boo Bat Box	\$6.25
10	#10 Skinny Witch	\$5.75
11	#11 Ghost w/Candy Corn	\$5.75
12	#12 Ghost w/M&Ms	\$5.95
13	#13 Bat Chocolate Covered Oreo Cookie	\$1.50

Email: creationsbysharon@prodigy.net | Leave message: 818-991-0689
Text: 818-903-4645

AAUW Oak Twig Calendar – September 2026

September 1 - Happy Hikers – Cheseboro Canyon – 9 a.m. – Meet in front of Barnes and Nobles in Promenade Plaza. Rain cancels.

September 5 - Coffee and Chat – 9:30 a.m. at Pickles Deli Restaurant, 1940 Newbury Rd., Newbury Park

September 15 – Happy Hikers – 15 Wishbone Trail – 9:30 a.m.– Meet at YMCA off of Thousand Oaks Blvd., near Lindero Cyn. Rd. Rain cancels.

September 24 – Diversity and Unity Book Group – *Harlem Rhapsody* by Victoria Christopher Murray – 4 p.m. at Wendy Hoffman’s home

September 28 – Daytime Book Group – 10 a.m. TO Children’s Library – The book we will discuss is *The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah.

September 29 - Happy Hikers – Satwiwa Meadow – 9:30 a.m. - take Lynn Rd. to Dos Vientos and cross Via Las Brisas – Turn left after the State and National Parks sign into a large parking lot to park near the restrooms. Rain cancels.

September 17 - Lunch Bunch Book Group meets at local restaurants on the third Thursday of the month at 12:30 p.m. This meeting will be at the new Osteria La Buca in the Westlake Target Center, and we will be reviewing *Daughters of the Sun and Moon* by Lisa See.

October 11- Charity Karaoke – The Canyon Club in Agoura Hills at 28912 Roadside Dr. Doors open at 4:45 p.m.

October 17 – 60th Anniversary Fall Breakfast – Sunset Hills Country Club, 4155 Erbes Rd, Thousand Oaks. Doors open at 8:30 a.m.



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