

UPCOMING AAUW EVENTS

12 / 05 TOY DRIVE

12 / 12 VIRTUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

01 / 15 INTERBRANCH COUNCIL LUNCHEON

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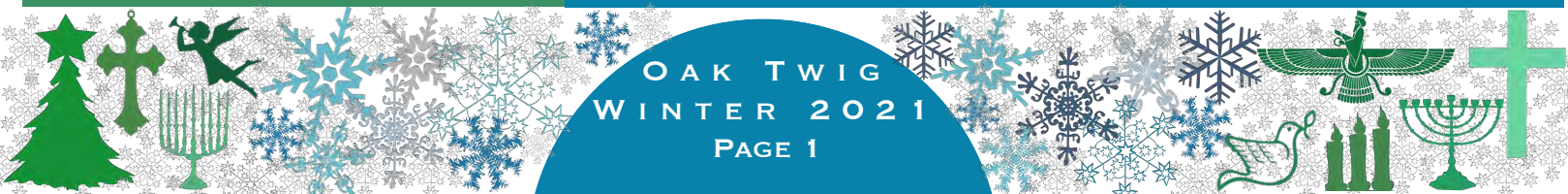
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CO-PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE - DIANE TURCOTT-BIRCHMAN



All Voices Heard! “All Voices Heard” was the theme for our Fall Membership Breakfast Event. We are grateful for those of you that were able to attend. It was a reminder to all of us how much we have missed getting together in person and the importance of social connection. It also reminded us of the many wonderful programs our branch is involved in, programs that help further the mission of AAUW, which is to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

“All Voices Heard!” is also the theme and the focus for our branch in the months ahead. Or is it really All Voices Heard? It does become a question rather than a declaration as voter suppression laws become the norm.

Congress has been less than successful in its attempts to restore protections for voting rights -- rights which have continued to erode since the passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965. Despite receiving majority support, the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act recently fell nine short of the sixty votes required for it to advance. This is the fourth time this year efforts have failed to advance voting- rights legislation. As we head into the midterm elections, which are less than a year away, we need to ensure that all have the same opportunity to exercise their right to vote. During this midterm election year, all 435 seats in the House of Representatives and 34 of the 100 seats in the Senate will be contested.

I truly believe that when one of us is diminished, we are all diminished. It is important that we recognize and allow the participation of all voices. When all voices are heard, our democracy is heard.

Stay involved, write to your local representatives. AAUW TO will keep you posted of upcoming events and opportunities where you can voice your concerns at the local, state, and national level.

Please stay involved in the serious and the seriously fun programs and activities that AAUW TO has to offer. There are book groups, museum and garden outings, coffee and chat, and our Dec. 12th Holiday Party! Our collective energy and success as a branch is counting on your participation.

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!



HAPPY 140TH BIRTHDAY AAUW



November 17th 2021 is the 140th anniversary of the founding of AAUW Marion Talbot, President of AAUW established AAUW as an organization where college women would feel accepted. In the late 1880's as the number of women graduating college increased it was important to have an organization that provided social and educational opportunities for these women.

AAUW offered its first scholarship of \$350 to Ida Street and raised the money by asking each AAUW member to donate \$1. Since then, AAUW's support of women's academic goals has expanded greatly. Today, AAUW's scholarships provide support to women all over the world (International Scholarships), women completing their academic studies (American Fellowships), women improving their career path (Career Development Grants). AAUW Thousand Oaks, 65 years young, is part of that support system started 140 years ago. Our branch has three on-going national scholarships, two local scholarships to Moorpark College women and support for local high school girls.

Our branch members support these local scholarships by purchasing Poinsettias, as well as participating in other branch activities. AAUW members in California raised \$518,000 for AAUW Funds which supported 154 research projects, 23 International Fellows, 68 American Fellows. 37 women have received fellowships in CA this year. Thanks to all branch members who donated to AAUW in 2021. It's not too late to make a deductible contribution! Contact Jeanette Hosek, AAUW TO at jhosek@roadrunner.com for assistance with your donation.



AAUW Thousand Oaks 2021 Scholarship



HOLIDAY ZOOM PARTY



AAUW VIRTUAL
 HOLIDAY PARTY
 Sunday, December 12th
 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Learn to make a holiday cocktail
 & festive hors d'oeuvre!

Virtual games,
 International holiday traditions,
 Interactive storytelling

Musical performances!

Westminster Free Clinic toy collection
 see attached flyer for info

Spouses & family welcome!

RSVP to Betty Stapleford
 bstaple4d@aol.com





COMMUNITY OUTREACH



AAUW Thousand Oaks will be collecting toys for the Westminster Free Clinic until December 5th.

Please donate gifts for boys and girls who might not otherwise have a happy holiday.

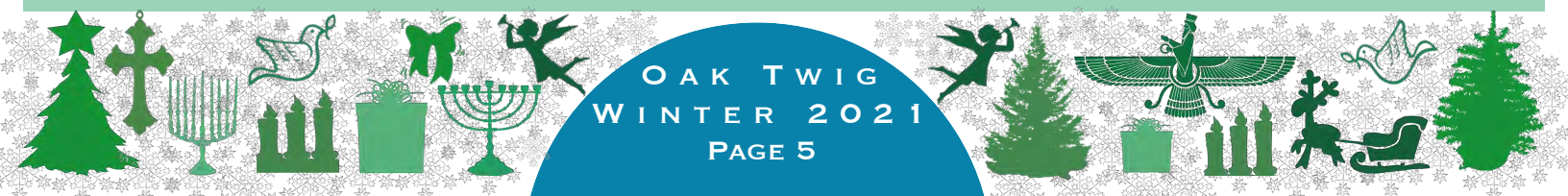
You may drop off toys or order online and have them delivered to the drop-off address.

What: New unwrapped toys like board games, action figures, dolls, and sports equipment.

When: Now until December 5th

Drop-off or mail to:

AAUW in c/o Anne LaFianza
1683 Camberwell Place
Thousand Oaks, CA 91361-1508





SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS



THE DAYTIME BOOK GROUP meets at 10:00 AM via Zoom. Please contact Joan Udani for any questions joanudani@hotmail.com

JANUARY 24 *A Change of Heart* by Sonali Dev reviewer Betty Stapleford

FEBRUARY 28 *The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah reviewer Pat O'Donnell.

MARCH 28 *The Daughters of Yalta* by Catherine Grace Katz reviewer Berniece Reed

THE EVENING BOOK GROUP meets at 7:00 pm on the third Thursday of the month.

For any questions please contact Sharon Dyer creationsbysharon@prodigy.net or 818-991-0689.

NOVEMBER 18, 2021 *The Flight Attendant* by Chris Bohjalian. Our reviewer will be Jean Maxwell. Hostess: Cathy Whitney (Notes: 345 pages)

DECEMBER 23, 2021 *Sold on a Monday: A Novel* by JKristina McMorris. Our reviewer is to be determined. Hostess: Sharon Dyer (Notes: 352 pages)

JANUARY 27, 2022 *Caste (Oprah's Book Club): The Origins* by Robert Harris. Our reviewer is to be determined. (Hostess to be determined)

MARCH 24, 2022 *Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng. Our reviewer is to be determined. (Hostess to be determined)

APRIL 28, 2022 *Winter Garden* by Louise Erdrich. Our reviewer will be Judy Gindi (Hostess to be determined)



COFFEE AND CHAT

Join us on the first Saturday of each month on Zoom (until further notice) at 9 a.m. for informal conversations about topics great and small. You will meet members and friends and members that become friends. Dates are below for the next three meetings. See you there!

December 4th, January 8 (changed from New Year's Day) and February 5th

Check with Betty Stapleford for the meeting ID.





SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS



MEET THE ARTIST INTEREST GROUP

You are invited to attend the first (Zoom) gathering of the AAUW-TO Meet the Artist interest group:

Tuesday, January 11, 2022 (1:00pm - 2:30pm)

Our first guest will be Melissa J McClellan, a long-time local artist, whom many of you may know. More information about Melissa can be found at:

<https://studiochannelislands.org/artist-members/melissa-mcclellan-2/>

On January 11th, we will convene at 1:00pm and Melissa will join us from 1:30pm-2:30pm. She will describe her journey to become the artist she is today and will highlight some of her recent work. If you have any specific questions for her, you can send them ahead of time to Laurie at laurie.a.richlin@gmail.com. Please use "Questions for Melissa" as the email Subject.



The Zoom information, including sign-up will be sent out in December.

PUBLIC POLICY

Legislative activism has a long history in the AAUW. Members first lobbied for women's suffrage in 1892 and have continued to be responsive to critical issues of the times since those early days. The California Public Policy program supports AAUW's national mission to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

And we believe that focusing on economic security for all women, equal access to quality public education, and social and racial justice for all members of society, we can make a positive difference. So, if you are concerned about what we can do today to make our world a better for all and would like to join with others in that vital effort, please join our Thousand Oaks Public Policy Committee.

We will gather to create and facilitate programs and activities that we think are the most critical for our time. And our first meeting for this year will be on November 16th. at 7 p.m. via Zoom.

Contact Betty Stapleford at bstaple4d@gmail.com to get the Zoom Invitation and learn how you can join like-minded people in this important work.





SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS



UNITY BOOK GROUP

The Branch Unity Book Group is open to all members and we focus our book selection usually always on the life experiences of women from more multi-cultural backgrounds. We've decided to schedule our next zoom meeting for Thursday January 13 at 2 pm and we hope you will be able to participate as Margaret Tennant will lead our discussion of her recommended book titled, *A Conspiracy of Mothers* by Colleen Van Niekerk. Margaret indicated that she thought this novel about South Africa would be especially appropriate for our group.

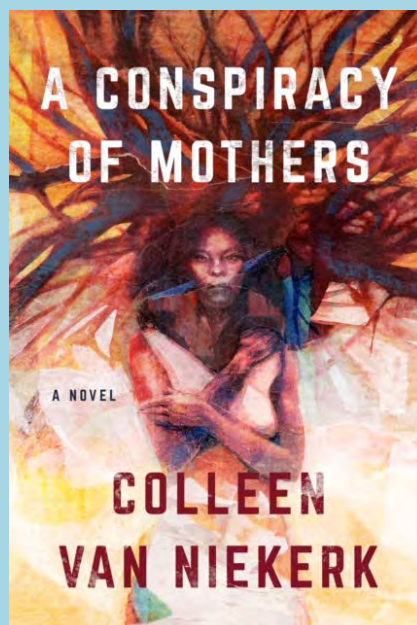
I'm looking forward to reading it and I hope you are too! Here's a brief comment from Good Reads:

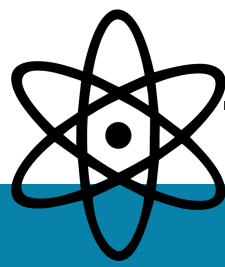
The year is 1994, and South Africa is in political turmoil as its first democratic election looms. Against a backdrop of apartheid and racial violence, traumatized artist Yolanda Petersen returns from the Appalachian foothills to the land of her youth at the behest of her mother. While there Yolanda longs to reconnect with her estranged daughter, Ingrid, the product of an illegal mixed-race affair with a white man.

But Ingrid is missing, and as Yolanda quickly discovers, she isn't the only woman in Cape Town desperate to protect her own. Ingrid's very existence is proof of a white man's crime, and that man's mother will do anything—even kill—to ensure the truth remains buried.

An evocative debut novel set during a defining period in history, *A Conspiracy of Mothers* tells a gripping story of love and betrayal from multiple perspectives while deftly balancing the painful legacy of apartheid with the trials of motherhood.

We look forward to you joining us for our discussion, which should prove to be very interesting. Please contact Sally Hibbitts or Shoshana Brower for more information.





TECH TREK



We have some great news! AAUW CA has decided to go ahead with all planning for a return to the in-person Tech Trek Summer STEM Camp for summer 2022! As you may recollect, we raise needed funds for these specially selected girls to attend, with a scholarship, our one week sleep-over AAUW camp at UCSB every summer.

We are pleased that we have a healthy carry-over balance in our current fund of \$11,272. However, I've been notified that the camp price will undoubtedly increase. In order to send our hoped for eight girls, we will need to raise about another \$4-5,000.

Included here are the form and directions to make a specific tax-deductible donation to support sending our local girls to Tech Trek. Please remember that this experience profoundly affects all of our campers as they step forward into their future!

Please contact Sally Hibbitts for further information. Thank you.



Our Tech Trek Campers, Greceldy, Sydney and Ana are everywhere, including volunteering at the Saturday Adelante Marketplace.

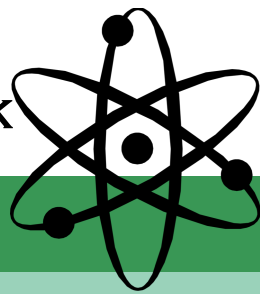


At the Fall Breakfast, the Trek Tech campers described the profound impact that the opportunity provided them. Left to right in masks are: CVUSD students, Ana Chow, Greceldy Hau, Sydney Bandejas, Mariana Sierra, and Swasinya Jayarmar.





TECH TREK



**Thousand Oaks AAUW
Tech Trek Named Gift Scholarship Donor Form**

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

Your Name _____

Your Mailing Address _____
Number and Street City State Zip

Your email address _____

Your phone _____

Please direct my gift of \$ _____ to the Tech Trek Fund for AAUW Thousand Oaks Branch in honor/memory/celebration of _____.

(\$1000 donation for each Named Gift Honoree)

Please include any other pertinent information, if you desire.

Please send the acknowledgement to:

Name _____

Address _____

***Please make checks payable to: "AAUW CA SPF" and indicate on the memo line:
"AAUW TO Tech Trek for UCSB"***

AAUW CA SPF is 501(c)3 non-profit organization
Tax ID # 68-0463071

(Please make copy for your records)





LATINO YOUTH LEADERSHIP GROUP



Our LYLG is starting strong again this year at T.O. High School with lots of new First Gen members and great activities. We usually have two meetings a month on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays from 2:50 to 4:30. The first few meetings we have been about getting to know each other through interactive games, projects, and service.

The picture(s) of mini-marshmallow and toothpick (a)structure(s) show(s) an activity for teambuilding. The winning group was the one that could construct the tallest tower to stand without support for at least thirty seconds. Lots of fun to do and to watch.

And a number of our students supported us as volunteers for the Trunk and Treat event for Halloween. They dressed in costumes and handed out candy to hundreds of children from two decorated cars, supervised by AAUW members.

At upcoming meetings, we will have speakers, skill-building activities such as public speaking and resume creation, field trips, and information about college applications, to name only a few. And you can help. If you have a skill or a speaker that you would like to share with these amazing students or would just like to come to a meeting, please let Sally Hibbitts, Sandra Martinez (our incredible faculty advisor), or Betty Stapleford know.

And not to be forgotten, if you would be able to provide food for these hungry teens at one of our meetings, that would be terrific. All you need to do is fill out the Sign-Up Genius form on the link below or schedule with Sally to drop items at her house.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e084caaad2ba5fc1-aauw>

How ever you choose to get involved, you will be glad you did!





MUSEUM & GARDENS



Five members; Peggy Buckles, Jean Maxwell, Pat O'Donnell, Kay Gilmore, and Eloda Linehan gathered at the Santa Paula Art Museum to view their collection of paintings, photographs, and sculptures. Featured were artists who contributed to the current showing: Vistas, Varmints, and Vagabonds: The PAC 6 Paints the Wild West. The museum is housed in the historic Limoneira Building, one of the original buildings of this thriving citrus company.

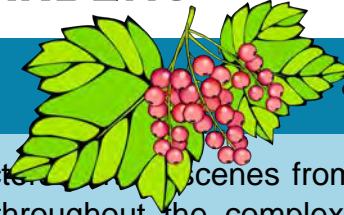


From there we walked over to the Agricultural Museum where we viewed a variety of farm machinery, interactive educational displays, and a living beehive. This was followed by a delightful lunch at the Rabalais Bistro.





MUSEUM & GARDENS



Our last one was to the Stagecoach Inn to see actors act out scenes from this area's past in "Voices of Old Conejo". We travelled throughout the complex seeing the Obradors reside in the adobe, Robert Newbury and Orpha Foster speak in front of the cabin, the Mary Jane Hunt await her birthday surprise, Cicelie and Ethel Haigh speak of the coming out ball in between piano practice, a teacher preparing her students for her upcoming wedding and departure from teaching (married women were forbidden from teaching), Jess and Catherine Wilbur discuss their plans for their home, and gentlemen deciding to form the Conejo Historical Society to preserve the Stagecoach Inn. After the performance we were treated to an ice cream sundae at "Dupars". In attendance were



MUSEUMS AND GARDENS EVENT

November 17 5:30 p.m. docent tour 7:00 p.m. Speaker Series
 Channel Islands Maritime Museum; 3900 Bluefin Circle; Oxnard, CA 93035
 Presenter: Barbara Tomblin author of Life in Jefferson Davis' Navy
 RSVP to Eloda (310) 809-0926 call or text ride sharing encouraged.

Our December activity will be looking at all the beautifully decorated Christmas trees at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library on Thursday, December 9th.
 We will meet at the Library when it opens at 10:00 a.m. We will then have lunch at Viva la Pasta at 12:00 p.m. Their address is 525 Country Club Drive, Simi Valley. The restaurant is requiring we make reservations by November 29th because of holiday parties. Please RSVP by November 28th to Sharon Dyer at 818-991-0689
 Email: creationsbysharon@prodigy.net or Eloda Linehan at 310-541-9890 Email: elodatom@verizon.net

Cost of admission to the Reagan Library. It is \$26.00



SAY HELLO TO OUR NEW MEMBERS



Hi, my name is Kay Gilmore and have lived in Newbury Park since 1989, when my husband and I moved from Philadelphia. We raised our 4 boys here and continue to love the area! I retired from my absolute dream career as a nurse and nurse manager at Children's Hospital Los Angeles in February 2020, just in time to be grounded for 18 months due to the pandemic! Both the children at CHLA and my colleagues were a daily inspiration to me and I miss them very much. Since retirement, I have enjoyed sleeping in, time in the garden, catching up on reading, completing countless projects, and binge watching so...many...shows! LOL I've also taken up Russian, but don't ask me much about that!!

I am looking forward to this next chapter with great anticipation, and am excited to meet you all, continuing a journey of life long learning and making new friends in the process.



On behalf of the Board of Directors of AAUW, I'm thrilled to announce that Gloria L. Blackwell will be the new Chief Executive Officer of the organization, effective October 18, 2021.

Gloria currently serves as AAUW's Executive Vice President and Chief Program Officer and has extensive experience leading within the organization. She's managed and expanded AAUW's esteemed fellowships and grants program—awarding more than \$70 million in funding to women scholars and programs in the U.S. and abroad. She's spearheaded innovative programs, including the award-winning salary negotiation workshops, which have reached more than 190,000 women nationwide.

Gloria initiated and built partnerships with major funders, local governments and institutes of higher education. And she has significantly expanded the organization's outreach to girls and women of color. But most of all, Gloria has demonstrated a lifelong commitment to AAUW's vision of achieving equity for all.

Before joining AAUW 17 years ago, Gloria worked at the Institute of International Education (IIE) in Washington D.C., leading and managing girls' education programs in Africa and mid-career fellowships for global professionals. She began her career as a U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer in Cameroon and was the Country Desk Officer at the D.C. headquarters for five Sub-Saharan countries.

Talented, thoughtful and passionate about AAUW's mission, Gloria is the right leader at the right time. The Board has complete confidence in her ability to steer the organization through rapidly changing and challenging times in our country and to tackle new (and age old!) obstacles to gender equity.

We feel grateful and privileged that such an exceptional executive has accepted our invitation to lead our organization into the future. Please join us in congratulating and warmly welcoming Gloria Blackwell to her new role as AAUW CEO.

Thank you,

Julia T. Brown, Esq.



AAUW INTERBRANCH COUNCIL LUNCHEON



AAUW Interbranch Council Luncheon
Saturday, January 15
11:30 AM Los Robles Greens
299 South Moorpark Rd. Thousand Oaks

The Road to Elected Office



Three women will speak about their careers, their education path to office and what life events sparked their interest in being elected to public office.

Celine L. Zacarias ~ Oxnard Harbor
District Commissioner



Jacqui Irwin ~ Assemblymember
for the CA 44th Assembly District

Ruth Luevanos ~ Simi Valley City Council Member



Reservations can be made by mailing your **\$40 check**-made out to AAUW-
Jan Demonsy
744 Valley Vista Dr. Camarillo, CA 93010
Please have all reservations in by January 4.



AAUW PARTICIPATING IN TRUNK OR TREAT WITH HELP FROM THE LATINO YOUTH LEADERSHIP GROUP

