



FALL

2023



# ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP



**THANK  
YOU FOR  
SUBMITTING  
YOUR  
ANNUAL  
AAUW  
MEMBERSHIP  
FEE, WHICH  
IS NOW  
DUE!**

**Please use this link to renew:**

**<https://www.aauw.org/membership>**

**Checks for \$113 payable to**

**“AAUW TO” may be sent to**

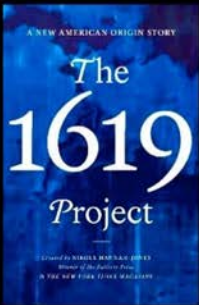
**AAUW TO, P.O. BOX 4223, TO 91359**

# 1619 PROJECT



**SAVE THIS DATE: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7**

**AAUW TO Branch October Event  
&  
1619 Project Culminating Activity**



All are welcome to join in this day trip for a group tour of the outstanding and unique Kinsey Collection at SoFi Stadium in Inglewood. We will be viewing this unique art and history collection, especially in light of our communal reading of The 1619 Project.  
(Note you don't need to have read the book to participate.)



<https://www.sofistadium.com/kinsey/>  
Please contact Cindy Speakman  
(cindyspeakman@gmail.com) or Rossanna Guerra  
(rossannaguerra@yahoo.com) for more information.  
**TRIP RSVP REQUIRED.**





# FALL BREAKFAST



You are cordially invited to our biggest event of the year,  
The Annual AAUW Fall Breakfast!

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9th "In The Eyes Of Women"

LOS ROBLES GREENS  
299 South Moorpark Rd., Thousand Oaks  
Registration opens at 8:30 A.M.

Featured Speaker:  
Julie Tumamait-Stenslie,  
Cultural Representative &  
Educator  
Member, Barbareño/Ventureño  
Band of Mission Indians  
Accession Committee, Ventura  
County Museum



Tickets are \$40 & available  
online by 8/30/23  
[www.aauwthousandoaks.com](http://www.aauwthousandoaks.com)  
To reserve by mail, make  
checks payable to  
"AAUW TO" and  
send to  
P.O. Box 4223, TO 91359



Please see next page for Speaker's bio and info for our annual in-kind donations

In principle and practice, AAUW-CA values and seeks an inclusive diverse membership.



# FALL BREAKFAST



## JULIE TUMAMAIT-STENSLIE

Julie Tumamait-Stenslie has traced her family lineage from her father, Vincent Tumamait, to at least 11 known Chumash villages and as far back as the mid-18th century. Ms. Tumamait-Stenslie has worked as a cultural resource consultant from Malibu to Santa Barbara to the Channel Islands, providing guidance for private groups and state, county, and city regulatory agencies, including the Ventura and Santa Barbara County District Attorney's offices. She is well known throughout Ventura County and beyond for her Chumash cultural education programs and also performs ceremonies according to her native ways, such as weddings, burials, naming ceremonies, and blessings. Ms. Tumamait-Stenslie was a commissioner on the California Native American Heritage Commission and on the board of the Santa Clara River Conservancy. She serves on the accessions committee for the Museum of Ventura County and is on the Board of Directors for the Ojai Valley Museum.



## Help with our SEPTEMBER SOCK-A-THON!

Please bring NEW packages of socks, which will be collected at the door. As many folks know socks are a very high demand item for the underserved. These in-kind donations will be presented to the nonprofit organizations of James Storehouse and Harbor House, who provide support for foster youth and unhoused residents. All sizes are desired for children, youth and adults with a special need for male items. Let us make this a hugely successful September Sock-a-thon!



# PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



BY PEGGY BUCKLES

Women across the United States are losing their rights. Public schools, colleges, and libraries are having curricula restricted and books banned by boards of education and state legislatures. The Supreme Court of the United States overturned *Roe vs. Wade* and some justices have talked about overturning precedents like the right to birth control, interracial, and gay marriage. It's unsettling and makes me fear for the future of our country.

What can we as an organization or individuals do about this? We can donate to the National AAUW legal fund to battle for our rights in court. California AAUW is forming a committee to educate branches about finding and electing candidates for local school boards who don't believe in book bans or altering history.

At the local level, we can monitor school board and city council meeting and become knowledgeable about the candidates and their intentions and funding sources. We can work together with like minded organizations, write letters to the editor and work to educate the public. We can volunteer to register voters and staff voting sites. This sounds like a lot of work but maintaining our rights and our democratic republic is worth it.



# COFFEE & CHAT



Sharon, Joanne, Eloda, Jean, and Claudia met at the Nook for a delightful time.

Coffee and Chat is the first Saturday of every month. To join us, RSVP to Betty Stapleford.



# PUBLIC POLICY



BY BETTY STAPLEFORD

Our Public Policy Committee has been very busy during recent months. Topics and actions have included decisions by the Thousand Oaks City Council, Conejo Valley School Board meetings, Ventura County Board of Supervisors, future elections, gun violence control, and branch programming.

There was a great deal of concern about a recent decision by the T.O City Council, relating to the district map that was chosen for equitable representation of marginalized populations in future elections of council members. After 2 meetings, where an overwhelming majority favored one of the maps, the council voted to support another. We had many speakers at both meetings, including members of our Latino Youth Leadership Group. And there was a tremendous feeling by our Public Policy Committee members that democracy had not been served.

We have already acted with letters to the editor, conversations with council members, and the planning of future efforts related to elections of more representative candidates. And we will continue our work to address this issue, as well others that come before the council. For that purpose, we will have members of our group at each council meeting to both support and respond to the council, starting again on September 12, after their current break.

On a more positive note, we are happy to report that the City Council voted to include money to support inclusionary housing in all future building projects. They have also supported several plans to provide housing for members of the homeless and low-income population in Thousand Oaks.

In addition, we cover CVUSD School Board meetings to monitor public attempts to overturn board actions in the areas of book censorship, sexuality education, LGBTQ rights, antiracism, and other issues. The next board meeting is on August 16, and we will have representatives in attendance to anticipate increasing challenges as the new school year begins. We will also be collaborating with the CA AAUW for support of school board candidates in other districts.

If you are interested in any of the issues above, or others related to AAUW Public Policy, please contact Betty Stapleford at [bstaple4d@gmail.com](mailto:bstaple4d@gmail.com).



# UNITY & DIVERSITY BOOK GROUP



BY SALLY HIBBITS

This book group is very friendly and started with a cross-cultural focus with some women from the mosque in Newbury Park during the spring of 2017. Since then, we've evolved slightly, but still try to focus our reading selections on cross cultural themes which address the commonality

For our next meeting, we will meet on Monday afternoon, August 14 at 2 PM at the lovely home of Nancy Taylor Walker, please contact me for the address. However, we will also create an online link for those who prefer. Please let me know if you'll need that connection.

This book group has slightly evolved over approximately six years, from reading quality works with a female multicultural focus, to more popular fiction. However, perhaps we should discuss this at our next meeting? I think it might also be good if we come prepared with titles of books that we would like to read for the next AAUW year and we can determine those selections at this meeting.

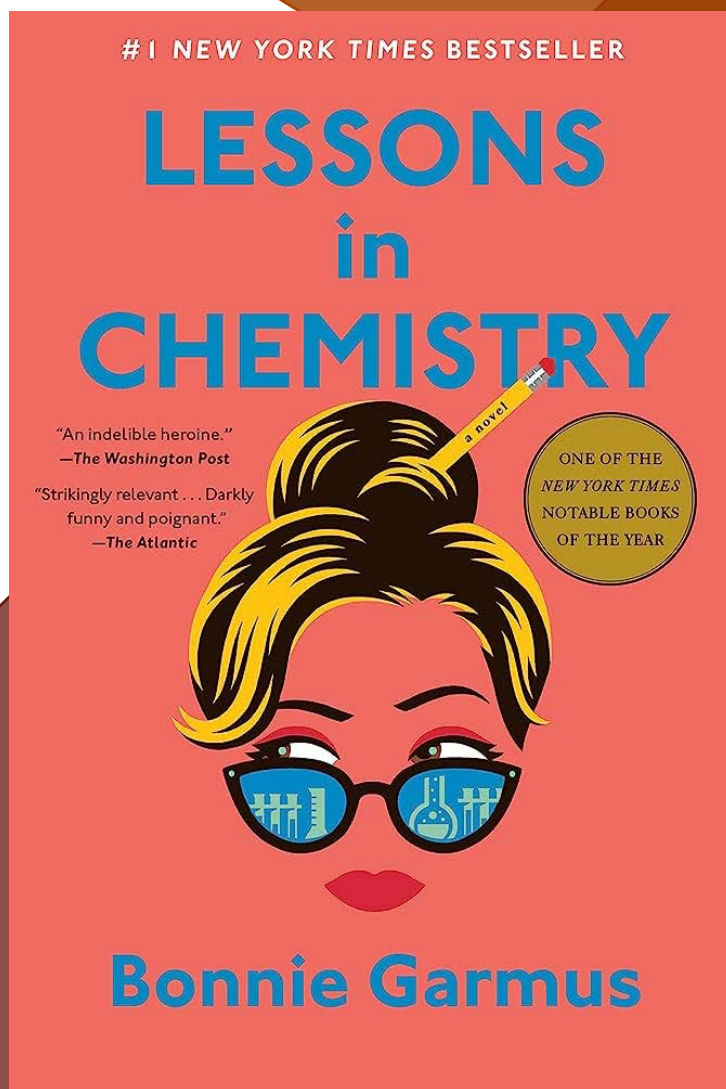
For our August 14 th meeting, we will be reading *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus. Chemist Elizabeth Zott is not your average woman. In fact, Elizabeth Zott would be the first to point out that there is no such thing as an average woman. But it's the early 1960s and her all-male team at Hastings Research Institute takes a very unscientific view of equality. Except for one: Calvin Evans; the lonely, brilliant, Nobel-prize nominated grudge-holder who falls in love with—of all things—her mind. True chemistry results.

But like science, life is unpredictable. Which is why a few years later Elizabeth Zott finds herself not only a single mother, but the reluctant star of America's most beloved cooking show *Supper at Six*. Elizabeth's unusual approach to cooking ("combine one tablespoon acetic acid with a pinch of sodium chloride") proves revolutionary. But as her following grows, not everyone is happy.

# UNITY & DIVERSITY BOOK GROUP



Because as it turns out, Elizabeth Zott isn't just teaching women to cook. She's daring them to change the status quo. Laugh-out-loud funny, shrewdly observant, and studded with a dazzling cast of supporting characters, *Lessons in Chemistry* is as original and vibrant as its protagonist. I really look forward to seeing everyone in person again on August 14, as it's been quite a while and thank you Nancy for agreeing to have us at your home. For those of you, who need an evening meeting we will probably have a couple of those during the year via zoom, if that is your preference.





# OUTGOING BOARD



In July the incoming and outgoing board members had an opportunity to mingle and conduct a business meeting.

Betty Stapleford graciously opened up her home to us.

Salads and desserts were shared by all at this potluck event.



# BOOK GROUPS



**The Lunch Bunch Book Group's first meeting of the year will be at the California Pizza Kitchen on September 21, 2023, at 11:30 a.m. The first book we will be reading is *The Mountains Sing* by Nguyen Phon Que Mai and will be reviewed by Pat O'Donnell.**

**The other books we will be reading are *Gilead* by Marilyn Robinson, *The Last Thing He Told Me* by Laura Dave, *The School for Good Mothers* by Jessamine Chang, *A Girl Called Samson* by Amy Harmon and *The Women of Chateau Lafayette* by Stephanie Dray.**

**We have not yet chosen all our books or the order in which we will be reading them. We are always looking for new members to join our group.**

**Please watch the e-blasts for more information. If you have any questions please contact Sharon Dyer at (818)991-0689 or email at [creationsbysharon@prodigy.net](mailto:creationsbysharon@prodigy.net).**

## **The Day Time Book Group**

**Sept.18 Berniece Reed *An Officer and a Spy* by Robert Harris**

**Oct.23 Claudia Spelman *The Hidden Genius* by Marie Benedict**

**Nov.27 Jeanette Hosek *A Girl is a Body of Water* by Jennifer Nansubuga**

**Dec.18 Claudia Spelman *Dictionary of Lost Words* by Pip Williams**

**Jan.22 (2024) Jean Maxwell *the Sweetness of Water* by Nathan Harris**

**Feb.26 Betty Stapleford *Someone Else's Shoes* by Jojo Moyes**

**Mar.25 *One City One Book***

**Apr.22 Joan Udani *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus**

**May.20 Pat O'Donnell *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver**



# NEW MEMBER JOANNE FLAHIVE



I'm originally from Baltimore and went to Hood College, then an all woman's college in Frederick MD. With a liberal arts degree in Mathematics, I taught high school math for 4 years after graduating. In 1974 my fiancé enticed me to move to Irvine, California, then a smallish hamlet surrounded by orange groves and bean fields. I decided to leave teaching and go into the business world, specifically insurance. After several years in the property/casualty area, I transitioned to the group employee benefits arena, focusing on health insurance. I spent over three decades with many

I have been perfecting retirement since 2014...reading, gardening, solving crossword puzzles (I was a participant on the short-lived quiz show called Crosswords!), exploring the wonderful gardens/museums/sites of California, traveling, rejoining AAUW and now, enjoying my three grandchildren. In fact, they are a large reason my husband and I recently moved from our 37-year residence in Seal Beach to lovely, peaceful Newbury Park.

I'm excited to join my THIRD AAUW branch as I've always found nice friends and good causes to support.

# SPRING LUNCHEON



**AAUW Thousand Oaks Spring Luncheon May 20, 2023.**

**This morning dozens of members and guests entered the ballroom at the Los Robles Greens. We seated ourselves around the flowering-succulent centerpieces and chatted amongst ourselves.**

**All attendees settled and our full agenda began. Peggy Buckles then welcomed all to this event and Cindy Speakman gave the Land Acknowledgement. Peggy gave recognition to our Outgoing Board and members were recognized for the number of years they have belonged to AAUW. Eloda Linehan presented one of the Speech Trek participants, Abril Cedeno, (the other participants, Ella Kye and Aliyah Ahumada, were unable to attend) and both spoke of their experience with this competition.**

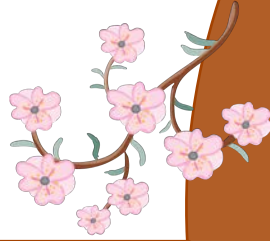
**After a delicious lunch (especially the potatoes) and a dessert of cheesecake, Cindy introduced our Keynote Speaker, Cheryl Farrell. We learned how we can truly connect with someone by sharing an episode of our life that may surprise our listener and that may connect with someone else's similar experience.**

**Our branch names two Gift Honorees, Cindy Goldberg and the League of Women Voters of Ventura County. Karen Sylvester who is also a Conejo Valley Unified School District Board of Education member accepted this award on Cindy's behalf as she was unable to attend. Melanie Ashen accepted the League of Women Voters award on behalf of their president, Betsy Patterson.**

**Our slate of officers for 2023-2024 was read by Sally Hibbitts. Presidents Peggy Buckles, Betty Stapleford, Sally Hibbitts, and Narda Fargotstein; Secretary Sharon Dyer; and Treasurer Dorothy Hatfield received unanimous approval as did our directors Diane Birchman, Daniel Blu, Rossanna Guerra, Sally Hibbitts, Bev Khashnevisan, Eloda Linehan, Paula Nathan, Cindy Speakman, and Melanie Weerasinghe.**



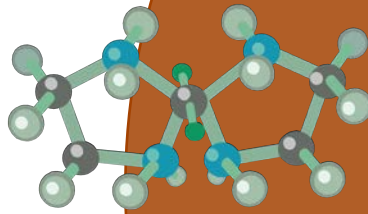
# SPRING LUNCHEON



Our program concluded with Eloda speaking about membership and Diane Birchman naming our Scholarship Awardees. Our Scholarship Awardees were as follows: Isaack Garcia, Esmeralda Pantoja, Marlen Pantoja, David Rios, and Edith Juarez from the Thousand Oaks High School Latino Youth Leadership Program; Melanie Scobell and Jasmine Boyle from Moorpark College; and Samantha Bonnie Ballard from Conejo Valley High School. The centerpieces were taken home by whomever had a birthday closest to that of Alice Paul. Lastly, Betty Stapleford gave a “thank you” to all of us who attended.



# TECH TREK



Our selected TECH TREK STEM campers have had a whirlwind of fun activities in recent weeks. Thank you to many of our Branch members who have given generously of their financial support as well as providing time during the selection process clear to the fun Annual Pool Party in mid August!



Four of our six girls for the in-person camp and their families attended the TECH TREK CAMP orientation held in early June in Somis. It's always a good idea for the campers and parents to get an idea about what awaits them at UCSB.

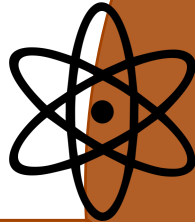




**Daenerys Carolan, Ana Chow, Sydney Bandejas, and Ericka Norman spent awhile on a Saturday afternoon in July checking and chatting about Virtual Camp equipment bag. Ana and Sydney are returning to help as coaches, both girls are in high school.**



# TECH TREK



Next in the Tech Trek 2023 summer events were the two sessions at UCSB...Session One is called Blackwell and Session Two is Hypatia. AAUW TO was fortunate to send six local girls to the one week sleep away sessions. Below are a few photos of their activities.



Watching the nighttime launch from AFB Vandenberg was a lot closer than Thousand Oaks.



Amy Tapiá meeting new sea creatures in UCSB touch

# AUTHOR'S DAY



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN  
Camarillo Branch



# AUTHORS' DAY

October 28, 2023  
10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Las Posas Country Club - Camarillo

Tickets - \$70 ea  
(\$35 tax deductible)

**Kenneth Strange – Law Enforcement Genre**  
Former FBI & DOJ OIG agent; trekker across the Camino in Spain

**Roberta Bassin – Amelia Earhart Expert**  
Actress, former teacher, artist, musician and singer

**Sarah Lynn Scheerger – Children's Author**  
Writes books for young readers, middle grade, and teens

**Beverly M. Kelley – Local Cold Case Mystery Novelist**  
Former Communications Teacher, radio and TV talk-show host, opinion columnist

\*\*\* **Lunch, Speakers, Book Signing** \*\*\*

For info call: [805] 987-8013

Send check to: Jan Demonsy, 744 Valley Vista Dr. Camarillo 93010

Make checks payable to AAUW. Include on your check your choice of meal: Pan Seared Chicken Breast; Oven Roasted Salmon; Roasted Pepper with Succotash of Sweet Corn & Veggies

# HARBOR CRUISE WITH CAMARILLO



The Camarillo AAUW has asked us to join them for a holiday celebration on December 10th.

4:30 meet at The Greek Restaurant for some social time plus order food and beverage of your choice.

6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Harbor Cruise in Ventura \$16

Eloda is our contact person. Please call or text her at (310) 809-0926 by November 20th if you are interested in attending.

