



SPRING



2024

AAUW OAK TWIG
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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



Betty Stapleford

With this issue of the Oak Twig, we begin the 3rd. Quarter of our fiscal year with another one of our former branch presidents, Betty Stapleford. for the 2023 – 2024 year. Our summer president was Peggy Buckles and our fall/winter President was Narda Fargotstein.

Thanks, Peggy and Narda!

This plan was developed because we were not able to find one person for the whole year. And it has seemed to work well. But we are hoping that the 2024 – 2025 Board will have one person as president for the whole year. If you would like to be that person for next year or would like to suggest someone, please contact a member from the current Board



UPCOMING PROGRAMS FOR 2024

- 1 January 20th– IBC Luncheon – talk on banned books by local librarians at Los Robles Greens -11:00 am.
- 2 February 4th–Launch Book Groups on book about indigenous women by local author, Mona Gable. “Searching for Savanna” 2:00 pm in conjunction with the Grant Brimhall Library .
- 3 February 24th – The Autry Museum – “Sherman Indian School: 100 years of Education and Resilience-Reclaiming El Camino: Native Resistance in the Missions and Beyond” Exhibit.
- 4 March 6th – 6:00-8:00 at the Grant Brimhall Library One Spark Academy students will be presenting our Women In History project. This year’s theme is “Inclusion” so the students will be presenting Ruby Bridges (1954-) civil rights activist, Deb Haaland (1960-) U.S. Secretary of the Interior, Judy Heumann (1947-2023) Disability Rights Activist, Eunice Kennedy Schriver (1921-2—0) Humanitarian, Zitkala-Sa (1876-1938) Writer, Musician, Educator, Politician.
- 5 April -Red Dress Project – April. 27th- time TBD at CLU Lundryng Center.Art exhibit of red dresses with the stories of missing and murdered indigenous women, panel presentation on this, food trucks with Native American food, drumming and dancing by local Indigenous people.
- 6 May 18th – Spring Luncheon at Los Robles Greens – 11:00 am with check-in at 10:30.
- 7 June – Pride Month event – Date TBD-checking with other organizations to see if we can support their activity.

AUTHOR TALK

& BOOK SIGNING

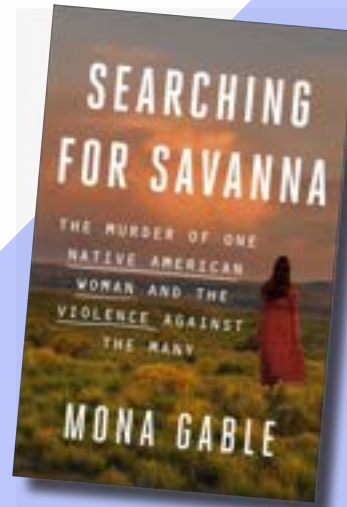


Mona Gable

Author of *Searching for Savanna*

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4
2:00 PM

GRANT R. BRIMHALL LIBRARY
MARVIN E. SMITH COMMUNITY ROOM



L.A. Times writer and author Mona Gable will discuss her book *Searching for Savanna: The Murder of One Native American Woman and the Violence Against the Many* and the crisis of violence against Native women.

Presented by
AAUW (American Association of University Women) Thousand Oaks
and Thousand Oaks Library

COMING SOON...SAVE THE DATE SATURDAY, APRIL 27!



AAUW TO proudly announces a major collaborative community event, "The REDress Project" on SATURDAY, APRIL 27 at the Lundring Center at CLU. This free day long event will be highlighted by a panel of experts, a professionally curated Red Dress art installation, culturally appropriate lunch, authentic indigenous traditions, and other significant activities.

The purpose of this event is to educate our community about the horrific increase of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women across our state and nation. Native women are disproportionately affected by violence. A study by the National Institute of Justice estimated that 84 percent of American Indigenous women have experienced violence in their lifetime compared to 71 percent of non-Hispanic white women.

We need your help and support. For more information about how you can be part of this exciting opportunity, please contact Sally Hibbits.



AAUW THOUSAND OAKS , 11:00 Saturday February 24, 2024 – Autry Museum

Meet in front of the Barnes and Noble at the Westlake Promenade to carpool. For information contact Narda Fargotstein at nfargotstein@yahoo.com

Exhibits:



Reclaiming El Camino: Native Resistance in the Missions and Beyond

December 9, 2023 - June 15, 2025



Sherman Indian School: 100+ Years of Education and Resilience

July 23, 2023 - May 2024



DAY TIME BOOK GROUP

We usually meet on the 4th. Monday of each month at 10 a.m. in the Technology and Training Room of the Children's Wing of the T.O. Library. We discuss books that have been chosen by group members for the year. Books for the 3rd. Quarter are listed below.

If you have any questions about the group, please contact Betty Stapleford at bstaple4d@gmail.com.

Jan. 22 Jean Maxwell. Discussion Leader - The Sweetness of Water by Nathan Harris

Feb.26 Betty Stapleford, Discussion Leader - Someone Else's Shoes by Jojo Moyes

Mar. 25 One City One Book



UNITY AND DIVERSITY BOOK GROUP



DROP BY FOR A GLASS
OF WINE AND TO
CHAT ABOUT
OUR NEW BOOK!

SEARCHING FOR SAVANNA
BY MONA GABLE

WEDNESDAY,
JANUARY 24, 4 PM

SALLY HIBBITTS
3117 W. ADIRONDACK CT.,
WESTLAKE



COFFEE & CHAT

Six of us met at Pickles (Linda Pochter not pictured). We enjoyed our first gathering of the new year by sharing stories of teaching, holiday gatherings, and grandchildren. Seated are Sharon Dyer Betty Stapleford, Claudia Spelman, Eloda Linehan, and Peggy Buckles.

Join us on February 3rd at 9:30 a.m. for another Coffee and Chat at Pickles in Newbury Park (near Kohls).





TECH TREK

Thank you very much for so many members and friends who gave to our recent Fall Phantom Tea Fundraiser. Your gifts totaled \$620 bringing our SPF Tech Trek account balance for January 2024 up to \$9050.

It was learned in early December that AAUW California, for a number of reasons, has decided that the UCSB in person camp be on hiatus for 2024. It is truly unfortunate that this decision was made as this particular camp was extremely convenient and familiar to our area. However, we are hopeful that it will be back online in 2025.

The Thousand Oaks AAUW Board of Directors will determine, at their January meeting, the next steps that our branch will be taking to support this amazing Tech Trek experience for our local girls. It may be decided to send girls to the 2024 Virtual Camp, or to the closest in person sessions at Whittier College, or it may be decided to save our money until 2025 when hopefully Santa Barbara will be available.

We truly regret this change in direction for 2024, but we are positive that all our funds, including your generous donations, are safe and accruing interest for future purposes. All of us want the best and most rewarding experience for our campers.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Sally Hibbitts.





AAUW CALIFORNIA PUBLIC POLICY

If you are interested in participating in our T.O. Branch Public Policy Committee, we meet on the 3rd. Thursday evening of each month at 7 p.m. via Zoom. For further information, please contact Betty Stapleford at bstaple4d@gmail.com.

Begin forwarded message:

From: AAUW California Public Policy <publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org>
Subject: AAUW California Public Policy News - January 2024
Date: January 1, 2024 at 2:00:29 PM PST
To: Betty Stapleford <bstaple4d@gmail.com>



[View in browser.](#)

Dear Branch Public Policy Chairs and Branch Presidents,

Happy New Year! We hope that your holidays have been wonderful and that you are excited for a new year of advocating on behalf of women and girls.

Please click [HERE](#) for the January issue of Public Policy News, which includes an article about Parents' Rights for inclusion in your February newsletters.

A text-based copy of the newsletter article can be accessed by clicking on the link at the bottom of page 2.

Cheers to fresh starts, new beginnings, and endless possibilities.

Amy Horn and Melissa Maceyko
Co-chairs, AAUW California Public Policy Committee

publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org

Cc: AAUW California Public Policy Committee and AAUW California Leadership Team

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Donations Needed for the **REDress Project**



AAUW-TO will be installing the **REDress Project** in April at the Lundring Center at CLU

We need your help!

If you have a **red dress** that you would like to donate or lend for the event - we are in the process of collecting them **now**

Please contact Melanie at melavw@gmail.com or Shoshana at shobrower@gmail.com

Please note we are looking for solid red dresses with no other colors/prints.



March is Women's History Month!

Presented by One Spark Academy and AAUW TO

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Thousand Oaks Library,
1401 Janss Rd., Thousand Oaks

You are invited to hear outstanding performances of the 2024 Women's History Project presentations of these stellar and exciting women, who have impacted our lives in many ways.

Ruby Bridges (1954-) Civil Rights Activist

Deb Haaland (1960-) U.S. Secretary of the Interior

Judy Heumann (1947-2023) Disability Rights Activist

Eunice Kennedy Schriver (1921-2009) Humanitarian, Founder of Special

Olympics **Zitkála-Šá (1876-1938)** Writer, Musician, Educator, Political Activist





2023 HOLIDAY PARTY

December 3, 2023 Holiday Party

Wendy Hoffman and her husband graciously hosted our annual party. Everyone was excited to have an opportunity to catch up with old friends and meet new members. In between conversations, we delved into the abundance of appetizers and scrumptious desserts. Narda played holiday and jazz tunes for all.



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2023 HOLIDAY CRUISE

December 10, 2023 Holiday Cruise with Camarillo AAUW

Many of us enjoyed dinner and drinks at The Greek in Ventura Harbor before boarding the double decker boat for our cruise through the channels where residents had lit up their homes with various assortments of lights. Julie Mohr circulated the room at The Greek giving us our boarding passes and repeated this at the dock for those who chose not to dine. Members and spouses from both branches intermingled which resulted in much laughter and song. Many residents waved to us as we passed their homes so a good time was had by all. None of us felt cold as the evening air was crisp but not cold. Hot chocolate added to our enjoyment on the boat.





SKIRBALL CULTURAL CENTER

Evva Kim, Eloda Linehan, and Narda and Paul Fargotstein met in front of the Barnes and Noble on Westlake Boulevard at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, November 29th. We all fit into the Fargosteins new blue electric car for our journey to see “This Light of Ours” which showcases the work of activist photographers of the Civil Rights Movement.

The exhibit drew us in emotionally and spiritually as we felt the pain and the strength we saw through the eyes, expressions, and body language of those who have been captured forever in a photograph. Our docent, Carol, provided us with historical details and engaged us in moments of thought and reminisce. There was an opportunity for us to see the rest of the center as well. “The American Library” exhibit by Yinka Shonbare had us amazed by the color, placement, and titles of hundreds of books which had been wrapped in fabric and artistically arranged on multiple shelves. Other parts of the center gave us an insight into the experience of the Jewish people and their immigration to the United States. The day was topped off with us sharing our a meal together.



IT'S AAUW'S ART CONTEST TIME!

Dear Eloda,

AAUW's annual art contest is officially under way, and we invite members to [submit a high-res image](#) of their original painting, photography, sculpture, collage or other artwork. We will be accepting submissions through January 31, 2024. Your work could be among the winning entries!

Starting in February, AAUW members will select their favorite entries via ranked-choice voting. The winners will be featured on a collection of notecards sent to all members this spring. The back of each card will include the winning artist's biography, a fact about AAUW and a highlight of the artist's local branch affiliation when applicable.

Please spread the word to your state and branch! We know from past years' entries that there is a lot of talent out there!

For more information on submitting artwork, or to peruse last year's art gallery, please visit the [AAUW Art Contest page](#).

We hope to see your work soon!

Happy New Year,



Tremayne Parquet
Deputy Director of Advancement & Partnerships