

THE OAK TWIG

Winter 2025



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



Welcome to the Fall Oak twig. Some of you know me, others may not. For the past year, AAUW TO has been having a rotating President, every four months, as many members who could serve may have surgeries, trips with family, or community commitments, not to mention full-time jobs.

I was President of AAUW for two years 2010 and 2011. I volunteered last year to fill in for a 25% Presidency last year and have again volunteered for a 30% Presidency this year. I would like to urge members, especially younger members to volunteer next year for the Presidency of AAUW as we need fresh input on programs and the direction you would like to see AAUW engage in. We will be looking for volunteers at the beginning of 2025. We can continue with rotating 30% and maybe 30% is all the time you can donate. We encourage you to get in touch with us about how you can contribute.

NOVEMBER 14-16 2024 will be the largest community outreach and educational event called The Red Dress Project which will be from November 15 - 17 at the Thousand Oaks Grant R. Brimhall Library 1401 E Janss Rd, Thousand Oaks, CA 91362. There will be a display of red dresses with accompanying stories of Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women.

We are seeking volunteers for various jobs. Please contact Sally Hibbits at 805-750-3119 or via email [@sjhibbits@aol.com](mailto:sjhibbits@aol.com) to get the signup genius link to volunteer.

Our larger Speaker's Program event is Sunday afternoon from 2 -4 pm.



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women Speaker's Panel

VC District Attorney Erik Nasarenko
Dr. Bridget Groat, CSUCI Native Studies Department
Dr. Jonnie Williams, Native Psychologist & CEO Evolve Equity
Marianne Parra, Chumash Cultural Consultant, MMIWGP Ventura County



Sunday, November 17 • 2pm - 4pm

Grant R. Brimhall Library

Marvin E. Smith Community Room
1401 E. Janss Road, Thousand Oaks

There will also be a Silent Auction during the Red Dress project to raise funds for young women in the Ventura County Indian Education Program.

DECEMBER 8, 2024 – HOLIDAY PARTY from 4 – 6 pm at Wendy Hoffman's House 330 Somerset Circle, Thousand Oaks. Appetizers A – F, Deserts G – Z, or if you have a favorite holiday recipe, please feel free to bring it. For community outreach, we have partnered with Harbor House to provide them with children's books as part of their family donations. You can bring your books to the Holiday Party and we will make sure that they get them or if you would prefer to make a donation directly here is their link: [Harbor House: Harbor House Adopt a Family Donations](#).

JANARUY 25, 2024 Inter-Branch Luncheon– Los Robles Greens Once a year, all of the AAUW branches in Ventura County, Simi, Camarillo and Thousand Oaks get together for a luncheon. This year's speaker will be Archana Maniar who will speak about her journey from receiving AAUW scholarship, becoming an infectious disease doctor, & now published author. Keep an eye out in December for Registration details.



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

If you want to volunteer for the Board and want to know what positions are available, email me at nfargotstein@yahoo.com. Or if you want to chat, 805-990-1885.

It has been a pleasure to serve on the Board and be President of Thousand Oaks AAUW and continue the mission to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research since the 1880s and the gift of one gram of radium to Marie Curie. I look forward to hearing from YOU.



THE RED DRESS EXHIBIT HAS ARRIVED!

The public is invited to attend this unique educational and artistic outreach event created by AAUW TO with the support from California Humanities, The City of Thousands Oaks Library, and The Friends of the Library.

The Exhibit hours are Friday, November 15 (10–6), Saturday , November 16 (10–5), and Sunday November 17(12–2 and 4–5). On Sunday, November 17, we will be having a major program from the hours of 2 PM to 4 PM. This will be highlighted by a Speaker’s Panel of experts, including the VC District Attorney Erik Nasarenko and three area Tribal women who have expertise in their professional fields. We will also be joined by a member of the Caddo Nation and her authentic Jingle Dress Dance and other informative presentations. We will also be having an unusual and interesting silent auction of native artifacts, generously donated by one of our members. The funds raised will support scholarships for young women in the Indian Education Program of Ventura County.

This is the first time a Red Dress Exhibit has occurred in our regional area and we are indebted to the dedicated work of the primary organizing committee composed of Melanie Weerasinghe , Shoshana Brower, Rossanna Guerra, and Sally Hibbitts. They have been assisted and guided by Debra Sokolow of the Thousand Oaks Arts Council and Kathy Chavez Napoli, from AAUW Morgan Hill who has been our Cultural Advisor.



THE RED DRESS EXHIBIT HAS ARRIVED!

Please help us spread the word and invite your friends and family members to attend this important community event. This exhibit is appropriate for older teens in high school as well as college and of course all adults.

For more information, please contact Sally Hibbitts... 805-750-3119 or sjhibbitts@aol.com

REDress Display/Exhibit

Friday, November 15 - Sunday, November 17

AN ARTISTIC RESPONSE TO THE GROWING NUMBER OF MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN.

The REDress Project* focuses on the issue of missing or murdered indigenous women across North America. It is a powerfully emotional installation art project in response to this critical issue. The project has been installed in public spaces throughout the United States and Canada as a visual reminder of the staggering number of women who are no longer with us.



*The REDress Project was created by artist Jaime Black.

Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women Speaker's Panel

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Dr. Jonnie Williams, Native Psychologist & CEO Evolve Equity
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Sunday, November 17 • 2pm - 4pm
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NOVEMBER IS NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH.

Thousand Oaks Inc. (CA) Branch
www.aauwthousandoaks.com
Revised October 2024

GROUPS

COFFEE & CHAT

We look forward to seeing you on the first Saturday of each month at 9:30 a.m. at Pickles Deli Restaurant, 1940 Kelly Rd., Newbury Park, CA for breakfast and conversation. You will have a chance to meet new people and greet long-time friends for socializing and discussing timely issues. The dates for the next 4 months are: November 2, December 7, January 4, and February 1. Hope to see you soon! For more information, please contact Betty Stapleford at bstaple4d@gmail.com.

DAYTIME BOOK GROUP

The Daytime Book Group has been in existence for many years. But we would love to welcome new members to add the those who are regulars. We meet on the 4th. Monday of each month, except when holidays interfere, at the Thousand Oaks Library in the Conference Room of the Children's Library at 10 a.m. And we choose the books to read and discuss for the year by consensus. Our dates and books for the next 4 months are:

November 18 – Frozen River by Ariel Lawhon

December 16 – The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store by James McBride

January 27 – LA Weather by Maria Amparo Escandon

February 24 – The Library Book by Susan Orlean

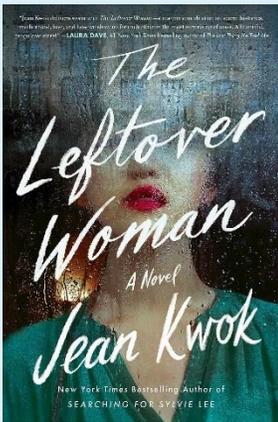
For more information, please contact Betty Stapleford.



GROUPS

LUNCH BOOK GROUP

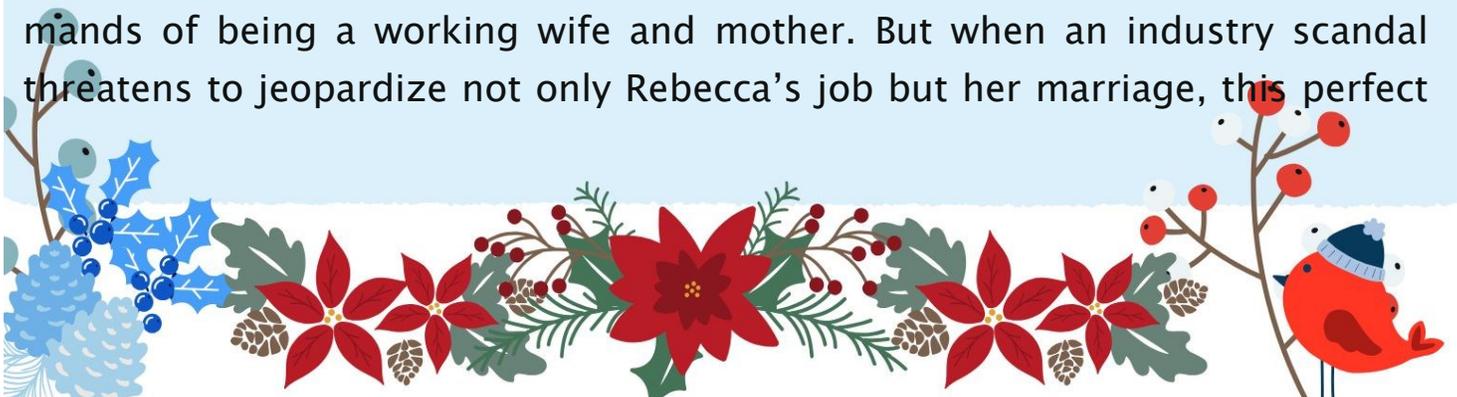
The Lunch Bunch Book Group meets the third Thursday of the month at 12:30 p.m. at local restaurants. We enjoy delicious lunches, captivating book reviews and conversations. The names of the restaurants will be announced in the AAUW eblasts. For more information text Sharon Dyer at 818-903-4645 or email creationsbysharon@prodigy.net.



November 15, 2024—The Leftover Woman by Jean Kwok—
“Intriguing. . . Kwok is a skilled writer of suspenseful family drama. . . . We root for Jasmine and Rebecca as they face impossible choices and emerge stronger for all the battles they’ve fought, always resisting becoming the ‘leftover’ women.” —Leigh Haber, *New York Times Book Review*

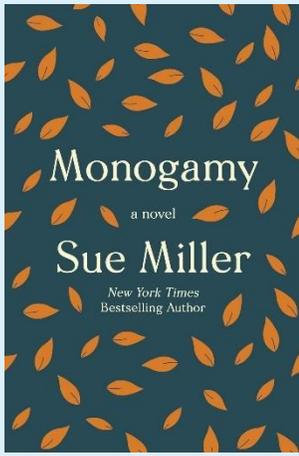
Jasmine Yang arrives in New York City from her rural Chinese village without money or family support, fleeing a controlling husband, on a desperate search for the daughter who was taken from her at birth—another female casualty of China’s controversial One Child Policy. But with her husband on her trail, the clock is ticking, and she’s forced to make increasingly risky decisions if she ever hopes to be reunited with her daughter.

Meanwhile, publishing executive Rebecca Whitney seems to have it all: a prestigious family name and the wealth that comes with it, a high-powered career, a beautiful home, a handsome husband, and an adopted Chinese daughter she adores. She’s even hired a nanny to help her balance the demands of being a working wife and mother. But when an industry scandal threatens to jeopardize not only Rebecca’s job but her marriage, this perfect



GROUPS

LUNCH BOOK GROUP

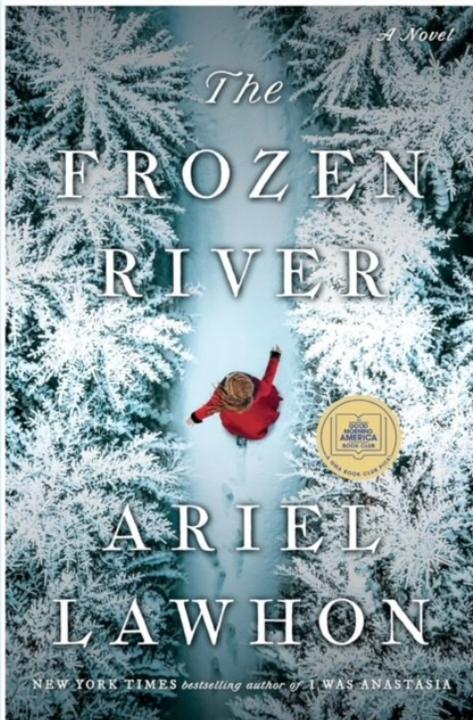


December 19, 2024—*Monogamy* A Novel by Sue Miller—A brilliantly insightful novel, engrossing and haunting, about marriage, love, family, happiness and sorrow, from *New York Times* bestselling author Sue Miller. —*Graham and Annie have been married for nearly thirty years. Their seemingly effortless devotion has long been the envy of their circle of friends and acquaintances. By all appearances, they are a golden couple...When Graham suddenly dies—this man whose enormous presence has seemed to dominate their lives together—Annie is lost. What is the point of going on, she wonders, without him?...Then, while she is still mourning Graham intensely, she discovers a ruinous secret, one that will spiral her into darkness and force*



GROUPS

DIVERSITY & UNIT BOOK GROUP



For this fall season, we are now venturing forth into the genre of historical fiction. Our next meeting will be at 4 PM on Thursday, November 21 at the home of Betty Stapleford.

Our new book is called *Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon and as Good Reads notes:

A gripping historical mystery inspired by the life and diary of Martha Ballard, a renowned 18th-century midwife who defied the legal system and wrote herself into American history.

Maine, 1789: When the Kennebec River freezes, entombing a man in the ice, Martha Ballard is summoned to examine the body and determine cause of death. As a midwife and healer, she is privy to much of what goes on behind closed doors in Hallowell. Her diary is a record of every birth and death, crime and debacle that unfolds in the close-knit community. Months earlier, Martha documented the details of an alleged rape committed by two of the town's most respected gentlemen—one of whom has now been found dead in the ice. But when a local physician undermines her conclusion, declaring the death to be an accident, Martha is forced to investigate the shocking murder on her own.

Clever, layered, and subversive, Ariel Lawhon's newest offering introduces an unsung heroine who refused to accept anything less than justice at a time when women were considered best seen and not heard. The Frozen River is a thrilling, tense, and tender story about a remarkable woman who left an unparalleled legacy yet remains nearly forgotten to this day.

This sounds like a wonderful, exciting and enlightening read about an unrecognized historical figure. If you have any questions, please contact Sally Hibbits at sihibbits@aol.com.



NEED A NEW NAME TAG?

The screenshot shows the ShopAAUW website interface. At the top, the logo 'ShopAAUW' is displayed. Below the logo is a navigation bar with links: Home | Contact Us | Help/FAQ | Order Status | Shopping Cart | Return Policy. A search bar is also present. On the left side, there is a dark sidebar menu with categories: New Arrivals, Clothing & Accessories, Accessorize, Stationery & Office, Gifts For You, Promotion (with sub-items: Event Supplies, Research Reports), and Sale. The main content area features the product title 'Customized Name Badge, With AAUW Logo'. Below the title, there is a description: 'You asked for them and you got them! Now, you can finally purchase the name badges that the AAUW Board of Directors and AAUW Staff wear when they are out representing AAUW. Durable (and wipeable!) plastic, this 3" x 1.5" name badge comes standard with a Pin Clasp, but can be ordered with a Magnetic Clasp for an extra \$3.00. Get yours today!' A note states: 'Note: Customized Name Badges ship in approximately 7-10 business days via US Mail after ordering. This item will ship separately from any other Shop-AAUW item(s) ordered.' Below the note, it says 'Shipping is FREE for this item!'. There is an option for 'Magnet Backer' for \$3.00. A preview image shows the badge with the AAUW logo and the text 'Your Name Here', '1st Title Line', and '2nd Title Line (Optional)'. At the bottom of the product area are 'Back' and 'Select' buttons.



ShopAAUW
aauw.source4.com

TECH TREK

TECH TREK CAMP 2024, WHITTIER COLLEGE

From the generous support of our membership, AAUW Thousand Oaks was able to send five amazing girls to our award-winning Tech Trek STEM camp at Whittier College this year. In addition, we had four girls assistance, Junior counselors, both at Whittier and at the virtual camp. Here are a few photographs of the girls having some great times



TECH TREK



AAUW PROMOTES STEM CAREER PATHS FOR GIRLS & WOMEN

Science | Technology | Engineering | Mathematics

Your tax deductible donation is very sincerely needed so additional local CVUSD girls can attend Tech Trek Summer Camp in 2025. We have a goal of sending ten girls this next summer and we are about 50% there! Any donation large or small helps us. Please see next page for more specifics.

STEM 4 Girls



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 Hibbitts, 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 _____

All checks are required to be 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

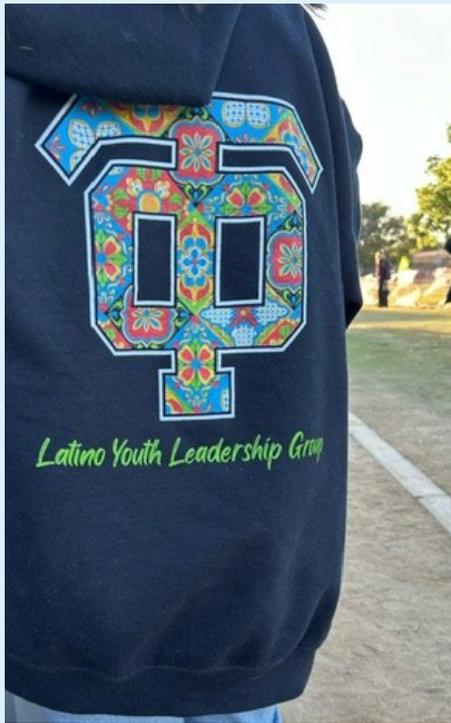
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LATINO YOUTH LEADERSHIP GROUP



LATINO YOUTH LEADERSHIP GROUP



Our wonderful group of teens in the Latino Youth Leadership Group very sincerely thanks AAUW TO for all the dedicated support. The easiest way to show continuing support for these teens is by helping donate snacks for their meetings. Please use the linked Sign up Genius site.



**Latino Youth Leadership Group: AAUW
T.O. 2024-25 Latino Youth Leadership
Group at TOHS**

www.signupgenius.com



ANNUAL FALL BREAKFAST

Annual Fall Breakfast Big Success!

The 58th Annual Fall Breakfast for the AAUW Thousand Oaks Branch was a big success this year, attended by close to 70 people from across our membership and the community. Inspiring us all to get out the vote and support free and fair elections was our primary speaker, Ventura County Elections Clerk Michelle Ascension.

Many of the ongoing projects for our branch were recognized and plans announced for this new branch year. Latino Youth Leadership Group, Tech Trek, Women in History, Public Policy initiatives, the Larry Horner Legacy Project, and many other items were addressed.

Here are a few photos taken that morning:



PRIDE FESTIVAL

Saturday August 17th AAUW Thousand Oaks table at the Pride Festival in Ventura

Sally Hibbitts facilitated our representation at this Festival held at Plaza Park square in Ventura. Many people took an interest in our organization and stopped to learn about our events and activities. We were one of many non-profit organizations and vendors who were situated near the Main Stage where musicians, singers, and performance artists entertained all. Pictured are Betty Stapleford and Eloda Linehan. Sally Hibbitts and others also volunteered to be at this event.



VENTURA COUNTY VOLUNTEER FAIR

August 24, 2024 Ventura County Volunteer Fair sponsored by Habitat for Humanity at Portside Ventura Harbor Plaza

AAUW Thousand Oaks participated in this Fair to let the public know about the volunteer opportunities with our association. Eloda Linehan gave information regarding our Tech Trek, Speech Trek, Gov Trek, and Latino Youth programs. Many people did sign the clipboard interest sheet and many more took a photo of the QR code for our website so perhaps you will see some new faces soon. Other non-profits had their tables set up as well as food and merchandise vendors. Habitat for Humanity volunteers constructed and painted several Playhouses for the families of veterans during this time.



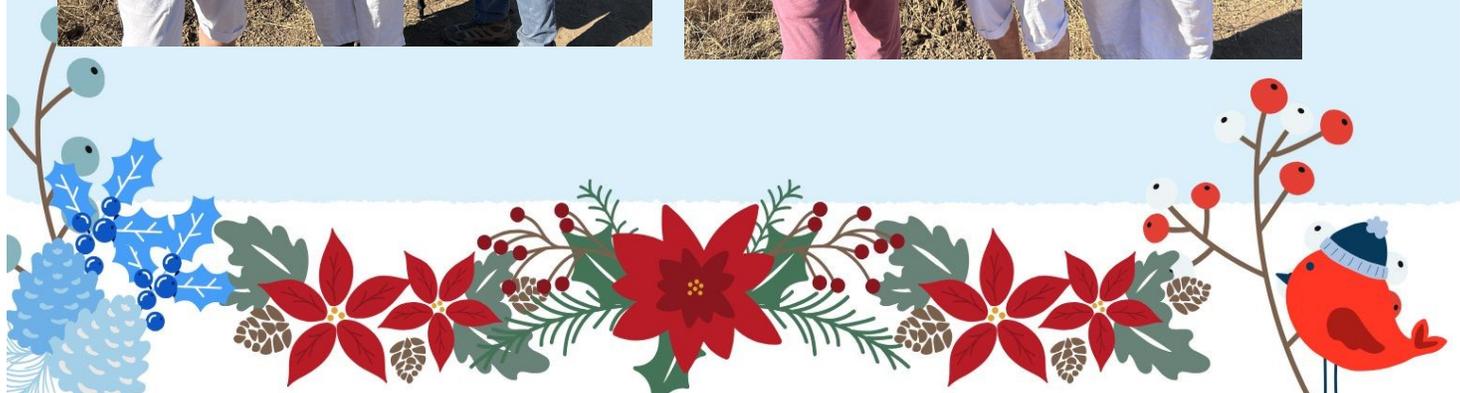
September 7, 2024 Coffee and Chat

Linda Pochter, Sharon Dyer, Eloda Linehan, and Betty Stapleford met at Pickles in Newbury Park. Please join us on the first Saturday of every month at 9:30 a.m.



September 10, 2024 AAUW Hiking Group

Melanie Ashen led Pat O'Donnell, Jeanne Maxwell, and Eloda Linehan on a hike today. The trail was off of Lynn Road in the state and national park area.



SPEECH TREK FUNDRAISER



JOIN US FOR A DELICIOUS WAY TO **RAISE MONEY!**

Date: Nov 14, 2024

Time: 11:00AM to 11:00PM

For Dine In, Takeout or Curbside at this BJ's Location:

3955 Thousand Oaks Boulevard
Westlake Village, CA 91362
805-497-9393

Enjoy delicious food in a fun atmosphere along with your family and friends while earning funds in support of:

American Association of University Women Speech Trek

WITH EACH FLYER PRESENTED DURING THIS FUNDRAISING EVENT, BJ's WILL DONATE
20% OF FOOD AND SOFT BEVERAGE SALES TO THE DESIGNATED ORGANIZATION!

VISIT US IN PERSON, ORDER ONLINE OR PLACE A TAKE-OUT ORDER

When dining in: Present this flyer to your server at any time during your meal.

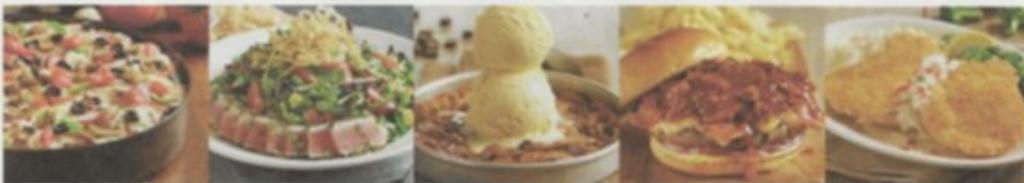
When ordering online: Enter the 6-digit fundraiser code below at the time of checkout.

When placing a take-out order: Present this flyer to a BJ's team member upon your arrival.



NOV536

Valid for dine in, takeout or curbside when applicable. Not valid toward alcoholic beverages, Happy Hour specials or for delivery orders.
Please do not distribute flyers on site during the event.



ARCHIVES PROJECT

Special AAUW Branch Archives Officially Created
by Sally Hibbitts

In the early summer, Wendy Hoffman and Lori Kissinger, two of our very long time members helped initiate the retrieval of appropriate branch archival items from many other members. It took several months, but after a while these were collected and curated.

Due to the early history and importance of our organization in the creation of the City of Thousand Oaks, the Conejo Parks and Recreation District, and the Conejo Unified School District, many of our founding members were intricately involved in the development of this region. Therefore, the city archivist, Jeanette Bernard, was happy to receive the items that we brought to her in early October.

Therefore, all members should understand that if they have items of consequence to our organization and its history and or influence in our area, please do not just discard those items, instead contact either Wendy, Lori, or myself, and we will make arrangements to have those items donated to the AAUW archive at the library. If you know of other former members in our area, who may have items that may be of interest, please do not hesitate to contact one of us.

