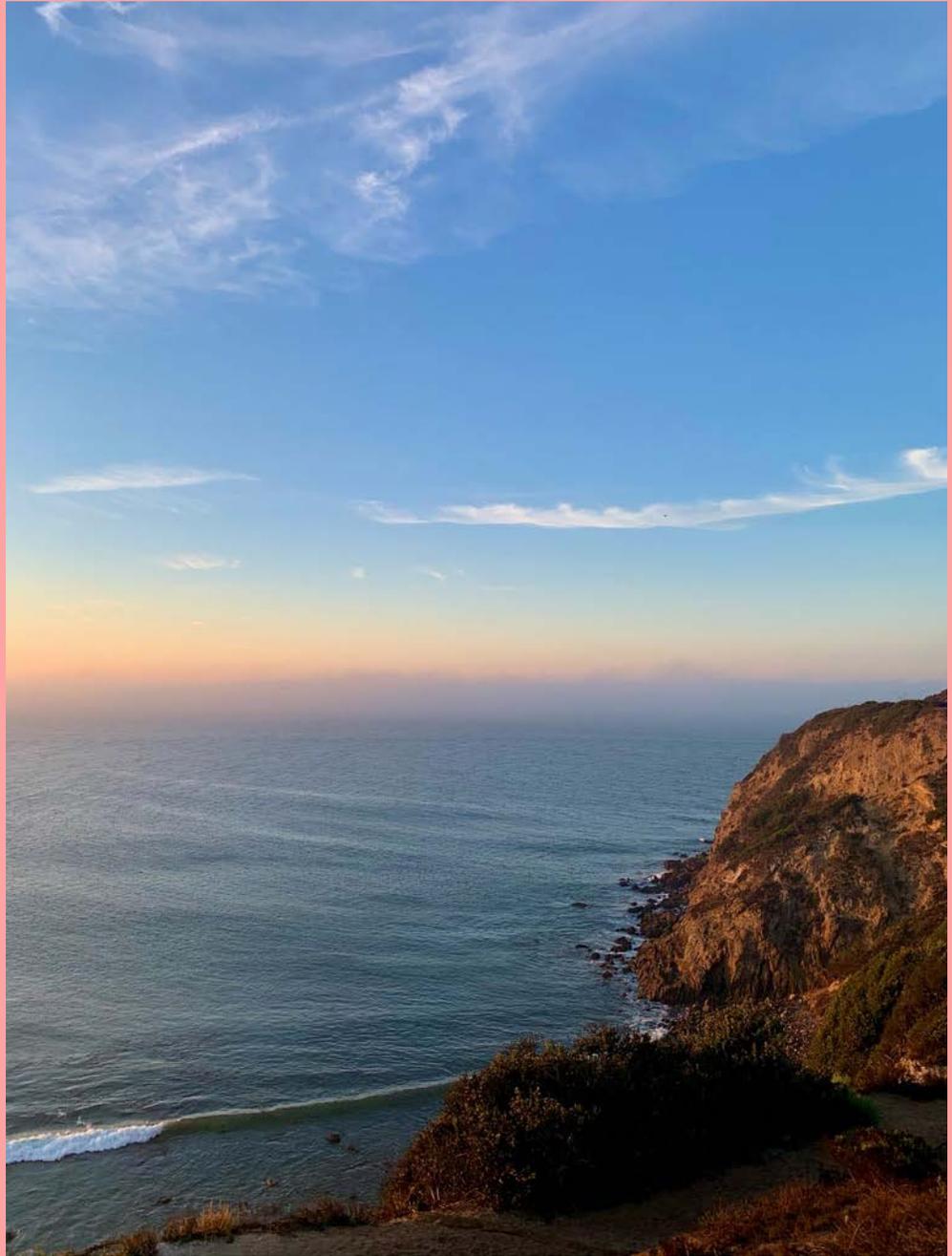


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## CO-PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE: DIANE TURCOTT-BIRCHMAN



If Spring is a time for renewal, then Summer is a time to rest and reflect. -I grew up in Seattle, so I remember truly looking forward to and appreciating the warmer days, the longer days – it would still be daylight at 9pm - swimming in Lake Washington, Salmon BBQs, the Seafair festival in August which included hearing the thunderous sound of the hydroplanes racing in time trials trying to qualify for the Seafair Cup race.

We all need that break, that space in time to rest, to go to the beach, have a picnic, maybe even get away for a vacation. And hopefully, with the rest and the break comes also with it - reflection. I don't think reflection can be forced; it comes to us in surprising moments when we are looking at the ocean, taking a drive or daydreaming which, by the way, has been shown to be healthy, and productive.

As AAUW members, we can reflect on what has been accomplished and what is left to accomplish.

This year established programs continued to thrive and new programs were introduced. We had two successful in person events: our Fall Membership Event breakfast, and the Spring Luncheon. Scholarships were awarded, (11 students were selected who will experience Tech Trek this summer), Speech Trek was organized for the first time - we had amazing student participants, A DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) committee was formed, Museums and Garden group had outings in L.A., Santa Paula and Thousand Oaks and our Public Policy group continued to work on local issues and voting rights.

Take the needed breaks, so that you can regroup and recharge to advocate for voting rights, reproductive rights, advancement of women in pay and in their careers and for those candidates in the Nov. general election that will reflect those values.

Have a Happy and Healthy Summer!





## MEMBERSHIP

Go to [www.AAUW.org](http://www.AAUW.org). Click on “Log in”. You will be asked to click “Forget my Password” to reset your password. You will receive an email with a link to reset your password. Once that is done, you will be prompted to “edit your Personal Information”. If you see that you need to edit your information, do so.

Then follow the prompts to renew your membership. Thousand Oaks is #0139 which will be your “affiliation”. Click local, state, and national dues as directed to renew. National dues are \$67. State dues are \$20. Branch dues are \$21.

If you choose to write a check, please write it to: AAUW – TO for \$108. Then mail it to: Eloda Linehan; 427 Calle Veracruz; Newbury Park, CA 91320. Eloda will then bring the checks to Dorothy Hatfield, treasurer.

Any questions? Please call me at (310) 541-9890 or (310) 809-0926.

Thank you.

New member bio:

### Jill Grannis

I am a retired dentist who had a private practice in Moorpark and before that, Santa Monica. I got out of the profession just before the pandemic hit, which was fortunate for me, but not the woman who bought it. My husband is a faculty member at CLU. Our daughter and her husband live in Simi Valley and I have 2 young grandkids. I read a lot, hike and ski. We have a vacation home in Big Bear Lake.





# AAUW GARAGE SALE!



## AAUW GARAGE SALE-

**Saturday, July 16th - 8:00 Am-2:00 PM**

Donation drop off starts Thursday, June 30th at Peggy Buckles' house  
(Place items in front of garage door closest to the house)  
1582 Windy Mountain Ave. Westlake Village 91362

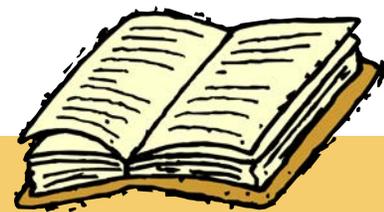
Spring cleaning? Please save and donate gently used items for the AAUW garage sale. We are looking for gently used items including shoes, clothing, craft items, books, antiques and collectibles. Lost or gained weight? We could sell clothing that no longer fits. Downsizing?

We will take small furniture items or exercise equipment that is in good condition. All proceeds will support AAUW Thousand Oaks Branch programs. Any unsold items will be donated to Ventura County Battered Women's Shelters.





## SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS



### UNITY BOOKGROUP

All members are encouraged to attend the next meeting of the Unity Book Group to be held via Zoom on Monday, July 18 at 2 PM., We will be discussing the acclaimed new book by Reyna Grande entitled *A Ballad of Love and Glory*. It is a work of historical fiction about the Mexican American War from the perspective of a Mexican “Nurse” or healer and her relationship with an Irish immigrant soldier. The author’s memoir was our very first book which we read by this group a few years ago! The author recently was also at CSUCI promoting her book to much success.

For more information please contact Sally Hibbitts or Shoshana Brower.

From Goodreads:

The year is 1846. After the controversial annexation of Texas, the US Army marches south to provoke war with México over the disputed Río Grande boundary.

Ximena Salomé is a gifted Mexican healer who dreams of building a family with the man she loves on the coveted land she calls home. But when Texas Rangers storm her ranch and shoot her husband dead, her dreams are burned to ashes. Vowing to honor her husband’s memory and defend her country, Ximena uses her healing skills as an army nurse on the frontlines of the ravaging war.

Meanwhile, John Riley, an Irish immigrant in the Yankee army desperate to help his family escape the famine devastating his homeland, is sickened by the unjust war and the unspeakable atrocities against his countrymen by nativist officers. In a bold act of defiance, he swims across the Río Grande and joins the Mexican Army—a desertion punishable by execution. He forms the St. Patrick’s Battalion, a band of Irish soldiers willing to fight to the death for México’s freedom.

When Ximena and John meet, a dangerous attraction blooms between them. As the war intensifies, so does their passion. Swept up by forces with the power to change history, they fight not only for the fate of a nation but for their future together.

Heartbreaking and lyrical, Reyna Grande’s spellbinding saga, inspired by true events and historical figures, brings these two unforgettable characters to life and illuminates a largely





## SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS



### PUBLIC POLICY

At our last Public Policy meeting on May 4, we had a report from the most recent CVUSD Board meeting about the Ethnic Studies curriculum that is being piloted in the district and is planned to become a requirement for all high school students by at least 2025. We will continue to monitor school board meetings on this issue as well as sex education and reading list censorship for pushback by the community.

Melanie Weerasinghe also reported on her attendance at a recent Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion workshop sponsored by the T.O. City Council. She found it very informative and is hopeful that such activities will continue. She and Cindy Speakman, the new DEI chair, will be working with our committee to support DEI efforts in the future.

There were then reports about attempts in many other states to restrict voting and voter registration by marginalized people. And a number of our members have participated in the sending of postcards to those states to encourage residents to register and vote in their primaries. We will continue our efforts to encourage voting by all with other efforts before the General Election in November.

The meeting ended with a discussion about what our committee could do in light of the leak of a potential ruling by the US Supreme Court to overturn Roe v. Wade. We will continue that discussion and possible action at our next meeting in early June.

If any of those topics, or other social justice issues in line with AAUW National Public Policy stances, are of interest to you, Please contact Betty Stapleford at [bstaple4d@gmail.com](mailto:bstaple4d@gmail.com)



### COFFEE & CHAT



Hello, All! Hope you will join us at Coffee and Chat on the first Saturday of each month on Zoom, for now. We enjoy great conversations about all kinds of interesting topics.

Let Betty Stapleford know at [bstaple4d@gmail.com](mailto:bstaple4d@gmail.com) if you would like a Zoom invitation! The upcoming dates are, June 4, July 2, and August 6.





## SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS



### LATINO LEADERSHIP GROUP

We are almost to the end of another school year with our Latino Youth Leadership Group at Thousand Oaks High School, and we are very proud of what we have been able to do along with these amazingly talented young people. We have had team and skill-building activities, guest speakers, service projects, community action presentations, and social events with the group and before seen them mature and gain confidence in their abilities during the challenges in the the second year of the pandemic.

During these closing weeks, many of the seniors are looking forward to their education after high school and scholarships to support them. Continuing students are deciding whether they will rejoin the group next year. And ongoing members are electing officers for the coming year and reaching out to potential new members from the incoming freshman class.

They are also looking forward to a group bowling activity as a way to celebrate their time with each other before the final meeting of the year. At that meeting, they will make plans for the future of the group and receive certificates and awards to honor their achievements.

If you would like to be a part of this rewarding AAUW project, please contact Sally Hibbitts, Sandra Martinez, or Betty Stapleford. You will be glad you did!





# SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS





## SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS



### MUSEUM & GARDENS

On March 1st seven of us went to the Santa Barbara Museum of Art to view the "Through Vincent's Eyes" exhibit. We were all impressed with Van Gogh's paintings which were interspersed in various galleries among the artists whom Van Gogh admired throughout different stages of his career. The show presented his works in this manner "to foreground both Vincent's indebtedness to and radical departure from the art world of his day" (Santa Barbara Museum of Art pamphlet).

Afterwards, we gathered at the Mizza restaurant which is next to the museum. We replenished ourselves with food, beverages, conversation, and laughter.



### April 9, 2022 Descanso Gardens Trip

This was the prime time to visit this beautiful garden. Plus, the weather was perfect. Here are a couple of highlights from the trip (please see the photos).





## SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS



### May 21st Outing

At noon we met at the Olive Garden. There we had a leisurely lunch while getting to know each other better.

Then at about 2:00 p.m. we journeyed over to the Oaks Mall to view the “Landscape Through the Eyes of Abstraction” exhibit. We saw abstracts by Arnoldi; Abait’s mixed media works; Dill’s sculptures and wall pieces; Innis’s mixed media works; and Parducci’s drawings, paintings, and sculptures.



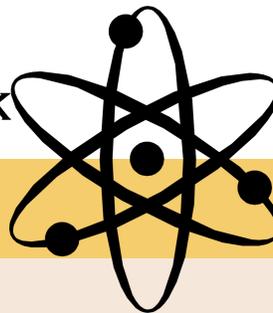
Stacy Thomas, Cindy Speakman, Eloda Linehan, Sue Goetz, Julie Mohr, Sharon Dyer, and Linda Pochter at the Olive Garden

Sharon Dyer, Julie Mohr, Eloda Linehan, Sue Goetz, Stacy Thomas, and Cindy Speakman at the California Museum of Art Thousand Oaks





TECH TREK



## An Exciting Tech Trek Update!

Thanks to many Branch and Community members who were able to boost our Tech Trek Fund to a total over \$17,000! Please see the accompanying info sheet about our many donors and our new levels of giving...all honoring wonderful Women STEM Leaders. Our balance is quite healthy for next year and will help us get started on another round of fundraising to support the 2023 camps.

Our Branch is sending eleven grade seven (current) to one of our Tech Trek Summer STEM Camps. Nine of the girls will attend the in-person camp at UCSB. This life changing experience is truly fabulous and to give our members and donors an opportunity to visit it, we've scheduled a trip on Thursday, July 21. There will be more information about that trip coming out in another month, but if you'd like to join us for lunch and the TT visit, please contact Sally Hibbitts.

The other two campers will be attending our Virtual Tech Trek Camp for a full week in June. This camp was highly successful last summer and we are pleased to offer it again this summer.

Happily, we will be having four of our Tech Trek alumna return this year as "Junior Counselors" to one of the camps. These high school girls are very pleased about being selected to "show the younger girls" the wonderful Tech Trek programs.

Please also see the inserted page with the photos of our eleven 2022 Campers.

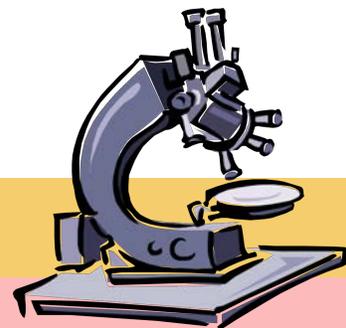
Thank you very much not only to our donors but also to the Tech Trek Selection Committee: Peggy Buckles, Nancy Taylor-Walker, Melanie Weerasinghe, Former Tech Trekker Shela Cortez and Sally Hibbitts. They did an awesome job interviewing all of our 15 applicants!

Please remember to contact Sally Hibbitts if you'd like to join us on July 21 for our TT visitation.





# TECH TREK



## Presenting Our Campers for Tech Trek 2022

The following nine students are our 2022 Tech Trek Campers at UCSB



Ana Cifuentes



Sara Vlaskovits



Ría Agarwal



Sadie Corn



Riley Shin.



Valaria Jimenez



Elise Louie



Sydney Katz



Inika Vellore

The following two students are our 2022 Tech Trek Virtual Campers



Catherine Oliver



Mira Jiang





# TECH TREK



AAUW Thousand Oaks sincerely thanks the following friends for their generous donations to support our Tech Trek Camp (STEM) Program, 2021-2022:

## Marie Curie Level of Support (\$1000+)

Peggy Buckles, in Honor of her daughter, Amanda Buckles Burnham  
Jacqui Irwin and The California Legislative Women's Caucus

Jeanette Hosek, in Memory of Mary Olive McCallum, Science Librarian, UCSB (BS) and USC  
(MLIS)

Donna Langley, in Honor of All Tech Trek Girls

Leesa McBurnie, in Honor of Barbara Murphree

Nancy Taylor-Walker, in Memory of her Mother, Marge Taylor

## Rachel Carson Level of Support (\$250+)

Narda Fargotstein

Karen Sylvester

Margaret Tennant

Janet Wall

## Elizabeth Blackwell Level of Support (\$25+)

Lenore Arab

Shoshana Brower

Betsy Connolly

Joan Edwards

Sally Hibbitts

Wendy Hoffman

Carolyn Kopp

Jean Maxwell

Lora Novak

Liz Priedkalns

Debbie Sandland

Lily Sugino





# SPEECH TREK



A Successful Inaugural year in AAUW California Speech Trek!

I'm excited to share our success as we wrap up our inaugural year participating in the AAUW California Speech Trek program. Speech Trek is an annual speech contest for high school students throughout the State of California. All participants in the State speak on the same subject, which is chosen each year by the State's Speech Trek Committee. With a local committee of Jeanette Hosek, Betty Stapleford, Melanie Weerasinghe, Sharon Dyer, led by Bonnie Shubb, our Thousand Oaks Branch was able to participate in this project in 2021-22 for the first time. Our branch offered coaching from qualified individuals to help the students prepare. This year, the coaches were David Birchman, Laurie Richlin, Betty Stapleford and Eloda Linehan. A contest cannot be held without judges, and we were required by the State rules to use judges who are not members of our Branch. We were honored to have Ruth Luevanos, Simi Valley City Council; Tammie Helmuth, CEO of Girl Scouts of California's Central Coast, and David Maron, CEO of Maron Software and recurring moderator for League of Women Voters' forums.

We held this year's contest on Zoom on February 24 and the top winners in our Branch contest were 3rd Place - Frida Moreno, 2nd Place - Catherine Xu, and the 1st place winner, Chaarvi Goel. They each won cash prizes and the recording of Chaarvi's speech was entered in the statewide contest. The subject matter was: "Has the United States lived up to its pledge of "liberty and justice for all"? Would requiring the study of diversity, equity, and inclusion in a high school setting help ensure liberty and justice for all. They all did incredible jobs. Chaarvi was able to reprise her speech delivering an impressive "live in person" performance at our Spring Luncheon on May 14 where the winners were presented with engraved gold, silver and bronze medals, respectively.





## SPEECH TREK



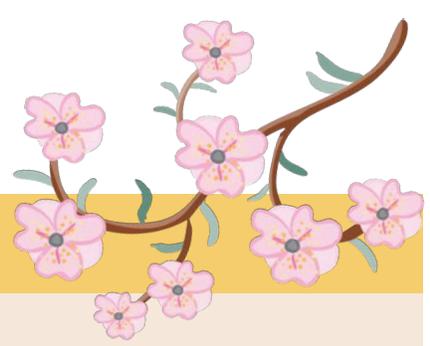
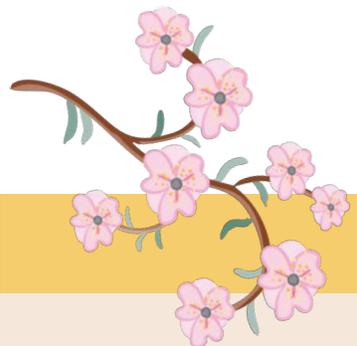
If you would like to see and hear the speeches on this subject by the statewide winners, you can see their recordings on the AAUW California website--just search for Speech Trek. To see our Branch winner recordings, go to our Branch website at [AAUWThousandOaks.com](http://AAUWThousandOaks.com). One of the coaches for our local contest, Laurie Richlin, has volunteered to head this Speech Trek committee for the 2022-23 year. You can look forward to communication from Laurie as she coordinates the project for next year.



# SPRING LUNCHEON



# SPRING LUNCHEON



## Donors to the Raffle Packages

Island Packers, Ventura

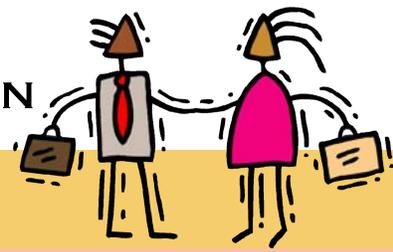
Trader Joe's Market, Westlake

Diane Birchman  
Peggy Buckles  
Sharon Dyer  
Sally Hibbitts  
Jeanette Hosek  
Vera King  
Paula Nathan  
Barbara Owens  
Betty Stapleford  
Janet Wall





## DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION



Hello Wonderful Humans!

I'm Cindy Speakman, your newly appointed Chair of the DEI Committee for AAUWTO. I thought it might be nice to share a little bit about myself, since many of you may not have ever heard of me! I am a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, and I provide Mental Health Therapy to individual adults, via telehealth. Currently, I am employed by a start-up Mental Agency called Two Chairs. I received my master's degree in Social Work from CSULB (go Beach!) in 2009. My wife is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. In August of 2019, she was called to serve the UCC church in Simi Valley. So, we packed up our house in Temple City, put it on the market, and moved to Oak Park in March of 2020. Two weeks later, COVID hit, and we ended up in lock down, in a new city, in a new home (after leaving our home of 19 years), and an hour away from our friends and family. Needless to say, it was a very stressful time for all of us! But, we love living here, and we are making friends, and getting to know the area. We have a young adult son who lives with us, and 4 furry children. I love Star Wars (May the Force be with you), The Dodgers (Go Blue!), and U2 (I still haven't found what I'm looking for). I also enjoy crafts, reading, spirituality, writing, traveling, and napping! You may reach me at: [cindyspeakman@gmail.com](mailto:cindyspeakman@gmail.com) or (626)235-9647.





# SCHOLARSHIPS



## Conejo Valley High School 2022

Sandy Gomez is the recipient of a 500.00 AAUW scholarship award.  
Congratulations to Sandy!

## AAUW TO Latino Youth College Scholarships 2022

Frida Moreno - \$300

Gabriel Lara - \$300

Estrella Medrano - \$200

Fatima Castillo - \$200

Congratulations to the students!

## The AAUW TO Moorpark College Scholarships

are awarded to women who are returning to college to pursue their educational degrees. The two students who were awarded scholarships this year are:

Monica Tanedo \$1,250.00

Lucy Drury \$1,250.00

## An AAUW TO STEM Scholarship

was awarded this year to a female student pursuing a 4-year degree university or college degree in a STEM field. We thank Jacqui Irwin and the Legislative Women's Caucus for securing the monies for this scholarship.

Marie Megrish \$1,000.00

Congratulations to these deserving students!

