

THE OAK TWIG

WINTER 2025





President's Perspective



Now it Is Our Time – Winter Oaktwig President's Message – Narda Fargotstein

AAUW Thousand Oaks was so honored to have Beth Pratt speak at our Fall Breakfast. I thank the Fall Breakfast Committee for getting the raffle items together, putting out our pigs for AAUW Funds, the Sticky-Monkey Flower and care card and animal centerpieces and all the sign up sheets for our volunteer opportunities, Tech Trek, Speech Trek, LYLG, and all of our book groups.

If you signed up for one of these volunteer opportunities and don't hear from the leader in the next two weeks, email me at nfargotstein@yahoo.com and I'll connect you. If you didn't sign up and you now think you would like to be involved, still contact me and I'll get you connected to the leader.

A big THANK YOU to Chaise Rasheed for placing 4th performing "Hold the Line" in the CHARITY KARAOKE which raised much-needed funds for our scholarships.

AAUW Thousand Oaks participated in the first Community Action Fair at Conejo Creek Park. Here we were able to reach out to the community to let them know of our work and encourage them to join us in our mission. We had a number of people request information.

Next is our Holiday Party, December 7 at Wendy Hoffman's house. A flyer will be out shortly.

SAVE THE DATE for our Interbranch Council Luncheon, January 24, 2025 at Los Robles Green.





President's Perspective



We will be working on our 60th Anniversary Celebration and a commemorative booklet to go along with the materials we gave to the library. Please contact me at nfargotstein@yahoo.com if you are interested in helping.

As I said at the Fall Breakfast, the ladies who started AAUW in 1882 saw a need for higher education for women and pursued it relentlessly. Now it is our time.

AAUW-TO Recurring events

- First Saturday of every month, 9:30am- Pickle's Deli (1940 Kelly Road Newbury Park, CA) Coffee and Chat- a casual space to connect, share, and recharge with fellow members.
- Third Friday of every month- location will change monthly, Happy Hour Sip and Share- A relaxed social gathering to connect, share ideas, and enjoy good company.

AAUW-TO Upcoming Events

December 2025

- 12/7/2025 Holiday party- Celebrate the season with friends, fun, and festive cheer.

January 2026

- 1/24/2026 Interbranch Council Gathering- Start the year strong with insight and inspiration with our Interbranch Collaboration, Simi, Camarillo, Thousand Oaks





Holiday Party



AAUW Thousand Oaks

Holiday Party

7TH OF DECEMBER, 2025

The home of Wendy Hoffman

5:00PM-7:00PM

Please bring:

Last name

A to N- Appetizer

O to Z- Dessert

Please support the

• Conejo Closet by bringing donations.

Suggested items:

New socks in adult and child sizes

Full sized toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner,
body wash

New underwear in child and adult sizes

Laundry soap pods

Hooded sweatshirts in child and adult sizes

New jackets

RSVP to :

wendyhof@gmail.com

805-338-8718





AAUW TO Fall Breakfast



AAUW TO Fall Breakfast September 27, 2025

People were greeted by an almost life-size cardboard cutout of a mountain lion as they entered the Los Robles Greens Banquet room. Behind this was a table with the books of our main speaker, Beth Pratt. To the side was the check-in table and the ever-growing pile of donations for Conejo Closet.

The room was filled with chatter from all who had gathered here to have a breakfast of scrambled eggs, French toast, bacon, potatoes, and fruit; browse the tables displaying all our branch's activities; buy raffle tickets for many amazing items; and hear Beth Pratt speak about how the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing came into existence and who dedicated much time and effort to make this possible. Our President, Narda Fargotstein also introduced the members who did the land affirmation, spoke about the Latino Youth Leadership Group, Tech Trek, Speech Trek, Women in History, and the then upcoming Charity Karaoke of which we were given a preview by Chaise Rasheed. This informative and entertaining morning was made possible by the Breakfast Committee of Sakeena Ali, Narda Fargotstein, Betty Stapleford, Paula Nathan, Rossanna Guerra, Norma Drew, Eloda Linehan, Sally Hibbitts, Leesa McBurnie, Donna Langley, and Sharon Dyer. These women and all who attended created another memorable event of the Thousand Oaks branch of the American Association of University Women.



AAUW TO Fall Breakfast





Latino Youth Leadership



Latino Youth Leadership Group at Thousand Oaks High School is off to a terrific start this school year with a full group of 30 interested and enthusiastic members who meet after school twice a month on Tuesday afternoons. AAUW has cosponsored this group for nearly 10 years, as a way of providing a plethora of support for these outstanding students who are mostly first generation college bound and have outstanding personal values as well as ethics. We are proud to support these excellent students.

If you would like to help us at all, your main support comes in the way of providing snacks for the meetings! Please use this link, which will take you to the snack food sign up.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E084CAAAD2BA5FC1-aauw1>

Our gratitude to many members who have consistently provided the snacks for these hungry teens over the last few weeks: Nancy Taylor-Walker, Laura Ziff, Betty Stapleford, Rossanna Guerra, Jean Maxwell, and Sally Hibbitts.

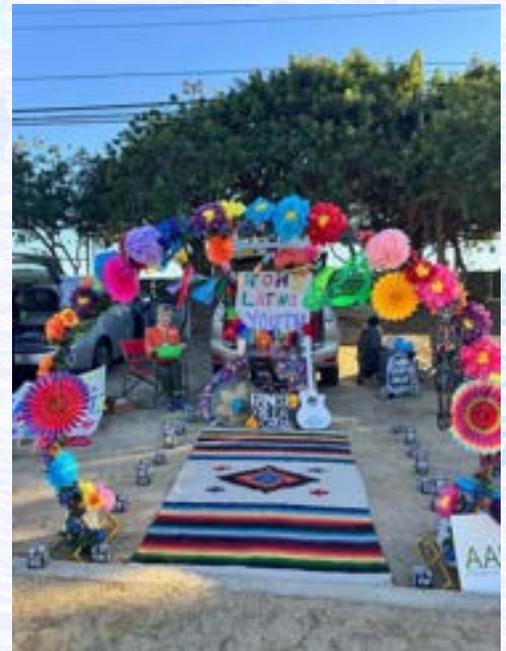
For any questions, please ask Betty Stapleford or Sally Hibbitts.

In the meantime, here are a few pictures from recent activities.





Latino Youth Leadership





Happy Hikers



October 7th 2025



October 21st 2025





Happy Hikers



November 4th 2025





Speech Trek Fundraiser



“Thank you” to all who came to BJs to support the Speech Trek fundraiser.





Charity Karaoke



AAUW Thousand Oaks Shines at Charity Karaoke!

AAUW Thousand Oaks rocked the stage at Charity Karaoke on Sunday, October 5, raising funds in style and song! Thanks to our amazing community friend and performer Chaise Rasheed, whose dazzling voice, charisma, and show-stopping performance brought down the house, AAUW earned a \$1,000 prize check for his outstanding performance. Even better, our total fundraising reached \$2,017—a wonderful reflection of community spirit and support.

Our AAUW Board of Directors has voted to dedicate \$1,200 of these proceeds to send one deserving girl Tech Trek to STEM camp next summer, with the remaining \$817 supporting our AAUW scholarships for local students.

We will also be recognizing and thanking Chaise at our holiday party with an appropriate gift and in recognition for his generous use of his time and talents.

It was a night full of energy, laughter, music, and generosity—thank you to everyone who joined, cheered, and donated to help empower women and girls in our community!

(Photos: Courtesy of Charity Karoke showing Chaise Rasheed performing and celebrating with Kara Buss, the primary donor, and Sally HibbittS as funds were presented.)





Charity Karaoke



Community Action Fair



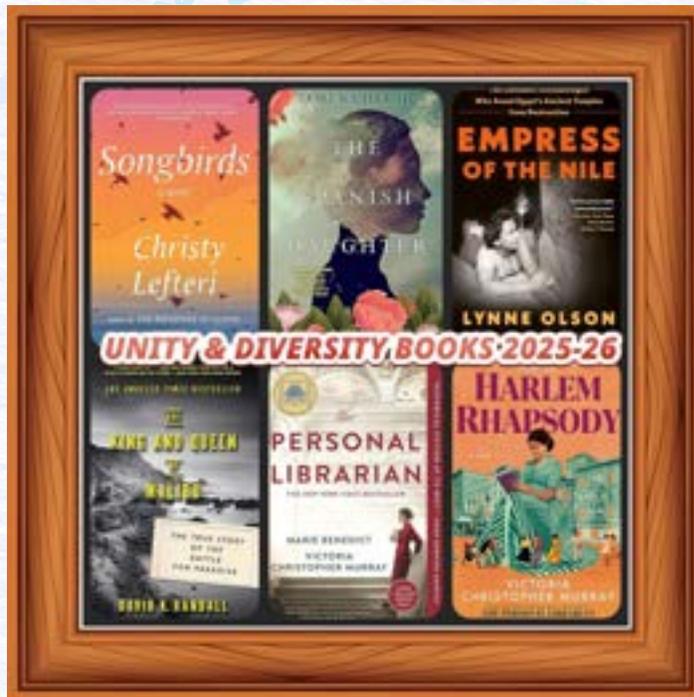


Unity & Diversity Book Club



Thank you very much, to Nancy Taylor-Walker for hosting our most recent meeting in October at her lovely home and we had a great meeting in September enjoying Sharkey's at lunch to support a Branch fundraiser

All are warmly invited to the next Diversity and Unity Book Group meeting on Wednesday, January 22 at 2:30 PM at the home of Sally Hibbitts. We'll be discussing *The Spanish Daughter* by Lorena Hughes, a captivating novel set in early 20th-century Ecuador. Blending mystery, family secrets, and the rich world of cacao plantations, this story follows a courageous woman who must disguise herself as a man to claim her inheritance and uncover the truth about her past. It's an interesting read that should encourage thoughtful discussion! All are welcome—this is a wonderful way to meet new people, share ideas, and enjoy great conversation in a friendly setting.





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 3 months are: December 6, January 3, and February 7. Hope to see you soon! For more information, please contact Betty Stapleford at bstaple4d@gmail.com.

Lunch Bunch Book Group

The Lunch Bunch Book Group meets on the third Thursday of each month at 12:30 PM. We are always happy to welcome new participants.

For our December 18th meeting, we will be reviewing *Band of Sisters* by Laura Willig. “A group of young women from Smith College risk their lives in France at the height of World War I in a sweeping novel based on a true story.” (Amazon)

We have not chosen the titles for the New Year. Please check the e-blasts for the titles of the books to be reviewed, the restaurants and locations. Place and date changes will be announced in the e-blasts. If you have any questions, please contact Sharon Dyer at (818)903-4645 or email: creationsbysharon@prodigy.net.





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 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 we want to read and discuss for the year by consensus. Our dates and books for the next 4 months are:

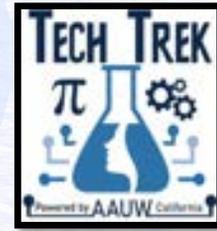
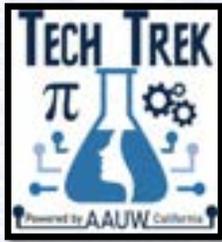
November 17 book – Broken Country, December book – The Boys Who Challenged Hitler, January Book – James, and February Book – Lily's Promise.

For more information, please contact Betty Stapleford.





Tech Trek



Now is the moment to make a real, local difference and secure your 2025 tax deduction by supporting our AAUW Thousand Oaks Tech Trek program.

Tech Trek is the single most powerful way our Branch directly changes lives! Tech Trek funds send local 7th grade girls to live and learn on a college campus, where they build confidence, do real STEM experiments, and see themselves as future scientists, engineers, and leaders.

- Many members give \$100, knowing it has an immediate impact.
- A gift of \$1,200 fully funds one girl's entire Tech Trek experience and is a beautiful way to honor or remember a loved one while transforming a life.

Every contribution, no matter the size, helps send a local girl to camp.

How to give (tax-deductible):

1 Make your check payable to "AAUW CA SPF" and please write "For Thousand Oaks Tech Trek" on the memo line then mail it to:

Sally Hibbitts
3119 W. Adirondack
Westlake Village, CA 91362

2 Makeaneasyonlinedonationby going to :
www.paypal.com/donate?hosted_button_id=JJGN3W2P3Z6UE

Online Donation QR Code for Tech Trek,
(no PayPal account necessary)
Be sure to indicate TT at UCSB and
Branch is Thousand Oaks in note area



Donate

Please contact Sally Hibbitts if you have any questions: 805-750-3119 or sjhibbitts@aol.com





Weekly Eblasts



You can learn about forthcoming AAUW or community events that may have been added since the last Oak Twig or be reminded of programs that you have forgotten to put on your calendar. You will get an email, usually on Sunday afternoon or evening, each week. And if you know of something you need to share with other members, please send it to

Betty Stapleford

(bstaple4d@gmail) by at least Friday afternoon. We want to keep you up to date!

