



### **Presidents' Message**

Hello everyone:

Please mark your calendars for the Great American Write-In, which will take place on March 29, 2025, at the Delphi Center in Santa Ana from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. This event is an opportunity to visit many organizations that represent various public policies. You can write to your elected representatives to advocate for multiple issues. Bring return address labels so elected officials know you are a constituent. Please carpool and arrive early! The Orange County AAUW Interbranch Council will have a table.

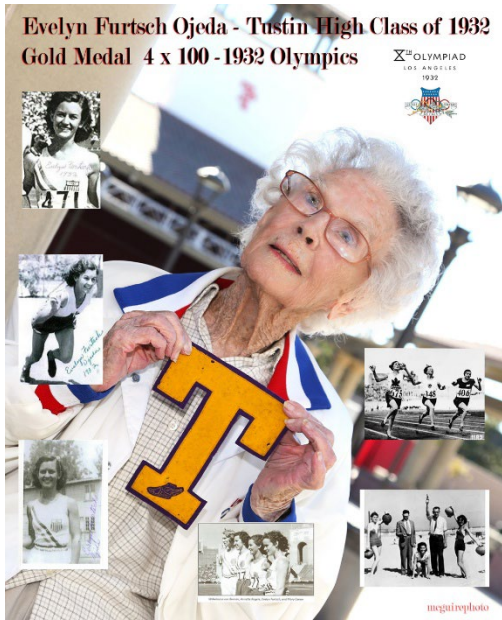
If the Nominating Committee approaches you to serve on the AAUW TSAO Board or a Committee, please consider saying "Yes!" Our branch is only as strong as its members. Your service is a great way to give back to our community!

The Board has agreed to participate in the summer Old Town Sunset Markets in Tustin, which will be held on the third Thursday from May to September. We will be looking for volunteers to help staff the table, inform the community about our organization, and recruit new members. More to come!

For those of you who were at the March meeting, in honor of Women's History Month, I shared information about two Tustin women legends: **Ursula Kennedy**, the first female mayor of Tustin:



and **Evelyn Furtsch Ojeda**, a Tustin High graduate and 1932 Olympic Gold Medalist:



I will look forward to seeing you in April!

**Rebecca "Beckie" Gomez, PhD.** [RebGomezTOC@gmail.com](mailto:RebGomezTOC@gmail.com)

**President, AAUW Tustin-Santa Ana-Orange**

**Program - Native Plants and Gardening Tips for Orange County Homes.**

**Wednesday April 2, 2025 @7 pm**

**Doors open @6:30 pm**

**Speaker: Tom Farrell, UC Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners Orange County**



**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA**  
Agriculture and Natural Resources

**UC Master Gardener Program**  
Orange County

**Mary Witten.** [mary.l.witten@gmail.com](mailto:mary.l.witten@gmail.com)

### **Membership**

**Judy Weissberg-Ortiz** [judywortiz@gmail.com](mailto:judywortiz@gmail.com)

**Sylvia Borovay** [sgborovay@gmail.com](mailto:sgborovay@gmail.com)

We have reached 100 branch members! 🎉

We are waiting to hear from AAUW-CA to see if they will make any changes to state dues for the branches before beginning Membership renewals for 2025-2026.

AAUW National dues will go up by \$2 (to \$74), but our branch dues will remain the same (\$17 for the year).

Nominations for TSAO branch officers for next year are almost completed - we are still

looking for a President Elect (Like a Vice President) to assist Beckie - this is more about learning how the branch functions than doing - so if you might be interested please call me (Judy Ortiz ) @ 714-504-5739

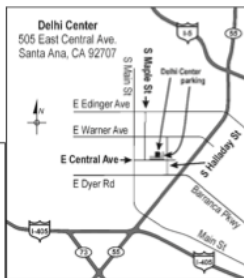
Also, the **Great American Write-In** on **Saturday, March 29**, is a great way to communicate with your elected representatives to let them know your opinions on current issues & events. They will have pre-printed notes or you can write your own and they will mail them for you! All you need to bring is a pen and your return address labels (so they know which district you are writing from) You can pre-register for the event here: <https://secure.everyaction.com/ygOgPwqsfEad5DvKi40c7w2>

**The 37th Annual  
Great American Write-In**  
Sponsored by  
**LEAGUE OF MINORITY VOTERS**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 2025**  
**9:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M.**

**DELHI COMMUNITY CENTER**  
**505 E. Central Ave., Santa Ana 92707**

From the South follow Barranca Parkway to Dyer, then right on Halladay to Central and turn left to the Delhi Center.  
From the 55 Freeway, exit at Dyer West, then follow directions above.  
From the North or West follow Warner to Maple, turn right to Central and left to the Delhi Center.



**League of  
Minority Voters**

The League of Minority Voters is a 501c3 nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering minority voices in community and government and serving as a liaison between communities of color, policy leaders, and institutions. We fight for and promote the advancement of minority voters' rights through education, empowerment, and mobilization.

No participating organization at the Write-In may be anti-choice, racist, or sexist.

**Remember to bring your return-address labels**  
**& please carpool if you can!**

<https://minorityvoters.org/>

## **AAUW Fund**

**Connie Smith** [1959cps@gmail.com](mailto:1959cps@gmail.com)

Join us for our **Charcuterie Board Making** fundraiser to benefit AAUW's Greatest Needs Fund, on **Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>**. See flyer for details. Spots are filling up quickly,

so please send your \$100 donation to reserve your spot to: AAUW Charcuterie, 1241 Smoke Tree Lane, Santa Ana, CA 92705. If you prefer, you can also bring your check to the April 2<sup>nd</sup> TSOA AAUW meeting.

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## AAUW FUNDRAISER

### TO BENEFIT AAUW'S GREATEST NEEDS FUND

# CHARCUTERIE BOARD MAKING CLASS

Create a beautiful board for your holiday weekend!



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#### Location:

The Annex at Tustin Legacy (Rm. B101-B)  
15455 Landowne Road  
Tustin, CA 92782  
(Park across street at Veteran's Sports Park)

#### APRIL 19, 2025

#### 10:00AM - 12:00PM

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**Instructor:** Private Chef and Caterer, Denise Stephens.

**Cost:** \$100 Check payable to AAUW Fund plus a \$45 (cash) supplies fee at the door.

**RSVP:** Space is limited, so reserve your spot now by sending your check to AAUW Charcuterie, 1241 Smoke Tree Lane, Santa Ana, CA 92705.

**Deadline:** April 9th.

**Please Bring:** A small paring or chef knife, a flexible cutting mat and an apron.

Light refreshments will be served at the end of class.

**Questions:** Email [1959cps@gmail.com](mailto:1959cps@gmail.com)

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### Tech Trek

Thank you to our amazing Tustin -Santa Ana - Orange Branch for your tremendous response to our Tech Trek fundraising appeal!!

We not only obtained our goal of sponsoring 4 girls this year, we have a healthy start for our 2026 Tech Trek program! I am deeply grateful for your support!

My Interview Teams of Chris Byrd, Tracey Clark, Sandy DiSario, Melissa Figge, Sue

Guilford, Anna Ryan, Lenore Simon, Gloria Wildman, and myself, Mary Witten, are eager to commence our interviews of the girls on Thursday, March 27, at Sycamore Magnet Academy, and Thursday, April 3, at Lathrop Intermediate School. Both interview teams will be able to analyze the in-person interviews, applications, and student essays "across the board" of the eleven candidates we have at this time. Two girls had to "drop out" of the interviews due to June scheduling conflicts or family hesitation of having a 7th grade daughter away from home for a week. Nevertheless, all nominees will be recognized for their nomination to the program and their outstanding academic achievement at their respective schools. Thank you again for your outstanding support of our program! I am looking forward to our September 3, 2025 Tech Trek General Meeting when our awardees will share their tales of the great workshops, activities, and friends they made within their Whittier College experiences. Thank you for giving them this opportunity of a lifetime! 🏆

**Mary Witten**    [mary.l.witten@gmail.com](mailto:mary.l.witten@gmail.com)

#### **Public Policy**

**Donna Sutton**    [suttondonna45@gmail.com](mailto:suttondonna45@gmail.com)

**Debbie Knox**    [debbieknox1234@gmail.com](mailto:debbieknox1234@gmail.com)

The Great American Write-In is your chance to be pro-active as a group and inform you elected representatives how you feel about their actions. It will also provide an opportunity to see what other local organizations are doing for our county.



CELEBRATE  
THE 37th ANNUAL  
**GREAT AMERICAN  
WRITE-IN**

Sponsored by  
LEAGUE OF MINORITY VOTERS

**SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 2025**  
9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

**DELHI COMMUNITY CENTER**  
505 E. Central Ave., Santa Ana 92707



**The Pen Is Mightier Than The Sword!**

**At the Write-In:**

- **MEET** representatives of local and national advocacy groups!
- **LEARN** about today's vital issues!
- **RAISE YOUR VOICE** by **WRITING** to the decision-makers who can make a difference in health, the environment, peace, human and civil rights, education!

Register here:

<https://bit.ly/GAWI2025> or



For more information, please contact  
Felicity Figueroa 949-733-0850 or [felicitynf@aol.com](mailto:felicitynf@aol.com)

**FREE ADMISSION! FREE PARKING!**

**Participating Organizations**

America Walks  
American Association of University Women (IBOC-OC)  
American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, OC Chapter  
Americans United for Separation of Church & State  
Amnesty International Irvine  
Arab American Civic Council  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice SoCal (AJSOCAL)  
Braver Angels  
California Alliance for Retired Americans  
CA Coalition to End Child Marriage  
CHIRLA  
CLUE-Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice  
Colombia Peace Project  
Community Action Fund of Planned Parenthood of O&SBC  
Concerned Citizens of Laguna Woods Village  
Cool OC  
Council on American-Islamic Relations - Los Angeles (CAIR-LA)  
Decarcerate OC  
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. OC Alumnae Chapter  
Democratic Party of Orange County  
Democrats of North Orange County  
Faith In Action Ministry - Church of the Foothills (UCC&DOC)  
Freedom for Immigrants  
Global Hope 365  
GrassRoots Organizing - OC  
HEAAL - Health Equity for African Americans League  
Holy Angels Church  
Housing is a Human Right OC  
Humanist Association of OC  
IUCC Advocates for Peace and Justice & DEI Ministries  
League of Women Voters  
LGBTQ Center OC  
LULAC - Anaheim Council #2848  
MECCA - Multi-Ethnic Collaborative of Community Agencies  
Military Families Speak Out  
National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc., O.C. Chapter  
National Council of Negro Women, Orange County Section  
Newport Beach Women's Democratic Club  
OC Equality Coalition  
OC Friends Meeting (Quakers)  
OC Interfaith Committee to Aid Farmworkers  
OC Justice Fund  
OC May Day Collective  
OC National Organization for Women (NOW)  
OC Peace Coalition  
OC Rapid Response Network  
OC Women Lawyers Association  
Orange Coast Huddle  
Palestinian Christians for Justice  
Public School Defenders Hub  
Radiant Health Centers  
Santa Ana Educators Association  
South Asian Network  
South OC for All  
United Domestic Workers, Local 3930  
United Nations Association - USA, OC Chapter  
Veterans for Peace Chapter 110  
Women for American Values and Ethics (WAVE)  
Women's Journey Foundation  
Yalla Indivisible / Vote for Peace

**FREE REFRESHMENTS! FREE POSTAGE!**

**Parliamentarian**

**Dana Cox.** [dbcd49@gmail.com](mailto:dbcd49@gmail.com)

Stay tuned for updates to policies and procedures.

**Webmaster:**

**Tracey Clark** [ttermath@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ttermath@sbcglobal.net)

Our TSAO branch website is beginning to be updated.

Eventually it will contain our branch calendar, copies of the newsletter and more, take a look: <https://tustin-ca.aauw.net/>

**Interest Groups:**

If anyone would like to revive the **Games Group, Happy Hour, Movie Goers, Lunch Bunch, or Dining Out** groups - or start a new social group within the branch - Please let me know ([Lenore@lenoresimon.com](mailto:Lenore@lenoresimon.com)) and I will place your info in the newsletter!

**Morning Books:**

**Dana Cox** [dbcdb49@gmail.com](mailto:dbcdb49@gmail.com) & **Judy w. Ortiz** [judywortiz@gmail.com](mailto:judywortiz@gmail.com)

**Monday, April 14, 2025 - 9:30 am**

*Heaven & Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride

Reviewer: Sudha Warriar

Hostess: Dana Cox, 2402 Santiago ST., Santa Ana, CA 92706

**Upcoming in Morning Books:**

May 12 - *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* by Heather Morris

**Evening Books**

**Ann Nicholson** [arnicholson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:arnicholson@sbcglobal.net) & Jean Paris

**Wednesday April 16, 2025 - 1 pm**

April 16 - *Lady Tan's Circle of Women* by Lisa See

Reviewer: Mary Witten

Hostess: Valerie Fletcher, 14 Pauma Lane, Newport Beach 92660

**Upcoming in Evening Books:**

May 21 - *The Humans* by Matt Haig

June 18 - *Table for Two* by Amar Towles

**Urban Explorers**

**Robbin Burton** [OCRobbin@gmail.com](mailto:OCRobbin@gmail.com)

Watch for upcoming event in April or May...

**SAVE the DATE:**

**Saturday, March 29, 2025 - Great American Write-In: DELHI Center, 505 East Central Ave., Santa Ana 92707 - TSAO is participating as part of AAUW Orange County Inter-Branch Council.**

**Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>** "Culinary" fundraiser to benefit AAUW's Greatest Needs Fund, scheduled for see AAUW Fund above for details.

**Upcoming TSAO Branch Meeting Dates:**

**May 7** - at Aldersgate church, 1201 Irvine Blvd, Tustin 92780

**June** - no meeting. Officer Installation Dinner - Volunteers needed to organize!

**July** - no meeting

**August** - no meeting - Summer Social TBD

**Secretary**

**Cathy de Mayo.** [cathydemayo@gmail.com](mailto:cathydemayo@gmail.com)

**Celine Osborn** [celineosborn@gmail.com](mailto:celineosborn@gmail.com)

**Minutes: Tustin-Santa Ana-Orange – Board Meeting -**

**Feb. 5, 2025, at Aldersgate Church, Beckie Gomez, President**

Attendance: Tracey Clark, Tarry Goeden, Cathy de Mayo, Connie Smith, Judy Ortiz, Nancy Fidel, Lenore Simon, Mary Witten, Myra Radlow, Sylvia Borovay

Absent: Dana Cox, Beckie Gomez, Donna Sutton, Debbie Knox, Celine Osborn

Called to order at 5:06 pm

President's Report - Tarry Goeden filled in for Beckie Gomez.

Minutes: Approved

Treasurer's Report - Accepted;

Judy Ortiz noted that the expenses on Jan. 21 reflected membership dues paid to State and National.

Membership Report:

All branch members were accounted for in National's most recent records (103).

- Mary Witten moved and Lenore Simon seconded that we not raise TSAO Branch dues for 2025-26. Passed.
- The size, cost and location of our meeting room was discussed. Judy saw a potential rental space in Old Town Tustin at a similar cost that would include coffee and tea.

Programs Report -

Myra Radlow presented finalized speaker topics for March-May and is exploring topics for the coming branch year starting in September.

Lenore will email speaker bios/info to Tracey Clark to include on the website.

The Oct. 1 branch meeting will change to Oct. 8 to avoid conflicting with Yom Kippur.

AAUW Fund Report -

- Connie Smith has planned an AAUW Fund fundraiser with a charcuterie board demonstration Saturday, April 19 from 10:00 a.m.-noon. She is seeking a location.
- The Named Gift Committee will meet to select branch honoree(s).
- Connie is reviewing videos made by Fund Fellows/Grant Recipients and hopes to invite one to speak to our branch at a general meeting in the coming year.
- National reported that TSAO Branch raised \$6,435 for AAUW Fund in 2024.

Tech Trek: - Mary Witten passed a sign-up sheet for branch members willing to interview Tech Trek applicants March 25, 26 and April 3.



- Mary has scheduled a Tech Trek fundraiser “Spirit Night” in conjunction with Sycamore Academy on Tuesday, Feb. 25 from 3-8:00 p.m. at Chick-fil-A, 1701 N. Tustin Ave., Santa Ana. If those purchasing food show an event flyer (on paper or on phone), Tech Trek will receive 20% of the bill.

- Mary said \$2,111.97 has been raised to date for the 2025 Summer program, including monies from the Tustin Community Foundation grant. Cost is \$1,200 per camper.

Public Policy: Donna Sutton and Debbie Knox were unable to attend but delivered to Tarry handouts to be distributed at the general meeting on AAUW Public Policy news, a list of contact information on elected officials and an Action Plan for Wildfire Preparedness.

InterBranch Council: Mary reported that Interbranch Council will provide postcards for those attending the Great American Write-In March 29. Each branch will contribute to the cost.

Mary will bring a sign-up sheet to the March branch meeting soliciting volunteers to staff the AAUW table at the Write-In.

Communications: Newsletter and Website: Tracey has the branch website up and running at [tustin-ca.aauw.net](http://tustin-ca.aauw.net) and is in the process of refining it.

Nominating Committee: Judy is seeking volunteers to serve on the committee. Mary Witten volunteered.

**Old Business:** Tarry called for a vote to accept the edited version of the Branch Policies and Procedures as presented in the latest email. Passed.

Discussion of a tabletop sign was deferred.

**New Business:** Myra raised the question of speakers who wished to receive the branch newsletter and if that was advisable/permissible. It was suggested that the Membership Committee discuss the question.

- Judy asked current Board members to email her if they wished to continue in their Board positions.

- Tracey reminded members to sign up for the mandatory March 21 training session for Lobby Days.

Meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

#### **Treasurers:**

**Tarry Goeden** [tarrygoeden@yahoo.com](mailto:tarrygoeden@yahoo.com)

**Nancy Fidel** [justaskmom27@gmail.com](mailto:justaskmom27@gmail.com)

2/3/25	Beginning Balance					\$17,781.07
2/3/25	Rebecca Gomez	(\$150.00)	1510	Aldergate room rent- Jan/Feb		
2/3/25	Rebecca Gomez	(\$20.00)	1513	Great American Write-In		
2/19/25	<i>Rebecca Gomez</i>	(\$1,500.00)	1512	Tech Trek		
2/28/25	Deposit			Interest	\$0.06	
2/28/25	Ending Balance					\$16,111.13
	DEPOSITS					
	EXPENSES					

Next TSAO meeting: Wednesday April 2, 2025 @7pm at Aldersgate Church, 1201 Irvine Blvd, Tustin, 92780, between Red Hill and Newport. Doors open @6:30pm