



NEWSLETTER

Whittier, California

Volume 66 Issue 4

December 2011

Linking you to Branch activities and to each other



HOLIDAY LUNCHEON PROGRAM AND BOUTIQUE SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3RD

Share the start of the holiday season with AAUW friends on Saturday, December 3, 11:30 AM at the Radisson Hotel, 7320 So. Greenleaf, Whittier, featuring our holiday program and boutique. It will be a festive occasion with the La Serna High School Hilltoppers Chamber Choir under the direction of Dave Carter, performing holiday favorites and other numbers.

For this festive occasion a special menu of rib-eye steak, roasted red potatoes, vegetable medley, salad, rolls and pecan pie will be featured. The price of the luncheon is \$25. The luncheon will be served to us. Please make your reservations by November 29 at whittieraauwreserv@yahoo.com or call Carole Restovich at 562-696-0296. We hope you can bring others for this special occasion!

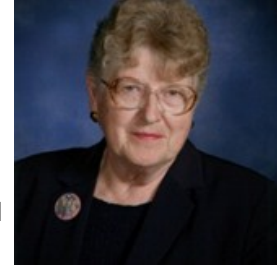
There will be many lovely items for sale. Do your Christmas shopping and purchase unique gifts for family and friends. It is still not too late to donate items. Just give a call so that there is space for everything, to Shirley Stewart, 562-944-4556 or shirleys.creations@verizon.net.

Math/Science Conference

The Wednesday, January 25 event at Whittier College is coming together very nicely. Volunteers are still needed to serve as moderators who introduce the speakers, and to serve in various other capacities. Volunteers should be available from 8:30 AM until 12:45 PM when the activities end and lunch for the speakers and volunteers will be served. This is our 19th Annual Math/Science Conference for Eighth Grade Girls, sponsored by our AAUW Branch. Call or e-mail Barbara Gile today at 562-693-7279 or barbaragile@me.com and volunteer to help with our very special Math/Science Conference.

Math/Science Team

President's Message By Sharon Heck



I was so fortunate to attend two wonderful events since my last message. On Saturday, October 29 Dolores Seidman and I traveled to Costa Mesa for the AAUW Southern California Fellows' Luncheon. Fellows are women who receive grants and scholarships from AAUW. Hundreds of women apply for American Fellowships, International Fellowships, Career Development Grants, Selected Professions Fellowships and Community Action Grants. During the 2011-12 school year there are 42 AAUW Funds Fellows and Grant Recipients who are studying at California colleges and universities or doing projects in our communities. We heard five-minute presentations from 11 of these Fellows and discovered all were beautiful, bright young women who are trying to make a difference in the world. It was brilliant and very inspiring. Our financial support of the AAUW Funds is crucial to the continuing of this program.

The 130th anniversary of the founding of the National AAUW organization was on November 28. On Saturday, November 5 we celebrated this birthday with several other branches at the beautiful Almansor Court in Alhambra. Former California AAUW President Kathleen Cha, who is now an AAUW National Director, presented a marvelous history of AAUW and the years since the founding. She used a Power Point presentation and a variety of speakers. She told us the AAUW dues doubled at one point from 10 cents to 20 cents! It was a wonderful gathering and very enlightening. I was happy that our Branch was very well represented. Plan to attend our wonderful Saturday, December 3rd Christmas luncheon, program and boutique at the Radisson. I hope to see everyone there.

Board Meetings

The next Board meeting will be held at St. Matthias Church, 7056 Washington Ave., Whittier, on **Tuesday, Nov. 29 at 7 PM.** Parking is on the street or off Wardman behind the church. Use the entrance on Wardman. Every member is welcome to attend the Board meetings. If you would like more information, please call Sharon Heck at 562-698-0476.

AAUW Funds

Giving gifts to AAUW Funds is the best way to provide support to AAUW. Remember that all gifts you give are tax-deductible and that there are two ways to contribute. You can send your check to me and I'll forward it for you or you can contribute directly online. If you choose the latter, please let me know.

The programs supported by AAUW Funds include The Educational Opportunities Fund, which supports educational and lifelong learning opportunities for women; the Public Policy Fund supports advocacy for public policies and laws that are fair to women; and the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund supports research to provide analysis, data and information about issues such as women and girls in science and technology, equal opportunities in athletic programs and equal pay.

We will be able to honor a member for service to our Branch. based on the amount donated to AAUW Funds. December 1st is the end of the fundraising period for this year, so if you have plans to make a donation, please do it before Dec. 1st.

Peggy Fretz, AAUW Funds V-P

Positive Past Presidents

PPP's will celebrate the holidays with a catered dinner, price not yet known, on Thursday, Dec. 15 at 6 PM at Sue Turco's, 5401 Magnolia, Whittier. All members are welcome. Make reservations with Cindy Birt at cindybirt@roadrunner.com or 562-697-7520 by Monday, Dec. 12. More details at the Dec. 3rd Branch meeting.

Cindy Birt, Chair

First Friday

December 2, 6-8 PM, at Gwen and Mahlon Woirhaye's house, 5810 Friends, Whittier, 562-696-6405.
Directions: One block west of Painter, one block north of Beverly Blvd.

International Concerns

International Concerns will not meet in December.

On Tuesday, Jan. 31 International Concerns Section will meet at the home of Barbara Gile to review three documentaries on women. A potluck lunch and discussion will follow the program. The Great Discussions book will be available for 2012 at a cost of \$20. Barbara's address is 14035 Eastridge, Whittier.

For further information please contact Maurine Behrens, 562-695-8436.

Maurine Behrens, Chair

NEWS FROM AAUW CALIFORNIA— PUBLIC POLICY

The Public Policy program underscores AAUW's mission of advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research and speaks to women's needs, aspirations and concerns across the life span. The work of AAUW builds upon more than 130 years of responsible public participation.

The 2011-2013 Action Priorities include: To support a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity and diversity; To achieve economic self-sufficiency for all women; and To guarantee equality, individual rights and social justice for a diverse society. There are a great many action steps included to fulfill each of these priorities. These Public Policy priorities were adopted at the June 2011 AAUW National Convention.

How can these priorities be carried out in our Branch? Each of us can become an advocate with our elected officials. If you have a computer, go online to AAUW.org. There are several Public Policy items on the main AAUW page you will reach. One of them is "Two Minute Activist." When you click on this there will be at least one topic to write about. Strengthening Social Security is a current topic. Follow the directions and an e-mail will be sent to one of your elected officials. It is very simple and very important. Our letters do make a difference. For those without computers, a mailed letter on the topics found in our magazines is also important and powerful. BE AN ADVOCATE!

Sharon Heck

Membership

Good news! We are now at 150 members. We still have a long, long way to go. We need 20 (TWENTY) more members to reach our goal. Our two newest members are: Naomi Hill and Lily Munson. Naomi lives at 2352 Sunrise Circle, La Verne 91750. Her telephone number is 909-596-8123 and cell phone number is 909-519-7669. Lily lives at 5626 Vista Del Valle, Anaheim Hills 92807. Her phone number is 626-354-3883. Her e-mail address is lilyhmunson@gmail.com. Lily was sponsored by Louise Holden and Naomi was a member-at-large. We welcome them both to Whittier AAUW.

Our Christmas meeting is Dec. 3. Please try to invite one or more potential members to this meeting. We

need twenty more members to reach the goal of 170 by March 31. Let's add many more names to our membership. Let's share our goals and our mission with all our friends and family. As usual, we have a few corrections and/or updates for e-mail addresses. Linda Gatons, LLgatons@aol.com, LaVonne Sherman, loveysherman@gmail.com, and Maurine Behrens, maurineb90601@gmail.com.

As always, you can reach membership at the following numbers: Yvette Rawlinson at 562-698-6867, Sandra Bridges at 562-697-7427 or abrid848@aol.com, or Joyce Paul at 909-620-1202 or joycem.paul@yahoo.com.

WALKERS

THURSDAYS AT 9 AM

- | | |
|---------|--|
| Dec. 1 | La Mirada Creek Park
Meet in parking lot off Santa Gertrudes |
| Dec. 8 | Greenway Walking Trail
Meet at Laurel and Lambert |
| Dec. 15 | Uptown Neighborhood-Holiday decorations
Meet at Central Park on Washington Ave. |
| Dec. 22 | No walking
Everyone is busy getting ready for the holidays |
| Dec 29 | Parnell Park
Meet in the parking lot off Lambert |

Shirley Stewart 562-944-4556 shirleys.creations@verizon.net

Saturday Night Bridge

Saturday night bridge will be December 3. Please call Mary Ellen Mead, 562-693-6482, for details.

AAUW California Fellows Luncheon

On October 29 President Sharon Heck and Program VP Dolores Seidman attended the Southern California Fellows Luncheon in Costa Mesa. This event was inspirational, giving us an opportunity to hear from 11 of the “Fellows” reporting on their academic work and the path that led them there. Each emphasized her gratitude to AAUW for its support, which often was the reason she was able to complete her graduate degree. Since over 3,500 applicants apply for this distinction and only 240 awardees are chosen, we are fortunate to have 42 of these recipients in California.

In the past the Whittier Branch of AAUW has supported several fellowships through Branch fundraising. Now individual members are asked to contribute directly to this important part of AAUW’s mission.

We will be fortunate at our January 14th Branch meeting to hear from one of the past fellowship awardees, Karen Taylor, of Write Girls. Details will be in the next newsletter.

Dolores Seidman, Program VP

Modern Trends in Literature

Modern Trends does not meet in December. The next meeting will be on Thursday, Jan. 26. We will discuss Mockingbird: A Portrait of Harper Lee by Charles J. Shields.

Kristine Yeseta, Chair, 562-696-0226

Morning Book

There will be no meeting in December. The upcoming book discussions are: Jan. 23, The Warmth of Other Suns by Isabel Wilkerson; and Feb. 27, Cutting for Stone by Abraham Verghese. Look for details in January’s newsletter.

Ann Topjon, Chair, 562-695-6185

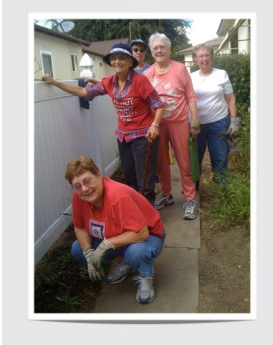
Mystery Mavens

There will be no meeting in December.

Carol K. Anderson, Chair, 562-943-0728

Gardening Section

The Gardening Section is scheduled to meet the first Tuesday of each month at 1 PM unless we have made other arrangements. There are no requirements for membership except an interest in plants and a commitment to be an active member.



Tuesday, December 6 at **12 noon** is a potluck lunch and next year's planning session in the home of Margot Kamens. Please phone to say what you will bring - 562-699-6898.

The 2012-13 year will be filled with sharing tips, resources, cuttings, and field trips to the gardens of Southern California. Plan to join us Tuesday, January 3, to visit the Rose Parade floats.

For more information please contact:

Barbara Gile whittieraauw@me.com or call 562-693-7279

THE NEW PHOENIX

The New Phoenix group will be meeting Sat., Dec. 10 for a holiday get together. We will be attending the Chorale Bel Canto presentation at 4 PM and enjoying dinner together at the Bailey Street Kitchen, 13010 Bailey, Whittier, following the performance. Please call Colleen Tan for tickets, 562-698-4934. Make your dinner reservation with Colleen by Thurs., Dec 8. If you can only come for the dinner, that is OK. The New Phoenix is a group of single women who get together to support one another as needed. We have a great time together. Sooooo, if you are a single woman, please join us, and have fun.

Colleen Tan, Chair, 562-698-4934

A HIGHLIGHT FROM THE 2011 AAUW NATIONAL CONVENTION

by Sharon Heck

With the release of AAUW's new research report, [Crossing the Line: Sexual Harassment at School](#), I was reminded of an excellent panel discussion on this topic at the convention in Washington, D.C. in June. Five experts shared their experiences working on bullying, sexual harassment and violence against women.

One panelist was a man who is executive director of a program titled: "Men Can Stop Rape". One woman stated that obesity is the number one reason for bullying in middle schools. She also spoke of the bullying of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) youth and the depression and low self-esteem that it causes.

The panel created concrete takeaways on bullying. 1) Each school needs a well written policy with accountability for staff, students and parents. The person who does attendance should be trained to ask, "Is there something I need to know about?" 2) Teach the entire staff to be caring adults. 3) Help adults not to use sarcasm. 4) Include "proper behavior" in the curriculum. 5) Student involvement is essential as they are the most powerful advocates. 6) If you are interested as a teacher in the child, the teacher could be a bridge to someone who can help. 7) Teach cyber civility. (Cyber bullying is a serious problem.) 8) Teach ourselves about social media.

I believe all of our members should become familiar with the new AAUW research report on sexual harassment, and encourage its use in grades 7 - 12 of our schools.

AAUW WHITTIER BRANCH CALENDAR DECEMBER 2011

DAY	DATE	TIME	MEETING PLACE
Tuesday	<u>Nov. 29</u>	7 PM	Board Meeting, St. Matthias
Thursday	1	9 AM	Walkers, La Mirada Creek Park
Friday	2	6-8 PM	First Friday, Gwen and Mahlon Woirhaye's
Saturday	3	11:30 AM	HOLIDAY LUNCHEON, PROGRAM, BOUTIQUE Radisson Hotel, Whittier
		7 PM	Saturday Night Bridge, contact Mary Ellen Mead
Tuesday	6	12 NOON	Gardening Section potluck, Margot Kamens'
Thursday	8	9 AM	Walkers Section, Greenway Walking Trail
Saturday	10	4 PM	New Phoenix Section, Holiday get together
Thursday	15	9 AM 6 PM	Walkers Section, Uptown Neighborhood PPP's catered dinner, Sue Turco's
Newsletter Deadline			
Thursday	22	9 AM	No Walkers Section due to holiday
Sunday	25		Christmas Day
Thursday	29	9 AM	Walkers Section, Parnell Park

January 2012

Sunday	1		New Year's Day
Tuesday	3		Gardening Section, Rose Parade Floats
Wednesday	25		Math/Science Conference, Eighth Grade Girls, Whittier College



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DATED MATERIAL

WE ARE ON THE WEB

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About AAUW

MISSION STATEMENT: AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

The American Association of University Women (AAUW), founded in 1881, is the nation's leading organization advocating equity for women and girls. Its national membership of 100,000 seeks to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research. People of every race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin and level of physical ability are invited to join.

AAUW California was launched in San Francisco in 1886 and began lobbying immediately. It remains the state's most active and diverse organization for women with 14,000 members in more than 150 branches, plus 6,000 members-at-large.

The **AAUW FUND (formerly known as the Educational Foundation)** supports women scholars around the globe, local teachers and activists. Its first research project in 1885 dispelled the notion that higher education is detrimental to women's health. It funds:

- * Fellowships and Grants
- * Special Awards
- * Symposia, Roundtables and Forums

The AAUW FUND is now engaged in cutting-edge research such as the widely publicized 2008 report *Where the Girls Are: The Facts About Gender Equity in Education*. The latest published research is *Why So Few? Women and Girls in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics*.

AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) is now part of the AAUW Fund.

This arm of AAUW combats sex discrimination in higher education and the workplace through community and campus outreach programs, a resource library, online advocacy tools and various research report opportunities for education and discussion on topics of equity, discrimination and tenure at California universities and colleges.

AAUW also encourages women to become involved at every level of the political process. We actively support legislation on educational equity and diversity in public schools, pay equity, reproductive choice, childcare, school-based health care, civil rights and responsible funding for public education.

To further its objectives AAUW has established the Women's Network for Change, a coalition of organizations working together to effect change.