



Whittier, California

# NEWSLETTER

Volume 65 Issue 6

January 2011

Linking you to Branch activities and to each other

## "Beatrix Potter" to Speak to Whittier Branch Saturday, January 8



Members and guests of the Greater Whittier Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) will "meet Beatrix Potter," English author and illustrator of children's books, at 11:30 AM on Saturday, January 8, at the Radisson Hotel, 7320 So. Greenleaf Ave., Whittier, when Judith Helton will present her one-woman show in which she dresses in a re-creation of Potter's 1913 wedding gown and adopts a British accent to portray the famed author of "The Tale of Peter Rabbit." Reservations for the program and buffet luncheon, which includes roast chicken and apple pie at \$18, must be made by January 7 to Susan Halliday by phone at 562-696-7395. Her e-mail address is [WhittierAAUWreserv@yahoo.com](mailto:WhittierAAUWreserv@yahoo.com).

Anyone cancelling after that date will be charged for the meal.

The American Association of University Women is open to all women with a college/university degree or an AA degree from an accredited community college. Those interested in attending are welcome to make reservations .

We hope to see you there! It should be a fun and informative program!

## Math/ Science Conference News

Marian Locke

I had my keynote speaker cancel and I am working on a replacement. Rio Hondo College just informed me that the president is not allowing any outside groups because of construction. They are making an exception for our conference, but we will have to pay \$1900 for personnel costs. I am contesting this last-minute expense as I arranged for the free facility last summer. Presently I have 19 speakers and I am calling those who have not responded. I am pleased with obtaining new this year Mickie Feicht, Disneyland Project Scheduler; Dr. Caitlin Reed, L.A. County Public Health, who will share the dangers of the drug Ecstasy at the rave dances; and Dr. Jodie Holt, UCR Prof. of Botany, who was a consultant on plants in the film *Avatar*. Many of the outstanding former speakers are returning.

The following women are working on our Friday, February 25 conference:

Middle School Liaison: Ellen Larson, Jill Smith

Teacher Check-in Table: Yvette Rawlinson, Phoemie Aghili, Sue Turco

Seat Students: Ellen Larson, Gwen Woirhaye

Treasurer & Speaker/Hostesses Check-in Table: Jill Smith, Kaye Kidwell, Linda Gatons

Workshop Computer Choices: Susan Halliday

Student Registration Sorting at Marian's home: Marian Locke, Dolores Seidman, Harriet Kittle, Ann Topjon, Marge Bates

Nametags/ Reserve Speaker: Kaye Kidwell

Signs: Marge Bates

Nurse: Ellen Paik

Food (7): Carol K. Anderson, Peggy Burlingham, Virginia Kite

Hostesses (15) Beth Greulich, Carole Restovich, Louise Holden, Kelly Collazo, Sharon Heck, Dolores Seidman, Barbara Gile, Peggy Fretz, Carol Black, Joyce Paul, Peggy Kiefer, Carol Shupek, Judy Flanders, Myra Weiss, Janice Geiger

Alternates (3) Jacqueline Brearley, Lovey Sherman

Insurance/Conference Supplies/ Donations/Speakers/Brochure: Marian

Packet Assembly: Beth Greulich, Louise Holden, Shirley A. Stewart, Phyllis Thompson, Linda Chitwood, Peggy Fretz, Gen'nel Walters, Terry Kirker, Sally Schmidt, Linda Gatons, Linda Pomeroy

Student Guides: (5) Rio Hondo Ambassadors, Norma Matamoroz,

Publicity: Margot Kamens, Marian

The dates for events are as follows:

Middle School Teacher Meeting/Distribute Brochure- January 12

Workshop Choices/Money Returned- Jan. 26

Registration Sorting at Marian's- February 9, 9:15 AM

Packet Party at Barbara Gile's home- February 17

Marian Locke, chair, 626-336-3430 univminn57@yahoo.com

## *From the President*



### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Happy New Year to all. I hope 2011 will bring all of you good health and happiness.

We have great programs planned for the rest of the Branch year. All meetings will be at the Radisson Hotel. What better way to spend a few hours once a month than with good food, good friends and great programs!

Make one of your New Year's resolutions---to attend more AAUW meetings. Meetings are on January 8, March 12, April 16, May 14 and June 11.

Some of our upcoming programs are Beatrix Potter portrayal, Las Distinguidas and Recognition and Awards. So mark your calendars.

A special thanks to all our members who support our Branch.

Nominating Committee will be working this month to fill the offices for our 2011-2012 Branch year. If you are interested in an office, please let me know. When you are called, please consider accepting a position. When we all do our share, the load is light for all.

Our Holiday Boutique/Silent Auction was a great success. We made approximately \$1,100 for our Scholarship Fund. Thanks to all who contributed and those who purchased our lovely items. Thanks again.

*Shirley Ann Stewart*

### **SAVE THE DATES**

All AAUW Branch board meetings will be held at St. Matthias Church at 7056 Washington Ave., Whittier, on the first Tuesday of the month at 7 PM.

2011

January 4      April 5

February 1    May 3

March 1        June 7

Roseanne Seitz had a stroke on December 10, and yet she still contributed to our Boutique!

This is a change in the meeting time and place for More Than Words.

**More Than Words**

Wednesday, January 19

1:30 PM

*Prisoner of Tehran* by Marina Nemat

Reviewer - Marian Locke

Nemat tells of her harrowing experiences as a young Iranian girl at the start of the Islamic revolution. In January 1982, the 16-year-old student activist was arrested, jailed in Tehran's infamous Evin prison, tortured and sentenced to death. Ali, one of her interrogators, intervened moments before her execution, having used family connections with Ayatollah Khomeini himself to reduce her sentence to life in prison. The price: she would convert to Islam (she was Christian) and marry him, or he would see to it that her family and her boyfriend, Andre, were jailed or even killed. She remained a political prisoner for two years. Nemat's engaging memoir is rich with complex characters—loved ones lost on both sides of this bloody conflict. Ali, the man who rapes and subjugates her, also saves her life several times—he is assassinated by his own subordinates. His family embraces Nemat with more affection and acceptance than her own, even fighting for her release after his death. Nemat returns home to feel a stranger: "They were terrified of the pain and horror of my past," she writes. She buries her memories for years, eventually escaping to Canada to begin a new life with Andre. Nemat offers her arresting, heartbreaking story of forgiveness, hope and enduring love—a voice for the untold scores silenced by Iran's revolution.

We will meet at Marian Locke's home, 15555 La Monde St., Hacienda Heights, 626-336-3430. From Hacienda Blvd. turn left (west) on Tetley Dr. and right (north) on Joan Dr. The house is on the corner of a cul-de-sac.

All AAUW members are invited to attend this non-fiction book group.

## *LA CUISINE*

Happy New Year, Gourmands!

Be watching your e-mail for your personal invitations in early January or call me for your choice of menu for our January 22 dinner at Whittier's own Vintage Cafe. You will need to respond by snail mail at least a week before the event with your choices and check for \$58 per person. Delicious dinners have been promised by the Cafe's chef. Get your reservations in early: two couples have already responded!

Carol Shupek, chair, 562-945-4931

## MORNING BOOK

No meeting in January. We will meet Monday, February 28 at the home of Harriet Kittle. Ann Topjon will lead the discussion of *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* by Jamie Ford.

April 25 - *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett.

June 6 - *Shanghai Girls* by Lisa See

At our February meeting we will be giving book suggestions for the 2011-2012 reading list. Please e-mail suggestions to [billjangeiger@yahoo.com](mailto:billjangeiger@yahoo.com) or bring to the meeting.

Janice Geiger, chair, 562-695-9971

## Saturday Night Bridge

**Saturday, January 29, 7 PM at the home of Mary Ellen and Orin Mead, 8335 Catalina St. From Whittier Blvd. turn N on Catalina through La Cuarta St., 3 doors up from the corner on the W side. Call Mary Ellen Mead, 562-693-6482, for reservations by Wednesday, January 26.**

## Modern Trends

Join us Thursday, January 27, 7 PM

Home of Ruth White, 12118 Maple St., Whittier.

From Beverly Blvd. north on Citrus as it becomes Beverly Dr., left on Gregory, right on Maple St.

Co-hostess Cathy Martin

### **Please note change in book**

In January we will read *The Book Thief* and we will read *The Secret Life of Emily Dickinson* in March. *The Secret Life* is due out in paperback in February.

***The Book Thief*** is the New York Times bestseller by Australian author Marcus Zusak. Set in Nazi Germany, the story is told from the point of view of **DEATH**. The novel describes a young girl's relationship with her foster parents, the other residents of the neighborhood and a Jewish fist-fighter who hides in her home. Themes we will explore: the value of literature and words, guilt and the duality of humanity.

Any questions? Kristine Yeseta, chair, 562-696-0226 [surfzena@earthlink.net](mailto:surfzena@earthlink.net)

## Public Policy

### LEGISLATION NEEDED TO CREATE PAID SICK DAYS

Sharon Heck

AAUW believes that creating work environments that help employees balance the responsibilities of work and family is good public policy – good for workers, good for families and good for business. AAUW supports “greater availability of and access to benefits and policies that promote work-life balance,” which are critical for women for “equitable access and advancement in employment.”

Despite the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) and a patchwork of state laws and employer-based benefits – many of which AAUW members helped to pass – family and personal sick leave remain elusive to many working Americans. In addition, despite the relative wealth of the United States, family oriented workplace policies in this country lag dramatically behind those in much of the rest of the world, including all high-income countries and many middle-income and low-income countries as well.

While American workplace policies have lagged, the past 50 years have seen substantial changes in the composition of the American workforce. Two-thirds (64 percent) of women with children under six-years-of-age are in the labor force. Nationwide, 22.9 million families provide care for an adult family member or friend, and nearly 80 percent of those care recipients are over the age of 50.

More than 22 million working women do not have paid sick days. Eighty percent of the time, it is mothers who assume the primary responsibility for selecting their children’s doctors, taking the children to doctor’s appointments, and arranging for their children’s follow-up care. In light of this, 40 percent of working women do not have sick or vacation leave and 53 percent cannot take time off to care for sick children. Providing paid sick leave is a public health initiative that reduces “presenteeism.” (i.e., always being present at work even when not productive or posing a health risk to others), promotes preventative care, reduces the spread of contagious disease, and creates healthier families.

AAUW has prepared a [Paid Sick Days Resource Kit](#) which is available online and can be downloaded to your computers. It is full of information for taking action on this issue. Go to [AAUW.org](http://AAUW.org) and click on ACT. You will see many issues on that page. Click on Paid Sick Days and you will find the Resource Kit. We need to take action on this important issue with our elected officials in Washington D.C.

### *First Friday*

First Friday is January 7 from 6 PM to 8 PM at the home of Peter and Brenda Jahn, 1339 N. Padonia Ave., Whittier. Directions: Whittier Blvd to Macy St; north to Janine Dr., right (east) to Solejar; left (north) to Villa Rita; right (east) to Padonia; left to 1339 in the cul-de-sac.

### **International Concerns**

International Concerns will meet at 10 AM on Tuesday, January 18, at Ellen Larson's home, Whittier Beverly Park, 12031 Beverly Blvd. #2D, Whittier. The topic for discussion is "Enhancing security through peacebuilding". Remember to bring your checkbook or money (approximately \$20) to pay for "Great Decisions 2011."

Contact: Maurine Behrens at 562-695-8436 or [maurineb@verizon.net](mailto:maurineb@verizon.net).

**Mystery Mavens** Wednesday, January 19 6:30 PM *The Alehouse Murders* by Maureen Ash

Reviewer: Sharon Heck

This is the first novel in the Templar Knight series and features Bascot de Marins, recently returned from the Crusades. The physically depleted knight looks to re-build himself, body and soul, following a grueling captivity by the Saracens. He settles in Lincoln in the year 1200 and mid-summer activities are in full bloom. Alas, four bodies are found in a local alehouse and with complications, ever-spiraling associations and other avenues which Bascot must pursue, the book takes off with a rapid pace. Ash has complete control of the plot development, never leaving the reader confused. Bascot is an interesting man and Ash gives us a good foundation for him and his character, noble, sensitive and intelligent. Meet at Marie Callender's restaurant at 9829 So. La Serna Dr., Whittier, near Whittier Blvd., in the Library Room.

Carol K. Anderson, chair 562-943-0728

Please consult our style sheet and follow it when preparing your newsletter article. You will save us both a great deal of tedious, time-consuming work.

If you do not have a style sheet, we'll send you one. Thank you.

Ginny 562-777-4343 [gholly47@msn.com](mailto:gholly47@msn.com) Margot 562-699-6898

## **Membership**

Joyce Paul, Yvette Rawlinson and Sandy Bridges

We have another new member. His name is Orin Mead. Orin is the husband of current member, Mary Ellen Mead, and she is his sponsor. Welcome to Orin. His information is the same as Mary Ellen's: 8335 Catalina Ave., Whittier, CA 90602. Phone is 562-693-6482 and e-mail: maryellen.mead@gmail.com. Orin's membership takes us to a total of 146. We need only four more members to reach our goal of 150. We are so very close, but the membership drive will soon come to a close for this year.

Our sincere apologies are extended to Joann Sarachman. We do not know what happened, but mistakes do happen and one was made. Somehow Joann was not listed in this year's directory. Her membership was paid before the deadline date, but she was not listed. Here is her information: 6211 Bright Ave., Whittier, CA 90601. Phone is 562-698-7152. We do apologize.

As we visit with our friends and relatives over the holidays, let's remember to invite them to join AAUW. The important people in our lives will share our goals and our mission. The next meeting is January 8 and hopefully by then we can announce another new member or two, or three or maybe even four. We are that close.

You may contact us at:

Yvette Rawlinson, 562-698-6867

Sandy Bridges, 562-697-7427 or [abrid848@aol.com](mailto:abrid848@aol.com)

Joyce Paul, 909-620-1202 or [joycem.paul@yahoo.com](mailto:joycem.paul@yahoo.com)

Heartfelt sympathy is extended to our member Sue Turco on the loss of her husband John in November after almost 50 years of marriage.



## Gardening Section

The Gardening Section is starting 2011 with an ambitious adventure. We will be traveling to Pasadena on Sunday morning January 2, at 7 AM to view the Rose Parade floats at Sierra Madre and Washington Blvds.

The Showcase of Floats is a unique opportunity for us to step up close and see for ourselves the majestic beauty and splendor of the floral floats. We will walk about 2.5 miles for about two hours for this breath-taking display and don't forget your camera and water bottle.

A revised documentary on the making of a float sponsored by Bayer Advanced will be shown throughout the day in the 1600-seat auditorium adjacent to the Showcase lot. Admission to the updated film is free with admission to Post Parade.

We are able to walk within a few feet of the floats and appreciate the creativity and the imagination of the floral displays. The Rose Parade floats have been a Pasadena tradition for over 100 years. Docents will be on hand to answer our questions. The cost is \$10 admission. We are leaving early so we can find a parking lot close to the floats and enter with the senior citizens. Everyone is welcome to come with us or on your own.

If you are interested please contact me by noon on December 31.

Barbara Gile, chair

Phone 562-693-7279, or e-mail [barbaragile@me.com](mailto:barbaragile@me.com)

## *MEMORIES*

The Memories Section is starting the sixth year of writing for our own enjoyment and future generations. It is never too late to start jotting down those rare, funny, heart-warming thoughts you want to share with your friends and family. There is no judgment on style or context. Everyone is welcome even if you have not written a thought or memory. We just have fun!

The next meeting is Wednesday, January 26, at 1: 30 PM at the home of Barbara Gile. After all the feasting and holidays it is suggested that we record some of our memories of these wonderful times, or what I did last year.

Directions: 14035 Eastridge Drive is one block north of Mar Vista St. on the north-east corner of Eastridge Dr. and Vale Dr. From Colima Rd. go west on Mar Vista St., three streets after the signal light at Michigan turn right on Vale Dr. Park on Vale and enter by the back door.. From Painter St. go East on Mar Vista St., three streets after the signal light at College Ave. turn left on Vale Dr., park on Vale and enter by the back door. **The garage will be open for those who need access to the house without walking the hill.**

For more information contact Colleen Tan, chair, 562-698-4934.

Please join us for one meeting or all the meetings in 2011.

## **Walkers, January**

Start 2011 by walking with the AAUW Walker's Section. We will be visiting some old favorites and exploring new venues. The first step is to request a copy of the walking schedule for the next six months by e-mail or phone. The Walking Section has three goals:

1. Walk one hour every week
2. Visit Whittier Art in Public Places
3. Increase health, circulation and friendships

06 Thursday La Mirada Creek Park 9 AM Meet in parking lot off of Santa Gertrudes Ave.

13 Thursday Whittwood Town Center Walking Trail 9 AM Meet in parking lot by Panera Bakery

20 Thursday Pat Nixon Fountain Friendly Hills 9 AM Park on Las Paredes Drive behind the fountain

27 Thursday Turnbull Canyon 9 AM Park on Beverly Blvd. just before the road narrows

*Barbara Gile* , 562-693-7279

barbaragile@me.com

## STITCH AND BITCH

This group is open to anyone who would like to do something creative and enjoys being around other people and interacting while they work on “whatever”. Please give us a try even if you are not sure.

Our January 2011 meeting will be at Mary Ellen Mead’s home on the 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Her address is 8335 Catalina Ave., Whittier. The Road to California Quilt Show is at the Ontario Convention Center January 20-23. It is a wonderful show if you are interested.

The newsletter is my communication with you. I am not able to send all kinds of reminder e-mails so please put the information on your calendar and contact me if you have questions. Thank you.

Let me know of your interest at 562-693-1964 or [nankindness@verizon.net](mailto:nankindness@verizon.net).

Nancy Kindness

## DISCOVER

On January 15 Discover will take a road trip to The Drum Barracks Civil War Museum in Wilmington. The Civil War is a pivotal event in the history of the United States and California played an important role. Come with us and find out about this piece of history. We will leave my house at 10 AM to be there in time for their tour at 11:30 AM. Afterward we will probably wander to other places in the area and have lunch to be back by mid-afternoon. I am at 12804 Rose Dr. in Whittier.

The newsletter is my communication with you. I am not able to send all kinds of reminder e-mails so please let me know and put it on your calendar. Thank you.

Let me know if you think you are coming at 562-693-1964 or [nankindness@verizon.net](mailto:nankindness@verizon.net).

Nancy Kindness

## PPP

There will not be a meeting in January but please watch the newsletter for our annual Chinese New Year celebration. We will be going to the Oriental Chinese Restaurant in La Habra on February 9.

The newsletter is my communication with you. I am not able to send reminder e-mails so please put the information on your calendar and contact me if you have questions.

Make a reservation with me at 562-693-1964 or [nankindness@verizon.net](mailto:nankindness@verizon.net). Nancy Kindness

## AAUW WHITTIER BRANCH CALENDAR FOR JANUARY 2011

DAY	DATE	TIME	MEETING PLACE
Saturday	1		Happy New Year
Sunday	2	7AM	Section- Gardening- Rose Parade floats
Tuesday	4	7 PM	Whittier Branch Board Meeting @ St. Matthias
Thursday	6	9AM	Section- Walkers La Mirada Creek Park
Friday	7	6-8 PM	First Friday– Brenda and Peter Jahn’s home
Saturday	8	11:30 AM	Whittier Branch Meeting Radisson Hotel
Thursday	13	9 AM	Section-Walkers- Whittwood Town Center
Saturday	15	10 AM	Section– Discover– Nancy Kindness’ home to visit Wilmington Civil War Museum
		Midnight	Deadline for February 2011 Newsletter
Tuesday	18	10 AM	Section-International Concerns, Ellen Larson’s home
Wednesday	19	1:30 PM	Section-More Than Words- Marian Locke’s home
		6:30 PM	Section-Mystery Mavens- Marie Callender’s
Thursday	20	9 AM	Section-Walkers- Pat Nixon Fountain
Saturday	22	6:30 PM	Section-La Cuisine -Vintage Café
Monday	24	6:30 PM	LACIC-Downey Library
Tuesday	25	6:30 PM	Section– Stitch and Bitch– Mary Ellen Mead’s home
Wednesday	26	1:30 PM	Section- Memories- Barbara Gile’s home
Thursday	27	9 AM	Section-Walkers- Turnbull Canyon
Thursday	27	7PM	Section-Modern Trends in Literature -Ruth White’s home
Saturday	29	7:00 PM	Section-Saturday Night Bridge - Mary Ellen Mead’s home

**Friday February 25 MATH/SCIENCE CONFERENCE, Rio Hondo College**



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**DATED MATERIAL**

**WE ARE ON THE WEB**

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Address  
City, CA Zip

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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.