



# NEWSLETTER

Whittier, California

Volume 66 Issue 6

February 2012

Linking you to Branch activities and to each other

## Whittier Branch AAUW

### Winter Social/Membership Drive

*The date is Friday, February 3 -- from 5:30-9 PM*

*The cost: \$10 per person----guests/potential new members will not be charged--they are our guests for the evening!*

*The place: East Whittier Woman's Improvement Club at 14148 East Second Street in Whittier----it is at the corner of Second and California--plenty of street parking is available.*

*RSVP: Yvette Rawlinson at 562-698-6867 or Joyce Paul at 909-620-1202 [joycem.paul@yahoo.com](mailto:joycem.paul@yahoo.com).*

*It is essential that you RSVP by February 1 and please provide the names of your potential new members. Whether you have a potential new member/guest or not, please plan to attend. You will meet other new guests/potential members and old friends.*

*It will be fun. Lots of food and drinks. Do not miss it. See you there. Call or e-mail your RSVP right now! Do not delay. Make your reservation today.*

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE** by Sharon Heck

All who attended our January 14 meeting at the Radisson were treated to a wonderful lunch and a terrific program. The lunch of Chinese food was an early Chinese New Year celebration, and was very yummy. Keren Taylor of WriteGirl was a true delight. Her nonprofit was a recipient of a Community Action Grant from AAUW and is an excellent example of the good work that is done with our donations to the AAUW Funds.



Keren explained how her 11-year-old WriteGirl nonprofit works. Professional writers are matched with high school girls for mentoring in writing. They presently have 70 women working with 70 girls from low income area schools, and were named the California Nonprofit of the Year by former First Lady of California, Maria Shriver. WriteGirl has a 100 percent achievement rating of having their students go to college. Each year the girls' writing is printed in a book and sold. Intensity is the book for this year, and it won 1st prize in the London Book Awards. I bought this 10th anthology of their writing and at first glance, it is most interesting.

As I am writing this, the final planning of the January 25 Math/Science Conference for Eighth Grade Girls is being completed. I will give you a complete report on that event in our next newsletter.

Our only activity for February will be a Winter Social/Membership Drive on Friday, February 3, at the East Whittier Women's Improvement Club. Our terrific membership committee has put this event together for us, and I hope you all plan to attend. The cost is \$10 for members, and your guests are free. Bring someone who might like to join. There is a big reduction in the joining fee, as our new year begins on June 1. Look for further information on this event in this newsletter. Hope to see all of you at the Winter Social.

## **Board Meetings**

The next Board meeting will be held at St. Matthias Church, 7056 Washington Ave., Whittier, on Tuesday, February 7 at 7 PM. Parking is on the street or off Wardman behind the church. Use the entrance on Wardman.

## **Positive Past Presidents**

PPP's invite you to circle your calendar for the celebration of the Chinese Year of the Dragon, Monday, February 6 at 6 PM at the Silver Palace, 15326 Whittier Blvd. The cost is \$20, including tax and tip. **IF YOU HAVE NOT DONE SO, MAKE YOUR RESERVATION NOW.**



Colleen Tan, Chair, 562-698-4934



**AAUW  
Greater Whittier Branch  
Las Distinguidas Award Nominating Form**

Name of Nominee \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Name and title of person completing form \_\_\_\_\_  
Nominating Group \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

1. List specific positions held by nominee in your organization  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Length of service in your organization \_\_\_\_\_
3. List special accomplishments in your organization  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. List special accomplishments in other organizations  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Provide a brief biographical sketch of the nominee on a separate sheet.
6. Attach endorsements from other organizations if you wish.

**Nomination forms must be received by February 29, 2012**  
Please return to: Gwen Woirhaye  
5810 Friends Avenue  
Whittier, CA 90601  
(562) 696-6405  
gwen@woirhaye.com

**NOMINATIONS**

The Nominating Committee is looking for 21 members to serve on the Board of Directors starting July 1, 2012. Remember to say "YES" when you receive the call.

## **NEWS FROM AAUW CALIFORNIA— PUBLIC POLICY**

**by Sharon Heck**

### **Take Action on the Judicial Vacancy Crisis**

I recently participated in an AAUW conference call regarding the federal judges emergency. The federal judiciary is the final line of defense for many of the civil rights and liberties AAUW has fought for over the last 130 years. Doug Kendall, the president and founder of the Constitutional Accountability Center, helped explain why judicial vacancies matter. For the last two years, the vacancy rate has remained steady at close to 100 empty federal seats, if not more. Justice cannot be served when there are not enough judges to administer it and 10 percent of federal courts are without judges. And we all know that the cliché – justice delayed is justice denied – is very true for many people.

Even though Obama's Democratic Party controls the U.S. Senate, only 57 percent of his 2011 nominees were approved, according to congressional statistics, compared with 67 percent of those Bush put up for confirmation from 2007 through 2009, when Democrats also controlled the Senate. Democrats don't have enough seats to stop a Republican filibuster, and the threat keeps them from putting the picks up for a vote. "It is becoming more and more apparent that Republican obstructionism is an overtly political maneuver to thwart the President's agenda," says Obama spokesman, Eric Schultz.

This is a judicial crisis and we should write to our elected officials in the U.S. Senate regarding the importance of confirming the judges for the federal courts. The nominees put forth by President Obama are waiting far too long to be confirmed. Let our voices be heard on this important issue.

Dear Senator Barbara Boxer or Dear Senator Dianne Feinstein  
U.S. Senate

Washington, D.C. 20510

### **THE NEW PHOENIX**

The New Phoenix Section will be visiting the Chen Art Gallery, 1625 Abalone Ave., Torrance, Wednesday, February 29, at 11 AM. After touring, we will then have lunch at China Tea House, 3314 Sepulveda Blvd, Torrance. The tour is free, lunch probably under \$12. Dr. Tei Fu Chen is a world renowned herbalist. His collection includes a magnificent array of rare artifacts ranging from Neolithic era pottery to Ming and Qing dynasty imperial porcelains. These artifacts are among the hundreds of art objects on display in the museum. It is a beautiful and interesting rare exhibit. The New Phoenix group is designed to support single women. We welcome single women to join us on this outing.

To make reservations and arrange carpooling, call Peggy Kiefer, 562-695-2266.

## Modern Trends in Literature

Thursday, February 23, 7 PM

Hostess: Carol Shupek, 6204 Southwind, Whittier

Co-hostess: Cathy Martin

From Whittier Blvd., north on Painter, turn right on Hadley and left on Southwind. Carol's house is on the right.

### **Harriet and Isabella by Patricia O'Brien**

Harriet Beecher Stowe, author of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, and Isabella Beecher Hooker, an ardent suffragist, each had a major role in the social revolutions going on around them. But what happened in their hearts when they were forced to face an issue of justice in their own family? Henry Ward Beecher's adultery trial created a bitter rift between his sisters. Please join us as we take a look back at this family both dedicated to public service and reveling in its own celebrity .

Kristine Yeseta, Chair, 562-696-0226

### **February Walkers**

### **THURSDAYS AT 9 AM**

2 La Mirada Creek Park

Meet in parking lot off Santa Gertrudes

9 Murphy Ranch Park

Meet in parking lot at the end of Youngwood

16 Arroyo Pescadero Park

Meet in Parking lot off Colima

23 Schabarum Regional Park--Cherry Blossoms

Meet in parking lot by the front entrance kiosk

Shirley Stewart, Chair, 562-944-4556 [shirleys.creations@verizon.net](mailto:shirleys.creations@verizon.net)

### **SHOW GIRLS**

We are bringing "Show Girls" back to AAUW-Whittier Branch. We will be attending a movie on the second Thursday, of the month, in the late afternoon, at Whittier Village Cinema. The senior price is \$4. We can work that out if you are not 55 yet. We will then go to dinner after the show. There are many very good places to eat, in Uptown. Maybe we can go to a different place each month. We will decide that when we are together. Please e-mail me to get your e-mail address on my Show Girl list, which I will use to keep you informed, as to name of movie and time, because the show does change and I cannot know the information for the newsletter. Everyone, who would like to see a movie, let me know. Thank you, GENNEL WALTERS [icugwalters@verizon.net](mailto:icugwalters@verizon.net)

### **Saturday Night Bridge**

**Saturday night bridge will be February 25 at 7 PM. Please call Mary Ellen Mead, 562-693-6482, for details.**

## A HIGHLIGHT FROM THE 2011 AAUW NATIONAL CONVENTION

by Sharon Heck

One of the final activities of the June 16-19, 2011 AAUW National Convention in Washington, D.C. was the Saturday night convention banquet. We were brought together to celebrate the philanthropy, activism and passion that enables AAUW to give women and girls worldwide the support they need to help them succeed in school, work and life. The inspiring program began with an introduction by AAUW President Carolyn Garfein and AAUW Executive Director Linda Hallman. They praised members' history of advocacy and recognized branch and state contributions to AAUW's mission during the past two years.

Keynote speaker Sarah Brokaw, daughter of renowned journalist Tom Brokaw, talked about her work as a psychotherapist, philanthropist and personal coach. She also outlined some of the philosophies behind her new book, *Fortytude*, which encourages women not to dread aging but to regard it as an opportunity to start a new, better chapter of life. Eleanor Roosevelt Fund Award winner Abigail Stewart also spoke about her research on women's lives, personalities and activism. The psychologist, researcher and University of Michigan professor is a winner of the Carolyn Wood Sherif Award from the American Psychological Association and was a founding director of the Henry A. Murray Research Center at Harvard University. The banquet was delicious and very interesting. I was happy I chose to attend.

### SIXTH IN A SERIES

### Winter Social/Membership Drive:

#### Friday, February 3

We have not yet achieved our goal for membership this year. This Membership Drive/Winter Social is an effort to do that. We hope that all members will support this function with their attendance and with invitations to family and friends, who will become members once they learn about Whittier AAUW. The date is February 3. The time is 5:30-9 PM. It is being held at the Woman's Improvement Club at 14148 Second in Whittier. That is at the corner of California and Second streets. You will find ample parking on the street. There will be food and drinks---coffee, tea, soda, wine, desserts, crackers and cheese, chips and dip, fruit, veggie platters and more. There will be a game and prizes for the winners. There will be information on the goals, mission and activities of Whittier AAUW. The cost for the evening is \$10 per person for members and

their spouses/significant others. Guests/potential members will not be charged. They are the guests for the evening and soon to be members. It is very important that you RSVP for this event as soon as possible. Please RSVP by February 1, or sooner, to either Yvette Rawlinson at 562-698-6867 or Joyce Paul at 909-620-1202 or [joycem.paul@yahoo.com](mailto:joycem.paul@yahoo.com). When you RSVP, please include the names of your guests. We will have name tags for everyone. We also need an accurate count. This event will offer reduced membership fees for the remainder of this year. We sincerely hope that all of you will support our efforts to increase the membership of Whittier AAUW.

Good news! We do have one new member. She is Patricia Cuocco. Patricia lives at 7210 Canyon Crest Rd., Whittier 90602. Her home phone is 562-698-6665 and her cell number is 562-756-9509. Patricia's e-mail is [patricia@fullerton.edu](mailto:patricia@fullerton.edu). Patricia has increased our membership to 151.

## Legal Advocacy Fund

During the first week of January, lawyer Susan Burke filed an appeal for the LAF-supported case involving two plaintiffs who are current and former members of the military who allege that they were raped by co-workers and that the defense secretary's failure to act on the issue of sexual assault in the military amounts to a violation of their constitutional rights. On December 13 a U.S. district court judge granted the Department of Defense's motion to dismiss the case. Arguments will be heard in the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in the coming months. Burke believes that the institutional changes needed in the military are unlikely to be won in the courts, so she plans to keep the case in the legal system as long as possible to create media attention, hoping to inspire public pressure for legislation that can stipulate those necessary institutional changes.

This is one example of cases supported by AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to help balance the scales of justice for women.

Peggy Fretz, AAUW Funds Chairman

## Morning Book

Morning Book will discuss **Cutting for Stone** by Abraham Verghese, on Monday, February 27. The meeting will start at 10 AM at Ann Topjon's home. Janice Geiger will lead our discussion and Ann Topjon will co-host.

Marion and Shiva Stone are twin brothers born of a secret union between a beautiful Indian nun and a brash British surgeon. Orphaned by their mother's death and their father's disappearance, bound together by a preternatural connection and a shared fascination with medicine, the twins come of age as Ethiopia hovers on the brink of revolution.

Moving from Addis Ababa to New York City and back again, **Cutting for Stone** is an unforgettable story of love and betrayal, medicine and ordinary miracles--and two brothers whose fates are forever intertwined.

Directions to Ann Topjon's, 5654 Palm, Whittier, 562-695-6185: From Whittier Blvd., go north on Painter, left on Broadway, right on Palm, past Palm Park. Ann's house is five houses up from Floral and the middle school, and on your right.

Ann Topjon, Chair, 562-695-6185

## MEMORIES

Plan to join us on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 1:30 PM, **except** FEBRUARY. **NO MEETING THIS MONTH.**

For more information contact: Carole Restovich [bruinclr@yahoo.com](mailto:bruinclr@yahoo.com) or 562-696-0296.

Please consult our style sheet and follow it when preparing your newsletter article.

You will save us both a great deal of 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) and Margot 562-699-6898

### International Concerns

International Concerns will meet at 10 AM on Tuesday, February 21. at Ellen Larson's home, 12031 Beverly Blvd, #2D, Whittier. We will discuss "Middle East realignment: the Arab upheaval", the first article in "Great Decisions 2012". Books are available for \$20 from Ellen. All interested members are invited to attend, whether you have read the article or not. For further information contact Maurine Behrens at [maurineb90601@gmail.com](mailto:maurineb90601@gmail.com) or 562-695-8436.

Maurine Behrens, Chair

### Myra Long Scholarship Fund Meeting

The MYRA LONG SCHOLARSHIP FUND meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 1, at 9 AM. We meet at the First Friends Church Library in the main sanctuary building, 13205 Philadelphia in Uptown Whittier. This is an open meeting where the new bylaws will be discussed and amended. Everyone is welcome to attend.

For further information or directions please contact Barbara Gile [whittieraauw@me.com](mailto:whittieraauw@me.com) or call 562-693-7279.

### Gardening Section

The Gardening Section is scheduled to meet the **first Tuesday of each month at 1 PM** unless other arrangements have been made. There are no requirements for membership except an interest in plants and a commitment to be an active member. We are extending a special invitation to new members. You are welcome to visit even if your thumb is not green.

This year our community project is the Shelter's Transitional House flower bed. We will be organizing work groups. The flowers we planted in October are thriving and so are the weeds.

This year will be filled with sharing gardening tips, resources, cuttings, and field trips to the gardens of Southern California. Plan to join

us **Tuesday, February 7, at 1 PM** at the home of Brenda Jahn. The subject is Garden Wisdom and you are invited to share your successes or failures with plants, fertilizer, watering, too much shade, container planters, etc. You are encouraged to bring samples.

Directions to Brenda and Peter Jahn's home at 1339 Padonia, Whittier. East on Whittier Blvd. to Macy, north on Macy to the second stop sign, right on Janine for two blocks to the end, left on Solajar, then right at the second street, Villa Rita. The first left is Padonia. The house is at the end of the cul-de-sac. Hope to see you there!

For more information please contact:

Barbara Gile [whittieraauw@me.com](mailto:whittieraauw@me.com) or call 562-693-7279.



## AAUW WHITTIER BRANCH CALENDAR FEBRUARY 2012

DAY	DATE	TIME	MEETING PLACE
Wednesday	1	9 AM	Myra Long Scholarship Fund meeting, First Friends Church
Thursday	2	9 AM	Walkers, La Mirada Creek Park
Friday	3	5:30-9 PM	Winter Social/Membership Drive, E. Whittier Woman's Improvement Club
Monday	6	6 PM	Positive Past Presidents, Silver Palace
Tuesday	7	1 PM 7 PM	Gardening, Brenda Jahn's Board meeting, St. Matthias Church
Thursday	9	9 AM PM	Walkers, Murphy Ranch Park Show Girls - contact Gen'nel Walters
Friday	15	Midnight	DEADLINE FOR MARCH NEWSLETTER ARTICLE SUBMISSION
Thursday	16	9 AM	Walkers, Arroyo Pescadero Park
Tuesday	21	10 AM	International Concerns, Ellen Larson's
Thursday	23	9 AM 7 PM	Walkers, Schabarum Regional Park Modern Trends, Carol Shupek's
Saturday	25	7 PM	Saturday Night Bridge, contact Mary Ellen Mead
Monday	27	10 AM	Morning Book, Ann Topjon's
Wednesday	29	11 AM	The New Phoenix, Chen Art Gallery, Torrance



Whittier Branch  
P.O. Box 5333  
Whittier, CA 90607-5333

**Editor: Ginny Holloway <[gholly47@msn.com](mailto:gholly47@msn.com)>**

**Proofreader: Margot Kamens**

**DATED MATERIAL**

**WE ARE ON THE WEB**

**[aauwwhittier@info.com](mailto:aauwwhittier@info.com)**

---

## **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.