



NEWSLETTER

Whittier, California

Volume 66 Issue 5

January 2012

Linking you to Branch activities and to each other

January 14 Meeting to Feature Keren Taylor of WriteGirl



The Whittier AAUW Branch meeting on Saturday, January 14 at 11:30 AM at the Radisson Hotel, 7320 So. Greenleaf Ave., Whittier, will feature Keren Taylor, the founder of WriteGirl, a mentoring program which helps girls write their way to more positive futures. Keren is an AAUW Fellow, the recipient of a Community Action Grant, which is given to women for innovative programs that promote education and equity for women and girls. These grants and fellowships are provided through the AAUW Funds donated by members of our organization throughout the nation, many of which are granted to women and projects here in California. Keren is a poet, songwriter, performer, and visual artist in addition to heading the WriteGirl program which she founded in 2001. This program brings the skills and energy of professional women writers to teenage girls who do not otherwise have access to creative writing or mentoring programs. It promotes creativity and self-expression to empower girls. Come to hear more about this inspiring program which promotes the same values as we do in AAUW

The luncheon features a celebration of Chinese New Year, a bit early. The menu includes chicken stir fry with teriyaki sauce on the side, egg rolls, steamed rice and almond and fortune cookies for dessert. The egg rolls and teriyaki sauce are specialty items of the caterers. The lunch is buffet style and the cost is \$18. Call Carole Restovich at 562 -696-0296 or email her at whittieraauwreserv@yahoo.com for reservations by Tuesday, January 10. While we have your attention, please be aware that if you leave a message for Carole and you do NOT receive a phone call or e-mail in return, the reservation has not gone through. Please try again. We want to avoid last minute glitches.

MATH/SCIENCE CONFERENCE FOR EIGHTH GRADE GIRLS by Sharon Heck

Our wonderful AAUW Math/Science Conference planning team met on December 12 to finalize many details for the January 25 conference at Whittier College. The 320 girls and advisors have made their choices of speakers they wish to hear. Each girl will be able to hear 6 of the 20 speakers. The opening session will begin at 9:15 AM, and then three 55-minute workshops will be held, ending at 12:45 PM.

We will need many volunteers to be moderators in the workshops and introduce the speakers, to be guides and direct the girls around the campus, and to help with registration where the girls receive information and a snack.

Barbara Gile is in charge of volunteers, so contact her if you are willing to serve at 562-693-7279 or barbaragile@me.com

President's Message by Sharon Heck



Thank you to everyone who helped make our Christmas Program and Boutique such a success. The luncheon was delicious, the choir from La Serna High School was spectacular and the boutique was fun and profitable. A big thank you to Shirley A. Stewart for chairing and organizing the boutique. We made approximately \$1,700 for our scholarship funds. Thank you to all who donated, attended, and made purchases.

Our Saturday, January 14 program promises to be very exciting. Keren Taylor received a Grant from AAUW to help with her WriteGirl organization which helps hundreds of Los Angeles girls each year. She is a sought-after speaker at conferences and book festivals, and the recipient of numerous awards and accolades. We are fortunate to have her share her message with us.

Carole Restovich has arranged a delicious luncheon for us with the Radisson, so make your reservations early. We are getting very close to a vote on the new Bylaws for our AAUW Branch. If you have not received a copy of them, contact Kaye Kidwell at 562-902-8207. Be sure to read the article in this newsletter written by Barbara Gile for an explanation of the changes to our organization.

Board Meetings

The next Board meeting will be held at St. Matthias Church, 7056 Washington Ave., Whittier, on Tuesday, Jan. 3. 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.

Positive Past Presidents

PPP's invite you to circle your calendar for the celebration of the Chinese Year of the Dragon, Mon., Feb. 6 at the Silver Palace. Cost is \$20, including tax and tip.

Colleen Tan, Chair

THE NEW PHOENIX

Eleven "Phoenixes" eagerly anticipated their December outing to the Chorale Bel Canto holiday program, and they were not disappointed. Thoroughly enjoying their adventure, they then feasted at the Bailey Street Restaurant. Now we are looking forward to the Wednesday, Feb. 29, (Leap Year Day!) gathering. Details will be sent New Phoenix members by e-mail and will be detailed in the Branch newsletter. We are planning another delightful event!

Colleen Tan, Chair

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

Our Annual Christmas Boutique was a great success. We made \$1,700! THANKS to everyone for your help, donations and buying our items.

The money will go to our scholarship fund. Merry Christmas to all.

Shirley Stewart, Boutique Chair

FIRST FRIDAY

Date: January 6

Time: 6 - 8 PM

Location: Linda Pomeroy's home, 1620 N. Cedarcrest Dr., Brea, 714-671-3112.

Directions: Go east on Whittier Blvd. to Puente (dead end); turn left on Puente to Northwood (1st stop); right on Northwood to Poinsettia (1st street); left on Poinsettia to Oakcrest; right on Oakcrest to Cedarcrest; left on Cedarcrest to #1620 (on right).

NEWS FROM AAUW CALIFORNIA— PUBLIC POLICY

In November, AAUW released a brand new report about sexual harassment in grades seven through twelve, ***Crossing the Line: Sexual Harassment at School***. The many disturbing stories and statistics our researchers gathered add up to one fact: sexual harassment is part of everyday life in middle schools and high schools across America.

You can do your part, right now, to help change this: Ask your senators to promote the Safe Schools Improvement Act (SB 506)!

The Safe Schools Improvement Act would significantly strengthen schools' ability and responsibility to combat sexual harassment and bullying. It would require schools to have comprehensive anti-harassment and bullying policies and promote prevention strategies. The bill would also tell schools to maintain and report data regarding incidents of bullying and harassment.

The best and fastest way for this critical bill to become law is as an amendment to the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). ESEA is the law that sets some of the educational and disciplinary standards for middle and high schools which receive federal funding -- and right now, its anti-harassment and bullying rules are woefully inadequate.

So if you, your friends, or children were bullied or harassed, you can e up and say "enough is enough." **Tell your senators to support the Safe Schools Improvement Act (SB 506) as an amendment to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act reauthorization!**

This is a simple amendment, but we need your help. Send a letter to your senators, or visit [AAUW's Two-Minute Activist](#).

Write to Senator Boxer and Senator Feinstein at: Senator _____, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510.

Modern Trends in Literature

Thursday, January 26, **7 PM**

Home of Kristine Yeseta, 13826 Walnut, Whittier. Directions: From Whittier Blvd., north on College and right on Walnut.

Co-Hostess Dolores Seidman

Marcia Orr will review the book Mockingbird: A Portrait of Harper Lee, by Charles Shields. To Kill a Mockingbird is the twentieth century's most widely-read American novel. The author Harper Lee has remained a somewhat mysterious figure. After years of research, Shields sheds light on her struggle to create the unforgettable characters of Atticus Finch and his daughter, Scout, as well as many highlights of her colorful life.

Feb. 23- Harriet and Isabella

Kristine Yeseta, Chair, 562-696-0226

WALKERS

THURSDAYS AT 9 AM

- 5 La Mirada Creek Park
Meet in parking lot off Santa Gertrudes
- 12 Whittwood Town Center
Meet in parking lot by Panera's Bakery
- 19 Bosque del Rio Hondo 9300 San Gabriel Blvd., Rosemead
Across and down the street from Whittier Narrows
Meet in parking lot
- 26 Turnbull Canyon
Park on Beverly Blvd. just before the road narrows

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

Saturday Night Bridge

Saturday night bridge will be Jan. 28 at 7 PM. Please call Mary Ellen Mead, 562-693-6482, for details.

A HIGHLIGHT FROM THE 2011 AAUW NATIONAL CONVENTION

by Sharon Heck

As you recall, the convention was in Washington, DC, June 16-19, 2011. The schedule included several optional tours which required extra payment. During the optional tours they offered special programs at the hotel. One of those specials was the movie, **MISS REPRESENTATION**. The following is the description given of the film by the producers. "Like drawing back a curtain to let bright light stream in, **MISS REPRESENTATION** uncovers a glaring reality we live with every day but fail to see. Directed by Jennifer Siebel Newsom, the film explores how mainstream media contributes to the under-representation of women in influential positions in America and challenges the media's limiting and often disparaging portrayals of women, which make it difficult for the average girl to see herself as powerful.

Stories from teenage girls and provocative interviews with politicians, journalists, academics, and activists like Condoleezza Rice, Nancy Pelosi, Katie Couric, Rachel Maddow, Lisa Ling, Rosario Dawson and Gloria Steinem build momentum as **MISS REPRESENTATION** accumulates startling facts and statistics that will leave the audience shaken and armed with a new perspective."

This is a great film and one we should show to large numbers of women and girls. Unfortunately, there is a large fee for showing it. It really might be worth it!

FIFTH IN A SERIES

Membership

Our membership remains at 150. We need 20 new members in the next three months. Please make every effort to invite your friends and family to the next AAUW function. Our eleven new members this year are: Mary Torres, Frances Hill, Mary Jane Holden, Mary Moore, Angelita Ramirez, Janet Harvey, Lynda Richardson, Rhoda Nussdorf, Margaret Tishler, Lily Munson, and Naomi Hill. We welcome each one to Whittier AAUW.

New e-mail address for Margot Kamens:
mrsmwk@gmail.com

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

MEMORIES

Plan to join us on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 1:30 PM. Come for one meeting or join for all the meetings. Write for your own enjoyment and for your family. We have a subject each month just to motivate us. Everyone is welcome even if you have not written a thought or memory. There is no judgment on style or context. We just have fun! We are scheduled to meet on Wednesday, January 25, at the home of Barbara Gile. **The meeting will start at 1:30 PM** since most of us will also be at the **Math/Science Conference in the morning**.

The topic is: **What Happened To Me In 2011**. This can be a recap of what you did last year or didn't do, or just one event that was spectacular.

Thank you, Carole Restovich for volunteering to be the Memories Chair. Let's all support Carole and faithfully attend the meetings.

For more information contact: Carole Restovich bruinclr@yahoo.com or 562-696-0296

Morning Book

Monday, January 23, 10 AM

The Warmth of Other Suns by Isabel Wilkerson

Ida Mae Brandon Gladney, a sharecropper's wife, left Mississippi for Milwaukee in 1937, after her cousin was falsely accused of stealing a white man's turkeys and was almost beaten to death. In 1945, George Swanson Starling, a citrus picker, fled Florida for Harlem after learning of the grove owners' plans to give him a "necktie party" (a lynching). Robert Joseph Pershing Foster made his trek from Louisiana to California in 1953, embittered by the absurdity that he could do surgery for the United States Army, but couldn't operate in hospitals in his own home town. Anchored to these three stories is Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Wilkerson's magnificent, extensively researched study of the "Great Migration," the exodus of six million black Southerners out of the terror of Jim Crow to an "uncertain existence" in the North and Midwest. Wilkerson incorporates sociological and historical studies into the novelistic narratives of Gladney, Starling, and Foster settling in new lands, building anew, and often finding that they have not left racism behind.

We will meet at Georgine Sweeney's home , 16411 Pasada Ave., Whittier, 562-947-6681. Take Janine east from La Serna to Pasada. The home is the second house on the left, north of Janine. Pasada is about halfway between Bogardus and Valley Home.

Ruth White will co-host. Carol K. Anderson will review with Rosanne Seitz leading the discussion (if her health permits).

Do come even if you haven't finished the book. There are great discussion topics even with a partial reading.

Ann Topjon, Chair, 562-695-6185

Mystery Mavens

Wednesday, January 18, 6:30 PM

Death at La Fenice by Donna Leon Reviewer: Jenifer MacLowry

There is little violent crime in Venice, a city of mystery and magic, history and decay. But the evil that does occasionally rear its head is the jurisdiction of Guido Brunetti, the urbane vice-commissario of police and a genius at detection. Now all of his abilities come into play in the deadly affair of Maestro Helmut Wellauer, a world-renowned conductor who died painfully from cyanide poisoning during an intermission at La Fenice.

Meet at Marie Callender's restaurant at 9829 La Serna, Whittier (near Whittier Blvd.) in the Library Room.

Reservations: Carol K. Anderson, 562-943-0728

International Concerns

International Concerns will meet Tuesday January 31 at 10 AM at the home of Barbara Gile. This is a special meeting and we encourage guests to attend. The purpose of the meeting is to view three documentaries of *Women, War, and Peace* as shown on PBS in 2011. The first presentation is about three women in Afghanistan fighting to ensure women have a voice in peace. The second is the *War We Are Living* about two women in Africa and Columbian women fighting for land. The third video is regarding how war has redefined education. These are timely essays on the plight of women in the world and worthy of our investigation.

A potluck lunch and discussion will follow the screening of the documentaries. The Great Decisions book will be available for our discussions in 2012. The cost is \$20. For further information and your contribution to lunch please, contact Maurine Behrens at 562-695-8436 or maurineb90601@gmail.com.

Directions: 14035 Eastridge is one block north of Mar Vista on the northeast corner of Eastridge and Vale. 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.

From Colima go west on Mar Vista, three streets after the signal at Michigan turn right on Vale.

From Painter go East on Mar Vista, three streets after the signal light at College turn left on Vale.

Maurine Behrens, Chair

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. The new year will be filled with sharing gardening 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. Leave Whittier at 7 AM in order to get good parking and the senior discount.

This was a wonderful trip last year. **If it is raining, a field trip is cancelled.** Proposed schedule for 2012:

January 3 View Rose Parade floats, early morning, Pasadena

February 7 Garden Wisdom, home of Brenda Jahn

March 6 Work group at flower bed, Transitional Shelter

April 22 Huntington Library, San Marino (Sunday)

May 1 Fullerton Arboretum, CSU Fullerton

June 5 Gardens of the World, Thousand Oaks

July Dark

August 7 Flower arranging demonstration, florist shop in Whittier

September 9 San Juan Capistrano Mission, all-day trip (Sunday)

October 2 Arboretum, Arcadia

November 6 Wreath making, home of member

December 4 Potluck and planning for 2013, home of member

For more information please contact:

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



MYRA LONG SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The purpose of this article is to inform the Whittier Branch membership about the transition of the Myra Long Scholarship Fund (MLSF) into becoming the Greater Whittier Area (GWA) American Association of University Women (AAUW). *(Already it sounds complicated and it is. However for those who like a puzzle stay with me; it is fascinating)*

In 2010, the Whittier AAUW membership voted to become a 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation. The MLSF board of directors was given the task of incorporating in the State of California as the fund already had non-profit approval from the Secretary of State. A lot of research went into the least expensive legal process and an excellent attorney was hired to take us through the steps. First we filed for the name change and that is when the committee added "Greater Whittier Area" to our name. The change puts us closer to the top of the alphabet and is more inclusive for the members who live outside the Whittier City limits. The names of Rio Hondo and San Gabriel Valley are already used by other AAUW Branches.

The process of rewriting the Bylaws took numerous months because several issues had to be addressed:

The fiscal year had to change because AAUW year is July 1 to June 30.

The mission statement changed from just girls to youth to accommodate both boys and girls in Speech Trek.

The old AAUW Bylaws mentioned the International Federation of University Women (IFUW) that is no longer a part of AAUW.

The officers of AAUW will now be called Directors. This matches the way the new National and State AAUW bylaws are stated and helps us conform.

The MLSF became a committee of the Board of Directors and will continue to raise funds for the local scholarship, Tech Trek, Math/Science Conference, and Speech Trek activities of the Greater Whittier Area. The committee will continue to be responsible for protecting and investing the funds for these educational programs.

When the original bylaws were written electronic voting was not even a possibility. This new use of technology was added.

A lot of verbiage and legalese were added to conform to the State of California Corporation laws.

There are changes in format and structure because we are doing three things at the same time which is confusing. Remember someone said change is healthy.

At this time we are obtaining approval from national AAUW. The next step is to receive approval from the sixteen board of directors at California AAUW. (Continued)

MYRA LONG SCHOLARSHIP FUND

(Continued)

After you have read through the proposed bylaws and have questions Sharon Heck or Barbara Gile are available to provide answers. The committee members are also very knowledgeable and available. For the record, this was an outstanding committee. Everyone was dedicated, thoughtful, and experienced with non-profit corporations, AAUW and our mission statement.

The committee members are:

Maurine Behrens 562-695-8436 maurineb90601@verizon.net

Barbara Gile 562-693-7279 barbaragile@me.com

Susan Halliday 562-696-7395 sbathalliday@yahoo.com

Sharon Heck 562-698-0476 heck37@verizon.net

Pamela Holmes 562-693-0170 pamela.holmes@doj.ca.gov

Kaye Kidwell 562-902-8207 kayedauna@aol.com

Ellen Larson 562-695-7017 ereora2005@yahoo.com

Gwen Woirhaye 562-696-6405 gwen@woirhaye.com

As a member of the Whittier Branch you can feel pleased about the many hours of dedicated work and money that was spent to accomplish the tasks of rewriting the bylaws and incorporating the organization for the purpose of becoming one legal entity.

Barbara Gile



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

AAUW WHITTIER BRANCH CALENDAR JANUARY 2012

DAY	DATE	TIME	MEETING PLACE
Sunday	1		New Year's Day
Tuesday	3	7 AM 7 PM	Gardening Section, Rose Parade Floats Board Meeting, St. Matthias Church
Thursday	5	9 AM	Walkers, La Mirada Creek Park
Friday	6	6-8 PM	FIRST FRIDAY, Linda Pomeroy's
Thursday	12	9 AM	Walkers, Whittwood Town Center
Saturday	14	11:30 AM	General Meeting, Radisson Hotel
Sunday	15	DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES	
Wednesday	18	6:30 PM	Mystery Mavens, Marie Callender's
Thursday	19	9 AM	Walkers, Bosque del Rio Hondo
Monday	23	10 AM	Morning Book, Georgine Sweeney's
Wednesday	25	9 AM-1 PM 1:30 PM	Math/Science Conference, Eighth Grade Girls, Whittier College Memories Section, Barbara Gile's
Thursday	26	9 AM 7 PM	Walkers, Turnbull Canyon Modern Trends, Kristine Yeseta's
Saturday	28	7 PM	Saturday Night Bridge, contact Mary Ellen Mead
Tuesday	31	10 AM	International Concerns, Barbara Gile's



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

Editor: Ginny Holloway <gholly47@msn.com>

Proofreader: Margot Kamens

DATED MATERIAL

WE ARE ON THE WEB

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.