



GREATER WHITTIER AREA BRANCH AAUW NEWSLETTER

December 2013
Volume 68 Issue 4

Linking You to Branch Activities and to Each Other



GREATER WHITTIER AREA AAUW MEETING
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 11 AM
RADISSON HOTEL, WHITTIER



BOUTIQUE AND CHOIR



Reservations - December 3

AAUW Luncheon Meeting- Saturday, December 7, 11 AM

Tis the Season! On December 7, we will be at the Radisson Hotel for our holiday program. We will have our Christmas Boutique, a special luncheon and entertainment. 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 to prepare us for the coming season. **Please note the earlier starting time of 11 AM.**

The Radisson will serve a plated luncheon of mixed green salad with choice of dressing, beef tri-tip accompanied by creamed horseradish and red wine thyme jus, garlic mashed potatoes, seasonal vegetables and chef's selection of dessert. Ice water, ice tea and coffee will be served. A vegetarian entrée will also be provided upon request. Please let Ellen know if you would prefer a vegetarian meal when you RSVP your reservation. Holiday centerpieces will be provided by the Gardening Section. Luncheon is \$30. When making reservations please use the convenient email address: whittieraauwreserv@yahoo.com or call me, Ellen Peck, at 562-943-4679. The deadline for making reservations is December 3. If you reach my answering machine or my hubby, please leave your full name and telephone number so I can acknowledge your reservation. Early reservations make it easier to coordinate with Radisson catering, so please RSVP as soon as possible. Remember, a reservation made is a reservation for which payment must be received.

Bring your guests to this special occasion!

Dolores Seidman, Program Vice President
Ellen Peck & Nancy Stiefeling, Hospitality

SHOW GIRLS

Join the Show Girls in December for a movie at the Whittier Uptown Village Theaters. An email will be sent regarding the time and movie.

Cindy Birt



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Sharon Heck

I am truly on an AAUW high! Our November 9 meeting with author Anne Cherian as our speaker was absolutely terrific. Everyone in attendance enjoyed Anne's entertaining talk, and many purchased her books. Our luncheon was interesting and delicious. It was a good day.

On Wednesday, November 13, we did something different for us. A new member orientation party was held at the home of Barbara Gile. It was sponsored by the PPP (Positive Past Presidents) Section. Many past presidents attended, as did several of our new members. We heard from everyone and of their connections to AAUW. New members learned of our many programs, and their questions were answered. Food was served and it was a delightful party. I hope we continue to plan such events each year.

Saturday, December 7 will be a fun day for our AAUW Branch, and one to which you should invite your friends. At the Radisson Hotel we will have a luscious sit-down luncheon. The boutique will be set up by 11 AM so you can shop before lunch. There will be very nice used items to purchase, and some new items. You will be able to bid on the silent auction baskets. We will be entertained by a wonderful group of singers from La Serna High School. It will be another wonderful day for our Branch, so come join us. Make your reservations today.

AAUW NATIONAL CONVENTION REPORT

(Fourth in a Series)

This will be my final report on the June 2013 National AAUW Convention in New Orleans. On the final evening a banquet was held to honor three women. Linda T. Alepin was given the AAUW Eleanor Roosevelt Award. Linda is board chair and founder of Global Women's Leadership Network (GWLN), a nonprofit leadership



development and community resource for women leaders around the world and part of the Santa Clara University Leavey School of Business. She is a graduate of Stanford University.

The second honoree was Melissa Harris-Perry, an award-winning author, expert news commentator on MSNBC, professor of political science at Tulane and a 2001-02 AAUW American Fellow. She received the AAUW Alumnae Recognition Award, but she was unable to attend. She prepared a video of her acceptance and it was shown. I was disappointed that she wasn't there, because I have enjoyed her television appearances.

The final award was presented to Senator Olympia Snowe from Maine. She was given the AAUW Achievement Award. Senator Snowe is the first woman in American history to serve in both houses of a state legislature and both houses of Congress. While in the U.S. Senate she built a reputation as one of Congress' leading moderates. She has retired and she will be missed. Her comments were very gentle. She stated that AAUW represents credibility and intelligence and that AAUW has a phenomenal reputation with those on Capitol Hill. During her 34 years in the House and Senate she worked hand in glove with AAUW. She saluted Lilly Ledbetter and she stated there is no statute of limitations on equal pay. I thoroughly enjoyed her speech.

Thank you to the Branch for sending me to the National AAUW Convention. It was a privilege to represent you, and I hope the things I learned will be helpful to us. The 2015 Convention will be in San Diego, so I hope many of you will be able to attend.

INTERFAITH FOOD BANK AND HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE

Holiday Toy Drive



New, unwrapped toys are needed for less fortunate children between the ages of newborn and 12 years old.

Holiday Food Drive

Canned vegetables or fruit - potatoes fresh or instant - yams - stuffing - cranberry sauce - flour evaporated milk - canned pumpkin - jello - bottled juice - cereal - pasta - tuna - peanut butter, etc.

Please bring your items to our December 7th meeting.

MARK YOUR CALENDER NOW SO YOU WON'T FORGET!

Thanks to all of you who have given each month to this worthy cause

Any questions, please contact me.

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

WALKERS

9 AM – THURSDAYS

Dec 5 La Mirada Creek Park
Meet in parking lot off Santa Gertrudes

Dec 12 Greenway Trail
Meet at the corner of Lambert and Laurel

Dec 19 Murphy Ranch Park
Meet in the parking lot at the end of Youngwood

Dec 26 NO WALK

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR
TO ALL!

Shirley Stewart

MATH/SCIENCE CONFERENCE FOR EIGHTH GRADE GIRLS

HELP WANTED!

We are looking for volunteers to help at the Math/Science Conference to be held for 8th grade girls on the morning of Wednesday, January 29, at 8:30 AM at Whittier College.

Jobs include:

1. Greeters who will meet school buses and lead students to the registration point
2. Moderators who will introduce the speakers in the classrooms
3. Registration workers
4. Sign makers (to be completed before the conference)
5. Packet stuffers- (On January 22 at 6 PM at home of Barbara Gile)

You can also volunteer to work "as needed", which gives us flexibility.

If you would like to sign up and have not already done so at our Board or Branch meeting, please contact Dolores Seidman at deeseidman@gmail.com. Please include your name, home phone number, cell phone number and assignment desired. If you do not have e-mail, you may call her at [323-721-8230](tel:323-721-8230).

If you have any questions, please contact Dolores.

FIRST FRIDAY

Date: December 6
Time: 6 - 8 PM
Host: Ellen and Craig Peck
8156 Stoneridge Drive, Whittier
562-943-4679

Directions:

Take Mar Vista all the way to the end. Tell the guard at the Friendly Hills gate that you are going to Ellen Peck's house. Go one more block and Mar Vista ends. Turn right on Aurora Crest, then turn right again on Stoneridge. I am on the left, second home from the end of the street - 8156 Stoneridge.

GARDENING SECTION

Holiday Potluck Luncheon and Planning Meeting

The Gardening Section has no requirements for membership except an interest in plants. The group goes on several field trips throughout the year, as well as learns about interesting plants and makes some take-home projects. Our next meeting is a potluck luncheon on Monday, December 16 at 11 AM at the home of Ellen Peck. Ellen will serve stuffed baked potatoes, dessert and beverages. Please bring potato toppings, fresh fruit or a green salad. RSVP at cpeck4@earthlink.net or 562-943-4679 so I can coordinate the goodies. See First Friday article on page 3 for directions to Ellen's house.

MEMORIES

The December meeting of Memories takes place Wednesday, December 18 at the home of Helen Rahder at 12 noon. (**Please note change of day and time**). Helen is hosting a buffet luncheon for the group. Please bring a special Christmas memory to share. Because Helen lives in Pasadena, there is an opportunity to carpool. If you'd like, you can meet at the home of Carole Restovich behind Whittier College at 11:15 AM and we can go from there. Helen's directions are via

FREEWAY: take the 605 north to the 210. West on the 210 to Hill; south (left) on Hill about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile. One block past Pasadena City College (on the left), make a left on Rose Villa – end of block on the right to her home at 1582 Rose Villa. Or via

ROSEMEAD: take Beverly Blvd. west to Rosemead. Rosemead north (right) to Pasadena; one block past Huntington, make a left on California. Go 3 miles to Hill (Cal Tech will be in the northwest corner); right on Hill for 3 blocks to 1582 Rose Villa. For more information, call Carole at 562-696-0296.

MODERN TRENDS IN LITERATURE

Modern Trends in Literature does not meet in December. Our next meeting will be January 23, at the home of Annette Lauritzen. Kristine Yeseta will review the book, *The Twelve Tribes of Hattie*, by Ayana Mathis. Details will be in the January newsletter. Happy Holidays!

MORNING BOOK

We will not be meeting this month. The next meeting will occur on **Monday, January 27**, and the book we will be reading is *The Shoemaker's Wife*, by Adriana Trigiani. Full information will be in January's newsletter. Below is a list of the books we will read and discuss for the remainder of the year.

- March 24: *The Round House*
By Louise Erdrich
- June 2: *Sky of Red Poppies*
By Zohreh Ghahremani
- July 28: *To Be Sung Underwater*
By Tom MacNeal

Happy Thanksgiving!

Ann Topjon, Chair 562-695-6185

INTERNATIONAL CONCERNS

International Concerns will not meet in December, but will discuss "Threat Assessment" in January.

Ellen Larson will order copies of "Great Decisions 2014", but will not get extras this time. You must let her know no later than December 10 that you want a copy or you will have to get your own individually.

Contact Ellen at 562-695-7017 or at ereora2005@yahoo.com for more information or to order a book.

DINING 4 \$\$\$\$\$



Dining 4 \$\$\$\$\$ is a new section. It is a dine-out opportunity, with a special purpose. The purpose is to raise money for the Myra Long Scholarship Fund deliciously and painlessly!

All we must do is invite friends and family to dine at certain restaurants on specific dates. Flyers will be provided at Branch meetings and in newsletters, and must be shown to your server as you order. Each restaurant will then donate a nice percentage of the order to the Branch.

This one in December will be a GREAT opportunity to break up a holiday shopping day, or to end a busy day!

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Tuesday, December 17, 2013

Applebee's

11 AM – 9 PM

1238 W. Imperial Highway

La Habra

Between Beach and Idaho

AAUW FUNDS

More than \$4.3 million in fellowships and grants were given to more than 278 outstanding women in America and abroad. Hundreds of outstanding women who applied did not receive funds because there wasn't enough money available. These fellowships and grants were given from the Educational Opportunities Fund, part of AAUW Funds.

A new pin has been added to AAUW's pin collection. It will be sent to those who donate \$100 or more. You can make your contribution in two different ways. Use this address: www.aauw.org/contribute, click on "Give Now" and make your donation that way or, as always, you may send your check to me and I'll mail it for you. My address is 14852 Jupiter St., Whittier 90603.

Our Branch, as of the end of the third quarter, has donated more than \$1500 to AAUW Funds.

Peggy Fretz
AAUW Funds Vice-President

THE GIFT OF MEMBERSHIP

In a recent AAUW Membership Matters newsletter, there is information that needs to be shared with all. Information such as – In October the government shutdown was the seventeenth time and that four of the seventeen (three in 1977, one in 1979) were over a disagreement about women's health care. With this statement alone as the article goes on to state **"Our membership is our reassurance that every woman and girl has a voice; decisions made today will certainly impact all of us sooner or later, and we must speak out together to demand what we need."**

Membership: the body of members of an organization or group; a group of people who work together. This is right out of the dictionary and says it all about what we do in AAUW. This month I informed my daughter that she would receive the "gift of membership" from her mother. What a better way to introduce her to AAUW. How many of you out there have a daughter or a son for that matter who would be happy to receive the "gift of membership"?

We welcome a new member into our Greater Whittier Area Branch and here is her information.

Mary Lacy, 14611 Teton Dr., Hacienda Heights, CA 91745, 562-693-6539,
maryleelacy@gmail.com

Hope everyone has the happiest of holidays
Christine Sullivan



MYRA LONG SCHOLARSHIP FUND (MLSF)

The MLSF Committee met on November 7, and reviewed our investment portfolio. Fortunately, we have over \$125,000 invested in various money market and mutual funds that are earning conservative interest. Our assets are getting close to the \$150,000 goal we projected in 2013.

It is near the end of the calendar year and some members may want a tax reduction for 2013. All donations are IRS tax deductible. Please note if you are writing a check to the Myra Long Scholarship Fund, make your check payable to: AAUW-MLSF. You can mail the check to: PO Box 5333 Whittier, California 90607 or hand to Kaye Kidwell, treasurer.

All four of our 2013 scholarship winners are enrolled in their respective four colleges and we paid \$6,000 toward their tuition.

Last year our Branch earned \$1,280 for Tech Trek by volunteering to docent at the Pasadena Design House. This year we have the same opportunity. We are paid \$40 per four-hour shift. We had 19 volunteers last year for 32 shifts. This is a fun project because we get to see the 2014 Design House, and it would cost \$45 if you paid to go through the house. If you volunteer for two shifts you have the opportunity to buy tickets at a discount. You meet some very interesting people such as former owners, designers and friends. The mandatory training will be held on Saturday February 22, 2014.

We will carpool to the Rose Bowl in Pasadena Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings and then shuttle to the Design House. You choose the best dates from the following: April 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24, 29, 30 and May 1, 6, 7, 8. Mark your calendars now so we can get the best dates. This year the cost of Tech Trek is \$900 per student and we have 10 campships reserved. Being a docent is an easy fun way to raise money.

If standing for four hours is not your "thing" you can always eat at Applebee's and Dine for Dollars on December 17, which will provide funds for MLSF.

For further information contact Barbara Gile or a MLSF Committee member at whittieraauw@mac.com or (562) 693-7279.

The MLSF committee thanks you for your generous support.

POSITIVE PAST PRESIDENTS

PPP's Christmas Party will be Thursday, December 5, 6 PM, at the home of Gwen Woirhaye, catered by Crepes and Grapes. Prepaid reservations at \$20 must be made by **Monday, December 2**. Send a check to Gwen at 5810 Friends, Whittier, 90601. **Remember** – we are gathering personal hygienic items for the Women's Shelter.

THE NEW PHOENIX

We will take advantage of Ann Farmer's gracious offer to host our holiday meeting at her home, 6146 Southwind, Whittier, on Monday, December 9, from 4 to 6 PM. Bring food of your choice (inform Colleen of this), and if you wish, share a favorite holiday memory. It's time for good cheer!

Colleen Tan, Chair, 562-698-4934
Peggy Kiefer (Co-chair)



PUBLIC POLICY

Patricia Cuocco

Throughout the year, we have heard a great deal about “The Sequester” or “Sequestration”. To review, The Sequester, which started on March 1, 2013, refers to automatic spending cuts by the federal government triggered by Congressional failure to compromise on how to fund the budget cuts called for by the Budget Control Act. The \$1.2 trillion dollars over 9 years worth of cuts are to be divided equally between domestic and defense-related cuts. The threat of the Draconian nature of the arbitrary cuts was supposed to motivate Congress to find a solution. This did not happen.

Millions of American women and children are at the mercy of these cuts. The AAUW website describes how food pantries and community organizations that provide meals to low-income families are losing funding and staff. The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), a program that provides low-income mothers with access to food, health care referrals and health education, is one of the many programs subject to Sequester cuts.

The Center for Budget and Policy priorities says WIC will lose as much as \$1 billion in funding this fiscal year, despite the fact that this program contributes to healthier birth weights, reduction in consumption of fats and sugars and better overall health.

The sad fact is that The Sequester cuts mean that many women and children simply will not have enough to eat. Unfortunately, this is not the end of the story. At present, Congress has yet to pass a Farm Bill – which funds agriculture and nutritional programs, one of which is SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) better known as Food Stamps. On November 1, the 2009 Recovery Act, which provided a temporary boost to SNAP, expired. The average family of 4 lost \$36 per month, leaving funding for about \$1.40 per person, per meal, per month. The cuts amount to about 20 meals per month.

As discussions about the Farm Bill continue in Congress, there will be give and take between the \$40 billion that Republican representatives want to cut from the program over 10 years and the far less cuts that Democrats want. One of the arguments for cuts is that Food Stamps place an undue burden on American taxpayers. In fact, in 2012, the average taxpayer making \$50,000/year paid \$36 towards the food stamp program. That same taxpayer paid nearly \$4,000 toward corporate subsidies.

As our AAUW website states, our organization is comprised of women with many political and philosophical points of view, and we can manage to come together to effect change and benefit our communities. Surely, we should urge our Congressional representatives to find solutions that do not balance budget problems by increasing hunger in our country and by targeting the poorest and most vulnerable. It's one thing to contribute food and funds to our local food pantry; it is quite another to write our representatives and demand that they act like responsible adults.

**Greater Whittier Area American Association of University Women (AAUW)
2013-2014 Membership Application**

*Title: Mrs.____ Ms.____ Miss____ None____ Other____
 *Last Name _____
 *First Name _____ *Middle Initial _____
 Spouse's Name _____
 *Street Address _____ *City _____
 *Zip Code _____
 *Home Phone (____) _____
 *Work Phone (____) _____
 *Cell Phone (____) _____
 *Fax (____) _____
 *E-mail address _____
 Degree _____ Year _____
 Major _____
 College/University _____
 Degree _____ Year _____
 Major _____
 College/University _____
 Degree _____ Year _____
 Major _____
 College/University _____

**Please complete and mail your membership application and dues to:
AAUW, Whittier Branch Membership, P.O. Box 5333, Whittier, CA 90607-5333**

AAUW Membership Type (please check one) Annual Dues:

_____ General \$89

_____ Life Member \$40

_____ Student \$30

_____ Dual \$24

_____ I want the yearbook mailed to me and will add \$2 to my payment check.

_____ I also want the AAUW binder that costs \$5 plus \$1.50 postage and will add \$6.50 to my payment.

Do you have a sponsor? If so, who is it? _____

Today's date _____

*Required for all members. **New members must complete all information.**

Reminder: \$86 of your dues are tax deductible.

DINING 4 \$\$\$\$\$

ENJOY A MEAL THAT'S FILLING AND FULFILLING.
EAT IN OR TRY OUR CARSIDE TO GO™ SERVICE!

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

APPLEBEE'S® WILL DONATE **15%** OF YOUR CHECK

WHEN YOU DINE AT

Applebee's

1238 W. Imperial Hwy.

La Habra, Ca. 90631

562 690-0779

PRESENT THIS TO YOUR SERVER OR CARSIDE TO GO™ SPECIALIST
ON

Tuesday, December 17th, from 11 am to 9 pm.



2009 APPLE AMERICAN GROUP LLC-APPLEBEE'S® DONATION PERCENTAGE EXCLUDES TAX AND TIP. VALID ONLY AT ABOVE MENTIONED LOCATION DURING SPECIFIED HOURS. MUST PRESENT FLYER IN ORDER FOR ORGANIZATION TO RECEIVE CREDIT FOR PURCHASE. FLYERS ARE NOT TO BE DISTRIBUTED IN THE RESTAURANT OR WITHIN THE PERIMETER OF THE PARKING LOT.

GREATER WHITTIER AREA AAUW BRANCH CALENDAR DECEMBER 2013



DAY	DATE	TIME	
Tuesday	3	7:00 PM	Board Meeting , St. Matthias Episcopal Church
Thursday	5	9:00 AM	Walkers Section , La Mirada Creek Park
Thursday	5	6:00 PM	PPP , Gwen Woirhaye
Friday	6	6:00 PM	First Friday , Ellen Peck
Saturday	7	11:00 AM	Branch Meeting , Radisson Hotel, Whittier
Monday	9	4 - 6 PM	The New Phoenix , Ann Farmer
Thursday	12	9:00 AM	Walkers Section , Greenway Trail, Lambert and Laurel
Thursday	12	3:30 PM	Showgirls , Whittier Village Theaters
Monday	16	11:00 AM	Gardening Section , Ellen Peck
Tuesday	17	11 AM - 9 PM	Dining 4 \$\$\$\$\$, Appleby's, Imperial Hwy., La Habra
Wednesday	18	Noon	Memories , Helen Rhader
Thursday	19	9:00 AM	Walkers Section , Murphy Ranch Park

Please consult our style sheet and follow it when preparing your newsletter article. It will save us a great deal of time and work. If you do not have a style sheet, please let us know and we will send one to you. Thank you for your cooperation in following these directions and for sending in your newsletter articles by the 15th of each month.

REMINDER: Capital B for our Branch.

Please send articles by email to christineheller@earthlink.net
Newsletter Editors - Christine Heller, Margot Kamens and Carole Duff





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

