



GREATER WHITTIER AREA BRANCH AAUW NEWSLETTER

January 2014
Volume 68 Issue 5

Linking You to Branch Activities and to Each Other

JANUARY



**NO JANUARY MEETING FOR
GREATER WHITTIER AREA AAUW
WISHING YOU JOY,
HAPPINESS AND SUCCESS**

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Sharon Heck

Our December Branch meeting with the Christmas Boutique, luncheon, and beautiful music from the La Serna High School choir was a huge success. We made \$2,281.54 on the boutique, which was wonderful as it is our only fundraiser for the Branch. I want to thank everyone who helped make it such a success. Thanks to all who donated things or money, thanks to the committee who spent many hours pricing and preparing, and thanks to our wonderful customers who bid and bought. Even with our worries about parking and the falling rain, it was a great day.

We have no Branch meeting in January because our Math/Science Conference for 8th Grade girls is on January 29 at Whittier College. Many of you have signed up as volunteers with Dolores Seidman, and we can always use more. Looking ahead to our February 8 meeting. We will have a speaker who received a grant from AAUW. This promises to be a very interesting program and we hope you will join us.

I again want to thank all of you who make our Greater Whittier Area Branch so successful. Your hard work makes my work so much easier. Please know that you are appreciated!

MATH/SCIENCE CONFERENCE FOR 8TH GRADE GIRLS

by Sharon Heck

The Math/Science Conference is fast approaching on Wednesday, January 29 at Whittier College. Dolores Seidman is taking the names of volunteers; so contact her by e-mail at deeseidman@gmail.com if you have not done so. Volunteers are invited to stay for lunch when the program ends at 12:45 PM. Thank you to all who are working so hard to make this another excellent conference.

INTERFAITH FOOD CENTER

Thanks to all who donated at our December meeting. We got lots of food, some toys and money.

The Interfaith Food Center is thankful for our continued support.

Start saving for our February meeting!

Shirley Stewart

MORNING BOOK

We are starting 2014 by reading *The Shoemaker's Wife*, by Adriana Trigiani. This historical novel begins at the turn of the last century, and starts in Italy before moving to the United States. The story is based on the author's family. It has been called an "historical epic of love and family, war and loss, [and] risk and destiny." Please join us on Monday, January 27, at 10 AM, at Ann Topjon's, 5654 Palm, Whittier. Dolores Seidman will provide refreshments. Because there is no discussion leader, please bring a question related to the book so we can start the conversation.

Directions to Ann's house: From Whittier Blvd., go north on Painter; left on Broadway; right on Palm, past Palm Park. The house is 5 houses up on the right, past Dexter Middle School.

Ann Topjon, Chair
562-695-6185

MODERN TRENDS IN LITERATURE

Modern Trends in Literature will meet Thursday, January 23, at the home of Annette Lauritz. The book, *The Twelve Tribes of Hattie*, by Ayana Mathis will be reviewed by Kristine Yeseta. The book tells of fifteen-year-old Hattie Shepherd who flees Georgia and heads north. Full of hope, she settles in Philadelphia to build a better life. Instead she marries a man who will bring her nothing but disappointment, and watches helplessly as her firstborn twins are lost to an illness that a few pennies could have prevented. Hattie gives birth to nine more children, whom she raises with grit, mettle and not an ounce of the tenderness they crave. She vows to prepare them to meet a world that will not be kind. Refreshments provided by Kristine will be served at 7 PM with the book review beginning at 7:15. Annette lives at 17863 Nearbank, Rowland Hgts. To reach her home from Whittier, take the 60 freeway east and exit onto Fullerton. Keep right onto Fullerton Rd. South. Turn right onto Galatina and then make the second right onto Nearbank. Annette's home is on the right.

Joyce Paul, Chair

MYSTERY MAVENS

Wednesday, January 15, 6:30 PM



Finding Nouf by Zoe Ferraris

Reviewer: Marsha Davies



Set in contemporary Saudi Arabia, this debut mystery centers on Nouf ash-Shrawi, a 16-year-old girl who disappeared into the desert three days before her marriage and has been found dead, several weeks pregnant. Palestinian Nayir al-Sharqi who lives in Jeddah is asked by the Shrawi family to investigate Nouf's death discreetly. Nayir is wary of traversing the wide gulf between Saudi men's and women's worlds, and is encouraged by his friend Othman, an adopted son of the Shrawis, to seek the help of Katya Hijazi, Othman's fiancée. Katya has a Ph.D. and is employed in the women's section of the state medical examiner's office. As Nayir and Katya's investigation progresses, it becomes clear that at least one of the Shrawis has something to hide. Ferraris, who has lived in Saudi Arabia, gets deep inside Nayir's and Katya's very different perspectives, giving a fascinating glimpse into the workings and assumptions of Saudi society.

Meet at Marie Callender's restaurant at 9829 S. La Serna Drive, Whittier (near Whittier Blvd.) at 6:30 p.m. in the Library Room.



JANUARY 2014 WALKERS 9 AM – THURSDAYS

- 2 No Walk
- 9 La Mirada Creek Park
Meet in parking lot off Santa Gertrudes
- 16 Whittwood Town Center
Meet in front of Panera's Bakery
- 23 Arroyo Pescadero Park
Meet in parking lot off Colima
- 30 La Mirada Regional Park
Parking lot by Splash - off La Mirada Blvd.
Turn signal by fire station

Hope to see you each week!

Shirley Stewart, Chair

FIRST FRIDAY

Date: January 3
 Time: 6 - 8 PM
 Host: Barbara and Bill Gile
 14035 Eastridge
 Whittier
 562-693-7279

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 light 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.

L.A. COUNTY INTERBRANCH COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting of the L.A. County Interbranch Council will be held on Sunday, January 12, at PIH Health - 12401 Washington Blvd., Whittier, at 2 PM.

The topic is "Global Millennium Development Goals in Education - Post 2015."

Around the world, consultations are taking place to exchange ideas and gather views on a shared vision for the education we would like for all children. Join us for a stimulating discussion of worldwide educational goals after 2015!

The aim of the program is to invite wider participation in the dialogue about the post-2015 development agenda that will succeed the present millennium development goals and set out a new framework for the global development community, of which education is a part.

What goals would you put forward for the next 15-20 years? Jot down some thoughts; come with your notes and comments and give us your opinion. We look forward to your participation in this meeting.

The meeting will be held in the conference room, lower level. Meeting begins at 2:00pm.

Dolores Seidman



INTERNATIONAL CONCERNS

International Concerns will meet with Ellen Larson (Whittier Beverly Park, 12031 Beverly Blvd. #2D) at 10 AM on Tuesday, January 21. We will discuss *Threat Assessment, Article #8 in Great Decisions 2013*. Be sure to remember to bring your checkbook to pay for Great Decisions 2014. For further information please contact Ellen at ereora2005@yahoo.com or 562-695-7017.

MEMBERSHIP

In a recent edition of the Whittier Daily News, there was commentary by Steve Scauzillo – “Are Women Better Leaders than Men.” In his article he stated “even 20 years ago, many would say men are naturally better leaders. But now, the tide of public opinion may be turning” so, are we better leaders, better decision makers? During a discussion at our last board meeting, one board member stated, “we are all educated women – we can make the decision” and she was indeed correct – we made a decision by leadership.

Currently, there are nineteen world leaders who are women – Germany, Argentina, Iceland, Costa Rica, and Brazil are a few. Other past leaders include Corazon Aquino from the Philippines, Indira Gandhi from India, Golda Meir from Israel, Margaret Thatcher from the United Kingdom, Benazir Bhutto from Pakistan, and the list goes on.

I read an article about Hilda Solis, and she stated that when she was in high school she was told she should study to become a secretary...her response - she did become a secretary – Secretary of Labor!

Can we be leaders? Who can multi-task any better than we can? Think back – we could hold a baby, talk on the phone and cook dinner - all at the same time! I used to vacuum my carpets while holding my infant son.

“Strong women get things done! Be passionate. Be courageous. Be your best!” – Gabby Giffords, the former congresswoman and gun-violence survivor.

Malala Yousafzai, the Pakistani 16-year-old who defied the Taliban – “I believe that a gun has no power at all because a gun can only kill – but a pen can give life.”

As a member of AAUW, we can be an inspiration to other women. Share your experiences. Encourage and invite family and friends to join AAUW. All it takes is an invitation – ask a friend or family member to join all that we have to offer – from the Math/Science Conference to Gardening to International concerns – there is something for everyone. We must continue the fight against inequality. It is still seen in pay gains for young women – yes, we are still fighting the fight our mothers and grandmothers fought, and we must continue to fight

Are we ready for a woman to lead our country – you bet we are!!

A big welcome to our newest member:

Dolores Gonzalez-Hayes (Spouse: Glenn Hayes)
8722 Seranata Dr.
Whittier, CA 90603
Home Phone: 562-943-6880
Cell Phone: 562-237-4466
gonzalezhayes@aol.com



Christine Chacon Sullivan
Membership Vice-President

PUBLIC POLICY

Patricia Cuocco



As I sit writing this, Christmas is still 10 days away, but you will not receive the newsletter until just before New Years. So, here is hoping that your holidays were everything you hoped they would be and that the warmth and love of family and friends will sustain you into the New Year.

As we head into 2014, it is time for resolutions. As AAUW members committed to making life better for women and girls, there is much we can and should do from a public policy perspective to make that goal more attainable.

A positive resolution would be to take one action monthly on an issue that AAUW supports. This could involve a letter to a representative or elected official; signing a petition; writing a letter to the editor of the newspaper(s); boycotting companies whose policies are harmful to girls and women, etc.

Right now, much is in the news about the Budget Deal brokered by Senator Patty Murray of Washington and Congressman Paul Ryan of Wisconsin. While the bi-partisan deal is a step in the right direction in terms of having a Congress that actually gets some work done, it leaves much unaddressed. The Sequester and the Draconian effects it has on the poorest among us, is still alive and well. Food stamps, nutritional programs, and education funding are all at risk. There is much fodder for activism here.

Certainly, the Gender Pay Gap is still very much alive and well. Women still earn \$.77 for every \$1.00 earned by a man in comparable jobs. Even though more women than men graduate college, women graduate to a systemic gender gap and one year out of college are making less than male counterparts in comparable fields.

Failure to pay a living minimum wage negatively impacts families. If the minimum wage had the same purchasing power that it did in 1968 (45 years ago) it would be \$10.77 (see <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R42973.pdf>). According to AAUW, this is a workingwomen's issue in that 56% of the beneficiaries of a proposed raise in the minimum wage are women.

Having to choose between caring for a sick child or family member and maintaining a job, and an income is a burden that falls heavily on women. Almost 50% of workers who needed leave in 2012 couldn't afford to take it. Representative Rosa DeLauro and Senator Kirsten Gillibrand introduced the Family and Medical Insurance Leave Act (FAMILY Act) earlier today. You might consider asking your representatives in Congress to support this much-needed bill --><http://bit.ly/18B4QLO>.

Unfortunately, there are many more issues that need attention. In February, we will focus on the ongoing war on reproductive rights. It's going to be a busy New Year.

SHOW GIRLS

Join the Show Girls Thursday, January 9, for a movie at Whittier Uptown Village Theaters. An email will be sent regarding the exact time and name of movie.

Cindy Birt

MEMORIES

The first Memories meeting of 2014 will be at the home of Carole Restovich on Wednesday, January 22, at 1:30 PM. The topic will be "What I Learned in 2013" - perhaps it was something about family, about the world we live in, about ourselves. We write about our memories and then share them aloud to a very supportive audience. It's always amazing to hear the variety of experiences on a given topic. New members are welcome. Directions to Carole's house: from Whittier Blvd., turn north on, east on Philadelphia, right on Bryn Mawr Way to 7008, a green house on your left.

Carole Restovich, Chair

THOUGHTS ON THE NEW YEAR

May all your troubles last as long as your New Year's resolutions. ~Joey Adams

People are so worried about what they eat between Christmas and the New Year, but they really should be worried about what they eat between the New Year and Christmas.
~Author Unknown

Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right. ~Oprah Winfrey

Youth is when you're allowed to stay up late on New Year's Eve. Middle age is when you're forced to. ~Bill Vaughn

R.I.P. AGAIN!

Reading, Interpretation and Performance

Our next meeting will be held Wednesday, January 8, at 2 PM at the home of Brenda and Peter Jahn, 1339 N. Padonia, Whittier. This meeting promises to be productive and fun. We will be reworking and updating a program that was successful several years ago. All members (with or without experience) are invited. Please join us! Directions: Whittier Blvd. East, left on Macy, right on Janine, left on Solejar, right on Via Rita, left on N. Padonia to 1339.

Colleen Tan
Gwen Woirhaye, Co-Chairs

GARDENING

The Gardening Section will meet in January.

The **PLANNING MEETING** for 2014 activities is set for mid December, which means that as of right now, there is no specific event scheduled for January.

For the last few years the Gardening Section has gone to the post Rose Parade viewing on January 2. An announcement of the first Gardening Section event of the New Year will be emailed to all AAUW members later this month. January is a great month to become part of the Gardening Section. All are invited to join.

Ellen Peck, Chair



**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.

GREATER WHITTIER AREA AAUW BRANCH CALENDAR JANUARY 2014



DAY	DATE	TIME	
Friday	3	6:00 PM	First Friday , Barbara Gile
Wednesday	8	2:00 PM	R.I.P. Again , Brenda and Peter Jahn
Thursday	9	9:00 AM	Walkers Section , La Mirada Creek Park
Thursday	9	3:30ish PM	Showgirls , Whittier Village Theaters
Sunday	12	2:00 PM	L.A. County Interbranch Council , PIH Health
Wednesday	15	6:30 PM	Mystery Mavens , Marie Callender's, La Serna Dr.
Thursday	16	9:00 AM	Walkers Section , Whittwood, Panera Bakery
Monday	20	11:00 AM	Gardening Section , TBA
Tuesday	21	10:00 AM	International Concerns , Ellen Larson
Wednesday	22	1:30 PM	Memories , Carole Restovich
Wednesday	22	6:00 PM	Math/Science Packet Party , Barbara Gile
Thursday	23	9:00 AM	Walkers Section , Arroyo Pescadero Park
Thursday	23	7:00 PM	Modern Trends in Literature , Annette Lauritzen
Monday	27	10:00 AM	Morning Book , Ann Topjon
Wednesday	29	8:30 AM	Math/Science Conference , Whittier College
Thursday	30	9:00 AM	Walkers Section , La Mirada Regional 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: HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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

