



GREATER WHITTIER AREA BRANCH AAUW NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2014
Volume 68 Issue 7

Linking You to Branch Activities and to Each Other



GREATER WHITTIER AREA AAUW MEETING
SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 11:30 AM
RADISSON HOTEL, WHITTIER

OLIVIA FISHER AND STEFANIE MILLER
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
Reservations – March 2

AAUW Luncheon Meeting – Saturday, March 8, 11:30 AM

Our topic for this month's program is the serious subject of domestic violence. Our two speakers will share their insights on this problem. Statistics show that every nine seconds in the U.S. a woman is assaulted or beaten. The first speaker, **Olivia Fisher**, a detective from the Whittier Police Department, will recount her experiences working in the field, while the second, **Stefanie Miller**, President of Shelter's Right Hand, Auxiliary to the Women's and Children's Crisis Shelter in Whittier, will tell us of the work that is being done to aid the victims in our community. In order to support the Women's and Children's Crisis Center, we are asking our members to bring items to this meeting for their use. Paper items such as towels, toilet paper, plates and napkins would be appreciated as well as gift cards to Target or Wal-Mart.

Dolores Seidman, Program

St. Patrick

Luncheon and Reservation Details for March 8

Happy St. Patrick's Day! Our featured lunch will be a traditional St. Paddy's Day feast of corned beef and cabbage. The Radisson will prepare a non-beef selection as well, along with coffee, ice tea and water. Lunch begins at 11:30, but arrive early to visit with friends and secure a table. Centerpieces will be provided by International Concerns. Lunch is \$20. 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 March 2. If you use my answering machine please leave your full name and telephone number.

Ellen Peck & Nancy Stiefeling, Hospitality

St. Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland, but he was not Irish. Patrick was born in Scotland or Wales. At 16 he was kidnapped by raiders and sold into slavery in Ireland. At 22 he escaped, made his way to a monastery, and devoted the rest of his life to God. St. Patrick did not actually drive snakes out of Ireland; the snakes represent pagans he converted to Christianity. Patrick died on March 17, 461 AD. 34 million Americans have Irish ancestry; that's almost nine times the entire population of Ireland! Nine people who signed the Declaration of Independence were of Irish origin, and nineteen U.S. Presidents claim Irish heritage. Today, St. Patrick's Day is a celebration of Irish culture and history, and on March 17 everyone is a little bit Irish.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Sharon Heck

I am so very grateful and thankful for everyone who helped make our 21st Annual Math/Science Conference for 8th Grade Girls such a success. Those who worked ahead of time in the planning and those who worked on Wednesday, the 29th of January are so appreciated. We had speakers, greeters, moderators, registration workers and others who made our event at Whittier College so special. The young women heard some great presentations from our speakers and, hopefully, were inspired to think about careers in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields. Thanks again to all who helped.

Our Myra Long Scholarship Fund supports all of our scholarship programs and is so worthwhile. Be generous when you send in your donation for our non-event fundraiser. Our President-elect Patricia Cuocco created a very clever non-event for us, and we thank her for her hard work.

Thank you to our program chair for this year, Dolores Seidman. Our February speaker used her AAUW grant to complete her book on women who leave or try to leave a life of prostitution. Her talk and the question and answer session were very enlightening. Don't miss our March 8 Branch meeting at the Radisson. The topic is a timely one, domestic violence. We will learn about what is happening concerning this problem in Whittier. Hope to see you there.

New Member Discount Available: From January 1 to March 15, 2014, AAUW has reduced national dues by 50% (\$24.50). Our Branch board voted to reduce local dues to coincide. From now through March 15, we can offer new members a rate of \$47 for the balance of the fiscal year. As of 4/1/14, dues go back up to \$89, HOWEVER, the membership is for the balance of 2013/14 and ALL of 2014/15. If you have any questions, please call our membership chair, Christine Sullivan 562-696-3094 <cchaconsullivan@hotmail.com> or call or email Patricia Cuocco at 562-698-6665 <patricia@fullerton.edu>.



NEW MEMBER EVENT

Our new and long-time members are invited to a get-together at the home of Barbara Gile, 14035 Eastridge Dr., Whittier, on Thursday, March 27 from 4 - 6 PM. The R.I.P. Section will present a reading about our Branch, and everyone's questions can be answered.

Welcome a new member to our AAUW Branch!

Catherine McCloud
8017 Elden Ave.
Whittier, CA 90602

562-698-7663 home
562-417-4563 cell
camcloud@aol.com



MYSTERY MAVENS

Wednesday, March 19, 6:30 PM

Open Season by Archer Mayor

Reviewer: Carol K. Anderson

It was the shot that shook the town of Brattleboro, Vermont. Jamie Phillips had dropped in on Thelma Reitz, only to have that staid old lady blow his head off with a shotgun. Jamie's atomized neck was enough to make even the most hardened cop wince. Obviously a setup, thinks Detective Joe Gunther, but the crime soon takes on even more shocking dimensions. First, Gunther discovers that murderess and victim were co-jurors on the sensational Harris murder trial three years earlier. Then, several vicious assaults lead Gunther to suspect that whoever planned Jamie's diabolical death won't quit until the Harris affair is reopened, even if it means killing every juror...and the cop on the case.

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

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

WALKERS

9 AM – THURSDAYS



March 6 La Mirada Creek Park
Meet in parking lot off Santa Gertrudes

March 13 Greenway Trail Citrus Station
Park behind King Richards

March 20 Pat Nixon Fountain (Mar Vista & Colima)
Park on Las Paredes Dr. behind the fountain

March 27 Parnell Park
Meet in parking lot off Lambert in front of the big metal bird

Shirley Stewart
562-944-4556

shirleys.creations@verizon.net

MORNING BOOK

This month we have chosen to read *The Round House*, by the award-winning Louise Erdrich. This recent book is a brilliant, moving, complex, and surprisingly uplifting novel that tells of a boy's coming of age in the wake of a brutal, racist attack on his mother. Drawn from real-life statistics about racially inspired attacks on our country's reservations, this novel perceptively illuminates the harsh realities of contemporary life in a community in North Dakota where the Ojibwe and whites uneasily cohabit. Our meeting will take place on Monday, March 24, at 10 AM, at Maura Greeley's. Carol K. Anderson is the co-hostess, and Janice Geiger will be leading our discussion.

Directions to Maura's house, 4704 Canyon Rim Dr., Whittier; 562-692-3919: From Beverly Blvd, take Workman Mill Rd. to Spyglass Hill Rd. Turn right on Spyglass Hill Rd. to Woodmar; right on Woodmar to Amber Hill; right on Amber Hill to Silver Tip; left on Silver Tip to Canyon Rim. Canyon Rim is a short cul de sac. The house is off Workman Mill Rd. and Spyglass Hill Rd., and about a half a mile from the entrance to Rio Hondo College.

I'm looking forward to seeing you!

Ann Topjon, Chair 562-695-6185

INTERFAITH FOOD CENTER

Thanks again to all of you who continue to support this worthwhile program.

The Interfaith Food Center distributes over three million pounds of food thanks to groups like us, who continue to support this great cause.

Mark your calendar and bring your donation (food or money) to our March 8th meeting.

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

Left here MODERN TRENDS

Modern Trends will meet on Thursday, March 27 at the home of Joyce Paul. The book, *Beautiful Ruins*, by Jess Walter will be discussed by the group. Joyce will provide refreshments at 7 PM and the discussion will begin at 7:15. *Beautiful Ruins* is a story that begins in 1962 on a rocky patch of the sun-drenched Italian coastline. A young innkeeper, chest-deep in daydreams, looks out over the incandescent waters of the Ligurian Sea and spies an apparition: a tall, thin woman, a vision in white, approaching him on a boat. She is an actress, he soon learns, an American starlet, and she is dying. And the story begins again today, half a world away, when an elderly Italian man shows up on a movie studio's back lot—searching for the mysterious woman he last saw at his hotel decades earlier. What unfolds is a dazzling, yet deeply human, roller coaster of a novel, spanning fifty years and nearly as many lives. No one has volunteered to review this book, so come prepared to discuss. Directions: 60 Freeway East to 57 North and exit onto Temple. Turn right onto Temple and make a very quick left onto Mission. Go ½ mile and turn left onto Sorrento Rd., right onto Via Moreno and right onto Via Valdez. Joyce is at 372 Via Valdez. There is limited parking within the complex, but additional parking is available on Sorrento Rd.

Joyce Paul

LAS DISTINGUIDAS APPLICATIONS

Las Distinguidas applications for nominations are due March 28. We encourage AAUW members to nominate worthy and distinguished women who have made significant contributions in one or more areas of business, the arts, education, community service, politics and the professions in the Greater Whittier area. Please call or email Carol Shupek for applications at 562-945-4931 or cshupek@yahoo.com.

Las Distinguidas Committee

INTERNATIONAL CONCERNS

International Concerns will meet at 10 AM on Tuesday, March 18 with Ellen Larson (Whittier Beverly Park, 12031 Beverly Blvd. #2D). Our topic is *Israel and the U.S.* Chapter 2 in the *Great Decisions 2014*.

Please join us to bring your views into the discussion. The new discussion books have arrived. For further information contact Ellen Larson at 562- 695-7017, or ereora2005@yahoo.com



R.I.P. AGAIN!

Reading, Interpretation and Performance

The R.I.P section will entertain with an original reading at the New Member meeting on Thursday, March 27, from 4 - 6 PM at the home of Barbara Gile. Please join us!

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.

Colleen Tan and Gwen Woirhaye, Co-Chairs (562) 698-4934 or gwen@woirhaye.com

MEMORIES

The March 26 (Wednesday) meeting of Memories will take place at the home of Barbara Gile at 1:30 PM. The topic is Guilty Pleasures. So many pleasures, so little time. But guilty ones? Perhaps mindless reading material, a type of indulgent food, an expensive or time-consuming hobby, a lazy day or two? Share your written thoughts – everyone is welcome. We are a very supportive group. And, of course, you may always choose a topic of your own. Barbara's address is 14035 Eastridge Dr., one block north of Mar Vista, off Vale Dr. Phone: 693-7279.



NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

We hear so many people say how wonderful it is that the Greater Whittier Area Branch accomplishes so much: Tech Trek, Math/Science Conference, scholarships, community recognitions and so many other great programs. It's true, and I know that you all know that this takes two important things – money (which we will address later) and the commitment and dedication of our members along with the willingness to step up to leadership positions.

Many AAUW branches have had to disband and others are moribund because of the refusal of members to pitch in and help out. None of us want to see that happen in Whittier. Our past president, Susan Halliday, is chairing the nominating committee for the 2014/15 slate of officers. Please consider taking on a job. Our guidelines say that a member can only do a board job for two terms in a row. That means many of the women who have worked so hard in the past will term out. We need new blood; we need willing spirits; we need YOU. Call Susan Halliday at 562-696-7395 or email her sbathaliday@yahoo.com if you are willing to help. You can also call Patricia Cuocco at 562-698-6665 or patricia@fullerton.edu.

FIRST FRIDAY

Date: March 7
Time: 6 - 8 PM
Bring: BYOB / appetizer to share
Welcome to new members: come solo or with someone
Purpose: Eat, drink, socialize

Host: Sharon Heck
6032 Comstock Ave.
Whittier
562-698-0476

Directions: Go north on Greenleaf from Uptown Whittier. Turn left on Broadway. Turn right at the first street, Comstock. 6032 Comstock Ave is about half way down the block, on the right.

If you get to Beverly Blvd. you have gone too far.



GARDENING

Whittier AAUW Garden Section March Trip

- ***When:** Monday, March 24
- ***Where:** Fullerton Arboretum
1900 Associated Rd.
Fullerton
- ***Time and Meeting Place:** Meet to carpool at Ralphs' parking lot (Colima and Whittier Blvd.) at 10:15 AM.
- ***What to Bring:** Comfortable shoes, hat, sunscreen, camera and a **sack lunch with drink.**

Picnic tables are provided.

Parking and entrance are free, however there is a \$3 voluntary donation box at the entrance.

Ellen Peck, Chair

MYRA LONG SCHOLARSHIP FUND (MLSF)

The MLSF Committee met in February. All members are welcome to attend and observe this hard working committee in action at the next May 1 meeting.

Saturday, January 18, the Speech Trek contest for local high school students was held in the Central Library Nixon Room. The Myra Long Scholarship committee awarded \$300 for first place to Tanya Ittimeykin (Cal High), \$200 for second place to Michael Wu (La Serna) and \$150 for third place to Evelyn Guerra (Cal High). On February 5, Tanya will record her winning speech and it will be entered in the AAUW-California Speech Trek contest. The winner of Speech Trek will be announced at the AAUW California Convention April 11-13 at the Los Angeles Airport Marriot. The topic this year is: "WOMEN AT THE TOP . . . why not?"

This year we have the opportunity to docent in the Pasadena Design House. We are paid \$40 for a four-hour shift. This is a fun project because we get to visit the 2014 Design House, which would cost \$45 if we paid to go through the house. If you volunteer for two shifts you will receive a FREE ticket (five shifts = two tickets). The mandatory training will be held on **Saturday, March 29, from 2 - 4 PM or on April 5, from 10 AM to noon.**

We will carpool to the Rose Bowl in Pasadena and shuttle to the house.

You choose your most convenient date from the following: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings, on 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 camperships reserved. Being a docent is an easy, fun way to raise money.

We have had a very special donation from Gwen Woirhaye, who has this wonderful habit of crocheting frilly scarves. Last year she donated over \$1,200 from the proceeds of her busy hands.

We are looking forward to sending 10 girls to Tech Trek and awarding \$8,000 in scholarships to Rio Hondo students who are continuing their education at a four-year college. Thanks to Linda Ide, local scholarship chair, the committee approved a new way of advertising the scholarships with the Rio Hondo computer system. This will give our Branch more visibility in the community.

Patricia Cuocco, president-elect, has designed a creative fundraising letter that will be mailed this month. This non-event is done each year in remembrance of Myra Long's birthday. Myra would have been 98 years young this year.

MLSF ended 2013 with a total of \$152,546 in the bank and long-term investments. 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, CA 90607 or hand it to Kaye Kidwell, treasurer.

For further information contact Barbara Gile at (562) 693-7279 or a MLSF Committee member at whittieraauw@mac.com. The MLSF committee thanks you for your generous support.

MYRA LONG SCHOLARSHIP FUND RAISER

The fabulous work of the Myra Long Scholarship Fund depends on the generosity of GWA-AAUW members. That's not only "it in a nutshell", it's the "whole enchilada" – if you will pardon the food references.

So, coming soon to a mailbox near you will be a very special invitation for our Non-Event Fundraiser. Be on the lookout for an opportunity to use your imagination to "go where no one has gone before." The good news: no packing, no travel insurance, no pet sitters and no one has to take you to and from LAX. The better news: more educational opportunities for girls and women.

Please, when the invitation comes, return it as soon as you can. This way, we will know how much we can expend on our worthy causes.

L.A. COUNTY INTERBRANCH COUNCIL-

KIDOGO KENNEDY ON SOJOURNER TRUTH AND HENRIETTA LACKS

Sunday, March 9, 2 PM
Presbyterian Intercommunity Hospital
12401 Washington Blvd.
Whittier

Greater Whittier Area Branch members are fortunate to be able to attend meetings of the LACIC which are held right in our area. At this meeting we are able to meet and interact with other AAUW members from branches throughout L.A. County. In addition to hearing wonderful speakers we can learn much about what other branches are doing and share our successes. There is no charge and refreshments are served compliments of the hospital.

This month our speaker is Kidogo Kennedy, an adjunct professor at USC Rossier School of Education. Some of her courses include educational theory, varied aspects of communication and the social foundations of education, gender, race, class or communication studies.

For our program, she will speak about the importance of two historical African-American women in contemporary times – **Sojourner Truth**, an abolitionist and women's rights activist in the late 1800's; and **Henrietta Lacks**, whose cancerous cells were taken without her permission and have been used for noteworthy medical research, such as the polio vaccine and 1st human clone cell.

Come join us!

Dolores Seidman

NEW PHOENIX



The New Phoenix group will be celebrating St. Paddy's Day Thursday, March 13, 5:30 PM, by having dinner at Maggie's Pub, 11900 E. Telegraph Rd., Santa Fe Springs. Please make reservations by March 9 with Colleen Tan 562-698-4934 or Peggy Kiefer 562-695-2266.

PUBLIC POLICY

Patricia Cuocco

Gender Pay Equity

So, I was all set to start this article with a rant about how America's most iconic business – General Motors – hires its first female CEO (Mary Barra) and pays her less than her male predecessor. I even signed the petitions decrying this and thought, “Hmmp! So much for shattered glass ceilings.” OOPS! Turns out those college professors were right. Check your facts and double-check your sources! Mary will be paid more than her predecessor.

One question that remains is why were so many people (like me) ready to believe GM would pay its first female CEO less than her male predecessor? The simple answer is that it happens all the time at all levels of employment. The “gender-pay gap” has not improved in a decade. It is still \$.77 for every dollar a man earns and has been since 2002. That is why we celebrate Equal Pay Day in early April (4/8 this year) because that is how long into the next year it takes for woman to catch up and earn what a man earned the previous year.

I could say it's funny (but, I don't find it even mildly amusing) that male elementary and middle school teachers and male nurses are paid more than their female counterparts – AND THESE ARE TRADITIONALLY FEMALE JOBS!

In nearly every occupation and at every level of educational attainment, women are paid less. The gender gap gets wider with age with younger women making \$.90 on the dollar, dropping to \$.75 to \$.80 from age 35 to retirement and is worse for women of color. Even women without children are paid less over time, though needing time to raise children is often given as the excuse for paying women less. AAUW's research shows that allowing for ALL factors that influence salary and despite the fact that women outnumber men in colleges and many professional schools, one year after graduation, the gender gap exists for men and women in the same professions.

Besides basic fairness and the notion that women should be rewarded in proportion to their talent and effort, not their gender, this issue is inextricably tied to the economic health of the middle class and to the ability for families to raise themselves out of poverty. In a country where 1 in 2 marriages ends in divorce, how economically sustainable is it for half of the workforce to have negatively impacted opportunities to save for adequate retirements?

You know I don't usually rant without offering some activism opportunities. Take a moment to visit <http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/two-minute-activist/> and look under Economic Security for ways to let your voice be heard. As Equal Pay Day approaches, send a letter to the editor of the local paper or submit an Op Ed piece. Write to our Senators thanking them for their efforts on these issues and to your individual representatives asking for their support if they don't already do so. Urge the Department of Labor to speed up work on the software tool that will let us know which employers discriminate, so that we can choose not to buy their products or support their organizations.

Get engaged! Get active! Do it, if not for ourselves, then for our daughters and granddaughters. We expect as much of them as we do of our sons and grandsons. They should expect and receive equal pay for equal work.

**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 MARCH 2014



Tuesday	4	7:00 PM	Board Meeting , St. Matthias Episcopal Church
Thursday	6	9:00 AM	Walkers Section , La Mirada Creek Park
Friday	7	6:00 PM	First Friday , Sharon Heck
Saturday	8	11:30 AM	Branch Meeting , Radisson, Whittier
Sunday	9	2:00 PM	L.A. County Interbranch Council , PIH
Thursday	13	9:00 AM	Walkers Section , Greenway Trail, Citrus Station
Thursday	13	3:30ish PM	Showgirls , Whittier Village Theaters
Thursday	13	5:30 PM	New Phoenix , Maggie's Pub
Tuesday	18	10:00 AM	International Concerns , Ellen Larson
Wednesday	19	6:30 PM	Mystery Mavens , Marie Callender's, Library Room
Thursday	20	9:00 AM	Walkers Section , Pat Nixon Fountain
Monday	24	10:00 AM	Morning Book , Maura Greeley
Monday	24	10:15 AM	Gardening , Fullerton Arboretum, Meet at Ralphs'
Wednesday	26	1:30 PM	Memories , Barbara Gile
Thursday	27	9:00 AM	Walkers Section , Parnell Park
Thursday	27	4:00 PM	New Member Event & R.I.P. Again , Barbara Gile
Thursday	27	7:00 PM	Modern Trends , Joyce Paul
Saturday	29	2:00 PM	Design House Training , Pasadena Design House

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: Include the day (Mon. etc.) with the date of your event.

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





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