

GREATER WHITTIER AREA BRANCH AAUW NEWSLETTER

http://whittier-ca.aauw.net



Saturday, May 9, 11:30 AM Whittier Elks Club, Ballroom

Our program this month will honor the accomplishments of pillars of our community with our Las Distinguidas awards. We will also be celebrating one of our core mission accomplishments through the award of six Tech Trek Scholarships. Please see the separate articles for more information on Las Distinguidas (p. 3) and Tech Trek (p. 4).

The luncheon will be a chicken taco and a cheese enchilada with beans, rice, salad, dessert, coffee, tea and water. Chips and salsa will be the appetizer. Vegetarian meals are: Vegetable Pasta Florentine, Fettuccine Alfredo and pasta with mixed vegetables (advance notice required). Doggie bags are available upon request. Table decorations will be provided by the Morning Book Section. If you have not made a reservation for the Branch Las Distinguidas meeting, please do so right away (deadline April 5). Please send an email to DeDe Shatzen at Lsecret@earthlink.net. If you are without email, call DeDe at 310-617-7768. Your reservation will be confirmed. Cost of lunch is \$20. We will be in the Ballroom; entrance and parking are behind the Elks Lodge. Look for the AAUW signs. Elks Lodge is located at 13620 Whittier Blvd., Whittier.

DINING 4 \$\$\$\$ APPLEBEE'S - MONDAY - MAY 11

SUPPORT YOUR GWA-AAUW BRANCH!

WHAT'S HAPPENING? PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE 2 PUBLIC POLICY 5 FUNDS AND PROJECTS 6 SECTION INFORMATION 8

Don't forget to use our Branch Website! http://whittier-ca.aauw.net

For comments or questions
please contact Sharon Heck,
Website Manager

heck37@verizon.net
562-698-0476



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

WOW! Just WOW! I'm talking about Dr. Kidogo Kennedy's powerful and extremely moving talk at our Branch meeting yesterday. We've been blessed with so many terrific women talking to us, but Dr. Kennedy was in a class by herself. Her exploration of what it means to be a woman and particularly a woman of color was beyond inspirational. I loved the way she engaged the membership after her reading with questions about social justice and deconstructing race, class and gender in higher education. As a matter of fact, a few of us mentioned that having more opportunities to hear what our members have to say on these and other issues would be a very good thing. If you have ideas for future topics that could be turned into group discussions, share them with me or with our program director, Rozanne Child.

In looking back at Dr. Kennedy's talk, I don't want to miss the opportunity to share at least one take away that I had from the discussion. When talking about what we can do personally to advocate for social justice and the empowerment of woman, I don't think we can underestimate the importance of showing up! Not everyone can do everything well; not everyone has every skill needed in the struggle. However, everyone can do something and we owe it to ourselves, our daughters, granddaughters and the next generation to do what we can.

It seems fitting that this is the month we select women who have a habit of "showing up" and getting things done to honor with our Las Distinguidas awards. I'm particularly delighted that one of these is our own Sharon Heck. I've been the fortunate recipient of Sharon's kind and patient tutoring in how to be an AAUW president and I have witnessed countless acts of kindness and furtherance of social justice on her part. Please be sure to join us for this wonderful occasion at our May Branch meeting.

Patricia Cuocco, President

GWA-AAUW Continues to Grow!

At our April Branch meeting, we celebrated all of 30-39 year members. Please congratulate the following on their continued AAUW membership: 30 years - Virginia Ball, Eleanor Hauger, Jois Hofmann; 32 years - Kristine Yeseta; 33 years - Cynthia Birt, Sandy Bridges; 34 years - Peggy Burlingham, Brenda Gaumer, Gen'nel Walters; 35 years - Susan Halliday; 37 years - Ruth Currie, Marian Locke, Myra Weiss; 38 years - Carlyn Hemminger; 39 years - Rosemary Bertone, Jane Dicus. Certificates of Years of Membership are given to those members at the Branch meetings. If you were not at the meeting when your years of membership was recognized, please be sure to have someone pick the certificate up for you. In May we will be recognizing those members with 40 years of membership and our 50 and 50+ year members in June. Such a tribute to AAUW and to our Branch to realize the many members who have such great longevity.

Be sure to invite prospective members to a Branch meeting and email them a copy of our newsletter to let them know the amazing activities and projects AAUW offers. AAUW is now offering new members a 15-month membership for the price of our regular 12-month membership. The total cost for a one-year membership is now \$93 for GWA-AAUW regular membership, which reflects the CA state increase of \$4. The membership committee will have devices at our May, and June meetings so that members can join online with their credit card. EASY! We will also be able to give you your personal AAUW membership number so that you can easily access or change your personal information (e.g. email address, mailing address, etc.) on the national database.

(Continued on page 3)

(Membership continued)

It would be fantastic if all members complete their renewals before June 30th. It would certainly assure that our yearbook could be completed with the correct information and ready for distribution at the September Branch meeting.

Please complete the GWA-AAUW Membership Questionnaire. This information will be kept by the membership committee and will be updated every 5 years. GWA-AAUW is constantly influx with new members as well as experienced members, so it is important when the Branch wants to acknowledge a member the correct information is available. Members on a committee may be 3-20 year members, but not have information about members who held positions or were active 45 years ago. You can fill out your questionnaire online & email to Susan Halliday or Lynda Richardson or bring your questionnaire to a Branch meeting. **DON'T FORGET – DUES ARE \$93.** If you want the yearbook mailed, please write a separate check.

Please welcome our new GWA-AAUW members!

Introduce yourself at a Branch meeting or section meeting. Don't forget to add them to your yearbook.

 Debra Benveniste
 Linda Harris
 Rachel Perez

 1005 Caraway Dr.
 5577 Pioneer Blvd #2
 11816 Los Coyotes

 Whittier, 90601
 Whittier, 90601
 La Mirada, 90638

 818-590-5240
 562-692-4034
 562-631-3183

email: gobenny1@gmail.com email: ljharris907@gmail.com email: teamperezfour@yahoo.com

Susan Halliday 562-696-7395 email: sbathalliday@yahoo.com
Lynda Richardson 562-943-1772 email: Lyndasue10@yahoo.com

LAS DISTINGUIDAS AWARDS 2015

This will be the 49th year that our Branch of the AAUW has honored distinguished women in the Whittier area for their outstanding contributions in the areas of business, education, the arts, community service, politics, and their professions. At the May 9th meeting we will honor two amazing women: Rita Murray and Sharon Heck.

Rita Murray was nominated by the National Alliance for Mental Illness of Whittier. She exemplifies a work ethic and a caring for others that is admirable. She has touched so many lives with the important work that she provides to individuals, families, and organizations. The committee was very impressed with the number and wide range of recommendations submitted in support of Rita. In addition to the work that Rita performs daily, she sings in her church choir, works to provide shelter for the homeless, and mentors high school students. Rita has also been presented with numerous awards. We will add the Las Distinguidas Award to her collection at our presentation on May 9th.

Sharon Heck was nominated by AAUW and there was definitely no bias in that nomination. Any organization reading that application would award this amazing woman whatever award they had to offer. Sharon is involved in and supports numerous organizations in which she holds an office and assumes major responsibilities. Sharon is tireless in her advocacy for justice and improving the lives of individuals in a variety of ways. She has held several positions in AAUW, including President, and has been involved in the Math/Science conference, Christmas boutique, International Concerns, Public Policy, and the Myra Long Scholarship Fund. Sharon has held numerous offices within her church. You will be astounded when you hear all that she has accomplished.

(Continued on page 4)

(Las Distinguidas continued)

This is a tiny sampling of what these two women are doing and have done. They are amazing and will be honored at the May 9th meeting. Please attend to find out even more about them.

The Las Distinguidas committee this year was outstanding. Colleen Tan kept everyone focused and on time in meeting the necessary deadlines. Carol Shupek hosted all the meetings and generously shared her home, her experience, and her talents. Janice Biby insured that all letters were mailed on time and shared her experiences from last year. It is always difficult making the final decisions when choosing whom to honor, but this committee worked diligently and made wise decisions. Each committee member was invaluable to making this presentation on May 9th possible.

Joyce Paul

TECH TREK

Tech Trek is a science and math camp designed to develop interest, excitement and self-confidence in young girls who will enter eighth grade in the fall. It features hands-on activities in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) and related subjects. This summer our Branch will be sending six girls to Whittier College for one week from June 14th through June 20th. Five members from the Greater Whittier Area Branch (Ann Chambers, Patricia Cuocco, Pat Dudley, Linda Gatons, Maura Greeley) interviewed 13 girls who had been nominated by a math or science teacher from their school of attendance and had submitted an essay on their choice of a STEM career. All of the candidates expressed a commitment that math and science were important to them as students and that they desired to continue furthering their education in these areas.

Through outreach and fundraising efforts of the Myra Long Scholarship Fund (MLSF) our Branch received money from Whittier AAUW member volunteers at Pasadena Showcase House and donations from AAUW members to MLSF designated to be used for Tech Trek. Our six campers have been invited to attend the May luncheon with a guest. Campers from East Whittier School District (*Granada Middle School in Whittier*) Jin Kim, Katelyn Nye, Lauren Tuttle Felicano. Campers from Los Nietos School District (*Los Nietos Middle School*) Briany Flores, Miliani Licea, Kacie Rodriquez.

For more information on Tech Trek visit the Whittier Branch website http://www.aauwwhittier.info or AAUW California website http://www.aauw-tech-trek.org/.

Ann Chambers Pat Dudley

ST. MATTHIAS HOMELESS/FOOD PROGRAM

Please bring food, shampoo, soaps, caps, sock, money, etc. The need is great, so lets all pitch in and help the church with our donations.

Shirley Stewart



PUBLIC POLICY

Luckily, I never had to choose between taking a sick day and missing part of a paycheck, but 22 million working women often have to make that difficult choice. They disproportionately bear the economic cost of taking children or an elderly family member to the doctor, caring for them when ill or driving them for treatments. In addition, they often delay seeking their own health care for the same reason. In addressing this dilemma, California will offer paid sick leave beginning July 1, 2015. The *Healthy Workplaces Healthy Families Act* of 2014 will affect 40% of California's workforce, which currently has no sick days. The worker will then be able to earn one hour of paid sick leave for every 30 hours worked. Accrued sick leave may be carried over to the next year, but may be capped at 48 hours or six days.

However, we are only one of three states offering such leave and that is why AAUW supports HR 932, *The Healthy Families Act* that was introduced in the House on February 12, 2015. In this bill an employee can earn up to seven days a year in paid sick leave. Any employer of less than 15 workers would be exempt. If passed, 90% of all Americans would have access to paid sick leave. Currently, the number is 61%. By the way, federal government employees have 13 paid sick days a year.

AAUW is asking its members to encourage their representatives to approve the bill so that millions of working women won't have to choose between a sick child and a paycheck. Over 145 countries offer such programs; it is time for the United States to join this enlightened group.

In case you missed it....

- Ellen Pao lost her case against the venture capital firm that she claimed dismissed her because of gender discrimination. The case has set off myriad discussions in the Silicon Valley about the lack of women in the high tech industry. That's a good thing, as Martha Stewart used to say.
- Sarah Thomas was hired by the NFL as the first full-time female game official. She has been a football referee for 19 years, works as a pharmaceutical representative during the day, and has two pre-teen boys and a toddler girl. Hooyah!

BE SURE TO VOTE!

It is your right and it is essential that EVERY member vote in both the National AAUW and AAUW-CA elections. Your voice counts. This year in the national election, there is a question on whether membership should be open to those without a degree. Based on discussion at the state Annual Meeting, this is a hot topic on which members have strongly held opinions, so make your opinion count! If you have not received your voting material by now (email or snail mail), let PatriciaCuocco, Susan Halliday or Lynda Richardson know.

AAUW NATIONAL CONVENTION SAN DIEGO JUNE 18 – 21

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to meet with women leaders from across the country. AAUW's national convention is a unique opportunity to learn new skills, gain insight and inspiration, and connect with other women leaders.



FUNDS AND PROJECTS

AAUW FUNDS

Each year AAUW branches are able to honor certain members for the special service they have given to AAUW as AAUW Funds Named Gift Honorees. This is based on the amount of the contribution made by members of the branch in the calendar year. For 2014 we have chosen three such honorees that were presented at the April Branch meeting. Below are the descriptions of this year's winners.

PATRICIA CUOCCO - Member since 2011, Patricia attended New York University with a BA from CSULA and a MPA from CSULB. In addition to serving as our current president, she has been appointed as Branch public policy chair, chair for our Branch yearbook, and participant in the holiday boutique committee. She has been elected as hospitality chair, president-elect and Myra Long director. She has been an active volunteer for the Math/Science Conference. She is active in the community, particularly in CASA in which she is an advocate for foster children.

MARGOT KAMENS - Member since 1975, Margot received her BA and MA from USC. She was elected as corresponding secretary and has served as public relations representative and co-editor of the Branch newsletter from 2000-2014. Working often "behind the scenes" she has been responsible for contributing to its professional quality. In the community she has served in the Children's Home Society, the Special Children's League, the Beverly Hospital Guild, and the Ladies Art and Cultural Society.

<u>ANN TOPJON</u> - Member since 1968, Ann has a BA from Occidental College and MLS from UCLA. She has worked on the holiday boutique, donating many of her artistic cards and pictures. She has been a participant in Morning Book for many years, serving as its chair for the last 3 years. Before that she served as the chair of the reading group in the La Habra Branch of AAUW from 1983-2008 when the branch disbanded and has continued to serve in that capacity. She has been active as a volunteer for the Math/Science Conference. She has been appointed historian and helped in the production of the President's Book for each year for the past 4 years, which are true works of art. Now she and cohistorian, Ellen Peck, are working on organizing the paper history of GWA-AAUW.

Many thanks to the members of the selection committee this year: Patricia Dudley, Susan Halliday, and Joyce Paul who also were instrumental in developing criteria for future selections.

Dolores Seidman



FIRST FRIDAY

Date: Friday - May 1 Time: 6 - 8 PM

Host: Fay and Jack Weber

Directions and address:

Directions to Jack and Fay Weber at 2089 E. Skyline, La Habra Heights. Phone number – 562-697-2101.

From Painter, go east on Whittier Blvd. to Harbor Blvd., about 5 miles. Turn left (North) on Harbor Blvd. and in one mile turn left on Fullerton Road. Go up the hill one mile to East Road. Turn left on East and then take an immediate right on Skyline and an immediate left into the driveway. Don't go up the hills as the house is on the corner of East Road and Skyline. If you plan to leave early, park on the road.

INTERNATIONAL CONCERNS

International Concerns will meet at 10 AM on Tuesday, May 19 with Ellen Larson (Whittier Beverly Park, 12031 Beverly Bl. #2D). Ellen will lead our discussion of *India Changes Course*, article #4 in *Great Decisions 2015*. All interested members are most welcome to join us.

For further information, contact Maurine Behrens at <u>maurineb90601@gmail.com</u> or 562-695-8436.

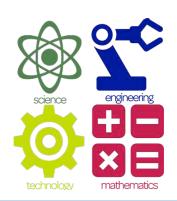
MYRA LONG SCHOLARSHIP FUND Annual Fundraiser

We are on our way to a banner year for our annual Myra Long Scholarship Fund nonevent fundraiser. To all who have contributed, I send a big "Thank You" and a virtual hug! To those who have yet to contribute, it is not too late.... Your donations fund our most worthy activities:

- *Scholarships* for women transitioning from Rio Hondo's associate degree program to four-year colleges or universities
- Tech Trek Summer Camp for girls entering the 8th grade (a week-long Science, Technology, Engineering and Math program at Whittier College)
- Annual Math/Science
 Conference for more than
 325 eighth grade girls from
 27 middle schools.

All donations are tax deductible. Please make your checks out to AAUW-MLSF and send them to AAUW-MLSF, PO Box 5333, Whittier, CA 90607-5333.

Kaye D. Kidwell





SECTION INFORMATION

MODERN TRENDS

Thursday, May 28, 7 PM

The Barbarian Nurseries by Hector Tobar Reviewer – Gwen Woirhaye

This masterful tale of the different socio-economic layers within contemporary Los Angeles is told through the lives of the Torres-Thompson family and their somewhat prickly maid, Araceli. Discovering the parents missing, Araceli takes the children to central L.A. in search of their estranged Mexican grandfather. The quest has consequences rippling through every strata of the sprawling city.

Author Hector Tobar is a Pulitzer prize-winning journalist and novelist.

Please join us for discussion at Kristine Yeseta's home – 13826 Walnut, Whittier, 562-696-0226 surfzena@earthlink.net. Colleen Tan will provide refreshments. We are happy to take book title suggestions for our 2015-16 year at this meeting. Looking forward to seeing each one of you in May.

Annette Lauritzen 626-964-1843 Kristine Yeseta 562-696-0226

MORNING BOOK

We will meet the first Monday of June, June 1, to discuss The Wives of Henry Oades, by Johanna Moran. Narrated primarily by Oades' two wives, and inspired by a New York Times newspaper account, it explores the intricacies of marriage, the construction of family, bigamy, the changing world of Victorian America and the strength of two remarkable women. Please join us as Harriet Kittle leads our discussion. The meeting will be at 10 AM at Ann Topjon's house, 5654 Palm, Whittier. Dolores Seidman will provide refreshments. During this meeting, we will also be voting on books to read and discuss for next year.

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

Ann Topjon, 562-695-6185

MYSTERY MAVENS

Wednesday, May 20, 6:30 PM

The Cutting Season, by Attica Locke Reviewer: Ann Farmer

Caren Gray manages Louisiana's stately Belle Vie, an antebellum plantation-turned-tourist attraction where the past and the present coexist uneasily. Outside the gates, an ambitious corporation snaps up sugarcane fields from struggling families, replacing local employees with illegal laborers. Tensions mount when a female migrant worker is found in a shallow grave on the edge of the plantation property, her throat cut clean through.

As the sheriff's department zeroes in on a suspect, Caren suspects the police are chasing the wrong leads. Putting herself at risk, she unearths startling secrets about the long-ago disappearance of a former slave that has unsettling ties to the current murder—secrets that a desperate killer stops at nothing to keep buried.

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

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

WALKERS THURSDAYS 9 AM

MAY

- 7 La Mirada Creek ParkMeet in parking lot off Santa Gertrudes
- 14 Santa Fe Springs, Heritage Park Meet in parking lot by the trains
- 21 Murphy Ranch Park
 Meet in parking lot at end of Youngwood
- 28 Arroyo Pescadero Park Meet in parking lot off Colima

Hope to see you all!

WANTED: Section Chair for Walking Group starting July 1, 2015

Shirley Stewart, 562-944-4556

GARDENING

FLOWERS FOR MOTHER'S DAY

The Gardening Section will be going to the LA Flower Mart on Thursday, May 7th to see and buy beautiful flowers and plants for Mother's Day, May 10th. The mart is open in the morning from 8 to 11 AM. Meet at the Ralphs' parking lot on the corner of Colima and Mar Vista at 8:30 AM and we will carpool to the Market. You can expect to be back in Whittier before noon. Everyone is invited. RSVP to Ellen at cpeck4@earthlink.net or 562) 943-4679.

It is not too late to reserve a spot for our April 29th outing to Nuccio's Nurseries. Nuccio's is noted for azaleas and gardenias. Meet at the same Ralphs' at 9 AM and RSVP to Ellen Peck.

MEMORIES

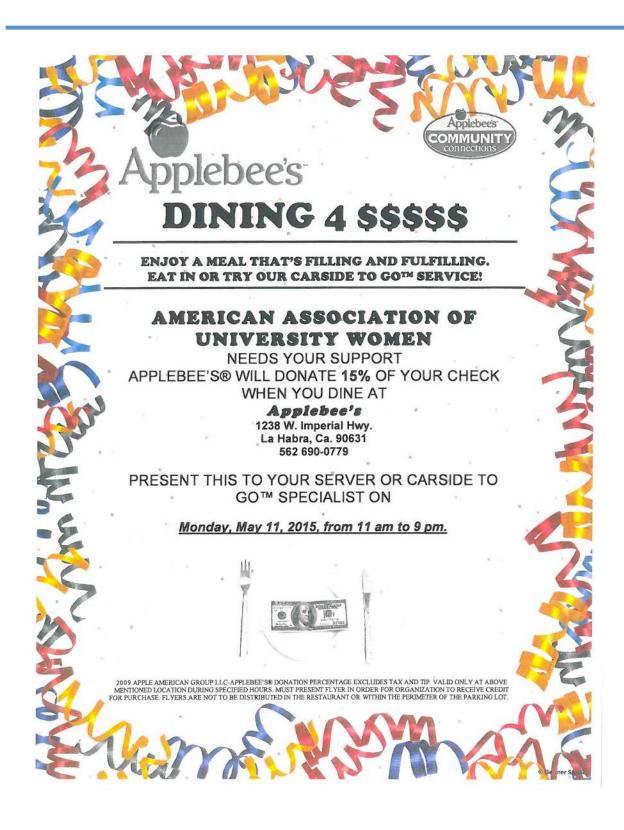
The May meeting of Memories takes place at the home of Carol J. Anderson on Wednesday, May 27 at 1:30 PM. The topic is *Never Thought I Could Do It!* Certainly we have all been faced with a challenge we felt we could not meet, let alone surpass, but we did and are the stronger for it. Whether it is a new job, the birth of a baby, a health issue, a class, a new hobby or a great responsibility, come share your written experiences and thoughts on May 27. We invite new members anytime. Write for your own clarity, catharsis, family history and/or fun.

Directions to Carol's home: From Whittier Blvd., turn north onto Macy which is just west of Beach, turn right on Randall, continue onto Solejar, turning left to stay on Solejar. Carol's address is 9759 Solejar, on the left. Her phone: 562-691-1542.

(**Note:** In case some of you have a very good memory, YES this is a repeat of last month's article because I submitted the wrong information then. This is correct, I promise.)

Carole Restovich





Greater Whittier Area American Association of University Women MEMBERSHIP for 2015–2016

*Title: Mrs Ms Miss None_	
*Last Name	
*First Name	*Middle Initial
Spouse's Name	
*Street Address	*City
*Zip Code	
Home Phone ()	
Work Phone ()	*Cellphone ()
Email address	
Degree	Year
Major	
College/University	
Degree	Year
Major	
College/University	
Degree	Year
Major	
College/University	
AAUW Membership Type (please chec	k one) Annual Dues: (New Members joining after 3/16/15 receive
General \$93 (Reflects 2015	increase)Student \$37 (membership through 6/30/16?
Life Member \$44	Dual \$24
A separate check is required for the	following:
	to me & will add \$2 to my payment check.
	r that costs \$5 plus \$1.50 postage & will add \$6.50 to my payment.
Do you have a sponsor? If so, who is it	?
Today's date	
Required of all members. New members	
Reminder: \$86 of your dues is tax ded	uctible.
Please complete and mail your	membership application and dues to:
	rship, P.O. Box 5333, Whittier, CA 90607-5333
Or register online at aauw.org Scro	oll down to Join/Renew

AAUW Membership Questionnaire

 $\label{eq:Please print or fill in w/type all information.}$ Use the back of this sheet or additional paper if you need more space for your information.

Name:			Year joined AAUW	
Last	First		·	
Colleges/Universities attended		Year graduated	Degree received	
Elected Offices held in AAUW		Branch	Year	
				
Appointed Offices held		Branch	Year/s	
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0 14 01 5 14				
Committee Chair Positions		Branch	Year/s	
Section Chair Positions		Branch	Year/s	
Committee/Section Participation	Name		Year/s	
		-		
Projects for AAUW Completed				
Community (Activities that contribute to the comm	munity & promote/brand AAL	JW/promote the mission of A	AUW)	
		_		
		_		
Offices held in other community activity that men	notes/brand the mission of A	ALIW		
Offices held in other community activity that pron	notes/brank the mission of A	MUV#		

GREATER WHITTIER AREA BRANCH CALENDAR MAY 2015

DAY	DATE	TIME	
Friday	1	6:00 PM	First Friday, Fay and Jack Weber
Tuesday	5	7:00 PM	Board Meeting, St. Matthias Episcopal Church
Thursday	7	8:30 AM	Gardening, L.A. Flower Mart, Meet at Ralphs' lot
Saturday	9	11:30 AM	Branch Meeting, Whittier Elks Club
Monday	11	11 AM - 9 PM	Dining 4 \$\$\$\$, Applebee's
Thursday	14	9:00 AM	Walkers, Heritage Park, Santa Fe Springs
Thursday	14	3:30 PM	Showgirls, Whittier Village Theaters
Tuesday	19	10:00 AM	International Concerns, Ellen Larson
Wednesday	20	6:30 PM	Mystery Mavens, Marie Callender's Library Room
Thursday	21	9:00 AM	Walkers, Murphy Ranch Park
Wednesday	27	1:30 PM	Memories, Carol J. Anderson
Thursday	28	9:00 AM	Walkers, Arroyo Pescadero Park
Thursday	28	7:00 PM	Modern Trends, Kristine Yeseta
JUNE			
Monday	1	10:00 AM	Morning Book, Ann Topjon

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 you one. Thank you for your cooperation and for sending in your articles by the 15th of the month.

REMINDER: PAY YOUR DUES!

Please send articles by email to christineheller@earthlink.net

Newsletter Editors - Christine Heller, Diana Clark and Carole Duff

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