

GREATER WHITTIER AREA BRANCH AAUW NEWSLETTER

http://whittier-ca.aauw.net



NOVEMBER

2015

Saturday, November 14, 11:30 AM Whittier Elks Club, Clubroom

Our program this month features, Shannon Cholakian, a graduating senior at CSULB and a two-time participant in the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) program (first as an attendee and second as a national student advisory council member for AAUW). Shannon's AAUW roots run deep, as she attended Tech Trek at Whittier as a camper.

NCCWSL is a transformative experience. During the fast-paced, two-and-a-half-day event, students hone their skills at workshops, meet amazing role models at the Women of Distinction awards ceremony, are inspired by our keynote speakers, and explore their future paths at the Grad School and Career Fairs.

Shannon is an amazing young woman. Come hear how she continues to fight for women's equity on and off campus. This is a meeting you will not want to miss.

Lunch will be stuffed pork chops, mixed green salad, scalloped potatoes, peas and carrots, dessert, coffee, tea and water. Vegetarian meals are Vegetable Pasta Florentine, Fettuccine Alfredo and pasta with mixed vegetables (advance notice required). A Chef's Salad with Grilled Chicken Breast is also available with advance notice. Enjoy table decorations provided by Positive Past Presidents.

Reservation for the Branch meeting, are due by Wednesday, November 11, noon. 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 *Clubroom*. The entrance to the Clubroom and parking are on the west side of the building. Look for the AAUW signs. Elks Lodge is located at 13620 Whittier Blvd. Whittier.

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

For comments or questions please contact Sharon Heck, Website Manager <u>heck37@verizon.net</u> 562-698-0476



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I write this, I am still basking in the success of last Saturday's branch meeting. We had a wonderful time chatting laughing, and learning. Our speaker Adriana Romero-Olivares, AAUW Fund International Fellow, sparked a new interest for me: fungi. Yes, fungi, or mushrooms as most of us know them. I, for one, had no idea how important fungi are to our ecosystem. What really blew me away was that the largest living organism on earth is a giant fungus in my home state of Oregon's Blue Mountains. It covers 2,384 acres (i.e., 1665 football fields or nearly four square miles) and weighs almost four tons. I am sure we will hear more from Ms. Romero-Olivares as she discovers ways that her fungi research can help ameliorate global warming. We AAUW members can take pride in our part to fund the studies of the brilliant students who are making significant changes in our lives.

Our November branch meeting will feature Shannon Cholakian, a student advocate for AAUW. She will tell us all about the National Conference for College Student Leaders, one of the newer arms of AAUW. She and her contemporaries are our future. See you then!

Kaye D. Kidwell, President



KAYE'S HEROES' CORNER

Among the outstanding women in my daily life are two women I like to refer to as *The Dynamic Duo*. This month I want to honor Susan Halliday and Lynda Richardson, our membership vice presidents. Recruiting new members and retaining current members is a major goal of AAUW and is never ending. Susan and Lynda make it all so much fun. They remind us that routine goals and tasks don't have to be boring. I remind myself of this when I tackle a household chore—Susan and Lynda have taught me to think in rhyme and sing cheerfully as I work. So let's all support their hard work and put November 17 and January 8 on our calendars. November 17 is the holiday shopping and dining fundraiser at the Really Great Stuff Boutique, and January 8 is the Meet and Greet Social to recruit new members and get reacquainted with current members. Susan and Lynda do so much in the community and for their families that I can't possibly do justice trying to recite their myriad contributions. They are part of the glue that keeps our community strong. They are my heroes!

Kaye D. Kidwell, President

PUBLIC POLICY - AAUW-CA 2015 LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Nancy Mahr, AAUW –CA Public Policy Director, asked that Branches print this 2015 Legislative Report in their newsletters. The 2015 legislative year began slowly in January but soon heated up in part due to our participation in a new, exciting coalition – <u>StrOnger California</u> Advocates Network. This coalition, organized by the Women's Policy Institute, was made up of two dozen groups, some with established Capitol credentials and many new to advocacy but with significant experience in working with communities affected by the four pillars of the California women's economic agenda. Our agenda had four established pillars under which two dozen bills on which we advocated as a coalition were categorized.

- Pillar One Fair Pay and Job Opportunities
- Pillar Two Access to Childcare
- Pillar Three Family Friendly Workplace
- Pillar Four Eradicating Poverty

AAUW California's agenda primarily focused on Pillar One – Fair Pay and Job Opportunities, and supported many of the StrOnger California bills with a few non-coalition bills added, but we were very deliberate that our focus was Fair Pay. We sponsored Assembly Concurrent Resolution 50 (Gonzalez) to bring attention to Equal Pay Day, and cosponsored with the California Employment Lawyers Association a bill on closing the gender wage gap, that if the Governor had signed the bill, would have made California first in the nation to have a bill prohibiting employers from using prior salary history to establish new pay. Unfortunately AB 1017 (Campos) was vetoed, along with another progressive bill to attack the gender wage gap, AB 1354 (Dodd) requiring state contractors to have plans in place for fighting gender pay inequities.

The vetoes occurred on the last day the Governor could act, October 11th, by citing our biggest victory of the year, Senate Bill 358 (Jackson), which he signed, as the reason. SB 358 was a sorely needed update to California's Fair Pay Act. Not only does it prohibit retaliation for disclosing wages amongst coworkers, but closes a huge loophole used by employers when employees sued for wage discrimination based on gender. This was a tremendous victory that received national attention, the importance of which should not be discounted amidst our disappointment with the vetoes; but we know from the <u>AAUW Analysis of Gender Pay Laws by State</u> that multiple avenues of addressing this problem are needed. This is particularly true after the recent disappointing news from the Census that the gender pay gap has barely budged in the last decade.

We'll be back. Perhaps not in 2016 but sooner rather than later. We'll take time to marshal our forces and stock our ammunition (data). Part of what would be helpful in the fight is YOUR STORIES. In talking with people about the bill, there was an amazing number who'd either personally been affected or knew someone who had been disadvantaged by having to disclose their prior salary history in order to apply for a job. It can vary from failure to get an interview because your credentials were assessed using your low salary as a proxy, and by that measure you were deemed unqualified and therefore not worthy of an interview. It could be you were paid below the established range, or less than a colleague because the company policy was to pay prior salary plus x% only. Submit your stories to legislativeadvocate@aauw-ca.org. Please include your contact information and if you'd be willing to be public with your story.

Meanwhile, we hope to have our Fair Pay poster person, Aileen Rizo-Acosta, at our 2016 California meeting to talk about the impact of using prior salary history to establish new wages. Aileen and her family traveled to Sacramento from Fresno dozens of times to persuasively testify on both SB 358 and AB 1017 by relating her compelling story. Read about her story here and follow her on Facebook. Her lawsuit against her employer for paying her \$20,000 below a less qualified male colleague because of her prior salary should be heard early in 2016, and we'll make sure to update you.

See our entire legislative agenda and results $\underline{\text{here}}$. Please "like" us on $\underline{\text{Facebook}}$, and follow us on Twitter using @aauwcalobbyist and @aauw_ca.

The new legislative year (2nd year of a two year session) will begin January 4, 2016. The website will be updated with our new agenda after the March Public Policy Committee. Thanks to your support, especially our Two-Minute Activists, we are able to move our agenda forward.

Fay Weber - GWA-AAUW Public Policy Chair

PASSIONATE ABOUT MEMBERSHIP

Our membership theme and color this year is passion pink. We have asked members to share their passions of life with us and we will again share our first two entries with you.

Diana Clark wrote that she has two issues that are extremely important to her:

- 1) <u>Animal Welfare</u>. In a world filled with atrocities that troubles me nothing affects me as much as animal abuse, neglect and exploitation. I am a partner member of the Humane Society of the United States and serve as an ambassador to educate and inform people on the issues.
- 2) <u>Leadership.</u> I have spent a lifetime in corporate America and have realized first-hand what good leadership versus bad leadership will do to the organization and the individual. I am an ongoing student of the subject and have been fortunate to have taken countless classes and seminars from some of the finest leaders on the planet.

Patricia Cuocco wrote:

1) <u>Social Justice.</u> Just about everything that is important to me and on which I spend my time and money falls under that rubric. I'm passionate about equality of opportunity. The oligarchy in which we find ourselves is not the value upon which our country was founded. I want all people regardless of gender, race, color, creed, sexual orientation or whatever to be treated with dignity and respect. I want the rich to pay their share and the poor to be lifted from intolerable conditions. I want all laws to be applied fairly and I want the environment, which sustains us all, to be respected and for the sacrifices that are going to have to be made to protect our planet to be shared by all regardless of income.

We look forward to hearing from more of our members as the year of passion has just begun!

Remember that you are all on the membership committee! We can all recruit new members and help GWA thrive. Consider the AAUW goal of increasing diversity in our ranks. Diversity means difference in gender, age, sexual preference, race economic status, education level and physical challenges. AAUW is encouraging all members to explore possibilities of working with, recruiting, and seeking out people outside of their comfort zone.

An excellent opportunity to do just that is to invite prospective members to the November 17 Holiday Dining & Fun Fundraiser at Really Great Stuff Boutique. This will be a fun night to shop, have a complimentary dinner, drinks & dessert, free gift- wrap and 20% of the sales comes back to AAUW. This special event takes place from 5:00pm – 8:00pm, *Really Great Stuff Boutique* 14402 Whittier Blvd.; Whittier CA 90605.



YEARBOOK CORRECTIONS:

Margot Kamens zip code is 90638-2238 (pg. 212)

Earlyne Clemons: BSN, Prairie View A&M; MN, U of Washington (pg. 205)

February Branch Meeting is February 13, 2016 (pg. 15)

May Branch Meeting is May 14, 2016 (pg. 16)

HOLIDAY SHOPPING, DINING

Fun Evening

Complimentary Dinner, Drinks & Dessert as you shop!

Nov. 17th - 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM





After tax, 20% of sales comes back to AAUW!

Bring your friends & family to this really fun event.

Stay as long as you'd like! Free Gift-wrap!

Really Great Stuff Boutique

Home Décor, Jewelry, Accessories, Clothing,

Handbags, Mirrors, Art Prints, Unique Furniture and more.

Teri Medina's Really Great Stuff Boutique 14402 Whittier Blvd.

Whittier, 90605



Members who heard Adriana Romero Olivares, the AAUW International Fellow, speak at our October branch meeting were pleased to see firsthand how their donations to AAUW Fund are used. This remarkable young woman is not only pursuing her Ph.D. at UCI partly because of this funding, but has also become involved with Tech Trek at UCI as a dorm mom and has even helped establish an AAUW branch on campus.

Hopefully, this will inspire those who heard her, and other branch members, to donate to our national AAUW Fund before the December deadline. (AAUW Fund operates on a calendar year basis rather than on the academic year.) This tax-deductible donation can most easily be done on-line by going to aauw.org and clicking on "Donate". Then members can choose which area they wish to support. General donations to AAUW Fund will be used wherever the organization feels they are most needed. Or members can specify the specific fund, such as Public Policy, Legal Advocacy Fund, Eleanor Roosevelt Fund (research), or Educational Opportunities, which include Fellowships and Grants. (This supports the Fellows such as Adriana). There is also a special fund, which supports NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders). Our speaker in November participated in this program.



Payment can be made by credit card, and our branch will receive credit. Or payment can also be made by mail sending a check to AAUW, PO Box 98045, Washington, DC 20090-8045. Envelopes for this purpose were given at our October meeting and will also be available in November. Please see me for further information if needed.

Next month we will continue to have Q & A about AAUW Fund—send your questions to me.

Dolores Seidman, AAUW Funds Vice-President Deeseidman@gmail.com

THE YEARBOOK HAS GONE DIGITAL

If you would like an easy to use digital copy (PDF Version) of the 2015-16 Yearbook, please send an email to Patricia Cuocco at patricia@calstate.edu.

Your printed copy will be available at the next meeting, if you have not already received it. If you paid to have your yearbook mailed, and have not yet received it, please contact Susan Halliday at (562) 696-7395 or

sbathalliday@yahoo.com



HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE

Plans are progressing for our Annual Holiday Boutique, held in conjunction with our December Branch Meeting (December 5^h, 2015 in the Ballroom of the Elk's Club in Whittier).

Remember, WE WILL **NOT** BE COLLECTING WHITE ELEPHANTS – i.e. no used household goods, clothing, etc. We have carefully analyzed what sells over the last few years and these items do not.

WHAT WE NEED: artwork; original arts and craft items; jewelry (real and good costume); NEW clothing and accessories; gift cards; vouchers for services; offers of vacation rentals; event tickets; homemade foodstuffs (jams, cookies, soup mixes). Thanks to all those who have already committed to contributions. We need MORE!!!

Gift Baskets: Our best sellers are usually themed baskets such as Wine and/or Liquor; Coffee; Tea; Chocolate; Hobbies (gardening, cooking, etc.); Men's or Women's Spa/Beauty/Grooming products; kitchen goods. The committee suggests that the various sections might each provide a basket, or a few folks can get together to make one. Gwen Woirhaye has graciously offered to provide bows.

Please let Patricia Cuocco (patricia@fullerton.edu or 562-698-6665) know before November 5th what you plan to contribute. If it is a basket, we would appreciate a typed list of the items in the basket with their retail price (approximate is fine).

All items for the Boutique need to be delivered to one of the Boutique elves by Friday, November 27th.

This year we will have some opportunity drawings (not raffles – those are a violation of our non-profit status).

Please invite friends and relatives to come shop and meet with us. Our program that day will be quite special (Patrick Bell – Opera Kadabra) so your guests can do some holiday shopping, have a great lunch, be entertained and meet some really fabulous women!

Your Boutique Elves,

Ann Chambers; Patricia Cuocco; Pat Dudley; Maura Greeley; Sharon Heck; DeDe Shatzen.

Tech Trek

We collected a total of \$725 to support our former Tech Trek camper in her efforts to receive a softball college scholarship by attending Showcase events in California and other states. Monique will be updating us on her activities and report to us at a future GWA AAUW meeting.

Thank you contributing members on your generosity and support of our camper.

We have requested 10 slots at the Whittier Camp for June 2016. We will be selecting students from Los Nietos Middle School and will confirm participation from East Whittier Middle School in the coming weeks.

Ann Chambers and Pat Dudley



Math/Science Conference for 8th Grade Girls

We finally have our date for the Math/Science Conference. It will be on Wednesday, January 27, 2016 at Whittier College. Ellen Larson has done a wonderful job of contacting the middle schools; we have 340 young women from 25 schools that will attend. Letters have been sent to 20 possible speakers and several have replied positively. Unfortunately, our wonderful speaker at our October Branch Meeting, Adriana Romero-Olivares, had hoped to be a Math/Science speaker, but now must be in Ensenada doing research. She said to keep her in mind for next year.

Our volunteer coordinator, Dolores Seidman, will be taking names at our November and December Branch meetings. If you wish to contact her personally, e-mail her at: deeseidman@gmail.com. Volunteers are invited to join us for lunch at the college.

This will be our 23rd Annual event to introduce 8th grade girls to women in STEM careers. We have had young women in college tell us this day made a real difference in their career choice. Help us continue this legacy by volunteering to help on January 27. We need you.

Sharon Heck, Math/Science Chair

SECTION INFORMATION

MODERN TRENDS

Thursday, November 19, 6 PM

Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of The Lusitania By Erik Larson

Place: Marie Callender's Reviewer: Group Discussion

Dead Wake is the enthralling non-fiction story of the sinking of the Lusitania. On May 1, 1915, a luxury ocean liner sailed out of New York bound for Liverpool. The passengers were surprisingly at ease, even though Germany had declared the seas around Britain to be a war zone. For months, German U-boats had brought terror to the North Atlantic. But the Lusitania was one of the era's greats, the fastest liner then in service. Her captain, William Thomas Turner, placed tremendous faith in the gentlemanly strictures of warfare that for a century had kept civilian ships safe from attack. Germany was determined to change the rules of the game.

Erik Larson tells the story thrillingly, switching between hunter and hunted while painting a larger portrait of America at the height of the Progressive Era. Gripping and important, *Dead Wake* captures the sheer drama and emotional power of a disaster whose intimate details and true meaning have long been obscured by history.

Please join us at Marie Callender's in Whittier (9829 S. La Serna) for dinner at 6pm and open discussion at 7pm.

RSVP: Annette Lauritzen 626-964-1843 or (cell) 626-736-6650 dncnme@gmail.com

MYSTERY MAVENS

Wednesday, November 18 6:30 PM

The Queen¹s Man: A Medieval Mystery

By Sharon Kay Penman Reviewer: Maurine Behrens

With the sure touch she has brought to her historical fiction, Penman turns to the mystery form. Setting her story in a period she captured brilliantly in earlier novels, she introduces Justin de Quincy. Bastard-born, de Quincy is the son of a high cleric who never acknowledged him, bestowing on the boy in lieu of name or fortune only an education. As it happens, it is a gift that will take young de Quincy into the very centers of power and into the heart of danger, making of him the Queen's man.

Moving from the royal chambers in the Tower of London to the alehouses and stews of Southwark, from the horrors of Newgate Gaol to the bustling streets of Winchester, de Quincy proves his mettle as he tracks a brutal and cunning murderer and uncovers the sinister intrigues of Eleanor of Aquitaine¹s court.

Meet at Marie Callender¹s restaurant at 9829 S. La Serna Drive, Whittier (near Whittier Blvd.) in the library room.

Carol K. Anderson (562) 943-0728





GARDENING

EXPLORING NATURE WITH THE KIZH NATIVE AMERICANS Saturday, November 21 10:00-11:00 AM

Discover how KIZH used native plants, and what these plants did and still do for our environment, and how you can use them around your home today.

This event is at the Homestead Museum in the City of Industry. Meet at the Ralph's parking lot, on the corner of Colima and Whittier Blvd. at 9:00 a.m. We will carpool to the Homestead Museum; please let me know if you can drive. After the event we will go to a restaurant for lunch, then to Ellen's home to make our basket for the Christmas Boutique. Remember to bring things for the basket. RSVP to Ellen by November 17 at 562-943-4679, or by E-mail at cpeck4@earthlink.net. All AAUW members and friends are invited to attend.

INTERNATIONAL CONCERNS

The International Concerns Group will meet on Tuesday, November 17, 2015 at 10 AM in the home of Ellen Larson, 12031 Beverly Blvd., #2D,Whittier.

We will read and discuss <u>Great Decisions</u>, Chapter 6 "Syria's Refugee Crisis" (changed from October's meeting.) Please RSVP to Ellen at 562-695-7017 in order to plan parking.

MORNING BOOK

Monday, November 23, 10 AM

This month we are fortunate to have Kathleen Hunt lead the discussion of <u>At</u> the <u>Drop of a Veil</u>, by Marianne Alireza, as she met and traveled with the author to Saudi Arabia several years ago. An American college student who married a Saudi citizen in 1943, Alireza moved to Jeddah with her husband and infant daughter in 1945 and from there witnessed Arabian lifestyle firsthand for 12 years. She describes her experiences as part of the Alireza harem, composed of her mother-in-law, 2 sisters-in-law and their various children, of which Marianne herself eventually had 5.

Alireza discusses how the family traveled to the mountains of Ethiopia to escape the summer heat in Jeddah, and how that development changed all of their lives. She also details the events that led to the end of her marriage, and how she abducted her children from their school in Switzerland. The details of this book make it invaluable for anyone wanting to learn about living conditions for women in affluent Saudi Arabia in the 1940s and 50s.

Please join us in conversation about this fascinating book on Monday, November 23, at 10AM, at Ann Farmer's, 6146 Southwind Dr., Whittier (562-698-2074). Marianne Locke will provide refreshments.

Directions to Ann Farmer's house: North on Painter Ave. to Hadley. East (right) on Hadley to Southwind; north (left) on Southwind up the hill. 6146 is on the right side of the street.

Ann Topjon, Chair: 562-695-6185

MEMORIES

November 18 at 1:30 PM

The next meeting of "Memories" takes place at the home of Ann Chambers. The topic is our annual recitation of "What I Am Grateful For." It is an opportunity to look at the previous year in a positive way. Come share your writing amidst a very warm and supportive group of women. We meet on the last Wednesday of each month at a member's home. (Except this month when the fourth Wednesday is the day before Thanksgiving.) All are welcome.

Directions to Ann's home: From Whittier Blvd., take Macy north to Russell Ave., turn left on Randall to 1032 Randall Ave. Phone 562-690-6150.

FIRST FRIDAY

Date: November 6 Time: 6-8 PM

Hostess: Judith and Robert Henderson 5657 Citrus Ave., Whittier, 90601

Directions:

Corner of Floral and Citrus From Uptown: North on Greenleaf, Left on Beverly Blvd., Right on Pickering, Left on Floral one block to Citrus. Two story dark green house, northwest corner.

562-639-4313

POSITIVE PAST PRESIDENTS SAVE THE DATES

Dec 9th Christmas Party—Gwen Woirhaye home 6 PM Feb 16th Lunar New Year dinner—Silver Palace 6 PM

March 16th New Member Orientation Barbara Gile's home

GREETERS ARE NEEDED for Feb-June meetings

NEED A RIDE TO MONTHY MEETINGS??? Give me a call or e-mail and we will try to get you a ride.

For more information or questions, please contact Shirley Stewart –(562) 944-4556 or shirleys.creations@verizon.net

DINING FOR \$\$\$\$

There is no event in November. Jan Berry negotiated with Roadhouse Grill for December (see December Newsletter) and with Panera's in La Habra for July 14th. Thanks, Jan!

LOS ANGELES COUNTY INTERBRANCH COUNCIL

Don't miss the November 8 LACIC meeting, where we'll return to LACIC's roots by receiving information about Los Angeles County and its elections from Raphael Sonenshein, Ph.D., Executive Director of the Pat Brown Institute for Public Affairs at CSU Los Angeles. Among other things, we'll hear about the impact of the growing and now majority Latino population and how to address voter apathy.

PIH Hospital – 2:00 PM Call Patricia Cuocco for information 562-698-6665 or patricia@fullerton.edu



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

Spouse's Name*Street Address	*Mida			
Spouse's Name*Street Address	*Middle Initial			
*Street Address				
	*City			
·Zip Code				
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GREATER WHITTIER AREA BRANCH CALENDAR NOVEMBER 2015

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DAY	TE	TIME	
Tuesday	3	7:00 PM	Board Meeting, St. Matthias Episcopal Church
Friday	6	6:00 PM	First Friday, Judith and Robert Henderson
Sunday	8	2:00 PM	LACIC, PIH
Saturday	14	11:30 AM	Branch Meeting, Whittier Elks Club
Tuesday	17	10:00 AM	International Concerns, Ellen Larsen
Tuesday	17	5:00 PM	Shopping Event, Really Great Stuff, Whittier
Wednesday	18	1:30 PM	Memories, Ann Chambers
Wednesday	18	6:30 PM	Mystery Mavens, Marie Callender's, Whittier
Thursday	19	6:00 PM	Modern Trends, Marie Callender's, Whittier
Saturday	21	9:00 AM	Gardening Trip, Homestead Museum
Monday	23	10:00 AM	Morning Book, Ann Farmer
Friday	27		Items for Boutique Due

PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR DONATIONS OF FOOD AND TOILETRIES FOR THE HOMELESS AT SAINT MATTHIAS. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ASK:

SHIRLEY STEWART – 562-944-4556 OR SHIRLEYS.CREATIONS@VERIZON.NET

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. All submission must be in WORD documents as attachment to emails. Please, do not submit within the email itself.

Please send articles by email on or before the 15th of every month to patricia@fullerton.edu

Newsletter Editors - Patricia Cuocco, Diana Clark and Carole Duff



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