

# GREATER WHITTIER AREA BRANCH AAUW NEWSLETTER

http://whittier-ca.aauw.net



Branch Meeting – Saturday February 13, 2016 – 11:30 AM - Whittier Elk's Club

Our program this month features our Public Policy Chair Dr. Fay Weber. Fay's presentation is a current update of AAUW Policy and Advocacy. Please reread the Public Policy AAUW-CA 2015 Legislative Report which is Reprinted here on Page 6.

**AAUW and Public Policy** encourages woman to become involved in every level of the political process. We actively support legislation on educational equity and diversity in public schools, pay equity, reproductive choice, childcare, school-based health care, civil rights, and responsible funding for public education.

**Public Policy** is a major focus of AAUW CA. An important part of this focus is our contract with **Shannon Smith-Crowley**, our effective lobbyist for legislation on issues regarding women and girls.

You won't want to miss this informative meeting. See you on February 13<sup>th</sup>.

Lunch will be lemon herbed chicken, mixed green salad, mashed potatoes, asparagus, 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 La Cuisine.

Reservations for the Branch meeting, are due by Wednesday, February 10, noon. Please email 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 \$20.00. We will be in the Ballroom. The entrance to the Ballroom and parking are behind 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

When I was a child, January meant playing in the snow. Fast forward to 2016, January means S.T.E.M.—more specifically GWA AAUW's annual Math/Science Conference. As I write this, we are in a flurry of activity preparing to host 340 eight grade girls from 25 middle schools as they learn about the exciting, enticing careers that await them. One of the tasks I get to do is to help Sharon Heck, our Conference Chair, distribute the session tickets for the girls. Sharon does all of the hard work ahead of time to accommodate the girls' choices as she assigns them to the sessions—talk about detailed work! I, on the other hand, get to help Sharon get the correct tickets into the correct girls' envelopes so the packet party volunteers can get them into the correct school packets. I equate this experience to the "sorting" when Harry Potter was assigned to Gryffindor at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry—Sharon and I just don't get to wear the fun hat!

Last Sunday, I attended the quarterly Los Angeles County Interbranch Council (LACIC) meeting, along with several GWA AAUW members. Nicole Simmons, the new Whittier Tech Trek Camp Director, was the keynote speaker. Attendees from the 15 other LACIC branches were super impressed with Nicole. Her leadership and enthusiasm bode well for the Whittier Camp. I encourage you to meet Nicole at our April branch meeting when she will be our featured speaker.

Our own Fay Weber will speak on AAUW Policies and Advocacy at our February 13 branch meeting. So much of AAUW's success is founded on our advocacy for women and girls. AAUW's influence is profound in promoting equity and fairness at national, state and local levels. I hope you will join me to learn more about the current issues we are facing and what AAUW is doing to address these issues.

Kaye D. Kidwell

## Successful Holiday Boutique

We are pleased to announce that the Holiday Boutique raised \$3,850. Thanks to everyone who participated. \$2,650 of that goes to help balance the branch budget and \$1200 was contributed to AAUW Fund for the wonderful work our national organization does in supporting women and girls.

## **MEMBERSHIP**



January's Meet and Greet evening was a great success thanks to everyone who attended and/or brought guests and/or delicious goodies. We are hoping that the 8 guests will soon become new members. A special thanks to Daniel Richardson for filling the evening with beautiful guitar and voice background music and to Doug Halliday, our wine steward.

The price of membership for new members joining in January through March  $15^{th}$  is only \$54 for the ½ year. Encourage those who are interested in joining our Greater Whittier Area-AAUW to take advantage of the ½ year membership fee.

Share some of the great information on the AAUW.org website with friends, girls, and women you know. It's a great way to introduce information on some of the various projects AAUW does or influences. The short videos are excellent too. (e.g. Published on Apr 1, 2015)

Also on the website, from the research team who brought you "Why So Few? Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics" comes a deeper dive into engineering and computing, fields that offer 80 percent of STEM jobs but still boast dismal numbers of women students and workers. Watch report co-authors Catherine Hill, AAUW vice president of research, and Christianne Corbett, AAUW senior researcher, discuss Solving the Equation's major findings. More Information: http://www.aauw.org/research/solving-...

As always we look forward to seeing you at our Branch meetings and at a Section meeting. Why not bring a friend in February, March, April, May, or June to introduce them to GWAU-AAUW?



## MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONNAIRE

If you have already filled out and given us a membership questionnaire, THANK YOU. These come in very handy for many people trying to do the job of Branch Administration. If you haven't done one, we have provided a copy for you on the next page. Please fill it out and mail to either Susan Halliday or Linda Richardson. You can also fill it out on line and email it to either of them at sbathalliday@yahoo.com or lyndasue10@yahoo.com.

AAUW Membership Questionnaire

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	<del></del>
Last First  Colleges/Universities attended		Year graduated	Degree received
Elected Offices held in AAUW		Branch	Year
Appointed Offices held		Branch	Year/s
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 community	& promo	te/brand AAUW/pro	mote the mission of AAUV
Offices held in other community activity that promotes/b	orand the	mission of AAUW	
Print at 90%			

### **PUBLIC POLICY**

Below are the National AAUW Biennial Action Priorities for 2016. Though there are many, members should take time to read and determine how we can include these priorities in our branch programming and personal voting decisions.

To support a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity, and diversity, AAUW advocates



- Adequate and equitable funding for quality public education for all students
- Opposition to the use of public funds for nonpublic elementary and secondary education and to charter schools that do not adhere to the same civil rights and accountability standards as required of other public schools
- Protection of programs that meet the needs of girls and women in elementary, secondary, and
  postsecondary education, including strong promotion of STEM education and comprehensive
  sex education
- Vigorous enforcement of Title IX and all other civil rights laws pertaining to education
- Increased support for and access to affordable higher education for women and disadvantaged populations
- Increased support for programs that break through barriers for women and girls in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields

#### To achieve economic self-sufficiency for all women, AAUW advocates

- Pay equity and fairness in compensation
- Equitable access and advancement in employment, including vigorous enforcement of employment anti-discrimination statutes
- Greater availability of and access to a high standard of benefits and policies that promote work-life balance
- Programs that provide women with education, training, and support for success in the workforce, including nontraditional occupations and women's entrepreneurship
- Strengthening programs, including welfare and career and technical education, to improve postsecondary education access, career development, and earning potential
- Strengthening retirement benefits and programs, including pension improvements and protecting Social Security from privatization

#### To guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse society, AAUW advocates

- Vigorous enforcement of and full access to civil and constitutional rights, including voting rights
- Choice in the determination of one's reproductive life
- Increased access to quality, affordable health care and family planning services, including expansion of patients' rights
- Freedom from violence and fear of violence, including hate crimes, in homes, schools, workplaces, and communities
- Support for U.N. programs that address human rights and women's and girls' concerns
- Freedom in the definition of family and a guarantee of civil rights in all family structures
- Passage and ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment

### **REPRINT – AAUW 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 11<sup>th</sup>, 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 <a href="legislativeadvocate@aauw-ca.org">legislativeadvocate@aauw-ca.org</a>. 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 <a href="here">here</a> and follow her on <a href="Facebook">Facebook</a>. 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 <u>here</u>. Please "like" us on <u>Facebook</u>, and follow us on Twitter using @aauwcalobbyist and @aauw ca.

The new legislative year (2<sup>nd</sup> 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

### AAUW FUND- Q& A



Q&A-These are a few questions received about AAUW Fund from our members:

Q: Does the Branch participate in the selection of the grant recipients (eg. nominating, sponsoring, interviewing) or is this done on the national level?

A: Selection of grant recipients is made on the national level. Since many of these grants are for advanced studies on a doctoral level, selection committees consist of experts in the fields who are chosen from throughout the country.

Q: How much is given in grants each year and how much are the individual grants?

A: AAUW provides nearly \$4 million annually in fellowships and grants. Amounts vary according to the category. Some examples are:

- --American Fellowships- postdoctoral research: \$30,000
- --Career Development- \$2,000-\$12,000
- --Selected Professions- \$5,000-\$18,000 (Architecture, Computer Science, Engineering, Math)
- --Community Action Grants- \$2,000-\$7,000
- --International Fellowships- \$18,000-\$20,000

Details about all these grants are available at aauw.org.

Dolores Seidman, Chair, AAUW Fund

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE – GWA-AAUW 2016/17 BOARD



Last month we talked about the importance of stepping up to a leadership role in the Branch. Patricia Cuocco will convene a Nominations Committee sometime in February. Please let Patricia know if you are interested in serving on the committee and/or if you are interested in running for a board position. Email patricia@fullerton.edu or call 562-698-6665.

#### TECH TREK UPDATE

Nicole Simmons, 2016 Whittier College Tech Trek Director, spoke at the January LACIC meeting. Nicole is a science teacher with six years of Tech Trek experience as an instructor and dorm mom. Nicole has been working to bring the Whittier Camp experience in line with other camps. She has addressed many of the concerns we raised over the past few years. Some changes include a later start date to accommodate the end dates of schools in the area, and, the addition of three new core classes, workshops and other activities to include more math in the camp curriculum. Nicole will be speaking to GWA AAUW at the April meeting. She is very open to and appreciative of our help. Her greatest need right now is the staffing of dorm moms for the week of camp. Dorm moms must be AAUW members. If you are interested in filling a dorm mom position, we can provide contact information for Nicole.

GWA AAUW will be selecting 10 girls to send to camp in June. In January teachers at two schools, East Whittier Middle School and Los Nietos Middle School, began making recommendations and giving applications to these students. Applications are due back in mid-February and interviews will be scheduled for March. We are excited to be sending girls to what is going to be a quality program at the Whittier College camp.

**IMPORTANT:** Nicole wants us to start saving things like paper towel rolls (empty), strings; balls of all sizes; balloons; rubber bands; dominos; empty but cleaned Tupperware/containers; sticks/rods; and, any odds and ends that can be used to make a Rube Goldberg machine - the possibilities are endless. More information to come at the meeting.



### DID YOU KNOW? – VALENTINE TRIVIA

The popular medieval folk belief that birds choose their mates on February 14 made doves a favorite symbol for Valentine cards. The dove was sacred to Venus and other love deities and was known for choosing a lifelong mate.

Valentine's Day was first introduced to Japan in 1936 and has become widely popular. However, because of a translation error made by a chocolate company, only women buy Valentine chocolates for their spouses, boyfriends, or friends. In fact, it is the only day of the year many single women will reveal their crush on a man by giving him chocolate. The men don't return the favor until White Day, a type of "answer day" to Valentine's Day, which is on March 14

Lace is often used on Valentine decorations. The word "lace" comes from the Latin *laques*, meaning "to snare or net," as in to catch a person's heart.



### SECTION INFORMATION

### **Morning Book**

There will be no meeting this month. Our next meeting will be on Monday, March 28, and will feature the novel, *All the Light We Cannot See*, by Anthony Doerr. Full information will be found in March's bulletin.

Books to be read and discussed for the rest of the year:

June 6: Wingshooters, by Nina Revoyr

July 25: *Dead Wake. The Last Crossing of the Lusitania*, by Erik Larson

Ann Topjon, Chair 562-695-6185



## PPP POSITIVE PAST PRESIDENTS

ALL GWA-AAUW members are invited to PPP's Lunar New Year celebration on Tuesday, February 16, 2016. This will be the year of the Monkey – celebrating Wisdom.

Silver Palace Restaurant; 15326 Whittier Blvd; Whittier at 6 pm. Cost is \$22.00. Reservations are a MUST. Call Colleen Tan at 562-756-2141 by February 8<sup>th</sup>.

#### GREETERS NEEDED FOR MONTHLY MEETINGS

Greeters are needed for the months of March, April, May and June

Please contact me if you can be a greeter at one of the meetings.

Shirley Stewart, Chairperson

#### **MEMORIES**

Can you describe yourself in five words? Memories will attempt such a feat on February 24 at 1:30 PM at the home of Ellen Peck. Of course, we will write a bit more about why we chose those five particular words. Please join this accepting group of women who enjoy writing for family history, clear-headedness or just plain fun. You may, as always, write on a topic of your own choosing. All are welcome.

**Directions to Ellen's Home:** From Colima turn east on Mar Vista, drive to the very end, and tell the person at the guard gate that you are going to Ellen Peck's house. Continue through the gate, turn right on Aurora Crest and then right again on Stoneridge to 8156. Her home is on the left. Phone: 562-943-4679.

#### **GARDENING**

In celebration of Chinese New Year, Dolores Gonzales-Hayes has planned a trip to the Huntington Library. The Museum is open 12:00 to 4:30. Admission is \$19 for Seniors, \$23 for Adults. Many of us are members and will have guest passes to share. Every Wednesday in February visitors may enjoy music in the Chinese Garden of Flowing



Fragrance from 1-3 pm. A different solo musician performs each Wednesday, playing Classical Chinese instruments. The Chinese Tea House opens for lunch at noon. Menu pricing ranges from \$7 to \$15 per dish, drinks are separate.

The date for this trip is Wednesday, February 10th. We will meet at Ralph's (Whittier Blvd. & Colima) at 11:30 AM, park near the gas station and carpool. We will eat at the Chinese Garden Tea House in Huntington Gardens and walk through the garden afterwards or simply enjoy the music. RSVP to Ellen Peck at <a href="mailto:cpeck4@earthlink.net">cpeck4@earthlink.net</a> or call at 562-943-4679. Please make your reservation by February 5th.

#### **SHOWGIRLS**

Showgirls meets the second Thursday of each month to see movies at the Whittier Village Cinemas. We have seen a variety of movies. Afterwards we eat at a nearby restaurant. Please join us this month on February 11. For further information contact Cindy Birt 562-697-7520.

### **First Friday**



Date: February 5 Time: 6-8 PM

Host: Fay and Jack Weber

Bring an appetizer to share and a beverage of your

choice.

Directions to 2089 East Skyline Drive, La Habra Hts., CA 90631 Take Whittier Blvd. East and turn North (left) on Fullerton Road. Drive North 1 mile and turn left on old Fullerton Road. Follow Fullerton Road for 1 mile and turn West (left) on East Rd and an immediate right on Skyline Drive.

The house is right on the corner of East and Skyline Drive on the left. Please park in driveway if room. Those leaving early should park on the road. Cell phone:562-697-2101

# AT THE SAME TIME Please start saving your used SMALL and

RECYCLE AND BE CHARITABLE

Please start saving your used SMALL and MEDIUM sized medicine bottles, both prescription and "over the counter". There is a huge need for them in Africa where people walk enormous distances from their villages to doctors and clinics.

More information about collection will be in the March Newsletter



#### **MODERN TRENDS**

Thursday, February 25, 2016, 6PM

**The Good Lord Bird** By James McBride (Nat'l Book Award Winner, 2013)

Place: Marie Callender's Restaurant at 340 Whittier Blvd.

Reviewer: Joyce Paul



Henry Shackleford is a young slave in Kansas Territory when legendary abolitionist John Brown arrives. An argument between Brown and Henry's master forces the slave to leave town with Brown, who believes Henry to be a girl and his good-luck charm.

Henry conceals his true identity to stay alive. Eventually Brown sweeps him into the historic raid on Harper's Ferry in 1859, one of the catalysts for the Civil War. **The Good Lord Bird** is an absorbing mixture of history and imagination. Told with McBride's meticulous eye for detail and character, this story is both a rousing adventure and a moving exploration of identity and survival.

Come join us for dinner at 6PM and open discussion at 7PM at Marie Callender's.

Please let us know if you plan to come, so we can reserve the room in advance.

Questions: Call Annette Lauritzen at 626-964-1843 or Kristine Yeseta at 562-696-0226



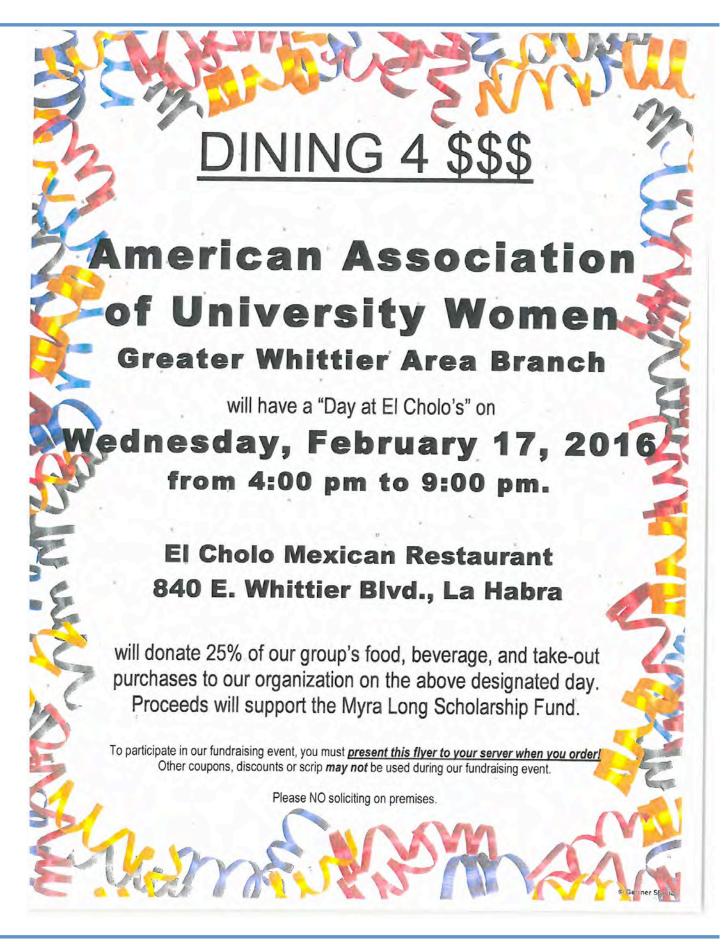
#### **DESIGN HOUSE**

Please! Mark your calendars.

The Pasadena Design House will be open April 17 to May 15, 2016.

This is a time when all members who can stand for four hours may want to docent in a beautiful home and earn \$10 an hour for the Myra Long Scholarship Fund. We car-pool and enjoy the morning. If interested please contact Gwen @Woirhaye.com.

Barbara Gile barbaragile@me.com





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

*Title: Mrs Ms Miss None	Other * If all \	YOUR inforn	nation is the same as in the
yearbook, just print your name & "INFOR			
YT AT			
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General \$93 (Reflects 2013 inch	al \$24	udent \$57	
A separate check is required for the f		manata ahaali	to CWA AAIIW for \$2
I want the yearbook mailed to m I also want the AAUW binder the			
\$6.50.	iai cosis \$3 pius \$1	.50 postage c	k will write a separate check for
Do you have a sponsor? If so, who is it?			
Today's date			
*Required of all members. New members i	 must complete all i	nformation	
required of all members. Ivew members i	must complete an i	mormation.	
Reminder: \$86 of your dues is tax deductib	ole.		
Please complete and mail your members	pership applicati	on and due	s to:
AAUW, Whittier Branch Membershi			
Or register online at aauw.org Scroll down	± '	,	,

\* SPECIAL: new members joining in January through March 15<sup>th</sup> pay only \$54 for the remaining 2015/16

year.

### GREATER WHITTIER AREA BRANCH

### CALENDAR

DAY	DATE	TIME	
Tuesday	2	7:00 PM	Board Meeting, Saint Matthias
Friday	5	6:00 PM	First Friday, Fay & Jack Weber', La Habra Heights
Wednesday	10	11:30 AM	Garden Club, Huntington Lib. Meet at Ralph's
Thursday	11	4:00 PM	Showgirls, Whittier Village Cinema
Saturday	13	11:30 AM	Branch Meeting, Elk's Club, Whittier
Tuesday	16	10:00 AM	International Concerns (Middle East Alliances)
			Sharon Heck's
Tuesday	16	6:00 PM	PPP, Silver Palace, Whittier
Wednesday	17	4:00 – 9:00 PM	Dining for Dollars, El Cholo's, La Habra
Wednesday	24	1:30 PM	Memories, Ellen Peck's
Thursday	25	6:00 PM	Modern Trends, Marie Callendar's Whittier

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 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. All submission must be in WORD documents as attachment to emails. Please create the document within WORD itself rather than cutting and pasting into WORD. Please DO NOT use TABS. Please, do not submit within the email itself.

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

Newsletter Editors - Patricia Cuocco, Diana Clark and Carole Duff



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