

# JANUARY 2018

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2017 flew by with the speed of light and was filled with both joys and sorrows. Some of us welcomed new family members—daughters-in-law, sons-in-law, and grandbabies. Some of us said goodbye to loved ones and friends.

As I look back, I also realize that the year was jam-packed with so many accomplishments. As I look forward, I see that we have so much more to do.

We AAUW women are learners and doers. We don't just sit idly and watch the world pass by. We work hard to help others and improve ourselves.

- In 2017, we awarded \$8,000 in scholarships through the Myra Long Scholarship Fund to three deserving women who graduated from community college and now are attending four-year universities. In our 2018 budget, we have increased the amount to \$12,000.
- In 2017, we sent 12 girls from three middle schools to the weeklong Tech Trek Camp at Whittier College. In 2018, we will send ten girls from two middle schools. In addition, we now are working with the El Monte School District to send six more girls to Tech Trek.
- In 2017, we hosted 390 eighth-grade girls and teachers from 27 middle schools at our annual Math/Science Conference. In 2018, we will celebrate a quarter century of hosting this wonderful conference—with upwards of 390 students and teachers from 25 schools.
- In 2018, we are adding a new educational leadership project. We are awarding a scholarship to a Whittier College student to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) at the University of Maryland.
- In 2017, we had interesting and inspirational programs at our Branch meetings. We will continue these outstanding programs in 2018.
- In 2017, our 12 Branch sections met regularly to read and discuss great books, dine on sumptuous foods, study international issues, attend interesting movies, create and perform mini-plays, nurture gardens, enjoy nature's beauty, and simply enjoy each other's company. In 2018, we will continue these fun and worthy activities.

Thank you for your support. Thank you for what you have done, what you are doing and what you will do as we move forward to accomplish our great mission.

Kaye D. Kidwell, President

**DON'T FORGET – NO MEETING IN JANUARY!**



## **MATH/SCIENCE CONFERENCE FOR 8TH GRADE GIRLS**

We will gather at Whittier College on the last day of this month, Wednesday, January 31, for the Math/Science Conference. The attendees have given me their choices of our 20 speakers, and I am busy setting up the three workshops for all 390 of them. They will gather for the opening in the Shannon Center so they can be oriented to the day. A snack is then provided for them before they attend three workshops where they will hear six different speakers.

At registration, all attendees will be given a backpack containing materials for the day. We have purchased new backpacks made of royal blue fabric with bright green lettering. The backpacks are provided by the Myra Long Scholarship Fund committee. It is a good way to publicize our AAUW symbol and the Math/Science Conference.

Many members have volunteered to help with the conference and for that I am very grateful. See Dolores Seidman if your name isn't on the volunteer list. All volunteers are invited to join us for lunch in the campus dining room. This event will encourage many talented 8th grade young women to choose a STEM career and it helps us fulfill a major goal of AAUW. I hope to see many of you as conference volunteers.

Sharon Heck, Chair

## **MEMBERSHIP INVITES YOU TO MEET AND GREET**

It's time again to start inviting friends and prospective members to our annual Meet and Greet event held Friday, January 19, from 6 to 8 PM at the Assistance League of Whittier, 6339 Greenleaf, Whittier. This will be the perfect opportunity to share the mission of Greater Whittier Area AAUW locally and nationally. This will be the time to greet and meet friends and prospective members while enjoying refreshments. We will have a brief presentation of AAUW's mission statement, local AAUW happenings and information about our many interest groups.

Our goal in membership is to strive for diversity. We hope that you will use this opportunity to reach out to your work associates, church members, neighbors, businesses, medical professionals and others. Think about inviting young professionals, recent college graduates and women you think would like to learn about AAUW. Invite them to join us in this casual and informal setting. Guests are free of charge and current members and spouses are \$10. Donations of appetizers and desserts are greatly appreciated. If you bring an appetizer or dessert there is no charge. Need more information? Call Connie Bucey: 323-726-9591 or Lovey Sherman: 323-722-7994.

## **THANK YOU "SHOPPERS AT RALPHS"**

Thank you for supporting the Myra Long Scholarship Fund by signing up at Ralphs' Community Awards Program. Since my last plea, eight of you signed up with Ralphs. As a result, we now have 15 registered GWA AAUW households. Thanks to you, we received more than twice as much this quarter -- \$108.59. If you haven't signed up yet, give me a call and I will walk you through the process.

Kaye D. Kidwell, Myra Long Scholarship Fund Treasurer



## PUBLIC POLICY

Every time I sit down to write about reproductive rights, I get a pain in the pit of my stomach because I'm virtually certain that someone, somehow will take offense at the proposition that women are the *only* ones who should have any say in their reproductive choices. You only need to look at the news to know this is true.

Since 1977, AAUW has stated that it "trusts that every woman has the ability to make her own informed choices regarding her reproductive life within the dictates of her own moral and religious beliefs." Further, AAUW believes that these deeply personal decisions should be made without government interference.

Living in California, we often take these rights for granted since there is little organized opposition with enough power to force their point of view on women here. However, this is not true in other states. This year, 2017, has seen any number of attacks on women's rights to make their own decisions about their bodies, their health and their families.

In the Public Policy section of the AAUW website, our organization reports that "In the last four years, states have enacted a total of 288 abortion restrictions, and more than half of U.S. women of reproductive age currently live in states that are hostile or extremely hostile to abortion rights." Between January and June 2017, six states introduced measures to ban all abortions and 28 introduced bans on abortion in some circumstances.

As is usually the case with anti-choice legislation, lower income women bear a disproportionate burden from "waiting" rules that require multiple days of missed work to complete the procedure to limited access in many states that requires those seeking to exercise their rights to travel hundreds of miles (with all the expense and inconvenience to the families that this entails).

Unfortunately, there is not the space to delineate all of the attacks on reproductive freedom. Some are so egregious as to require a husband's permission or burial of an aborted fetus and any number of such actions. I urge you to do some research. The AAUW website is a great place to start. See <https://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/aauw-issues/reproductive-rights/>. Two other good sources of information are <https://www.guttmacher.org/article/2017/07/laws-affecting-reproductive-health-and-rights-state-policy-trends-midyear-2017> for a year-by-year list of assaults on choice, and NARAL <https://www.prochoiceamerica.org/report/2017-decides-status-womens-reproductive-rights-united-states/>.

We all have daughters, granddaughters and other young women in our lives for whom we want these hard won freedoms to remain in place. It is important to know what is happening nationally.

Patricia Cuocco, Chair



# AAUW FUND

We have begun the selection process for the AAUW Fund Named Gift Honoree(s). The Named Gift is a special way to pay tribute to an individual, a group, or an organization for extraordinary service to AAUW. These members are ambassadors who promote the mission of AAUW. We usually select two honorees. This year the deadline to receive nominations is **Sunday, January 14.**

1. Note the categories for nominations can include an individual, a group, or an organization for extraordinary service to AAUW.
2. The list of former honorees is listed in our Branch yearbook on pp. 22-26. Generally we select first time honorees.
3. If you need additional information in order to complete the form, check with me about obtaining a copy of the Members' Questionnaires.
4. Several members can join in submitting a nomination.
5. Please deliver the completed nomination form\* to Dolores Seidman either by U.S. Mail, e-mail or in person by the January 14 deadline (which coincidentally is the LACIC meeting at PIH). A selection committee of three former honorees will meet with me later in January to select the nominees.

\* The nomination forms were included in the December board reports, which were distributed by Kaye Kidwell to all members of the elected and appointed board via e-mail. They were also available at the December Branch meeting. Members who do not have access to the nomination forms should contact me via e-mail to obtain one: [Deeseidman@gmail.com](mailto:Deeseidman@gmail.com)

Dolores Seidman, Chair

## **DINING 4 \$\$\$\$\$ -- SAVE THE DATE, TUESDAY, JANUARY 9**

Happy New Year Everyone!

I can't think of a better venue with which to begin our 2018 Myra Long Scholarship fundraising than Lascari's Italian Restaurant. Located on Whittier Blvd in Whittier, it proved to be one of the most popular restaurants on our fundraiser list last year. It's not at all surprising. Lascari's has delicious food at great prices. Their pasta, pizza and minestrone soup are a real treat! Be sure to check out their early bird dinner specials too. This is a wonderful family restaurant; so invite your family and friends along. Lascari's donation to our scholarship fund include take-out and delivery as well as dine-in, so mark your calendar and have a wonderful time.

Carole Duff, Chair

## **HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE**

Thank you to everyone who contributed to, helped set up, and made purchases from our holiday boutique. We cleared \$1,691 with this activity, which is a fundraiser for our Greater Whittier Area AAUW Branch. I especially want to thank Barbara Gile and Pat Dudley for their hard work in collecting and organizing the merchandise, and preparing the opportunity baskets. Other helpers include Diana Clark, Ann Chambers, Carole Restovich, Kaye Kidwell, Rozanne Child, Cherie Trapani and Cathy Fields. Shirley Stewart made the beautiful table centerpieces, which were also for sale. The luncheon, and entertainment by the Warren High School Choir, was really wonderful. It was a very nice and profitable event.

Sharon Heck, Chair

# SECTION INFORMATION

## First Friday

There will not be a First Friday event for the month of January. Hope to see all of you at the Meet and Greet, Friday January 19.

Gen'nel Walters  
Barbara Gile, Co-Chairs

## International Concerns

Our International Concerns section will meet on Thursday, January 18, at 10 AM. We will be meeting at the home of Louise Holden, 16356 Prudencia, Whittier. If you need directions to her home, please call Louise: 562-947-6412

The topic to be discussed will be *Nuclear Security*, Chapter 8 in the *Great Decisions* book. Fay Weber will lead the discussion. Everyone is welcome to attend the meeting.

Sharon Heck, Chair

## Show Girls

We go to the movies the third Thursday of the month. It is not always possible to know the movie or theater at newsletter time. I send an email to each showgirl member with the information. We would love to have you join us. Email or phone me for the monthly gathering information. Thank you.

Gen'nel Walters, Chair

## Gardening

On Friday, January 26, the Gardening Section will go to H and H Nursery in Bellflower. We will meet at 8:30 AM at Ralphs' parking lot, on the corner of Whittier Blvd. and Colima and carpool. We should be back in Whittier by about 1 PM. In February, the Gardening Section will go to Descanso Gardens. Date and details will be sent later.

Ellen Peck, Chair

## Memories

Memories will meet at the home of Ann Chambers on Wednesday, January 24, at 1:30 PM. The topic is *What I Learned in 2017*. We invite all those who like to write, to join us for a relaxing time of sharing. Writing has been shown to help keep our minds sharp, so please join our brainy group on the fourth Wednesday of each month.

Directions to Ann's home: Whittier Blvd. to Russell (diagonal from Whittwood Center). Follow Russell past the stop sign at Macy. Turn left (north) on Randall. Ann's house will be on the right at 1032 Randall. Ann's phone number: 562-690-6150.

Carole Restovich, Chair

## Rip Again!

RIP Again! meets Tuesday, January 23, 10 AM, at the home of Barbara Gile to rehearse for the performance of *The Flowering of Friendship* for the March Branch meeting. Please make every effort to be present and have your script with you. Let Gwen know if you need a printout.

Directions: north on Vale from Mar Vista to the corner of Eastridge, 14035.

Colleen Tan, Chair  
Gwen Woirhaye, Co-chair

## La Cuisine

On Saturday, February 24, the La Cuisine group dinner will be at the Assistance League. The dinner will be about \$30 per person depending on the number of participants. Dinner will begin at 6 PM. Please RSVP to Ellen Peck as soon as possible so we can complete plans for the evening. Details will be sent later.

Ellen Peck, Chair

## MODERN TRENDS IN LITERATURE

Modern Trends meets Thursday, January 25, 7 PM at the home of Gwen Woirhaye. Kristine Yeseta will lead the discussion.

Directions: 5810 Friends is one block north of Beverly Blvd., one block west of Painter. Parking permits will be clipped to the front gate. If you want to avoid steps, park in the driveway and come around by the lighted path.

*Hillbilly Elegy*, by J. D. Vance

From a former marine and Yale Law School graduate, this is a powerful account of growing up in a poor rust-belt town that offers a broader, probing look at the struggles of America's white working-class.

*Hillbilly Elegy* is a passionate and personal analysis of a culture in crisis—that of white working-class Americans. The decline of this group, a demographic of our country that has been slowly disintegrating over forty years, has been reported on with growing frequency and alarm, but has never before been written about as searingly from the inside. J. D. Vance tells the true story of what a social, regional, and class decline feels like when you were born with it hung around your neck.

The Vance family story begins hopefully in postwar America. J. D.'s grandparents were "dirt poor and in love," and moved north from Kentucky's Appalachia region to Ohio in the hopes of escaping the dreadful poverty around them. They raised a middle-class family, and eventually their grandchild (the author) would graduate from Yale Law School, a conventional marker of their success in achieving generational upward mobility.

But, as the family saga of *Hillbilly Elegy* plays out, we learn that this is only the short, superficial version. Vance's grandparents, aunt, uncle, sister, and, most of all, his mother, struggled profoundly with the demands of their new middle-class life, and were never able to fully escape the legacy of abuse, alcoholism, poverty, and trauma so characteristic of their part of America. Vance piercingly shows how he himself still carries around the demons of their chaotic family history.

A deeply moving memoir with its share of humor and vividly colorful figures, *Hillbilly Elegy* is the story of how upward mobility really feels. It is an urgent and troubling meditation on the loss of the American dream for a large segment of this country.

Remaining books for this year: *The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane*; *A Man Called Ove*; *Lincoln in the Bardo*; *Hidden Figures*; *The Bad Ass Librarians of Timbuktu*

Carol Shupeck, Chair  
Gwen Woirhaye, Co-chair



## Morning Book

Our first book for discussion this year is Aline Ohanesian's debut novel, *Orhan's Inheritance*, in which she delves into what the march of the Armenian people into the Syrian desert looks like from the eyes of an elderly survivor as well as a young Turk learning to come to grips with the truth of both his family's and his nation's history. Orhan's investigation into the rationale behind his grandfather's last will and testament takes him on both a physical and emotional journey that represents how such understanding leads to the healing necessary to mend the wounds of history. Places and things stay with us, and sometimes we stay with them. Remembering the past can be a tricky business, and for those who experienced dark times in history the memories they may most want to forget are the very ones that future generations insist that they share. *Orhan's Inheritance* begins in a small village in Turkey, with the death of a patriarch, Kemal, who bequeaths the family home to a woman his heirs have never heard of. Kemal's grandson, Orhan, finds her across the world in a home for elderly Armenians and their meeting leads to a long-buried account of two people deeply in love, torn apart by war and terrible sacrifice. The novel is rich in emotion, and its roots run deep and wide, tapping into a largely neglected time in Turkish history, spanning decades, and honoring the resilience of the human spirit. The author draws from her family's own dark history to create a tender, powerful story of love and reclamation. *Orhan's Inheritance* is a breathtaking and expansive work of historical fiction and proof that the past can sometimes rewrite the future. This book is the Whittier Reads book for 2018 with events such as an author talk and field trips planned for the month of April.

Please join us on Monday, January 22, at 10 AM, at Gwen Woirhaye's home, 5810 Friends, Whittier. Maura Greeley will provide refreshments, and Dolores Seidman will lead the discussion of this fascinating chronicle of a terrible genocide.

Directions to Gwen's home: From Whittier Blvd., north on Painter; left on Beverly Blvd. one block west; right on Friends to end. House is on the right. Parking permits that must be placed in your car will be available at street-side.

Ann Topjon, Chair

## Mystery Mavens

Wednesday, January 17, 2018, 6:30 PM

*The Gauguin Connection: A Genevieve Lenard Novel* by Estella Ryan

Reviewer - Jackie Brearley

Murdered Artists -- Masterful Forgeries -- Art Crime at its Worst

As an insurance investigator and world renowned expert in nonverbal communication, Dr. Genevieve Lenard faces the daily challenge of living a successful, independent life -- particularly because she has to deal with her high-functioning autism. Nothing -- not her studies, her high IQ or her astounding analytical skills prepared her for the changes about to take place in her life.

It started as a favor to help her boss' acerbic friend look into the murder of a young artist, but soon it proves to be more complex. Forced out of her predictable routines, safe environment and limited social interaction, Genevieve is thrown into exploring the meaning of friendship, expanding her social definitions, and for the first time in her life be part of a team in a race to stop more artists from being murdered.

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

Reservations - Sharon Heck: 562-698-0476 email - heck37@verizon.net



Join Lascari's Italian Restaurant  
and support the ...

**Greater Whittier Area  
American Association of University Women**

**DINING 4 \$\$\$\$**

**Tuesday, January 9, 2018  
From 11:00 am to 9:00 pm**

EST. 1970  
**Lascari's**  
ITALIAN

**16255 Whittier Blvd., Whittier**

**Dine-in, Take-out or Delivery  
(562) 943-1113**

Lascari's will contribute 20% of the proceeds to support the  
**Myra Long Scholarship Fund.**

To participate in this fundraiser, **present this flyer to your server  
when you order!**

Please No soliciting on premises.



# GWA – AAUW CALENDAR

## JANUARY 2018



DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT
Tuesday	9	All Day	Dining 4 \$\$\$\$ , Lascari's
Sunday	14	All Day	Named Gift Nomination Deadline
Wednesday	17	6:30 PM	Mystery Mavens, Marie Callender's, La Serna
Thursday	18	TBD	Showgirls, Village Theater
Thursday	18	10:00 AM	International Concerns, Louise Holden
Friday	19	6:00 - 8:00 PM	Meet and Greet, Assistance League, Whittier
Monday	22	10:00 AM	Morning Book, Gwen Woirhaye
Tuesday	23	10:00 AM	RIP Again!, Barbara Gile
Wednesday	24	1:30 PM	Memories, Ann Chambers
Thursday	25	7:00 PM	Modern Trends in Literature, Gwen Woirhaye
Friday	26	8:30 AM	Gardening, H&H Nursery, Bellflower
Wednesday	31	All Day	Math/Science Conference, Whittier College

Please consult our style sheet and follow it when preparing your newsletter article. It will save me a great deal of time and work. If you do not have a style sheet, please let me know and I 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 submissions must be in WORD documents as attachments to emails. Please create the document within WORD itself rather than cutting and pasting into WORD. Please DO NOT use TABS. Please, do not type the articles within the email itself.**

Please send articles by email on or before the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month to [christineheller@earthlink.net](mailto:christineheller@earthlink.net)

Newsletter Editor – Christine Heller



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