



## GREATER WHITTIER AREA BRANCH AAUW NEWSLETTER

<http://whittier-ca.aauw.net>



### BRANCH MEETING:

Saturday, May 12, 2018  
11:30 AM DoubleTree Hotel  
7320 Greenleaf, Whittier  
Boardroom, Ground Floor

Centerpieces provided by the  
Positive Past Presidents

We will be celebrating one of our core mission accomplishments through the awarding of Tech Trek scholarships for girls who will be entering the eighth grade this fall. Scholarships have been awarded to ten girls to attend Whittier College for one week this summer (June 24 to June 30, 2018.) They will experience a rewarding program in the STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) fields. These recipients will be introduced at our May luncheon by co-chairs Pat Dudley and Ann Chambers.

**BOTH LUNCH CHOICES** include Tortilla Chips with Homemade Salsa at each table, Caesar Salad, Spanish Rice, Refried Pinto Beans, Coffee, Iced Tea, Water, and Flan for dessert. No substitutions, deletions or special orders. The cost of lunch is \$25. Please select one of the following as part of your RSVP:

• **Mexican Fiesta Plate:** a Corn Tortilla Chicken Taco with Cilantro, Onions, Tomatoes & Salsa and a Cheese Enchilada with Queso Fresco & Sour Cream

\***Vegetarian Plate:** Two Cheese Enchiladas with Queso Fresco and Sour Cream

\***Beverages Only:** \$4/Person - Unlimited Coffee, Iced Tea & Water from the beverage table

**TIMELY RESERVATION REQUIRED FOR A MENU CHOICE:** Please RSVP with your menu choice *by noon on Tuesday, May 8*, to [aauwsvp@gmail.com](mailto:aauwsvp@gmail.com). If you do not have email, call Karen Walker at 562-943-0966. Please try again if you do not receive a confirmation within 72 hours. All late reservations and walk-ins will receive the Chef's Choice du Jour.

## DUES INCREASE

GWA AAUW Branch members attending the April 14, 2018 annual meeting, voted to increase our Branch dues to \$103. Please pay your 2018-19 dues either (1) by credit card on the national website or (2) by sending a check to GWA AAUW Treasurer, P.O. Box 5333, Whittier, CA 90607-5333.

# President's Message

I just got home from our Branch meeting and am overcome with thankfulness. Why? Sabina Vajraca spoke to us about her journey from war-torn Bosnia to Southern California. A 2016-17 recipient of AAUW's Career Development Grant, Sabina currently is pursuing a Masters of Fine Arts at USC's School of Cinematic Arts. Her life's goal has been to direct movies, and she is succeeding.

Sabina fled the war in Bosnia at age 14 and wound up in Florida through our country's refugee resettlement program. When she shared that, my heart stopped for a moment. I have a 14-year-old granddaughter and cannot imagine what it would be like to try to save her life in the midst of war with my family as a target of the military. Sabina reminded me that I have so much for which to be thankful. I am going to give my granddaughter an extra hug when I pick her up from school.

Back to Sabina – a strong, resilient, creative, articulate woman with an infectious smile and a twinkle in her eyes. She already has had a successful theater career in New York – writing, directing and producing plays at The Lincoln Center and other venues. She began her film career in 2005 when she produced and directed the award-winning documentary *Back to Bosnia*. Her resume is impressive. I recommend you visit her website at [www.sabinavajraca.com](http://www.sabinavajraca.com) to learn more about her life, her philosophy and her work (including her fun and entertaining *Fashionable Filmmaker* Blog).

I, for one, will be cheering for Sabina when she is nominated for a “Best Director” Oscar!

Kaye D. Kidwell

## Membership

Newest members, in our galaxy of stars, Claire Koehler, Judy Van Horn, Waldith Graham, Kathy Arriola and Kay Clark, were warmly greeted and introduced at our April meeting. Each was presented with a friendship plaque.

We welcome each of you to our association of kind-spirited, stellar women. All members are encouraged to be on alert and to invite other like-minded women to help us promote our cause, as we endeavor to improve the lives of women and their families. AAUW has been empowering women since 1881.

**Note:** Please make this email change in your roster - Kathleen Arriola - [kathymtb5@gmail.com](mailto:kathymtb5@gmail.com)

**Nametag Order** - New and existing members may order a nametag. Nametags are on a white background with blue print, are 2 1/2 x 3 inches in size and have a magnetic back. Order forms will be available at the May Branch meeting, or you may email a request to Connie Bucey. The cost of the nametag is \$8.50. A minimum of 10 nametags is needed to get this \$8.50 price. So far we have orders for four nametags. We would like to make our order by June 2018, so ladies, please don't hesitate! If you need a magnet only, they are \$2.00 each.

Connie Bucey  
Lovey Sherman, Membership Co-Chairpersons



## TECH TREK

GWA AAUW is sending ten girls to the Whittier Camp that begins on Sunday, June 24, and ends on Saturday, June 30. The girls and guests will attend the May luncheon.

Los Nietos Middle School: Irma Grajeda, Ivonne Perez, Emily Ramos, Mia Rodriquez, Leah Triana, Wendy Zaragoza.

Katherine Edwards Middle School: Emily Aragon, Evelyn Aranda, Andrea Orozco, Samantha Sy Perez.

For the first time we conducted interviews and selected one girl from each K-8 school in the El Monte City School District. El Monte provides funding for six scholarships. Arcadia Branch used to facilitate the selection following the AAUW Tech Trek criteria. Since the Arcadia Branch no longer exists, GWA AAUW volunteered to do the interviews and select campers from the school district.

Bring Rube Goldberg donations to the **June Branch meeting**. This year the project **will focus on physics**. The campers will be building simple machines. Types of items to collect in varying sizes include wedges, spools, toy wheels, pieces of board such as tongue depressors or larger for inclined planes, springs, gears, switches, levers and other items you might find in a simple machine. Some other items may be useful such as dominos, rulers, balls of all different sizes, pvc piping, rubber bands, string and marbles. We will be collecting egg cartons, plastic containers and lids, paper toweling rolls, toilet paper rolls or wrapping paper rolls in a limited amount. (We overdid it last year in collecting these last items.)

Please separate items you save in separate bundles, individual bags, containers or rubber bands. This was very helpful last year. If you are unable to bring donations to the June meeting contact Kaye Kidwell or Pat Dudley after that meeting to make other arrangements.

**We invite all our Branch members to attend Visitation Day. This is great opportunity for you to see how the Whittier Camp has evolved under new directorship and to meet members from other branches. Date, time and check-in location will be in the June newsletter.**

Ann Chambers and Pat Dudley

## DESIGN HOUSE

Five years ago, we started earning money for Tech Trek by working at the Pasadena Showcase House of Design. This year we will earn \$10 per shift. Immediately, enthusiastic volunteers filled up all the shifts. We are very grateful to the following who signed up so quickly: Katheryn Arriola, Debra Benveniste, Brent Berry, Jan Berry, Ann Chambers, Earlyne Clemons, Sheryl Cockey, Pat Dudley, Barbara Gile, Waldie Graham, Sheila Hartfield, Kaye Kidwell, DeDe Shatzen, Joan Snyder, Ann Topjon, and Fay Weber.

There are several members who have written checks for \$30 to \$50 because they can't stand for four hours. If you want to donate toward Tech Trek, write your check to MLSF and hand to Kaye Kidwell or mail to P.O. Box 5333, Whittier, CA 90607.



# PUBLIC POLICY

While doing some research for a talk on AAUW that I was asked to give the local Whittier United Nations Alliance, I had the opportunity to reread much of our Public Policy literature. Our young people are getting ready to review the year's educational content in preparation for final exams. It seems a good time for us to do some reviewing and refreshing of our own.

AAUW is a mission-driven organization. We strive to “advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research and speak to women’s needs, aspirations, and concerns across the life span.” Our mission drives our principles and our principles drive the actions we take (both organizationally and as individual members within the organization) to effect policies at the federal, state and local levels. The principles are summarized below. I took some liberties with wording for the sake of space. However, I urge you all to read through these at <https://www.aauw.org/resource/principles-and-priorities/>.

- Understanding that true equity requires a balance between individual rights and the needs of the community. AAUW opposes all forms of discrimination and supports constitutional protections for the civil rights of all individuals.
- Belief that high quality, appropriately funded PUBLIC education is the foundation of a democratic society and the key to gender equity. We believe this education must be free of harassment, censorship and bias. We believe in increased access to education and in closing the achievement gap that disproportionately impacts the poor.
- Promoting the economic, social and physical well being of all persons. Inherent in this principle is an entire list of issues AAUW deems critical including an economy that supports a living wage; affordable health-care (including reproductive care) and dependent care; a clean, healthy, sustainable environment; opposition to efforts to undermine Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid through privatization and/or block-grant proposals; and, the recognition that gun violence is a public health crisis.
- Belief in the right to privacy and freedom from violence; separation of church and state; a fair and balanced judiciary; and, meaningful campaign finance reform.
- Supporting efforts to improve racial, ethnic and gender justice and creation of a diverse culture.
- Belief that global interdependence requires national and international anti-human trafficking policies. Support for the civil and human rights of all immigrants, including a fair and just path to legal status. AAUW supports a strengthened United Nations and its affiliate agencies.

There is much more to read including action priorities in support of each of these principles. It's always good to remember that AAUW stands for great things.

Patricia Cuocco



# AAUW FUND

Each year every AAUW branch has the opportunity to recognize members who provide leadership and contribute to the success of the programs and goals of the branch. These members are the ambassadors who promote the mission of AAUW. Thanks to the members of the AAUW Named Gift Selection Committee this year: Pat Dudley, Maura Greeley, and Rozanne Child for their assistance in the selection process.

This year our Branch has chosen one member to receive this honor, ANN CHAMBERS, who received her award at the April 14th Branch Meeting. She has been a member since 2013 and attended USC where she received her B.S. and M.S. and participates in many of their local activities. In addition to her service to AAUW she is involved in PEO whose international mission is to provide scholarships and educational opportunities for women pursuing college degrees. She is also involved in animal rescue activities.

In AAUW she serves on the Board, is committed to Myra Long Scholarship Committee and helps to raise funds for local scholarships, especially by volunteering at the Showcase House of Design. She also is active with the Holiday Boutique, serving as “elf” which involves helping to organize the boutique, setting up the merchandise, helping with the silent auction and cleaning up. She also supports other fund-raising projects for our Branch such as Really Great Stuff and Dining for \$\$\$.

Her primary function in our AAUW Branch is as Co-Coordinator of the Tech Trek Selection Committee. Tech Trek is one of the major mission-based activities of the Branch as well as AAUW statewide and nationally. Her title covers a myriad of activities which has resulted in an efficient, smooth-running process for selecting the girls whom the Branch sponsors each year. She works with the schools, reads student essays, selects winners, follows up with parents, analyzes the girls’ camp evaluation and tracks the girls’ experiences after camp. She also organizes the luncheon rsvps, seating and recognition of each girl. She contributes to pay for school liaisons, principals and administrators who attend the luncheon. She even sends past campers birthday cards!

In addition she works on campus during camp doing what needs to be done—everything from helping the camp director sort t-shirts and lanyards to teaching a science workshop. She hosts a debriefing activity after camp at her home.

In the words of one who nominated her, “She actively supports AAUW in myriad ways and works in essential jobs that make GWA AAUW thrive. She gives time, energy, talent and money. Without key people like Ann, GWA AAUW would not survive.”

CONGRATULATIONS, ANN.

Dolores Seidman, AAUW Fund Chair

## Dining for \$\$\$\$\$

If you enjoy a freshly made hamburger, made to your specifications and delicious made-to-order entree salads, then you will truly enjoy visiting The Habit for our May fundraiser. Their handcrafted shakes and their tasty sides (try the tempura green beans) join to make it an economical and savory meal. Just ask our own Barbara Gile!

The Habit is located in the Whittwood Towne Center. To better serve us, their corporate office has given us the 3 PM – 9 PM time slot on Tuesday, May 22. We hope you will have a good time when you stop to have a meal there or to enjoy take-out food. Remember, 20% of your bill will be donated to The Myra Long Scholarship Fund when you present our flyer.

# **Congratulations to the New Officers of Greater Whittier Area AAUW!**

The following slate of officers were elected for 2018-19 at the April 14<sup>th</sup> Branch Meeting:

President	Rozanne Child
President Elect	Rozanne Child
Program V.P.	Dolores Seidman
Membership V.P.	Connie Bucey and Lovey Sherman
Hospitality V.P.	DeDe Shatzen and Barbara Gile
AAUW Fund V.P.	Pauline Rogers
Treasurer	Lucinda Halley
Recording Secretary	Shirley Stewart
Corresponding Secretary	Maura Greeley
Public Policy Chair	Patricia Cuocco

Myra Long Scholarship Fund Directors	Patricia Cuocco, Chair Carol Restovich, Recording Secretary Kaye Kidwell, Treasurer Ann Chambers Pat Dudley Susan Halliday Sharon Heck
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# SECTION INFORMATION

## International Concerns

Our International Concerns section will meet on Thursday, May 17 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 "Media and Foreign Policy," Chapter 4 in the 2018 Great Decisions book. Louise Holden will lead the discussion. Everyone is welcome to attend the meeting.

Sharon Heck

## Show Girls

Show Girls has had a change in style. We are now incorporating the Dining for \$\$\$\$ eating experience. We have found the movies do not entice many of us, but the fun of getting together and sharing a meal is great, and we are supporting GWA AAUW at the same time.

When I find out the day Dining for \$\$\$\$ is, I check out the movies, and send a notice to all of the Show Girls on my list about the movie choice and time and the dining time. Some come to the movie, and we eat together afterwards. Some meet us after the movie to join in the dining. Whichever way you come is GREAT!

If you would like to be on the Show Girl list, please let me know. I will be happy to add you.

Gen'nel Walters - 562-943-5333



## Memories

The Wednesday, May 23 meeting of Memories takes place at the home of Gwen Woirhaye at 1:30 PM. The topic is "Fears and Phobias." Everyone is welcome to attend and bring their written ideas on what gives them a fright. We read our selections aloud and always receive positive responses, if not standing ovations. Come join us!

**Directions to Gwen's home:** Drive north on Friends to its very end at 5810 Friends. Park in the driveway or on the street. Don't forget to pick up a parking permit on the gate for street parking. Gwen's phone: 562-696-6405.

Carole Restovich

## First Friday WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOU THERE!!

We had a great time with Dolores and Glenn at their home in April.

Hope to see you in May!

Date: Friday, May 4

Time: 6 - 8 PM

Hostess: Ann Topjon

Address: 5654 Palm - Whittier

From Whittier Blvd., go north on Painter; left on Broadway; right on Palm (past Palm Park).

First Friday is a great time to gather, have fun and get to know each other. Please bring an appetizer to share, and your beer, wine or soda to drink.

No RSVP necessary!  
See you there!

## Morning Book

We are reading and discussing *The Zookeeper's Wife*, by Diane Ackerman, at our next meeting on Monday, June 4. This is an amazing true story in which the keepers of the Warsaw Zoo saved hundreds of people from Nazi hands, and was made into a 2017 movie. After their zoo was bombed, Polish zookeepers Jan and Antonina Zabinski managed to save over three hundred people from the Nazis by hiding refugees in the empty animal cages. With animal names for these "guests," and human names for the animals, it's no wonder that the zoo's code name became "The House Under a Crazy Star." Best-selling naturalist and acclaimed storyteller Diane Ackerman combines extensive research and an exuberant writing style to re-create this fascinating, true-life story—sharing Antonia's life as "the zookeeper's wife," while examining the disturbing obsessions at the core of Nazism. Winner of the 2008 Orion Award. Please join us at 10 AM at Judy Flanders' home, 12430 Floral Dr. in Whittier. Carol Shupek will be leading the discussion, and Carole Duff will provide refreshments. Before our discussion, we will be voting on book selections for next year. The deadline for turning in suggestions to me is Friday, May 18.

Directions to Judy's home, 12430 Floral - 562-692-7930: From Whittier Blvd., north on Painter, west (left) on Beverly Blvd.; north (right) on Pickering (stoplight); west (left) on Floral. 12430 is 5<sup>th</sup> house down on the left.

Ann Topjon, Chair 562-695-6185

## La Cuisine

The end of the year La Cuisine dinner will be held at Gwen Woirhaye's home, at 6 PM, on Saturday, May 19th. The theme for the evening is "Dining with Mr. Darcy" (from the author Jane Austen). Many thanks to Gwen for her continued support of La Cuisine. La Cuisine is open to all members of AAUW and their guests.

Gwen would appreciate if a couple of AAUW members would volunteer to help her set up and clean up. Let Gwen know if you could volunteer to help.

RSVP:  
to Gwen Woirhaye (562) 696-6405  
or Ellen Peck (562) 943-4679  
by May 10th.

## Mystery Mavens

Wednesday, May 16 - 6:30 PM

*Generous Death* (A Jenny Cain Mystery)  
by Nancy Pickard

Reviewer - Janice Geiger

Jennifer Cain, beauty and brain, Her  
father is Greed, her mother's insane;  
Jennifer Cain, giver of pain, Gave her  
life, but not in vain...

As director of the Port Frederick Civic Foundation, Jenny Cain is privy to the charitable intentions of the town's wealthiest citizens. There's eccentric old Arnie Culverson, who's promised millions to the local art museum, who's found there one bright winter morning, neatly tucked into a priceless antique Chinese bed - with pillow and blanket. Dead.

Then another dearly beloved donor dies in the night. And the killer leaves behind a nasty rhyme suggesting rich and beautiful Jenny will be next!

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

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





## Modern Trends in Literature

We need new chairs for next year as the current ones have served two years. Also we are thinking that we are having trouble getting enough hostesses perhaps we should go to five meetings a year, alternating months with Morning Book. Please be prepared to discuss options and bring book suggestions as we vote in June.

*The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane* by Lisa See

“From #1 New York Times bestselling author Lisa See, “one of those special writers capable of delivering both poetry and plot” (The New York Times Book Review), a moving novel about tradition, tea farming, and the bonds between mothers and daughters.

“In their remote mountain village, Li-yan and her family align their lives around the seasons and the farming of tea. For the Akha people, ensconced in ritual and routine, life goes on as it has for generations—until a stranger appears at the village gate in a jeep, the first automobile any of the villagers has ever seen.

“The stranger’s arrival marks the first entrance of the modern world in the lives of the Akha people. Slowly, Li-yan, one of the few educated girls on her mountain, begins to reject the customs that shaped her early life. When she has a baby out of wedlock—conceived with a man her parents consider a poor choice—she rejects the tradition that would compel her to give the child over to be killed, and instead leaves her, wrapped in a blanket with a tea cake tucked in its folds, near an orphanage in a nearby city.

“As Li-yan comes into herself, leaving her insular village for an education, a business, and city life, her daughter, Haley, is raised in California by loving adoptive parents. Despite her privileged childhood, Haley wonders about her origins. Across the ocean Li-yan longs for her lost daughter. Over the course of years, each searches for meaning in the study of Pu’er, the tea that has shaped their family’s destiny for centuries.

“A powerful story about circumstances, culture, and distance, *The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane* paints an unforgettable portrait of a little known region and its people and celebrates the bond of family.”

**Modern Trends** will meet Thursday, May 24, 7 PM, at the home of Dolores Seidman, 254 Bloom Dr., Monterey Park. Trish Carlson will lead the discussion. We suggest carpooling from First Friends Church (parking lot is off the alley north from Philadelphia Street between Friends and Washington Ave.) at 6:30 PM.

Directions:

Option 1 - Beverly Blvd to Wilcox; right and under the 60 Freeway to Coral View; right three blocks to Bloom; right to third house on right.

Option 2 - 605 north to 60 west; exit at Garfield/Wilcox; right on Wilcox; continue as in Option 1.

Remaining book: *Lincoln in the Bardo*

Carol Shupek, Chair

Gwen Woirhaye, Co-Chair



JOIN THE HABIT BURGER GRILL IN SUPPORT OF  
Greater Whittier Area American Association  
of University Women

Tuesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 03:00pm - 09:00pm

The Habit Burger Grill will **DONATE 20% OF SALES** from this event to benefit your organization. Simply present printed flyer or show offer on your smart phone to cashier upon ordering.

Support your organization and enjoy:  
**Award Winning Flame-Grilled Charburgers**  
**Grilled Sandwiches | Fresh Hand-Cut Salads | Delicious Sides |**  
**Frozen Shakes & Malts**



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# GWA AAUW CALENDAR

## MAY 2018



DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT
Tuesday	1	7:00 PM	<b>Board Meeting</b> , St. Matthias Episcopal Church
Friday	4	6 - 8 PM	<b>First Friday</b> , Ann Topjon
Saturday	12	11:30 AM	<b>Branch Meeting</b> , Doubletree Hotel
Wednesday	16	6:30 PM	<b>Mystery Mavens</b> , Marie Callender's, La Serna Dr.
Thursday	17	10:00 AM	<b>International Concerns</b> , Louise Holden
Saturday	19	6:00 PM	<b>La Cuisine</b> , Gwen Woirhaye
Tuesday	22	3 - 9 PM	<b>Dining for \$\$\$\$\$</b> , The Habit, Whittwood
Tuesday	22	TBD	<b>Show Girls</b> , Village Theaters, Uptown Whittier
Wednesday	23	1:30 PM	<b>Memories</b> , Gwen Woirhaye
Thursday	24	7:00 PM	<b>Modern Trends in Literature</b> , Dolores Seidman

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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