

**APRIL
2021**



BRANCH MEETING – ZOOM – May 8, 2021 11 AM

AAUW holds a Fund Luncheon every year where branch members from all over the state have the chance to meet AAUW Fellows/ Grant recipients. This year it was held virtually in October 2020, and Denise Merino Mitchell was among those who received a Career Development Grant to pursue her M.S. degree in Biology and Plant Sciences.

We will have the pleasure of listening to Denise Mitchell at our May 8 Branch Meeting. Her goal is to shift the paradigm regarding the need for change in the high school Science curriculum. Her ideas are both innovative and compelling. Denise's students are so inspired by her teaching that some write letters to her, and sometimes, even their parents write letters to thank her for that motivation. One student, Brittany, became so captivated by Biology that she later earned a Ph.D. in the subject.

Having taught high school STEM classes for 24 years, Denise realized she needed to nurture the idea of sustainability in our new generations, and as an example of her enthusiasm to light the fire in them, she travelled with some of her students to Ecuador where they spent time in a 100% sustainable community at 10,000 feet elevation. Here they settled into a more unaffected and natural setting where they experienced such things as sheering sheep and planting potatoes alongside the indigenous people, developing in themselves a sense of reverence for the natural world.

In fact, it was this unique trip that stimulated Denise, a mother, and a grandmother, to return to school after 30 years. She understood that she wanted to mentor students and influence those fertile minds, but she also knew she had to become a researcher herself, so she began graduate work at UC Riverside where she has been studying drought resistant native flora.

Congratulations to Denise Mitchell, recipient of an AAUW California Career Development Grant!
Come hear her speak about her field of study and goals for the year.

Directions on how to get into ZOOM will be sent to you on Friday, May 7th, 2021. The meeting starts at 11:00 AM, however you can log in starting at 10:30 AM. This will give you time to socialize with friends. If you don't have the internet or have an old computer, you can call in by phone and hear the whole program.

Claire Koehler, Co-Program Vice President
Barbara Gile, Co-Program Vice President

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Our April 10 branch meeting was very special. We honored three distinguished women with the Las Distinguidas award. Petra Schmiske was nominated by Studio Danza, Soroptimist, and the Women's & Children's Crisis Shelter. To Petra's surprise some of her family in Germany were able to join us on ZOOM. Linda Eagan was nominated by The Assistance League of Whittier. Judith Henderson was nominated by the Whittier Historical Society. We heard briefly from all three women, and each was presented with an engraved Waterford vase. Thank you to Susan Halliday and her committee for a wonderful presentation.

Dolores Gonzalez-Hays is our AAUW Fund Vice –President. At our April 10 branch meeting, she and her committee presented two of our members with Named Gift Honoree certificates for their service to our branch. The two honorees were Connie Bucey and Carole Restovich. Congratulations to both of you.

The National AAUW Board has proposed a change to the Bylaws of the organization. They wish to remove the requirement that you must have a degree in order to be a member of AAUW. This decision requires a 2/3 yes vote of the membership. Voting is online and continues until May 17, 2021. If you cannot locate how to vote online, call this number (202)785-7700. When contacting them by phone, you might need your AAUW membership number. If you don't have it, call me, as I have a list. My number is 562-698-0476. All of our branch members should vote.

The National AAUW Board has increased their per member dues by \$3.00 for the coming year. They have reduced staff and cut other expenses, but there is still need of more revenue. We will be passing this \$3.00 increase on to each of you. Our branch dues and the California State dues will remain the same, so dues for 2021-2022 will be \$106. Our treasurer, Kay Clark, is now accepting your checks. Her address is: 11519 Inez St., #8, Whittier, CA 90605. Or you may pay online at the AAUW.org website.

We elected our slate of branch officers for 2021-22 at our April 10 branch meeting and they will be installed on June 12. We still need someone for Hospitality, and an assistant to help with the newsletter. Please let me know if you are interested.

Sharon Heck, Branch President

AAUW MISSION STATEMENT – To advance equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy.

LAS DISTINGUIDAS CELEBRATES AMAZING THREE

Our Las Distinguidas Honorees were presented at our April Branch meeting. We are expanding the bios that appeared in the April GWA-AAUW newsletter and including a picture of each honoree.

CONGRATULATIONS to Linda Eagan, Judi Henderson, and Petra Schmischke, three truly amazing women who have contributed so much to our community.



Linda Eagan was nominated by The Assistance League of Whittier. She has served numerous positions including President during her tenure. Through her technological expertise, Linda created and managed ALW's Facebook page, served as webmaster, newsletter editor, and implemented the Work Ability Program, helping youth with disabilities receive work experience at ALW's Thrift Store. Linda's sorority, Alpha Xi Delta in Vermillion, SD stated Linda was the catalyst to start a fundraising drive to tear down and build a new \$1,800,000 sorority house, which was completed and opened in 2017. While living in Japan for over six years with her husband, Linda joined College Women's Association of Japan and headed a public relations committee that was responsible for raising money for scholarships to help educate women and girls. The nominations stated that Linda's exceptional abilities and personal qualities make everyone around her want to become involved in whatever cause she supports.



Judith Henderson was nominated by the Whittier Historical Society. She served on numerous committees and has been an active member for over 20 years, helping to streamline hiring policies, job descriptions, and led the hiring selection committee with her experience at Rio Hondo College. Judi's education is definitely broad in its focus and surely commendable. A.S. Rio Hondo, B.A. in Psychology (CSULA), M.A. and PhD in Experimental Psychology (USC), and a JD from Western State School of Law. Judi served as a Professor of Psychology at Rio Hondo Community College from 1974-1999. Judy has been involved in the Whittier community as a member of League of Women Voters, board member of First Day, Whittier Historical Society & Museum, Whittier City School District Educational Foundation, and Soroptimist International of Whittier. Her work with Bright & Beautiful Therapy Dogs, Inc. has seen Judy and her beloved dog visiting at the Whittier Library, Presbyterian Intercommunity Hospital, and at Oakmont of Whittier, Luxurious Retirement Living.

(continued on the next page)

LAS DISTINGUIDAS (continued)



Petra Schmischke was nominated by Studio Danza with additional letters of support from Soroptimist International of Whittier and the Women's & Children's Crisis Shelter. She has been instrumental in Studio Danza's incorporation into a 501 (c) (3). Teaching over 2,400 Zumba classes, Petra has generated \$50,000 to support Studio Danza programs, including dance lessons for children who otherwise may not have been able to afford lessons. Additionally, Petra is a 13 year board member of Soroptimist International of Whittier and a 6 year board member of the Women's & Children's Crisis Shelter. Soroptimist stated Petra's expertise with budget, insurance, and financials, in addition to her cheerful presence and enthusiasm has definitely helped keep SIW functioning well. Women's & Children's Shelter invited Petra to participate on their board where she now serves as Treasurer and chairs the Finance Committee. Jeff Ball, CEO/President of Friendly Hills Bank, related a story about how calm Petra remained when a boy decided to use the bank's temporary building as target practice. He knew then he could count on her to keep her cool during any stressful time the bank might experience.

FROM THE FINANCIAL CORNER

Greetings! It's SPRING and the weather is wonderful. But I want to remind you that your dues are up for renewal by June 30. Due to National's dues increase, they are \$106.00 this year. You can pay online or send a check to my home address: 11915 Inez St. #8, Whittier, CA 90605, or to the Post Office Box: PO Box 5333, Whittier, CA 90607, Attention Branch Treasurer. Around the end of April, I will be having National email reminder invoices to anyone who has not paid yet. If you already paid by check recently, thanks and please ignore. Online payments are credited immediately. Thanks!

Kay Clark, Treasurer

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

We want to apologize to several members whose names were inadvertently left off the monthly published list celebrating years of membership. A very special thanks to Sheryl Crockey for bringing it to our attention so that we could be sure to acknowledge and thank the following members for their years in AAUW. CONGRATULATIONS!

Sheryl Crockey	10 years of membership
Patricia Dudley	10 years of membership
Brenda Jahn	46 years of membership
Marian Locke	42 years of membership
Pat Stanley	6 years of membership
Judy Van Horn	3 years of membership

Be sure to renew your membership for 2021-2022. Our membership dues cover the fiscal year (July – June) and ends June 30th. It's easy to renew online; go to aauw.org, membership, renew my membership. If you don't know your AAUW membership number you can email Susan & she will give it to you. It helps to log in and save your number & password. After that, every time you log into aauw.org your number will pop up. You can always print out the renewal form attached to every newsletter. Fill it out, and either mail it or scan & email it to our Treasurer, Kay Clark (11915 Inez St. #8, or email : kayclark310@gmail.com) or to me at sbathalliday@yahoo.com.

Encourage friends and potential members to attend our Branch meeting so they can get an idea of what GWA-AAUW does. Our next branch meetings will be informative, and folks should have a great time, especially as we celebrate women and girls with scholarships etc. You can always forward the meeting link to them or send us the information and we will include it in our link.

Be sure to vote for/against AAUW national's ballot regarding suggested changes in the bylaws. There is a short timeline. **VOTE BY MAY 17th at 5 PM EST.**

Membership Co-Chairs: Pauline Rogers & Susan Halliday





**Greater Whittier Area-American Association of University Women
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM for YEAR 2021-2022**

Please fill out completely and mail with check made payable to: Greater Whittier Area AAUW
Mail/give your check to: Branch Treasurer GWA-AAUW, P.O. Box 5333, Whittier, CA 90607-5333

ANNUAL DUES Please choose Membership type:	<input type="checkbox"/> Paid Life Member \$44	<input type="checkbox"/> Student \$38.81
	<input type="checkbox"/> General \$106	<input type="checkbox"/> Dual \$24
{National Dues \$62 + State Dues \$20 + Branch Dues \$24 = \$106 TOTAL} REMINDER \$80 of YOUR DUES IS TAX DEDUCTIBLE		
To order the following items, please include/add the following to your check: <input type="checkbox"/> I want the yearbook insert mailed to me - \$2 <input type="checkbox"/> I want the AAUW binder, cost \$6 + (if mailed, postage \$5 = \$11)		

**If all your information is the same as in the yearbook, just print your name and write
"INFORMATION SAME AS LAST YEAR" across the application.**

*Fill in starred items to update your information. New members must complete ALL information.

Today's Date: _____

Do you have a sponsor? If so, who? _____

Your Title: Mrs. _____ Ms. _____ Miss _____ Other _____

*Last Name _____ *First Name _____ *Middle Initial _____

Spouse's Name _____

*Address _____ *City _____ *Zip _____

*Home _____

*Work I _____

Degree _____

College _____

Degree _____

College/University _____

Degree _____ Year _____ Major _____

College/University _____

PUBLIC POLICY

VOTING RIGHTS:

Lies, Suppression and White Supremacy

AAUW's position on voting rights is clear and unequivocal. **AAUW is committed to open and fair elections, nonpartisan voter education efforts that will promote equitable political participation and representation in appointed and elected office, and the expansion of voting rights.** This leaves **no** room for supporting the passage of any of the over 361 bills that limit voting rights, currently pending in state legislatures (per The Brennan Center for Justice).

The 15th Amendment to the Constitution guaranteed the right of ALL men to vote. The 19th Amendment, 50 years later, extended that right to women. In 1965, the Voting Rights Act ended years of racially discriminatory policies such as poll taxes, literacy tests and Jim Crow laws that prevented equal access to voting. Section 4 of the Act created a "coverage formula" to identify states with a history of such discriminatory passages and Section 5 required that states identified as having enacted such policies would have to get preclearance from the Justice Department for any changes to their election laws to ensure that the change would not discriminate on the basis of sex, race or language. In 2006, the Voting Rights Act was reaffirmed, and the protections were extended another 25 years. However, in 2013 a Supreme Court decision (Shelby v. Holder) gutted much of the protections and set the stage for the 361+ laws now pending.

Why is this even an issue? Isn't the essence of our democracy the holding of free and fair election and the peaceful transfer of power? Yes, except if you are among a sizable percentage of people who, despite more than 60 court cases, and countless bi-partisan electoral officials attesting to the security of the 2020 election, continue to believe the Big Lie of 2020, that the election was stolen from Donald Trump by millions of illegal votes.

I use the term "Big Lie" deliberately because it is a tactic straight out of Joseph Goebbels' play book. Tell a lie; keep telling it often, give it as much publicity as possible; build on it; and eventually enough people will believe it and act upon it. It is a strategy used by authoritarian "wannabees" everywhere. The Insurrection at the Capital on 1/6/21 can be directly tied to it. (In case you forgot my piece on Nazi's, see the February 2021 newsletter. The essence is that if you are on the same side as Nazi's, you can best believe you are on the wrong side.)

The 2020 election saw a surge in voting by minorities, young people and other usually more progressive members of society. This did not and does not sit well with some older, white, conservative voters and they can see (and do not like) the demographic writing on the wall. Their response *could be* formulating and running on better policies that help average citizens, compromise, or any number of positive responses. Instead, the impetus has been to try and make it more difficult for people of color, poor people, average workers and students to cast votes.

What does any of this have to do with White Supremacy? The code of avowed white supremacists is their infamous and shudder inducing 14 words: "We must secure the existence of our people and a future for **White** children." What better way than to make it more difficult to use the power ballot box, as is our sacred right, to effect change?

How can you help? Advocate; write letters to out of state legislators; support companies that condemn voter suppression and tell those for supporting it that they will no longer have your business. Our foremothers struggled and sometimes died to secure the precious right to vote. No one deserves having it abrogated for the sake of paying homage to a lie that suits some people with a very undemocratic mindset.

Patricia Cuocco, Public Policy Chair

MORE PUBLIC POLICY

In case you missed this from National:



During the 2020 election, voters defied a deadly pandemic to participate in record-breaking numbers. The democratic process faced threats both old and new as Americans navigated long lines, emergency measures and, in some areas, deliberate barriers to voting. Instead of working to remedy those issues, a handful of extremist politicians are now working to further hinder access. In just five weeks, they've introduced **more than 100 new anti-voter bills around the country**. There are now 47 states battling 361 bills aimed at silencing voters. This cannot stand. With so much at stake each time we head to the ballot box, it's crucial that the freedom to vote is protected for all.

It is time to enact strong national standards for voting access.

The For the People Act (H.R. 1/S. 1) will ensure accessibility to all voters throughout the country, make sure all votes count by preventing bought elections and partisan gerrymandering, and establish stronger codes of ethics for our branches of government. We must make the promise of democracy real by enacting policies promoting safe and accessible elections. The For the People Act passed the U.S. House on March 3 — now it is the Senate's turn to ensure we have access to a transparent electoral process that we can trust. If we are to recover and rebuild a stronger tomorrow, every American must have a say.

Take action today and [tell your Senators to pass the For the People Act!](#)

Take Action

NAMED GIFT HONOREES

AAUW Fund
Congratulations, AAUW Fund Named Gift Honorees!

At our April branch meeting GWA AAUW members, Carole Restovich and Constance (Connie) Bucey, were recognized as AAUW Fund Named Gift Honorees. These members are ambassadors of AAUW's mission always serving our branch with an open heart and a warm smile.

Carole Restovich has served in many roles and currently chairs the Myra Long Scholarship Fund committee. Carole has done a phenomenal job as Scholarship Committee Chair. Through Carole's leadership her committee has awarded scholarships benefiting many women attending Rio Hondo college seeking to continue their studies and earn a degree at a four-year college.

She is currently developing a pilot program to provide scholarships for area high school seniors. She has researched appropriate scholarship options, spoken to area high school personnel to personalize a program that meets the needs of the students.

As a board member of the GWA-AAUW Executive Board, she not only attends AAUW Board meetings, but volunteers on numerous committees assisting on events such as Tech Trek, Meet and Greet, Holiday fundraisers, Math Science Day at Whittier College, and Pasadena Showcase House.

Constance (Connie) Bucey

Connie has served on the GWA AAUW board. She has served on the organization's board as Membership Chair in 2017-2018 and as Membership co-chair in 2018-2019.

Connie has been an AAUW member for 23 years. She joined the GWA AAUW Branch after first being a member of the Montebello-Monterey Branch. She is an active member of the branch, attending monthly meetings, Meet and Greets, and Dining for Dollars activities and always supportive of AAUW's mission.

Connie has a special way about her—she is welcoming easily befriending individuals, managing to find ways to brighten their day or help them in any way. She is an accomplished artist, mainly working with oils. She is a member of the Beverly Hospital Guild where she volunteers on a weekly basis. Connie's community reach is broad. She is a member of Soroptimist-Montebello and a member of the Altar Guild of The Church of Our Savior, Episcopal Church, San Gabriel.

Congratulations, Carole and Connie, AAUW Fund Named Gift Honorees 2020-2021!

Dolores Gonzalez-Hayes
AAUW-Fund Director



Connie Bucey



Carole Restovich

TECH TREK

The Tech Trek committee would like to report what we are doing this year in lieu of participation in the on-line Tech Trek camp experience. We have been working with East Whittier Middle School and Los Nietos Middle School in selecting four girls from each campus that represent interest in science, technology, engineering, and math. Candidates were nominated by their math and science teachers. Each girl was asked to submit an application which included questions and a personal essay regarding their interests in STEM fields and their access to and use of computers. Following that, we held a ZOOM panel discussion with each school inquiring as to their experiences and challenges with virtual learning. Our committee finally selected four girls from each school as recipients of a personal iPad.

Ann Chambers



MAY MISCELLANY

May is National Mental Health Awareness Month, as well as National Skin Cancer Awareness, High Blood Pressure Awareness and Lupus Awareness.

Of course, in May we honor Mothers! Let's not forget to honor those women who stepped up and adopted another woman's birth child, or those who fostered children. Let's remember step-moms, and cool aunts and others who serve as mom surrogates. And finally, let's remember those moms who, knowing that they had neither the resources nor wherewithal to raise a child, lovingly allowed it to be adopted by someone who could and did.

"Prose and drama are well enough for winter, but when nature swells the darling buds of May, my spirit craves three things: poetry, painting and love." – Joan Smith

HOW TO ZOOM

We will be doing our meetings with ZOOM for the foreseeable future. If you need help downloading ZOOM and logging in, please get with one of the ZOOM tutors who have volunteered to help.

On your computer, go to ZOOM.us and download a free copy. On your smart phone, download the ZOOM app. When you get an invitation to a meeting, click on the link provided and it will take to you the meeting.

If you are having Internet problems or don't have a computer, you can call this phone number listed on the ZOOM invitation under:

Dial by your location
+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

and you will be able to attend like a conference call. You will need the meeting ID and passcode. There won't be a video, but you can hear, and you can be heard.

If you want to practice before a meeting, please contact a helper.

Kay Clark for PC users 310-890-6510
Patricia Cuocco for MAC users 562-756-9509
Paula Ocampo for smartphone users 562-447-7483

Also:

Sharon Heck - 562-858-9253
Claire Koehler - 714-473-6184

THE SPOTLIGHT



Maybe it is just because Spring is in the air, or because so many millions of people are, or soon will be, vaccinated against COVID-19, but I feel a lot more hopeful about our pandemic situation than I did a few months ago and I hope you do as well. Maybe, soon, we'll be able to see each other in person and share a hug. ❤️

Over the year, we've shared some ways to keep sane and engaged during lock down, This one, from the Smithsonian Institute, looks particularly interesting and quite varied <https://www.si.edu/events/online?trumbaEmbed=view%3Devent%26eventid%3D150588382> . Some of the events are free and others have fees. Check them out!

Talk about arm chair travel! Visit <https://www.si.edu/events/online?trumbaEmbed=view%3Devent%26eventid%3D150588382> where you can choose a country or continent and choose from a plethora of virtual museum tours. I noticed that the Huntington Gardens is there, as is the Vatican Museum, and many museums in various US cities.

WOW – 105 years young! That's what Elvira (Vicki) Marshall was this past April. I know some of you participated in her drive-by celebration and/or socially distant gathering. Others may want to send a card or note acknowledging this incredible milestone.

Doug Halliday (husband of Susan Halliday) has recently completed 5 months of chemotherapy for pancreatic cancer. The tumor did slightly shrink. Doug will soon have a biopsy on a spot on his lung, to help determine further treatment. He will continue to work with his medical team at Cedars Sinai and PIH Health. Doug is an active member of the local Lion's Club which sponsored a Red Cross Blood /PIH blood drive in Doug's name a few weeks ago. The Monday afternoon/evening appointments filled up fast & another blood drive the following Monday afternoon/evening took place. Susan and Doug are so deeply moved by the outpouring of love, concern, letters, calls, prayers, positive thoughts, and blood donations. If you were one of the folks who donated blood, please let Susan or Doug know. The Red Cross does not share that information.

Carol Shupek's husband, John had a stent procedure on 4/16 which should help him in the resolution of his cardiac issues. He will be having a valve replacement in May. Best wishes, John and Carol.

For our next and final newsletter of the fiscal year, I would love for you to share your summer plans with us. Send me your "news" in an email to patricia@fullerton.edu.

SECTION INFORMATION

Because of the uncertainty surrounding containment measures for COVID-19, scheduling section meetings will be difficult for the foreseeable future. We suggest that you keep in touch with your Section Chair for updated information.

MYSTERY MAVENS

Mystery Mavens will meet Wednesday, May 19, 2021 on ZOOM at 7PM. There is a slight possibility that we might meet at an outdoor restaurant, but we will keep you informed. The book will be *Death on Demand* by Carolyn Hart. Maurine Behrens will lead the discussion.

“At Annie Laurance’s Death On Demand bookstore on Broward’s Rock Island, South Carolina, murder most foul suddenly isn’t confined to the well-stocked shelves.” Author Elliot Morgan’s abrupt demise during a weekly gathering of famous mystery writers called the Sunday Night Regulars is proof positive that a bloody sword is sometimes mightier than a brilliant pen.”

We will also be voting on the five books we will read next year, so send me your nominations with a short description of each book. I will be emailing you the nominated books a few days before the May 19 meeting. If you have any questions, please call or email me on 562-698-0476 or S.Heck4peace@gmail.com.

Sharon Heck

MEMORIES

The Memories meeting of May 26, 2021 will be held at my home. The suggested topic is “My Talents,” but , as always, you may write on a memory of your choice. In a time of difficulty, it might be a good idea to focus on the positives and we all do have natural abilities, whether it be working with others, nurturing a garden, creating special meals, planning vacations, being a good listener etc.

Come share your writing at 1:30 PM. Address: 10413 Portada Dr. (behind Whitwood Center)
Phone:562-787-0727.

Carole Restovich

INTERNATIONAL CONCERNS

Our International Concerns section is reading a book printed each year by the Foreign Policy Association titled *Great Decisions*. The book contains eight articles on a variety of topics, and we read one article each month.

Our meetings are on the third Thursday each month at 10 AM. On May 20 we will meet by ZOOM at 10 AM and I will be sending you the ZOOM invitation. Our topic for the May 20 meeting will be “Brexit: Taking Stock and Looking Ahead,” chapter 3 in the 2021 *Great Decisions*. If you do not have the book, you might be able to access some information on the Foreign Policy Association website. www.fpa.org/great_decisions

Dolores Seidman will be leading the discussion on May 20. Everyone reads the material ahead of time, and we have a lively discussion around the topic. If you have newspaper articles or materials, we are happy for you to share them. All are welcome to join us for International Concerns. If you are new to us, send me your email so you will be included on the ZOOM invitation. S.Heck4peace@gmail.com or call 562-698-0476

Sharon Heck, co-chair
Sheryl Crockey, co-chair



FIRST FRIDAY

I am projecting restarting our First Friday meetings in September. All members, significant others, and guests are welcome. We meet at a member's home from 6 to 8 PM on the first Friday of each month. You are expected to bring your choice of beverage and an appetizer to share. We visit for two hours and then depart. The hostess provides glasses, plates, coffee, and the home.

This is a great way for new members to become acquainted. It is very informal and a good way to introduce prospective members.

We will need hostesses for September 3; October 1; November 5; January 7; February 4; March 4; April 1; May 6; June 3; July 1. We will host December 3.

Please email me with your choice of a date to host. Thank you.

Gwen Woirhaye
gwen@woirhaye.com

MORNING BOOK

I hope you will be able to join us, again via ZOOM, as we read and discuss *The Jane Austen Society*, by Natalie Jenner, with discussion led by Gwen Woirhaye. Just after the Second World War, in the small English village of Chawton, an unusual but like-minded group of people band together to attempt something remarkable.

One hundred and fifty years ago, Chawton was the final home of Jane Austen, one of England's finest novelists. Now it's home to a few distant relatives and their diminishing estate. With the last bit of Austen's legacy threatened, a group of disparate individuals come together to preserve both Jane Austen's home and her legacy. These people—a laborer, a young widow, the local doctor, and a movie star, among others—could not be more different and yet they are united in their love for the works and words of Austen. As each of them endures their own quiet struggle with loss and trauma, some from the recent war, others from more distant tragedies, they rally together to create the Jane Austen Society. A powerful and moving novel that explores the tragedies and triumphs of life, both large and small, and the universal humanity in us all.

We are meeting on Monday, May 24, at 10 AM. Note that this is a changed date from the original date in June. A ZOOM invitation will be sent out a few days before the meeting.

PLEASE NOTE: Our last book discussion will be held on Monday, July 26, and we are reading *The Splendid and the Vile*, by Erik Larson. Dolores Seidman will lead our discussion. More information will be sent out in July.

Ann Topjon 562-695-6185

LA CUISINE

I'm hoping that we will be able to renew La Cuisine in September. This is a group that enjoys cooking, eating in company, and socializing about five times per year. We usually have one group dinner including all members and substitutes; one restaurant meal which also includes all; and two or three dinners in homes with eight to twelve at each home, depending on the hostess' choice. Hostesses meet to plan the menu and send recipes to those participating. Regular members are those who are willing to host or assist a host; substitutes are called upon when there is room and of course to the two group dinners.

This group began around fifty years ago with only couples. In recent years we have added singles, so everyone is welcome to participate. The year's schedule will be created during the summer. We encourage new members to join us for good eating and socializing.

PLEASE if you are interested in participating during the coming year, contact me and say whether you can host, assist, or wish to be on the substitute list.

Gwen Woirhaye
gwen@woirhaye.com

MODERN TRENDS IN LITERATURE

The Modern Trends discussion group will meet on ZOOM, May 27 at 7 PM. This month's book is *The Mountains Sing* by Nguyen Phan Que Mai. Since nobody has agreed to lead the discussion, all should attend prepared to contribute.

We need suggestions for books for 2021-2022. Please email your suggestions to me or be prepared to suggest at the meeting.

A chair is needed for this group for next year. Please consider volunteering.

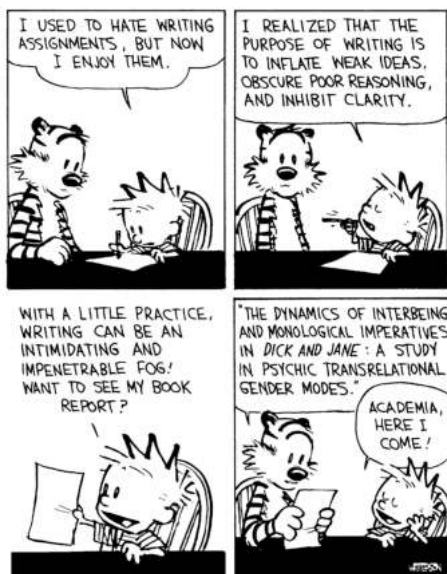
With the epic sweep of Min Jin Lee's *Pachinko* or Yaa Gyasi's *Homegoing* and the lyrical beauty of Vaddey Ratner's *In the Shadow of the Banyan*, *The Mountains Sing* tells an enveloping, multigenerational tale of the Tran family, set against the backdrop of the Viet Nam War. Tran Dieu Lan, who was born in 1920, was forced to flee her family farm with her six children during the Land Reform as the Communist government rose in the North. Years later in Hanoi, her young granddaughter, Huong, comes of age as her parents and uncles head off down the Ho Chi Minh Trail to fight in a conflict that tore apart not just her beloved country, but also her family.

Vivid, gripping, and steeped in the language and traditions of Viet Nam, *The Mountains Sing* brings to life the human costs of this conflict from the point of view of the Vietnamese people themselves, while showing us the true power of kindness and hope.

The Mountains Sing is celebrated Vietnamese poet Nguyen Phan Que Mai's first novel in English.

If you wish to join us and are not on our email list, please email me for a ZOOM link.

Gwen Woirhaye
gwen@woirhaye.com



MAY 2021
GREATER WHITTIER AREA BRANCH CALENDAR

Myra Long Scholarship	May 4 (Tuesday)	9:30 AM ZOOM
Board Meeting	May 4 (Tuesday)	7 PM ZOOM
Branch Meeting	May 8 (Saturday)	11 AM ZOOM *
Last Day to Vote AAUW	May 17 (Monday)	5 PM
Mystery Mavens	May 19 (Wednesday)	7 PM ZOOM
International Concerns	May 20 (Thursday)	10 AM ZOOM
Morning Book	May 24 (Monday)	10 AM ZOOM
Memories	May 26 (Wednesday)	1:30 PM ZOOM
Modern Trends	May 27 (Thursday)	7 PM ZOOM

CHECK WITH YOUR SECTION LEADERS FOR UPDATES AND ZOOM INVITATIONS

* Tune in at 10:30 AM, if you wish to chat with other members.



**NEXT NEWSLETTER WILL BE OUT
IN LATE MAY FOR JUNE 2021.**

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 15th 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 give the article a descriptive name, not merely “newsletter article,” and use that name in the subject line of the email. PLEASE do not send articles in Google Docs.**

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

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