



GREATER WHITTIER AREA BRANCH AAUW NEWSLETTER

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

**April
2023**



Branch Meeting, Saturday April 8 11:30 AM – Whittier Elks Lodge

PROGRAM

A Time to Grow

With the month of March behind us, we can start thinking about Spring, and new growth—at least in our intellect if not in our own gardens. How do we do that? Easy! We are AAUW members, so all we have to do is show up for our next Branch meeting. It will be informative; it may test our understanding of what we think we know, and by the time we leave, we will feel a couple of watts brighter than beforehand.

Our speaker will be Dr. Niki Elliott, a clinical professor of education at the University of La Verne's La Fetra College of Education. She currently serves as Director of the Center for Neurodiversity, Learning and Wellness, and is an author, speaker, and trainer in the fields of neurodiversity, mindfulness, holistic education, and healing-centered engagement. Dr. Niki earned a bachelor's degree at UC Berkeley, a master's degree and teaching credential at Teachers College, Columbia University and a PhD in Education from UCLA. An experienced educator, Dr. Niki has taught students of all ages, from elementary school through university level over the past 25 years. She presently teaches educational neurobiology, neurodiversity and mindfulness for graduate students earning a master's degree in Special Education. Dr. Niki is also the founder of the Mindful Leaders Project, a program designed to help teachers, school leaders, parents and other education professionals increase their own personal well-being and social-emotional regulation skills to support children's academic success. She will be joining us to speak on "*Using Mind-Body Awareness to Uproot Unconscious Bias.*" It will be an engaging presentation, so please join us at The Whittier Elks Lodge on April 8th. We would love to see you!

Claire Koehler, VP Program Director
Ann Topjon, Program Associate
Christine Heller, Program Associate

Note: please see our member survey starting on page 18

HOSPITALITY

It is near Easter (April 9) already! Passover commences April 5. Near the end of April (22) is Earth Day. Spring is in the air. Time for refreshing the garden. How about some herbs planted in pots for late spring and summer meals? I just love to attend a tea in a new spring frock and hat. So put on some festive wear and join us at the April AAUW meeting!

Date: Saturday, April 8

Time:

11:00 AM for Social Time

11:30 AM-1:30 PM for the meeting



Location:

Whittier Elks Lodge

13620 Whittier Blvd.

Whittier, CA 90602

Arrival and Parking: use the driveway off Barton Rd. behind Elks Lodge, park at the rear. We will be seated in the Club Room or as it is sometimes called the “Card Room”. Kindly enter that room through the “back door” or rear entrance because the check-in table will be located in the back of the room. Look for the AAUW signs to guide the way.

Menu:

Main entrée: Chicken Piccata and roasted vegetables

Vegetarian/Vegan entrée: Green salad and cup of vegetable soup

Entrées include a salad with a choice of salad dressing, rolls, dessert, coffee, iced tea, and water.

Lunch cost: \$25/per person

Beverage only: \$5/per person and includes coffee, ice tea, and water

No substitutions, deletions, or special orders

Please **RSVP** with your selection from one of the following:

- . Main Entrée
- . Vegetarian /Vegan entrée

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED and a reservation made and **NOT** canceled by the deadline **MUST BE PAID**. Please **RSVP** with your menu choice by **NOON** on Tuesday, April 4, to kayclark310@gmail.com or if you do not have an email call Kay Clark at (310) 890-6510.

Pauline Rogers, Hospitality VP

FINANCIAL CORNER

It's that time again to renew your membership. National has announced that our dues will go up another \$5.00 this year, bringing the total to \$116.00. Three years ago, they said they would raise dues by \$5.00 for three years, so this is the last year of that.

Most of our memberships expire on June 30, 2023. New members have expiration dates one year from when they joined. If anyone wants to know when their membership expires, please let me know.

National will start accepting online dues payments on April 1. Please don't try before then, as they are still working on the website. If you want to send your dues to me instead, please make the check out to GWA AAUW (Greater Whittier Area AAUW) and mail it to me at:

11915 Inez St. #8
Whittier, CA 90605
kayclark310@gmail.com
310/890-6510

Regular dues are \$116.00. Paid Lifetime Dues are still \$44.00 and Honorable Lifetime (members over 50 years) are \$0.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the above contact info.

Kay Clark, Treasurer

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION (DEI)

When you change the way you look at things, the things you look at change. (Unknown)

You cannot escape the daily references to diversity, equity, and inclusion. Every newspaper, news report, and talk show seems to have a story (often sensationalized or negative) on one or more of these topics. You may not be "seeing" the whole picture from these sources. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion are more than just headlines.

An alternative source is readily available to you. If you seek to look at diversity, equity, and inclusion in a different context, AAUW has two upcoming webinars:

Thursday, April 6, 2023, 2 p.m. ET
Celebrating Diversity Month

An interactive webinar in celebration of Diversity Month in April.

Wednesday, May 10, 2023, 7:30 p.m. ET
Workshop: Diversity and Intersectionality

A hands-on learning opportunity for AAUW members to explore aspects of diversity and intersectionality.

More information and registration can be found on the AAUW website or contact Pat Dudley at kpdudley2002@yahoo.com and request the information be emailed to you.

Pat Dudley, DEI Officer



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

April is when we begin to see the results of the calendar turning to spring on March 20. Although we may still receive April showers, they bring May flowers. And in California, we may see a Poppy super bloom in late March or early April!

On April 8th at our annual branch meeting, we elect the slate of officers that have been nominated to be on the GWA-AAUW 2023-2024 Board. (See page 5 for the list of nominees). I hope you will all come out for the election, and vote for your next year's officers.

National Volunteer Week is the third week of April and of the many celebratory weeks, it stands out as especially important. It's a time to recognize all of our branch members that volunteer. It's also a reminder that we still need more participants in branch leadership, on committees, and on volunteer sign-up sheets. Come to a board meeting via ZOOM or in person and see how we work together. Our next board meetings are via ZOOM: Tuesday, April 4, and Tuesday, May 2 @ 7 PM. Just email me your interest before the meeting, and I will send you a ZOOM invitation.

There are many faiths observing special days in April. For Muslims, there is a continuation of Ramadan from March 22 to April 21. For Christians, there is Easter Holy Week; Palm Sunday, April 2 to Easter Sunday, April 9; and for Orthodox Christians, the week starts later from April 9 -16. The Jewish faith celebrates Passover from April 5 to April 13. This is a wonderful time to observe and respect the celebrations of other faiths and perhaps find the aspects of our lives that are similar to fellow humans trying to find meaning in our time on earth.

AAUW-CA is having its Annual Event via ZOOM on Saturday, April 22, from 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM. Much will be going on in this meeting so be sure to sign up to join the rest of AAUW-CA on this day, REGISTER at this website (copy and paste to your browser): <https://www.aauw-ca.org/academy-aauwards-event-celebrates-aauw-stars/>.

Lastly, on April 22 we celebrate Earth Day, let's also do all we can year-round to keep our environment healthy and help the earth last for many more generations.

May you have a wonderful April!

Nadine Wilcox, GWA-AAUW, President





ELECTION SLATE

GWA-AAUW ELECTED OFFICERS FOR 2023-2024

President	Nadine Wilcox
President-Elect*	_____
Treasurer	Kay Clark
Program Vice-President	Claire Koehler
Hospitality Vice-President	Pauline Rogers
Membership Vice-President*	_____
AAUW Fund Vice-President	Dolores Gonzales-Hayes
Public Policy	Margo Reeg
Recording Secretary	Mandy Knight
Corresponding Secretary	Maura Greeley
Past President	Paula Ocampo
<u>Myra Long Scholarship Fund Committee (MLSF)</u>	
Director	Barbara Gile
Director	Carole Restovich
Director	Kaye Kidwell
Director	Susan Halliday
Director	Sharon Heck
Director	Patricia Dudley
Director	Ann Chambers

*Position open - Nominations may be made from the floor with the consent of the nominee.

PUBLIC POLICY

The impacts of Social Media platforms on children and teens and the Elimination of Discrimination against Women are the topics of the bills your AAUW lobbyists will be addressing when we visit our representatives, Assemblymember Lisa Calderon AD 56 and Senator Bob Archuleta SD 30 on March 21 and 22. Chris Heller, Paula Ocampo, Sharon Heck and Margo Reeg will be meeting with our elected members via ZOOM.

Sexual exploitation and trafficking of children through the use of social media is the topic of **AB 1394** authored by **Assemblymember Buffy Wicks**. Youths from 9 to 17 spend many hours using social media. One-quarter of those young people has reported having a sexually explicit interaction online with someone they thought was an adult. Around one-third of LBGTQ+ minors have reported an online sexual encounter online with someone over 18. Social media platforms are aware that trafficking and exploitation originate on their sites. **AB 1394** would amend current law to hold social media platforms like TikTok or Instagram accountable to child survivors who have been abused or trafficked through online recruitment. Youth could sue the perpetrators and require that any images of them be permanently removed or made invisible.

Liability for Child Addiction and emotional harms are addressed in **SB 287** by **Sen. Nancy Skinner**. Researchers theorize that the unprecedented and exploding mental health crisis among youth is significantly related to the use of social media which promotes body image videos and also markets fentanyl and other drugs. TikTok has pushed content promoting eating disorders to young users. As Instagram became incredibly popular the suicide rate of girls 10 to 14 doubled. Some girls traced their suicidal thoughts to watching Instagram. This bill would prohibit social media giants from knowingly causing children to receive content that facilitates purchasing fentanyl, inflicting harm upon themselves, developing an eating disorder, or becoming addicted to the social media site. Parents could sue the social media firms for damages and collect penalties. Media companies that police their platforms and remove dangerous content would not be held liable.

The third bill we will be educating on is the California Elimination of Discrimination Against Women Act (CEDAW), **AB 549** by **Assemblymembers Rebecca Bauer-Kahan and Lisa Calderon**. This bill is modeled on the international treaty adopted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly called the Convention on Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) which has been ratified by 187 of the 194 **members of the UN but not by the United States**.

CEDAW provides a comprehensive framework for challenging the structural elements that contribute to gender discrimination, occupational segregation, and the wage gap impacting California Women. This bill would require state agencies to conduct a self-evaluation to ensure that the state does not discriminate against women through state policies and programs, including allocation of funding and delivery of services.

Margo Reeg, Public Policy Chair

MYRA LONG SCHOLARSHIP FUND (MLSF)

In 1997 Marie Wolbach used a grant from the national AAUW office to begin Tech Trek at Stanford University. The age group, 7th grade girls going into 8th grade, was selected based on research showing this was the optimal age to engage girls as it was the pivotal point in time when they would begin making decisions on their choice of classes and subjects as that entered high school that would serve as the foundation for their future educational and career choices. Tech Trek would give girls a chance to be with other girls who share an interest and excitement about STEM, learn more about themselves, build confidence and leadership, and help them visualize themselves at college in their future.

In 2023 more and more middle schools have been designated as STEM and STEAM schools. Common courses at these schools are robotics and coding which have been part of the Tech Trek curriculum before the surge of STEM curriculum in the schools. Tech Trek has had to “up its game” to provide enhanced and unique experiences for the campers.

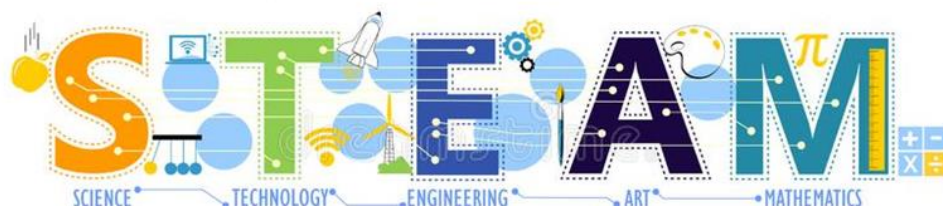
More current offerings include Aerospace Science, Engineering, Neuroscience, Food Science, Physics, Discrete Math, and Rocketry. The 2022 core classes at Whittier were Anatomy, Architecture, CSI, Robotics and Coding, and Biology. Workshops included Polymers, PH explore, Cosmetic solutions, (chemistry experiences) paleontology, the carbon cycle and tower building.

The Greater Whittier Area Branch of AAUW has continued to be involved and support Tech Trek on the Whittier campus through volunteer opportunities, Hosting Visitation Days, and the Professional Women Panel activity, collecting lots of “stuff” (tennis balls, rubber bands, plastic containers, straws, newspapers) for the Build It and Rube Goldberg activities, volunteering at registration and hosting a pre-camp dinner for the Tech Trek staff.

Members wishing to volunteer at registration as we have done in the past will need to volunteer using an online process. Information will be emailed to all members that volunteer.

This year, we are in the process of selecting four students from The Steam Academy at Burke in the El Rancho Unified School District to attend on campus at Whittier College. (A bit of trivia: Carole Restovich’s husband was the principal when it was Burke Middle School.) Each camper and one guest will be invited to the May Branch luncheon.

Information taken from the speech by Pat Dudley at the March 14, 2023



Barbara Gile, MLSF CHAIRPERSON, Carole Restovich, MLSF SECRETARY, Kaye Kidwell, MLSF TREASURER,

Ann Chambers, Pat Dudley, Susan Halliday, and Sharon Heck, MLSF DIRECTORS

THE HODGE FOUNDATION

The Greater Whittier AAUW has elected to participate in the Hodge Foundation of the Whittier Public Library. The Branch donates \$50 to the library for the purpose of purchasing a book(s) in memory of our members who have passed away.

The AAUW Greater Whittier has donated \$200 in memory of the four members who have passed in this last year (also listed are the titles of the books purchased by the library which are representative of the member's interest).

Sandy Bridges

Leafy Rivers by Jessamyn West

Bel Canto: a Novel by Ann Patchett

How To Fly (In Ten Thousand Lessons): Poetry by Barbara Kingsolver

Ann Farmer

Collectively Speaking: My Passionate Pursuit of Miniatures by Kaye Savage Browning

The World of Miniatures: From Simple Cabins to Ornate Palaces by Sarah Walkley

Louise Holden

Architect of Light: Watercolor Paintings by a Master by Thomas W. Schaller

Lucille Serrano

The New Earth: Awakening to Your Life's Purpose by Eckhart Tolle

Practicing the Power of Now: Essential Teachings, Meditations and Exercises from the

Power of Now by Eckhart Tolle

Stillness Speaks by Eckhart Tolle

The Power of Now: A Guide to Spiritual Enlightenment by Eckhart Tolle

Submitted by Belen Duarte-Sousa



AAUW FUND

Each calendar year (January-December) AAUW Fund issues a donation report, thus covering part of two different AAUW governing sessions (July 1-June 30). More than \$700,000 was donated by California members in 2022, \$595,362 by individuals, and \$124,300 by branches. AAUW has reported that our branch made individual donations in the amount of \$2934 and the branch donated \$3,000 in surplus funds.

The funds are used by AAUW to support programs such as Fellowships and Grants, Public Policy, Research, Start Smart, Work Smart, Legal Advocacy Fund, Campus Action Projects, and NCCWSL many of which support programs in California branches.

Many thanks are due to the following members of GWA who generously made donations in 2022 to support AAUW's programs.

Elizabeth Baca

Mandy Knight

Pauline Rogers

Jacqueline Brearley

Kathleen Marin

Dolores Seidman

Kay Clark

Bea Myers

Lavonne Sherman

Sheryl Crockey

Paula Ocampo

Ann Topjon

Carole Duff

Linda Pomeroy

Karen Van der Baan

Maura Greeley

Margo Reeg

Gen'nel Walters

Sharon Heck

Lynda Richardson

Nadine Wilcox

Dolores Seidman, AAUW Fund VP



MEMBERSHIP

Our major item of interest for membership is our dues amount for the coming year. National AAUW has increased their portion by \$5.00, so our new total is \$116. There is no change in State or Branch dues. Included in this newsletter for your use is an application for membership with the new amount. If you are a renewing member, you need not fill in the application unless there is a change in your information. You can just send your dues of \$116. to our treasurer, Kay Clark, 11915 Inez St. #8, Whittier, CA 90605. You may also pay online after April 1, 2023. If you have a friend who would like to join for the first time, there is a reduced rate of National dues. Contact Kay Clark for the amount and the process. 310-890-6510

There is also a questionnaire in this newsletter that we would like to have completed by all members. We might have a questionnaire on file for you from a few years ago. Consider updating it and giving it to Sharon Heck.

I would like to thank all who have filled in for me as Membership V.P. at the recent Branch meetings. I had knee replacement surgery on January 31, 2023, and my granddaughter's wedding was on March 11, 2023. Both events have been exciting, and have kept me quite busy. I appreciate all who helped me. Thank you.

Everyone in the Branch is a part of the membership committee. Tell your family and friends about AAUW and invite them to our Branch meetings.

Sharon Heck, Membership V.P.





Greater Whittier Area-American Association of University Women
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM for YEAR 2023-2024

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 \$116	<input type="checkbox"/> Dual \$24
{National Dues \$72 + State Dues \$20 + Branch Dues \$24 = \$116 TOTAL} REMINDER \$93 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 \$7 + (if mailed, postage \$5 = \$12)		

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: _____

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

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

*Address _____ *City _____ *Zip _____

*Home Phone _____ *Cell Phone _____

*Work Phone _____ *Email address _____

Degree _____ Year _____ Major _____

College/University _____

Degree _____ Year _____ Major _____

College/University _____

Degree _____ Year _____ Major _____

College/University _____

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

2020-2021 GWA-AAUW Membership Questionnaire

Please print or fill in with text. Use the back of this paper if you need more space information.

Name: _____
Last
First

Year joined AAUW _____

College/Universities attended

Years

Degree received

Elected Offices held in AAUW

Branch

Year (approximate is ok)

 _____ continue on
 _____ back of paper

Appointed Offices held

Branch

Year (approximate is ok)

 _____ continue on
 _____ back of paper

Committee / Section Chair Positions

Branch

Year (approximate ok)

 _____ continue on
 _____ back of paper

Committee / Section Chair Participation

Branch

Year (approximate is ok)

 _____ continue on
 _____ back of paper

Projects for AAUW Worked on/Completed

 _____ continue on
 _____ back of paper

Community Activities (Clubs, Volunteering, etc)

Organization

Year (s) (approximate is ok)

 _____ continue on
 _____ back of paper

What would you like to see at branch meetings or at sections? What areas are of interest to you?

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 10AM. On Thursday, April 20, 2023, 10AM, we will meet at Sharon Heck's home, 6032 Comstock Ave., Whittier, CA 90601. Our topic for the April 20 meeting will be Chapter 3, "China and America: back to the future?" in the 2023 Great Decisions. Our discussion will be led by Dolores Seidman. Please do not attend if you are not feeling well. We will have a Zoom meeting also if one is needed. Let Sharon know if you would like the Zoom meeting and need the Zoom link. 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

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. Please RSVP to Sharon as her street has permit parking. Daily permits will be available, and there is a driveway. S.Heck4peace@gmail.com 562-858-9253.

Sharon Heck, co-chair

Sheryl Crockey, co-chair



International Concerns - Weekend Edition

Topic: Chapter 3, of the Great Decision Handbook: China and America: Back to the Future.

Date: Sunday, April 16, 2023

Time: 2-4 pm (usually runs approx. 1.5 hrs.)

Location: Nadine Wilcox's home - 12423 Camilla St., Whittier, CA 90601. There is parking on the street (no permit needed).

Treats: Beverages and treats supplied by Nadine Wilcox (beverages) and one of our group members (Maura Greeley and Lori Graham).

Invited members: If you work, or can't make the Thursday 10 AM group, this may be the one for you. We are open to a total of 4-6 members at the table.



AAUW BOOK GROUPS

MODERN TRENDS IN LITERATURE

Change of date and time for this month only.
This month our group will be participating in the Whittier Reads book discussion to support our local library. The book is *Solito* by Javier Zamora. All information can be found at

whittierplf.org/whittier-reads.

Wednesday, April 19
6 PM

Wednesday Night Book Group Discussion

The author will not be present

May 11 6:30 PM

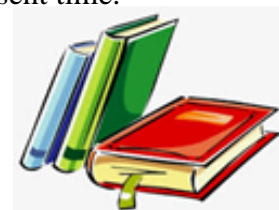
Violetta by Isabel Allende

MYSTERY MAVENS

Mystery Mavens will not meet in April. Our next meeting will be May 17, 2023, the third Wednesday, at Mimi's Restaurant, 6PM. Our book for May is *The Ritual Bath* by Faye Kellerman and it will be reviewed by Brigitta Weger.

It is time for our Mystery Maven members to begin nominating books for 2023-2024. We will vote on our five choices for next year at our May 17 meeting. I have no nominees at the present time.

Sharon Heck



MORNING BOOK

We do not meet in April. Our final two meetings of the year are May 22 when we will read and discuss *The Personal Librarian*, by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray; and July 24, for *Trust*, by Hernan Diaz. I am still looking for someone to host as well as lead the discussion for *Trust* in July, along with a hostess for May.

We also need to start thinking about next year's meetings and books we would like to read. Please start sending me your ideas as I would like to have voting take place by our May meeting. **Please send Title, Author, number of pages, and a short summary, easily available via Amazon,** as well as other sources.

Ann Topjon, Chair 562-665-1724

WRITING IS FUN

The Wednesday, April 26, meeting of Writing is Fun! will take place at the home of Carole Restovich at 1:00 PM. The topic is anything you choose! Perhaps you'd like to spotlight a friend or family member. Maybe it's a special Easter celebration you recall. If you feel like writing something cathartic about the state of the world, here's your chance. Come share your written thoughts with an appreciative audience. All are welcome.

Address: 10413 Portada, off of Santa Gertrudes and behind Vons Market

Phone: 562-787-0727

FIRST FRIDAY

Our First Friday party is scheduled for April 7, 6-8 PM, at the home of Dolores and Glenn Gonzalez-Hayes.

Please bring beverages of choice, a snack to share, and guests.

The address is 8722 Seranata Dr., Whittier. Drive east on Mar Vista from Colima; turn right onto Cerquita Drive, then right onto Seranata. House will be on the left about ½ mile down the road.

Future dates are: May 5, Belen Duarte; June 2, Susan Halliday, July 7, Open; August 4, Open. Please contact me to volunteer for July or August, or any First Friday next year. Thanks.

Gwen Woirhaye, Chair
gwen@woirhaye.com

DINING FOR \$\$\$\$



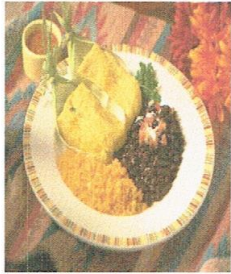
Save The Date!

El Cholo Mexican Restaurant - Thursday, April 20, 2023

This month's Dining For \$\$\$\$ fundraiser takes us to the fun and festive El Cholo Mexican Restaurant in the city of La Habra. Known for its food, decor and tasty margaritas, El Cholo has recently begun to once again open the restaurant to fundraising. They've supported us for many years in the past and are happy to again support us in our efforts to raise money for the Myra Long Scholarship Fund.

A flyer will be found in this newsletter. Simply present one flyer for each bill at your table. 20% of each bill, excluding alcoholic beverages, will be donated to our scholarship fund. **El Cholo's doors open to us from 12:00PM – 9:00PM.** Share a festive meal with family or friends. Thank you for supporting us. You'll have a great time!

Carole Duff and Sheryl Crockey



Greater Whittier Area AAUW

*Come Enjoy
Delicious Food*

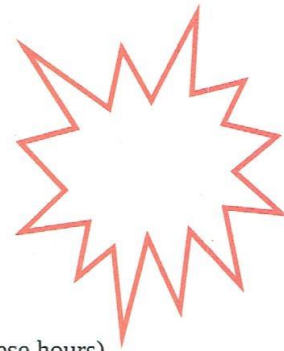
By DINING IN or TAKE OUT, at:

EL CHOLO

840 E. Whittier Blvd.

La Habra, CA

(562)691-4618



Date: April 20th, 2023

Time: 12:00pm – 9:00pm (anytime during these hours)

PLEASE BRING THIS FLYER & PRESENT IT WHEN ORDERING YOUR FOOD.



SPOTLIGHT

We are still missing our beloved **Ann Farmer**, who passed away on September 23, 2022. Many of you will remember her love of history and her wonderful collection of miniatures. In her memory, beginning April 1, the Whittier Museum will be presenting an exhibition of over 60 miniature scenes that were created by Ann. The museum is located at 6755 Newlin Ave. (562-945-3871).

Today we remember **Geri Marshall**, daughter of our AAUW member, **Vicky Marshall**. On March 12, 2023, after a long illness, Geri passed away peacefully at the home of her brother. She is survived by her mother, Vicky Marshall, and her brother and his wife; Bruce and Cora Marshall. Cards and letters can be sent to the Marshalls at 1421 Mariposa Dr.; Santa Paula, CA 93060. Our heartfelt condolences go out to the family.

Patricia Cuocco who moved to Northern Nevada might be missing our “warm” Whittier weather. She recently told Dolores Seidman; “A colleague who has lived here in the Carson Valley since 1946 said this is the worst winter he has ever seen. We are OK, just tired of Mother Nature’s temper tantrum. Officially, Tahoe has experienced more snow than ever (since they started keeping records). The lake has risen about 10 feet, which means it contains over a billion more gallons of water than usual. I can’t wait to see an iris or daffodil in my yard. Hoping they all survived the onslaught.”

Congratulations to **Nadine Wilcox** on the birth of her niece’s new baby delivered on March 1 during the recent blizzard. Stephanie & Dave and their 2-year son Owen live in Lake Arrowhead and with over 5 ft of snow were stuck at home when early labor started. Fortunately, they had planned a home birth. Dad was able to safely deliver the baby shortly before the midwife and team made it through the snow. Baby and mom are doing great. The exciting story was reported by the local news, you can check it out following this link:

<https://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/lake-arrowhead-baby-birth-storm/3107955/>



SPOTLIGHT (cont.)



How wonderful it is to celebrate a wedding! This beautiful bride is the daughter and the granddaughter of branch members **Cherie Trapani** and **Sharon Heck**. Sharon reports: “Sarah Heck and Jonathan price were married on Saturday, March 11. Cherie made Sarah’s wedding dress and Sarah completed the train with artificial roses. The ceremony was outdoors and the reception was on the 22nd floor of the Morgan Stanley Building in Oxnard, California. Everything was beautiful including the bride and groom. They are honeymooning in Rome, Italy.”

Paula Ocampo, Newsletter Editor
(562) 447-7483
pocampo@aol.com

MEMBER SURVEY

A committee was formed to develop a survey that can be found here on pages 19-20. We are asking that you print it out, complete it (do NOT put your name on it), and send it back to us **by March 31st**. This survey is meant to determine why participation at Branch meetings has diminished recently. If we can discover the reason for this, we can change things to entice members to come back, so your responses are vital!

Your return address should be on the envelope only, so we know who has participated. However, after all of the surveys are received, we will remove them from their envelopes and mix them up with the other surveys for anonymity. The results will be tallied by the survey committee:

The Committee includes Claire Koehler, Pauline Rogers, and Nadine Wilcox, who will present the survey at the next Branch meeting. (**Note:** do not fill out the survey if you already did so at the March meeting).

Please send your survey to:

Attn: Claire Koehler
AAUW-Greater Whittier Area Branch
P.O. Box 5333
Whittier, CA 90607-5333

GWA-AAUW Survey

Over the past few months, we have noticed that participation at our Branch meetings has been diminishing, and because of that, we are conducting the following survey to discover the cause of this. We want to have a vibrant organization and to do so, we want to see your faces, hear your voices, and be as connected as possible so that our mission succeeds, and so our Branch thrives. With that in mind, please answer the survey and return it to the following address by March 31st, 2023. The address is:

Attention: Claire Koehler
AAUW-Greater Whittier Area Branch
PO Box 5333
Whittier, Ca. 90607-5333

GWA-AAUW Survey Questions:

1. . Why did you join AAUW? (Mark or circle all those that apply).
 - a) Because I believe in AAUW's mission to help give girls and women an advantage
 - b) For the social interaction
 - c) To keep up on important issues that our Program speakers present
 - d) To be an active member of our community
 - e) Because I was curious about what the AAUW does
 - f) Because I want to be in a leadership position at some point
 - g) Other Please List _____

2. How many Branch meetings, including the Meet and Greet in January, did you attend over the last seven months?
 - a) 1-2
 - b) 3-5
 - c) 6-7

3. What **most** inspires or encourages you to come to Branch Meetings?
 - a) Program speakers
 - b) The venue and its atmosphere
 - c) Good food
 - d) The business of the meeting
 - e) Camaraderie with other AAUW members
 - f) Other _____

4. What factor is **most** likely to keep you from coming to Branch meetings?
 - a) The pandemic
 - b) The weather
 - c) Personal health concerns
 - c) The cost of lunch
 - d) The choice of Program speakers
 - e) The venue
 - f) Other _____

5. Does a lack of cultural diversity affect your participation in this organization?
 - a) Yes, definitely
 - b) Somewhat
 - c) I had not thought of it
 - d) A little
 - e) Not at all

6. If you joined AAUW to become part of a larger community, has this organization met your needs?
 - a) Yes, definitely
 - b) Somewhat
 - c) Not yet
 - d) Not enough to feel wholly involved
 - e) Not at all

7. What is the best way we can become a more culturally diverse, equitable, or inclusive organization?
 - a) Offer more cultural events to our membership
 - b) Engage with groups that are focused on specific cultural identities
 - c) Have more panel discussions about issues related to diverse groups
 - d) Invite students from community colleges, four-year colleges, and universities to express the interests they have in clubs or organizations
 - e) Other _____

8. What is the best aspect of being an AAUW member?
 - a) Being part of a mission that gives all women and girls empowerment
 - b) Interacting with other members in one or more Sections like: Writing is Fun, Mystery Mavens, Morning Book, International concerns, etc.
 - c) Being involved in leadership roles
 - d) Working on committees with others
 - e) Attending Programs

Comments: _____

Note: Please return your survey to the address listed above. Thank you for your participation!

April 2023

GREATER WHITTIER AREA CALENDAR

Board Meeting	April 4 (Tuesday)	7 PM	St Matthias & Zoom
First Friday	April 7 (Friday)	6 PM – 8 PM	Dolores Gonzalez-Hayes'
Branch Meeting	April 8 (Saturday)	11:30 AM	Whittier Elks Lodge
International Concerns WE	April 16 (Sunday)	2 PM-4 PM	Nadine Wilcox's
Modern Trends	April 19 (Wednesday)	6 PM	Whittier Public Library
International Concerns	April 20 (Thursday)	10 AM	Sharon Heck's
Dining for \$\$\$	April 20 (Thursday)	12 PM – 9 PM	El Cholo Restaurant
AAUW CA Annual Event	April 22 (Saturday)	9 AM – 2 PM	Zoom
Writing is Fun	April 26 (Wednesday)	1:00 PM	Carole Restovich's

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 send articles by email on or before the 15th of every month, August through May to pocampo@aol.com
 Newsletter Editor – Paula Ocampo

For more information, please visit our websites:

AAUW National www.aauw.org
 AAUW California www.aauw-ca.org
 GWA-AAUW www.whittier-ca.aauw.net

Greater Whittier Area -
 American Association of University Women
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