



GREATER WHITTIER AREA BRANCH AAUW NEWSLETTER

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

**DECEMBER
2023**



BRANCH MEETING – DECEMBER 9, 2023 10:00 AM – ELK’S LODGE

Opening Doors; Changing Lives

December is upon us, and this year, it may bring a greater sense of solemnity, knowing we are safe when so many in the world are not. We are with our families. We can celebrate together and be grateful for each meal we share, and each day we have to spend with loved ones. We are also lucky to have programs to help children who are not blessed with the ideal family, or the best income status, and would not otherwise have a leg up when it comes to their future. This is why our December speaker is so important. Oscar Hernandez is one of those special people whose work is changing lives every day because he cares. He is the Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Club of Whittier. His biography follows:

Oscar is a seasoned philanthropy professional with a strong focus on driving social impact. With a wealth of experience in non-profit management, he's dedicated to effecting change and improving lives. Skilled in fundraising, program development, grant writing, and project management, he strategically mobilizes resources for sustainable, positive outcomes. Holding a Bachelor of Science in Human Services, his background underscores a deep commitment to understanding and supporting community needs.

Complementing his expertise, Oscar completed the Executive Leadership Program at Harvard Business School, gaining insights into effective leadership practices. His personal life revolves around family; as a married and proud father of two daughters, he values work-life balance and integrates personal and professional commitments seamlessly.

Beyond family, Oscar actively contributes to various boards and organizations, lending his expertise to bodies like the Whittier Chamber of Commerce and the Los Angeles County Alliance for Boys & Girls Clubs. With notable roles, including President of the Professional Association for Boys & Girls Clubs of America, he's consistently driven by the goal of fostering positive societal change.

Oscar's aspiration is to collaborate with mission-driven organizations, working hand-in-hand with communities to create a stronger, more supportive society. His passion for philanthropy, combined with his skill set and extensive experience, positions him as a valuable catalyst for meaningful social transformation.

Please come and listen to this amazing man who works hard to develop a better society for all.

Submitted by: Claire Koehler, Ann Topjon, Christine Heller

HOSPITALITY

The last month of 2023 is upon us already! December is traditionally the busiest and frequently the happiest month of the year. We celebrate Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa among our many diverse holidays. There are party gatherings with friends and associates concluding with the many activities and then finally ending in the celebration of the commencement of the New Year.
HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ONE AND ALL!

Date: December 9, 2023
Time: 9:30 AM for social time
10 -12 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: French toast, bacon, scrambled eggs, fruit
 - * Vegetarian: Lentil soup and chopped salad
- Entrees include orange juice, hot tea, ice tea, coffee, and water

Brunch cost: \$30/per person

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

No substitutions, deletions, or special orders

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

- * Main entrée
- * Vegetarian 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, December 5, to **kayclark310@gmail.com** or if you do not have an email call Kay Clark at (310) 890-6510.

NOTE: If Kay Clark does not respond to your email reservation **call or text her!**

REMINDER: A RESERVATION IS NECESSARY TO GUARANTEE A MEAL.

Kindly remember to wear your AAUW name badge. Thank you!

Pauline Rogers, Hospitality VP

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to December and the holiday season for people of many creeds and religions. May you enjoy the season to the best of your abilities with your immediate and extended family, friends and colleagues. If you are not with your family this season for whatever reason, call some of your neighbors and friends in GWA-AAUW to celebrate the season gathering and socializing or helping each other in whatever needs to be done.

WOMEN WITH A WHY - LET'S GROW!

Can you share why you are an AAUW member in a succinct and joyful way? Where do we find new members? It could be anywhere in our neighborhoods; in line at the store, at the DMV, in a walking group, at church, a farmer's market, health club group, etc. The key is to enthusiastically share how AAUW gives your life purpose and meaning. Practice a short introductory "speech" or elevator moment of 2-3 minutes that summarizes what AAUW means to you. Share it with a well-known person in your life or strike up a conversation with a new person. Let them know about AAUW and its mission; national, state, and local. Especially include information about our local branch and how it positively impacts their social group and people in their area. Our meet and greet activity is coming up in January (see the Membership Committee Chair's report). Invite someone to come with you and see what GWA-AAUW does to translate the mission of the state and national AAUW into local wins for women and middle and high school girls!

Also please check out the AAUW-CA Public Policy Newsletter (November is the most recent on hand). It is awash with good news showing that our activities have an impact on legislation that addresses issues important to AAUW. The link is:

<https://www.aauw-ca.org/documents/2023/11/public-policy-news-november-2023.pdf/>

(Or search on the AAUW-CA website for PUBLIC POLICY NEWS or NEWSLETTER 2023).

Come one, come all, hear the call for assistance in participating on the Nominations Committee (Co-Chairs are Paula Ocampo and Sharon Heck), or throw your name in the hat to fill an upcoming position on our 2024 -2025 GWA-AAUW board. It is a great learning experience, and there is support in every corner to be able to carry out the "job" during the year. We are all volunteers, colleagues, and friends in making GWA-AAUW a successful and growing local branch. Come be a part of this process!

May this month be a wonderful month for you. Reach out and touch someone special to you that you haven't been in touch with for a long time, count what to be grateful for daily and continue to grow with AAUW in many ways personally, and help AAUW grow also.

Nadine Wilcox

GWA-AAUW President 2023-24



MEMBERSHIP

It is time to invite prospective members to our annual Meet and Greet Event. This is the perfect opportunity to share the mission of the Greater Whittier Area AAUW. Our guests will be able to learn about our wonderful organization in a casual setting while meeting some of our members. See below for details.

We hope that you will reach out to your work associates, fellow church members, neighbors, business associates, and recent college graduates. Invite them to join us or send them the attached flyer so they can come to learn about GWA-AAUW.

**GWA-AAUW Meet and Greet
January 26, 2024
5:30 pm – 8:00 pm
Assistance League of Whittier
6339 Greenleaf, Whittier, CA**

Guests/nonmembers: Free of Charge
Current members and spouses: \$10.00
(Admission is waived if member brings an appetizer or dessert)

If every member could bring a guest, we would be sure to have many new members!!

Please let one of the people in the membership committee listed below know the names of your guests so we can have nametags ready for them.

Kay Clark	kayclark310@gamil.com
Nadine Wilcox	n.m.wilcox462@gmail.com
Paula Ocampo	pocampo@aol.com
Pat Dudley	kpdudley2002@yahoo.com
Susan Halliday	sbathalliday@yahoo.com
Andrea Bellamy	andrea92la@gmail.com



Thank you!!

Kay Clark, Membership Committee Chair

What are
YOU
doing?
worthwhile
on Friday
January 26th at
5:30 pm?

**Greater Whittier Area AAUW
American Association of University
Women Invites YOU...**
To come meet us & see what we're doing
for women & girls

MATH SCIENCE Conference
for 8th grade girls at Whittier
College



**Gave over \$30,000 in
Scholarships in 2023**



**Make a difference in
women & girls lives....
Locally & Nationally**

**Teacher Grants in areas
of math & science.**

Come meet us & learn more... It's FREE! 1/26/24
RSVP gwa.aauw@gmail.com
5:30-7 pm
6339 Greenleaf Ave
Whittier
<https://whittier-ca.aauw.net> (Whittier)
<https://aauw-ca.org> (California)
<https://aauw.org> (national)

Diversity Equity, Inclusion (DEI)

GWA Reads Together: The Person You Mean to Be by Dolly Chugh

In November, participants were reading Part 1: Chapters 1-3 and Part 2: Chapters 4-5. In preparation, it was suggested that each reader take 2 or 3 of the Harvard Implicit Bias Tests.

December-January Reading: Part 2: Chapters 4-5 and Part 3: Chapters 6-7

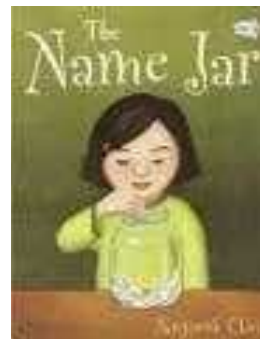
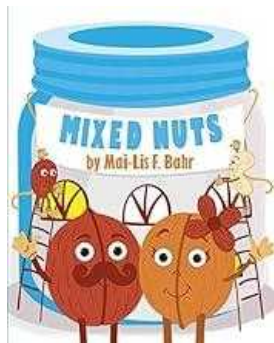
Part 2: Chapters 4 and 5 focus on privilege and its implications in social justice issues. Terms meritocracy, social categories and ordinary privilege are key to understanding the content.

Part 3: Chapters 6-7 addresses issues of white racial identity and gender identity. These are introduced through anecdotal models of Dolly Chugh and author Jodi Picoult. Readers learn what it means to “otherize people.”

If you are reading the book, be sure you have contacted me so that I can send you more information on the discussion questions, more detailed summaries of the content, and articles of interest related to the reading.

Next discussion session: Tuesday, January 23, 2024!!!! At 1:30 at Pat Dudley’s. (15718 Lindskog Drive, Whittier, 90603). There will be no in-person session in December.

Information for February: In February we will discuss two children’s books from the AAUW DEI booklist. **The Name Jar** and **Mixed Nuts** have similar themes.



Readers are challenged to view them as a child would see and interpret them vs the DEI interpretation that placed one of these books on a banned book list. **YOU DO NOT NEED TO BUY THESE BOOKS.** Susan Halliday has recorded them. You can access her reading of the books by contacting her at sbathalliday@yahoo.com. She can send it to you using Google. If you do not use Google or need help, she will assist you. A reading of **The Name Jar** by the author is also available on YouTube.

Pat Dudley, DEI Coordinator

MATH/SCIENCE CONFERENCE

Our 29th Math/Science Conference for 8th Grade Girls will be at Whittier College on Thursday, January 11, 2024. The student program begins at 9:15 AM and ends at 12:45 PM. We have our 20 STEM speakers and that list has been sent to the 25 schools so the 8th grade young women can choose their favorites.

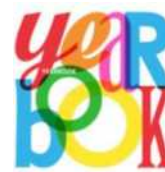
Dolores Seidman has graciously agreed to collect volunteers for the January 11, 2024 event. Please consider helping with this wonderful project. We need a great many volunteers to serve as greeters, workshop moderators, guides, registration workers, and other jobs. Volunteers will be given their starting time after they volunteer. Some volunteers will need to be there as early as 7:30 AM when the coffee and rolls will be ready. The volunteers and speakers are given a lunch at the 12:45 PM end of the event. Please email Dolores at deeseidman@gmail.com and volunteer if you haven't already done so.

Please put Thursday, January 11, 2024 on your calendar, and consider volunteering your services. We will keep you informed so that we can have another great conference.
Sharon Heck, Math/Science Chair



2023-2024 YEARBOOKS

The 2023-2024 GWA-AAUW Yearbooks will be available at the October, November, and December branch meetings.



If you would like to have your Yearbook earlier, please call Susan Halliday at 562-696-7395 (landline) or call/text 562-447-7943 to arrange a “porch pick-up”. A digital copy is also available, just contact me.

Susan Halliday
GWA-AAUW Yearbook Editor



**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? _____

2023-2024 GWA-AAUW Membership Questionnaire

Name: _____
Last First

Year joined AAUW _____

College/Universities attended

Years

Degree received

Elected Offices held in AAUW

Branch

Year*

Appointed Offices held

Branch

Year*

Committee / Section Chair Positions

Branch

Year*

Committee / Section Chair Participation

Branch

Year(s)*

Projects for AAUW Worked on/Completed

Branch

Year(s)*

Community Activities (Clubs, Volunteering, etc)

Organization

Year(s)*

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

* approximate year is OK

Please use the back of the page if you need more room

MYRA LONG SCHOLARSHIP FUND (MLSF)

A big THANK YOU to those who helped us meet Leeba Lessin's \$20,000 pledge to match our fundraising this year!

In October, Maura Greeley donated \$2,000 to establish a nursing scholarship at Rio Hondo College to honor the late Earlyne Clemons, a dear member of our branch. Since then, three other GWA-AAUW members have donated to the *Earlyne Clemons Nursing Scholarship*.

Thank you all for your generosity and support of MLSF!

Kaye D. Kidwell
MLSF Treasurer



AAUW FUND

This year there are 34 AAUW Fund Fellows and Grant Recipients studying in California colleges. There are no longer any in-person luncheons at which we used to hear 8 to 10 of the recipients speak. Instead, we have an opportunity to hear any or all of those we choose online at a time of our convenience.

Just go to aauw-ca.org to access the videos by clicking on "Fund Fellows and Grant Recipients. We will also arrange to have one of the recipients speak at our branch meeting in April.

Just think—no driving, no costly luncheon—just a visit with the "Fellows" in the comfort of your home at your convenience! And with the money you save, maybe more, be sure to make a donation to AAUW Fund at the Fund of your choice!

Do this soon, at least by December 1 to be sure it is processed in time for a 2023 tax deduction! Donating on-line is the quickest way to do so. Go to aauw-ca.org to do so.

Dolores Seidman, AAUW Fund V.P.

INTERNATIONAL CONCERNS

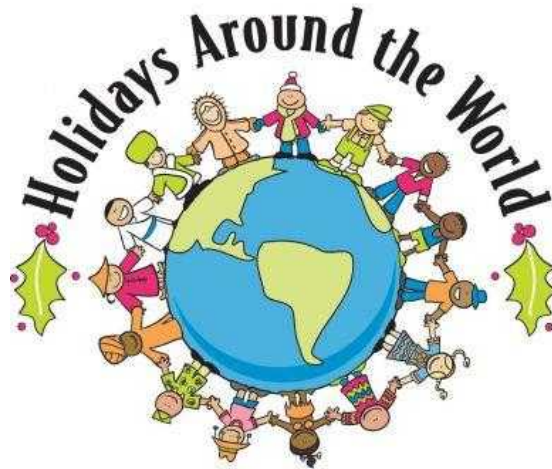
Our International Concerns section reads a book printed each year by the Foreign Policy Association titled *Great Decisions*. The book contains eight articles on a variety of topics, and we read one article each month. We have completed the book for this year and receive the 2024 books in January.

Our meetings are on the third Thursday of each month, but in December we will be meeting on the second Thursday, December 14, at the Thai Table restaurant in Whittwood at 11:30 AM. This will be a purely social gathering. Please RSVP at s.heck4peace@gmail.com if you plan to attend.

For our regular monthly meetings, 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.

x

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



WRITING IS FUN

WIF! (Writing is Fun!) will meet at the home of Carole Restovich on **December 13 at 12 noon**. (Note the earlier date and time due to the holiday)

We will share a holiday lunch, along with our written comments, memories, or hopes during this special season. No time to write? Come anyway and tell of a special memory or story in your life.

Hope to see you all here

Carole Restovich, chair

BOOK CLUBS



MYSTERY MAVENS

Mystery Mavens does not meet in December. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 17, 2023 at The Original Roadhouse Grill, 15156 Whittier Blvd., Whittier, CA 90603, near Whittwood. Our January 17 book will be *Sidney Chambers and the Shadow of Death* by James Runcie. It will be reviewed by Kay Clark. The books for 2024 are listed below. Come join us!

Mystery Mavens Books for 2024

March 20, 2024 *A Murder of Crows* by Sarah Yarwood Lovett, reviewed by Mandy Knight

May 15, 2024 *Killers of a Certain Age* by Deanna Raybourn, reviewed by Jackie Brearley

Sharon Heck

MORNING BOOK

We do not meet in December. We will reconvene on January 22, reading and discussing *Among Friends*, by M.F.K. Fisher. Complete information will be in January's newsletter.
Happy Holidays!

Ann Topjon, Chair 562-695-6185

MODERN TRENDS IN LITERATURE

Modern Trends will not meet in December and January. Our next meeting will be February 8, 2024. We will discuss *There Will Be Fire: Margaret Thatcher, the IRA, and Two Minutes That Changed History* by Rory Carroll.

A GIFT from BEYOND

Several years ago, a man named Christopher Lavagnino was going through his mother's items after her passing. Jeanne Lavagnino had been a long-standing member of Greater Whittier AAUW and had a wonderful doll collection. Christopher called our branch and asked if he could donate her beautiful doll collection, to which we heartily agreed. Her wonderful collection was donated to our fundraising auction, thereby helping to fund many scholarships, as the dolls brought much joy to others. Recently Christopher found a wonderful GWA-AAUW Recipe Book from 1967-68 created by members and gave it to Susan Halliday. We would like to know who would like a copy of this little piece of GWA-AAUW history. Sharon Heck has offered to copy the books on our copier and we will give them to anyone interested.

Please contact Susan Halliday sbathalliday@yahoo.com by December 31st if you'd like a free copy.

FIRST FRIDAY

First Friday will be hosted at the home of Shirley Stewart on December 1, from 6 PM to 8 PM at 14518 Ringate Dr., Whittier, CA 90604, (562) 944-4556.

Please bring your beverage of choice and a snack or dessert to share. Significant others and guests are invited to join us.

Gwen Woirhaye
gwen@woirhaye.com



DINING FOR \$\$\$\$

Happy December to everyone! No doubt that everyone will agree this is one of the busiest months of the year. Because of this and the fact that most restaurants rarely do fundraisers in December, no Dining For \$\$\$ event has been scheduled for December. Our next event, in January, will be detailed in the January newsletter. Sheryl and I wish all of you Happy Holidays!

Carole Duff and Sheryl Crockey

REALLY GREAT STUFF

Holiday Event – AAUW Fundraiser

Be sure to plan your holiday shopping and stop by at Really Great Stuff.

All the information is in the flyer on page 14.

AAUW
Greater Whittier Area Branch

Really Great Stuff Holiday Event
14402 Whittier Blvd
Whittier

Wednesday, November 29
Thursday, November 30
Friday, December 1
11 to 6

Saturday, December 2
10 to 5

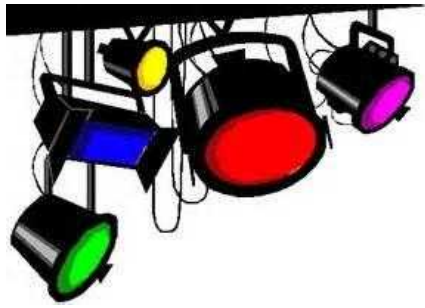
Clothing, Jewelry and Handbags
Gifts and Decorations
plus
Much, Much More

Please invite your family and friends!

Light Refreshments served

20% of the proceeds go to AAUW!
Be sure to mention you are part of AAUW.

Questions: Karen van der Baan 562-695-0048



SPOTLIGHT

Dolores Seidman interviewed our newest member. “Welcome to new branch member, **Quincey Grace** who has transferred from the OUR AAUW Branch where their past president and our dual member Joyce Paul recommended that she join us when she recently moved to Whittier. Quincey has a fascinating background, too full to recount here, but here are the highlights.

She attended Hastings College in Nebraska before transferring to Cal Poly San Luis Obispo where she earned her BA in English and her teaching credential. Then she went to UC Riverside after teaching junior high for a year and earned her Master’s in English Literature and teaching on the college campus. She taught high school and college English for over 30 years mostly in the Chaffey Jt. Unified H.S. District and at UC Riverside, Citrus, Mt. San Antonio Community College and So. California Business Colleges before retiring in 2019.

She then self-taught sculpting and had a studio at the American Museum of Ceramic Art in Pomona until she discovered air dry clay that allows her to complete a sculpture in three days. She has sold ceramic sculpture at the Feb 2023 L.A. Art Show at the L.A. Convention Center.

She moved to Whittier where she plans to host art shows and music events in her home. She also has sculptures at Rogers Garden in Corona Del Mar as one of 4 permanent year-round artists featured at their store. Her website is quinceygrace.com and her e-mail is quinceycreates@gmail.com.

She invites AAUW members to her “Hike the Hill Arts and Crafts Show” on Sunday, December 10, 2023, from noon to 4 PM at 11821 Rideout Way, Whittier.”



Sheryl Crockey had news from the New Phoenix section. “On Thursday, November 2, six members of the New Phoenix section journeyed to the Van Gogh Immersive Experience in Montebello (phone: 312-490-7191). We found it fascinating, informative, and unique...truly an unforgettable experience. The exhibit will be there at least through December.

We began by walking through several rooms filled with comprehensive information about Van Gogh’s life including videos illuminating many of his works. Afterward, there were rooms featuring two-story colorful light and sound projections of his most compelling works. You step into Van Gogh’s world of swirling art, so mesmerizing that some of us would like to return.

Our day ended with a delicious dinner at Bizarra Capital Restaurant in Uptown Whittier. “



We all want to hear about what is happening in the lives of our AAUW community. Spotlight is a great place to share your news, tips, and stories. Send me yours so I can include them in our next newsletter.

Paula Ocampo, Newsletter Editor
pocampo@aol.com

December 2023

GREATER WHITTIER AREA CALENDAR

First Friday	December 1 (Friday)	6 PM – 8 PM	Shirley A Stewart's
Board Meeting	December 5 (Tuesday)	7 PM	Zoom meeting
Branch Meeting	December 9 (Saturday)	10 AM	Whittier Elks Lodge
Writing is Fun	December 13 (Wednesday)	12 PM	Carole Restovich's
International Concerns	December 14 (Thursday)	11:30 AM	Lunch at Thai Table
Really Great Stuff	November 29 (Wednesday)	11 AM – 6 PM	14402 Whittier Blvd.
Really Great Stuff	November 30 (Thursday)	11 AM – 6 PM	14402 Whittier Blvd.
Really Great Stuff	December 1 (Friday)	11 AM – 6 PM	14402 Whittier Blvd.
Really Great Stuff	December 2 (Saturday)	10 AM – 5 PM	14402 Whittier Blvd.
Math/Science Conference	January 11 (Thursday)	9:15 AM-12:45 PM	Whittier College

CHECK WITH YOUR SECTION LEADERS FOR UPDATES AND ZOOM INVITATIONS

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
 PO Box 5333
 Whittier, CA 90607