



GREATER WHITTIER AREA BRANCH AAUW NEWSLETTER

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

**JANUARY
2024**



It is new year and 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.

Please note that this event will be held instead of our regular branch meeting.

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 flyer on the next page so they can come to learn about GWA-AAUW.

**GWA-AAUW Meet and Greet
January 26, 2024
5:30 PM – 7:00 PM
Assistance League of Whittier
6339 Greenleaf, Whittier, CA**

| | |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| Guests/nonmembers: | Free of Charge |
| Current members and spouses: | \$10.00 |

(Admission is waived if a member brings an appetizer or dessert)

If every member could bring a guest, we would be sure to have many new members!! Please let us know the names of your guests so we can have nametags ready for them; send your RSVP to gwa.aauw@gmail.com.

Thank you!!

Kay Clark, Membership Committee Chair

Committee Members

- Nadine Wilcox
- Paula Ocampo
- Pat Dudley
- Susan Halliday
- Andrea Bellam

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



GWA-AAUW & WHITTIER COLLEGE hosts
every year:
MATH SCIENCE Career Day for 8th grade girls
TECH TREK Summer Camp for 7th grade girls

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



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



Teacher Grants
to area schools in
math & science

Come meet us & learn more... It's FREE! 1/26/24
Food & Drinks Provided
RSVP gwa.aauw@gmail.com
5:30-7 pm

6339 Greenleaf Ave (Assistance League Clubhouse), Whittier
<https://whittier-ca.aauw.net> (Whittier)
<https://aauw-ca.org> (California)
<https://aauw.org> (National)

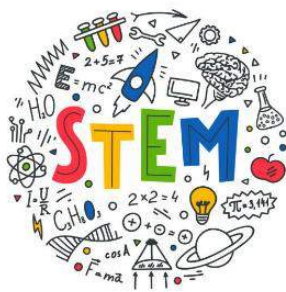
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

I sincerely hope that all of you had memorable holidays with loved ones and friends. It is hard to believe that we are welcoming in 2024! The 2023-24 Board is halfway through our year of serving you and we are just beginning so many projects that roll around annually: Meet & Greet (January 26), the first year of Gov Trek, the early signs of planning for Tech Trek, of course, this month's Math/Science Conference for 8th grade girls at Whittier College, among the many activities that swing into action in the second half of our year.

A very important action for a subcommittee of the Board is the Nominations Committee for new board members for 2024-25. I hope any new or ongoing members who have been a part of GWA-AAUW will look to the many activities that our organization strives to complete and meet the commitments of our local branch. Pull your Yearbook out and look at the many board leadership roles. These roles can be managed by a single person, or a team, or a small group. Every member of our branch has qualities that will complement working on the board as a VP or Chair, as the one, or a shared role to get the job done. Please think about what gives you the most pleasure as well as intellectual challenges to complete the many activities of Board members and general members included. Volunteer to assist a current VP or Chair upcoming activities, to begin to learn what is needed, and know that it takes teamwork to get these goals done to benefit AAUW (local, state, and national), to meet the goals and benefits of branch members, the young women who participate in these programs and scholarship opportunities (for the students who apply and even grant applications for their teachers. Our branch seeks to guide and reward with stimulating programs and opportunities for many. Come join in this planning, be a part of the brainstorming, and do not let the word "leadership" stop you from offering what skill you have to share with your fellow members. You would be surprised what you can achieve when in a supportive environment. So, when the Nominating Committee comes calling in March, we hope we already have some members willing to assist, jump in, and participate on the board in a capacity that you can do with the board's support. It is not all work. Friendships are made, and wonderful memories are formed. "Hello, to a New Year, and a growing you, and join us on the Board!"

Nadine Wilcox
GWA-AAUW President 2023-24



PUBLIC POLICY

GOV TREK

From: Shauna Oenning Ruyle, Gov Trek Program Director and Gov Trek Committee chair,
govtrek@aauw-ca.org

WE'RE GAINING MOMENTUM... We are pleased to announce that, as of early December, 40 young women leaders from across California have registered for Gov Trek 2024!

Greater Whittier Branch has distributed information and invitations to students at 8 area high schools and we've communicated with LEARN LA after-school coordinators to promote the program to their students.

The State AAUW Gov Trek team's aim is to have 140 students in the program, and they need at least 50 girls registered to proceed. With your help, we can inspire more women to step up and take the lead! Together, let's drive the change we want to see and elevate more women to leadership roles.

Watch the **Gov Trek informational video using the video link [HERE](#)**,
or go online to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u0OdzoD8-QA>

The GovTrek team would love to have members donate to support this exciting program in democracy. Make your check payable to "AAUW California SPF" and write Gov Trek in the memo field. Mail to: AAUW California Gov Trek, 729 Greenery Cir., Oceanside, CA 92057. Or donate online [HERE](#).

Or go online to <https://specialprojectsfund-ca.aauw.net/donate/>

VOTE411

The new Voter Education website for 2024 from League of Women Voters is VOTE411. Beginning in January information about candidates running for state, county, and local offices will begin to be posted. The League invites candidates to participate but does not have the means to make candidates participate. In LA County there will be over 500 candidates so inviting candidates and encouraging participation is a big job. Just at the county level there are 9 Judicial seats and 24 candidates, 12 running for District Attorney, and 3 Supervisor seats with 12 candidates including the 3 incumbents. The site has a different format from VotersEdge.org but will have good information including questions asked by the League. Check it out in mid-January.

Margo Reeg,
Public Policy Chair

MYRA LONG SCHOLARSHIP FUND (MLSF)

Committee Meeting Report

The committee met on November 7, 2023, and all the committee members were present.

Math/Science Conference will have 375 eighth-grade girls attend. There will be 20 presenters. Since Rowland Heights and El Rancho school districts will be on inter-season break, the number of students from the other middle schools has increased. We have backpacks already printed.

Carole Restovich, Scholarship Chairperson has worked with Rio Hondo Community College to have our scholarships advertised campus-wide.

Plus, she has met several teachers who will promote the availability of the MLSF. We will expand the High School scholarships to three schools.

The committee will offer a total \$5,000 in Special Grants to teachers. This has been a popular way to assist individual teachers to meet their goals.

Our budget has \$6,000 set aside to send five 13-year-old girls to Tech Trek. We are not sure of the cost for each camper at Whittier College. The number of five campers has been submitted to California State AAUW.

Respectively submitted,
Barbara Gile, MLSF Chairperson

Directors: Ann Chambers, Patricia Dudley, Sharon Halliday, Sharon Heck, Kaye Kidwell, and Carole Restovich

AAUW FUND NAMED GIFT HONOREE

You still have time to nominate an extraordinary person for this honor. Please see the form on the next page.



AAUW FUND NAMED GIFT HONOREE NOMINATION FORM

Each year our branch recognizes members who provide leadership and contribute to the success of the programs and goals of the branch. These members are the ambassadors who promote the mission of AAUW. In addition to an individual, a group or an organization that enhanced the mission of AAUW may be nominated.

Nominee:

Leadership:

Participation in Branch Activities:

Community Activities as Related to AAUW:

What makes this candidate an outstanding member of GWA-AAUW?

Nominated by:

Attach additional pages if needed.

Please return to Dolores Seidman by Saturday, January 6, 2024.

U.S. Mail: Dolores Seidman, 254 Bloom Drive, Monterey Park, CA 91755

or

e-mail: deeseidman@gmail.com.

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 the Thursday, January 11, 2024 date 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

Diversity Equity, Inclusion (DEI)

Members of the board, program committee, and membership committee received 9 questions to create an environmental scan of our recruitment practices and look at how diversity is incorporated into our yearly programs. Responses are to be submitted to Pat Dudley (kpudley2002@yahoo.com) prior to January 8th so a report can be generated from your responses.

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

Our January session will be held at 1:30 PM on January 23, 2024 at Pat Dudley's. (15718 Lindskog Dr. Whittier, 90603)

We are reading Part 2: Chapters 4-5 and Part 3: Chapters 6-7.

Susan Halliday is in the process of making a YouTube reading of the Children's books for our February session. You will be informed of its availability and how to access it as soon as it is completed.

Pat Dudley, DEI Coordinator



**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:

I want the yearbook insert mailed to me - \$2

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

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 will receive the 2024 books in January. We will meet at Sharon Heck's home, 6032 Comstock Ave., Whittier, CA 90601 on Thursday, January 18, 2024, 10 AM. We will briefly discuss 2023, make assignments for 2024, and watch the video connected to Chapter 1 of the new book.

Our meetings are on the third Thursday of each month. Please RSVP at s.heck4peace@gmail.com if you plan to attend because there is permit parking by Sharon's house and she will get one-day parking permits for those who need them.

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.

Sharon Heck, co-chair



WRITING IS FUN

Writing is Fun! will meet at 1 PM, Wednesday, January 24, at the home of Carole Restovich, behind Whittwood Town Center. We are a group that enjoys writing and sharing it with others. We are not a group that critiques our offerings. You do not have to be a perfect speller nor an aspiring writer - although we won't turn you down if you are. We meet on the fourth Wednesday of each month at Carole's home at 1 PM. You may write on anything that interests you. If you need a prompt, how about writing on the best (most fearful, most inspiring, most disappointing, most comforting) thing that happened to you in 2023? Come and join us!

Carole's address: 10413 Portada Dr., steps away from the east Whittier YMCA.

MODERN TRENDS IN LITERATURE

Modern Trends will not meet in 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.

MYSTERY MAVENS

Mystery Mavens will meet at 6 PM, Wednesday, January 17, 2024, 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.

In the first of the Grantchester Mysteries, and inspiration for the PBS/Masterpiece television show, Sidney Chambers began his career as both a spiritual leader and a detective. It is 1953, the coronation year of Queen Elizabeth II. Sidney Chambers, vicar of Grantchester and honorary canon of Ely Cathedral, is a thirty-two-year-old bachelor. Tall, with dark brown hair, eyes the color of hazelnuts, and a reassuringly gentle manner, Sidney is an unconventional clerical detective. He can go where the police cannot. Together with his roguish friend, Inspector Geordie Keating, Sidney inquires into the suspected suicide of a Cambridge solicitor, a scandalous jewelry theft at a New Year's Eve dinner party, the unexplained death of a jazz promoter's daughter, and a shocking art forgery that puts a close friend in danger. Sidney discovers that being a detective, like being a clergyman, means that you are never off duty, but he nonetheless manages to find time for a keen interest in cricket, warm beer, and hot jazz-as well as a curious fondness for a German widow three years his junior. 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

Happy New Year! We will begin the year by reading *Among Friends*, by M.F.K. Fisher, the renowned food writer and critic who lived in Whittier while she was growing up. In this poetic, sensitive memoir (originally published in 1971), Fisher traces her life from birth through childhood and into adulthood through memories of her loving family and their lives as outsiders in the Quaker community of Whittier. Recalling the people, passions, sounds, and scents of her childhood, with its kindnesses and quiet cruelties, Fisher also portrays her developing interests in literature, food, and cooking. Elegantly and invitingly written, *Among Friends* demonstrates the writer's belief that "every lesson, every lecture listened to, must be interpreted into a personal dialect of human language, and that is what I keep trying to do." If you're involved with the Whittier Museum or other organizations concerned with local history, you've probably read this, but it bears rereading!

I hope you can join us on Monday, January 22, at 10 AM, at Margo Reeg's, 10011 Melgar Dr., Whittier. She will also provide refreshments. Linda Harris will lead our discussion that day. Please let Margo know if you will attend so she can plan accordingly. I will provide a Zoom link for those unable to be with us in person. That link will be sent the weekend prior to the 22nd.

Ann Topjon, Chair 562-665-1724

FIRST FRIDAY

Happy New Year!

Hopefully, you will have the chance to socialize on New Year's Eve since we will not have a First Friday in January.

First Friday is a casual get-together on the first Friday of each month*, from 6 PM to 8 PM. Guests bring their choice of beverage and an appetizer or a dessert to share. We chat with old friends, get acquainted with new friends, and generally have a good time.

It's a good time to bring potential new members to meet current members and partners are most welcome.

NOTE: Gwen Woirhaye, Section Leader, has been ill so Cindy Birt has agreed to be acting Section Leader.

*We need hosts for the months ahead in 2024: February 2, March 1, April 5, May 3, June 7
Please contact Cindy Birt if you can host one of the months; cindybirt@roadrunner.com

DINING FOR \$\$\$

January 18, 2024 - The Original Roadhouse Grill, Whittier



Happy 2024 to all! Our first Dining For \$\$\$\$ event of the new year will be held at **The Original Roundhouse Grill**. It is located just west of the Whittwood Shopping Center on Whittier Blvd and La Serna Drive. Roadhouse is a casual American steakhouse featuring steaks, BBQ ribs, and freshly baked rolls. They also serve delicious salads, seafood or chicken entrees, and a variety of burgers.

Now that the holiday events are over, you can relax and enjoy a leisurely lunch or dinner while supporting our **Myra Long Scholarship Fund**. With a flyer, 20% of your bill is donated directly to that fund. Remember that **you need a flyer for each bill at your table**. You can use the large flyer here in the newsletter or the mini flyers that will be sent out by email along with a reminder closer to the date. Please be aware that fundraiser donations are not valid on take-out orders or gift cards.

We'd love to start the year with your participation. Please mark your January calendars. We'll see you there!

Sheryl Crockey and Carole Duff



**The Original Roadhouse Grill
supports the...**

Greater Whittier Area AAUW

Myra Long Scholarship Fund

Dining 4 \$\$\$\$\$ Event

Thursday, January 18, 2024

From 11:00 am to 9:00 pm

15156 E. Whittier Blvd.

Whittier, Ca.

(562) 945-7796

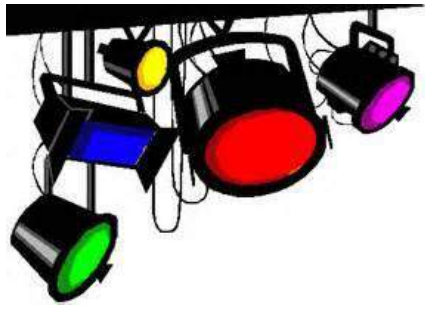
Reservations are available

Not valid on take-out or gift card purchases

Present this flyer to your server when you order!

20% of the proceeds will be contributed to the
Myra Long Scholarship Fund.

Flyers may not be distributed on premises.



SPOTLIGHT

Kay Clark reports on her recent vacation; “I was able to take a make-up trip to Italy that had been canceled in 2020. I have been wanting to go there since I was a child and it did not disappoint. I had a wonderful time and was so impressed with the people, the beauty of the buildings and artwork, and the food. Getting to see the Vatican, the Pieta, and the City of Pompeii were a few highlights. I also got to “sample” their free medical care and was impressed. (That is another story.) I don’t normally repeat destinations but would really like to go back.”

This is one of my pictures showing a hall in the Vatican



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

January 2024 GREATER WHITTIER AREA CALENDAR

| | | | |
|-------------------------|--|------------------|-------------------------------|
| Board Meeting | January 9 (Tuesday) | 7 PM | Zoom meeting |
| <i>Branch Meeting</i> | <i>No meeting this month, come to the Meet & Greet on Friday, January 26</i> | | |
| Math/Science Conference | January 11 (Thursday) | 9:15 AM-12:45 PM | Whittier College |
| Mystery Mavens | January 17 (Wednesday) | 6 PM | Original Roadhouse Grill |
| International Concerns | January 18 (Thursday) | 10:00 AM | Sharon Heck's |
| Dining for \$\$\$\$ | January 18 (Thursday) | | Original Roadhouse Grill |
| Morning Book | January 22 (Monday) | 10 AM | Margo Reeg's |
| DEI | January 23 (Tuesday) | 1:30 PM | Pat Dudley's |
| Writing is Fun | January 24 (Wednesday) | 1 PM | Carole Restovich's |
| Meet & Greet | January 26 (Friday) | 5:30 - 7 PM | Assistance League of Whittier |

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

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