



GREATER WHITTIER AREA BRANCH AAUW NEWSLETTER

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

**MAY
2024**



BRANCH MEETING – MAY 11, 2024 10:00 AM – WHITTIER ELKS LODGE

Las Distinguidas Awards for the Noteworthy

AAUW members, May is the month we celebrate esteemed women of Whittier, women who are committed to working for the benefit of others, and women who inspire and promote the growth of our community. They are women who give of themselves freely, without hesitation, without regrets. They strive, they persist, and they endure many laborious hours to make things happen, whether it's educating those who face language barriers, aiding in the comfort and healing of those who are ill, or going that extra mile and volunteering to be on one more committee. They are women to be proud of, and we are, so please come to the Branch meeting on May 11th to show our appreciation for these women who have already given this community so much.

Come and be a part of Las Distinguidas celebration! We hope to see you there!

Claire Koehler, VP Program Director and Program Committee: Ann Topjon and Christine Heller



Brunch Meeting

Date: May 11, 2024

Time: 9:30 AM - Social time
10 AM – Meeting

Location: Whittier Elks Lodge
13620 Whittier Blvd.
Whittier, CA 90602

Brunch Menu:

- Main entrée: Quiche, fruit, bacon, pastries
 - Vegetarian entrée: Tofu scramble, hash brown potatoes, pastries
- Entrees include beverages: coffee, tea, water

Brunch cost: \$30/per person

Beverage only: \$5/per person (includes beverages)

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 cancelled by the deadline **MUST BE PAID**. Please RSVP with your menu choice by **NOON on Tuesday, May 7** to kayclark205@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!)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We have much to celebrate and honor in the month of May including Mother's Day on May 7 and Memorial Day on May 30. Many thoughts to contemplate and take action for oneself in this month. Grow into a beautiful self like the flowers springing forth in May. I look forward to seeing many of you at the May Branch meeting to celebrate May 2024 Las Distinguidas Awards for those women in our community that give so much back to our community.



Congratulations, to the new Board of Directors elected at the April Annual meeting and to our AAUW Named Gift Honoree, see the article on page to see who it is.

Back to School with AAUW

Back to School with AAUW CA at the Annual Event on Saturday April 27 from 9AM to 12 PM. See the winners of Gov Trek and Speech Trek and AAUW Honorees as well as breakout sessions to discuss topics of interest. This is a Zoom meeting, so you can join from comforts of home. You can register at <https://www.aauw-ca.org/aauw-annual-event-back-to-school/> or find the link in the April edition of your monthly newsletter, AAUW Californian Connections (in your email from cc@aauw-ca.org).

Nadine Wilcox, President



PUBLIC POLICY

LOBBY DAY

On April 3, the Greater Whittier Area Lobby Day team composed of Nadine Wilcox, Paula Ocampo and Margo Reeg chatted with policy directors for Assembly Member Lisa Calderon and Senator Bob Archuleta about the three priority bills chosen by the AAUW California Public Policy Team.

The three bills represented priority legislative areas for protecting women and girls from harassment and discrimination.

AB 2326 (D. Alvarez) requires the chancellors of the Community colleges, state Universities and the President of the University of California to provide an annual report to their respective Boards of Governors or Regents on the state of the college or university system in assuring district programs and activities are free from discrimination and thus comply with Title IX. The report should include an overview of efforts to monitor and ensure compliance of each district in providing programs and activities free from discrimination, including, but not limited to sexual harassment. The reports must be presented orally to the Senate and assembly sub-committees on Education Finance by the Chancellors themselves. (This bill is sponsored by AAUW California.)

AB 2843 (Petrie-Norris) prohibits medical providers and insurers from charging rape survivors for medical services and care related to their assault. AB 2843 eliminates cost-sharing, including deductibles, from being imposed on any rape survivor seeking medical care following a rape. These costs can range from \$350 to \$500. Currently only about 20% of rape survivors seek medical care due to the cost of treatment and less than 2% of perpetrators are convicted. AB 2843 will ensure rape survivors who wish to report a rape and file charges will have the benefit of a rape kit test and forensic exam to provide evidence to secure more convictions for acts of sexual violence. (This bill is sponsored by AAUW California.)

AB 2099 (Bauer-Kahan) is proposed to further protect providers and recipients of reproductive health care from violence and threats of violence. AB 2099 makes it possible for a district attorney to file felony charges if posted information about reproductive health care clients or providers results in bodily harm to anyone. AB 2099 increases protections for reproductive health care providers and clients commensurate with the risks they face. It preempts escalations in extremist violence and protects the rights of individuals seeking and providing necessary healthcare.

We had a very cordial meeting with Maryana Khames of Assemblymember Calderon's office in Sacramento. She remembered us from last year's visit. She will inform Assem. Calderon and get back to us with questions.

Our meeting with Sen. Archuleta's representative Ben Edelstein was cut short after one bill because he had to appear at a committee hearing suddenly. We hope to finish the session in the near future. For more information about the three bills, you can access the bill and fact sheets on the website at <https://www.leginfo.legislature.ca.gov>. Once there, type in the bill number and hit search. Lobby Day is very educational and worthwhile. Join us next year to advocate for AAUW priorities.

Margo Reeg, Public Policy Chair

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI)

We have completed the reading and discussion of the book **The Person You Mean to Be** by Dolly Chugh. There will not be any additional DEI sessions in May or June. The March attendees were asked to make recommendations for the DEI activity/activities for 2024-2025.

A few ideas generated were: More DEI speakers on diversity topics, invite speakers from a variety of communities to tell how their lives are impacted by social and government programs, speakers from different age groups experiencing injustices, hybrid meetings, select a book or books that raise our awareness of DEI topics to read as a group to discuss, look at economic challenges in our community such as student housing and how the branch could address the issue, start a diversity interest group to explore different ethnic restaurants, more member led interest groups about different cultures, interactive DEI activities, attend functions of other groups where we would be the minority, activities to take us out of our “comfort zone”, view movies...movie nights, focus on retaining members through more outreach activities such as phone tree, celebrate members (once a month birthday meetup). *Anything sound like something you would like to be part of?*

The AAUW website also has a section on DEI programs and activities for branches and a list of DEI books from several different genres.

What would you like to see as our next step? Looking for ideas from all of you, especially those of you who were unable to participate or uninterested in this year’s activity.

Send me ideas that interest you and would motivate you to participate.

Any volunteers who are interested in being on a planning committee to look at ideas and come up with our DEI programs and activities for next year? Anyone interested in being a co-DEI- coordinator? I would welcome your participation on the committee.

Let me know you are interested so we can get started!!!! Kpdudley2002@yahoo.com

Pat Dudley, DEI Coordinator





**Greater Whittier Area-American Association of University Women
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM for YEAR 2024-2025**

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 \$96 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

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 _____ Spouse _____

*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

AAUW FUND

The AAUW Fund Named Gift Honoree Award was presented to a very special person at the April 13 Annual Branch Meeting. This person has been a board member for many years. She has served with commitment and care. Her attitude is always positive and helpful. Besides being a board member, she is a willing volunteer on many other projects and activities including the Math and Science Conference. The Morning Book Club and Mystery Mavens are part of her participation as well.

Her volunteer work over the years is and has been amazing. It includes the National Charity League, Meals on Wheels, Florence Crittenton and the Muckenthaller as well as Las Madrinas, The Assistance League, and Girl Scouts. She has served on the vestry boards of both St. Stevens and St. Matthias as well is a library volunteer who organizes donations for their auctions.

You might wonder what she does in her spare time? Because while doing all this good work she also had an amazing career in the educational field. She holds a bachelors and a master's degree from USC. Her 45-year career included teaching, working as project director and assistant and acting principal at Suva Intermediate in Montebello Unified School District. Even before becoming a member of AAUW, she actively encouraged her students to come to the Greater Whittier Area Math Day and she attended with them.

Two must be her lucky number as she has two daughters and two grandchildren. Traveling and spending time with her two grandchildren who call her MiMi are high points in her life!!

Her congenial manner and her work ethic make her a stellar member of our organization. Congratulations to our branch secretary and Named Gift Honoree this year - **Mandy Knight!**

MYRA LONG SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Thank you to those who have donated to the MLSF Nonevent Fundraiser. We are working hard to meet the final year of the Leeba Lessin Legacy match.

You are such thoughtful donors. Maura Greeley donated \$2,000 in October 2023 for a nursing scholarship at Rio Hondo College in Earlyne Clemons' memory. Since then, you have donated another \$3,380 to the Earlyne Clemons Nursing Scholarship for a total of \$5,380! We hope this can become an annual scholarship. Then, since the beginning of 2024, you have donated \$1,450 in memory of Gwen Woirhaye and Linda Pomeroy. Thank you for honoring these three beautiful women with your donations.

It's never too late to contribute to MLSF. If you haven't yet contributed to this year's nonevent fundraiser, look on your desk, dining room table, night stand or cubbyhole for that small yellow envelope you tucked away. We even addressed it to make it super easy for you to send your donation. Help us reach our \$20,000 goal to receive the match that Leeba Lessin bequeathed in her will.

With gratitude, Kaye Kidwell,
on behalf of the Myra Long Scholarship Committee



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. On Thursday, May 16, 2024, 10AM, we will meet at Sharon Heck's home, 6032 Comstock Ave., Whittier, CA 90601. Our topic for the May 16 meeting will be Chapter 4, "Technology Denial and Sino-American Rivalry" in the 2024 *Great Decisions*. Fay Weber and Chris Heller will lead the discussion. 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 on Thursday, May 16. 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



MYSTERY MAVENS

Mystery Mavens will meet at 6PM, Wednesday, May 15, 2024 at The Original Roadhouse Grill, 15156 Whittier Blvd., Whittier, CA 90603, near Whittwood. Our May 15 book will be *Killers of a Certain Age* by Deanna Raybourn. It will be reviewed by Jackie Brearley.

“This book is a delightful, twisty, hilarious novel that proves revenge is a dish best served cold. Filled with jet-setting adventure and a group of clever, middle-aged lady assassins, it’s the perfect antidote to any reading drought – and a whopping good page-turner.”

At our May 15 meeting we will choose the five books we will read in 2024-2025. Please send your nominated books to Sharon Heck, s.heck4peace@gmail.com, as soon as possible. The books should be the first in a series, and please include a brief summary of the book. Thank you.

Sharon Heck

MORNING BOOK

Join us at Michigan Park on Monday, June 3, at 10AM! We will be enjoying fresh air and each other's company as we discuss *The Only Woman in the Room*, by Marie Benedict. The discussion will be led by the team of Margo Reeg, Andrea Bellamy and myself.

Bestselling author Marie Benedict reveals the story of a brilliant woman scientist only remembered for her beauty. Her beauty almost certainly saved her from the rising Nazi party and led to marriage with an Austrian arms dealer. Underestimated in everything else, she overheard the Third Reich's plans while at her husband's side and understood more than anyone would guess. She devised a plan to flee in disguise from their castle, and the whirlwind escape landed her in Hollywood. She became Hedy Lamarr, screen star. But she kept a secret more shocking than her heritage or her marriage: she was a scientist. And she had an idea that might help the country fight the Nazis and revolutionize modern communication...if anyone would listen to her.

A powerful book based on the incredible true story of the glamour icon and scientist, *The Only Woman in the Room* is a masterpiece that celebrates the many women in science that history has overlooked.

Michigan Park is on the corner of La Cuarta and Michigan Ave. with parking on Michigan. Let's meet near the parking lot. The park does have tables and benches but I think we will all be more comfortable in folding chairs. If you do not have one, I have several and can bring one for you. Please let me know. Also please bring your own beverage and/or snacks. Unfortunately, I will not be able to provide a Zoom link this month.

Our last meeting for the year is on Monday, July 22. We will be discussing *Lady Tan's Circle of Women*, by Lisa See. I will send out more information closer to the date.

Lastly, please remember to send me suggestions for books to read and discuss next year by MAY 15. I have gotten a few but certainly could use some more. I need:

AUTHOR, TITLE, NUMBER OF PAGES, & BRIEF DESCRIPTION.

See you on June 3!

Ann Topjon, Chair 562-665-1724



MODERN TRENDS IN LITERATURE

When: Thursday May 9, 6:30 PM

Where: The home of Myra Weiss
9725 La Cima Dr., Whittier 90603

Janice Geiger will review

The Authenticity Project by Clare Pooley

The story of a solitary green notebook that brings together six strangers and leads to unexpected friendship, and even love.

June 13 will be our last meeting before summer break. We will be reading *The Violin Conspiracy* by Brendon Slocumb.

WRITING IS FUN

The May 22 Writing is Fun! meeting will take place at the home of Carole Restovich at 11 AM. It's BYOS time (bring your own sandwich) when we will share our written pieces around the lunch table. Carole will provide water or tea and dessert. For those who'd like a possible writing topic, you might consider writing about "Memories of the 60's" or any decade you choose. As always, you may write on anything that inspires you at the time. We are a warm and welcoming group. Hope to see you there.

FIRST FRIDAY

It's time again to reunite with AAUW friends outside of our official meetings. This month of May, and as we did last year, we will have a Cinco de Mayo theme! Belen Duarte-Sousa will be hosting on Friday, May 3rd from 6pm to 8pm.

Dress for the occasion and you might even win a prize! Friends and significant others are always welcome! Just remember to bring something sweet or savory, and your choice of beverage for everyone's enjoyment.

Address is 4430 Woodmar Drive, Whittier.

Directions: Go east on Beverly Blvd to Workman Mill, turn right, continue to Woodmar Drive, turn right. House is half way up the block to the left.

We need hostesses for this September 2024 on to June 2025. It's our way of opening our homes to our AAUW friends to continue the welcoming spirit of our Branch. Members have already committed to the months of April, May, and June 2025. All other months are available for you to host.

Please contact me with your choice of month,

Respectfully submitted by
Belen Duarte-Sousa



DINING FOR \$\$\$\$

Save This Fundraiser Date!



Black Angus Restaurant

Tuesday May 21, 2024, 3PM – 9PM

If juicy steaks, prime rib and seafood sound like music to your ears, you will certainly enjoy our May Dining For \$\$\$\$ event. This month's Myra Long fundraiser will be hosted by Black Angus Restaurant on Tuesday, May 21. Black Angus is located in the Whittwood Town Center. All the expected steakhouse favorites are there along with starters, entree salads and desserts. Check out their website for a complete description of their offerings and their specials too. Gluten free items will be noted on the menu. 20% of each bill at your table will go to the Myra Long Scholarship Fund. Since Black Angus has become one of Whittier's busiest dinner restaurants, **we encourage you to make a reservation if you plan to dine during the busy peak hours of 5PM-7PM. Call (562) 947-2200** or you can go online to reserve.

Your flyer is in this newsletter. Mini flyers will be available at the branch meeting and when we send a reminder to you shortly before the event date.

Your dollars do count, so please join us!

Sheryl Crockey and Carole Duff

BLACK ANGUS

— STEAKHOUSE —



AGED TO PERFECTION FOR 60 YEARS! JOIN US!

Black Angus is proud to support Greater Whittier Area American
Association of University Women

20% of the proceeds goes directly to The Myra Long
Scholarship Fund

Tuesday, May 21, 2024
3 PM - 9 PM

15500 Whittier Blvd.
(562) 947-2200



Since our branch joined the Whittier Area Chamber of Commerce, we have regularly sent delegates to attend Wake up Whittier and other events. At a meeting to share ideas about nonprofits, we made a connection with Luis Rodriquez from the **Lions Club**. He told us how they work in the community to provide free vision screening and recycled glasses. The event will be on June 27 from 8 AM to 1 PM at the Sierra High School Gym, see the flyer on the next page.

Cindy Birt shares another community meetup: “A group of us meet at 8:30 AM on the last Friday of the month at Panera’s at Whittwood for discussion and book exchange. If you would like to join us, please let Cindy Birt know at cindybirt@roadrunner.com.”

We all want to hear about what is happening in the lives of our AAUW community. This section includes community news as well as your personal news, tips, and stories. Send me yours so I can include them in our next newsletter.

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



Whittier Host Lions Club

IS SPONSORING A

FREE vision screening and
FREE recycled eyeglasses

All ages are welcome

First come first served – come early!

SATURDAY, JULY 27, 2024
8:00 AM – 1:00 PM

We cannot guarantee that all patients in line will be seen.
Screening may close early subject to attendance.

Sierra High School Gym

9401 Painter Ave. • Whittier, CA 90605

Corner of Painter & Mulberry

Extra Parking across the street at the D.M.V.

For questions, please contact:

Luis Rodriguez Jr. - (562) 652-5844

lrod@cityhalladvisors.com

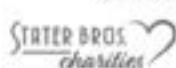


SCREENING CONDUCTED BY



www.californialionsfriendsinsight.org

CONTRIBUTORS



The vision screening is not meant to replace a comprehensive eye examination and refraction that can be obtained through a doctor's office. The vision screening is designed to assess for ocular health concerns and provide a useable pair of recycled eyeglasses until professional services and ophthalmic materials are obtained.

MAY 2024 GREATER WHITTIER AREA CALENDAR

First Friday	May 3 (Friday)	6 PM – 8 PM	Belen Duarte-Sousa's
Board Meeting	May 7 (Tuesday)	7 PM	Zoom meeting
Modern Trends	May 9 (Thursday)	6:30 PM	Myra Weiss's
Branch Meeting	May 11 (Saturday)	10 AM	Whittier Elks Lodge
Mystery Mavens	May 15 (Wednesday)	6 PM	Original Roadhouse Grill
International Concerns	May 16 (Thursday)	10 AM	Sharon Heck's
Dining for \$\$\$\$	May 21 (Tuesday)	3 PM – 9 PM	Black Angus Restaurant
Writing is Fun	May 22 (Wednesday)	11 AM	Carole Restovich's
Morning Book	June 3 (Monday)	10 AM	Michigan Park

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