



GREATER WHITTIER AREA BRANCH AAUW NEWSLETTER

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

**June
2024**



BRANCH MEETING– JUNE 8, 2024 10:00 AM – WHITTIER ELKS LODGE

PROGRAM - PONDERING

June has arrived, and it is time for the installation of AAUW’s new officers and the presentation of scholarships to the Myra Long Scholarship Fund recipients. We will celebrate them all! Before we do, though, let’s look back at the knowledgeable speakers we have heard over this past year, to remind us of what is worth pondering, what we sometimes take for granted, and what we are achieving as women.

Our first speaker of the year, Kathleen O’Gorman, described the inhumane conditions of immigrant detainees on our borders. In October, Margo Reeg led us through the upcoming propositions on the March ballot, and November brought us Allen Gittelson, a Magic Castle magician and an expert on memory. He had us pondering how much better our memories could be if we learn to relate unusual images to what we want to remember. The Boys and Girls Club of Whittier offered Gina Lopez as our December speaker. She filled in for Oscar Hernandez and explained their Club’s dynamic programs, causing us to marvel at their accomplishments.

January 2024 was our annual “Meet and Greet,” and it was a hit. We picked up several new members! Our Fund Fellow, Madelene Dailey, followed in February and engaged us with a beneficial PowerPoint presentation on Architecture and Art. She explained how she and her team are making a “sustainable” difference, especially in lower income areas that often get overlooked. The real takeaway: don’t take art nor architecture for granted. If you want change, you have to do something about it! It’s clear Ms. Dailey is a high achiever and likely inspires her colleagues.

In March, we switched gears a bit and looked back in time with Emily Teipe as our guide. She showed us the treatment of women by the medical profession in the 1800’s and early 1900s. She described how a slave woman had been recruited by doctors as a human guinea pig to get over 30 surgeries without anesthesia! Indeed, we have come a long way.

Our April DEI speaker, Brenda Ricards proved this. She revealed her own story, explaining the difficulties of being an undocumented student in the early 2000’s, but now, she has her own podcast, *Tamarindo*, where she shines a light on political issues, among others, that are important to the Latinx community. She does this through humor and with her co-host.

Others who inspired us this year were the Tech Trek girls who gave us the lowdown on what they experienced at Tech Trek last June, and the Las Distinguidas recipients who received their awards last month, along with the Named Gift Honorees. We are lucky to have such inspirational figures among us. Our June program will offer even more of them when scholarships are given and our new officers are installed.

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

HOSPITALITY

Branch Meeting

Date: Saturday, June 8, 2024
Time: 9:30am is Social Time
10 AM - Noon for the Meeting

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



Arrival and Parking: use driveway off of Barton Rd. behind Elks Lodge, park at 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.

Brunch Menu:

Main entrée:
French Toast, Bacon, Scrambled Eggs, Fruit and Pastries
Coffee, Tea and Water

Vegetarian entrée:
Tofu and Avocado Toast, Potatoes, Fruit and Pastries
Coffee, Tea and Water

Brunch cost: \$30/per person.
Beverage only: \$5/per person and includes coffee, tea and water
No substitutions, deletions or special orders

Please RSVP with your selection from one of the following:

- . Main Entrée
- . Vegetarian

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, June 4 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!

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

June is busting out all over...!! For the gardeners and the graduates, it is a wonderful month.

Please be sure to attend the June Branch Meeting to celebrate another successful year and our local high school scholarship awardees, and members who will be honored for their length of membership. We are almost through Spring and into our end-of-the-year project - Tech Trek!

Thank you for having confidence in me as your branch President these past two years. It has been a ride of learning about AAUW, and our branch. This would not have been a successful two terms without the support of the board members for each year. It does take a village to get things done, the board members and the many members (100+ strong). Don't be shy about joining the board or being part of a committee to get things done each year. As the Immediate Past President this coming term, I will be calling on members to see if YOU as a member can step up and be a part of leadership in any area of interest. To become comfortable about what branch leadership does take a small step to join a committee, talk with a board member in a position you think you can assist, etc.

I do want to extend a very grateful THANK YOU for honoring me with one of the AAUW FUND Honoree Awards in April (presented to me at this past May Branch meeting by Carole Restovich). I feel honored, and very humble in receiving the award. My thanks to those of you who nominated me and supported me. It was a total surprise, as those of you at the May meeting saw on my face! I am in good company with past and present honorees. Many, many thanks!

The results of the national AAUW election for officers and a policy change to Open membership was posted a few days ago via email. Melissa LaDuke, Dianne Owens, Sona Pancholy and Christine Schmitz were elected to the AAUW National Board of Directors. The open membership initiative did not pass. Changes to AAUW's bylaws require 2/3 majority (66.6%) to pass. AAUW members voted 65.1% to approve the measure, just shy of passing.

June is also TECH TREK Summer camp. There will be two 1-week camps at Whittier College (June 16-22, and June 23-29). Our campers will go the second week and we hope to have them back at the September Branch Meeting to meet them, their supportive families, and learn about their experience at camp. Contact Tech Trek coordinator, Brenda Carrillo (find her contact info in The Yearbook 2023-24, or contact any of the committee members: Karen Van der Baan, Ann Chambers, Kay Clark, Barbara Gile, Rosalind Marquez and myself) if you have questions or a desire to volunteer locally for any aspect of the TECH TREK week or to help at registration June 16 and/or June 23.



Please consider attending the June Branch meeting to honor the scholarship awardees and for the installment of the new 2024-25 GWA AAUW Board.

Submitted by Nadine Wilcox, President

LAS DISTINGUIDAS

The Las Distinguidas awards were presented by co-chairs Susan Halliday and DeDe Shatzen at the May 11, branch meeting to three amazing women:

Norma Yoguez, Guadalupe Sanchez, and Pat Dudley.

Norma Yoguez was nominated for Las Distinguidas by SPIRITT Family Services. Norma embarked on her career in social services in 1989 and is a dedicated professional, currently holds the position of Director of Programs at SPIRITT Family Services. She oversees child welfare prevention and early intervention programs, as well as outpatient substance use treatment services across SPIRITT locations. She has made

significant contributions to SPIRITT especially in developing domestic violence support groups and parent leadership groups in the Whittier and Bell Gardens area. These groups empower women to educate and inform the community through various events and workshops, domestic violence awareness, self-defense classes, healthy relationships, entrepreneurship and more.

Ms. Yoguez embodies a holistic approach to wellness through her practice of natural medicine and is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, specializing in working with the Latino/a population. Norma earned an MA in Marriage, Family and Child Counseling with a specialization in Latino/a Studies in 2005. She holds certification as a Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse Counselor. In 2016 Norma graduated from the Southern Calif. Univ of Health Sciences as an Ayurvedic Educator and Practitioner. Ayurveda is an alternative medicine system with historical roots in the Indian subcontinent. In 2022 she furthered her academic credentials by earning an MBA in Business Administration.

Additionally, Ms. Yoguez is affiliated with the National Assoc. of Forensic Counselors, CA Association of Marriage and Family Therapists, she Chairs the SPA 7 Child Abuse Prevention Council, and is an active member of the Eliminate Racial Disproportionality and Disparities Advisory with the L.A. County Dept of Children and Family Services.

Ms. Norma Yoguez immigrated to the U.S in 1981 and raised her son as a single parent. Her life story is a testament to her resilience, compassion, and determination.

Guadalupe Sanchez was nominated by the College and Communities Program through Boys and Girls Club of Whittier. She is the volunteer Program Coordinator for the Nuestra Voz Program ensuring the program promotes self-empowerment of the Spanish speaking community through cultural and relevant community educational programs. The program helps build knowledge, community involvement, and awareness through education and community action while highlighting participants' voices.

Guadalupe planned events having a strong connection to academia to create opportunities for Spanish speaking adults to engage in other cultures and values different from their own through various learning experiences. Through increased knowledge, this community gained a higher sense of cultural awareness, increased connection to the Nuestra Voz community, and confidence as viable and positive community members.

Guadalupe creates a strong positive network between all stakeholders: Boys and Girls Club of Whittier, Whittier College, college students, school districts, and the Spanish-speaking community. Most of their community events/activities are planned around the involvement of at least two or more partnerships. For example, at the Whittier Film Festival, the professor of Spanish at Whittier College, Doreen O'Connor, and the Spanish-speaking adult community met the director and producer of a film adaption of a book they read. Guadalupe mentors college students when planning and facilitating lessons for the adults. They collaboratively develop goals to strengthen communication, group management, and interpersonal skills. The technology classes, in partnership with our school districts, provide the community with technology skills to enhance their daily lives. The college students plan and facilitate the classes.



LAS DISTINGUIDAS (cont.)

Guadalupe was an elementary school educator for 33 years and retired from Montebello Unified School District in 2021. During her career she was a reading coach, promoting literacy in schools from communities with limited resources, and Spanish-speaking parents. Additionally, she facilitated district training for teachers and school administrators.

As an International Educational Consultant, Guadalupe collaborated with administrators to plan and facilitate teacher training on implementing instructional and English development strategies in Shanghai, China at an international school.

Growing up in Boyle Heights, Guadalupe attended USC, CSULA and received her MA in Educational Leadership from Cal Poly Pomona. Her goal as an educator was and is to provide an emotionally safe environment, varied opportunities, and accessibility to learning for all, regardless of age, culture, language.

Pat Dudley graduated from Western Michigan University as a History major with a minor in Sociology, as well as completing her Michigan Secondary Teaching Credential. After moving to CA she was hired by El Monte City School District, completed her CA Multi-subject teaching credential and earned her MA from the University of Redlands. Spending her career in El Monte City School District, Pat taught for 19 years and was an administrator (vice principal, principal and District Office administrator) for 21 years prior to retiring.

During her time in CA, she met Ken and they have been married 51 years, living in Whittier for most of those.

It's as though once she retired, her new passion became volunteering, which was her mother's passion when Pat was growing up. The American Cancer Society office, located inside PIH Health Hospital, Whittier, was one of the first organizations to which she applied her expertise as an educator and facilitator for Writing for Wellness workshops, Journal Making and Art Workshops, an American Cancer Society spokesperson for community groups, and assisted in the free wig program. When the Am. Cancer Society no longer maintained an office in the hospital Pat became a PIH volunteer for cancer programs and volunteers in the infusion center and wig bank. She has completed more than 2,951 hours of volunteering at PIH.

The Greater Whittier Area – AAUW became another area of focus for Pat when she joined in 2010, especially attracted by its focus of supporting middle school, high school, and women in college in attaining their educational goals. The STEM Math Science Conference for 8th grade girls, Tech Trek STEM Camp during the summer for girls between their 7th and 8th grades, educational scholarships for girls and women graduating from 2 local high schools, scholarships for women completing their AAs at Rio Hondo, and women working on their post Bachelor degrees were areas in which Pat immediately became involved. Using her background and sharing her thoughts to strengthen the Tech Trek program with the state AAUW, the program was revamped and brought to the standard of its intent statewide. More recently, Pat became coordinator of the DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) with a branch presentation and book discussions on the subject. She currently serves on the Myra Long Scholarship Fund Board.

There were a number of letters supporting Pat's nomination for the Las Distinguidas Award: 1) GWA-AAUW; 2) PEO (the Philanthropic Educational Organization); 3) Delta Kappa Gamma, Iota Omicron Chapter; 4) PIH Volunteer Department; and 5) CalRTA (California Retired Teachers Association).

FINANCIAL CORNER

Thank you to those who have renewed their dues already. For the rest, this is a reminder that it's time again to renew your membership for most of us. Most of our memberships expire June 30, 2024. New members have expiration dates one year from when they joined. If anyone wants to know when their membership expires, please let me know.

There are two ways to pay your dues.

If you want to pay on-line, you can do that now. For most of us, after you log in, click on "RENEW", make sure your information is correct, then choose "National" membership. Remember to say yes to the question, "Would you like to add Branch or State memberships?" If you don't, you will only be a member of National, not a member of our branch. The branch names are in the order by the branch number. States are alphabetical, but in California look for our branch under CA0124. Once you choose that, scroll all the way down to continue. You will notice that the State of California is already chosen for you. Your total should be \$116.00. For Lifetime members (those who have pre-paid National dues), choose "Lifetime." your dues should be \$44.00. ANY questions, please let me know.

The second way to pay would be to send your dues to me instead, please make the check out to GWA AAUW (Greater Whittier Area AAUW) and mail 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 (those who have been members over 50 years) are \$0.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.
Kay Clark, Treasurer



Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI)

The state DEI committee is drafting a strategic plan (possibly a 2- or 3-year plan) based on the environmental scans submitted by the branches. It should be completed by the May 21st DEI Peer Chat. The goal area of focus in the draft was financial diversity

Still in need of volunteers. In the May newsletter I requested volunteers both from the DEI session participants and those members who were not involved to meet and help design a plan for DEI activities for next year.

Our DEI goal for next year will be to involve more members in areas of DEI interest to them and aim for more interactive involvement. I am compiling a list of multiple ideas. Different members could host an interest area activity...I would continue to do the newsletter articles, attend the state chats, plan the activity with the host, and coordinate a DEI calendar of activities. A one and done approach to each activity would allow members to select activities they would like to be involved in.... all, some, hopefully not none!

I plan to do a short DEI activity for about 10 or 15 minutes at each meeting (when appropriate as some meetings would not lend themselves to that).

If you cannot volunteer to be on a planning committee but have an idea or opinion on a DEI interest area, speaker, community issues, please send me your suggestions to add to my list.

Thanks, Pat Dudley, DEI Coordinator

AAUW FUND

Named Gift Honoree

How many meetings have you been asked to attend? Our second Named Gift Honoree has done so more than once. And she does it with a smile on her face and a positive attitude. Our honoree Nadine Wilcox was celebrated at our branch meeting on May 11.

She started her long and dedicated career when she graduated from the University of California at San Francisco with a Bachelor of Science Nursing Degree. She eventually earned a Master's Degree in nursing, as well. Her varied career has included working in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Children's Hospital Los Angeles and as the only nurse for a local school district. In addition, she was a board member of the Los Angeles County Nurse Association.

Her caring ways have translated into community service, as well. She has driven to local Little Free Libraries in people's front yards in order to replenish books from our local library book store. Nadine also organized the medical books' section in the same store. She has been on the vestry board of St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Monrovia.



As for her personal life, Nadine lives with a son and a host of cats and dogs. She is a supporter of rescue animals and has been known to foster a few.

We salute Nadine Wilcox for stepping up to become AAUW president and for all the contributions she has made to her profession and to her community.

I want to add a special thanks to the AAUW Fund Named Gift Committee Members: Kay Clark, Carole Restovich, and Karen van der Baan for taking on the extra responsibilities of writing and making the presentations at the branch meetings in April and May. When they agreed to be on the committee, they had no idea so much would be involved. I am very grateful for their willingness to serve "beyond the call of duty" because of my necessary absence.

AAUW Fund V.P. Dolores Seidman

MYRA LONG SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Myra Long Scholarship Fund Committee has had a successful year. First, it was the effective Math/Science Conference in January coordinated by Sharon Heck, who will serve her fourth term as President of our branch. There were 400 girls that attended three workshops each. A big thank you to all the volunteers who made this a positive experience in the community.

Carol Restovich, scholarship Chairperson has done an awesome job. Her computer and internet provider were not cooperative, and she had some frustrations. She didn't complain. She put her head down and continued to roll with the challenges. There were six applicants from Rio Hondo Community College. The Rio Hondo students are receiving a total of \$12,500 in scholarship funds. The recipient of the Earlyne Clemons Nursing Scholarship received \$2,500 and the other five recipients received a total of \$10,000. All fifteen applicants from three high schools are receiving a total of \$25,000 in scholarships. You may get to meet and hear from some of the applicants at the June 6, AAUW meeting.

The Tech Trek interviews were held for eight 13-year-old girls at Rivera Middle School in Pico Rivera. Five of the applicants will be attending Whittier College Tech Trek starting Sunday, June 23 and ending Saturday June 29, 2024. Volunteers will sign the girls in at Whittier College on two Sunday afternoons: June 16, and June 23. Volunteer sign-up forms are available from Brenda Carrillo, Tech Trek Coordinator and Nadine Wilcox, President. The AAUW branch is hosting a dinner on Saturday night June 22, for the Tech Trek staff.

Pat Dudley, Special Grant Coordinator reported that four grants were given to Dexter middle School for a total of \$1,960. More grants were submitted but did not qualify as STEM projects.

Patricia Duff and Sheryl Crockey did an outstanding job this year with Dining for \$\$\$\$ fundraising. They selected quality restaurants with a percentage of your food bill donated to the MLSF. The final total donations are not tallied however, the amount will be substantial. Again, we thank all the members and their guests who made this fundraiser profitable.

Our MLSF investment account at Edward Jones is producing earnings as projected. As of March 31, 2024, we have received \$6,500 from the beautiful fundraising letter produced by Cherie Trapani a talented member of the branch.

Respectively submitted by Barbara Gile, Chairperson
Myra Long Scholarship Committee Directors
Ann Chambers, Patricia Dudley, Barbara Gile, Susan Halliday, Sharon Heck, Kaye Kidwell,
Carole Restovich



MYRA LONG SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Scholarship Recipients

Here are some brief biographies of recipients of Myra Long Scholarships for 2024. The board added another high school this year for a total of three. We had our traditional Rio Hondo offerings, plus the new Earlyne Clemons Nursing Scholarship. In all, twenty-one women will benefit from AAUW members' generosity.

California High School

Maribela Cosico will enter UC Berkeley or UCLA. Depending on the university she will study Nutrition Science or Anthropology. Maribela has been an active volunteer in her community and at school. She is an avid tennis player.

Maddie Reagan will attend UCLA to pursue a Bachelor's Degree in Public Affairs which will open up specialized international internships for her. She plans to obtain a Master's Degree in Urban Planning. Maddie has been an active member of Model United Nations.

Pioneer High School

Lizeth Arreola will enter UC Irvine this fall with the goal of studying criminal justice to eventually become a government agent. She has completed a dual enrollment course at Rio Hondo as a senior. Lizeth is an active volunteer.

Korina Carrasco will attend Cal State Los Angeles or Cal Poly Pomona with a major in sociology. She would like to become a trained mental health professional dealing with children.

Nancy Gonzalez will enter Cal State Fullerton to study Business Administration with a minor in Finance. She has always loved cars and plans to own her own body shop one day.

Janelle Morales will enter UC San Diego with a major in English with the goal of becoming a published author. She volunteers at school and in her community.

MariAnna Morales will attend Cal State Dominguez Hills as a major in Environmental Science. Her focus will be on becoming an environmental journalist/photographer. She has been an active photographer of school events.

Eva Ramirez has been accepted at Whittier College where she will study drama. Her ultimate goal is to become a casting director. She is active in Drama Club and has volunteered at the Downey Theater.

Divana Valdivia will choose between UC Merced and UC Irvine. She plans to major in psychology in order to become a therapist. She has always enjoyed helping people and sees that as her life's work.

Whittier High School

Janessa Canales will choose among several schools who have accepted her: Cal State Fullerton, Cal State Long Beach, and UC Irvine. She will study political science with the aim of helping immigrants and those experiencing discrimination.

Jasmine Gaeta will enter USC and study Creative Writing with the goal of becoming a published author. She has been involved in school athletics while taking advanced classes and helping at home.

MYRA LONG SCHOLARSHIP FUND (cont.)

Scholarship Recipients

Whittier High (cont.)

Delaney Martinez will major in Animal Science at Cal Poly Pomona. She is interested in studying animal anatomy and helping prevent species from disappearing. Her ultimate goal is to become a veterinarian.

Susana Mijarez will attend UC Santa Barbara with a major in biological sciences. She aspires to become a doctor who will make a difference in people's lives. As a gymnastics coach, she has developed a passion for working with children and so will focus her medical practice there.

Fabiola Ramirez will attend the University of Arizona in order to study audiology. Because of her own hearing loss, she hopes to help the hard-of-hearing community by eventually opening an audiology clinic for low-income patients.

Aliyah Rodriguez will enter UC Berkeley aiming at a Bachelor's Degree in Legal Studies. She will then attend law school where she will study to become a prosecuting attorney. She has been active in leadership roles at school.

Rio Hondo Community College

Nadine Alvarez will attend Cal State LA with a major in sociology. She has been active at Rio Hondo, especially in College Corps where undergraduate college students are given the opportunity to help solve problems in their community. She is employed by the Boys and Girls Club.

Sherrina Barnes enters Cal State LA with a major in sociology in order to eventually pursue a Masters in Social Work or Rehabilitative Services. Despite a number of obstacles, she has maintained top grades. One day Sherrina would like to work at a community college.

Amanda Galvan will attend Cal State LA with a major in sociology. Overcoming personal hardships, she has turned her life around for herself and her children. She wants to obtain her domestic violence counseling certificate.

Reanne Lopez will choose between Cal State Fullerton and Cal State Dominguez Hills to study psychology. She would like to eventually pursue a master's degree in order to become an advocate for minority and low-income families. She will also serve as a role model for her daughter.

Rebecca Ramirez will pursue a music major or a major in public affairs. Her aspirations include working in entertainment law or delving into politics. Her activities at Rio Hondo include being Vice President of the Student Body and being on the debate team.

Earlyne Clemons Nursing Scholarship

This new scholarship honors our wonderful member Earlyne Clemons, a retired nurse who passed away this past year. Many of you contributed to this award to honor Earlyne and the nursing profession. Here is a bit about our first recipient:

Edna Miranda graduates from the nursing program at Rio Hondo this May. In the fall she will take classes from Grand Canyon University. The compassion and dedication of a nurse who attended her grandmother have inspired her to become a critical care nurse specializing in trauma.

INTERNATIONAL CONCERNS

Our International Concerns meetings are on the third Thursday each month. On Thursday, June 20, 2024, 10AM, we will meet at Sharon Heck's home, 6032 Comstock Ave., Whittier, CA 90601. Our topic for the June 20 meeting will be Chapter 5, "NATO's Future" in the 2024 *Great Decisions*. Helen Jewell will lead the discussion. Please do not attend if you are not feeling well. 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, June 20. 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



MYSTERY MAVENS

Mystery Mavens does not meet in June. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 18, 2024, 6 PM at The Original Roadhouse Grill, 15156 Whittier Blvd., Whittier, CA 90603, near Whittwood. Our September 18 book will be *The Spy Coast* by Tess Gerritsen. It will be reviewed by Andrea Bellamy. At our May meeting we chose our five books for next year. The complete list is below.

Books for 2024-2025

September 18, 2024	<i>The Spy Coast</i> by Tess Gerritsen	Reviewed by Andrea Bellamy
November 20, 2024	<i>Murder in Tuscany</i> by T. A. Williams	Reviewed by Brigitta Weger
January 15, 2025	<i>Everyone in My Family Has Killed Someone: A Murdery Mystery Novel</i> by Benjamin Stevenson	Reviewed by Mandy Knight
March 19, 2025	<i>Grime & Punishment</i> by Jill Churchill	Reviewed by Sharon Heck
May 21, 2025	<i>The Thursday Murder Club</i> by Richard Osman	Reviewed by Janice Geiger

Sharon Heck

MORNING BOOK

We are meeting on Monday, June 3, at Michigan Park to discuss *The Only Woman in the Room*, by Marie Benedict. 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.

Our last meeting for this year will be on Monday, July 22, discussing *Lady Tan's Circle of Women*, by Lisa See. Paula Ocampo and Sheryl Crockey will share discussion leadership. The meeting starts at 10AM at Ann Topjon's, 5654 Palm Ave., Whittier. Linda Harris will provide refreshments. A Zoom link will be provided a few days beforehand for those unable to attend in person.

Ann Topjon, Chair 562-665-1724

MODERN TRENDS IN LITERATURE

When: Thursday June 13, 6:30 PM

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



Join us for a discussion of *The Violin Conspiracy* by Brendan Slocumb. This novel tells us about Ray McMillan, a black classical musician on the rise, undeterred by the pressure and prejudice of the classical music world. A shocking theft sends him on a desperate quest to recover his great-great-grandfather's heirloom violin on the eve of the most prestigious competition in the world.

This will be our last meeting until September. Please bring suggestions for books to read next season as we will be voting at this meeting.

WRITING IS FUN

Writing is Fun! will meet at 11 AM on June 26 at the home of Carole Restovich. A possible topic: "If I Could Change One Thing." Maybe the way of the world? Maybe the 2024 presidential election? Perhaps a decision you made long ago? Or any topic that you're interested in at the moment. Everyone is welcome. We are an accepting, non-judgmental audience who enjoys the writing process and then sharing it with others. Bring a sandwich or salad as we share our written pieces. Carole will provide drinks and dessert. Carole's address: 10413 Portada Dr., behind Whittwood, off of Santa Gertrudes.

LA CUISINE



La Cuisine invites you to join us for fun evenings of good food, special friends, and great conversations. We are planning for next year, and you are welcome!

Whether you cook by yourself or as a couple, are a gourmet cook or a novice, La Cuisine would love to have you join us. The host(s) set themes and select menus. Each member is assigned one dish to bring and given the recipes and helpful notes. Costs are divided among those attending, so we get a gourmet meal for little money. It is a chance to try foods you might not have tried before and even learn a little about the country or theme.

At our May Route 66 dinner, Mahlon Woirhaye entertained us with his notes about his early trips on Route 66 with his family. One favorite was remembering the canvas bags hanging off the front of the car to keep it cool. The menu featured St. Louis ribs and Oklahoma BBQ chicken. Ohhh, it was good!

Please join us for the **La Cuisine planning meeting** to decide how many dinners to have next year, the themes, and who will host. Bring your ideas and cookbooks for possible recipes:

Friday, June 21st
1:00 p.m.
Shirley and Jim Stewart's house
8109 Michigan Avenue
Whittier 90602
(562) 714-2688

If you are interested in participating in La Cuisine next year, please contact Dolores Gonzalez-Hayes (562 237-4466 or doloresgonzalezhayes@gmail.com). We have a great group, but you could make it even better!

FIRST FRIDAY

First Friday will be hosted at the home of Ann Topjon.

June 7, from 6 PM to 8 PM

5654 Palm Ave.
Whittier, CA 90601

We look forward to gathering together to enjoy a relaxed social time. Please bring your beverage of choice and a snack or dessert to share.

Significant others and guests are invited to join us.



DINING FOR \$\$\$\$

Hello Everyone. I am currently working on a June venue for our last Dining For \$\$\$\$ fundraiser of the year. There will be information and a flyer sent out to all members at a later date if I am successful. You'll note that the June calendar will reflect this by stating TBD for the date. Fingers crossed! Look for further details in an email this month. Carole Duff



Sheryl Crockey and I would like to thank all of you for supporting the Dining For \$\$\$\$ events this year. Your dollars were appreciated and well spent by the Myra Long Scholarship Fund. Many of you were such loyal participants that we would see you month after month at each venue. There were also members that not only came to the events but they brought a group of friends with them to enjoy the fundraiser with laughter, conversation and support for our organization. Whether you managed to be there one time or many, you are all **Superstars** in our eyes and we hope you continue to have fun while supporting the scholarship fund with your dollars next year. Thank you so very much! Have a wonderful summer!

Carole Duff & Sheryl Crockey



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Congratulations to Shanonn Brann Zelaya and Los Nietos Middle School

GWA AAUW member Shanonn Brann Zelaya is celebrating a lot these days! Shanonn is principal of Los Nietos Middle School (a STEAM Academy) and has worked with our branch over the years by sending many outstanding students to Tech Trek Camp and our annual Math Science Conference.

The California Department of Education recently honored Los Nietos Middle School as a **2024 California Distinguished School**. This honor is given to the state's most exemplary and inspiring public schools. Schools selected for the Distinguished School Award demonstrate significant gains in narrowing the achievement gap.

In addition to this great honor, 20 of Shanonn's students completed the Los Angeles Marathon in April. Her students compete every year in this 26.2-mile race. Los Nietos Middle School is one of only a few schools outside of the Los Angeles Unified School District that are allowed to compete in the LA Marathon. They have been "grandfathered" in because they have participated faithfully for so many years.

Belen Duarte-Sousa is another of our artistic members and creates beautiful jewelry. She wants to let you all know about her upcoming *Belen's Jewelry Trunk Show*, Saturday, June 29, from 12 PM to 4 PM at her home, 4430 Woodmar Drive, Whittier, (562) 695-0178, bdmaya@aol.com. She will have champagne, wine, and sweets, so come for a fun day of socializing and hanging out with friends. As a special treat she will donate 10% of sales to the Earlyne Clemmons Nursing Scholarship of the Myra Long Scholarship Fund.



Dolores Seidman's husband, Charles Norman Stevens, passed away peacefully on Thursday, May 16, at the age of 99. He was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather. He and Dolores had recently celebrated their 52nd wedding anniversary. He was a teacher, one of the last-surviving World War II veterans, and an author. Please, no calls at this time, but cards are appreciated.

Sadly, **Claire Koehler** and her husband David Groves lost his mother on May 7. She passed away after a long illness and much of their loving care. A Celebration of Life event was held in her honor on May 17 at Searchlight Ministries in Fullerton, CA. Her family spoke of how Sally always pressed past the obstacles in her life, like racial discrimination, to make life better for her own family and for her grandchildren. She was a spunky feminist, and an adoring mother. Sally was strong, bold, and passionate about life, and she will live on in their hearts.

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
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**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

June 2024

GREATER WHITTIER AREA CALENDAR

Board Meeting	May 28 (Tuesday)	6 PM	Whittier First Friends Church
Morning Book	June 3 (Monday)	10 AM	Michigan Park
First Friday	June 7 (Friday)	6 PM – 8 PM	Ann Topjon's
Branch Meeting	June 8 (Saturday)	10 AM	Whittier Elks Lodge
Modern Trends	June 13 (Thursday)	6:30 PM	Myra Weiss's
Tech Trek Volunteers	June 16 (Sunday)	TBD	Whittier College
International Concerns	June 20 (Thursday)	10 AM	Sharon Heck's
La Cuisine	June 21 (Friday)	1 PM	Shirley W. Stewart's
Tech Trek Volunteers	June 23 (Sunday)	TBD	Whittier College
Writing is Fun	June 26 (Wednesday)	11 AM	Carole Restovich's
Dining for \$\$\$	June date to be determined – Carole Duff is working on a good place!		
Morning Book	July 22 (Monday)	10 AM	Ann Topjon's

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

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