



# GREATER WHITTIER AREA BRANCH AAUW NEWSLETTER

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

**April  
2025**



## **BRANCH MEETING – APRIL 12, 2025 9:30 AM – WHITTIER ART GALLERY**

### **Program – Ida O’Keeffe in Whittier**

We have a unique program planned for April and will be meeting at the Whittier Art Gallery. Our featured speaker will be Lisa Ruiz who will speak on the artist Ida O’Keeffe (1889-1961). Ida was also the sister of the artist Georgia O’Keeffe who overshadowed her during her lifetime. Lisa will tell us how Ida became part of Whittier’s history and why she has a gallery dedicated in her name at the Whittier Art Gallery.



We are honored to have Lisa Ruiz present the Ida O’Keeffe story. Lisa earned a BFA at Towson University and an M.A. Ed at Cambridge College focused on Arts Education and Advocacy. While pursuing a career as an art educator and leader, raising three incredible humans, pursuing advanced degrees, and advocating for the arts across California, Lisa has maintained a studio practice. Her work has been exhibited at the Whittier Art Gallery, Progress Space in Pomona, Gallery Soho in Pomona, the San Bernardino History Museum, Chaffey Art Museum, and various art festivals.

Lisa developed leadership and arts advocacy skills as a Visual and Performing Arts Teacher on Special Assignment at HLPUSD, with The California Arts Project, Inner City Arts, the Arts Ed Collective, and the LA Music Center. She is an Active Fellow and an Executive Board Member of the Whittier Art Association & Gallery. She holds an Administrative Credential, a Single-Subject Art Credential, and a CTE AME Credential.

During our meeting, you will also be able to view the exhibit, “Young at Art”, featuring works by young students from the Whittier City School Districts. Please come join us in exploring Whittier’s artistic past and present. Refer to the next page for meeting details.

Submitted by:

Claire Koehler, AAUW VP Program Director  
Ann Topjon, Program Committee

Image upper right: Creation, by Ida O’Keeffe, 1936

# HOSPITALITY

We have a very special meeting coming up in April. After much planning and eager anticipation, we have booked the Whittier Art Gallery for our branch meeting. The theme reflects our pride in Whittier's history of art and especially women's place in it; see the Program article for description of our upcoming program on the artist, Ida O'Keeffe.



Get an early start and come to the meeting for coffee, camaraderie and cultivation. Please note; we are optimistically planning that those also attending the Whittier Museum Tea (begins 12 PM) can depart as needed after the presentation.

**Date:** Saturday, April 12, 2025

**Time:** 9:30 AM Social Time  
10 AM Meeting begins

**Location:** Whittier Art Gallery  
8035 Painter Ave.  
Whittier, Ca. 90602

**Directions:** Located at the corner of Painter and Mooreland Drive, across from Lydia Jackson School. Parking on Mooreland Street; we are trying to reserve the small parking lot for people with accessibility challenges.

**Meal:** Morning buffet to include snacks and drinks

**Meeting price:** \$10 /person\*

Please RSVP if you plan to attend. We do need to know how many people will be there so we can plan for seating and refreshments. Send your email to Paula Ocampo at [pocampo@aol.com](mailto:pocampo@aol.com) or phone/text to (562) 447-7483.

Paula Ocampo, Hospitality VP  
cell (562) 447-7483  
[pocampo@aol.com](mailto:pocampo@aol.com)

Be sure to wear your AAUW name badge.

**Volunteers:** A great big Thank You to our volunteers at the March meeting: Kathy Arriola, Carole Restovich, Kay Clark, Carole Duff, and Cherie Trapani. Our volunteers are critical, not just to get the job done, but to make the meeting more fun. The tasks are simple when there are many hands; greeting, setup before the meeting, cleanup after the meeting, pickup supplies, bring baked goodies, or add the final touches to the tables. Please contact Paula Ocampo to sign up.



Photo: Ida and Georgia O'Keeffe, 1924, by, Alfred Stieglitz

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

STANDING TOGETHER FOR EQUITY AND ACTION is the theme for our Greater Whittier Area AAUW Branch this year. We truly hope that our monthly branch meetings have been fulfilling that theme. AAUW California sponsors a contest titled the 2024-2025 Branch Activity of the Year (BAY) Award. I have nominated our "Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Branch Activities" for this award. Pat Dudley and her committee have done a fantastic job of educating us in such a fun way with discussion activities and wonderful speakers at most of our monthly branch meetings. I want the California AAUW leadership to know what is possible. Even if we are not chosen, our nomination is very important. The Bay Award nominee must be Novel, Inspirational, Reproducible, Reflective of AAUW's mission and image, and DEI-related. I believe we fit each criterion. The awards will be announced on April 1, so we will keep you informed.

It has been announced that the National AAUW annual dues will increase by \$2.00 as of April 1 this year, and by \$2.00 on April 1, 2026. A much larger increase had been proposed, but the response from the membership was so negative on such an increase, that they reconsidered. I sent a letter of disapproval, so I am happy to know that they listen to us. Our dues for next year will increase from \$116. to \$118. The total includes: \$74. for National AAUW, \$20. for California AAUW, \$22. for GWA AAUW, and \$2. for AAUW Fund. There are other totals for Life Members, Student Affiliates, and Dual Members. Most of us have a date of June 30 to pay our dues. Some owe on their joining date, so keep this in mind.

On Sunday, March 9, I attended the LACIC (Los Angeles County Interbranch Council of AAUW) meeting on Zoom. Congresswoman Judy Chu was one of the speakers. She represents the 28<sup>th</sup> District and was the first Chinese-American woman elected to Congress. She brought the latest information on the January wildfires in Altadena and Pasadena. Miriam A. Brown told of mental health resources available to those affected by the fires. LACIC is planning an in-person meeting on Sunday, May 11, 2-4 PM at the United Methodist Church in San Gabriel. The speaker will be Archana Maniar. She is a medical doctor and an author. Her latest novel is *Dry Spells*. Everyone is invited to attend the LACIC meetings, so watch for more information.

I really look forward to our wonderful branch meetings. We will meet at the Whittier Art Gallery on Painter Ave. for our April 12 meeting, so I hope to see you there.

Sharon Heck, Branch President

AAUW MISSION STATEMENT – To advance equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.



# ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTIONS



Greater Whittier Area AAUW will hold its Annual Branch Meeting on April 12, 2025. At that time, we will hold elections for the Board of Directors for the 2025-2026 term. A vote will be conducted for the entire Slate of Nominated Officers.

## **GWA-AAUW SLATE OF NOMINEES FOR ELECTED OFFICE, 2025-2026**

|  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| President  | Paula Ocampo           |
| President-Elect*                                   | <i>open</i>            |
| Treasurer  | Kay Clark              |
| Program Vice-President                             | Claire Koehler         |
| Hospitality Vice-President                         | Marian Locke           |
| Membership Vice-President                          | Andrea Bellamy         |
| AAUW Fund Vice-President                           | Sheryl Crockey         |
| Public Policy                                      | Margo Reeg             |
| Recording Secretary                                | Mandy Knight           |
| Corresponding Secretary                            | Maura Greeley          |
| Past President                                     | Sharon Heck            |
| <u>Myra Long Scholarship Fund Committee (MLSF)</u> |                        |
| Director   | Barbara Gile           |
| Director   | Carole Restovich       |
| Director   | Kaye Kidwell           |
| Director   | Susan Halliday         |
| Director   | Sharon Heck            |
| Director   | Patricia Dudley        |
| Director   | Ann Chambers           |
| Director   | Dolores Gonzalez-Hayes |

\*Position open

Nominations may be made from the floor with the consent of the nominee.

# MEMBERSHIP

Our Meet and Greet was scheduled for Saturday, March 22. As of this writing, I am unable to share results since it hasn't taken place yet. I can report that we are expecting about 30 GWA members and 10 guests. Our committee has high hopes that this turns out to be a great success and we will welcome several new members.

If you haven't done so, please check out our Facebook group at Greater Whittier Area Branch AAUW and follow us on [Instagram@AAUW.GWA](#). We also now have a QR code to scan. All this comes with a Big Thank You to Rebecca Ramirez, our new media person.

A quick reminder, many of you will be up for membership renewal in June. You can pay online (you must pay national and then go to another screen for state and local dues; you need to pay both). You can also mail your payment to Kay Clark's home address in the yearbook or bring a check to the April or May monthly meeting.

Membership Committee Chair Committee - Andrea Bellamy  
Members - Linda Harris, Mandy Knight, Margo Reeg, Georgine Sweeney, Karen Van der Baan



## AAUW FUND

### What is the Legacy Circle?

It is a way of making a planned gift to AAUW and affirming your commitment to equity. These gifts or bequests are donations you designate in your will, estate, or trust. There is no minimum gift requirement to join the Legacy Circle, and the benefits are many.

As a member of the Legacy Circle, you will receive a beautiful pin designed by Swarovski to honor your generosity.

To learn more about joining the Legacy Circle, contact Katrina Sun Breese, AAUW Director of Advancement, at 202-785-7766 or email [planned-giving@aauw.org](mailto:planned-giving@aauw.org).

The members of our branch who belong to the Legacy Circle are listed below and on page 13 of our yearbook:

Judy Pappé\*\*

Jill Smith

Gwen Woirhaye\*\*

Rozanne Child

Dolores Seidman

Fay Weber

Cheryl A. Suit



Sheryl Crockey, AAUW Fund V.P.

\*\*deceased

# MYRA LONG SCHOLARSHIP FUND / MLSF

Meetings are held Quarterly on the following Tuesdays: May 6, 2025, August 5, 2025, November 4, 2025, and February 3, 2026. The MLSF committee meets in the Board Room of the First Methodist Church in uptown Whittier, across from Central Park at 9:00 AM. Meetings last approximately two hours.

All AAUW members who are dedicated to keeping educational programs and scholarships for girls and young women in the Greater Whittier Area are welcome to attend.

This month of March has turned out to be the month of GRATITUDE. We are so grateful for the changes that are happening. Since receiving generous donations from the estates of former members the committee has decided to not have a formal fundraiser for Myra Long's birthday. Of course, donations of any amount are always welcome.

You give to the Fund for a variety of reasons: in memory of friends and loved ones, to fund special scholarships, or simply to support the wonderful work funded by MLSF. We have two special Scholarships that are designated in memory of past members—the Earlyne Clemons Nursing Scholarship and the Jeanne Lavagnino Scholarship (for recipients who are majoring in Education or Music). This year, we will be awarding \$60,000 in scholarships to women and girls who are commencing or continuing their collegiate educations.

We are also grateful for New Member, Rose Jacobs-Pringle who volunteered to help Susan Halliday with the High School Scholarships. Belen Duarte-Sousa also agreed to be our Spanish Translator for families that do not speak English.

Los Nietos Middle School has nominated 10 girls who are eligible for Tech Trek. With all this gratitude, I must tell you with a heavy heart that we will not be sending girls to Tech Trek in June of 2025. This was a painful decision which due to circumstances beyond the committee's control, we were unable to meet the requirements of the 2025 Tech Trek program. The Myra Long Scholarship Fund Committee was unanimous in their decision. However, the money set aside for Tech Teck will be used to give the nominated young women a definite STEM experience. The alternate program is still being researched. The Myra Long Scholarship Fund Committee is very dedicated to ensuring a positive project for the girls at Los Nietos Middle School this school year.

Best regards, MLSF Committee

Barbara Gile, Chairperson (909) 374-2771  
Kaye Kidwell, Treasurer; Tech Trek Coordinator  
Carole Restovich, Secretary  
Ann Chambers, Director  
Patricia Dudley, Director  
Susan Halliday, Director  
Sharon Heck, Director.



# Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI)

- GWA Reads DEI: The culminating activity to reading the book *The Last Chinese Chef* is a dining experience at Chang's Garden on Wednesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at noon. Address: 627 W. Duarte Road, Arcadia. Authentic Chinese cuisine will be served including a food selection featured in the book. Reservations will be required. Members who indicated they were reading the book received discussion questions for the March 25<sup>th</sup> session at the home of Pat Dudley. Those readers have been asked to RSVP for the lunch by March 25<sup>th</sup> or at the discussion session. After March 25<sup>th</sup> reservations are open to all members interested in joining the readers for lunch. (We have reservations available for 28 participants).
- Belen Duarte-Sousa will be taking the reservations:
  - Text Belen at 562-884-1440
  - Email Belen at [bmdmaya@aol.com](mailto:bmdmaya@aol.com)
  - Cost is \$35.00 and will be collected at the restaurant.
  - You must bring the **exact amount in CASH...** no change will be available. That does not include the tip.
  - You are responsible for leaving a tip. A minimum of 18% is expected for large groups.
  - Belen will begin confirming reservations after March 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Note: If you are reading the book but have not received the discussion questions, contact Pat Dudley ([kpudley2002@yahoo.com](mailto:kpudley2002@yahoo.com) or text at 562-447-6389).



At the May branch meeting we will be having an interactive activity on the terms and concepts related to the DEI topics we have been focusing on for the past 3 years. Members will also be asked to work in groups to provide direction for future DEI activities. If you have a book title in mind that we might consider for our GWA Reads DEI, send Pat Dudley your suggestion and why the content would be appropriate for our branch selection/discussion.

Pat Dudley, Branch DEI Coordinator

# DIVERSITY DATELINE

| <b>Holiday or Observance</b> | <b>Religious Group</b> | <b>Date</b>             |
|------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Rama Navami                  | Hindu                  | April 6, 2025           |
| Passover                     | Jewish                 | April 12-April 20, 2025 |
| Theravada New Year           | Buddhist               | April 13, 2025          |
| Good Friday                  | Christian              | April 18, 2025          |
| Orthodox Good Friday         | Christian              | April 18, 2025          |
| Easter                       | Christian              | April 20, 2025          |
| Orthodox Easter              | Christian              | April 20, 2025          |

Rama Navami celebrates the birthday of the God Rama.

Passover commemorates the Israelites' liberation from slavery in ancient Egypt, celebrated with an eight-day ban on leavened foods and a special ritual meal called the Seder.

Theravada New Year is a 3-day festival marking the beginning of the Buddhist calendar.

Good Friday/Orthodox Good Friday is celebrated on the Friday before Easter and marks the day Jesus was crucified and died. Orthodox and Catholic Good Fridays seldom fall on the same day as they follow different calendars. Most Eastern Orthodox Churches follow the Julian calendar and Catholics follow the Gregorian calendar.

Easter/Orthodox Easter is the oldest and most important festival of Christian and Orthodox Christian churches celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

| <b>Day to Observance</b>                   | <b>Date</b>     |
|--|-----------------|
| April Fool's Day                           | April 1, 2025   |
| National Rainbow Day                       | April 3, 2025   |
| National Walking Day                       | First Wednesday |
| World Health Day                           | April 7, 2025   |
| National No Housework Day                  | April 7, 2025   |
| Emancipation Day                           | April 17, 2025  |
| Earth Day                                  | April 22, 2025  |
| Day of the Child (Children's Day/Book Day) | April 30, 2025  |
| Sexual Assault Awareness*                  | Month of April  |

\*See the Public Policy article next page



# AAUW ART CONTEST

## AAUW Celebrates the Talent & Voices of Women Artists

Only a third of artists represented by commercial galleries are women and women working in arts professions are paid on average 74 cents to every dollar paid to men. This is what motivates AAUW to host an annual art contest—to give women artists the attention they deserve.

How many of you submitted your art work for the 2025 AAUW Annual Art Contest? AAUW has announced the winners but you can try again next year.

This year’s contest showcased an incredible array of talent from our members, and AAUW is excited to feature the winning artworks in their exclusive notecard collection, which will be mailed to members this spring.



Barbara Enochian – “Lost in Thought”

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Monique Farland – “Light Through the Trees”

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Maria T. Manhart – “The Ballerinas”

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Nelda Reid – “Summer Blooms”

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# PUBLIC POLICY

**Activities in our branch:** Sharon Heck, Paula Ocampo and Margo Reeg are registered to participate in Lobby Day on April 9. The mandatory training on the 3 chosen bills is Monday, March 31 at 7 pm by ZOOM. We will learn when our appointments are later in March.

## Prepare for Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April

by Claire Noonan, AAUW CA Public Policy Committee

Sexual assault violence prevention calls for the creation of safer communities. Addressing the root causes of this kind of violence is difficult as it involves a multipronged approach, including improving street and housing conditions, providing education, and offering support services. We should work to advance policies at workplaces and schools, discuss sexual assault and its consequences with friends and family, and prioritize prevention in our communities.

Official channels for raising awareness about sexual assault violence and creating and implementing the policies needed for prevention has a long history in the United States; however, given the current administration's attack on "DEI," much of this work is now under threat of being dismantled.

Violence awareness began officially when the [Family Violence Prevention and Services Act \(FVPSA\)](#) became law in 1984, providing the primary federal funding for domestic violence victims and their children via emergency shelters and related assistance. The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), [passed by Congress in 1994](#), is comprehensive federal legislation to end violence against women. In 2001, the National Sexual Violence Resource Center coordinated the first national [Sexual Assault Awareness Month \(SAAM\)](#), building on years of advocacy and awareness-building. In 2009, President Barack Obama [officially declared April](#) to be Sexual Assault Awareness Month, which presidents have proclaimed by every year since then.

As part of this wider federal push, awareness-raising and prevention efforts around sexual assault violence have been more firmly embedded in core policies and practices. For instance, the Department of Defense has been trying to create a culture to eliminate sexual assault, requiring a personal commitment from all Service members. Educational institutions have benefitted as well: the final Title IX revisions in April 2024 by President Joe Biden reflected the stronger shift to prevent assault actions on school campuses. These revisions also sought to protect more people, expanding the definition of "sex-based harassment" to include harassment based on sex characteristics, sexual orientation, gender identity, sex stereotypes, and pregnancy. At the state level, In September 2024 Governor Newsom signed eight bills on domestic violence. The legislation created a new victims' services fund using penalties from white-collar crimes and expanded the ability of victims to access restraining orders.

While all of this movement has been positive, by the second week of President Donald Trump's current administration, the Office of Management and Budget had ordered a freeze of all federal financial assistance in all agencies including those that oversee government programs and funding for organizations that provide domestic violence and sexual assault services, such as Health and Human Services, Center for Disease Control, and the Department of Justice. [Multiple court orders have blocked the freezes from taking effect](#), but in some cases funds haven't been received for programs aimed at preventing sexual violence.

In addition, the current Administration has attacked the Office of Family Violence Prevention and Services and the Office on Violence Against Women, who must now disclose information that may further eliminate funding and resources, such as whether grants are being used to support "removable or illegal aliens or immigrants;" to "promote gender ideology;" or to advance "illegal DEI" programs—although at the time of writing, early challenges have signaled that enforcement of these provisions and [denial of funding may be unconstitutional](#).

(continued next page)

## PUBLIC POLICY (cont.)

As individuals and non-profit organizations, we can contact our Congressmembers and state officials to back efforts to get the money flowing to relevant organizations and programs that raise awareness of and prevent sexual assault violence.

We can also act in our local communities to reduce sexual assault violence. We can ask to improve lighting to make streets and other public spaces safer. We can make sure our city, county, and public health officials promote policies for families and children, address economic security, and provide access to safe, stable housing. We can collaborate with community-led organizations that coordinate resources and services that help with trauma, mental health and substance use, all of which lead to sexual abuse. (from [CDC-Violence Prevention](#))

Overall, we can all work to [support the organizations country-wide](#) that are on the front lines of dealing with sexual assault violence. [Click here](#) for downloadable free materials to share from the Domestic Violence Awareness Project.

### What Can You Do?

- contact Congressmembers and state officials to back efforts to get the money flowing to relevant organizations and programs that raise awareness of and prevent sexual assault violence;
- [act in our local communities](#) to reduce sexual assault violence through improving lighting, promoting policies for families and children, address economic security, and help coordinate trauma resources
- [support the organizations country-wide](#) that are on the front lines of dealing with sexual assault violence
- share resources from the [Domestic Violence Awareness Project](#)

Margo Reeg  
Public Policy Officer

## INTERNATIONAL CONCERNS

On Thursday, April 17, 2025, we will meet at the home of Sharon Heck, 6032 Comstock Ave., Whittier, CA 90601, at 10 AM, to discuss Chapter 3, “*Competition, Cold War, or Conflict? Navigating U.S.-China Relations in Tense Times*” in our Great Decisions 2025 book. The discussion will be led by Fay Weber.

We will view the video for Chapter 4, “*India: Between China, the West, and the Global South*” as it will be discussed on Thursday, May 15, 2025. Please RSVP to Sharon, because her street requires parking permits which she can acquire from the city for one day use.

All are welcome to join us for great discussions. See you on Thursday, April 17, 2025, 10 AM.

Sharon Heck  
s.heck4peace@gmail.com

# MYSTERY MAVENS

Mystery Mavens will not meet in April. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 21, 2025, at 6 PM at The Original Roadhouse Grill, 15156 Whittier Blvd., Whittier, CA 90603, near Whittwood. Our May book is listed below. Our members should be sending me books to nominate for next year, because we vote on them at our May 21, 2025 meeting. Please do not nominate more than two books from each of you. Remember, they are to be the first book in a series.

## Remaining Book for 2025

May 21, 2025      *The Thursday Murder Club* by Richard Osman    Reviewed by Janice Geiger

Sharon Heck

# MORNING BOOK

We will not meet this month. The last two books for this year are:

June 2              *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride

July 28             *Table for Two* by Amor Towles

Also, please start thinking about selections for next year's reading and discussion.

Ann Topjon, Chair    562-665-1724

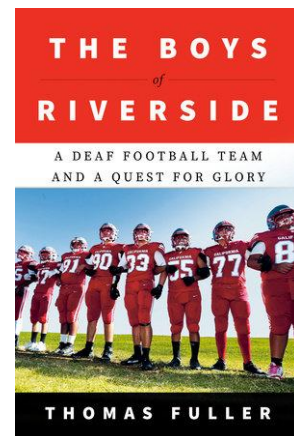
# MODERN TRENDS IN LITERATURE

The April meeting is going to be in conjunction with Whittier Reads at the Whittier Central Library on Wednesday, April 16 at 6 PM. The selection is *The Boys of Riverside* by Thomas Fuller, copies available to loan or to buy at the Central Library.

Upcoming books for Modern Trends:

May    *Homecoming* by Kate Morton

June    *How to Say Babylon* by Safiya Sinclair



## FIRST FRIDAY

It's time again to reunite with AAUW friends outside of our official meetings. Dolores Gonzales-Hayes has graciously invited us to spend the evening at her home on Friday,

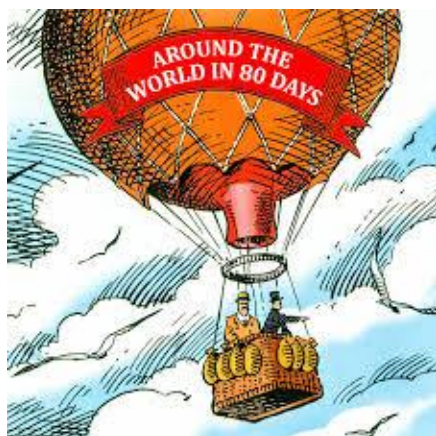
When: April 4th from 6 PM to 8 PM.

Address: 8722 Seranata Dr.  
Whittier, CA 90603

Friends and significant others are always welcome! Just remember to bring something sweet or savory, and your choice of beverage for everyone's enjoyment.

Respectfully submitted by  
Belen Duarte-Sousa

## LA CUISINE



Mark your calendar for the next La Cuisine dinner

AROUND THE WORLD IN 8 RECIPES

Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>

The theme, inspired by Jules Verne *Around the World in Eighty Days*, will feature recipes from the various stops of Phileas Fogg.

Please plan to join us.

If you are not currently a member of La Cuisine, please contact Shirley Stewart at [shirleystewart8109@gmail.com](mailto:shirleystewart8109@gmail.com)

## DINING FOR \$\$\$\$

### Save the Date! El Cholo Mexican Restaurant

Date: April 17, 2025

Time: 11:30 AM to 8:30 PM

Address: 840 E. Whittier Blvd.  
La Habra, CA



This month we are excited to once again be supported by the popular El Cholo Mexican Restaurant in La Habra. It is definitely a favorite of ours and always one of our biggest money-makers too! El Cholo will host our fundraiser on April 17 from 11:30 AM to 8:30 PM. Have a wonderful time enjoying their delicious food while dining in a beautiful, festive setting. You might choose to invite family, a group of friends, or even members of one of your sections. Dining inside always ensures a fun time but there is also a patio located before the entrance where people enjoy relaxing meals too. And, remember, take-out can be a good option if you have a busy schedule that day. No matter how you choose to enjoy El Cholo, it's the perfect venue. You will find a flyer in this newsletter to present to your server so that a donation equal to 20% of your bill for food or non-alcoholic beverages goes directly to the Myra Long Scholarship Fund



PLEASE BRING THIS  
FLYER AND PRESENT  
IT WHEN ORDERING.  
Thank You!



## Greater Whittier Area AAUW Myra Long Scholarship Fund

By **DINING IN** or **TAKE OUT**, at:

**EL CHOLO**

840 E. Whittier Blvd.  
La Habra, CA  
(562)691-4618



**Date: April 17, 2025 - Thursday**  
**Time: All Day 11:30am-8:30pm**

PLEASE BRING THIS FLYER & PRESENT IT WHEN ORDERING YOUR FOOD.  
20% OF THE BILL WILL BE DONATED TO OUR SCHOLARSHIP FUND.  
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ARE NOT INCLUDED.

**GWA AAUW  
SPRING FUNDRAISER  
REALLY GREAT STUFF  
14402 WHITTIER BLVD.  
WHITTIER**

*Easter items will be available!*

*Wednesday April 2nd*

*Thursday April 3rd*

*Friday April 4th*

*Opens at 11:00 Closes at 6:00*

*Saturday April 5th*

*Opens at 10:00 Closes at 5:00*

**20% OF THE SALES GO TO OUR BRANCH!!!**

**BRING YOUR FRIENDS & FAMILY  
TO THIS GREAT EVENT!**

**Easter decorations and gifts!  
Clothing, Jewelry, Accessories,  
Home Decor, Handbags, Mirrors & more!  
Free Gift Wrap**

*Any Questions*

*Karen van der Baan call 562-695-0048 or text 562-665-4058*



## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

During the month of March, when we honor Women who have been our mentors, this information came my way. Some of you may remember long-time AAUW member, our first Las Distinguidas honoree **Mary Ellen Mead**. She will be 98 years old in June and is bed-bound in a care facility in Mission Viejo. Her daughter Tyra sent this tidbit. “Mary Ellen is in failing health after falling last year and breaking her hip. Her youngest son, and other four children visit often. Despite everything Mary Ellen still has her sense of humor and is gracious and grateful for the loving care she is receiving.” For more information contact: [tyra.ferlatte@gmail.com](mailto:tyra.ferlatte@gmail.com)

**Cindy and Dorwin Birt** recently returned from a 16-day Viking trip to Vietnam and Cambodia. The trip included 7 days and nights cruising on the Mekong River. Prior to the cruise they spent several days in and around Ho Chi Minh City. They happened to be there at the time of the Lunar New Year celebration. The cruise was very enjoyable, and they got used to having someone respond to their every need. In Phnom Penh, Cambodia one highlight, although a little scary, was a night ride around the city in tuk tuks. The cruise portion of the trip ended in Siem Reap Cambodia where they visited Angkor Wat, Angkor Thom, and Ta Prohm temples. The trip ended in Hanoi Vietnam, followed by the long flights home.



**Paula Ocampo** is still looking for people to walk with her. Come to the Shelter's Right Hand 5K Walk in Uptown Whittier for a fun walk early in the morning on Saturday, April 26 for lots of camaraderie, and it's all for a great cause. Sign up online at [www.sheltersrighthand.org/5k-walk](http://www.sheltersrighthand.org/5k-walk)

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](mailto:pocampo@aol.com)  
(562) 447-7483



# APRIL 2025

## GREATER WHITTIER AREA CALENDAR

|                        |                      |                   |                             |
|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Board Meeting          | April 1 (Tuesday)    | 7 PM              | Zoom                        |
| GWA-AAUW Fund Raiser   | April 2 (Wednesday)  | 11 AM-6 PM        | Really Great Stuff          |
| GWA-AAUW Fund Raiser   | April 3 (Thursday)   | 11 AM-6 PM        | Really Great Stuff          |
| GWA-AAUW Fund Raiser   | April 4 (Friday)     | 11 AM-6 PM        | Really Great Stuff          |
| GWA-AAUW Fund Raiser   | April 5 (Saturday)   | 10 AM-5 PM        | Really Great Stuff          |
| First Friday           | April 4 (Friday)     | 6 - 8 PM          | Dolores Gonzales-Hayes      |
| Branch Meeting         | April 12 (Saturday)  | 9:30 AM           | Whittier Art Gallery        |
| Modern Trends          | April 16 (Wednesday) | 6:00 PM           | Whittier Central Library    |
| International Concerns | April 17 (Thursday)  | 10 AM             | Sharon Heck's               |
| Dining for \$\$\$\$    | April 17 (Thursday)  | 11:30 AM -8:30 PM | El Cholo Mexican Restaurant |

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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> of every month, August through May to [pocampo@aol.com](mailto:pocampo@aol.com)

Newsletter Editor – Paula Ocampo

For more information, please visit our websites:

- AAUW National      [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)
- AAUW California    [www.aauw-ca.org](http://www.aauw-ca.org)
- GWA-AAUW          [www.whittier-ca.aauw.net](http://www.whittier-ca.aauw.net)

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