



# GREATER WHITTIER AREA BRANCH AAUW NEWSLETTER

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

**May  
2025**



## **BRANCH MEETING – MAY 10, 2025 9:30 AM – FIRST FRIENDS CHURCH WHITTIER**

### **Program**

Is it the end of April already? Is Shakespeare's birthday really just around the corner, and then Cinco de Mayo, and then Mother's Day? If so, it is time to look back on the past eight months and think about what we have learned from our speakers, special events, and awareness segments that Pat Dudley so expertly brought to the fore. To do this, Claire Koehler will provide a prompt asking two key questions as one of the main components of our May meeting:

- 1) What is one thing you remember from any of our meetings in 2024/2025? It may be something said by one of our speakers, or the feeling of working together in a hands-on learning activity that challenged ideas about ageism, culture, gender, or traditions, or maybe it was something that made you feel uncomfortable or confused.
- 2) How can we work together to change one small (or big) thing regarding our preconceived ideas of others or even ourselves? To properly allow for maximum consideration of this, it will be helpful to refresh our memories of this year's speakers who graced us with their presence.
  - ❖ Tech Trek Girls talked about their experiences at camp.
  - ❖ Margo Reeg informed us of propositions that were on the November ballot.
  - ❖ Dr. Ninotchka McTaggart, as a sociologist, focused on her research of race, gender, and other forms of inequality in society.
  - ❖ Diane Britton gave us an overview of the Women's and Children's Crisis Shelter and her role in starting the first 5K Walk fund-raiser called "Stepping Out Against Domestic Violence" for the WCCS.
  - ❖ Mary Ann Pacheco, City Council Member, spoke about Financial Literacy.
  - ❖ Emily Teipe, Professor Emeritus, spoke about the 1911 Triangle Fire where women burned to death in their locked workplace.
  - ❖ Lisa Ruiz shined the light on Ida O'Keeffe's life as an artist at the Whittier Art Gallery.

This writing prompt is to allow us to reflect on what we have learned or gained through osmosis, so we might keep growing. We hope to see you at our May meeting to gain insights as well as to enjoy the camaraderie of this very special organization!

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

# HOSPITALITY

We had a fun change of pace meeting at the Whittier Art Gallery in April (see photos). For May, we are back at the First Friends Church as usual. Get an early start and come to the meeting for coffee, camaraderie and cultivation.

**Date:** Saturday, May 10, 2025

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

**Location:** Fellowship Hall  
First Friends Church Whittier  
13205 Philadelphia St.  
Whittier, Ca. 90601



April meeting at the Whittier Art Gallery

**Directions:** We will meet in the Fellowship Hall. The entrance is off of the courtyard facing Washington Ave. Parking is off of the alley in the rear. There is also additional parking available across the street on Washington Ave. It can be accessed from the alley running between Washington and Bright, turn north from Philadelphia.

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

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

\*Please note, since we are not having a catered meal, you don't need to pay the \$10 if you RSVP and have to miss the meeting.

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 are the lifeblood of an organization. A huge thanks to all who came early, stayed late, moved chairs, performed calligraphy, brought bakery treats, and created a special tablescape:

Belen Duarte-Sousa  
Quincey Grace  
Carole Restovich  
Kathy Arriola  
Kay Clark  
Sheryl Crockey  
Ann Topjon  
Lovey Sherman



Lisa Ruiz and Claire Koehler with an  
Ida O'Keeffe restored painting

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

STANDING TOGETHER FOR EQUITY AND ACTION is the theme for our Greater Whittier Area AAUW Branch for this year. Our Branch did “take action” in April by participating in the AAUW Lobby Day with State elected officials. Margo Reeg, Paula Ocampo, and I met with State Senator Bob Archuleta on Zoom. He agreed with the positions taken by AAUW on three bills, and we had a good discussion with him.

## Two AAUW Elections are pending:

AAUW California - A very important State AAUW election is taking place soon. On April 26 if you have an email address, a ballot will be sent to you online. If you do not have email, a ballot will arrive by regular mail. Voting ends on May 16, 2025. You will vote on three things: the election of the Board of Directors, the approval of the Public Policy Priorities, and a dues increase of \$10. to the AAUW State dues. It would increase the State dues from \$20 to \$30. I am speaking against such a large increase in the dues. The last increase was \$4. and it was ten years ago. I believe a smaller amount of increase should be considered. Their reasoning includes wanting to have more in person meetings rather than meetings on Zoom, wanting to hire a part-time financial officer, and wanting to do more hands-on work with the branches, among other things. If this is approved, our annual dues will become \$128. with the \$2. recently added by National AAUW. I believe that amount of dues could hinder our member recruitment and the continuation of membership of those who have a limited income. The present amount of annual dues breaks down in this way: National - \$74., State - \$20., Branch - \$22., AAUW Fund - \$2. for a total of \$118. I hope the State AAUW will reconsider their \$10. increase, and I urge a no vote.

AAUW National - The AAUW National election is going on at the present time. Each member is receiving a ballot by email. A paper ballot can be requested. We are voting on three things: a slate of four new officers, the Public Policy Priorities for 2025 to 2027, and changes to the by-laws. I voted online and it was very simple. National voting will end on May 13, 2025.

The AAUW California Annual Meeting will be held on Zoom on Saturday, April 26. Members may register online. Contact [www.aauw-ca.org](http://www.aauw-ca.org) if you wish to register to attend.

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 First Friends Church on May 10, 9:30AM to socialize, and 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.

# MEMBERSHIP

We had a wonderful energy packed, fun and informative Meet and Greet. Thank you to my committee for all the planning and coordination. I am very happy to report we have 10 new members from the event. In addition, we just got another new member this week.

Also, Rebecca Flores has done a great job with establishing GWA's social media presence. You can follow us at Instagram @AAUA.GWA (there is a space before@) also join our Facebook group. Make sure to like postings. Rebecca has included many local happenings as well. I appreciate all the member support for the Meet and Greet. Hope you all enjoyed attending.

Thank you,

Andrea Bellamy, Membership VP

Membership Committee: Linda Harris, Mandy Knight, Margo Reeg, Georgine Sweeney, and Karen Van der Baan

## FINANCIAL CORNER

### BEAT THE PRICE INCREASE



As most of you are aware, we just had a \$2.00 price increase at National. Our dues are now \$118.00 for regular dues. However, AAUW California is going to vote on an increase that would be effective July 1, 2025. It could be as much as \$10.00. If you pay your dues before that date, you can get in at the current rate. This affects both regular dues and Paid Lifetime Dues.

As a note: Your Branch dues will not go up at this time.

You can go on-line and renew, or send a check to me at the address below and I will process it for you. If you send it to me, please make it out to GWA AAUW.

11915 Inez St. #8

Whittier, CA 90605

[kayclark310@gmail.com](mailto:kayclark310@gmail.com)

310/890-6510

As a reminder: Regular dues are \$118.00, Paid Lifetime Dues are currently \$44.00, and Honorable Lifetime (those who have been members over 50 years) are \$0.

Kay Clark, Treasurer

## AAUW FUND

### Exciting News!

The AAUW Fund Named Gift Honorees will be announced at our May 10<sup>th</sup> Branch Meeting. You will be surprised to discover which of our special members will receive their well-deserved awards.

Please attend in order to offer your support as we honor these women who have dedicated their time and effort on our behalf.

Hope to see you all on May 10.

Thank You,

Sheryl Crockey, AAUW Fund VP



# MYRA LONG SCHOLARSHIP FUND (MLSF)

The good news keeps on coming.

First, Carole Restovich reports that we have more applicants for the College Scholarships than we have received in the past. Several of the applicants are from PIH Health Whittier Hospital. The interviews will be in May.

Susan Halliday reports that our High School Scholarship applications are due no later than April 25th. We will be interviewing the girls May 3rd and hopefully introduce them at our June Branch meeting.

Our branch election on Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup> gave us a new committee member. Dolores Gonzalez-Hayes will be joining the committee. Dolores is bi-lingual, a capable past president of our branch and has many contacts in the Hispanic community. We welcome her volunteer spirit and hope to use her organizational abilities in the Greater Whittier area.

We are in the planning stage of the STEM experience for the ten (10) girls at Los Nietos Middle School. This special project will be a unique activity in place of Tech Trek. The MLSF committee is completely dedicated to working with the school to enhance a learning environment for the selected female students.

MLSF Committee meetings are held Quarterly on the following Tuesdays:

**\*May 6, 2025**

August 5, 2025

November 4, 2025

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

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  
Dolores Gonzalez-Hayes, Director  
Susan Halliday, Director  
Sharon Heck, Director



# TECH TREK VOLUNTEERS

If you are like me, you look forward every year to helping the Tech Trek campers on registration day at Whittier College. Although we are not able to send any campers from our branch this year, there will be campers from other branches and we still have the opportunity to volunteer.

Date: June 15, 2025  
Time 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM  
Where: Whittier College



Campers are scheduled to arrive starting at noon, volunteers arrive in advance of the campers to get assignments and set up.

Contact: Kay Clark  
[kayclark310@gmail.com](mailto:kayclark310@gmail.com)  
(310) 890-6510

We will also have a sign-up list at the May 10 branch meeting.

Volunteers will be given a digital copy, by email, of the Tech Trek Staff and Volunteer Manual. You will not need to register in the CampDoc system; however, you will need to sign the online Volunteer Conduct Agreement.

After the May 10 branch meeting, we will assist members in getting online and signing the form. ([https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeJHzBd1BBFFeUjjEEZqAaNSlt5aYDwRXrweB\\_YhHD75FnvA/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeJHzBd1BBFFeUjjEEZqAaNSlt5aYDwRXrweB_YhHD75FnvA/viewform))

## Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI)

**GWA Reads DEI report:** Twenty-one members of GWA AAUW met to discuss this year's book selection, **The Last Chinese Chef**. The role of food in China and other cultural group's values and traditions were discussed. Participants talked about their own experiences, both personal and through travel. Twenty-eight members of GWA signed up for an authentic Chinese dining experience at Chang's Garden in Arcadia.

**Bright Ideas:** Start thinking ahead. At the May meeting, members will have an opportunity to submit ideas for our 2025-2026 DEI activities planning. If you are not able to attend, send your ideas directly to Pat Dudley at [kpudley2002@yahoo.com](mailto:kpudley2002@yahoo.com).

Pat Dudley  
DEI Coordinator

# DIVERSITY DATELINE

| Holiday or Observance | Religious Group | Date         |
|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Cinco de Mayo         | Mexican Culture | May 5, 2025  |
| Vesak-Buddha Day      | Buddhist        | May 12, 2025 |
| Memorial Day          | United States   | May 26, 2025 |

- Cinco de Mayo commemorates the Mexican army's victory over French forces at the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862. It is a significant event in Mexican History, though it is not Mexico's Independence Day. Mexico's Independence Day is in September.
- Vesak-Buddha Day marks the birth, enlightenment, and death of the historical Buddha, Siddhartha Gautama, who was born 2,600 years ago. These 3 significant events in his life are all said to have happened on the same day, many years apart.
- Memorial Day is observed on the last Monday of May. It was once called Decoration Day and commemorates all men and women who gave their lives while serving in the United States Armed Forces.



| Holiday/Observance   | Date         |
|--|--------------|
| Asian American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander Heritage Month | Any day      |
| Teacher's Day  | May 6, 2025  |
| Mother's Day   | May 11, 2025 |
| National Apple Pie Day   | May 13, 2025 |
| Bring Someone Flowers Day                                      | May 15, 2025 |
| International Day for Biodiversity                             | May 22, 2025 |
| National Asparagus Day   | May 28, 2025 |
| National Hamburger Day   | May 28, 2025 |

# PUBLIC POLICY

The AAUW California Public Policy Committee works tirelessly on our behalf to advocate for equity and to support AAUW core principals. The following article is by Missy Maceyko and Amy Hom, co-chairs Public Policy Committee of AAUW CA.

## **Public Policy Committee Sets AAUW California 2025 Legislative Agenda**

The Public Policy Committee met over a weekend in mid-March for our most important meeting of the year, to set the Legislative Agenda for 2025. Prior to the meeting, our committee collectively evaluated over 60 bills related to AAUW's mission and Public Policy Priorities. During our two-day marathon session, we carefully considered each bill. We then voted to select and prioritize the top 25 bills, leaving room to add a few more bills that we know will be coming to us in the next few weeks.

Our three "A" priority bills are SB 771 "Social Media Platforms Endangering Californians", AB 579 "Yaeli's Law", and SB 418 "Ensure Equal Access to Care for All". All three of the "A" priority bills this year fall under the Social Justice pillar of our Public Policy Priorities.

The first "A" bill, SB 771 "Social Media Platforms Endangering Californians", is authored by Senator Henry Stern and is sponsored by AAUW California. SB 771 clarifies that a social media platform may be liable for civil penalty under existing law if and when its algorithms or AI aid or abet individual users who are engaging in already unlawful intimidation of others in online spaces. While hateful speech is problematic, it is not illegal. However, it can cross the line into illegal action. When hate speech is "brought to the doorstep" of marginalized communities, for example if someone maliciously posts anti-immigrant messages on the virtual Facebook wall of an immigrant family, they are engaging in unlawful intimidation, terrorism, and threat. While social media platforms are not responsible for the speech of individual users, aspects of their platform such as algorithms or AI can be complicit in the targeting of marginalized groups, which is unlawful. Social media companies have recently intentionally turned away from providing safeguards that they previously provided for targeted vulnerable communities. They should be held accountable for that decision, in light of the real-world impacts of proliferation of online hate and their complicity in unlawful intimidation.

The second "A" bill, to which we are taking an opposition position, is AB 579 "Yaeli's Law" authored by Assemblymember Leticia Castillo. This bill rests on the premise that denial of support for youth self-identity, including refusal to use a child's name and pronouns, or refusal to provide or allow their gender-affirming care, is not harmful and therefore should not be considered child abuse under the law, and, accordingly, not be allowed as a basis for custody or removal decisions. This is problematic. Research shows that transgender children are more likely to experience anxiety and depression and are at greater risk of substance abuse and homelessness when they live in households that do not accept their gender identity. We oppose this bill because every child deserves to be protected from emotional and physical abuse, including the right to be removed from a harmful household to a more healthy environment.

The third "A" bill is SB 418 "Ensure Equal Access to Care for All" authored by Senator Caroline Menjivar. This bill would prohibit a health plan or a health insurance provider from denying coverage or denying benefits to a person based upon their race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex - including sex characteristics such as intersex traits, pregnancy, and gender identity. Access to gender-affirming care is a fundamental aspect of health equity and human rights. SB 418 will protect against discrimination on the basis of sex, while also sending a powerful message of support to the LGBTQ+ community, affirming that their needs matter. Creating an environment where all individuals can express their identities without fear is foundational to a strong democracy.

To see the full 2025 Legislative Agenda, please go to the [Bill Tracking Report](#). This report is a living document that will be updated as the bills move through the legislative process, so you will always be able to see the latest status.

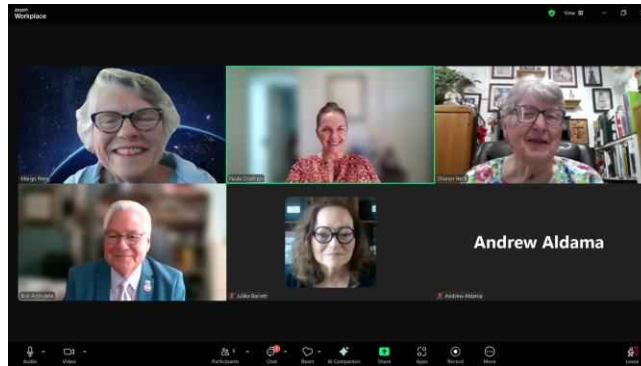
# PUBLIC POLICY

Members of Greater Whittier Area AAUW can participate in the following activities enabled by the AAUW California Public Policy committee.

## Lobby Day Interview with Senator Bob Archuleta

Senator Bob Archuleta met via ZOOM with representatives of GWA-AAUW on April 9, 2025. After our introductions, Paula Ocampo presented the AAUW arguments to support **SB 771 Stern** which strengthens laws dealing with Digital Hate Crimes, Harassment, and Intimidation. AAUW is a co-sponsor of this bill. Margo Reeg explained **SB 418 Menjivar** which prohibits health plans and health insurance in California from denying care to any patient based on sex or sexual orientation or gender identity. AAUW supports this bill. Sharon Heck then described **AB 579 Castillo** which AAUW opposes. This bill would declare in law that failure to acknowledge a child's gender identity by a parent can never be considered a form of child abuse or neglect and therefore could not be investigated by children's services.

After making our presentations we asked the Senator to vote with AAUW on each bill. He agreed with the AAUW analysis and said that he would support SB 771 and SB 418 and vote against AB 579.



Meeting Sr Archuleta on Zoom for Lobby Day

This was a very cordial meeting and we thank Senator Archuleta for his time and support for AAUW policy goals

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## School Board Project Monitors & Observers Training

**The School Board Project** is now entering a new phase in which we will be encouraging members to monitor and observe their local school boards to ensure they are complying with California law. To this end, AAUW California has entered a collaboration with the **Public School Defenders Hub**, an organization that provides resources and programs to parents, organizers, activists, and school board members to combat anti-public school extremists. The Defenders Hub will be presenting a **customized training for AAUW members on how to be an effective school board observer and monitor**. The training will update you on current California laws that address book banning, curriculum censorship, and discrimination against LGBTQ+ students; what to look for in determining compliance; and how to file a complaint when you observe non-compliance. We hope you will join us for this next phase of the School Board Project.

The training is scheduled for April 24, 2025 6:30-8:00pm. Register online at:  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_IH2E9ioXTEWVFJL-RLJ9Rg#/registration](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_IH2E9ioXTEWVFJL-RLJ9Rg#/registration)

# INTERNATIONAL CONCERNS

On Thursday, May 15, 2025 we will meet at the home of Sharon Heck, 6032 Comstock Ave., Whittier, CA 90601, 10 AM, to discuss Chapter 4, “India: Between China, the West, and the Global South” in our Great Decisions 2025 book. The discussion will be led by Belen Duarte-Sousa.

We will view the video for Chapter 5, “International Climate Cooperation in an Era of Geopolitical Turmoil” as it will be discussed on Thursday, June 19, 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, May 15, 2025, 10AM.

Sharon Heck  
s.heck4peace@gmail.com



## WRITING IS FUN

### CALLING ALL WRITERS OF PROSE, VERSE AND MEMOS

The Wednesday, May 28, meeting of Writing is Fun! (WIF!) will take place at the home of Carole Restovich, 10413 Portada Dr. (behind Whittwood Vons) at 11 AM. We write for fun, for preserving family history, and/or for catharsis. We are a welcoming and appreciative audience for whatever writing you wish to share. Any topic is acceptable, but if you need one to get started, perhaps “My Battle with Technology” might inspire you. Bring a sandwich or salad – Carole will provide drinks and dessert. All are invited.

## MODERN TRENDS IN LITERATURE

Modern Trends next meeting is Thursday May 8 at 6 PM (new earlier time).

Georgine Sweeney’s home  
16411 Pasada Dr. Whittier 90603.

Zoom will be available as well.

We will discuss: Homecoming by Kate Morton

In June we will discuss How to Say Babylon by Safiya Sinclair.

# MYSTERY MAVENS

Mystery Mavens will meet on Wednesday, May 21, 2025, 6PM at The Original Roadhouse Grill, 15156 Whittier Blvd., Whittier, CA 90603, near Whittwood. Our May 21 book will be *The Thursday Murder Club* by Richard Osman. It will be reviewed by Janice Geiger.

“In a peaceful retirement village, four unlikely friends meet weekly in the Jigsaw Room to discuss unsolved crimes; together they call themselves The Thursday Murder Club.

When a local developer is found dead with a mysterious photograph left next to the body, the friends suddenly find themselves in the middle of their first live case. They might be senior citizens, but they are cleverer than most. As the bodies begin to pile up, can our unorthodox but brilliant gang catch the killer, before it’s too late?”

Please let me know if you plan to attend. [s.heck4peace@gmail.com](mailto:s.heck4peace@gmail.com) We need to collect possible book titles for next year. Please limit your book selections to no more than two and send them to me with a brief description. The book should be a first in a series. We will vote on them at our May 21 meeting and choose five books.

Sharon Heck



## MORNING BOOK

Please join us for our next to last meeting for the year, Monday, June 2, at 10 AM. We will be discussing *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store*, by James McBride. Chicken Hill in Pottstown, Pennsylvania was the dilapidated neighborhood where immigrant Jews and African Americans lived side by side and shared ambitions and sorrows. Chicken Hill was where Moshe and Chona Ludlow lived when Moshe integrated his theater and where Chona ran the Heaven & Earth Grocery Store. When the state came looking for a deaf boy to institutionalize him, it was Chona and Nate Timblin, the Black janitor at Moshe’s theater and the unofficial leader of the Black community on Chicken Hill, who worked together to keep the boy safe. As these characters’ stories overlap and deepen, it becomes clear how much the people who live on the margins of white, Christian America struggle and what they must do to survive. When the truth is finally revealed about what happened on Chicken Hill and the part the town’s white establishment played in it, McBride shows us that even in dark times, it is love and community—heaven and earth—that sustain us.

Fay Weber will not only host the meeting but she will also lead our discussion. Mandy Knight will provide refreshments. Fay’s address is 2089 E. Skyline Dr.; La Habra Heights. Carpooling is advisable if possible. Phone numbers: 562-697-2101 (home); 562-631-5262 (cell). I will provide a Zoom connection the week prior for those of you that cannot be with us in person. Please let Fay and Mandy know whether you will be attending in person so they can plan accordingly.

Also, remember that the deadline for submission to me for books for next year is Friday, May 16. I need title, author, number of pages, and brief description. I will then compile a list for voting prior to the June 2 meeting.

I look forward to seeing you.  
Ann Topjon 562-665-1724

# LA CUISINE

## La Cuisine themed dinner

### AROUND THE WORLD IN 8 RECIPES

Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 5 PM  
(Please note the date change)

Fay and Jack Weber's home  
2089 E. Skyline Drive, La Habra Heights, 90631

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)



La Cuisine members, it's time to plan for next year. We need to decide on how many dinners to have, what themes we want, and who will host. Bring your ideas and cookbooks for possible recipes to our La Cuisine meeting:

Wednesday, June 11<sup>th</sup>  
1:00 PM  
Dolores Gonzalez-Hayes' house  
8722 Seranata Drive  
Whittier 90603  
(562) 237-4466

We already have some plans to get us started for a fun year:

- ❖ Saturday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, we plan to be at Dolores Gonzalez-Hayes' house for a potluck and barbeque.
- ❖ Debra Benveniste has agreed to set up a "Dine Out" event. She is exploring a picnic dinner at the Arboretum on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. The evening's entertainment is Classical
- ❖ Music Tour: A Tribute to the Beatles.
- ❖ Lunar New Year is Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>. We plan to revisit Silver Palace to celebrate.
- ❖ Fay Weber, Susan Sones, and Shirley Stewart plan to host in the spring.

Would you be willing to do a dinner another time? Perhaps you would be willing to team up with someone else.

Do you know someone who might like to become a member of La Cuisine? Please invite them to come to the planning meeting.

Join us on Wednesday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, to plan the next year for La Cuisine!

If you have any questions, please contact Dolores Gonzalez-Hayes, (562) 237-4466.

# 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.

When: Friday, May 2, from 6 PM to 8 PM.

Address: 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.

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

Dress for the occasion and you might even win a prize!

Respectfully submitted by  
Belen Duarte-Sousa



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

## Save This Fundraiser Date!

Black Angus Restaurant  
Thursday May 15, 2025  
3 PM – 9 PM



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 Scholarship fundraiser will be hosted by Black Angus Restaurant on Thursday, May 15. 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 5 PM-7 PM. 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!

# 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

Thursday, May 15, 2025  
3 PM - 9 PM

15500 Whittier Blvd.  
(562) 947-2200



## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

**Cindi Peterson** submitted a banner design for the Whittier Street Banner Program and hers was one of the 140 banner ideas selected to go on a Whittier lamp post. The original 5" x 14" designs selected will soon be on display in the lobby of City Hall and there will be a reception recognizing the artists at City Hall in June. The final large banners will soon be hanging on lamp posts along Whittier Blvd and Penn Street.

Coincidentally, AAUW member **Cherie Trapani** is working with the banner program to help transfer the 5" x 14" designs on to the large format banners.



The theme of the Whittier Museum Tea on Saturday, April 12 was The Wizard of Oz. Several of our members attended the event and enjoyed a delicious meal. **Cherie Trapani** designed and made her own prize-winning costume, as the green witch. She used two layers of black cotton, a solid covered in a lace. It had a long skirt, leg-of-mutton sleeves, and a peplumed jacket; and the front closing had 30 buttons. She only put green around her eyes and she had green nail polish. She wore a black wig and her witches' hat had a jaunty curve. She even made her broom walking stick and the monkey on her shoulder. Congratulations Cherie on receiving a cloth Museum bag and a gift card.

GWA members **Carole Restovich**, **Dolores Seidman**, and former member **Sally Schmidt** (along with **Joyce Paul** who is not pictured) met recently for lunch and an informal tour in Claremont. Carole drove us with Sally narrating points of interest in this charming town. Our visit to Claremont Heritage at the Garner House resulted in a short tour of that historic site. Full walking tours on Saturdays are available by contacting Claremont Heritage.

Joyce has continued as a dual member of GWA after moving to Rancho Cucamonga and serving as President of their OUR AAUW Branch (Ontario, Upland, Rancho). Sally has now joined that branch also. As a former docent of the Gamble House in Pasadena, she is knowledgeable about the history of that general area.

It was a joyful reunion of old friends with common interests.



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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## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Members of GWA-AAUW are involved in many community activities and support other community organizations. Working together we can be more effective in ways to support our community. We are pleased to share some of those happening in May and June.

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The Whittier Community Foundation was created in 2005 with a mission to support community services activities for the education and enjoyment of the greater Whittier community. One of their most popular fundraisers is **Dancing with the Whittier Stars 2025**, see the flyer on the next page. GWA also has two of our own participating this year and raising money for their charities.



When: May 16, at 4 PM and & 7 PM  
Where: Whittier Community Center Theatre, 7630 Washington Avenue  
Tickets: \$55

GWA AAUW Branch member **Kelly Collazo** is raising money for the Los Nietos Educational Foundation. Founded when Abraham Lincoln was President, the Los Nietos School District is the oldest school district in California and serves elementary and middle school students in Whittier and Sante Fe Springs. Donations to the event in Kelly's name will support enrichment clubs on each school campus, allow students to go to science camps and provide food and clothing assistance to students' families.

When purchasing tickets or making a donation, use code **Collazo** and select section K for tickets. Click on the link to purchase tickets or donate: <https://www.whittiercf.org/kelly/>

**Georgine Sweeney's** daughter-in-law, **Lauren Sweeney**, is also dancing and raising money to improve the parks in Whittier. Lauren says she would love to have you there to support this great cause! There are 12 dancers each paired with a professional ballroom dancer and the ticket includes dinner as well!

When purchasing tickets or making a donation, use code **SWEENEY** and select section L for tickets. Click on the link to purchase tickets or donate: <https://www.whittiercf.org/lauren/>

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Another great community event is the annual **Whittier Host Lions Club Sight Fair**.

During this event, attendees are provided FREE vision screening and FREE eyeglasses that have been collected, cleaned, recalibrated, and recycled to new users for further use.

When: Saturday, June 21, 8 AM to 1 PM  
Where: Sierra High School Gym, 9401 Painter Ave, Whittier, CA  
First come, first served, see the flyer on page 18.



WHITTIER  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION  
Today. Tomorrow. Together.

# MAY 16, 2025

4 p.m. & 7 p.m. Performances

\$55 PER PERSON | \$45 WCF MEMBER



**LAUREN SWEENEY**  
Rise Up For You



**MARY ANN PACHECO**  
City of Whittier



**DAVID GOMEZ**  
Boys & Girls Club  
of Whittier | Pico Rivera



**SANDRA ARANA**  
Whittier College



**NOLAN CARTER**  
Whittier Shakes  
Theater Co.



**SHAUNA STEELE**  
CAPC, Inc.



**TONY CARRASCO**  
Anaconda Street  
Productions



**HECTOR CRUZ**  
Azar Event Center



**DAVID WILLIAMSON**  
Whittier Historical  
Society & Museum



**KELLY COLLAZO**  
Los Nietos School District



**ANTOINETTE BANARES**  
Rose Hills Memorial Park &  
Mortuaries



**JESSE DURKIN**  
Think Together

Whittier Community Center Theatre | 7630 Washington Avenue  
FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT **WWW.WHITTIERCF.ORG**

Sponsorship Opportunities Available



**Whittier Host Lions Club**  
IS SPONSORING A

**FREE EYE EXAM**

*and*

**FREE RECYCLED EYEGLASSES**

All ages are welcome

*First come first served – come early!*

**SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 2025**

**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

**For questions, please contact:**

Steven Rosas, Sight Fair Committee - (323) 895-0408

whlsfsteverosas@gmail.com

SCREENING CONDUCTED BY



California Lions  
FRIENDS IN SIGHT

[www.californialionsfriendsinsight.org](http://www.californialionsfriendsinsight.org)

CONTRIBUTORS



## MAY 2025

### GREATER WHITTIER AREA CALENDAR

|                        |                    |             |   |
|------------------------|--------------------|-------------|---|
| First Friday           | May 2 (Friday)     | 6 - 8 PM    | Belen Duarte-Sousa's                            |
| Board Meeting          | May 6 (Tuesday)    | 7 PM        | Zoom  |
| Modern Trends          | May 8 (Thursday)   | 6:00 PM     | Georgine Sweeney's                              |
| Branch Meeting         | May 10 (Saturday)  | 9:30 AM     | First Friends Church Whittier                   |
| La Cuisine             | May 10 (Saturday)  | 5 PM        | Fay Weber's                                     |
| LACIC Meeting          | May 18 (Sunday)    | 2 - 4 PM    | First United Methodist Church<br>of San Gabriel |
| International Concerns | May 15 (Thursday)  | 10 AM       | Sharon Heck's                                   |
| Dining for \$\$\$\$    | May 15 (Thursday)  | 3 PM - 9 PM | Black Angus                                     |
| Mystery Mavens         | May 21 (Wednesday) | 6 PM        | The Original Roadhouse Grill                    |
| Writing is Fun         | May 28 (Wednesday) | 11 AM       | Carole Restovich's                              |
| Morning Book           | June 2 (Monday)    | 10 AM       | Fay Weber'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 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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