



# GREATER WHITTIER AREA BRANCH AAUW NEWSLETTER

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

**June  
2025**



## **BRANCH MEETING – June 14, 2025 9:30 AM – FIRST FRIENDS CHURCH WHITTIER**

### **Program**

For our last Program of the 2024-2025 year, we will shine the light on our Scholarship recipients. We have invited them and their families to join us at our branch meeting and share their stories. The scholarship program is one of the mainstays of our mission, and we always enjoy meeting the recipients in person. We will also have the installation of branch officers for the 2025-2026 year.

In our branch meeting on May 10th, we asked our members what they remembered as significant among the various programs we had this year. Each of the programs was mentioned, from the Tech Trek girls in September, to the artist, Lisa Ruiz, who spoke at the Whittier Art Gallery about Ida O’Keeffe in April. Few had heard of Ida O’Keeffe, and they were glad to know about her. They also appreciated a change in venue and felt invigorated by being in a new space.

Other members commented on the importance of Margo Reeg’s October presentation of the ballot measures, and some members took note that Dr. Ninochka McTaggart had set the right tone for the year in speaking about equity. In December, we heard from Diane Britton from the Women and Children’s Crisis Shelter and presented her with gift cards donated by individual members.

A majority of our members expressed appreciation for Pat Dudley’s DEI segments, which really encouraged us to talk with each other. Several members mentioned the need for personal stories to better understand how discrimination is sometimes subtle. The need for “listening” to one another came up a couple of times, too, and the desire to have more conversations with our fellow members was also requested. It is something we can strive for.

Mary Ann Pacheco had made an impact as well. At least two members believe she should be asked to come back. She not only clarified the need for financial literacy, but she also gave us a snapshot of some of the various areas of Whittier that need attention.

Emily Teipe, though, was the speaker mentioned most often. Her presentation of the 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire had left an imprint on many of us. She reminded us that repression of women was not all that long ago, and we still have obstacles to overcome today, but luckily, working in unsafe buildings is not one of them.

Your comments are invaluable, and as Program Director, I will use them as a guide in the upcoming year, so I thank you for them. For now, though, let’s move on to June, where we will welcome our new officers and celebrate our new scholarship awardees. I hope you will all be able to attend this delightful Branch meeting!

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

# HOSPITALITY

Our June branch meeting marks the end of the 2024-2025 GWA-AAUW Year. We will host our Scholarship recipients and have the installation of Branch Officers for 2025-2026. As usual, we will meet at the First Friends Church. Get an early start to your day and come to the meeting for coffee, camaraderie, and cultivation.

**Date:** Saturday, June 14, 2025

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

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



**Directions:** We will meet in the Fellowship Hall. The entrance is off the courtyard facing Washington Ave. Parking is off the alley in the rear. It can be accessed from the alley running between Washington and Friends, turning 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 need to know how many people are coming to plan for seating and refreshments. Send your RSVP to Paula Ocampo at [pocampo@aol.com](mailto:pocampo@aol.com) or phone/text to (562) 447-7483.

Be sure to wear your AAUW name badge.

Looking forward to the 2025-2026 year:

A big welcome and congratulations to our new Hospitality VP, Marian Locke.

She will chair the Hospitality Committee, so get ready to sign up and support her.

We will meet again in the fall, same place, same time, on September 13, 2025.

Paula Ocampo  
2024-2025 Hospitality VP  
cell (562) 447-7483  
[pocampo@aol.com](mailto:pocampo@aol.com)

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

STANDING TOGETHER FOR EQUITY AND ACTION has been the theme of our Greater Whittier Area AAUW Branch for this year. I want to thank so many of our Branch members for their faithful service. Our Board has been so reliable in doing their jobs, and attending our monthly Board meetings on Zoom at 7 PM, each first Tuesday. Many members attended each of our second Saturday Branch meetings at First Friends Church. Some of our members are no longer able to be as active in the Branch as they once were, but they continue to support us by paying their dues, which bolsters much of the work done by the entire AAUW organization. We definitely did stand together in so many ways this year, and for that, I thank you.

A special thank you goes to Claire Koehler and Pat Dudley for the program they presented at our May 10 Branch meeting. We had excellent discussions at our tables concerning program ideas, DEI ideas, and “Bright Ideas” for our Branch in the future. Honoring Pat Dudley as a Named Gift Honoree was great fun. Pat is so worthy of the acclaim. Carol Duff was unable to attend the meeting, but she will also be a Named Gift Honoree. See the article about them in this newsletter.

I attended on Zoom the AAUW California Annual Meeting, Saturday, April 26. I learned that our GWA AAUW Branch had the highest in California per capita giving to the AAUW Fund, thanks to the \$100,000 gifted by Gwen Woirhaye in her will. The meeting had excellent speakers, small group discussions, and question & answer sessions. One phrase I took away from a session on Volunteerism is as follows: “One Intrinsic Motivation all people share is the desire to Make a Difference.” I truly thank each and every volunteer in our Branch, and please know that you do make a difference. It has been a good year serving as your president.

Our June 14 Branch meeting at the First Friends Church will include the installation of officers for next year, and we will hear from our scholarship winners. Please make a reservation with Paula Ocampo and join us at 9:30 AM for a time to socialize, and 10:00 AM for the meeting. 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

Our branch continues to grow as we welcome new members. Look for communication via email this summer as Membership plans some informal get-togethers for those interested. We could plan things like reading a book and meeting for a group discussion, visiting a museum or arboretum, having lunch, even an old-fashioned game day/night of cards, cribbage, or backgammon. GWA is energized, follow our branch on the Facebook page and Instagram. We will be posting local events happening throughout the summer. Thank you all for your participation. The future looks bright for GWA.

Andrea Bellamy  
Membership VP



Scan the QR code to find  
Instagram or Facebook

## FINANCIAL CORNER

## Beat The Price Increase, Renew Before June 30

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 if it passes. It could be as much as \$10.00 more. 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 online 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. If they go up, they would be \$128.00 for Regular and \$54.00 for Paid Lifetime.

Kay Clark,  
Treasurer

# AAUW FUND

Each year, our Greater Whittier Area Branch of AAUW recognizes members who provide leadership and contribute to the success of the programs and goals of the branch. We're proud to announce our two outstanding AAUW Fund Named Gift Honorees for 2024-2025 are Carole Duff and Pat Dudley.

Thank You,  
Sheryl Crockey, AAUW Fund VP



Our AAUW Fund Named Gift Honoree, Carole Duff, is a graduate of California State University, Los Angeles, where she earned her BA degree. After graduation, Carole was hired by the Los Angeles Unified School District, where she was employed as an elementary teacher at Ford Boulevard Elementary School in East Los Angeles for 37 years beginning in 1972. She taught 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> grades until she retired in 2009. During this busy time of teaching, she married her husband, Mel, and they raised their sons, Chris and Ryan. Carole and Mel will be celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on June 28.

Greater Whittier Area-AAUW has been fortunate to enjoy Carole's loyal friendship since she joined in 2013. She has been an outstanding member who is willing to help in many ways by contributing her efforts toward the success of our branch. She has served as an appointed Coordinator for at least six years for Dining for Dollars, securing locations and organizing each event. She contacted various restaurants in our general area willing to donate a percentage of their profit to our Myra Long Scholarship Fund. She set the date, designed the flyer and coupons, wrote the information to include in the newsletter, made announcements at branch meetings, and sent thank-you notes. As a result, she raised a great deal of money to benefit scholarships for the Myra Long Fund.

Carole also sends Branch Newsletters to those who request copies by postal mail. She participates in branch activities by regularly attending monthly meetings, Morning Book section discussions, plus volunteering for the Math/Science Conference and Meet and Greet for potential new members.

Besides generously contributing her time and talents to AAUW, Carole has also volunteered with other community groups. She tutored for the Whittier Literacy Council in 2013 and 2014. She has been a member of YAGC (the Whittier Year Around Garden Club) since 2013, where she accepts various responsibilities. In all projects, it's a pleasure to work with Carole, who always treats everyone with kindness, concerned empathy, thoughtfulness, and consideration. She completes her tasks by being consistently conscientious, intelligent, dependable, and organized with attention to details that produce a successful outcome.

Thank you, Carole, and Congratulations on your well-deserved award.

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## AAUW FUND (cont.)

Our AAUW Fund Named Gift Honoree, Patricia Dudley, is a graduate of Western Michigan University, earning a BA as a History Major and Sociology Minor. She also completed her Michigan Secondary Credential.

After moving to California, Pat was hired by the El Monte City School District. She completed her California Multi-subject Teaching Credential and earned her MA from the University of Redlands. Pat taught 19 years and was an Administrator (Vice Principal, Principal, and District Office Administrator) for 21 years prior to retiring.

In California, Pat met Kenneth and they've been married 52 years, living in Whittier for most of those years.

After retiring, Pat's new passion became volunteering, which was her mom's when Pat was growing up. Pat joined AAUW in 2010. She was attracted by its focus on supporting women and girls with educational goals, scholarships, the Math-Science Conference, and Tech Trek for which she volunteers.

Pat is often involved in whatever tasks are needed, like serving on the 2025 nominating committee. Pat's intelligence, creativity, independent thinking, and organizational skills have benefited AAUW Reads DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion). She developed an educational program for our members to learn the dynamics of this area of study through awareness segments and activities such as book reading and discussions.

Ever since Pat has joined our branch, she has been a key contributing member who helps us thrive. Not only does she attend meetings regularly, but she has been a committed, supportive member of the Myra Long Scholarship Fund Committee as a Director.

Besides her dedication to AAUW, Pat has a fondness for other volunteer organizations such as PEO (Philanthropic Educational Organization), Delta Kappa Gamma (teacher group), and CalRTA (California Retired Teachers Association). Extremely dear to her heart has been one of her first volunteer organizations – The American Cancer Society Office, located inside PIH Health Hospital in Whittier. She was able to apply her expertise as an educator and facilitator for Writing Wellness Workshops, and American Cancer Society spokesperson, and in the infusion center and the wig bank, completing more than 2,951 volunteer hours at PIH.

It's no wonder that Pat has been recognized, respected, and admired for her willingness to give of herself in service to others. She was selected as the AAUW Fund Named Gift Honoree for 2013-2014, as well as the Las Distinguidas Award for 2023-2024.

The well-deserved awards now include the 2024-2025 AAUW Named Fund Gift Honoree.

Thank you, and Congratulations to Patricia Dudley!



# MYRA LONG SCHOLARSHIP FUND (MLSF)

## MLSF Announces the 2025 Scholarship Recipients

### HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The MLSF High School Scholarships are given out each year to two WUHSD schools on a 2-year rotating basis. This year was Whittier High School's second year and La Serna High School's first year. The Committee was so very delighted with our awardees and is anxious to introduce them at our June Branch Meeting. You won't want to miss meeting and chatting with the following girls.

**Julia Mosikian**, from La Serna High School, plans to attend CSUL and earn her BA and MA in Sports Psychology. Her counselor stated, "She has shown remarkable resilience and teamwork, continuously motivating those around her with her leadership and sportsmanship. In addition to managing a challenging academic and extracurricular schedule, Julia has shown maturity far beyond her years. She has overcome personal challenges with a positive attitude and has grown from each experience. Julia never gives up and has an incredible desire to make a difference in others' lives." Additionally, Julia has shown commitment through her involvement in Girl Scouts for over 12 years as well as her participation in numerous service-oriented clubs.

**Jacqueline Benitez**, from Whittier High School, will be attending UCLA in the Fall, where she has committed as a pre-Public Health major, after which she will continue to medical school and eventually become an OB/GYN. Volunteering after school in her former 4th-grade teacher's classroom, she demonstrated a love of learning and the level of commitment necessary to succeed in college and beyond. Jacqueline has served her high school through various clubs and activities, and her community by volunteering with PIH Health in the Ambassador's Center and the Labor & Deliveries department, serving 100 hours which has had a positive impact, very possibly influencing her career choice.

**Kalanie Dominguez**, from Whittier High School, will be attending Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. She states that 'grit' is both her talent and her skill, which has fueled her to take on challenges and stay the course to pursue long-term goals as a first-generation low-income Hispanic student. Kalanie has stayed active in various sports since elementary school, fueling her passion for health and enhancing her ability to multitask effectively and stay in control. Kalanie has served the community by participating in TAB (Teen Advisory Board) at the Whittier Library, working as a tutor for the Boys & Girls Club of Whittier, and serving as an academic mentor assisting high school students. Kalanie plans on a career in business.

**Abbie Maldonado**, from Whittier High School, will be attending Whittier College this Fall. Raised in Whittier by a single mother until five, she has witnessed the struggles and sacrifices of working hard to create a better life. Always passionate about sports, soccer has been a major part of Abbie's life. It has taught her invaluable lessons in teamwork and time management. When a health issue became evident, Abbie's research led to learning about how health affects the body and the state of mind. The experience shaped her passion for sports nutrition, and she plans to pursue a business degree, eventually an MA in nutrition. Her ultimate goal is to open her own sports nutrition business where she can help athletes fuel their bodies properly and maximize their performance.

# MYRA LONG SCHOLARSHIP FUND (MLSF)

## EARLYNE CLEMONS NURSING SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

**Peri Navarro** has worked as a Nursing Unit Clerk at PIH for seven years. She is attending West Coast University (WCU). “My goals are to finish nursing school with a BSN (Bachelor of Science in Nursing) and then continue my education to become a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner.” Peri is a single mother.

**Jahira Villaseñor** has been employed at PIH since 2016. Since 2022, she has worked under supervision in the emergency department, which she loves. Jahira has CNA (certified nursing assistant) and LVN certificates and is now studying at West Coast University to become a nurse and continue working in the emergency department.

**Jayda Steele** is the first in her family to attend college. She has been a CNA at PIH since 2022. Jayda holds an Associate’s Degree in Math and Science. She is using her passion for science and her desire to help others to become a nurse. This desire was instilled in her by her grandmother, who was a CNA before national certification was required.

## RIO HONDO SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

**Damaris Bucio Sanchez** is transferring to Cal State Humboldt to study kinesiology with her ultimate goal of becoming a doctor. She has logged 900 hours with the College Corps and is currently enrolled in Rio Hondo’s Kinesiology-Sports Medicine Program. Despite a number of challenges, which included a short period of homelessness, Damaris has persisted in her educational goals.

**Lesley Burgueno Beas** will attend Cal State Long Beach this fall to study to become a software engineer. She attended a Women in STEM conference while in junior high and has loved computer science ever since. Her one Rio Hondo physics teacher commented, “Lesley is especially impressive given that she is a parent who is managing a full STEM course load, as well.”

**Aundria Castro** has been accepted at four state colleges. She is a domestic abuse survivor and has a small child. At Rio Hondo, she has been active in Next Up, the Pathways to Law Program, and Rise Scholars. Her long-term goal is to pursue a career in law and eventually become a judge. She wants “to be a voice for youth and people who feel that they don’t have a voice.”

**Lorena Juarez** will be attending Nebraska Methodist College. An incident during COVID when she worked as a nurse’s aide convinced her that she wanted to become a registered nurse. She has been through numerous challenges including being a DACA student (she now has a Green Card), being abandoned by her father and working as a child in the fields in Sacramento during summers. “My academic journey proves my perseverance.”

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



## Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI)

At the May branch meeting members had an opportunity to participate in table discussions and writing activities providing ideas for the 2025-2026 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion activities. If you were unable to attend but would like to submit ideas, you can email your submission to [kpdudley2002@yahoo.com](mailto:kpdudley2002@yahoo.com).

Books were displayed for review for our GWA READS DEI sessions. They will be available at the June meeting as well. This year, the state board read the book *The Four Pivots* by Shawn A. Ginwright, PhD. The focus of the April 26 AAUW California Annual Event was on content from the book. All members are being encouraged to read this book in the coming year. You will hear more about this in September.

The GWA READS DEI selection will be *Me and White Supremacy* by Layla F. Saad. It is a guided journaling experience that can be found as a pdf workbook that parallels the book. Our GWA Reads sessions will provide an opportunity to discuss the concepts presented in each section, followed by group and/or independent writing.

**Something new for 2025-2026:** There are many excellent fiction books that have one or more diversity, equity, and inclusion themes embedded in the story. Some recent examples read by our book sections include: *James* by Percival Everett, *The Women* by Kristin Hannah, and *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride. Next year, one of our DEI branch meeting activities will be a panel and table discussions of DEI books centered around a DEI theme.

**Everyone can be involved in this event.** We are a branch of avid readers. One way to prepare for this branch activity is for the book sections to select at least one book with a DEI theme and present a summary of the book on the panel. Most book summaries online will list themes of a book to guide you in selecting an appropriate title. Book groups that have read the titles in this article could include those books for the panel presentation. All members can contribute to the table discussions from their personal reading. As you read, answer the questions: What role did (DEI theme) play in the narration? How did it impact the story, the characters? More information will be in the September newsletter, but start now as you select your summer reading choices.

Two books displayed at the meeting that might interest our book sections or as an individual reading selection: *The God of the Woods* by Liz Moore and *The Faith Club: A Muslim, A Christian, A Jew-- Three Women Search for Understanding* by Ranya Idliby, Suzanne Oliver, and Priscilla Warner. *The God of the Woods* provides insight into the haves and have-nots (privilege) in a town when a camper goes missing. *The Faith Club* is a true narration of three women: a Muslim, a Christian, and a Jew; searching for understanding, and provides a path for interfaith conversations. If you know of a book with a DEI theme, send titles to me to include in newsletters to give members choices of books to read.

Pat Dudley  
DEI Coordinator

# Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI)

AAUW California continues to stand strong in its commitment to DEI. They have released a *Statement on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion*, which is shown below and can also be accessed on the AAUW California website at <https://www.aauw-ca.org/>.



## Statement on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

AAUW California stands firm in its commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), [in line with the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Strategic Plan 2024-2027](#), and despite current political efforts to eliminate its mention and practice.

As such, we continue to support AAUW California branches in their DEI efforts and to encourage them to take action in the following ways:

- Explore and discuss the resources available through the [AAUW Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Toolkit](#).
- Adopt an [Equity Lens](#).
- Follow the [JABEID Checklist](#) when planning programs.
- Take one or more of the AAUW California Public Policy Team's [Actions to Fight Project 2025!](#)
- Participate in AAUW DEI Peer Group Meetings. (See the calendar on the AAUW CA website.)
- Reflect on the following questions, inspired by Dr. Shawn A. Ginwright's [The Four Pivots](#), individually and as a branch:
  - What biases have I (or we) observed in AAUW or in other organizations to which I (or we) belong?
  - How have I (or we) contributed to these biases and perpetuated them?
  - How can I (or we) heal from these biases and their impact?
  - How can my (or our) healing help others in AAUW and in our communities not experience or perpetuate these same biases?

# DIVERSITY DATELINE

Holiday or Observance	Religious Group	Date
Shavuot	Jewish	June 1(evening) - June 3 (evening)
Day of Arafah	Muslim	June 5 (evening) - June 6
Eid al-Adha	Muslim	June 6 (evening) - June 7(evening)
Juneteenth		June 19
Islamic New Year	Muslim	June 26 (evening) - June 27

- Shavuot celebrates harvest of the first fruits and commemorates the giving of the Torah and Commandments at Mount Sinai.
- Day of Arafah is the ninth day of the Islamic lunar month. This is one of the most important days in the Islamic calendar. It is the day that Allah perfected His religion, completed His favors upon His beloved Prophet Muhammad, and approved Islam as a way of life.
- Eid al-Adha is an important festival in the Islamic calendar. The festival remembers the prophet Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son when God ordered him to.
- Juneteenth combines the words June and nineteenth. It is a day commemorating June 19, 1865, when Union General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, to announce that the enslaved people there were freed by executive decree. This day is also known as Freedom Day or Emancipation Day.
- Islamic New Year is determined by the lunar calendar. It does not always occur on the same date of the Gregorian calendar, but will vary each year.

Holiday/Observance	Date
Pride Month	Any
National Cancer Survivors Day	First Sunday
National Higher Education Day	June 6
D Day	June 6
National Chocolate Ice Cream Day	June 7
National Donald Duck Day	June 9
Flag Day	June 14
Father's Day	June 15
World Refugee Day	June 20
Summer Solstice	June 20
Helen Keller Day	June 27



# PUBLIC POLICY

## AAUW Public Policy Principles 2025-2027

Adopted May 2025

### AAUW's Public Policy Principles

*AAUW's mission to advance gender equity through research, education, and advocacy is grounded in these bold principles:*

**AAUW opposes all forms of discrimination** on the basis of age, disability, race, ethnicity, sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, geographical location, national origin, religious beliefs, pregnancy or parental status, or socioeconomic status, and supports constitutional protection for the civil rights of all individuals.

### We Stand for Education

#### **Higher Education:**

Support affordable, inclusive higher education that yields high-quality credentials or degrees; reduce barriers to completion; and address the student debt burden, especially for women and borrowers of color.

- **Public Education:**

Invest in strong public K–12 systems and oppose the use of public funds for nonpublic schools.

- **Inclusive Curriculum:**

Ensure curricula are accurate, science-based, and free from censorship or bias.

- **STEM Opportunities:**

Close the gender gap in STEM and expand access to vocational and technical training.

- **Strengthened Civil Rights Protections:**

Support safe, harassment-free learning environments by strengthening and enforcing protections to prohibit discrimination based on sex, race, and disability.

### We Stand for Economic Security

- **Pay Equity:**

Ensure equal pay for work of equal value through salary transparency, fair wage laws, and anti-discrimination enforcement.

- **Support for Caregivers:**

Expand access to paid sick and family leave, and affordable child and elder care.

- **Retirement Security:**

Protect and strengthen Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid.

- **Reproductive Freedom:**

Ensure access to contraception and abortion care.

### We Stand for Social Justice and Civil Rights

- **Constitutional Rights:**

Vigorously enforce civil rights, including recognition and publication of the Equal Rights Amendment, and improve disaggregated data collection.

- **Expanding Voting Rights:**

Promote equitable political participation and ensure all Americans have full access and the right to vote.

- **Freedom from Harassment and Violence:**

Guarantee legal protections from harassment and gender-based violence, and support efforts to combat human trafficking and reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act.

- **International & Civil Rights:**

Support U.S. advancement toward gender equity in education and the economy through the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and ratification of CEDAW.

Go to <https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/aauw-public-policy-priorities> for more details.

# INTERNATIONAL CONCERNS

On Thursday, June 19, 2025, we will meet at the home of Sharon Heck, 6032 Comstock Ave., Whittier, CA 90601, 10 AM, to discuss Chapter 5, “International Climate Cooperation in an Era of Geopolitical Turmoil” in our *Great Decisions 2025* book. The discussion will be led by Mary Falvey.

We will view the video for Chapter 6, “The Future of NATO and European Security,” as it will be discussed on Thursday, September 18, 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, June 19, 2025, 10 AM.

Sharon Heck  
s.heck4peace@gmail.com



# MODERN TRENDS IN LITERATURE

Modern Trends will meet on Thursday, June 12<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM at Georgine Sweeney's house.  
Address: 16411 Pasada Dr. Whittier, CA 90603 (Near Whittwood)  
Phone Number: (562) 631-6698  
Zoom is also available. The link will be shared two days prior to the meeting.

On June 12th, we will be discussing *How to Say Babylon* by Safiya Sinclair. It is a memoir about Safiya who was brought up in a Rastafarian family dominated by an extremely controlling father. He wanted to control his daughters so they would not be corrupted by Western Values. 95% of people polled said they liked the book.

We will also be choosing books for next year. Bring a book or two you recommend and be prepared to share a little about them!

Thank you!  
Georgine

# MYSTERY MAVENS

Mystery Mavens will not meet in June. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 17, 2025, 6 PM at The Original Roadhouse Grill, 15156 Whittier Blvd., Whittier, CA 90603, near Whittwood. Our books for the 2025-2026 year are listed below, as they were chosen by our members at our May 21, 2025, meeting. All are welcome to join us on September 17, 2025.

## Books for 2025-2026

September 17, 2025	<u><i>The Last Dance</i></u> by Mark Billingham
November 19, 2025	<u><i>The Word is Murder</i></u> by Anthony Horowitz
January 21, 2026	<u><i>The Woman in Cabin 10</i></u> by Ruth Ware
March 18, 2026	<u><i>Jane and the Unpleasantness at Scargrave Manor</i></u> by Stephanie Barron
May 20, 2026	<u><i>The Housemaid</i></u> by Freida McFadden

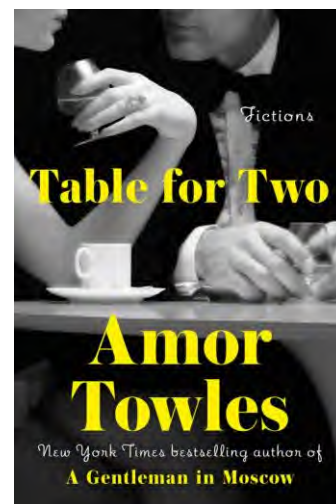
Sharon Heck

# MORNING BOOK

Join us for our last meeting of the 2024-2025 year and read *Table for Two*, by Amor Towles. We are gathering on Monday, July 28, at 10 AM, the place is To Be Determined. Marian Locke and Carol Anderson will lead our discussion. It is described as “six stories based in New York City and a novella set in Golden Age Hollywood”. The New York stories, most of which take place around the year 2000, consider the fateful consequences that can spring from brief encounters and the delicate mechanics of compromise that operate at the heart of modern marriages. Told from seven points of view, “Eve in Hollywood” describes how one of Towles’s most beloved characters, the indomitable Evelyn Ross from *Rules of Civility*, crafts a new future for herself—and others—in a noirish tale that takes us through the movie sets, bungalows, and dive bars of 1930s Los Angeles. Written with his signature wit, humor, and sophistication, *Table for Two* is another glittering addition to Towles’s canon of stylish and transporting fiction.”

Hope you can join us!

Ann Topjon 562-665-1724



## LA CUISINE

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 28th, 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 23rd. The evening's entertainment is Classical Music Tour: A Tribute to the Beatles.
- ❖ Lunar New Year is Tuesday, February 17th. 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 11th, to plan the next year for La Cuisine!

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

## WRITING IS FUN

The Wednesday, June 25, meeting of Writing is Fun! (WIF!) takes place at the home of Carole Restovich at 11 AM. Bring a sandwich or salad, and Carole will provide drinks and dessert. We write for fun, for family history's sake, for catharsis, and for improving skills. You may write on any subject you like, but if you would like a possible topic, you might try writing about "My Happy Place." This is a place that provides a feeling of comfort. It might be a geographical location, a memory, a hobby, or a movie. Everyone is invited. Carole's address is 10413 Portada behind Whittwood Shopping Center. Phone: 562-787-0727.

Carole Restovich

# FIRST FRIDAY

COME AND JOIN OUR AAUW MEMBERS FOR A FUN EVENING CONVERSING WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILIES.

DATE: June 6<sup>TH</sup>  
TIME: 6:00 to 8:00 PM  
HOSTESS: Ann Topjon  
WHERE: 5654 Palm Avenue  
Whittier, CA  
PHONE: (562) 665-1724

Remember to bring something sweet or savory and a beverage of your choice to share with others!

Looking forward to seeing all of you for a relaxing evening at Ann's lovely home.

I will also be inviting members to be hostesses for next year. So far, September 2025, May 2026, and June 2026 are spoken for. Please let me know either in person or by text: (562) 884-1440

Respectfully submitted  
Belen Duarte-Sousa



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



Mark your calendars!

Jack's Whittier, Thursday, June 19, 2025, is our next Dining for \$\$\$\$\$. Bob will donate 20% of each bill to the Myra Long Scholarship Fund. Jack's is a Whittier favorite and old school diner serving hearty American classics for breakfast, lunch, and dinner since 1933. Open from 6 AM to midnight. Located at 13221 Whittier Blvd at the corner of Washington Ave. A flyer can be found in this newsletter. It's important to make sure the server knows to staple your flyer to the bill. Mini flyers will be available at the branch meeting and will also be emailed to you along with a reminder shortly before the event. Please share with your family and friends and support the Myra Long Scholarship Fund.



**Jack's Whittier Restaurant  
is proud to support**

**Greater Whittier Area AAUW  
Myra Long Scholarship Fund**

## **Dining for \$\$\$\$ Event**

**Thursday, June 19, 2025  
6 AM - 12 AM (Midnight)**

**Jack's Whittier Restaurant  
13221 Whittier Blvd.  
Whittier, CA 90602  
(562) 947- 4043**

Present this flyer to your server and 20% of your food and non-alcoholic beverage purchase will be donated to the Myra Long Scholarship Fund.

Please No soliciting on premises



## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



**Kelly Collazo** won the **Dancers' Choice Award** at the *11<sup>th</sup> Dancing with the Whittier Stars*. All dancers and judges who have participated over the years had a vote. In announcing the award, MC Chris Hardeman said, "Dozens and dozens of past dancers voted overwhelmingly for one of these dancers this year...Kelly Collazo!"

Congratulations Kelly!

In April, **Cindy and Dorwin Birt** drove to Williams, Arizona, where they spent the night before taking the Grand Canyon Train to the south rim of the Grand Canyon. They were there for two sunny days and cool clear nights. The return train trip to Williams was uneventful except when robbers came on the train and demanded money. That was all pretend, of course.

Williams, Arizona, is located on historic Route 66. It was interesting walking around the town and seeing all the Route 66 nostalgia.

After such nice weather, they were surprised at the somewhat heavy snowfall they experienced as they started the drive back home. They saw three vehicles that had apparently lost control and ended up off Interstate 40. Two of the vehicles had rolled and were on their side or top.



A 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 20.

This is the last edition of the newsletter for the 2024-2025 year. The next issue will be after the summer break. **Send me your news about vacation and travel activities by August 15** so I can include them in the September newsletter.

Paula Ocampo, Newsletter Editor

[pocampo@aol.com](mailto:pocampo@aol.com)

(562) 447-7483



**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



CONTRIBUTORS



## JUNE 2025

### GREATER WHITTIER AREA CALENDAR

Morning Book	June 2 (Monday)	10 AM	Fay Weber's
Board Meeting	June 3 (Tuesday)	6 PM	First Friends Church Whittier
First Friday	June 6 (Friday)	6 - 8 PM	Ann Topjon's
Modern Trends	June 12 (Thursday)	6:00 PM	Georgine Sweeney's
Branch Meeting	June 14 (Saturday)	9:30 AM	First Friends Church Whittier
La Cuisine	June 11 (Wednesday)	1:00 PM	Dolores Gonzalez-Haye's
International Concerns	June 19 (Thursday)	10 AM	Sharon Heck's
Dining for \$\$\$\$	June 19 (Thursday)	6 AM – 12AM	Jack's Restaurant
Writing is Fun	June 25 (Wednesday)	11 AM	Carole Restovich's
Morning Book	July 28 (Monday)	10 AM	To be determined

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)

Greater Whittier Area -  
 American Association of University Women  
 PO Box 5333  
 Whittier, CA 90607