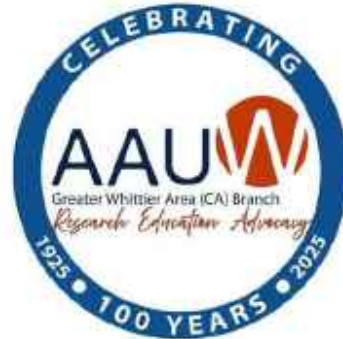




GREATER WHITTIER AREA BRANCH AAUW NEWSLETTER

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

**September
2025**



BRANCH MEETING – September 13, 2025 9:30 AM – FIRST FRIENDS CHURCH WHITTIER

What an important year for GWA-AAUW! On September 25, 2025, we will commemorate 100 years as an AAUW branch. With a kick-off at the September 13 Branch meeting, we have more events and activities planned, leading up to a special celebration at our April 2026 meeting.

Program – Kicking Off a 100 Year Celebration

Have we got plans? We do, indeed! Are we starting the year off with a bang? I'd say it's more like a kick as we catch that equity and inclusion football and race toward the goalposts for a whopping touchdown of ideas and enthusiasm for our mission to empower women and girls. Are we striving for gender equity? You know it, and our programs this year will certainly reflect that. We want to engage our members, be a touchstone for growth in our community, and give our all to promote AAUW's mission.

With that in mind, let's get down to the first in ten of our Branch meetings for the year 2025-2026. On 9/13, the second Saturday of the month, we will begin our year with Table Talks as Pat Dudley throws out the first pass for members to catch and discuss the curious topic of Names. This will, no doubt, prove quite interesting as we discover how a name can move us forward in our personal lives and our careers, and what we can do if it causes us to fumble. Don't be surprised if before we begin this discussion, we scramble the team members for maximum engagement!

The second pass will be cast by Ann Topjon, introducing us to our Section leaders who will explain the wonderful world of AAUW's extra-curricular reading, writing, and public policy matters, all those things that allow us to run for goals that are either set for us or that we set for ourselves. It must be the reason our sections are so popular!

Finally, for those of you who have wondered how to move from the B Team to the A Team with finer tech chops than ever before, Rebecca Ramirez will be giving a short tutorial on how to join Facebook, where you will find friends and loved ones already in the game and ready to welcome you to the team! So-are you ready? Let's GO!

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

HOSPITALITY



Kicking Off our One-Hundredth Year! 1925-2025

Touchdown – Greater Whittier Area Branch AAUW

AAUW Whittier turns 100- not as a monument to the past, but as a megaphone for what still matters.

Date: Saturday, September 13, 2025

Time: 9:30 AM Quiche Brunch, football theme and décor
10 AM Meeting Begins

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

Directions: The entrance is off the courtyard facing Washington Ave. Parking is off the alley in the rear. Turn north from Philadelphia to the alley.

Cost: \$10/person

RSVP by **Sept. 10th** for correct food and seating to our Treasurer
Kay Clark, kayclark310@gmail.com (310)-890-6510

Don't forget your AAUW badge! And in the football spirit of the day, wear your college logo shirt. Or make a sign to wear! Let's cheer our first 100-year meeting! Go team!

Marian Locke
Hospitality VP

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Welcome to the new year for our Greater Whittier Area AAUW Branch. I am honored to begin my presidency during our GWA-AAUW 100th Anniversary Year. Our branch charter was approved on September 25, 1925, and we will be celebrating our history and our AAUW mission during the coming 2025-2026 year. Our theme for FY26 is:

Theme: Moving Forward Together: Advancing in Equity and Inclusion

During the summer, on August 7, the GWA-AAUW Board members attended a Board Retreat to plan for the year ahead. The retreat, our annual in-person meeting, is our opportunity to review branch performance and strategic direction, including governance, programs, fundraising, and finances. The FY26 Budget was reviewed for recommendation to the membership for approval at our September 13 branch meeting.

The board agreed on some areas of focus to guide our programs and activities in FY26.

- 100th Anniversary Committee, chaired by Marian Locke, with Pauline Rogers, Barbara Gile, Claire Koehler, Ann Topjon, and Jill Smith. Rebecca Ramirez will act as a resource.
- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) – Support a feeling of belonging and purpose for all members. (see Pat Dudley's article on page 9)
- AAW Five-Star Program - designed to help branches align with AAUW's strategic priorities and *advance our mission* of achieving gender equity for women and girls. GWA-AAW received 3 stars in FY24; we await results for FY25, and we may have earned more this past year.
- Community Outreach – participate and co-sponsor community events, such as Whittier Founders Day, Whittier Library, and Whittier College

Our meetings will again be held at First Friends Church Whittier, which proved to be a welcoming venue last year. In addition to a more affordable menu, feedback from the membership was positive. Join us on Saturday, September 13, to kick off our 100th Year, participate in table-talks, and learn about our interest group Sections. It will be an opportunity to interact and get to know each other. Be sure to say hello to our newest members and a big shout-out to Andrea Bellamy, Membership VP, who added 29 new members last year.

Check out the Program and Hospitality sections for details on the branch meeting.

A big Thank You to Susan Halliday for creating our Yearbook for 2025-2026. The book contains a roster with contact information of all members, as well as other helpful information. Copies will be available at our September 13 meeting, and Susan will be announcing plans for "porch pickup". You can request a mailed copy for \$2.00, or request a digital copy from Susan, at sbathalliday@yahoo.com. Thank you again, Susan and your proofreaders, Dolores Seidman, Kaye Kidwell, and Kay Clark.

With all of our efforts and activities, 2025-2026 will be a wonderful year for our GWA-AAUW Branch! Paula Ocampo, Branch President

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

Los Angeles County Interbranch Council (LACIC)

AAUW LACIC invites you all to a special program on Artificial Intelligence (AI) which will include areas including education and health. Share this invite, all are welcome to this informational Zoom meeting, co-sponsored by LACIC and United Nations Association.

LACIC SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

SEPT. 14, 2025 2-4 PM, VIA ZOOM

LACIC and the United Nations Association, SFV, are co-sponsoring our September program and welcoming Dr. Marina Badillo-Diaz, an experienced former school administrator and counseling director with a history of working in community mental health and education as a social worker. She founded a consulting service where she conducts training for educators and social workers to ethically and responsibly integrate artificial intelligence (AI) into their practice. The author of "The AI Social Worker," a widely recognized blog that serves as a guide for social workers, she also maintains adjunct professor status at NYU, Columbia, Hunter College and Louisiana State University

Dr. Badillo-Diaz will explore the current state and future of generative AI and its impact on education, health, and mental health. She will present us with a clear understanding of how generative AI works, examine current trends, and provide live demonstrations of AI tools that can enhance education and support health and mental health interventions. Her presentation will address benefits and concerns, including ethical considerations, equity, and responsible use. Participants will leave with continued learning resources and a deeper understanding of how AI is shaping our world and future.

Both AAUW and the UNA believe that education holds the key for women and girls throughout the world achieving equity. Our AAUW strategic plan speaks to this goal and "Ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all," is Goal #4 of the Sustainable Development Goals.



Be sure to Join Us! All are welcome!

Ginny Hatfield, LACIC Steering Committee

September 14th, 2025

2:00 pm to 4:00 pm, Via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82593469762?pwd=aSlhZka4RlIww4BOa6quqzZmyfFYXq.1>

Meeting ID: 825 9346 9762

Passcode: 103112

MEMBERSHIP

The Greater Whittier Area AAUW Branch is about to celebrate our milestone 100th year! As Membership Committee Chair, this is **The Year of Growth**. I am inviting each of you throughout the year to help us continue the work of AAUW by inviting your friends, family members and casual acquaintances, such as women in yoga class, book club, or other groups you attend, to join us. Invite a guest to a book club meeting, First Friday or a branch meeting. The committee is happy to contact any leads you may have. In the last year or so we have gotten 29 new members!!!

We will be hosting a Meet and Greet in March 2026. The date and time have not been set, but begin thinking of who you might invite. Several new members have joined us as a result of our past Meet and Greets. We had a wonderful event this year.

We have been contacting members who have not paid their dues for the coming year. Dues are now \$128, which includes your membership in the California, branch and national AAUW organizations. You can pay your dues on the national website, AAUW.org, or send to: Kay Clark, 11915 Inez St., #8, Whittier, CA 90605. Checks should be made out to GWA AAUW. We hope all of you will continue your support of AAUW and remain a member of our Branch - GWA AAUW. Lastly, I will be ordering new and replacement name tags. The cost is \$10 each. I will need payment in advance either cash or check made out to GWA-AAUW. I will pass out a sign-up list at the next branch meeting.

Andrea Bellamy
Membership VP



Notes from Pauline

Please join me in sending a big thank you to Maura Greeley, who has served as Corresponding Secretary for many years, sending cards and notes on behalf of us all. Also, a warm welcome to Pauline Rogers, who is our new Corresponding Secretary, see below - Paula Ocampo, President



Many of you already sent your birthdate information to Susan Halliday for the Yearbook. I plan on using those dates to send birthday cards. If you haven't done so, please send your birthdate to Susan at sbathalliday@yahoo.com. The year will remain confidential and will be used only for demographics.

Please send your information regarding condolences or illnesses to me, Pauline Rogers, at pmrbutterfly33@gmail.com. Let me know if it is private or if it can be shared in the newsletter.

Pauline Rogers
Corresponding Secretary

AAUW FUND

How we Support AAUW's Mission

Hello everyone! Welcome to the new AAUW 2025-2026 year.

Since it's time to begin thinking about supporting the AAUW Fund, I've included the information about the various funds* to help you with your decisions about where to direct your donations.



Thank you to our 17 members who have already donated a total of \$1,274.00 from 1/9/2025 through 6/30/2025. The deadline for contributions is December 31, 2025, to be tax-deductible.

Your donations provide funding to support the AAUW 2025 Fund Fellow and grant recipients with their topic of study or project. Your AAUW Fund donations will also count toward our ability to select a Named Gift Honoree for our Whittier Branch in 2026, who will be recognized for her leadership.

Sheryl Crockey, AAUW Fund VP

*Contributions to AAUW are fully tax-deductible and can be made online at www.aaauw.org. You can also send your check payable to AAUW to the address below, and make note of the fund you wish to specify.

P.O. Box 98045
Washington, DC 20090-8045

800.326.2289 | connect@aauw.org
www.aauw.org



SCAN TO
DONATE TODAY!

About AAUW's Greatest Needs

We are tenacious and trailblazing - advocating for women and girls since 1881 and into the future!



The Impact of Your Support

AAUW benefits from diversified revenue sources which include contributions, a generously supported endowment, and dues revenue. However - **dues revenue does not cover the full cost of supporting our membership** - over 10,000 of our members (and growing) are Honorary Lifetime members (non-dues paying). Our endowed Fellowships and Grants funding will sustain these restricted programs in perpetuity - however **only 5% of our Net Assets are unrestricted.**

Supporting the sustainability and effective operations of the National organization directly benefits our Members, Fellowships and Grants Alumnae, Advocates and the communities we serve.

Our Focus



Advocacy

Our members, supporters and staff work on local, state and federal levels to support laws and policies that enable women's success.



Education

We champion equal opportunities in education. Though more than 60% of college graduates are women, they face barriers and biases throughout their schooling.



Economic Security

We've been working to narrow the gender pay gap, which greets women as soon as they enter the workforce and widens throughout their working lives.

How are donations to Greatest Needs Used?

Research & Policy

Updates to and dissemination of our widely-cited signature research reports: and advocating for AAUW's values - our Research and Policy budgets are supported almost entirely by Greatest Needs

Programs

Staff time and other direct expenses for NCCWSL, Salary Negotiation, Financial Literacy and Leadership Programs

Membership

Supporting our members with resources and opportunities to engage. Dues do not cover the full cost of our membership support

Communications

Keeping AAUW at the forefront of a National dialogue about Women's Equity, growing our media exposure and maintaining our prominent seat at the table



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www.aauw.org/give

MYRA LONG SCHOLARSHIP FUND (MLSF)

MLSF committee meetings are held Quarterly. This year, the meetings will be on Zoom on the following **Wednesdays at 8:30 AM: October 8, 2025, January 14, 2026, April 8, 2026, and July 8, 2026.**

All AAUW members who are dedicated to keeping educational programs and scholarships for girls and young women in the Greater Whittier Area are welcome. Communicate your intentions to Barbara Gile, Chairperson (909) 3774-2771. OK to leave a voice mail.

This next year, the committee has a budget of \$91,050. The budgeted expenses for the following programs are:

Math /Science Conference	\$ 5,000
Scholarship	\$ 75,000
Tech Trek	\$ <u>8,400</u>
	\$ 88,400

The committee has designated \$400 for the Tech Trek Staff dinner that was previously covered by the GWA-AAUW members. In March 2026, we will have the non-event fundraiser in honor of Myra Long's birthday, March 21, 1916.

Los Nietos Middle School nominated 10 girls who were eligible for Tech Trek in 2025; a report will be issued soon. In 2026, we plan to pay for six girls from two different schools to attend Tech Trek.

Last year \$60,000 was granted for scholarships. As of today, six awards totaling \$29,000 were issued. Five awards totaling \$31,000 have not been issued. They are:

\$3,000 for one Earlyne Clemons Nursing Scholarship
\$5,000 for one High School Scholarship
\$23,00 for three Rio Hondo Scholarships

The MLSF Committee is dedicated to the distribution of merit-earned funds to young women and girls of the Greater Whittier area.

MLSF Committee:

Barbara Gile, Chairperson (909) 374-2771

Kaye Kidwell, Treasurer

Carole Restovich, Secretary

Ann Chambers, Director

Patricia Dudley, Director

Dolores Gonzalez-Hayes, Director

Susan Halliday, Director

Sharon Heck, Director



Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI)

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.

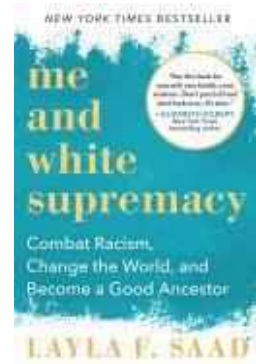
The Greater Whittier Area Branch of AAUW will continue to support AAUW's DEI efforts and encourage our members to participate in DEI branch activities.

Branch meetings: Table talks, speakers, and resources at branch meetings.

Community outreach: Sponsor a Women's History Month Reels Club documentary at the Whittier Public Library.

Cultural outing/dining experience: Will be announced when plans are finalized.

Greater Whittier Area READS DEI: The book selected for this year is *Me and White Supremacy* by Layla F. Saad. It includes self-reflective journaling prompts along with discussion topics on racial issues in society. Fourteen members have indicated they are interested in reading the book and attending discussion sessions.



If you are interested and have not told me you wish to be included, please contact me (kpdudley2002@yahoo.com) or sign up at the September branch meeting. Those who have already signed up received an email in late August with start-up information.

Discussion sessions will start in October.

Pat Dudley
DEI Coordinator

PUBLIC POLICY

California's Gerrymander Plan

In retaliation for the **Texas** legislature's plan to redraw Congressional Districts to create 5 additional Republican districts, Governor Newsom and the CA Democratic party have drawn up new mid-term maps that create 5 new Democratic Congressional seats.

By August 22, the California Assembly and Senate must pass 3 bills. **ACA 8** is the Constitutional Amendment that would allow new, temporary congressional district maps to be adopted. The setting aside of the CA Independent Citizen Redistricting process, which is nonpartisan, will extend through 2030. In 2031, the new maps will be drawn by a new commission selected and governed by the rules set forth in the CCRC law. The amendment will only be voted on by the public if Texas or another state adopts new maps creating more Republican Congressional seats.

The second measure is **SB 280**, which calls for a statewide Special Election on **November 4, 2025**, to place the Redistricting maps and ACA 8 before the public. This is required because the California Independent Redistricting Act of 2010, a constitutional amendment, states that redistricting be done once a decade after the decennial census and can only be changed by a vote of the people.

Third, the maps drawn up by a committee of Democrats, contained in **bill AB 604**, must be approved by both houses. At present, Republicans are against the whole process. The goal is to create 5 more Democratic districts.

Some of the newly created Congressional District boundaries will affect Whittier, the San Gabriel Valley, and Long Beach. **District 38**, held by Rep. Linda Sanchez, currently includes Whittier. Whittier would be removed and placed into a district with Bell Gardens, Downey, Pico Rivera, and other communities along the 605. Yorba Linda would be added to District 38.

In addition, **CD 28**, held by Rep. Judy Chu, will lose Claremont and gain communities along the north 605, which had been carved out in 2021.

Another big change would affect **CD 42**, held by Robert Garcia of the Long Beach area. Huntington Beach, Newport Beach, and Costa Mesa would be added, while some of the cities just north of Long Beach would be put with Whittier.

If the Legislature passes all 3 bills, counties will have to prepare for the Special Election on November 4. However, IF Texas or other Republican states fail to adopt their mid-term maps, then the election will be called off.

Stay tuned!!

Margo Reeg
Public Policy Chair

INTERNATIONAL CONCERNS

On Thursday, September 18, 2025 we will meet at the home of Sharon Heck, 6032 Comstock Ave., Whittier, CA 90601, 10AM, to discuss Chapter 6, “The Future of NATO and European Security” in our Great Decisions 2025 book. The discussion will be led by Sylvia Graber-Pastrone.

We will view the video for Chapter 7, “AI and American National Security”, as it will be discussed on Thursday, October 16, 2025, with the discussion led by Paula Ocampo.

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, September 18, 2025, at 10 AM.

Sharon Heck
s.heck4peace@gmail.com



MYSTERY MAVENS

Mystery Mavens will meet on Wednesday, September 17, 2025, 6 PM at The Original Roadhouse Grill, 15156 Whittier Blvd., Whittier, CA 90603, near Whittwood. Our September 17 book will be The Last Dance by Mark Billingham. It will be reviewed by Sharon Heck.

“Maverick sleuth Declan Miller is back at work following the murder of his wife (and amateur ballroom dancing partner), Alex. Working with a new partner and heavy metal enthusiast DS Sara Xiu, he is tasked with investigating the double killing of gangland family scion Adrian Cutler and IT consultant Barry Shepherd at the Sands Hotel. Initial evidence suggests a hired gun and a botched job. The search for the hitman begins and Miller begins to reconnect with his old network—his ballroom dancing friends, homeless informant Finn, and even the ghost of his wife who keeps showing up in his kitchen. The fact that Alex had been investigating the Cutler family prior to her death complicates things, and as Miller gets closer to the truth, he realizes the danger is walking right up to his doorstep . . .”

Please let me know if you plan to attend our Wednesday, September 17 meeting at The Original Roadhouse Grill. s.heck4peace@gmail.com

Thank you.
Sharon Heck

Mystery Mavens Books for 2025-2026

November 19	<u>The Word is Murder</u> by Anthony Horowitz, reviewed by Kay Clark
January 21	<u>The Woman in Cabin 10</u> by Ruth Ware, reviewed by Lisbeth Solberg
March 18	<u>Jane and the Unpleasantness at Scargrave Manor</u> by Stephanie Barron, reviewed by Cindy Birt
May 20	<u>The Housemaid</u> by Freida McFadden, reviewed by Linda Oberholtzer

MODERN TRENDS IN LITERATURE

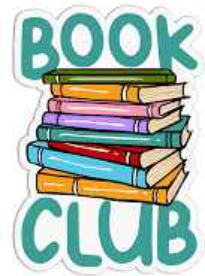
Modern Trends meets the 2nd Thursday of the month at 6 PM at Georgine Sweeney's house; 16411 Pasada Dr. Whittier, CA 90603 (Near Whittwood), phone (562) 631-6698. Zoom is also available. The link will be shared two days prior to the meeting.

On September 11, Thursday, at 6 PM we will discuss *Who is Government? The Untold Story of Public Service* edited by Michael Lewis, reviewed by Georgine Sweeney

Modern Trends Books for 2025-2026

Oct 9	<u><i>An Elephant in the Garden</i></u> by Michael Morpurgo, reviewed by Andrea Bellamy
Nov 13	<u><i>Harlem Rhapsody</i></u> by Victoria Christopher Murray, reviewed by Paula Ocampo
Feb 12	<u><i>Beyond the Crushing Waves</i></u> by Lily Mirren, reviewed by Carol K
Mar 12	<u><i>The Emperor of Gladness</i></u> by Ocean Vuong, reviewed by Greta Lebow
April 15	Whittier Reads Book, TBD
May 14	<u><i>The Frozen River</i></u> by Ariel Lawhon, reviewed by Janice Geiger
June 11	<u><i>West with Giraffes</i></u> by Lynda Rutledge, reviewed by Lisbeth Solberg

Thank you, Georgine



MORNING BOOK

Welcome to a new year of great books and discussion among friends! We start the year by reading *Facing the Mountain. A True Story of Japanese American Heroes in World War II*, by Daniel James Brown, author of *Boys in the Boat*. In the days and months after Pearl Harbor, the lives of Japanese Americans across the continent and Hawaii were changed forever. In this unforgettable chronicle of war-time America and the battlefields of Europe, Daniel James Brown portrays the journey of Rudy Tokiwa, Fred Shiosaki, and Kats Miho, who volunteered for the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and were deployed to France, Germany, and Italy, where they were asked to do the near impossible. Brown also tells the story of these soldiers' parents, immigrants who were forced to submit to life in concentration camps on U.S. soil. Woven throughout is the chronicle of Gordon Hirabayashi, one of a cadre of patriotic resisters who stood up against their government in defense of their own rights. Whether fighting on battlefields or in courtrooms, these were Americans under unprecedented strain, doing what Americans do best—striving, resisting, pushing back, rising up, standing on principle, laying down their lives, and enduring. I will be leading the discussion. Please join us on Monday, September 22, at 10 AM at Margo Reeg's, 10011 Melgar Dr., Whittier; 562-947-3634 or 303-253-4275. She will also provide goodies. Please let her know if you will be coming in person for planning. I will provide a Zoom link for those unable to meet in person and will send the link a few days prior to the 22nd.

Morning Book List for 2025-2026

November 24,	<u><i>Persuasion</i></u> (Jane Austen)
January 26,	<u><i>The Mirage Factory</i></u> (Gary Krist)
March 23	<u><i>James</i></u> (Percival Everett)
June 1	<u><i>Mother, Daughter, Traitor, Spy</i></u> (Susan Elia MacNeal)
July 27	<u><i>Dry Spells</i></u> (Archana Maniar)

I look forward to seeing you all!

Ann Topjon,
Chair 562-665-1724

WRITING IS FUN

The September 24 meeting of WIF! (Writing is Fun!) takes place at the home of Carole Restovich at 11:00 AM. Bring your sandwich or salad and Carole will provide drinks and dessert. We are an informal writing group that shares writing on any topic the author chooses. If anyone needs a possible topic, perhaps you might consider: “Danger!” Interpret it in any way you please – gangs, illness, a complex human relationship, everyday life, the world at large. Or perhaps you prefer a more positive approach: “A Thing of Beauty” – someone’s face, an act of kindness, hope, a favorite gift. All are welcome to write on any topic. We are a warm and accepting group. Carole’s address: 10413 Portada Dr., behind Vons Market in Whittwood.

Carole Restovich

LA CUISINE

ARGENTINIAN DINNER



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6th

4:00 p.m.

Belen Duarte and Gaspar Sousa’s house
4430 Woodmar Drive, Whittier 90601

Space is limited, so be sure to RSVP early to save your place!

RSVP: Belen Duarte (562) 695-0178
Dolores Gonzalez-Hayes (562) 237-4466
Shirley Stewart (562) 698-4612

FIRST FRIDAY

Our new year 25/26 has begun and we're starting it off with our First Friday event on Friday, September 5th from 6:00 to 8:00pm!

We are in luck again this year! Oscar Rivera and Delia Gonzales have graciously invited us to celebrate the *first* First Friday of the year at their 'Ranchito'!

This will be our second First Friday event at their home. Just to remind everyone and to introduce our new members to their property: The property has been featured twice on the Whittier Garden Tour, and on the Year Around Garden Club Garden Tour. The Whittier Daily News 'Hidden Treasures' Video also featured the property a few years back. The home is constructed of unreinforced adobe brick with original mosaic tiling throughout the house. You will enjoy seeing the River of Life theme featured throughout the interior and exterior. Remember to wear casual clothes and flat shoes. It's a real treat that we will be able to enjoy ourselves among native trees and plants!



Friends are always welcomed!

Just remember to bring something sweet or savory and your choice of beverage for everyone's enjoyment.

Address is : 10814 Monte Vista, Whittier

Respectfully submitted by
Belen Duarte-Sousa

DINING FOR \$\$\$\$



Our September Dining For \$\$\$\$ event is happening on Thursday, 9/18, from 11 AM to 10 PM at Red Robin. Featuring casual dining, gourmet burgers with bottomless steak fries, salads, entrees, a full bar, and more, they offer dine-in or takeout.

Thursday, September 18, 11 AM to 10 PM
Red Robin, 15610 Whittier Blvd.

Located in the Whittwood shopping center. There is ample parking. Please support this local restaurant for their generous support of the Myra Long Scholarship Fund.

Andrea Bellamy



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**GREATER WHITTIER AREA AAUW
MYRA LONG SCHOLARSHIP
FUND**

**Show this flyer or simply mention the fundraiser to
your server to have your sales counted.**

FUNDRAISER DETAILS

15610 Whittier Blvd, Whittier, CA 90603

September 18, 2025*

If ordering online, please follow these instructions:

- 1** Start your order at redrobin.com/order and select the restaurant above.
- 2** In the menu, go to the category labeled "Fundraisers (To-Go Only)" and click on that item.
- 3** Click the "add" button, and then "add to bag."
- 4** Add your meal items and check out.
- 5** Arrive at Red Robin, come in, say hi, grab your food and be on your way! If your location has curbside pick-up, we can bring it to your car too!

*Fundraiser during restaurant operating hours. Visit redrobin.com and find this location to view hours.
Donation based on all eligible net dine-in and to-go food sales only. Excludes sales from catering (at select locations), 3rd party ordering and delivery sites, alcohol, gift cards, retail, tax and gratuity. Offer void if flyer is distributed in or near the restaurant during fundraiser day & hours.

Red Robin





COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

The summer was a time of vacations, recuperations, and birthday celebrations. It also marked the passing of three of our AAUW members: Mary Ellen Mead, Irene Diaz, and Vicki Marshall.

Happy Birthday to **Yvette Rawlinson**, Honorary Lifetime Member, who celebrates her 97th birthday on August 27, 2025. Her friend Ann Topjon visited and reports that Yvette keeps up with the news of the branch, but does not have email. Her daughter said she would love to receive birthday cards in the mail.



Yvette Rawlinson

Get well wishes to **Lisbeth Solberg**, who was in the hospital with appendicitis. She was treated and sent home on August 14, waiting to clear the infection; she may have to go back for surgery. She is not feeling well, so please no phone calls.

Cathy Arriola was hospitalized with a heart attack, moved to rehab, and hopefully comes home this week. She says she really could use your thoughts and prayers. Get well soon, Cathy.

Barbara Gile remembers **Mary Ellen Mead**: “My good friend Mary Ellen Mead passed away on August 7, 2025. She was 98 years young on her birthday, June 7th. She had been declining slowly over the last several years and then declining more steadily since falling and breaking her hip in March 2024. She had been on hospice care since then.



Mary Ellen & Orin's 60th Anniversary

Mary Ellen was one of the first AAUW Las Distinguidas Awardees in 1967 and was known for her creative jewelry that she donated for many fundraisers. Mary Ellen and her husband Orin were part of the Bridge group and golf players who were a dependable part of previous AAUW Branch activities.

Mary Ellen spent her early years in Japan as her father was part of stationed military. She graduated from Stanford University, where she met Orin. After having five children, she returned to Claremont Colleges for a master's degree. She was very proud of her career as a stockbroker.

I remember Mary Ellen as my big sister when we developed an AAUW Project called “Care Giving for Adults.” We bonded as friends with Fay Weber, who used her parents as models for our videotape. It was also a good experience because our husbands played golf together.

Mary Ellen's daughter, Tyra Ferlatte, announced she would be sending a write-up and information later. Her information is: (415) 847-2605 and tyra.ferlatte@gmail.com

Andrea Bellamy shared this sad news: “It is with a very heavy heart that I have to inform you that my dear friend **Irene Diaz** has passed away. She joined last year. She believed in our mission. Condolence cards can be sent to her cousin, Karen Reyes, 9216 Kate Rd. Pico Rivera, CA 90660. Thank you for your support.”

(Continued Next Page)

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS (cont.)

Vicki Marshall passed away on August 6, 2025, at the age of 109 years. She was a member of AAUW for many years, and many of us remember her daughter Geri, who brought her to events including International Concerns, Dining for Dollars, and many other community events. Geri passed away in 2023, and Vicki moved away to live with her son, Bruce. An email went out to everyone with a copy of her obituary.

Karen van der Baan discovered it's a Small World! "About 7:30 PM I was browsing in a gift shop in the Seattle airport when I saw someone who looked familiar. It was **Ann Topjon** who was doing what I was - killing time! It turned out that my husband Frank and I had the same delayed flight back to LAX as she did. We realized a great option would be to share an Uber back to Whittier. While waiting, the 3 of us went to P.F. Chang's at the airport for dinner which was provided by Alaska Airlines due to the delay of six hours... Our delayed arrival time into Los Angeles was approximately 1:15 AM. By the time we got to Whittier it was 2:30 AM! It was a much better journey home by sharing our time and ride with Ann!! "



Karen and Ann share an Uber

Travel notes from **Mandy Knight**: "The trip billed as the "Best of Scandinavia" really was. From July 9th through the 18th, we traveled by plane, bus, boat and train (and even a funicular for good measure!) throughout Sweden, Norway and Denmark. Stockholm held the delights of a canal cruise and trips to the Vasa (if you do not know the history of the museum and the remarkable ship they built the museum to house, you must google) and ABBA museums. We embarked on a 330-mile ride from Stockholm to Oslo, Norway, watching the changing landscapes of Scandinavia unfold---lakes, pine forests, rolling farmland and country villages. It was lovely. Arriving at our hotel in Oslo we found that we were just adjacent to a fabulous teeming square and the beautiful opera house. How is that for location? After visiting the beautiful Vigeland Sculpture Park and the Royal Palace, we boarded a train to Myrdal, a remote mountain village 3000 feet above sea level, where we boarded the Flam Railway. We were awed by the remarkable route winding down the steep mountainsides, past cascading waterfalls, deep ravines and darling villages before reaching its final destination, the fjord side village of Flam. A short bus ride back up the mountain took us to the Stalheim Hotel, our stop for the night. This hotel has a storied history; during WWII, it was occupied by the Nazis, where they had a visual down the entire valley (there are still bunkers to be visited) and where they brought Norwegian women with the intent of race purification. Leaving this beautiful perch, we boarded a boat that sailed us down the Sognefjord and Naeroyfjord Fjords (a UNESCO World Heritage Site). For 3 hours, we saw one magnificent waterfall after another...simply spectacular! Next stop was the charming small maritime town of Bergen, known for its brightly colored wooden houses and bustling fishing wharf. Flying to Copenhagen was next on the itinerary! Got off the plane and onto a bus for a city tour, which included the famous Little Mermaid sitting just off shore and looking nothing like Ariel! Once again, our hotel made walking to Tivoli Gardens and the Lego store (you all knew they originated in Denmark, right?)....and what would Scandinavia be without a castle or two? The Fredensborg Castle, the summer home of Queen Margrethe II of Denmark and her family, was gorgeous from the outside. The Kronborg Castle, on the cliffs of Elsinore above the Baltic Sea, is the legendary home of Hamlet, Shakespeare's Prince of Denmark, another UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is simply spectacular both inside and out! Seems like a whirlwind? It was just "the best"!"

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

September 2025

GREATER WHITTIER AREA CALENDAR

Board Meeting	September 2 (Tuesday)	6 PM -7 PM	Zoom
First Friday	September 5 (Friday)	6 PM - 8 PM	Rivera-Gonzales Ranchito
La Cuisine	September 6 (Saturday)	4:00 PM	Duarte-Sousa Casa
Modern Trends	September 11 (Thursday)	6:00 PM	Georgine Sweeney's
Branch Meeting	September 13 (Saturday)	9:30 AM	First Friends Church Whittier
LACIC	September 14 (Sunday)	2:00 PM	Zoom
Mystery Mavens	September 17 (Wednesday)	6 PM	Original Roadhouse Grill
International Concerns	September 18 (Thursday)	10 AM	Sharon Heck's
Dining for \$\$\$\$	September 18 (Thursday)	9 AM – 10 PM	Red Robin
Morning Book	September 22 (Monday)	10 AM	Margo Reeg's
Writing is Fun	September 24 (Wednesday)	11 AM	Carole Restovich's

CHECK WITH YOUR SECTION LEADERS FOR UPDATES AND ZOOM INVITATIONS

Please consult our style sheet and follow it when preparing your newsletter article. It will save me a great deal of time and work. If you do not have a style sheet, please let me know and I will send you one. Thank you for your cooperation and for sending in your articles by the 15th of the month. **All submissions must be in WORD documents as attachments to emails. Please create the document within WORD itself rather than cutting and pasting into WORD. Please DO NOT use TABS. Please, do not type the articles within the email itself. Please give the article a descriptive name, not merely "newsletter article," and use that name in the subject line of the email.**

Please send articles by email on or before the 15th of every month, August through May to pocampo@aol.com

Newsletter Editor – Paula Ocampo

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