



GREATER WHITTIER AREA BRANCH AAUW NEWSLETTER

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

**October
2025**



BRANCH MEETING – October 11, 2025 9:30 AM – FIRST FRIENDS CHURCH WHITTIER

Program

What a terrific way to begin AAUW's one-hundred-year anniversary! Our September Kick-off with football-themed table décor, and a hearty breakfast of delicious quiche was an unadulterated victory, with our raffle adding to our fundraising. This is all thanks to our many dedicated members and, of course, our new President, Paula Ocampo. We even got a tutorial of how to join AAUW on Facebook so we can post pictures and get the latest AAUW news at the click of a button. I'm sure our next Branch meeting will be just as successful.

First up to speak at our October 11th Branch meeting will be our GWA-AAUW Public Policy Chair, Margo Reeg. She will explain the upcoming special election on November 4, 2025, and the importance of everyone voting. Margo has worked on Public Policy for our branch for a few years, but her experience far exceeds that. She has been a member of the League of Women Voters for over 50 years, has held Whittier League offices since 1979, including several terms as President. She is passionate about Voter Service and has been VP for Voter Service for the LWV-LA County board, producing the Voter Guide. Margo even arranged tours of one of the voting centers last Spring for AAUW members, allowing us to witness the counting of votes. We look forward to her savvy understanding and objective presentation on the upcoming election.

Our featured speaker, Dr. Nancy Cowardin, is a new AAUW member. She will speak to us on "Fundamental Fairness", focusing on criminal clients with disabilities, and her job as a forensic assessor and advocate at trial. Nancy Cowardin, Ph.D., has provided assessment and expert witness testimony in over 900 criminal cases nationwide, and served as the plaintiff's principal expert in several class action lawsuits that secured disability accommodations for inmates and parolees in the California prison system. Dr. Cowardin has been honored as "Educator of the Year" by the California Learning Disability Association for training more than 3,500 justice system professionals in identifying and accommodating disabilities in victims, parolees, and criminal defendants. She will be highlighting a few cases for us. We hope you will join us for this opportunity to hear her insightful perspectives on this important issue!

Claire Koehler, AAUW VP Program Director

HOSPITALITY



Life starts all over again when it gets crisp in the fall.
F. Scott Fitzgerald

BRANCH MEETING

- Date:** Saturday, October 11, 2025
Time: 9:30 AM Pumpkins and Porto's Pastry Brunch
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:** Please RSVP by **October 8th** for the correct food and seating count
- Kay Clark, Treasurer
Email: kayclark310@gmail.com
Phone: (310) 890-6510

See you there!

Marian Locke
Hospitality VP

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Moving Forward Together: Advancing in Equity and Inclusion is our theme for the GWA-AAUW branch this year. We certainly moved forward in celebrating the kickoff of our 100th anniversary at the branch meeting on September 13. Starting with a delicious brunch, thanks to Marian Locke, Hospitality VP, Pat Dudley then led us in equity and inclusion with table-talks about the meaning of names, and Ann Topjon organized presentations of all the sections. Everyone is welcome at any one of the interest groups.



The results are in! We received four stars in the AAUW Five-Star program, and the following announcement from Tremayne A. Parquet, AAUW Deputy Director of Advancement:

“I’m delighted to share that the Greater Whittier Area AAUW (CA) Branch has earned a **Public Policy & Advocacy, Governance & Sustainability, Programming, and Communications & External Relations Star** in the Five Star Program for FY25! This achievement reflects your branch’s commitment to advancing gender equity and aligning your programs, advocacy, and sustainability efforts with AAUW’s strategic priorities.

During the coming year, in FY26, we will be using the guidance of the Five-Star program to make sure we provide activities, programs, and leadership that advance the mission of AAUW.

The AAUW Fall Member Gathering on Zoom was inspirational and informative. In these trying times of disagreements and division, AAUW presented its unwavering commitment to advancing our mission, identifying where support is needed for political, but non-partisan, actions. If you missed the meeting, a recording will be available soon on the [aauw.org](https://www.aauw.org) website. As a matter of fact, be sure to log on and check out the many webinars that have been presented addressing social justice, advocacy, professional development, STEM, and membership. You can go directly to the webinars page at <https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/webinars/>.

One of my goals for this year is to get more members involved in leadership and governance for our branch. For me, it’s been truly rewarding to be involved with great people in sharing ideas and actions to keep our branch going. But we need you! We need more voices and new ideas. Today, I am focusing on one position, **Tech Trek Coordinator**. The MLSF has budgeted to send six girls to attend Tech Trek, but currently, we do not have the position filled, and we won’t be able to move forward with the program without a Tech Trek Coordinator. You will attend monthly AAUW California Tech Trek peer group meetings on Zoom and have the support and mentorship of our experienced GWA-AAUW Tech Trek Committee. Get motivated and check out the Tech Trek website at <https://www.aauw-ca.org/tech-trek/>. Contact me with your interest and questions at pocampo@aol.com.

We have a lot going on and new ideas coming in all the time. Let’s hear yours. Plans are moving ahead for a big 100th Anniversary celebration at our April meeting. Do you have photos, videos, newspaper clippings, or mementos that show the history of our marvelous 100-year-old branch? Send them to me or to Claire Koehler, Program VP, who is in charge of planning the program.

Paula Ocampo, Branch President

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

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 a yoga class, book clubs and other groups you attend to join us. Invite a guest to a book club meeting, First Friday or a general meeting. The committee is happy to contact any leads you may have. Please follow us on Instagram @aauw.gwa and Facebook at Greater Whittier Area Branch AAUW.

Let's welcome some of our newer members:

Christine Reyes-Ontiveros
Debi Ramos
Wendy Davidson
Abbie Maldonado
Monica Oviedo
Nancy Cowardin
Paula Sheridan
Lily Freidel

Rosalie Rodriquez
Maela Buttler
Lesley Burgueno
Christy King
Annmarie Nastasi
Carol LeSavage
Susan Cameron

We have been contacting members who have not paid their dues for the coming year. Dues are now \$128, which includes your membership in AAUW California, GWA-AAUW branch, and national AAUW organizations. You can pay your dues on the national website, AAUW.org, or please send to: Kay Clark, 11915 Inez St., #8, Whittier, CA 90605. Checks should be made out to GWA- AAUW. You can also pay by Zelle to KayClark310@gmail.com. We hope all of you will continue your support of AAUW and remain a member of our GWA-AAUW Branch.

Lastly, I will be ordering new and replacement name tags. The cost is \$14 each. Payment in advance is required by cash or check. Checks should be made out to GWA-AAUW and mailed to Kay Clark. On the memo line, please indicate NAME BADGE. The last day to order is September 29th.

Andrea Bellamy
Membership VP



AAUW FUND

Each calendar year, National AAUW raises money through contributions to AAUW Fund to promote opportunities for students, professionals, and hardworking women in our communities. They focus on three powerful priorities:

- Champion gender equity through education and funding.
- Removing barriers to success in higher education.
- Strengthen AAUW by investing in efforts to build long-term financial and operational impact.

We are at the beginning of a new year of giving. Guided by the AAUW Five-Star plan, our goals for the year will be measured for the fiscal year from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026 (FY26). Thanks to 26 generous members, we donated a total of \$103,882 to the various AAUW Funds in FY25 (including Gwen Woirhaye's bequest of \$100,000). Our goal for FY26 is to raise \$30 per member for the Greatest Needs Fund.*

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed so far! Your support drives real change where it's needed most. We'd appreciate everyone joining our campaign by adding your unwavering commitment to AAUW's mission to advance equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

Sheryl Crockey
AAUW Fund VP



*Contributions to AAUW are fully tax-deductible and can be made online at www.aauw.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

RAFFLE FUNDRAISER

We held our first raffle at our September meeting, and it went well. Several people donated beautiful articles, including a tea set, glass pitcher, and candle holder set, autumn centerpieces, and gift cards. We took in \$62.

For our October raffle, I would like to encourage anyone wanting to make a donation to let me know in advance so we can be prepared to display it. Only one or two items per person, please. We are set up for a maximum of 6 items per meeting.

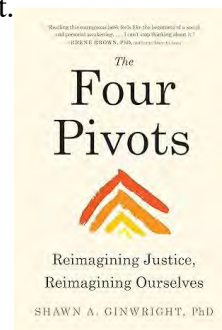
Thanks to all who helped our first raffle be a success. We are looking forward to many more, while we help our organization.

Kay Clark
Kayclark310@gmail.com

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI)

A message from Charmen Goehring, AAUW California President:

There will be a statewide book study on *The Four Pivots: Reimagining Justice, Reimagining Ourselves*, by Dr. Shawn Ginwright. This book has been used to guide the state leadership team and was highlighted in the annual event last spring. Dr. Ginwright asserts that we need a fundamental shift in our values—a pivot in how we think, act, work, and connect. Come learn more about the four pivots he describes and how they might be helpful for AAUW branches. “Pivot One” will be discussed on Wednesday, October 22nd, at 7 pm. Read this section before the meeting, but you are also welcome to attend the discussion even if you haven’t. Registration for the meeting was included in the September email of the *California Compass* that is sent to all California AAUW members. ALL members are welcome! Contact Charmen Goehring if you have any questions (statepresident@aauw-ca.org).



Greater Whittier Area Reads DEI:

Book: *Me and White Supremacy*, by Layla F. Saad

All members who have signed up to participate in this year’s GWA READS DEI sessions will receive an email with the dates, times, and locations of our sessions for this year, determined by the group at the September 30th optional session. If you have not signed up, it is not too late. Contact Pat Dudley at kpdudley2002@yahoo.com to be added to the list and receive the informational emails that include questions to be discussed.

If you cannot attend the sessions, you can still participate by reading the book and journaling the prompts provided in the book. It is available as a downloadable workbook. Just google the title to locate it on the internet. It is one of the books that will be included in our February table talks.

Preview of coming attractions: At the February branch meeting we will be discussing the influence of fiction and nonfiction books on a group’s culture and individual mindsets. The format will be a panel discussion and table talks on books that members have read. We have many readers and reading sections that have read books with DEI related themes (*James*, *The Women*, *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* are a few recent selections.). Start keeping a list of the books you are currently reading or have read for the table talks.

Pat Dudley
DEI Coordinator

PUBLIC POLICY

AAUW-CA Public Policy - School Boards Project

GWA-AAUW October 2025 Update

In 2023, the AAUW California Public Policy Committee launched the *School Board Project* to support AAUW California's policy priorities to ensure "equal access to quality public education for all students," including access to curriculum that offers historically accurate information.

Elements of the project at the local school district level include:

- To follow school board member election cycles and to help the community understand what a good candidate looks like.
- To invite local AAUW branch members to observe their area school board meetings with open eyes and listening ears for equity in education.
- To support local school boards as an interested community organization in matters that align with AAUW policy priorities.
- To inform local school boards of AAUW activities that support school district students, such as Tech Trek and more.

The school year is just getting started, and so is the School Board Project for GWA-AAUW. Cindi Peterson plans to attend the Whittier Union School District Board Meetings for the 2025-26 school year. We are looking for other GWA-AAUW members who would be interested in this project for other districts in our area. Several school district board meetings are available to watch on Zoom.

Cindi attended the WUHSD Board meeting on September 9, 2025. An agenda item of interest to AAUW-California Public Policy was WUHSD Board Agenda item 16.01. The school board reviewed, discussed, and adopted Resolution No. 2526-11, *Affirming Support for Immigrant Students*. The resolution acknowledged the significant decision by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Plyler v. Doe* (1982) that established that all children, including undocumented immigrant children, have a constitutional right to a free public K-12 education. This resolution supports the Board's goal to *establish and strengthen resources and involvement with families and local partners to enhance opportunities for students*.

If you'd like additional information, contact Cindi Peterson at cindipete@gmail.com.

For more on the AAUW-California School Board Project: [School Board Project Enters Next Phase - AAUW California](https://www.aauw-ca.org/school-board-project-enters-next-phase/) (<https://www.aauw-ca.org/school-board-project-enters-next-phase/>)

Understanding the Urgency of Branch Participation in the Public Policy School Board Project

By Seena Trigas, Member AAUW California Public Policy School Board Project

The constant noises that surround us today have had the effect on many of us wanting to "shut the door" and withdraw behind a protective shield. This is not an option if we want to protect our democracy and the rights declared in our Constitution. We must continue to protest against national policies that threaten our basic core principles, and take a stand at the state and local levels where we can have even greater impact. AAUW California's mission and public policies are being threatened, and we will not stand by and allow this to happen. The articles that follow in our monthly AAUW California reports will present the specific violations of protected rights implemented by federal policies and local school boards throughout our state. Let's start with a brief historical overview on the importance of our free public school system and the important role it plays in preserving our democracy.

Colonial America began the journey in Massachusetts Bay (1635) with the founding of the Boston Latin School, initially to promote the Puritan faith. Dame Schools providing reading skills for younger children were also established, and a Massachusetts law in 1647 demanded that every town comprising 50 or more families must provide a teacher to instruct on reading and writing.

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PUBLIC POLICY (cont.)

Our new nation began its journey into public education with the Land Ordinance 1785/NW Ordinance 1787 providing that the new western territories be allotted land for public school purposes. The founding fathers clearly connected the role of education in protecting our democratic republic. Thomas Jefferson proposed a system of broad, free, public education and strongly believed that “in order for a society to be self-governed, it had to be educated and free thinking.” He saw the role of education as one giving “every citizen the information he needs...to understand his duties to his neighbors and country...to know his rights.”

During the 1830s, in the era of Jacksonian Democracy, focus was on the common man achieving the vote (dropping property requirements or paying taxes); our nation witnessed the beginning of a new era in public education espousing that an informed citizenry is essential for democratic participation and the health of the republic. A key focus was on the large number of immigrants coming to our shores; we needed to instill common values in all children to prepare them for their roles within our society. It's at this time that Horace Mann (Massachusetts) will lead the nation in the Common School Movement, a driving force resulting in widespread free public education.

These hard-fought gains are under attack and it begins with local elections for school board members. Organizations with money are backing candidates who are attempting to restrict student rights and censure the curriculum/books available that would provide factual, open discourse. These efforts will have the exact opposite effect from the intentions of our forebears: a generation of children exposed to limited information and unprepared to engage in critical thinking necessary to fully realize the American experiment in democracy.

Please watch for future articles that will describe how the Public Policy School Board Project is fighting back. Our advocacy and commitment to our public schools is critical, with a great deal at stake. Jefferson will end this discussion: “...Only educated citizens could make the American experiment in self-government succeed.”



Investing in Our Democratic Future: Non-Partisan Voter Education Around Proposition 50 in California

By Sue Miller, Member AAUW California Public Policy Committee

We are currently seeing and experiencing creeping authoritarian efforts to undermine fair representation, trusted information, and democratic norms in our country. This unprecedented condition, paired with overwhelming federal encroachment, presents a significant threat to many of the things that we care about, including AAUW's mission of advancing equity for women and girls: although California continues to maintain strong protections for women and girls, marginalized peoples, free speech, accurate history, sound science, and democratic norms, we are still subject to the laws, rules, and enforcement actions of the federal government. As such, as part of this year's GOTV campaign, AAUW California will be taking a proactive position on Proposition 50.

The approval of [Proposition 50](#) by California voters in November 2025 will approve redistricting efforts in California for the next election cycles (until maps are redrawn after the next census in 2030). With the passage of Proposition 50, we will experience a short-term loss of state democratic and people-centered control of an important aspect of democracy: redistricting. This effort will also seemingly have partisan benefits.

However, a short term loss of people-centered redistricting can also be seen as an investment in a democratic future in the long term, one in which we can have more, not less, of the will of the people recognized - all of the people, regardless of who they are. Furthermore, partisanship may be seen as a reductive label when the choice has become one of supporting authoritarianism or preserving functional democracy.

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PUBLIC POLICY (cont.)

Redistricting should be in the hands of the people. Gender equity should be a consistent priority so that the dreams of a pluralistic democracy are one step closer to being realized. None of this is possible if our state is operating in a federal system in which democracy is no longer functional, listing instead toward an authoritarian system that puts troops in our streets, that censors our speech, that erases historical facts, that does not rely on sound science in decision-making, that directly endangers the wellbeing of women and girls, and that dehumanizes important and valued members of our communities.

Our goal in this campaign is to provide reliable information as a trusted resource to voters in California, and the wider public, about the potential ramifications and potential benefits of Proposition 50's passage and dispel misinformation about partisanship and redistricting in this political moment. We will also encourage and assist voters to go to the polls for this special election to vote as individuals on whether the proposed redistricting should be approved. Providing this encouragement to get out and vote and information about Proposition 50, including about potential benefits, is acting in alignment with our mission and our nonpartisan commitments, as we are advancing a pro-democracy message: we seek to support any and all efforts to preserve and advance democracy and our public policy priorities in the face of a growing authoritarian threat.

Let's all join in working together to advance our public policy priorities in moving California forward.

INTERNATIONAL CONCERNS

On Thursday, October 16, 2025, we will meet at the home of Sharon Heck, 6032 Comstock Ave., Whittier, CA 90601, 10 AM, to discuss Chapter 7, "AI and American National Security" in our *Great Decisions 2025* book. The discussion will be led by Paula Ocampo. Please bring your \$35.00 payment for the *Great Decisions 2026* book if you haven't done so.

We will view the video for Chapter 8, "American Policy in the Middle East: Taking Stock and Looking Ahead" as it will be discussed on Thursday, November 20, 2025, with the discussion led by Quincey Grace.

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, October 16, 2025, 10 AM.

Sharon Heck
s.heck4peace@gmail.com



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 before the meeting.

On Thursday, October 9, at 6 PM, we will discuss *An Elephant in the Garden* by Michael Morpurgo, reviewed by Andrea Bellamy

Modern Trends Books for 2025-2026

Nov 13 *Harlem Rhapsody* by Victoria Christopher Murray, reviewed by Paula Ocampo
Feb 12 *Beyond the Crushing Waves* by Lily Mirren, reviewed by Carol K
Mar 12 *The Emperor of Gladness* by Ocean Vuong, reviewed by Greta Lebow
April 15 Whittier Reads Book, TBD
May 14 *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon, reviewed by Janice Geiger
June 11 *West with Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge, reviewed by Lisbeth Solberg

Thank you, Georgine



MYSTERY MAVENS

Mystery Mavens will not meet in October. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, November 19, 2025, 6PM 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 meeting. All are welcome to join us on November 19, 2025.

Mystery Mavens Books for 2025-2026

November 19 *The Word is Murder* by Anthony Horowitz
January 21 *The Woman in Cabin 10* by Ruth Ware
March 18 *Jane and the Unpleasantness at Scargrave Manor* by Stephanie Barron,
May 20 *The Housemaid* by Freida McFadden

Sharon Heck

MORNING BOOK

We do not meet this month. However, you might want to get started on November's book, *Persuasion*, by Jane Austen! Full details for the meeting will be in the November newsletter. The books for the rest of the year are as follows:

January 26: *The Mirage Factory* (Gary Krist)
March 23: *James* (Percival Everett)
June 1: *Mother, Daughter, Traitor, Spy* (Susan Elia MacNeal)
July 27: *Dry Spells* (Archana Maniar)

Happy reading!

Ann Topjon, Chair 56-665-1724

WRITING IS FUN

The Wednesday, October 22, meeting of Writing is Fun! takes place at 11 AM at the home of Carole Restovich. Bring your sandwich or salad for our early lunch. We will then share our writing in a relaxing atmosphere before an appreciative audience. We welcome anyone and everyone. You may bring your writing or listen to what others have to say. Choose any topic you like, but for those who want a specific writing prompt, perhaps you might consider: Food (best, worst meals I've prepared), One Thing Missing in Society, or A Favorite Relative.

We hope to see you there!
Carole Restovich

AAUW LA Cuisine Dines Out! (Open to all AAUW members)

Too late to Celebrate Dia de la Independencia?
Too early to Celebrate Cinco de Mayo?

It's *always* time to celebrate at the fabulous



Zapien's Salsa Grill in Pico Rivera!
6702 Rosemead Blvd.
Pico Rivera, CA 90660

5:30 PM - Thursday, November 13

Renowned Chef Marco Zapien has created a wonderful menu for us with appetizers, a choice of 4 entrees, and 3 desserts, including soft drinks.

Cost: \$35.00 per Person, including tax and tips
(Please bring the exact amount in Cash!)

Wine and beer are available for purchase for an additional individual charge.

Parking is limited, please carpool!

Reservations to Susan Sones
No later than Friday, November 7th!
(562) 458-7837

Sonesfam@gmail.com

Looking forward to seeing all of you "foodies" there!

FIRST FRIDAY

Come and join our AAUW members for a fun evening conversing with friends and families. Sara and Jose have invited our members to their beautiful home to enjoy our First Friday gathering. Their home is located in the hills of Starlight Estates, where you will enjoy a 180° view of the landscape.

DATE: October 3rd
TIME: 6:00 to 8:00 PM
HOSTESS: Sara Lopez and Jose Renderos
WHERE: 12508 Mt Holly Drive
Whittier, CA 90601
PHONE: (562) 347-8381



DIRECTIONS: Go North on Greenleaf Ave, which turns into Carinthia, turn Left on Mt. Holly, 12508 is the second property on the right.

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.

Respectfully submitted,
Belen Duarte-Sousa

DINING FOR \$\$\$\$

When: Thursday, October 16, 2025
Where: The Mission Square Italian Restaurant
13033 Penn Street, Suite 100
Whittier, CA 90602

We are fortunate to return for our fourth year for Dining for \$\$\$\$ visit to the lovely Mission Square Italian Restaurant, described as a hidden gem in Uptown Whittier. It's located in a historic building directly across from the Penn Street side of the Doubletree Hotel, where parking is available. You may dine either inside or outside in the beautiful courtyard with its quiet, old world charming atmosphere. Lunch hours are from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM while the dinner hours and takeout are from 5:00 PM to 10:00 PM. You might consider making reservations for dinner as we've been told that some evenings can be very busy. You will find a variety of delicious menu selections including typical authentic Italian dishes as well as pasta choices, salads, and appetizers. More than 10 different kinds of pizza are described in the menu also. We hope you will join us on October 16! Just present a flyer to your server for each bill at your table, 20% of each bill, excluding alcoholic beverages, will be donated to the Myra Long Scholarship Fund. A flyer can be found on the next page of this newsletter. Mini flyers will be emailed along with an event reminder close to the event date and will be available at the October branch meeting too. Attending a Dining for \$\$\$\$ event is a wonderful way to enjoy a meal while supporting our scholarship fund. We look forward to seeing you there!

Andrea Bellamy



The Mission Square Italian Restaurant
proudly supports
Greater Whittier Area AAUW
Myra Long Scholarship Fund

Dining 4 \$\$\$\$ Event

Thursday, October 16, 2025
Lunch 11AM-2PM * Dinner 5PM-10PM

The Mission Square
13033 Penn Street, Suite 100
Whittier, Ca. 90602 *
(562) 458-5353

Dine-in or Take-out

Reservations are available

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

Please NO soliciting on premises



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Last year, one of our most impactful programs was when **Diane Britton** told us about the Women's and Children's Crisis Shelter. Now the WCCS has reached out to share the news of their upcoming *Strength Beyond Silence Gala*. All are invited to this fundraiser for a very worthy cause. You can find more information on the website at <https://www.wccshope.org/get-involved/gala/>



Strength Beyond Silence Gala



DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Los Angeles - Norwalk
13111 Sycamore Dr, Norwalk, CA 90650

Thursday, October 2, 2025



**TICKETS & SPONSORSHIP
ON SALE NOW!**

Register today by scanning the QR code or by visiting bit.ly/wccsgala25.



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS (cont.)



Wendy Young

President of KIND (Kids in Need of Defense) <https://supportkind.org/>
KIND's goal is to ensure that no child appears in immigration court without high quality legal representation. They work to ensure children are protected and uphold their right to due process.



Karen Musalo

Professor of Law at the University of California, San Francisco and founding director of the Center for Gender & Refugee Studies.
<https://cgrs.uclawsf.edu/> Prof. Musalo is recognized for her innovative work on refugee issues.

You're invited!

LWV-US Immigration Discussion Group invites you to attend an informative session about the situation of migrant and refugee women today

The Impact of Mass Deportation on Migrant and Refugee Women and Children

Wednesday, October 15, 2025

4 pm (Pacific) 5 pm (Mountain)

6 pm (Central) 7 pm (Eastern)

Scan Below for Zoom Link or Direct Link at Bottom



Join Wendy Young and Karen Musalo, two of the world's leading experts on the impact of US & global immigration policies, who will discuss the protection of immigrant and refugee women and children.

Moderator Susan Martin, Herzberg Professor Emerita of International Migration, Georgetown University will direct the discussion on the impact of recent executive orders, regulations and legislation on women migrants, unaccompanied children, asylum seekers and refugees as well as their U.S. citizen children. Q&A will follow.

Please join us!

LWV-US Immigration Discussion Group is comprised of members from across the United States.

Questions about this event or want more info about our committee?

Email: lwwusimmigrationgroup@gmail.com



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COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS (cont.)

Marian Locke shared this heartfelt response to a recent tragedy. “Yesterday, my sister sent me a message that my home church, Mount Olivet Lutheran, in Minneapolis, MN, where I still belong, had the funeral on Sunday at 4 PM for the 8-year-old boy killed in the Catholic school shooting. The two churches are near each other, and both congregations are in disbelief. My church does not have a day school, but little Fletcher Merkel had been to their Cathedral of the Pines camp for the first time this summer on the North Shore. The shooting occurred only a few blocks from where I lived and grew up - a quiet, tree-shaded area where the colors are now changing.”

“The next day: Monday “Words to ponder, no matter what faith, organization, family or individual.”

The Pastor wrote, “one of the things I like about Mount Olivet is that we show up for each other. We are there to celebrate with each other when things are good. We are there to hold onto each other when things are hard. We volunteer because we want to help each other. We give knowing that our gifts are not made to an institution or organization, but to a community. We show up!

That’s what happened yesterday. We showed up for the Merkel family in one of the darkest times you can imagine a family ever experiencing. We showed up for our neighbors and friends of the Annunciation Church and School to walk with them through their grief. We showed up for our larger community to provide support, encouragement, and courage. And we showed up for each other, comforting one another, bearing each other’s burdens.

That’s what we did yesterday. That’s what we do regularly. I am so glad to be a part of this community and so proud of you for showing up. Thank you. “

Andrea Bellamy has shared these community events you might want to check out.

“Are you a reader? Join us for an informal monthly book exchange and conversation. It’s not a book club, and you aren’t required to bring a book. We meet at Panera Bread, 15629 Whittwood Lane (next to PetSmart), Whittier, on the last Friday of each month, 8:30 -10 AM. Drop by anytime; this is not a GWA-AAUW section and is open to all in the community who enjoy books and coffee. Stop by and bring a friend.”

“Friday Book Chat - Love to read? Looking for a no-pressure book group? Try Friday Book Chat on the first Friday of each month from 10 AM -11 AM at the Whittier Central Library, 7344 Washington Ave. Drop by, no registration required, and no assigned books. You can briefly share what you have been reading, or just listen and learn about some new books. The following month, the Librarian provides a list of the books that were discussed for your reference. This is not a GWA-AAUW section and is open to all in the community.

This section includes community news as well as your personal news, tips, and stories. Send me yours so I can include them in our next newsletter.

Paula Ocampo
Newsletter Editor
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October 2025

GREATER WHITTIER AREA CALENDAR

First Friday	October 3 (Friday)	6 PM - 8 PM	Home of Sara Lopez and Jose Renderos
Board Meeting	October 7 (Tuesday)	7 PM	Zoom
Branch Meeting	October 11 (Saturday)	9:30 AM	First Friends Church Whittier
International Concerns	October 16 (Thursday)	10 AM	Sharon Heck's
Dining for \$\$\$\$	October 16 (Thursday)	11 AM – 2 PM and 5 PM – 10 PM	The Mission Square Italian Restaurant
Writing is Fun	October 22 (Wednesday)	11 AM	Carole Restovich's
La Cuisine	November 13 (Thursday)	5:30 PM	Zapien's Salsa Grill

CHECK WITH YOUR SECTION LEADERS FOR UPDATES AND ZOOM INVITATIONS

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

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

Newsletter Editor – Paula Ocampo

For more information, please visit our websites and social media:

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