



GREATER WHITTIER AREA BRANCH AAUW NEWSLETTER

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

**JUNE
2020**



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Mission: To advance equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy.

State: If you attended the April 18th AAUW California Annual Meeting, then you know how smoothly the webinar proceeded. There were 348 participants representing 73% of the branches. That, in itself, must be a record! Sandi Gabe, a member of the Board of Directors and Chair of the Communication Committee, deserves a huge virtual round of applause for orchestrating this two-hour meeting. The Communication Committee helped, but Sandi did all the research regarding this new technology, built the PowerPoint template, helped with the speakers' content, trained the participants, and scheduled the valuable rehearsals. It all went seamlessly, thanks to her hours and hours of preparation and her skill as the Wizard of Oz behind the curtain.

Donna Lilly, past AAUW California President and current AAUW California College/University Chair, was named 2019 State Named Gift Honoree at the April 18th Annual Meeting. Donna is a facilitator of both Start Smart and Work Smart and an active member of the San Diego and Del Mar Leucadia Branches.

Branch: This year has been a challenge for all, and everyone rose to the occasion. Your board and the Myra Long Directors met via Zoom three times to carry out branch business. It was a new experience for most, but we did it! Patricia Cuocco and Susan Halliday led us through connecting with ZOOM. We had to cancel four of our outstanding branch meetings including International Focus on Women, Las Distinguidas, AAUW Fund Named Gift Honoree, Graduate Women USA, Myra Long Scholarships, and the Installation of 2021 Officers. A big shout out to Dolores Seidman, Pauline Rogers, Susan Halliday's Las Distinguidas committee, Carole Restovich, and Paul Ocampo for all their hard work planning these meetings.

At this time none of us can predict what the future will bring and when we can get together again safely. I know that Sharon Heck and her board will do an outstanding job next year. Our first meeting in the Fall should be a celebration of what we missed last year and what we can look forward to this year. It has been my pleasure and honor to serve as your president these last two years. I thank my board and each of you for all you do for AAUW. In closing, I would like to leave you a quote from my favorite, Eleanor Roosevelt. "With the new day comes new strength and new thoughts."

Rozanne Child

AAUW FUND

Well, we are still “enjoying” a new way of living. Being a perfectly impatient sort of person, I keep wondering when this particular challenge will end. My feeling is that things will not be as they once were. I am curious about what they will be!

Well, I really do need to get down to the present business of the moment, which is the concerns of our favorite organization, AAUW. At this time of crisis, AAUW is keenly aware that it is women who are particularly vulnerable. Since women are paid less than men, they shoulder the greater portion of student debt. They also have less saved for retirement because they hold 54% of the low-wage jobs which now have more often than not lost basic benefits. Thus, the top leaders of AAUW (board of directors, national leaders and the CEO of AAUW) will be pursuing fund raising activities that will strive to advance policies to support paid sick leave and student-loan forgiveness. Remember these are issues that existed before the pandemic and will still be there after it is over.

Another important issue is voter education because there is an unprecedented challenge to our electoral system at this time. We must fight back against voter suppression and make sure every American can vote in every election. Now that seems odd to me because 100 years ago, we women finally got the right to vote. Here we are again working to make sure there is no discrimination when it comes time to vote. Certainly, we should be long past such an issue! Ladies of AAUW know that these issues and many others that affect women and girls are what your thoughtful donations to AAUW support. Thank you all!

Let’s close on a lighter note! Goodness knows we need that these days. As you read in the President’s Message, the Board members of the Greater Whittier Area AAUW are now meeting on Zoom. We are a virtual reality Board now! If you need a laugh or two in these curious times, it would be watching and listening to a group of somewhat technically challenged women try to get into Zoom at approximately the same time. It’s like “Hi, there. Glad you can join us.” “And you, too, having trouble unmuting? Try the lower left corner. Not there, try the upper right now.” “Oh, dear where did the first person go.” “You don’t see us? Try disconnecting and coming back in again.” “Hi, glad you could join us.”

By this time there are several members present in the Zoom “room.”

“Speak up, Ladies, and let us all know if you can hear and see all of us.” “Whoops, we lost someone again.”

Now multiply this scenario several times and in about 15 minutes are so we are finally settle down to the business at hand while trying to maintain our “place” in the virtual reality of Zoom!

Pauline Rogers,
AAUW Fund V.P.



YEARBOOK DIRECTORY OF BRANCH MEMBERS

It is time for each of you to check your yearbook entry. PLEASE!!!!

Send any corrections to patricia@fullerton.edu. It is also time to think about soliciting ads from the folks with whom you do business. The cost is \$15 for a 1/3-page (business card size) ad. THANK YOU.

Patricia Cuocco and Susan Halliday
Yearbook Editors



JUNE and SUMMER MISCELLANY

June is National Men's Health and National Alzheimer's Awareness Month. June is also National LGBT Pride Month.

July is National HIV Awareness Month as National Park and Recreation Month.

In August, we celebrate National Immunization Awareness Month and National Eye Exam Month.

Live in sunshine.
Swim in the sea.
Drink in the Wild Air.
- Ralph Waldo Emerson

TECH TREK

Operation iPad

All the Tech Trek Camps were canceled nationwide for the summer of 2020. However, I have exciting news. The board wanted to honor and recognize our eight Tech Trek girls chosen to attend camp at Whittier College this summer. The Myra Long Scholarship Fund has decided to award and pay for a 10.5-Inch iPad Air Wi-Fi for each girl. In addition to her personally engraved iPad, each girl will receive 2-Years AppleCare service plus a Smart Keyboard for her iPad. The iPad will make a difference in their lives and will be an invaluable tool moving forward in their education.

We thank the Myra Long Scholarship Fund for their generosity and especially Patricia Cuocco, for researching and ordering the iPads. Pat Dudley and Ann Chambers are working with East Whittier Middle School and Graves Middle School to distribute the iPads to the girls. They have tentatively set up the distribution to the girls in the parking lots at each school. You are invited to come if you wish. We will of course be following all safe distancing and safety protocols. A big thanks to Pat and Ann for coordinating this event. The tentative dates pending confirmation that the iPads arrive as scheduled are East Whittier Middle School May 26, 2020 from 12:00-12:30 and Graves Middle School May 27, 2020 from 12:30-1:00.

Graves Middle School, 13243 Los Nietos Road, Whittier, CA 90605
East Whittier Middle School, 14421 Whittier Blvd., Whittier, CA 90605

The Greater Whittier Area Branch can stand tall and be proud of our continued commitment to Tech Trek and our girls. Members of the board and the Myra Long Scholarship Fund Directors will be there with smiles and balloons to honor the girls.

Rozanne Child
President Greater Whittier Area AAUW



PUBLIC POLICY

Health Care Policies

There's nothing like a good pandemic to focus the attention on the public policy issues surrounding health care. For one thing, the sheer idiocy of employer based health-care become obvious when, right when you need it most, your health care is lost because your job is lost and COBRA payments to retain it are near impossible to sustain when you are out of work. BTW, COBRA stands for Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act, which provides eligible employees and their dependents the option of continued health **insurance coverage** when an employee loses his/her job or experiences a reduction of work hours. Great – if you decide to change jobs to get you through a short-term insurance coverage gap; not so great when millions are laid off, hiring freezes are in-place and the only available employment comes with the risk of endangering your health and that of your family.

While employment with health care benefits has been around since the 1930's, it enjoyed its growth to almost universality in World War II when wages were capped by federal statute and employers needed a benefit to hold on to scarce workers. In 1943, the IRS decided that employee-based health insurance wasn't taxable, making it cheaper to provide health care insurance that way.

AAUW's policy on health care is clear. Per National's website: "Health care security is intrinsically tied to economic security, and this relationship is particularly true for women who earn less than men on average and are therefore less able to afford insurance or care. Despite massive spending, health care outcomes in the United States continue to lag behind many other Western nations. But more Americans are now able to access affordable health insurance and the preventive care they need thanks to the Affordable Care Act (ACA), which passed into law in 2010." Check out the website for a more extensive list of the benefits of the ACA <https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/position-health-care/>, even as you wonder why the President and Senate are hell-bent to destroy it, even in the midst of the pandemic.

Another question I keep asking myself is why the United States is the only 1st world country without universal health care. Why do we allow a profit-making entity – insurance companies – to be in the middle between providers (health care professionals) and consumers (patients)? We are also the only 1st world country where people are forced into bankruptcy by medical bills. This doesn't make sense to me, however, if it does to you and you would like equal time in this newsletter to state your position, please feel free to send me your article and I will publish it.

At the moment, it is all too obvious to me that the system we have results in unequal access to a point that is killing people needlessly and politicians seeking to destroy the ACA are going to make it worse. The impact, as always, will be hardest on women and children and on minority communities. I sincerely hope that this does not get far worse as we continue to live with COVID-19.

Patricia Cuocco
Public Policy Chair



MEMBERSHIP

Congratulations to 66 of our members who have already renewed their membership for the upcoming year 2020-2021. Our AAUW year corresponds with the school year, July 1st through June 30th. Our new year in AAUW begins July 1, 2020 and ends June 30, 2021.

Our current membership is at a total of 135. There are 49 regular members and 20 life members who have yet to renew,. Many of our members have renewed online at aauw.org and kept clicking on 'Membership' until they came to 'renew membership' (in some form).

Kay Clark, our Treasurer, sent out invoices last month to members who had not yet renewed. Each member's ID number is in the subject line of the invoice. That is your ID number to use when renewing. You may pay with a credit card, which can really streamline the process. If you choose to pay by check, please mail it directly to Kay Clark, 11915 Inez St. #8, Whittier, 90605. There is also a printed form attached to this newsletter which you may use. Just please send it to Kay Clark, not to the post office during this current quarantine time. If you do not have email, you should have received an invoice in the U.S. postal system over a month ago.

We are no longer able to find the old printed floppy yearbook cover, and the hard cover 3 ring binder is more expensive and more expensive to mail. So please know, if you want the yearbook binder mailed to you it will increase in price in the new year beginning July 1, 2020. If you renew prior to July 1, 2020, you will be able to have the yearbook and mailing at the current price.

When renewing online, please be sure that all the information is correct online and also that the information in our yearbook for you is correct. Membership is the job that all of us have. Be sure to invite your friends, colleagues, or folks you meet, to join our amazing organization.

Susan Halliday & Pauline Rogers
Membership Co-Chairs

Note from Kay Clark:

National has launched a new website with a new format and lots of information. However, finding the Member Services Database can be tricky. Here is how to get there so you can correct your information or pay your dues:

Go to AAUW.org. You most likely will have to accept cookies so you can see the entire screen. This is a one-time request.

In the upper right corner, just above the big red "Donate" button, you will see "Membership." Click on that.

On the next screen on the right is a list of 6 places you can go. The next to last item is "Member Services Database." Click on that. On the next screen you may be asked to log in and from then on, it should be self-explanatory.

If there are any questions, please contact me.

Las Distinguidas

2020 should mark the 55th year that Greater Whittier Area AAUW honors outstanding, inspiring, and accomplished women in our community. Due to the many challenges presented by the current coronavirus pandemic and quarantine, we are not sure exactly what month we will be presenting our awardees, but it will happen in the 2020-2021 GWA-AAUW year.

We are impressed by the amazing accomplishments of the women who were nominated, and it is always a difficult decision. This year was not an exception; the choice was not easy, but we have chosen the absolute best. Our Las Distinguidas Committee has selected three very deserving women for our 2020-2021 awards. We will briefly introduce the three awardees in this article and will save the more detailed information for the newsletter closer to the award celebration.

Petra Schmiske was nominated by Studio Danza with additional letters of support from Soroptimist International of Whittier and the Women's & Children's Crisis Shelter. She has been instrumental in Studio Danza's incorporation into a 501 (c) (3). Teaching over 2,400 Zumba classes, Petra has generated \$50,000 to support Studio Danza programs, including dance lessons for children who otherwise may not have been able to afford lessons. Additionally, Petra is a 13-year board member of Soroptimist International of Whittier and a 6-year board member of the Women's & Children's Crisis Shelter.

Linda Eagan was nominated by The Assistance League of Whittier. She has served numerous positions including President during her tenure. Through her technological expertise, Linda created and managed ALW's Facebook page, served as webmaster, newsletter editor, and implemented the Work Ability 1 Program, helping youth with disabilities receive work experience at ALW's Thrift Store. The nomination stated that Linda's exceptional abilities and personal qualities make everyone around her want to become involved in whatever cause she supports.

Judith Henderson was nominated by the Whittier Historical Society. She served on numerous committees and has been an active member for over 20 years, helping to streamline hiring policies, job descriptions, and led hiring selection committee with her experience at Rio Hondo College. Judy has been involved in the Whittier community as a member of League of Women Voters, board member of First Day, Whittier Historical Society & Museum, Whittier City School District Educational Foundation, Soroptimists International of Whittier. Her work with Bright & Beautiful Therapy Dogs, Inc. has seen Judy and her beloved dog visiting at the Whittier Library, Presbyterian Intercommunity Hospital, and at Oakmont of Whittier, Luxurious Retirement Living.

Susan Halliday & Dede Shatzen
Las Distinguidas Co-Chairs



THE SPOTLIGHT



There is an old Chinese curse that says, “May you live in interesting times.” Okay then, how is that working for you? Yikes – how did we ever get into this mess?

I received some interesting emails about what folks are doing. Based on all the ideas shared last month for ways to fill time constructively, I’m guessing we are all super-smart and culturally savvy, are well-read, Netflix addicted, and have learned to be gourmet cooks, or are living with a gourmet cook and gained 20 pounds. Either that, or we will need a new chapter of AA in the area. Jan Berry reminded me that holding a glass of wine in each hand is a great way to NOT touch your face.

Our incoming president, Sharon Heck reports a rather nasty fall in early May, worthy of an emergency room visit. Sharon assures us that her daughter Cherie is taking great care of her, and she is healing nicely.

Gerri Marshall reports that mom Vicki’s 104th drive-by birthday party was a rousing success and was covered by ABC News.

Faye Weber writes, “We came to Montana for a family ski trip only to have Big Sky Resort close the first of March thus ending the ski trip and season. We were quarantined in Montana and since we were planning on coming back mid-June, we’ve just stayed. Montana is starting to open up. Due to the small population, Montana has fewer cases, lots of open space plus people have been good about not gather in large groups. All summer events have been cancelled. There are several lovely trails to hike and our dog gets a big walk every day.” So, let me see if I understand. Healthy exercise and a good attitude are an alternative to feeling sorry for yourself and overeating? Asking for a friend.

Kaye Kidwell’s husband, Sal Graziano, made the following confession. “I really needed a haircut but felt like I was doing something illegal going to my barber’s house. I drove around the block a few times to make sure I wasn’t followed, then parked across the street from his house. When I was sure no one was watching, I scurried across the street, knocked on his door, gave the password and was ushered into a dark room. Soon, I was blindfolded and led out into a covered back yard where a masked person took off my blindfold, whisked me into a chair and proceeded to shear me. Forty seconds later, it was over. I paid an exorbitant amount, was blindfolded again and led out to the street. I was told in no uncertain terms to maintain secrecy. If I disclosed the location, the penalty would be extreme.”

I am one of the many folks who took Gwen Woirhaye up on her offer of a mask. Gwen put a lot of time and effort, not to mention money for fabric, elastic and such and generously gave them to all who asked. Thank you, Gwen. AAUW sisters ROCK!

SECTION INFORMATION

Because of the uncertainty surrounding containment measures for COVID-19, scheduling section meetings will be difficult for the foreseeable future. We suggest that you keep in touch with your Section Chair for updated information.

CHECK OUT THE SUMMER CONTEST ON PAGE

Memories

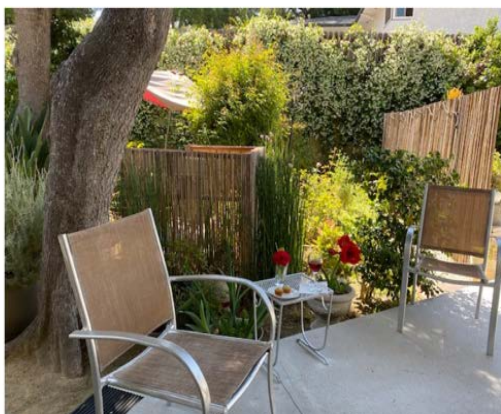
When we met in February, it was decided we would meet again the last Wednesday in June. No one knew what would transpire during this hiatus. Suddenly Corona Virus has changed our lives while we have hunkered down in our homes. At least it gave us lots of time to write about our experiences as we are living through this pandemic.

Let's keep to our plan and meet in Barbara Gile's backyard at 1:30 PM on Wednesday afternoon, June 24, 2020. We will safe distance and stay six feet apart. Don't attend if you feel sick or have a fever. There will be a prize for the best mask.

The topic is: "How the Corona Virus Affected My Life, or How to Be Happy with Covid-19," or any other topic you choose.

Directions: One block north of Mar Vista Street turn on Vale Drive (the only way you can turn). 14035 Eastridge Drive Whittier, CA 90602 is the white house is on the northeast corner of Eastridge and Vale Drives. You are invited to park on Vale Drive, walk up the driveway, enter through the garage on to the

Hope to see you soon,
Carole Restovich, Chair



FIRST FRIDAY

June First Friday is cancelled. July 3 First Friday is set for the home of Susan and Doug Halliday, 8531 Catalina. Last year we were in the backyard so I expect that will be the plan this year. Of course, we are always subject to cancellation dependent on the state of restrictions at that time. We will keep you informed by email. As always bring your choice of beverage and a dish to share. We meet from 6 to 8 PM.

Nobody signed up to host in August so if anyone would like to bid for August 7, please email me. Also, it is time to sign up to host for the 2020-2021 year, and I would appreciate hearing from anyone who is willing to host with preferred months.

For those who have never been, it is a low key social time with significant others, friends, prospective members invited. It lasts exactly two hours, casual dress, good company and food and all are welcome.

Directions: Catalina Avenue north from Whittier Blvd. (West side of East Whittier Middle School) to address.

Gwen Woirhaye
gwen@woirhaye.com

La Cuisine

The La Cuisine planning meeting is Wednesday, June 17, 7 PM., at my home, 5810 Friends Avenue, one block north of Beverly Blvd. Parking permits will be on the front gate. Those with mobility issues may pull all the way up the driveway and walk around by the lighted ramp, avoiding stairs.

Bring ideas for a restaurant experience and themes for in home dinners. The group is open to singles and couples. It would be helpful in planning if you would let me know of your intention to participate as either a regular member or a substitute. Regular members are those who are willing to host or co-host a dinner.

Our May dinner was postponed indefinitely, probably until fall. We usually have two in-home dinner parties, one group party to which substitutes are invited and one in a restaurant. Pending health restrictions, we will try to follow that plan for 2020-2021.

Of course, we will follow all guidelines to protect health; since we can't very well eat with masks on, we will need to be at a point where we can gather safely without them.

Gwen Woirhaye
gwen@woirhaye.com

Morning Book

We will meet via Zoom to discuss *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, by Betty Smith, the beloved American classic about a young girl's coming-of-age at the turn of the twentieth century. From the moment she entered the world, Francie needed to be made of stern stuff, for the often harsh life of Williamsburg demanded fortitude, precocity, and strength of spirit. Often scorned by neighbors for her family's erratic and eccentric behavior - such as her father Johnny's taste for alcohol and Aunt Sissy's habit of marrying serially without the formality of divorce - no one, least of all Francie, could say that the Nolans' life lacked drama.

By turns overwhelming, sublime, heartbreaking, and uplifting, the Nolans' daily experiences are tenderly threaded with family connectedness and raw with honesty. Betty Smith has, in the pages of **A Tree Grows in Brooklyn**, captured the joys of humble Williamsburg life - from "junk day" on Saturdays, when the children of Francie's neighborhood traded their weekly take for pennies, to the special excitement of holidays, bringing cause for celebration and revelry. Smith has created a work of literary art that brilliantly captures a unique time and place as well as deeply resonant moments of universal experience. Here is an American classic that "cuts right to the heart of life," hails the *New York Times*. "If you miss **A Tree Grows in Brooklyn**, you will deny yourself a rich experience."

We are meeting on Monday, June 1, at 10AM. If you do not regularly attend Morning Book and want to participate in the Zoom discussion, please contact me prior to June 1 for information.

Ann Topjon, Chair 562-695-6185



CONTEST HOW CREATIVE ARE YOU?

THE CHALLENGE: **The Six Word Story**

Ernest Hemingway was once challenged to tell a story in only six words. It's likely apocryphal, but still a good tale. He came back with "For sale: baby shoes, never worn. (How poignant is that?)

Can you tell your life story in just six words?

THE PROMPT: **My New Normal – Life in the Time of Covid 19.**

THE RULES: Six Words and ONLY six words. All words count, even "the," "and," "or," etc.

Send all entries to Patricia Cuocco – patricia@fullerton.edu by July 15, 2020. Use the Subject: Six Word Story Submission. We will publish them anonymously (only Pat Dudley and I will know which member goes with which story) and ask members to vote on the best. The winner will receive an Amazon.com gift certificate for \$50 – in the spirit of avoiding crowded, unsafe places.

LAUGHTER REALLY IS A LIFE-SAVER

Thanks, Jan Berry!

As we end week 2 of the lockdown, I've been thinking about Osama Bin Laden. He was stuck in his house with three wives for five years. I'm beginning to wonder if he called in those Navy Seals himself.

How am i doing? Well, I just wiped down the container of Lysol wipes with a Lysol wipe. So I'm fine. Everything's fine

If 2020 was
a slide...



Note from the editor: In honor of the times, I won't even comment on the bad grammar in the meme on the left.



**Greater Whittier Area-American Association of University Women
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM for YEAR 2020-2021**

Please fill out completely and mail with check made payable to: Greater Whittier Area AAUW
Mail/give your check to: Branch Treasurer GWA-AAUW, P.O. Box 5333, Whittier, CA 90607-5333

ANNUAL DUES Please choose Membership type:	<input type="checkbox"/> Paid Life Member \$44	<input type="checkbox"/> Student \$38.81
	<input type="checkbox"/> General \$103	<input type="checkbox"/> Dual \$24
{National Dues \$59 + State Dues \$20 + Branch Dues \$24 = \$103 TOTAL} REMINDER \$80 of YOUR DUES IS TAX DEDUCTIBLE		
To order the following items, please include/add the following to your check:		
<input type="checkbox"/> I want the yearbook insert mailed to me - \$2		
<input type="checkbox"/> I want the AAUW binder at the cost of \$5 + postage \$1.50 = \$6.50 \$8.50k for BOTH		

**If all your information is the same as in the yearbook, just print your name and write
"INFORMATION SAME AS LAST YEAR" across the application.**

*Fill in starred items to update your information. New members must complete ALL information.

Today's Date: _____

Do you have a sponsor? If so, who? _____

Your Title: Mrs. _____ Ms. _____ Miss _____ Other _____

*Last Name _____ *First Name _____ *Middle Initial _____

Spouse's Name _____

*Address _____ *City _____ *Zip _____

*Home Phone _____ *Cell Phone _____

*Work Phone _____ *Email address _____

Degree _____ Year _____ Major _____

College/University _____

Degree _____ Year _____ Major _____

College/University _____

Degree _____ Year _____ Major _____

College/University _____

JUNE 2020

GREATER WHITTIER AREA BRANCH CALENDAR

No Calendar for the month of June, but as stated earlier, check with your Section Chairs for news about in-person or virtual meetings.

We will use email to let you know of any changes, events, etc.

If you are one of the few who do not use email, please let one of the Board members know, and we will make sure that a member is assigned to call you with important information.



NEXT NEWSLETTER WILL BE OUT IN LATE AUGUST FOR SEPTEMBER 2020.

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 patricia@fullerton.edu

Newsletter Editor – Patricia Cuocco

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American Association of University Women
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