

GREATER WHITTIER AREA BRANCH AAUW NEWSLETTER

http://whittier-ca.aauw.net

JANUARY 2021



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2020 was a very interesting and tragic year for a great many of our citizens. As of this writing, the U.S. has lost over 300,000 human beings to the pandemic. So many have lost loved ones to this dread disease, without even an opportunity to say good-bye or have a "normal" funeral. The word "normal" has taken on new meaning for most of us. We long to have our branch, board, and section meetings face to face like before. Virtual meetings on ZOOM are a fairly good substitute, but many don't have the equipment or technical knowledge to participate. We must try to stay in touch with as many branch members as possible. Our board members are calling a list of members, just to stay in touch. Please welcome their calls and share any concerns the branch might be able to help remedy. My hope is a possible face to face luncheon branch meeting by May or June. Time will tell if the vaccine will help us to return to a semblance of "normal."

Our December branch meeting featured Linda Marsa as our excellent guest speaker. She spoke about how climate change has had a devastating effect on our health and will continue on this path unless we work for change with our political system. The fossil fuel industry has a strangle hold on many of our elected officials. Elsewhere in this newsletter, there is more information she provided to Patricia Cuocco, our editor. We must write letters and emails to express our views. Advocacy does work, so I urge everyone to get involved. We will have a new president very soon, and much can be done if we research and express our opinions. One voice can make a difference, so let's have one and one and one and one...... The AAUW Association has a 2-minute advocacy feature on their website. They ask us to advocate on a variety of topics, so give it a look. The website address is: http://www.aauw.org/. I have used AAUW.org at times, and that works also.

We had tentatively scheduled a "Meet and Greet" gathering for January. This activity is very social with refreshments and games and is designed to introduce our guests to AAUW. Because it is meant to be so social, we are delaying it until we can have it in person, maybe in late Spring or Summer. Watch the newsletter for information.

I hope you are staying safe and healthy. Take time to do some enjoyable activities in the time you spend inside and alone. I have read a great many books, and I love doing jigsaw puzzles. Wearing masks and social distancing will help to keep you safe. I hope you all have a New Year filled with promise.

Sharon Heck, President

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

PUBLIC POLICY

We have a Public Policy Bonanza this month. First, there is a really good article from the State on Human Trafficking. This seemed fitting in light of our November guest speaker, Janine Latus. Then, as Sharon Heck promised in her message, I am posting the information that Linda Marsa, our December speaker, provided on the 100 companies responsible for 71% of global emissions (pollutants). Finally, we have a terrific "Guest Column" from Dolores Gonzalez-Hayes on rape as a tool of war. By the way, any member is welcome to submit a guest column for consideration.

From the AAUW-CA:

Human Trafficking

By Kit Hein, AAUW California Public Policy Committee

January 11, 2021 is National Human Trafficking Awareness Day. AAUW California supports efforts to combat Human Trafficking, as noted in our Public Policy Priorities: "Freedom from violence and fear of violence, including ...human trafficking...in homes, schools, workplaces and communities..."

Human Trafficking is the third largest organized criminal activity in the world. Human Trafficking is a modern-day form of slavery, with an estimated number of victims in the millions. Whether for labor or sex, men, women, and children are manipulated through force, fraud and coercion.

Research shows that people of color, especially the Black community, are more likely to experience some form of sex trafficking. Racial and economic biases drive both social and legal presumptions of "victims" having chosen their situation.

Law enforcement efforts against human trafficking are stronger today than in 2017, but still inadequate. Globally, definitions of human trafficking vary from country to country. Even using the term "slavery" is met with opposition in cases of forced marriages and cross border smuggling.

In California, legislation in the past few years includes support for victims, updating school health curriculum, and addressing hospitality industry training. But legislation is not the key unless the public is educated as to the enormity of the issues, both locally and globally. Local branches of AAUW continue to provide community awareness events to educate the public. Please join Santa Cruz County Branch on January 11, 2021 at 1pm for a Zoom webinar to learn more. Access the branch website https://santacruz-ca.aauw.net/ for more information and an invitation to this event.

From Linda Marsa:

<u>Just 100 companies responsible for 71% of global emissions, study says | Guardian Sustainable Business | The Guardian</u>

MORE PUBLIC POLICY

The Silent Crime

We have given our most precious thing and have died inside many times, but you won't find our names engraved on any monument or war memorial—Aisha, survivor of rape in the 1971 Bangladesh war

Early this month I attended an interesting webinar hosted by the Wilson Center. The webinar, <u>The War Crime No One Wants to Talk About</u>, featured Christina Lamb, the Author of *Our Bodies, Their Battlefields (War Through the Lives of Women)* and *I am Malala*.

Ms. Lamb provided an exposé on the crime of rape as a weapon of war. Throughout history the rape of women and girls has existed, but not talked about. Nonetheless, this weapon of war is used in every corner of the world where conflict has existed, Sudan, Nigeria, Iraq, Bosnia, Bangladesh, Argentina, and many more. Rape has proven to be an effective weapon of war because it not only decimates the family of the victim(s) but because it destroys an entire community. When communities are attacked, the men be they fathers, husbands, or brothers are helpless, unable to save the women and girls from the invader. The calculated action causes a high psychological impact as intended by the aggressor. In areas of conflict girls as young as 10 or 12 years of age are taken from their families and raped not by one man but by an entire group. Often times before being taken away, the women and girls are raped in front of their families.

Once the conflict has ended, if the aggressors are later charged for crimes committed, they are almost never punished for the crimes of rape. They may be tried for terrorism but not the crimes committed against women and girls. For the women and girls lucky enough to escape their captors, upon their return to their communities, their communities may not take them back. And those times, when the community does accept them, their children born out of rape are not. Sadly, some mothers are incapable of loving the children conceived from rape. Some of them express hate toward the child or have thoughts of killing the child—a reminder of their brutal experience. One asks what happens to these children, rejected and unloved.

Christina Lamb reminded us of the late Ruth Bader Ginsburg's charge that women belong in all places where decisions are made, especially in the judiciary where conviction of perpetrators of crimes against women are made. Women must be at every conflict negotiation table. If women are not at the negotiation table, the issue of women as tools of war will most certainly not be considered. Lamb recalls that while interviewing a high-level government official, she brought up crimes against women. His response was, "Why? The enemy was killing the people of my country, *that* is of more importance".

However, the women brutalized by rape think differently. They say that they would have preferred to have been killed rather than repeatedly be raped. The rapists later trading them like goods and when tired of them would pass them around to other men. For centuries in times of war, women have been considered the spoils of war, awarded to soldiers as a reward to be used as sex slaves.

Lamb says that the issue of women being used as weapons of war is under-reported and the pandemic has kept foreign correspondents from traveling and reporting about the silent crimes being committed against women in conflict areas around the globe.

But Lamb had a ray of hope and says change is coming to the US, with a woman as a Vice-President in the White House who has spoken against sexual violence against women. As a news correspondent, Christina Lamb has received communications from women victims around the world expressing hope for the coming change, change that would have an impact around the world.

Recommended Reading: Our Bodies, Their Battlefields—War Through the Lives of Women by Christina Lamb, Scribner, An Imprint of Simon & Schuster, Inc.

Dolores Gonzalez-Hayes

AAUW FUND

SAVE THE DATE

AAUW FUND FUNDRAISER On January 29th At 5:30 p.m. on Zoom

This will be an evening of fun, camaraderie, games and prizes

Greater Whittier Area AAUW will be hosting an evening of fund to raise money for the AAUW Fund. We are asking for a \$25.00 donation to the AAUW Fund.

The AAUW Fund supports AAUW mission of advancing gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy. .

The AAUW Fund may be designated for any of these for categories:

AAUW Fund Greatest Needs Fund (9110) allows AAUW the flexibility to respond rapidly to new and emerging challenges facing women and girls and to utilize your gift where it's needed most. This fund ensures the strength, relevance, and viability of AAUW into the future.

Education and Training Fund (4450) addresses the barriers and implicit biases that hinder the advancement of women, by championing equal access to education and ensuring that education at every level is free from sex discrimination.

Economic Security Fund (4449) ensures livelihoods for women through achieving pay equity for women, providing training in salary negotiation, and deepening women's retirement security and quality of life. **Leadership Fund** (4452) supports the effort to close the gender gap in leadership opportunities by bolstering the participation of, and increasing the number of, girls and women in leadership roles, particularly in education and nonprofit organizations.

Mark It On Your Calendar

Details to Follow

FROM THE FINANCE CORNER:

A friendly reminder - your dues payments are for the fiscal year (July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021). The earliest I can record dues at National for the following fiscal year is March 15, 2021. If you aren't sure if you have paid for the 2020-2021 year, please contact me (kayclark310@gmail.com or 310/890-6510) or Susan Halliday (sbathalliday@yahoo.com or 562/696-7395). If you have already paid your dues and send another check before February, I'm going to return the check. I appreciate the diligence some members have in making sure their dues are paid, but I can't do anything with their early checks. Thank you!

Kay Clark, Treasurer

HOW TO ZOOM

We will be doing our meetings with ZOOM for the foreseeable future. If you need help downloading ZOOM and logging in, please get with one of the ZOOM tutors who have volunteered to help.

On your computer, go to ZOOM.us and download a free copy. On your smart phone, download the ZOOM app. When you get an invitation to a meeting, click on the link provided and it will take to you the meeting.

If you are having Internet problems or don't have a computer, you can call this phone number listed on the ZOOM invitation under:

Dial by your location +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

and you will be able to attend like a conference call. You will need the meeting ID and passcode. There won't be a video, but you can hear, and you can be heard.

If you want to practice before a meeting, please contact a helper.

Kay Clark for PC users 310-890-6510 Patricia Cuocco for MAC users 562-756-9509 Paula Ocampo for smartphone users 562-447-7483

Also:

Sharon Heck - 562-858-9253 Claire Koehler - 714-473-6184



MESSAGE FROM NATIONAL CEO

Dear AAUW Greater Whittier Area (CA) Branch leaders and members,

I hope this note finds you and all your branch members safe and well and that you've drawn strength during these challenging times from the bonds that connect AAUW members.

Goodness, what a year 2020 has been. As we enter the final weeks of December, all of us at AAUW National continue to work from home, as we have since mid-March—which seems like years ago! I'm so proud of our national office staff and all they've accomplished to pivot to virtual programs, increased advocacy and a fierce commitment to our mission this year.

This week, I learned from our team that your Greater Whittier Area Branch made a generous gift to our Greatest Needs Fund. Please share my personal thanks with all those whose passion for AAUW's mission made this gift possible.

Your AAUW Greatest Needs gift provides flexible support, which is especially important now as we've faced challenges on every front. We are working to ensure that gains we've won won't be lost—in educational opportunity, economic security, leadership and every arena in which we work.

The pandemic has exacerbated and highlighted inequities that run deep and, with your support, we're meeting the moment. Just recently, I wrote an op-ed for *Newsweek* about how COVID19 is so tough on working moms, and what policies and actions we can take towards economic recovery. But it's a long road ahead. I'm proud to report that your national staff is as hard at work and as motivated as we've ever been to secure equity for all women and girls.

Please take every precaution and be safe this holiday season. Thank you, thank you, thank you—and I hope to "see" many of you on a Zoom AAUW webinar soon!

With gratitude, Kim Churches

JANUARY MISCELLANY

January is National Thyroid Awareness and National Birth Defect Prevention Month.

January is also International Creativity Month as well as "It's OK to Be Different" Month.

"The shortest day has passed, and whatever nastiness of weather we may look forward to in January and February, at least we notice that the days are getting longer. Minute by minute they lengthen out. It takes some weeks before we become aware of the change. It is imperceptible even as the growth of a child, as you watch it day by day, until the moment comes when with a start of delighted surprise we realize that we can stay out of doors in a twilight lasting for another quarter of a precious hour."

- Vita Sackville-West

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Did you know that our national AAUW had an exclusive interview with Dane Rehm? She is one of America's best-known radio personalities and was joined by AAUW's CEO, Kim Churches, for a wide-ranging conversation that touched on everything from COVID-19 quarantine to the joys of having a job you love and most significantly, to sensitive issues on death and dying, the subject of Rehm's recent books. Check out the video of the interview at aauw.org, our national website. There are a number of great interviews, videos, programs on the national AAUW site. Don't miss out on viewing these great programs.

Our GWA-AAUW is celebrating members who have 30 - 39 years of membership in AAUW. Please join me in congratulating the following women.

Recognize 30-39 year Members

| Brenda Gaumer | 39 years |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Gen'nel Walters | 39 years |
| Cindy Birt | 38 years |
| Virginia Ball | 36 years |
| Kristine Yeseta | 37 years |
| Jan Cecola | 36 years |
| Jois Hoffmann | 35 years |
| Fay Weber | 34 years |
| Jacqueline Brearley | 33 years |
| Kathy Luciano | 33 years |
| Maurine Behrens | 32 years |
| Rozanne Child | 32 years |
| Harriet Kittle Cornyn | 32 years |
| | |

January has traditionally been the month we hold our Meet & Greet meeting, inviting any prospective members or interested folks who would like to know more about our organization. Due to COVID-19, we are unable to meet in person this January. The board decided to postpone our annual Meet & Greet until we can again meet in person. Please stay tuned, so when we do schedule our Meet & Greet you can bring a friend or two.

Susan Halliday Pauline Rogers



2020-2021 GWA-AAUW Membership Questionnaire
Please print or fill in with text. Use the back of this paper if you need more space information.

| Name: | Year joined AAUW | |
|--|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Last First | • | |
| College/Universities attended | <u>Years</u> | Degree received |
| Elected Offices held in AAUW | <u>Branch</u> | Year (approximate is ok) |
| | | continue on back of paper |
| Appointed Offices held | <u>Branch</u> | Year (approximate is ok) |
| | | continue on back of paper |
| Committee / Section Chair Positions | <u>Branch</u> | Year (approximate ok) |
| | | continue on back of paper |
| Committee / Section Chair Participation | <u>Branch</u> | Year (approximate is ok) |
| | | continue on back of paper |
| Projects for AAUW Worked on/Completed | | |
| | | continue on back of pape |
| Community Activities (Clubs, Volunteering, etc.) | <u>Organization</u> | Year (s) (approximate is ok) |
| | | continue on back of pape |
| What would you like to see at branch meetings or at sections | s? What areas are of interest to yo | u? |
| | | |

THE SPOTLIGHT



Past President (1975-76) and Whittier mover and shaker, Joan Nay, passed away on September 12, 2020. Joan was president of the Whittier School Board, and taught at Whittier College, Rio Hondo, and USC. Her obituary suggested memorial gifts to the Greater Whittier Area Branch. Thank you, Joan. Rest in Peace.

And the circle of life goes on...Member Nadine Wilcox and family welcomed a new grand-nephew, Christopher Gilles, on December 12. We will expect pictures, Nadine.

Gen'nel Walters crossed an item off her Bucket List. From November 12 through 18, Gen'nel, her daughter and granddaughter went to Northern Alaska to see the Aurora Borealis. It was her 80th Birthday Present. Happy Birthday, Gen'nel. What a fabulous gift.

Lynda Richardson's husband and son belong to a musical group that has entertained their neighborhood with a "front yard concert."

Joann Sarachman's little maltipoo Sparky provides good company, especially during Covid restrictions. Since she lives alone, Joann has credited her Apple Watch with giving her extra confidence since the watch senses if the wearer has fallen. Should that occur, a call is made to the wearer. If there is no response, 911 is called. The only drawback is that the watch must be synced with an iPhone. Joann feels it has been a good investment for her.

Francine Rippy says that her family's Hathaway Ranch Museum in Santa Fe Springs is open for masked visitors who would like a brief tour of the ranch. A pot-bellied pig and a duck are her most recent donations. Children are welcome to pet baby goats due at the end of April.

Yvette Rawlinson has been having a few health issues lately. A friendly greeting (or Christmas?) card would be welcome.

Margo Eiser says that to help stay in touch, she "Keeps socially and virtually connected even though physically distant." This is important for all of us.

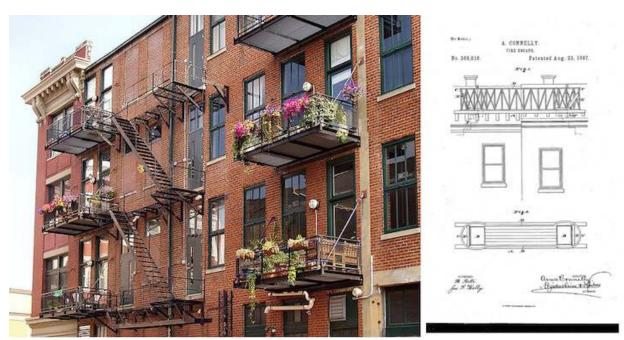
Judy Flanders reports that she and her husband, Steve, are having a prefab home installed on property they own in the desert. Great – they'll have another place to visit.

Our favorite young entrepreneur (and Kaye Kidwell's granddaughter/mini-me), Zoe Collazo, has started her fourth business. It involves candle melts and tea-light warmers. Sounds inviting! Contact Zoe at collazo.candles1@gmail.com for a price list and product descriptions.

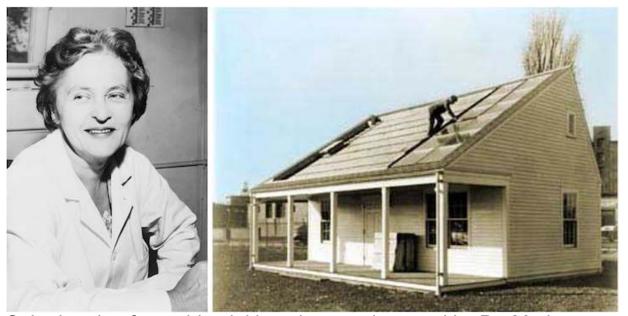
FUN FACTS

Jan Berry forwarded some interesting facts and pictures about women inventors through the ages. I'll print a few for the next few months. Thanks, Jan.

The Fire Escape



The fire escape was invented by Anna Connelly in 1887.



Solar heating for residential housing was invented by Dr. Maria Telkes in 1947. Dr. Telkes was a psychiatrist in addition to being a solar-power pioneer.

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.

MYSTERY MAVENS

Our Mystery Mavens section is a book group for those who love mystery fiction. We read five books each year, and those books are suggested by members and voted on at our May meeting each year. We will be meeting on ZOOM Wednesday, January 20, 7 PM. An invitation with the ZOOM link will be emailed to section members and all who wish to participate on Monday, January 18. Contact me if you wish to join the group. S.Heck4peace@gmail.com

The book for January 20 is titled <u>Still Life</u> by Louise Penny. Gen'nel Walters will lead the discussion.

"Chief Inspector Armand Gamache and his team of investigators are called to the scene of a suspicious death in a rural village south of Montreal and yet a world away. Jane Neal, a local fixture in the tiny hamlet of Three Pines, has been found dead in the woods on Thanksgiving morning. The locals are certain it's a tragic hunting accident and nothing more, but Gamache smells something foul this holiday season...

With this award-winning debut novel, Louise Penny introduces the wise and engaging Armand Gamache, who commands his forces---and this series---with integrity, strength, and charm."

The books and meeting dates for the remainder of 2021 are as follows:

March 17, 2021

Murder with Peacocks by Donna Andrews
Reviewed by Mandy Knight

May 19, 2021

Death on Demand by Carolyn Hart
Reviewed by Maurine Behrens

Sharon Heck, Chair

MEMORIES

The next Memories meeting takes place on January 27, 2021 at 1:30 PM, courtesy of Gwen Woirhaye and her Zoom account. Zoom details will be emailed in January. The usual writing topic for the January meeting is "What I Learned about Myself in the Past Year." Of course, you may always write on a topic of your own choosing. We welcome new members who enjoy writing and would like to share their writing with an accepting and encouraging audience. Please give me a call at 562-787-0727 to get on our email list.

Carole Restovich, Chair

INTERNATIONAL CONCERNS

Our International Concerns section is reading a book printed each year by the Foreign Policy Association titled <u>Great Decisions</u>. The book contains eight articles on a variety of topics i.e., "Climate Change and the Global Order," "Red Sea Security," "The Philippines and the U.S.," and five others. We read one article each month, and we have been meeting at the home of Louise Holden until the pandemic struck. Now we meet on ZOOM.

Our meetings are on the third Thursday each month at 10AM. On January 21 we will meet by ZOOM at 10AM and I will be sending you the ZOOM invitation. I will be happy to have a practice session with anyone who needs help connecting to a ZOOM meeting. Just let me know. Sharon Heck S.Heck4peace@gmail.com 562-698-0476

Our topic for the January meeting will be "India and Pakistan," chapter 2 in <u>Great Decisions</u>. If you do not have the book, you might be able to access some information on the Foreign Policy Association website. www.fpa.org/great decisions

Sheila Hartfield will be leading the discussion on January 21. Everyone reads the material ahead of time, and we have a lively discussion around the topic. If you have other newspaper articles or materials, we are happy for you to share them. All are welcome to join us for International Concerns on Thursday, January 21, 10AM. If you are new to us, send me your email so you will be included on the ZOOM invitation.

The 2021 *Great Decisions* books have been ordered and will arrive in early January. The cost will be \$26. for each and it is payable to Sharon Heck.

Sharon Heck, co-chair Sheryl Crockey, co-chair



MORNING BOOK

Happy New Year! On Monday, January 25, we will meet and discuss *In the Country of Women. A Memoir*, by Susan Straight.

Joyce Carol Oates says that the book "must be the most populated, celebratory, filled-with-life memoir of our time. With her characteristic mix of compassion. warmth, humor, and acerbic insight," [Susan] writes of her 'massive black and mixed-race family' and her 'quirky, deeply embedded white family--'a memoir that is, though addressed to her three daughters, a valentine to virtually everyone whom the renowned author has known in the course of her vividly described life.

Unlike most contemporary memoirs, which focus upon singular, self-obsessed individuals, Susan Straight's is about an entire way of life, lived with great verve and passion:" Attica Locke says the book "is the astonishingly beautiful story of a life and family history that could only happen in California, just as California is a place (and an idea--of expansion, light, color, a meeting of bloodlines and cultures) that could only happen in America. I think it is one of the best books I've ever read and is a memoir like no other.

Some of the female ancestors on her former husband's side escaped violence in post-slavery Tennessee, some escaped murder in Jim Crow Mississippi, and some fled abusive men. Straight's family, too, reflects the hardship and resilience of women pushing onward--from Switzerland, Canada, and the Colorado Rockies to California." Susan says her three daughters "of our ancestors carry in their blood at least three continents. We are not about borders. We are about love and survival."

Please join us via ZOOM at 10 AM, and be prepared with at least one question for discussion, as there is no leader. I will provide some background information on the author. If you do not regularly get emails from me about the group, please let me know and I can send you the link before the meeting when I send it to the regular members. I hope to see many of you!

Ann Topjon, Chair 562-695-6185





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: | ☐ Paid Life Member \$44 | ☐ Student \$38.81 |
|---|--|--|
| | General \$103 | ☐ Dual \$24 |
| | 59 + State Dues \$20 + Branch Du DER \$80 of YOUR DUES IS TAX | |
| To order the following iter ☐ I want the yearbook ins ☐ I want the AAUW binds | | |
| | the same as in the yearbook, ON SAME AS LAST YEAR" acr | just print your name and write ross the application. |
| *Fill in starred items to update y | our information. New members mus | st complete ALL information. |
| Today's Date: | | |
| Do you have a sponsor? If so, w | /ho? | |
| Your Title: Mrs Ms | Miss Other | |
| *Last Name | *First Name | *Middle Initial |
| Spouse's Name | | |
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| *Home Phone | *Cell Phone | ** preferred number |
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JANUARY 2021

GREATER WHITTIER AREA BRANCH CALENDAR

Board Meeting None

Branch Meeting None

Mystery Mavens January 20 (Wednesday) 7:00 PM ZOOM

International Concerns January 21 (Thursday) 10 AM ZOOM

Morning Book January 25 (Monday) 10 AM ZOOM

Memories January 27 (Wednesday) 1:30 PM ZOOM

AAUW FUNDRaiser January 29 (Friday) 5:30 PM ZOOM

CHECK WITH YOUR SECTION LEADERS FOR UPDATES AND ZOOM INVITATIONS



NEXT NEWSLETTER WILL BE OUT IN LATE JANUARY FOR FEBRUARY 2021.

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

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