



GREATER WHITTIER AREA BRANCH AAUW NEWSLETTER

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

**FEBRUARY
2021**

**BRANCH MEETING –
ZOOM – FEB. 13, 2021
11 AM**

BRANCH MEETING PROGRAM

In honor of Black History Month, we have a panel of professional women of color who will share their experiences of growing up Black in America. It will be interesting and informative. Take time to gain a distinctive perspective of the lives of three dynamic diverse women.

Shonda Buchanan is an educator with 20 years' experience. She was born and raised in Kalamazoo, Michigan where she spent much of her adolescence reading while curled up in libraries, bathtubs, and on her front porch. Her moving and poignant memoir, *Black Indian*, explores issues of identity, landscape and loss. She has also written a book of poetry, *Who's Afraid of Black Indians?*

Shonda Buchanan's identity is more than just the blood. She says, "Growing up, we knew we were black We were black and African American on the census, and America told us we were black. But the hidden conversations were, 'You know you've got some Indian in you' ."

Shonda Buchanan's memoir is an inspiring story that explores her family's legacy of being African Americans with American Indian roots and how they dealt with not just society's ostracization but the consequences of this dual inheritance.

Linda Oubré, EdD., MBA, is an accomplished leader in higher education and a highly successful businesswoman. She took office as Whittier College's 15th president on July 1, 2018. A native of Los Angeles, Dr. Oubré previously served as the Dean of the College of Business at San Francisco State University (SFSU) for six years, leading approximately 6,100 undergraduate and graduate students and 120 faculty in 10 academic departments.

Linda Oubré also served as executive director of corporate relations and business development and chief diversity officer for the Graduate School of Management at UC Davis. Dr. Oubré made a name for herself in business. She co-founded BriteSmile, a publicly traded tooth-whitening company.

Laura Smith Guillory is a member of the Glendale AAUW Branch. She is very involved with Tech Trek. Most of us know Tech Trek is a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) camp designed to develop interest, excitement, and self-confidence in young women who will enter eighth grade in the fall.

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

(PROGRAM CONTINUED)

Laura will discuss the challenges many women face in pursuing STEM careers. She will share with you the challenges she faced and how she found mentoring and support from her teachers and managers at a time when women were discouraged from pursuing technical careers. Laura's presentation will include a brief historical perspective of often overlooked women scientists and inventors who have contributed much to our society.

Laura Smith Guillory was born and raised in Washington, DC. She started elementary school before the desegregation of schools in Washington, DC. She attended Howard University where she obtained her BS degree in Physics in 1966. Laura's pursuit of an advanced degree was interrupted when she and her husband, Prof. William Guillory, moved to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and then to Salt Lake City, Utah. Laura obtained her Master's degree in Physics in 1978 from the University of Utah. Her research involved the electrical stimulation of bone in slow healing fractures. That research laid the ground work for today's standard medical protocols in fracture treatments. After obtaining her degree, she worked as a networks system engineer for AT&T. Laura held various technical and managerial positions at AT&T in Salt Lake City, Denver, and Los Angeles.

In 1989, Laura began working at the California State University headquarters as a network manager. Her next job was a computer systems manager. Please join us to see how Laura and other scientists managed careers with twists and turns.

The usual reservations, lunch and hotel ambiance will now be your comfortable chair and familiar surroundings. Take joy in no traffic or parking just join the meeting with ZOOM.

The meeting starts at 11:00 AM, however you can log in starting at 10:30 AM. This will give you time to socialize with friends. If you don't have the internet or have an old computer, you can call in by phone and hear the whole program. If, you have family that you are comfortable with (even if they insist on a mask) and they have a Zoom set up- try to join us. There are adult children, grandchildren or neighbors that would love to show their ZOOM technology skills.

To ensure you receive an e-mail invitation to the ZOOM meeting Contact:

Patricia Cuocco, Newsletter Editor patricia@fullerton.edu

Cindy Birt, e-mail Coordinator cindybirt@roadrunner.com

Sharon Heck, President s.heck4peace@gmail.com



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I am writing this on January 13, one week after the horrible violence at our nation's Capitol. I have been devastated and heartsick since that day and seeing newly discovered videos of the terrible onslaught and desecration each day, has only added to my distress. The hundreds who were incited to this violence by the President of the United States and others have been totally deceived and lied to under the banner of "Stop the Steal." The election of Biden and Harris was so carefully prepared and completed due to the pandemic, that there was no steal - AND it wasn't even close. Those who continuously lie and say the election was stolen are inciting gullible people to continue their fight to overturn a legally elected slate. If a lie is repeated often enough, many believe there is truth in it.

The "Stop the Steal" rally speakers encouraged attendees to march on the Capitol to prevent the congress from certifying the Electoral College votes for Biden and Harris. Vice President Pence could not constitutionally change the election results, so the Capitol invaders chanted "Hang Mike Pence." It is truly a miracle that neither the Vice President nor members of congress were injured, killed, or taken hostage. Others were killed or injured.

In the films the violent people appeared to be white persons. Many have speculated that much blood would have been shed had the invaders been persons of color. Peaceful demonstrations by Black Lives Matter protestors were met with tear gas and violent suppression in D.C., previously. Racism shows its ugly head in many ways with people of color painfully paying for it. Be sure to attend our February 13 Branch meeting on ZOOM to hear about "Experiences of Being African-American."

AAUW does not ever condone violence to right a real or perceived wrong. We fight in the courts, and we advocate with our elected officials to make changes in laws that will promote equity for women and girls. We must condemn the violence perpetrated at our U.S. Capitol and the State Capitals. We must condemn the actions of those who incited the violence, and hold them accountable. Those who continue to promote the lie that the election was stolen from Trump must also bear some of the blame for inciting others to violence. Those who caused the death, destruction, and desecration at the Capitol on January 6, 2021 must be held accountable.

Please help me advocate for ending this horrible stain on our U.S. history, by employing appropriate accountability. Staying silent does not condemn violence; it encourages more violence. Promoting baseless allegations is an act of complicity. We still see this complicity in cities large and small, including our own. We can all do better by condemning and NOT excusing it.

Sharon Heck, Branch President

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

PUBLIC POLICY

Of Facts, Fairness and Nazis – Miscellaneous Musings

How in the name of everything sacred did we ever devolve into a country where thousands of people, believing the cynical and hypocritical lie of a stolen election, descended upon the Capitol intending to stop the business of government – i.e., the certification of a fair and free election? Maybe the demise of the Fairness Doctrine played a part.

Most of us are old enough to remember a time when that policy, introduced in 1949, required the holders of broadcast licenses to both present controversial issues of public importance and to do so in a manner that was honest, equitable, and balanced. ([Wikipedia](#)) The FCC stopped enforcing that during the Reagan years, but it is worth remembering that the 4 FCC commissioners who unanimously killed it were split 2-2 Republican/Democrat.

Why does that matter? It matters because we, as a country, do not share a common set of facts. It also seems that we have come to the collective conclusion that opinions are equal to, if not greater than, facts and that insisting that facts be verifiable is somehow partisan.

Okay, that is the situation, and it led us to the insanity that happened on January 6, 2021. Of course, that insanity was exacerbated by politicians motivated by nothing more than personal power. That, however, is a topic for another time and a book or two thousand. The question remains, how to tell which is the right side of a difference of opinion or a disagreement on facts. I don't pretend to have all the answers. A good start is moving out of your personal echo chamber (left or right) to examine the entire issue from as many sides as possible. That is not an easy thing to do, but it is worth the effort. However, let me offer a shortcut for when all else fails.

Look for the Nazis! That's right – Nazis. If you find that the protestor next to you is wearing a 6MWE (Six Million Wasn't Enough) or Camp Auschwitz sweatshirt, you might want to reconsider your position. Most of our parents or grandparents were the original ANTIFA (anti-fascists). My dad, Rosario Musmarra, was on the beach at Normandy; Maura Greeley's dad, James Emmet Greeley, when a newly minted lawyer, aided the prosecution in the Nuremberg Trials; Dolores Seidman's husband, Norm Stevens, is one of the last living WWII bombardiers who flew missions over France and Germany. I bet we could fill the newsletter with the names of our anti-fascist relatives and friends.

So yes, by all means, look for the Nazis, who, despite claims to the contrary are not “very fine people.” It is disingenuous at best to say they represent a “few rotten apples” in an otherwise okay group. If the group message resonates with Nazis, it isn't a good sign. We teach our children that they will be known by the company they keep, so it seems quite reasonable to insist that decent people do not support what Nazis' support.

Patricia Cuocco,
Public Policy Chair

Visit AAUW National website aauw.org for statements on the January 6 Insurrection at the Capitol and other policy issues.



Birkenau
Concentration
Camp

AAUW FUND

Dolores Gonzalez-Hayes is pleased to announce that she is hosting an:

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 four:

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.

Please send your contributions to Kay Clark; 1915 Inez St. #8: Whittier, CA. 90605

Please make your checks payable to: GWA AAUW. In the memo section of your check, please write: AAUW FUND.

A ZOOM invitation and link will be sent by Cindy Birt by Thursday, January 28, 2021

FROM THE FINANCE CORNER – Kay Clark:

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!

MEMBERSHIP

As mentioned in the January Newsletter, this year, due to the pandemic, GWA-AAUW's January's 'Meet and Greet' meeting has been postponed, possibly to summer. The Meet and Greet meeting is a time when interested and/or potential folks are invited to a casual gathering during which members greet folks and share what AAUW and Greater Whittier Area AAUW are and what we do. We will keep you posted regarding dates once we are able to meet in person. In the interim we'd like to share information about AAUW. The following information is from the AAUW.org website.

AAUW is Intersectional, Inclusive, Intergenerational, Empowering.

Though we are nonpartisan, we are not values-neutral: We fight to remove the barriers and biases that stand in the way of gender equity. We train women to negotiate for pay and benefits and to pursue leadership roles. And we advocate for federal, state and local laws and policies to ensure equity and end discrimination.

Economic Security

We've been working to narrow the gender pay gap, which greets women as soon as they enter the workforce and widens through their working lives. Unequal wages stand in the way of a woman's ability to pay off student debt, build wealth and save for retirement.

Education

We champion equal opportunities in education. Though more than 60% of college graduates are women, they face barriers and biases throughout their schooling. From pre-school to graduate school, girls and women are unconsciously steered into certain fields of studies and away from more lucrative ones, such as STEM.

Advocacy

Our members, supporters and staff work on local, state and federal levels to support laws and policies that enable women's success. Our work in statehouses and the U.S. Capitol has helped pass hundreds of pieces of legislation. Our Legal Advocacy team has supported plaintiffs in more than 125 gender equity legal cases.

GWA AAUW Celebrates Members with 20-29 Years of Membership.

Please be sure to congratulate the following members on their 20 or more years of AAUW membership.

Members with 20-29 years of membership:

Carol K. Anderson	26 years	Sheila Hartfield	27 years
Cecilia Bartlow	24 years	Barbara Kuechel	22 years
Janet Berry	26 years	Kristina Newcomer	24 years
Letty Brooks	23 years	Francine Rippy	25 years
Constance Bucey	23 years	Joanne Sarachman	24 years
Peggy Fretz	24 years	Jill Smith	25 years
Iris Harris	24 years	Deanna Woirhaye	27 years
		Rose Mary Yetter*	21 years

*deceased (12/27/20)s

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: _____
Last First

Year joined AAUW _____

College/Universities attended

Years

Degree received

Elected Offices held in AAUW

Branch

Year (approximate is ok)

_____ continue on
_____ back of paper

Appointed Offices held

Branch

Year (approximate is ok)

_____ continue on
_____ back of paper

Committee / Section Chair Positions

Branch

Year (approximate ok)

_____ continue on
_____ back of paper

Committee / Section Chair Participation

Branch

Year (approximate is ok)

_____ continue on
_____ back of paper

Projects for AAUW Worked on/Completed

_____ paper

_____ continue on
_____ back of

Community Activities (Clubs, Volunteering, etc.)

_____ paper

Organization

Year (s) (approximate is ok)

_____ continue on
_____ back of

What would you like to see at branch meetings or at sections? What areas are of interest to you?

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 you to 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

FEBRUARY IS:

National African American History Month (see article on our program for February).

February is also National Library Lovers Month and, of course, National Creative Romance Month (think Valentine's Day).

- "February, when the days of winter seem endless and no amount of wistful recollecting can bring back any air of summer." —*Shirley Jackson*



THE SPOTLIGHT



The COVID pandemic has been with us almost a full year, and we are all getting tired and cranky. The vaccine is coming, but certainly not quickly, as many of you have reported spending inordinate amounts of time trying to get appointments. Please hang in there and stay safe. This, too, shall pass. Personally, I'm looking forward to a possible summer Meet and Greet where we can all hug each other.

We mourn the passing of our member, Rose Mary Yetter, from congestive heart failure on December 27, 2020. There will be no service.

Kristine Yeseta's husband, Greg, advised us that Kristine has been in the hospital since before Christmas with a non-COVID infection. YIKES! Plans were for her to come home on January 22 and we hope that happened. Hope you are feeling better, Kristine.

Louise Holden is still not 100% recovered from eye-issue. Best Wishes, Louise.

Susan Halliday's husband, Doug, was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer early November and has begun his chemo treatments at PIH. They are so pleased to have an excellent medical team with oncologist & surgeon from Cedars Sinai Research Hospital, working with a PIH oncologist so that Doug can receive chemo locally. The Cedars team is experienced with pancreatic cancer and is highly respected. After chemo, Doug will have surgery, followed by more chemo. Doug and Susan remain positive as they walk through their journey and are so very grateful for the positive thoughts and prayers sent their way.

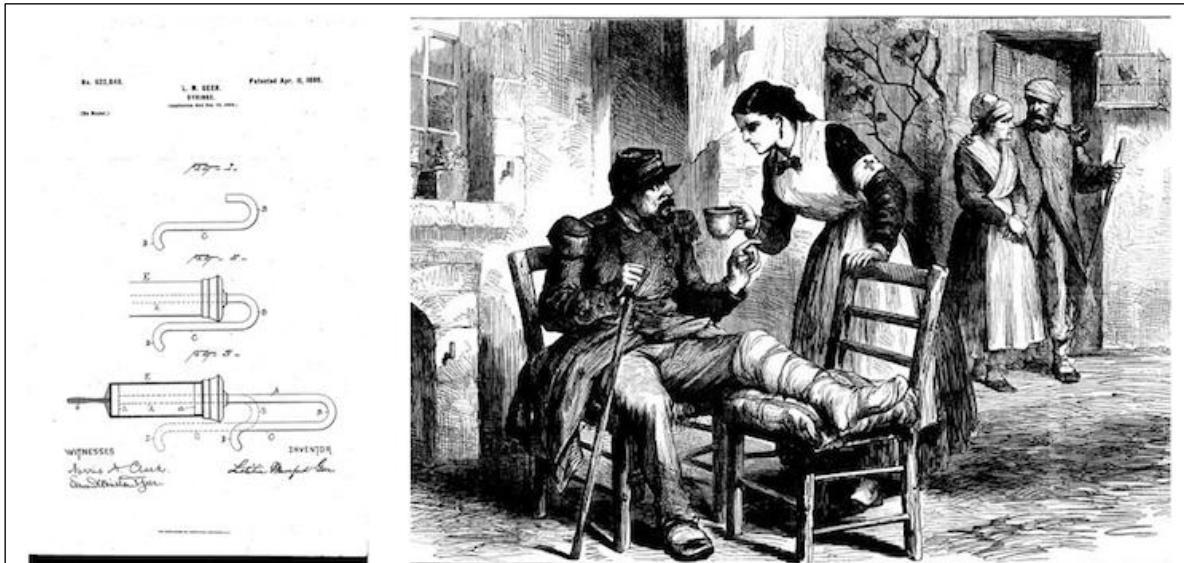
Dolores Seidman shared something we could all use during these trying times – a webinar on Resilience Practices – Mindfulness, Compassion, Meditation and More. They are hosted by Kaiser Permanente, but open to anyone. Check it out and register for the February 18, 2021, 5 to 6 PM event at <https://na.eventscloud.com/595158>. Thanks, Dolores!

Need something interesting to do? Who doesn't? Check out <https://naturalhistory.si.edu/visit/virtual-tour> for various virtual tours of the Smithsonian. Also, check out virtual tours at <https://www.travelandleisure.com/attractions/museums-galleries/museums-with-virtual-tours>.

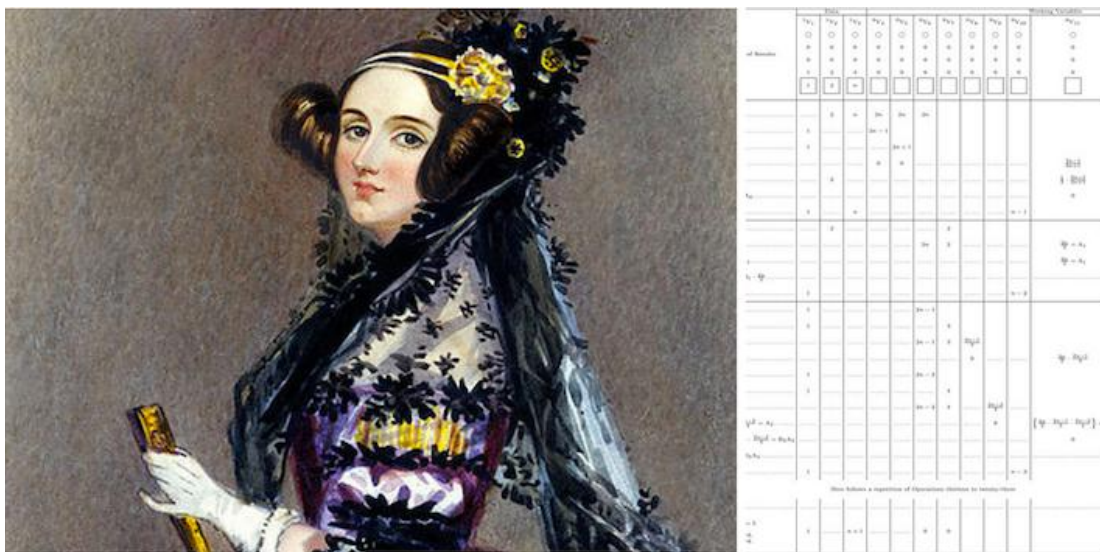


FUN FACTS

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.



Letitia Mumford Geer, born 1852, was an inventor who patented the one-hand operated syringe that is the basis for most modern medical syringes. The patent was granted in 1899.



Augusta Ada King, Countess of Lovelace, was an English mathematician and writer, chiefly known for her work on Charles Babbage's proposed mechanical general-purpose computer, the Analytical Engine. Her notes were an essential key to helping Alan Turing's work on the first modern computers in the 1940s.

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

Mystery Mavens does not meet in February. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 17, 2021 on ZOOM at 7PM. The book will be *Murder with Peacocks* by Donna Andrews. Mandy Knight will lead the discussion. If you have any questions, please call or email Sharon Heck. 562-698-0476 S.Heck4peace@gmail.com

The last book of 2020-2021 is *Death on Demand* by Carolyn Hart, to be discussed at the May 19, 2021 meeting.

Sharon Heck, Chair

MODERN TRENDS IN LITERATURE

The next Modern Trends meeting will be February 25, 2021 at 7 PM on ZOOM. We will be discussing, *The Water Dancer* by Ta-Nehisi Coates.

In April, we will read the book that Whittier Reads announces. May 27 will be *The Mountains Sing* by Nguyen Phan Que Mai.

If you have any questions, please call Georgine Sweeney at 562-631-6698.

MEMORIES

Memories will meet via ZOOM on Wednesday, February 24 at 1:30 PM. The topic: “I Took a Risk.” Lots of possibilities: perhaps it had to do with a job, with taking a road less traveled, healing a friendship, risking failure, etc. Of course, you may choose to write on a topic of your own.

Thank you, Gwen, for setting up the meeting. All AAUW members are invited to share their views. Questions? Call Carole Restovich at 562-787-0727.

INTERNATIONAL CONCERNS

Our International Concerns section is reading a book printed each year by the Foreign Policy Association titled *Great Decisions*. 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 meet on ZOOM.

Our meetings are on the third Thursday each month at 10AM. On February 18 we will meet by ZOOM. 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 February meeting will be “China’s Road into Latin America”, chapter 6 in the 2020 *Great Decisions*. 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

Belen Duarte-Sousa will be leading the discussion on February 18. 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. If you are new to us, send me your email so you will be included on the ZOOM invitation.

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



MORNING BOOK

We will not be meeting this month. The following are selections for the rest of the year:

March 22: *The Dutch House* (Ann Patchett)

June 7: *The Jane Austen Society* (Natalie Jenner)

July 26: *The Splendid and the Vile* (Erik Larson)

Happy reading,

Ann Topjon, Chair 562-695-6185



HAPPY (AND SAFE) VALENTINES DAY!



**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:

- I want the yearbook insert mailed to me - \$2
- I want the AAUW binder at the cost of \$6
+ yearbook + postage \$ 5.00 = \$11.00

**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 _____ ** preferred number

*Work Phone _____ *Email address _____

Degree _____ Year _____ Major _____

College/University _____

Degree _____ Year _____ Major _____

College/University _____

Degree _____ Year _____ Major _____

College/University _____

FEBRUARY 2021

GREATER WHITTIER AREA BRANCH CALENDAR

AAUW FUNDRaiser	January 29 (Friday)	5:30 PM ZOOM
Myra Long Scholarship	February 2 (Tuesday)	9:30 AM ZOOM
Board Meeting	February 2 (Tuesday)	7 PM ZOOM
Branch Meeting	February 13 (Saturday)	11 AM ZOOM *
International Concerns	February 18 (Thursday)	10 AM ZOOM
Memories	February 24 (Wednesday)	1:30 PM ZOOM
Modern Trends in Literature	February 25 (Thursday)	7 PM ZOOM

CHECK WITH YOUR SECTION LEADERS FOR UPDATES AND ZOOM INVITATIONS

* Tune in at 10:30 AM, if you wish to chat with other members.



**NEXT NEWSLETTER WILL BE OUT
IN LATE FEBRUARY FOR MARCH
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