

**FEBRUARY  
2022**



**BRANCH MEETING – FEBRUARY 12, 2022  
11 AM - ZOOM**

**Whittier Women You Will Want to Know**

Our February program will feature one of Whittier's own historians, Tracy Wittman. Wittman will be speaking about two Historic Whittier women: Rebecca Bailey and Harriet Russell Strong. Bailey was one of the Quaker pioneers and was a typical woman of her time. Strong, on the other hand, was a most remarkable woman of her time (1844-1926), and would be notable in any time as a social activist, inventor, businesswoman and conservationist.. It will, no doubt, be an enlightening talk!

Wittman, a fourth generation Whittierite, was born in Whittier and has resided in Whittier for most of her life. She likes to describe her working life as a career in three parts. After receiving her BS from UCLA, she worked as an engineer at Rockwell and Boeing for seventeen years where she had the privilege of working on the Space Shuttle program. Her second career was as a homeschool mom, teaching her daughter from first to twelfth grade. Now retired, Wittman leads an active life in the Whittier community as a volunteer. She serves on the board of the Whittier Historical Society and enjoys writing about local history and curating exhibits. Wittman is also a docent at the Bailey House and leads tours in the local hills with Habitat Authority. She is married to Dave Wittman, a Boeing engineer, and has one daughter, Sydney.

Our AAUW Branch meeting will be held on ZOOM due to rising cases of Covid, and the link will be provided by President Paula Ocampo via Cindy Birt. It will be sent to you a couple of days ahead of our February Branch meeting which will begin at 11:00. 10:30-11:00 will be open for social time. We look forward to seeing you all there!

Claire Koehler, VP Program Director  
Ann Topjon, Program Committee Associate  
Christine Heller, Program Committee Associate

MURPHY'S  
RANCH, 1941



# HOSPITALITY

Hello Ladies:

I am Pauline Rogers, the new Hospitality Vice President. We are back to meeting on ZOOM again. That doesn't mean we can't have some form of "Hospitality". I suggest we each come to the meeting with a cup or pot of your favorite tea. And we shall have a tea party while we enjoy the month's presentation.

This month I will suggest WHITE TEA, the tea only the Chinese emperor could have. White tea comes from the first buds of the tea leaves, and it is touted as having the most antioxidants. I find it has a milder flavor than green tea which is next on the list of antioxidants, with the fully developed tea leaves, which become black tea, having the least amount of antioxidants, or so I was told. I found my White Tea at Sprouts.

You can have a large pot of tea or use a "one cupper" and that is a cup which sits on top of a small tea pot. I have a collection of these little gems, and some have saucers. One of my favorites looks like a cat and another is decorated beautifully with a peacock. My sister sent me that one! The "one cupper" I find really holds a cup and a half of tea. Just enough so that we are not having to make a trip to the bathroom in the middle of the meeting, hopefully!

Next time, if we are still in Zoom meeting mode I will suggest some delightful Spring-like teas. Until then have a safe and healthy month ahead!

Pauline Rogers  
Hospitality Vice President

## FEBRUARY MISCELLANY

February is Black History Month. It is also National Cancer Prevention Month. Mammograms for her and PSA Tests for him are a good way to celebrate Valentine's Day. Nothing says, "I Love You" more than caring for our health.

"Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire: it is the time for home."

- Edith Sitwell

The word February is believed to have derived from the name 'Februa' taken from the Roman 'Festival of Purification'. The root 'februo' means "I purify by sacrifice". As part of the seasonal calendar February is the time of the 'Ice Moon' according to Pagan beliefs, and the period described as the 'Moon of the Dark Red Calf' by Black Elk. February has also been known as 'Sprout-kale' by the Anglo-Saxons in relation to the time the kale and cabbage was edible."

- [Mystical WWW](#)

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Although we are a few weeks in, I want to wish you all a very Happy New Year for 2022. It can seem like the atmosphere is fraught with anxieties and concerns. However, it is now more than ever that our AAUW fellowship of members can join together to uphold each other and focus on the positive effects we can make. What better way than supporting our organization by attending (in person or on zoom) our sponsored events, section meetings, and branch meetings.

We were very fortunate to celebrate the holidays together at our branch meeting in December. The event at Whittier Elks lodge was festive, tables decorated beautifully by Positive Past Presidents (PPP), and of course the luncheon was delicious. With a program theme of Change and Reflection, we were inspired by readings of poems and stories by Ann Topjon, Claire Koehler, Chris Heller, Carole Restovich and Ann Chambers and accompanied by the gifted musician, Jauhar Basrai, on keyboard.

In-person meetings were going so well, and our safety protocols seemed to be effective. However, the recent surge in Covid-19 cases compels us to cancel in-person meetings through the month of March. We are back to Zoom for branch meetings on February 12, 2022, and March 12, 2022. The board will re-evaluate in early March as to the April meeting.

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered and participated in AAUW branch governance and service. Please join me in welcoming the following new leaders:

Pauline Rogers, Hospitality VP - We all know Pauline as the essence of positivity who will bring a new dimension to our meetings, in person and on Zoom.

Pat Dudley DEI Coordinator - AAUW is focusing on an initiative to further our awareness, understanding and participation in a new DEI program for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

Brenda Carrillo, Tech Trek Coordinator - Brenda brings additional technical expertise to the team. Christine Kennedy will continue as a valued committee member. We still need to fill the position of Newsletter Editor. Thank you to Patricia Cuocco who has continued to support us for so long. She is not able to continue, and we really need someone to step up. The new editor will get lots of support and training.

The AAUW CA virtual Annual Event is coming up on April 30<sup>th</sup>. All AAUW members are invited to join to hear fabulous speakers like AAUW CEO Gloria Blackwell, Policy Rockstar Lisa Maatz, and the Dancing Rocket Scientist Jasmine Sadler! Get caught up on all the incredible work and successes of AAUW California branches from the past year and hear our Speech Trek finalists. There will new format “open space” sessions in the afternoon on a variety of topics covering all things AAUW, equity, women, and girls. More details and registration information will be coming soon.

Paula Ocampo, GWA-AAUW Branch President

AAUW Mission Statement - To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy

Presidents Theme - Embracing one another, we work together to carry out the AAUW Mission, we appreciate the gift of each other's companionship and encourage all members to participate and feel included and welcome.

# AAUW FUND

Every year the AAUW California Fund Committee honors AAUW California members who have done outstanding work in supporting the programs and goals of the AAUW Fund and/or AAUW California. For branches, a Named Gift is a special way to pay tribute to an individual, a group, or an organization giving extraordinary service to AAUW.

Branches *can* nominate a Named Gift Honoree for each \$750 contributed by the branch or branch members on or before December 31st. However, limiting the number of nominees adds to the prestige of the award. For this reason, in recent years GWA AAUW has limited the number to just a few.

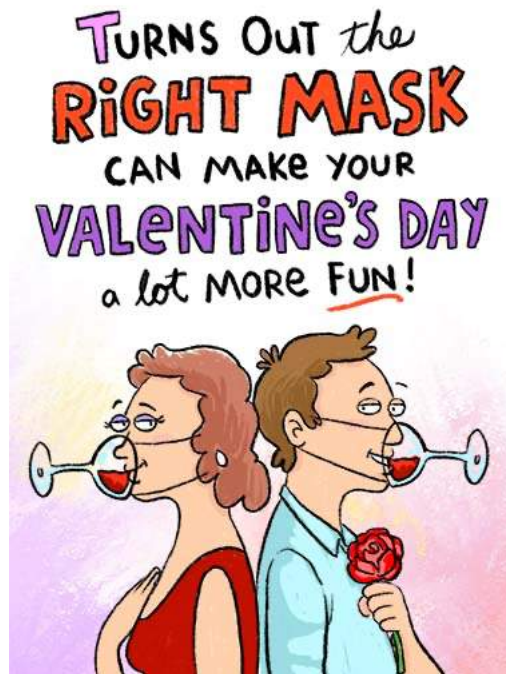
A list of past awardees is in the branch yearbook on pages 24-28. Generally, we give the award to someone who has not received it previously.

The nomination form is included in this newsletter on the next page. The deadline to return the form will be February 12 after which a committee of former awardees will meet to determine the winner. The deadline for submission to AAUW CA is March 1. The winner(s) will be honored at the May 14 Branch Meeting.

Please consider making a nomination and return it to me by February 12 deadline.

Because we are not meeting in person, please mail to me at my address below.  
Thank you!

Dolores Seidman, AAUW Fund V.P.  
254 Bloom Drive, Monterey Park, CA 91755



# AAUW FUND NAMED GIFT HONOREE NOMINATION FORM

Each year our branch recognizes members who provide leadership and contribute to the success of the programs and goals of the branch. These members are the ambassadors who promote the mission of AAUW. In addition to an individual, a group or an organization that enhanced the mission of AAUW may be nominated.

Nominee:

Leadership:

Participation in Branch Activities:

Community Activities as Related to AAUW:

What makes this candidate an outstanding member of GWA-AAUW?

Nominated by:

Attach additional pages if needed. Please return to Dolores Seidman by Saturday February 12, 2022, by U.S. Mail, or in person. Dolores Seidman, 254 Bloom Drive, Monterey Park, CA 91755.

# PUBLIC POLICY

## Voting Rights Imperiled

This is a hard day to be writing a Public Policy piece. As I sit at my computer, it is Martin Luther King Day – a day when we should be embracing diversity and how far we have come in protecting Civil Rights for all people. Yet, everywhere we look, the right most fundamental to our (or any) democracy– the right to vote – is under attack.

This quote from the Brennan Center website sums up the situation for 2021: “Between January 1 and December 7, at least **19 states passed 34 laws restricting access to voting**. More than 440 bills with provisions that restrict voting access have been introduced in 49 states in the 2021 legislative sessions. These numbers are extraordinary: state legislatures enacted far more restrictive voting laws in 2021 than in any year since the Brennan Center began tracking voting legislation [in 2011](#). More than a third of all restrictive voting laws enacted since then were passed this year. And in a new trend this year, legislators introduced bills to allow partisan actors to interfere with election processes or even reject election results entirely.” The Brennan Center goes on to say this attack will likely continue, unabated in 2022.

The Supreme Court eviscerated the Voting Rights Act in 2013 (*Shelby County v. Holder*), paving the way for this onslaught. The Freedom to Vote Act would correct this, however opponents of this bill claim it is a partisan power grab that denies the States their right to arrange their voting laws as they wish. However, historian Heather Cox Richardson explains in her January 16, 2022, essay that Constitution allows for the Federal Government, at any time, make laws to alter State regulations.

From the comfort of our 21<sup>st</sup> century lives, we need to remember that people fought and died for the right to vote. Many were brutally murdered by people who considered any person of color to be “less than” white people. Some of these people would still murder to maintain their version of white supremacy.

The Constitution was amended in 1870 (15<sup>th</sup> Amendment) to state: “[t]he right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.” In that same amendment, it provided that “[t]he Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.”

Unless we start refusing to reelect persons who will not wholeheartedly support the right of all our citizens to vote, and until we hold those elected officials who continue to perpetuate the “Big Lie” of the 2020 accountable, we risk getting to a point where what Congress does to protect the right to vote will be irrelevant. The authoritarian powers we will have turned our democracy into an autocracy and shame on all of us for allowing it to happen.

A side note: I am proud of AAUW for having joined with other organizations to lobby Congress on behalf of voting rights. Please see [http://civilrightsdocs.info/pdf/policy/letters/2021/Senate\\_VRAA\\_Sign\\_On\\_Letter\\_11032021.pdf](http://civilrightsdocs.info/pdf/policy/letters/2021/Senate_VRAA_Sign_On_Letter_11032021.pdf).

Patricia Cuocco  
Public Policy Chair



# MEMBERSHIP

## Meet and Greet Postponed

As your Membership team it was very difficult to make the decision to postpone our yearly Meet and Greet scheduled for January. In this day and age of COVID we all must be flexible and go with a health plan that protects our members and guests. We look forward to putting this outreach event back on our calendar as soon as possible. If each of us attending would bring at least one prospective new member we would be at full room capacity and overflowing with new energy! Please stay posted for our future date for Meet and Greet.

## Membership Recognition

This month we would like to honor our 20- and 30-year members!

30 Years Louise Holden

20 Years Kaye Kidwell

Thank you for your many years of membership, service and leadership to our Greater Whittier Branch. Your dedication to our organization has kept us strong and vital in our community.

At this time, we would like to acknowledge:

29 Years Sheila Hartfield  
28 Years Deanna Woirhaye  
27 Years Carol K. Anderson, Francine Rippy  
26 Years Joann Sarachman  
25 Years Iris Harris, Kristina Newcomer  
24 Years Letty Brooks, Constance Bucey  
21 Years Sharon Heck

## A Time for Wine

We are pleased to announce that many of you have placed orders for bottles of red craft wine made by Janet Berry's late husband Brent Berry. Karen is taking orders, accepting your donations and delivering the bottles to your home. Thank you, Jan, for your generous gift to our branch and the donations it has generated.

Karen van der Baan  
Lynda Richardson  
Membership Co-chairs



Greater Whittier Area-American Association of University Women  
**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM for YEAR 2021-2022**

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

<b>ANNUAL DUES</b> Please choose Membership type:	<input type="checkbox"/> Paid Life Member \$44	<input type="checkbox"/> Student \$38.81
	<input type="checkbox"/> General \$106	<input type="checkbox"/> Dual \$24
{National Dues \$62 + State Dues \$20 + Branch Dues \$24 = \$106 TOTAL} REMINDER \$80 of YOUR DUES IS TAX DEDUCTIBLE		
<b>To order the following items, please include/add the following to your check:</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> I want the yearbook insert mailed to me - \$2		
<input type="checkbox"/> I want the AAUW binder, cost \$6 + (if mailed, postage \$5 = \$11)		

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 \_\_\_\_\_



## 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**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Elected Offices held in AAUW**

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 \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Branch**

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**Year (approximate is ok)**

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**Appointed Offices held**

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**Branch**

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**Year (approximate is ok)**

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**Committee / Section Chair Positions**

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**Branch**

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**Year (approximate ok)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
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**Committee / Section Chair Participation**

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**Branch**

\_\_\_\_\_  
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**Year (approximate is ok)**

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**Projects for AAUW Worked on/Completed**

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**Community Activities (Clubs, Volunteering, etc)**

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**Organization**

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**Year (s) (approximate is ok)**

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

# SPOTLIGHT



On February 19, Dolores Seidman and Norm Stevens will celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Love and Congratulations on this wonderful milestone.

Tobi Balma received special recognition from Angela Cooper, AAUW National Sr. Manager, Connect and the Advancement & Partnerships Department. Angela made an end of year donation to the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund in Tobi Balma's name. As you know during the month of December, the AAUW National Board and staff matched donations made to the Greatest Needs Fund. Angela used her matching gift to recognize national members who she personally knows show exceptional dedication to the mission of AAUW. Tobi is one of the members Angela honored with her donation. Way to go, Tobi.

January found Gwen and Mahlon Woirhaye along with some friends and relatives at sea in the Caribbean on their way to the Panama Canal. They even managed to make it to Key West for some key lime pie. Yum! The trip was planned last June before the rise of the COVID variants.

Incoming President Nadine Wilcox, a retired nurse, has started to give two school districts time as a per diem nurse. She is also busy as a volunteer for the WPL Bookstore and has books to distribute to local free libraries. Free is always a great price. Talk to Nadine if you know any free libraries or schools that need books.

COVID reared its ugly head with both Irma Perez' and Sharon Heck's families. Irma attended a New Year's event with 20 vaccinated folks in good health, but she and her husband came down with COVID. Omicron is super contagious. They passed the infection to their daughter who was unvaccinated and got quite ill but is doing better and promised to get her vaccination.

Sharon's daughter, Cherie had an attack of diverticulitis. Her husband took her to the ER, and both ended up with COVID. Cherie's severe allergic reaction to the first vaccine shot caused her doctors to forbid subsequent shots. She was, consequently, much sicker than her fully vaccinated husband. The family postponed Christmas till January 8 and did celebrate, but more members were missing due to COVID. Big celebration planned for when this pandemic passes.

Karen van der Baan, however, reports "Best New Year's Eve ever!" Both her sons, her daughter-in-law and her very precious granddaughter, Emmeline were at her home celebrating Emmaline's second birthday.

Patricia Cuocco enjoyed her first real snow in more than 50 years. Here is a picture she took from her front porch in Minden, Nevada, after the early December snowfall.



**Happy Valentine's Day to ALL!**  
Patricia Cuocco, Editor

## SECTION INFORMATION

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

## 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, and we read one article each month.

Our meetings are on the third Thursday each month at 10AM. On Thursday, February 17, 10AM, we will meet at Sharon Heck's home, 6032 Comstock Ave., Whittier, CA 90601. Our topic for the February 17 meeting will be Chapter 3, "Putin's Russia" in the 2022 *Great Decisions*. Books are still available for those who wish to join us. 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](http://www.fpa.org/great_decisions).

Everyone reads the material ahead of time, and we have a lively discussion around the topic. If you have newspaper articles or materials, we are happy for you to share them. All are welcome to join us for International Concerns. Please RSVP to Sharon as her street has permit parking. Daily permits will be available, and three cars can park in the driveway. [S.Heck4peace@gmail.com](mailto:S.Heck4peace@gmail.com) or 562-698-0476.

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

## MYSTERY MAVENS

Mystery Mavens does not meet in February. We will meet again on March 16, the third Wednesday. Please watch the March newsletter for further information. Please start sending me book nominations for next year. The mystery book should be the first in a series. Email the title, author, and a brief summary, to [s.heck4peace@gmail.com](mailto:s.heck4peace@gmail.com). Thank you.  
Sharon Heck

Books for the remainder of the year  
March 16, 2022  
*Murder at the Palace* by Margaret Dumas reviewed by Jackie Brearley  
May 18, 2022  
*The Shaman Sings* by James D. Doss reviewed by Gwen Woirhaye

# MORNING BOOK



We will not meet in February.

Here is the list of the remaining books for discussion this year:

*The Lost Gutenberg*: March 28; Marian Locke, discussion leader.

*Hamnet*: June 6; Linda Harris, discussion leader.

*The Pull of the Stars*: July 25; Ann Topjon, discussion leader.

The question will remain each time, however, as to whether we will meet in person or via ZOOM. I think this will have to be a month-by-month decision as the situation is in our community changes, and how safe members feel.

I will send out notification prior to the scheduled meeting.

Ann Topjon, Chair 562-695-6185

## LA CUISINE

Our next La Cuisine will be a restaurant meal arranged by Debra Benveniste, when it is deemed safe. Date to be announced later. Anyone wishing to join this dining section should contact the chair.

Gwen Woirhaye, Chair

[Gwen@woirhaye.com](mailto:Gwen@woirhaye.com)

## WRITING IS FUN

The Writing is Fun section (formerly known as MEMORIES) is on hiatus until March 2022.

## FIRST FRIDAY

**February First Friday is cancelled due to COVID infection increases.**

**Gwen Woirhaye, Chair**

**[Gwen@woirhaye.com](mailto:Gwen@woirhaye.com)**

FEBRUARY 2022  
GREATER WHITTIER AREA BRANCH CALENDAR

Board Meeting	February 1 (Tuesday) 7 PM	ZOOM
Branch Meeting	February 11 (Saturday) 11:30 AM	ZOOM
International Concerns	February 17(Thursday) 11:30 AM	Sharon Heck, Whittier
Modern Trends	January 27 (Thursday) 7 PM	ZOOM

CHECK WITH YOUR SECTION LEADERS FOR UPDATES AND ZOOM INVITATIONS



**NEXT NEWSLETTER WILL BE OUT IN LATE FEBRUARY  
FOR MARCH 2022.**

Please consult our style sheet and follow it when preparing your newsletter article. It will save 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 do not send articles in Google Docs.**

Please send articles by email on or before the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month, August through May to [patricia@fullerton.edu](mailto:patricia@fullerton.edu)

Newsletter Editor – Patricia Cuocco

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