

Winter Newsletter

2022

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Co-President's Message (part 1)

Dear WALC Family,

As I thought about what to write to you today, I recalled an afternoon a few weeks ago. I had just arrived at WALC for a tutoring lesson. As I entered, I noticed how busy it looked. I stopped and glanced around and heard a soft buzzing as seven or eight tutoring sessions were taking place. There was a palpable energy in the room from so much engagement, conversation and even laughter. This is what “one-on-one tutoring” looks like. This is WALC hitting a homerun!

I remembered that we had just reopened on June 28th with only a few tutoring sessions scheduled for the week. Our safety rules and procedures were in place, and now we waited for our tutors and students to return. We now have eight to ten tutoring sessions scheduled daily and about fifteen virtual tutoring sessions occurring regularly. Our numbers are slowly but surely returning to normal. It is our hope that this trend can continue. However, we also hold paramount the safety of our tutors and students and will be vigilant to maintain this trust.

Many of our donors and supporters have given generously to WALC for our continued growth and replacement of books and learning materials that were depleted in this last year. You have our heartfelt thanks for these gifts.

As the year 2021 ends, we gratefully acknowledge your continued support and participation in our literacy mission. Also, a special thank you to all our wonderful tutors for their time, energy and efforts with their students. We wish you and your loved ones good health and prosperity in the New Year.

Gratefully,

Lucy Alaniz

Co-President

Co-President's Message (part 2)

The winter months are upon us and the Whittier Area Literacy Council continues to provide our community with Literacy tutoring for over 59 years. Our dedicated tutors have made such a difference in their pupil's lives throughout the pandemic both online and in person. WALC is planning for our students' Soup and a Good Book writings this Spring. We were also blessed with temporary help in our office from Alisa Torosian for a few weeks. Currently, Francine Biscardi is keeping our office open. Our Program Administrator, Maggie Swedberg plans to return as soon as her health permits. Being the Co-President of the Board of Directors has been very fulfilling. I must thank every board member for their dedication and resolve to the mission of WALC:

- ◆ Lucy Alaniz for stepping up and doing a wonderful job as President
- ◆ Also, Lucy and Barbara Walters for updating Tutor Training along with Pat Almada
- ◆ Pat again for giving of her expertise at Grant Writing and making sure our council can continue its mission
- ◆ Gladys Pineda for our colorful, updated Newsletter format
- ◆ Cristina Gardner for her beautiful touch to all our events
- ◆ Gail Chabran for her exciting plans on our Family Literacy Nights
- ◆ Again Barbara for sending cards and plants to those in need of comfort or congratulations
- ◆ Kathy Filatreau for IT Support in all areas
- ◆ Patty Baker and Teresa Price for developing our Safety Protocols for reopening
- ◆ Patty for her precise, diligent Board Minutes
- ◆ Maggie for supporting our activities and for sustaining us with administrative excellence not only daily with our students and tutors, but also with the Board of Directors and Advisory Board requests
- ◆ Roxanne Torosian for developing and maintaining our Whittier College tutor program
- ◆ Our newest Board members Linda Soiseth, Evan Razo and Michael Saldivar, also Amber Tec – our Whittier College Student Tutor Representative for bringing their many talents to the Board
- ◆ Also our Advisory Board for their willingness to give good advice
- ◆ And, all our donors who have sent us encouragement and funds to build Literacy in our community

Many other non-profits have not been able to continue, but with everyone's help, we are still here.

Thank you all.

Sincerely

Cel Carr

Co-President of the WALC Board of Directors



Family Literacy Night

The last Family Literacy Night was held in late February 2020. However, our plans to hold another session during the 2020-2021 school year had to be postponed. Speakers on the topics of nutrition, strategies to encourage reading and math were planned. Due to uncertainty as to how the meetings would be set up and delivered, the decision to postpone was agreed upon by the Board. Hopefully, in 2022, these sessions will be rescheduled.

Tutor Training

With masks in place, a mini class of Whittier college students attended a tutor training class in reading on September 29, 2021. The college students had first viewed an online module that introduced the history of our organization along with expectations and desired commitment to tutoring for us. They had been assigned students and so attended with some tutoring experience. A revised tutor training session focusing on writing is in the works.

WALC's training sessions have been modified and, due to pandemic restrictions, have not resumed in full force. We realize the need for new tutors and hope to be back with a regular training schedule as soon as possible.



“What do you like about tutoring...?”

Jasmin O. (Tutor): “I like getting the opportunity to help many people of all ages.”

Daisy H. (Student): “I like that if kids struggle in reading, kind people then solve the problem.”



Patty B. (Tutor) *"I love tutoring because I meet young people and that keeps me young. Their enthusiasm is wonderful."*

Alyssa C. (Student) *"What I like about tutoring is I like reading to get my reading better. I love communicating with Miss Patty because it's fun."*

Linda M. (Tutor) : “I love watching the student grow academically and socially. I enjoy watching them feel good about themselves.”

Kevin V. (Student) : “I like coming here with Linda. If I don't come, I'm at home practicing what she gives me to do.”

“What do you like about tutoring...?” (continued)



Linda S. (Tutor) "I like how hard my student concentrates during the lessons. When she concentrates hard, she gets share time."

Jasmine T. (Student) "My tutor is a great person. She helps me to read better now."



Cathy W. (Tutor) "I really like that Vanessa enjoys looking at maps. We are going to learn about the continents and then the states."

Vanessa Z. (Student) "I like to write on the whiteboard and draw and do reading."

Whittier City Christmas Parade

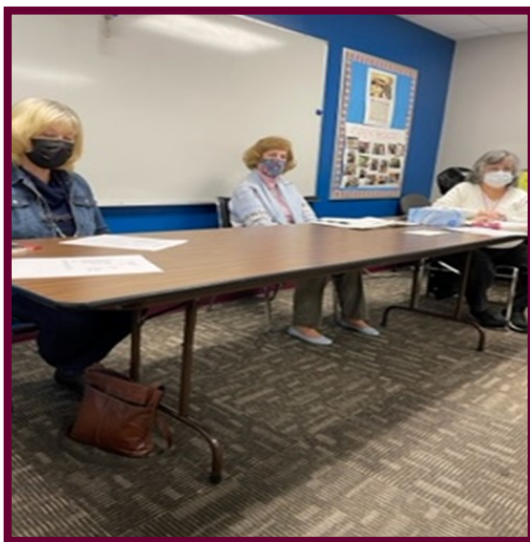


On Saturday, December 11, 2021, WALC was invited by our long-time supporters, the Whittier Sunshine Rotary Club, to walk with them in the annual City of Whittier Christmas Parade. An enthusiastic Whittier College and WALC tutor, Amber Tec, joined in with her dad and brother and sister to carry our WALC sign. The early morning cool was tempered by the energy and warmth of the happy adults and children who waved as they passed.

Thank you, Amber and Family!



Holiday Celebration



What a fun occasion! All our board members agreed. After the December meeting, they enjoyed a special luncheon. It was especially appreciated because the previous year's celebration was cancelled while meetings were held on Zoom. Special guests were Rev. Dennis Mohler and Dean Ortner of Calvary Baptist Church, our host site, who have been very helpful to our WALC members.

Food for our event was catered by Mimo's Cafe, located nearby in the uptown area. Our board makes it a practice to recognize local businesses, such as Mimo's, which support and donate to WALC fundraisers such as Soup and a Good Book. Thanks to the board members whose planning and work

resulted in a festive opportunity to socialize; "a good time was had by all."

Whittier Area Literacy Council

Co-President and Tutor Trainer	Lucy Alaniz
Co-President and Treasurer	Cel Carr
1st Vice President and Grant Writer	Pat Almada
Hospitality	Cristina Gardner
Family Literacy	Gail Chabran
Corresponding Secretary and Tutor Trainer	Barbara Walters
Newsletter Editor	Gladys Pineda
Inspirational Chair	Celia McCabe
Historian	Open
Parent Rep	Open
Publicity	Open
Technology	Kathy Filatreau
Whittier College Representative	Amber Tec
Member -At-Large	Michael Saldivar
Member -At-Large	Evan Razo
Member -At-Large	Linda Soiseth

Advisory Board Members

Jim Sass	Dan McMillan
Paul Gardner	Roxanne Torosian
Martha Morales	

Shop and Support the Whittier Area Literacy Council with Amazon Smile!

AmazonSmile has donated over \$89 million dollars to over 1 million nonprofit organizations since 2014. For every purchase, [AmazonSmile](#) will donate \$.5% to WALC.

These are the simple steps:

1. Visit smile.amazon.com
2. Login or set up your account
3. Select the Whittier Area Literacy Council as your designated charity
4. Start Shopping!

Whittier Area Literacy Council Grant Funders

WALC would like to thank our grant funders, whose generosity and commitment sustains WALC in our mission to provide literacy skills to our students.

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|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| BCM Foundation | East Whittier Lions Club |
| City of Whittier | Oltman's Construction |
| Credit Union of Southern California | Smart and Final |
| LA County Supervisor Janice Hahn | Weingart Foundation |
| Keller Williams | Whittier Sunrise Rotary Club |
| Whittier Host Lions | Whittier Rotary Club |
| Whittier Marketplace | |



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Visit our [Website!](#)



Be sure to “Friend”, Whittier Area Literacy Council, on [Facebook!](#)



Follow us on [Twitter!](#)

WALC is a non-profit volunteer organization dedicated to teaching people to read, write, and speak the English language (for free). WALC has served Whittier and adjacent communities since 1962. WALC ‘s mission is to build a stronger, more literate community by connecting those who can help with those who need it the most. Through your generous donation, you can help WALC achieve its mission.

What legacy would you like to leave the world?

WALC cherishes the support you have afforded us through the years as a tutor, donor or volunteer. You know us well and understand the importance of the work we do. You might consider extending your support for generations to come by making a planned or legacy gift to the Whittier Area Literacy Council, Inc.

(ID: 95-4769694).

A legacy gift can be a simple bequest in a will or trust, a beneficiary designation in a retirement fund or life insurance policy or a contribution in honor of a family member or event. If a legacy gift is something you would like to consider, please consult with your tax or legal advisor as to the benefits you may be entitled with respect to this or any other charitable gift.