

# Summer Newsletter



## President's Message

This is a time of growth and transition for the Literacy Council. Several of our board members will be leaving, due to relocation or work responsibilities. We are always searching for new board members to join us in promoting literacy in our community. Please consider becoming part of this dedicated group. I would like to recognize the efforts of community members who have aided WALC in so many ways this year:

- Gail Chabrán and Laurie Baccus have planned really interesting and interactive Family Literacy Nights, with topics such as “Preserving Family Stories” and “Developing Children's Emotional Health.” Parents who attended participated enthusiastically in discussions.
- Whittier College students took part in the College and Community Expo on April 13th. Student leaders shared their outreach efforts by designing display boards detailing the data they collected and proof of their success. WALC was represented through the efforts of our WC College tutor, Adela Lopez.
- Martha Morales, an advisory board member, has tirelessly promoted our mission through her contacts in the Whittier business community. Thanks to her efforts, on May 9th, Keller Williams Realty will be holding a Red Day Fundraiser, with proceeds dedicated to the Council. And- a big thank you to tutor Bonnie Shirley, who met and recruited dynamic Martha.

I especially want to recognize and honor our dedicated tutors. Recently, Tutor Appreciation was celebrated in a new and exciting way. On April 13th, a Quartermania honoring tutors was held at the Roadhouse Grill, with profits donated to WALC. A fine time was had by all, thanks to the powerhouse organizational skills of Suzanne Michel, who patiently advised our board members and helped secure terrific raffle prizes. Best of all, WALC made over \$1300 and paid out less than \$10 for the event.

Due to the sale of our present site, the Literacy Council will be moving to a new site, Calvary Baptist Church, located at Bailey and Newlin St. The pastors, Dr. Dennis Mohler and Dr. John Ploog, have been most welcoming and encouraging, helping to make the transition move smoothly. Thanks also to Mac McFarland, Dr. Jim Fletcher and members of the Search Committee for their dedication in finding us a new home! Watch for updates on our website and on Facebook as we plan our move.

Celia McCabe,

WALC Board President

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Thanks to Whittier City School District Board Member, Polly Vigil and family, for supporting our fundraiser.

## Whittier College Students Host WALC Fundraiser at Mimo's Cafe

Our partnership with Whittier College includes supporting students taking education and child development courses. Jenna Gilb writes, "In our Child Development Practicum class at Whittier College, we are required to work with a community organization and we chose WALC. In class, we complete a community project that we feel will have a lasting impact on our organization. My classmate, Autumn Dixon, and I decided to complete our Practicum hours at Whittier Area Literacy Council. When thinking about our community project, we felt a fundraiser would be an effective way in which we could give back to the Whittier Area Literacy Council. We decided to do the fundraiser at Mimo's Cafe due to the closeness to the college campus and to WALC. We printed flyers and posted the information about the fundraiser on social media. We were able to spread the word to both the Whittier College community as well as the WALC community. We are very grateful to Mimo's Cafe for supporting Whittier Area Literacy Council. Thanks to their generosity, we were able to raise 88 dollars. This money will be used to provide more snack options for the students at WALC."

## Tails of WALC

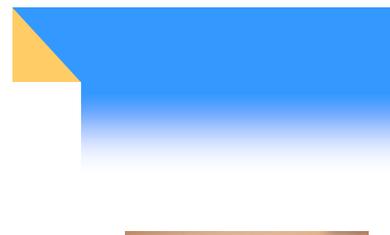
Denise loves dogs! Denise Coté, a tutor at the Whittier Area Literacy Council, retired from teaching in 2015. Soon, she started to miss teaching and found out about the Whittier Area Literacy Council from her daughter. As she joined WALC, she also brought her wonderful dog Gracie, who all the students love to give attention to.

Gracie is a rescue dog who Denise says is very loyal and listens well. She is also training to be a service dog. Gracie is calm and sits with Denise and her student during tutoring. Everyone gets a smile on their face around Gracie.

Denise believes Gracie is a good addition to the Whittier Area Literacy Council and says, "I think once students get to know Gracie, students are more welcomed into the WALC setting." Many of the students are excited to see Gracie and sometimes even bring treats for her. New students even feel more comfortable with her because of how nice she is with everyone she meets. Denise bringing Gracie to the Whittier Area Literacy Council really helps our students feel motivated and at ease. Gracie is a wonderful addition to the WALC family.



"Denise bringing Gracie to the Whittier Area Literacy Council really helps our students feel motivated and at ease."



## Soup and a Good Book 2019

One of the Literacy Council's most enjoyable events, Soup and a Good Book, was held on Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, in Newman Hall of First Christian Church. This year's theme was "My Favorite Book Character." Students were encouraged to write an essay describing traits which helped to make the character interesting. At the event, the essays were read, either by students themselves or by local college volunteers. All of the selections had been compiled into books that were available for sale.

Guest speaker for the day was Julian Alfaro, an articulate and ambitious nine-year-old young man, who has written a book and is known as "The Elementary Entrepreneur." He shared his philosophy of life and answered questions about being an author at such a young age.

A highlight for all attending was lunch, which included a variety of soups donated by local restaurants. In addition, delicacies such as pozole and homemade potato cheese soup, made by WALC members, were included. Board members provided a wonderful dessert buffet. Those attending won several eye-catching raffle prizes offered during the program.

Everyone agreed that lunch was delicious. Most importantly, once again, our students' efforts of writing well and sharing their work proved successful.



**Guest speaker for the day was Julian Alfaro, an articulate and ambitious nine-year-old young man, who has written a book and is known as "The Elementary Entrepreneur."**



## WALC Board Retreat 2019

Each year our board members gather to spend a day in reflection of the past year's highlights and areas needing improvement. Also, future areas of concern are anticipated and goals are written to fulfill those needs. On June 13<sup>th</sup>, this year's retreat was held at the East Whittier Women's Club, a beautiful and calm setting over a hundred years old.



In addition to board members, those on our advisory board (comprised of supporters in the local business community) as well as key tutors were also invited to attend and provide their insight.

Keynote speaker was Rev. John Ploog, head administrator of Calvary Baptist Church, which is providing new premises for the Literacy Council in September. Dr. Ploog spoke of change and new beginnings, a most timely topic due to our upcoming move and change of venue.

After lunch and a chance for useful discussions, one afternoon work group planned essential changes necessitated by change, including a timeline and list of committee members responsible for accomplishing the move. Another group outlined guidelines for students and parents at the new location. Finally, financial goals and a budget for the 2019-2020 fiscal year were discussed.

The day of reflection resulted in real progress toward our move. Board members have clear direction and will be working throughout the summer to carry out their roles as heads of various committees. We wish to transition to our new location as smoothly as possible. Our retreat has provided us with time to reflect and prepare for a great future.



## *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.



Be sure to  
"Friend"  
Whittier Area  
Literacy  
Council on  
Facebook!

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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.

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## **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](https://smile.amazon.com)**
- 2. Login or set up your account**
- 3. Select the Whittier Area Literacy Council as your designated charity**
- 4. Start Shopping!**

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

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

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# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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|                           |  |
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| <b>Celia McCabe</b>       | <b>President</b>                                 |
| <b>Cel Carr</b>           | <b>1st Vice President &amp; Treasurer</b>        |
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| <b>Board of Directors</b> | <b>Fundraising</b>                               |
| <b>Cristina Gardner</b>   | <b>Hospitality</b>                               |
| <b>Barbara Walters</b>    | <b>Corresponding Secretary<br/>Tutor Trainer</b> |
| <b>Lucy Alaniz</b>        | <b>Parliamentarian and<br/>Tutor Trainer</b>     |
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| <b>Yolanda Carillo</b>    | <b>Inspirational Chair</b>                       |
| <b>Gladys Pineda</b>      | <b>Historian</b>                                 |
| <b>Red Ortega</b>         | <b>Parent Representative</b>                     |

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# ADVISORY BOARD

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|                       |                         |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Jim Sass, PhD</b>  | <b>Bonnie Shirley</b>   |
| <b>Donna Smith</b>    | <b>Roxanne Torosian</b> |
| <b>Martha Morales</b> | <b>Mac McFarland</b>    |
| <b>Dan McMillan</b>   | <b>Paul Gardner</b>     |