



Fall Newsletter 2019

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President's Message

Nowadays there is much interest in the topic of cultivating an "attitude of gratitude." At the Literacy Council we certainly concur with that sentiment. We are extremely grateful for our spacious new location. Both our tutors and students are enjoying the bright, colorful rooms, several extra computers and additional learning materials (such as the many new books and an online interactive spelling program.)

I am especially thankful to the many dedicated people who helped us accomplish a smooth transition to our new home. Many hardworking Council members and friends helped transform empty rooms into the light-filled, creatively decorated classrooms and office, which they accomplished in only two weeks' time.

A very special note of thanks goes to Gabe Lederer, our devoted volunteer IT coordinator, who spent many hours setting up our computer systems. The leaders of Calvary Baptist Church, Pastors John Ploog and Dennis Mohler, welcomed the members of our board of directors at a special ceremony, blessing our work and recognizing the value of literacy. They encouraged members of their congregation to attend our Open House. Almost a hundred visitors came to learn about our mission. Several people later attended our tutor training sessions.

Our board members have enjoyed the guidance of a congregation member, Paula Velebil, a fount of knowledge regarding the new campus. She has generously given us tours of storage areas, meeting rooms and kitchen facilities.

At our annual Scrabble Challenge, the delicious and plentiful food was donated by the proprietor of Mission Square, a local restaurant. We truly appreciate his kindness and generosity!

This has been a time of transitions, which have gone smoothly, thanks to our many supporters. At WALC, we have experienced many reasons to believe in an attitude of gratitude, as we continue our work in a wonderful new home.

Celia McCabe, President

Whittier College Connection

WALC is proud to be in our fifth year of collaboration with Whittier College. The college tutors learn, grow, give service and impact the lives of WALC students. It's also fun to have so many energetic happy college students at our council! This year we have several students returning to spend their senior year with us. We are excited for them, but it will be hard to say goodbye to Jenna Gilb, Aileen Figueroa and Adela Lopez. Madeleine Romanelli will be back from her junior year abroad in January. New to us is a new dynamic group, including tutor Maha Altiwajiri and work-study tutors, Amanda Molina, Nayeli Trejo and Tiffany Harper. We hope to continue our collaboration with Whittier College and will be recruiting new tutors in child development classes later this semester. See picture below of college students helping out at our Scrabble fundraiser.



“He worked incredibly hard too and now he is graduating from WALC performing at grade level”



The Tanner-Jenna Team

Two and a half years ago, Tanner was behind in his reading and acting out in class. Tanner was then matched for tutoring, with Jenna from Whittier College. Jenna is studying to be an elementary school teacher. As she learned new teaching techniques, she applied them to her work with Tanner. He worked incredibly hard too and now he is graduating from WALC performing at grade level. Congratulations to Tanner and Jenna!



Tutor Spotlight

Aileen Figueroa Sierra, one of our Whittier College work study students, has been working with WALC for nearly two years. She will graduate this coming spring with a Bachelor's degree in Biology and hopes to become a physician in the near future. She is also a member of the Whittier College organization known as The Palmer Society, the first women's society of Whittier College founded in 1921. This is a women's organization dedicated to helping its local community through promoting the ideals of service, loyalty, scholarship, and friendship. Aileen was recently recognized for her excellence in modeling these values and was awarded the first place prize for the Palmer Society Alumnae Endowed Scholarships. These are merit based awards given to currently active Palmer members. She was awarded \$3,000 and will use it toward her medical school application costs. She hopes to continue dedicating her time toward her students and WALC in her path toward becoming a doctor.

"...dedicated to helping its local community through promoting the ideals of service, loyalty, scholarship, and friendship. Aileen was recently recognized for her excellence in modeling these values..."

Family Literacy Night

On November 20th the Literacy Council held the first parent education meeting planned for the year. Guest speaker was Melinda Piña, M Ed, Director of the Piña Reading Academy and a well-known specialist in reading fluency and comprehension. She first discussed the difference between reading comprehension and fluency. Then she provided parents who attended with valuable information on practical techniques for strengthening their children's reading skills. Throughout the meeting Ms. Piña sought feedback from those attending. Parent interest and response was apparent by their comments and questions. Handouts were provided so that they could use follow-up activities with children. Those who attended agreed that it was a very successful beginning to the Family Literacy Night program.

Two additional parent meetings are scheduled on February 19th and April 29th. Tentative topics are Nutrition/Healthy Eating and Communication..

Scrabble 2019

Calvary Baptist Church's Friendship Hall was the setting of Whittier Area Literacy Council's 13th Annual Scrabble Challenge Fundraiser held on November 15th, 2019. The evening began with emotional testimonies by three WALC students (introduced by Board member, Pat Almada) who spoke about how tutoring has impacted their lives. Thank you to these students for sharing their experiences, and for the devotion of their tutors.

A delicious and hearty dinner of chicken, pasta, vegetables and salad was provided by The Mission Square Restaurant. WALC sincerely appreciates, and is thankful for the generosity displayed by one of Whittier's premier restaurants.

Following dinner, Scrabble rules and instructions were read by co-emcee (and Board member) Cel Carr.

Towards the end of an evening of fun Scrabble play, the scores were tallied and the winners were announced by co emcee (WALC program coordinator) Maggie Swedberg. This year's individual winner was David Lichtbach. The winner of the team prize went to All in the Family.

Congratulations to these players!

We are grateful and overwhelmed by the generosity of those tutors and WALC board members who selflessly contributed raffle and silent auction items. With their help, the total dollar amount raised in these categories reached a new high! A special acknowledgement must be given to the two Board members (and tutors), Gail Chabran and Madonna Adams who each sponsored a table this year. Thank you also to the Whittier College students whose hard work throughout the evening played a large role in ensuring the evening's success. A profound thank you to the Scrabble committee, each and every WALC board member and Maggie Swedberg, who all labored so tirelessly before, during and after this event. Finally, Whittier Area Literacy Council truly thanks the Scrabble participants - players and nonplayers. Your continued support is deeply appreciated, and we hope to see you next year!



On Education

Selections from On Education, Collected Essays by Ralph Waldo Emerson, an American Transcendentalist (1803-1882), speaking and writing on what was needed to complete the formal, classroom education of his day. (American Transcendentalism Website.)

The experience of every parent and teacher shows that the secret of Education lies in respecting the pupil. Each individual must be taught anew.

Respect the child, respect him to the end, but also respect yourself. Be the companion of their thought, the friend of their friendship, the lover of their virtue.

Letter by letter, syllable by syllable, the child learns to read, and in good time can convey even the sense of Shakespeare. By many short steps the stammering child and the hesitating youth come at last to their full power that makes all the steps forgotten.

You must have the believing and prophetic eye, and the self-command you wish to inspire. Wait and see the new product of Nature.

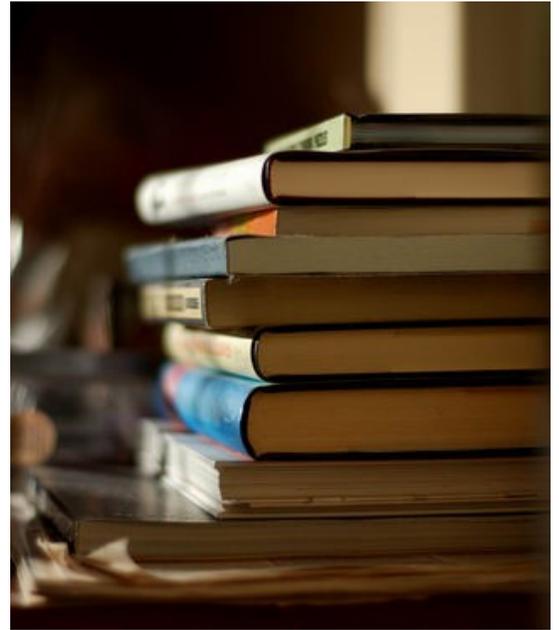
So to see the student requires rare patience: a patience that only faith in the forces of the soul can give.

This natural method underlies all experiments, and we must still come back to it. The whole theory of the school is on the mother's knee. The child is as eager to learn as the mother is to impart. There is mutual delight. The joy of our childhood in hearing beautiful stories must be repeated in youth. No less delightful is the mutual pleasure of teaching and learning good reading and good recitation of poetry or prose. Sympathy—the female force—is subtle and lasting and creative. I advise teachers to cherish mother-wisdom.

Of course, you will keep the grammar, reading, and writing in order, . . . but smuggle in a little contraband wit, fancy, imagination, and thought.

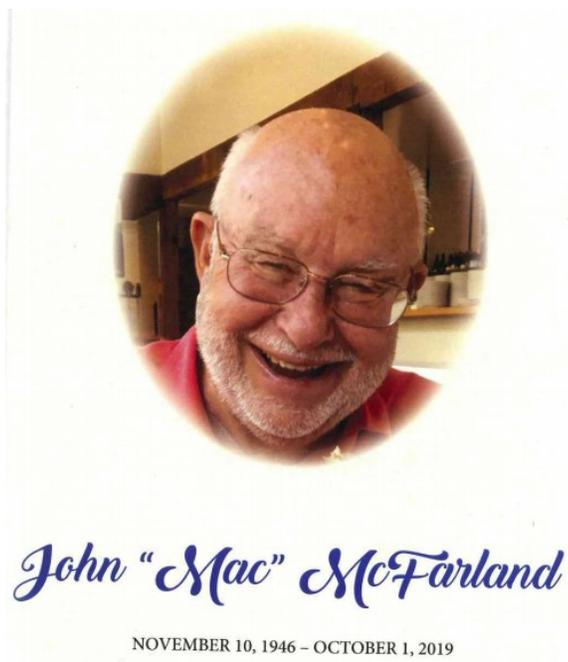
If you have a taste which you have suppressed because it is not shared by those about you, tell them that as well.

And when the powers of the student burst forth, greet it with joy.



Farewell to a Special Friend of WALC

We note the passing of former tutor and Advisory Board member, John (Mac) MacFarland. He was not only a dedicated tutor, but also an advocate of the Literacy Council's mission. At his memorial service, several friends and associates mentioned Mac's untiring devotion to our organization. When the Literacy Council had to move to new premises, Mac helped investigate possible locations. Because of his skill in business and finance, he was able to give our board invaluable advice regarding our future choice of location. His death is a great loss, not only to the Literacy Council, but also to the Whittier community. We'll miss his smiling face!



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.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 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 | |

Whittier Area Literacy Council

Board of Directors

President	Celia McCabe
1st Vice President & Treasurer	Cel Carr
2nd Vice President & Grant Writer	Pat Almada
Recording Secretary	Patty Baker
Fund Raising	Board
Hospitality	Cristina Gardner
Parliamentarian and Tutor Trainer	Lucy Alaniz
Corresponding Secretary and Tutor Trainer	Barbara Walters
Family Literacy	Gail Chabran
Newsletter Editor	Gladys Pineda
Inspirational Chair	Madonna Adams
Historian	
Parent Rep	Red Ortega
Publicity	Teresa Price
Technology	Kathy Filatreau
Member -At-Large	Yolanda Carrillo

Advisory Board Members

Jim Sass	Dan McMillan
Donna Smith	Roxanne Torosian
Martha Morales	Paul Gardner

WALC Needs You

Whittier Area Literacy Council cordially invites you to tutor for us. We ask you to devote just two hours a week to helping a child or an adult with reading skills. Though there is no monetary reward involved, the payback is even better: helping someone else to achieve a goal. The highlight is that you will learn from your student as well.

Not all of our tutors are retired teachers. WALC provides nine hours of training, three times a year, for new tutors. Our last training, in September, produced ten tutors, many of whom have a background in health care.

We have a waiting list of students who would like your help with reading. Start the new year in a “giving” way. Our next training begins in January. Call 562-698-6598 to volunteer.

Upcoming Training Dates:

January

January 25, 2020

February 1, 2020

February 8, 2020

9 a.m. to 12 noon at the center

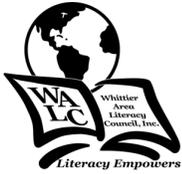
April

April 16, 2020

April 23, 2020

April 30, 2020

6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the center.



Whittier Area Literacy Council

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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.