

Quarterly Message
by Co-President Farie Momayez
April 1, 2021



My family and I celebrate the first day of spring, the vernal equinox, every year with a large reunion. This day is called *NowRuz* or New Year by all Persians across the world. Unfortunately, it's now the second year that we have missed this reunion, along with so many others.

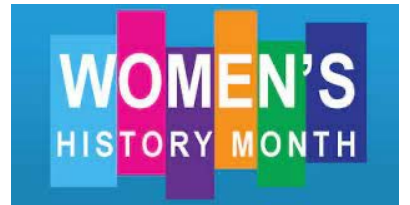
There have been heartaches for the loss of loved ones, loneliness and missing hugs, but we have also had many blessings.

I called and wrote to many people I hadn't heard from in years. I enjoyed the comfort of Zoom meetings in my pajamas and read some of the books that were stacked up for months. I saw movies and documentaries I never had a chance to see and was able to continue working using the internet and the phone.



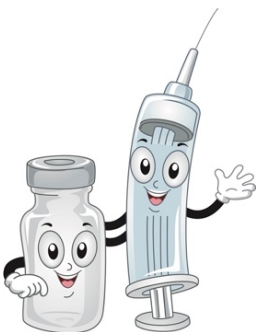
We at AAUW-LB were able to continue our mission online. We are grateful to have technical support of brilliant members including Janice Hayden, Alice Apkarian and Venita DeSouza who have managed our Zoom meetings, website, webinars, social media and *Newsblasts*.

In March we honored Women's History month. AAUW members in Laguna Beach and Mission Viejo successfully petitioned their cities to recognize this historic event with gender and pay equity declarations.



We are fortunate to continue with our scholarship funding and we are currently reading and evaluating student applications from the four colleges and the three high schools we fund. We will publish the recipients in our June 1st *Newsblast*.

AAUW National and AAUW California have taken a stand in favor of eliminating the degree requirement for membership and we have shared many of their communications with you. Please examine your own views and communicate your votes.



My understanding is that most of you who are eligible have already been vaccinated. Please let us know if we can be of help to secure a spot if you are still having difficulty registering.

I'd like to close with a simplified Persian greeting for the spring.
NowRuz Shaad. Bahar Khosh. (Happy New Year. Enjoy the spring).

Farie Momayez
 Co-President
 AAUW Laguna Beach

