

IN THIS ISSUE

AAUW-WA Leadership Meeting.....	1
President’s Message.....	2
State News.....	4
Farewell Message.....	4
Together Women Make History.....	5
Extraordinary Service Award.....	6
2020 AAUW-WA Election Results	7
New Officers and Directors	8
Public Policy.....	14
AAUW Five Star Program	15
Virtual Branch Meetings	16
Opportunity for Book Groups	17
Tech Trek WA 2020	18
Tech Trek WA Evaluation Report	20
Branch News.....	22
AAUW Garfield-Palouse	22
AAUW Whatcom	24
State Officers	25

AAUW-WA Leadership Meeting



SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 2020

THIS YEAR’S LEADERSHIP MEETING IS GOING VIRTUAL!

Watch for Details and Login Information Coming Soon

Mary Williams
President
AAUW Washington
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PLEASE SAVE THE DATE AND PLAN TO JOIN US FOR ALL OR PART OF THIS YEAR’S ANNUAL LEADERSHIP MEETING.

Begin your day with a cup of coffee, your favorite breakfast, and your favorite device. AAUW CEO Kim Churches will join us in a webinar where she will discuss how AAUW plans to remain relevant and vital despite the current pandemic.

India Nishi, one of our newest Directors will introduce AAUW – National’s 5 Star Initiative and Discuss how we plan to help your branch earn some stars.

Breakout Sessions – Details Coming Soon

Noon – Lunch with Barbara Callander

After lunch we will offer a variety of additional sessions designed to help your branch succeed in these difficult times. We are planning sessions on Public Policy, Virtual Technology, and Addressing the Needs of Younger Members, among others.

We will conclude our day in small group breakout meetings with leaders from the other branches in your region. Discussions will focus on how we can work together to create engaging programs and share ideas that will make us all successful.

Please watch for information later this month about how to register and obtain log-in information for the sessions you plan to attend. We’ve planned an exciting day and hope you will join us.

President’s Message



Mary Williams
President
AAUW Washington
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What an odd year this has been. As I sat down to write my first Presidents Message as your new state president, I decided to look back at the 2019 Evergreen Leader. It was stuffed full of information about all the activities of our branches, reports on our wonderful 2019 Annual Meeting in Bellingham, and news focused on enticing you to register for the upcoming Summer Leadership Meeting that would happen in Wenatchee in August. The theme of that meeting was “Exploring the Challenges of Change.” At that time, we couldn’t even imagine the change that

one nasty virus had in store for us. As you all know, we had to cancel our much-anticipated Joint Meeting with Oregon in April. Now we are Exploring the Challenge of Change, as we transition to what for the foreseeable future will be our new reality.

Our focus over the next year must be on how our organization can stay relevant in the time of Covid-19. Just as the business community has, we have to find ways to continue to go about our business, while staying safe, and in most cases, staying home. It seems like book groups have been best at transitioning to the virtual world of Zoom, almost seamlessly continuing to communicate with each other and hold their meetings. Of course, it's harder to do when what you love to do requires dealing a deck of cards, enjoying a meal together, or visiting galleries, theaters, or restaurants in your community. Our state board will be looking at ways we can help branches that may not have the expertise to schedule and conduct virtual meetings figure out ways to get together and continue our crucial work. Our goal is to be a resource for you, providing information and assistance so that no one has to recreate the wheel. We are also planning to develop a series of webinars that branches will be able to use as a starting point for their own meetings or conversations.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find an article by India Nishi, a new State Board member and immediate past-president in Bellingham (now Whatcom County), about the National 5-Star initiative. We are hoping that we can encourage branches to use this project as a starting point that will facilitate alignment with our National and State Mission and Vision statements. It is a great foundation, that can either alleviate the need to develop a strategic plan or serve as a base to build on.

Your new board is just getting its feet wet and hasn't yet had a chance to really talk about where we want to go and how we plan to get there. We are looking forward to a great year. We are in the process of putting together a virtual Leadership Meeting on Saturday, August 8th. Everyone will be invited to attend all or part of the day. Look for more information here in the EL. And, please remember, we will be doing the best we can, but this is all new to us, too.

We are all excited about the year to come and appreciate your support. We hope you'll be able to join us for "Adventures in a Virtual World." Until then, please stay healthy.

State News

Farewell Message



Judy Prince,
Past President
AAUW Washington

Farewell!

This is my opportunity to formally say goodbye to four years as your state president. I've had many memorable experiences.

I had the opportunity to visit many branches as president and before that as membership director. Sadly, some branches that I think are in danger of disbanding were not responsive to my request for an invitation to visit. Other branches thrive and grow. It seems to me that the successful branches were able to change with the times and adapt to new realities.

During my time as president I have been lucky enough to see the national office understand that they need to be run as a business – not seeking a profit but making ends meet. The state organization has tried to be a good manager of your dues' contributions. We hope your branch has taken the same attitude.

I hoped to end my term with a great joint convention with Oregon; Covid-19 put an end to that. I have tried to help branches adapt to the current normal and still are ready to assist. The new state board also wants to help you continue to meet, although virtually. I don't foresee a return to the old way of business in the near future. We will move into times of revised ways of living. I hope your commitment to the AAUW mission will mean your renewal of membership for 2020-21.

As of this writing, the new board is planning a virtual Leadership Meeting. Some of you may be able to use this as your introduction to the world of virtual meetings.

I'd like to leave you with this passage from *Things Fall Apart* by Pema Chodrom.

Only to the extent that we expose ourselves over and over to annihilation can that which is indestructible be found in us....

Things falling apart is a kind of testing and also a kind of healing. We think that the point is to pass the test or to overcome the problem, but the truth is that things don't really get solved. They come together and they fall apart. Then they come together again. It's just like that. The healing comes from letting there be room for all of this to happen: room for grief, for relief, for misery, for joy.

*Together Women Make History
The Convention That Was Not to Be*

Mary Williams
President
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We had such a great joint convention planned! Leaders from Washington and Oregon had been working for months developing plans to bring you a great convention and annual meeting last April in Vancouver. We had a commitment from AAUW CEO Kim Churches to join us on both Friday and Saturday. We had keynote speakers, presenters, programs, and field trips in the works. We had a menu that made my mouth water just thinking about it. And then there was the virus.

After days and weeks of watching everything canceling around us, we finally faced the inevitable. We, too, would have to abandon our plans. After some initial resistance, the convention hotel, The Heathman Lodge, agreed to cancel our commitments without obligation, and to refund our deposit in full. We had incurred some expenses in planning and preparation, of course, but neither state lost much money.

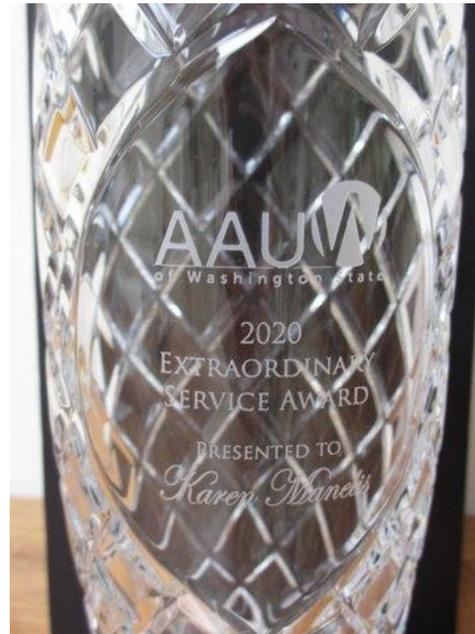
All is not lost, thank goodness. Kim Churches has agreed to join us for an hour or so at our Leadership Meeting in August (virtually, of course). We will also be treated to a lunchtime program based on what would have been our Saturday evening convention entertainment. We also will look at the possibility of inviting some of the other speakers we were looking forward to meeting with to present through a webinar format over the coming year. Our research identified all sorts of people we'd like you to meet and opportunities to learn that we'd like to offer you. Hopefully, this thing will be under control by April, when we plan to meet in Leavenworth for the 2021 Annual Meeting. If not, by that time, we will all be masters of getting together in this new virtual world of ours.

Extraordinary Service Award

Mary Williams
President
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It was supposed to be a big surprise! At the 2020 Joint Convention that we had hoped to hold with AAUW Oregon in April we had planned to announce the winner of the Washington State AAUW Extraordinary Service Award. The State Board had decided that there are people among us that had provided so much to AAUW Washington State that they should be publicly recognized, and that this would be the perfect time to acknowledge the incredible work of someone we all know. We all know that neither the convention nor the award ceremony happened. We also know we might not be getting together again any time soon.

Therefore, we have decided to make the award now. We are proud to announce that the winner of the Washington State AAUW Extraordinary Service Award for 2020 is Karen Manelis.



AAUW – Washington was indeed fortunate when Karen moved from California to the Vancouver area in 2007. A former AAUW – California state president, Karen brought her considerable expertise and many leadership skills to our organization. She was State President in California when they established the Tech Trek Math/Science Camp for Girls in 1998. This was the original program on which all of the other Tech Trek programs across the country were based. She was

director of the Tech Trek Camp at California State University, Fresno, from its inception in 1999 to 2007 when she moved to Washington.

Luck was with us again when AAUW National announced in 2012 that they would be offering \$10,000 grants to state associations interested in starting Tech Trek camps based on the California model. Karen agreed to write the grant application and develop our initial camp(s). Our application was, of course, successful, and camps at Pacific Lutheran University, and later at Eastern Washington University, were born. Seven years of camps later, she is still Tech Trek Director. We estimate that approximately 1,000 Washington State girls have been beneficiaries of her foresight, planning, and organizational skills.

In addition to her work with Tech Trek, Karen served on the WA State Board of Directors. Most recently, before leaving the board, she was the director responsible for making sure that all of our branches had Bylaws that were in compliance with National's requirements and were appropriately filed.

Karen holds a BS in Biological Science from the University of California at Davis. She is retired from Dow Chemical/Dow Agrosiences and is currently employed by the Department of Treasurer (IRS). She has been a trainer and volunteer counselor for AARP's Tax Aide program in Clark County Washington since 2009.

2020 AAUW-WA Election Results

Mary Williams
President
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An unexpected complication of the cancellation of the OR-WA Joint Convention was that we had to quickly find a way to hold our election of officers electronically. President Judy Prince developed a ballot and converted our delegate registration process into a vote by mail (e-mail or snail mail) effort. Upon the conclusion of the election window, which ended on the day the election would have been held at the convention, she announced that the slate of officers submitted by the Nominating Committee had been confirmed.

The elected officers for 2020-2022 are:

President: Mary Williams

Treasurer: Kyle McEligot

Elected Director: India Nishi (5 Star Program)

Elected Director: Yvonne Berliner (College-University Relations)

In accordance with our Bylaws, two additional directors are appointed in even numbered years. M. Clare Chesney (Communications) and Marziah Kiehn Sanford (Programs) agreed to serve, were appointed by the President, and confirmed by the Board.

Director Traci Klein, who was elected last year, recently submitted her resignation from the Board because of workload pressures. Judy Peasley (Membership) has agreed to fill the 2nd year of her term and was appointed and confirmed by the Board.

Because President Williams and Finance Director McEligot were both appointed to the Board last year, their positions are now vacant and need to be filled. We also have one board position that was never filled last year.

If you would be interested in serving on the Board, please contact Mary Williams. The two positions established by our Policies and Procedures that are vacant are Director for Bylaws and Funds Director. The third position is at large and currently does not have a specific assignment. As we move forward, we would like to make sure that each of the regions across the state are represented on the Board. We currently do not have representatives from the Southwestern and Northeastern corners of the State. Please consider either joining us or encouraging a member of your branch to do so.

New Officers and Directors

Meet the new state officers and directors.



Mary Williams – President

Mary Williams did not always find that access to higher education came easily. Mary initially earned an AA in Liberal Arts at Orange Coast College. Ten years later, she was awarded a dual Bachelor of Arts with majors in Sociology and Social Science from CSU San Bernardino and another decade later, she earned an MBA from the University of Puget Sound.

Her career path has been checkered with unusual opportunities, but she always ended up at a community college. Her most unusual position was serving as Executive Administrator to the Pierce County Board of Freeholders while they were writing the first voter approved Pierce County Charter. She also held adjunct instructor positions at Victor Valley, Pierce, Highline, South Puget Sound, and Irvine Valley Community Colleges. Her final pre-retirement

position was at Saddleback College where she served in various capacities primarily focused on career services and grant writing and administration. After retiring, she has been privileged to work for several non-profits.

Mary first joined AAUW in the mid-60's in Victorville, California. While a member of the Gig Harbor branch, she served in several capacities including two terms as branch president. She is now a member of the Washington On-line branch.



Karen Anderson – Vice-President and Public Policy Director

Karen Anderson grew up in a struggling working-class family in Lawrence, Kansas. There she benefited from a strong public school system and family support for educational achievement. She received a B.S. in education from the University of Kansas in 1969 and a Ph.D. in history from the University of Washington in 1975. Her specialties included women's history and the twentieth century United States history. She taught history and women's studies at the University of Arizona for over 30 years. Her publications include *Little Rock: Race and Resistance* at Central High School (Princeton University Press, 2011) and *Wartime Women: Sex Roles, Family Relations, and the Status of Women During World War II* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1981). A lifelong feminist, Karen joined AAUW after moving to Gig Harbor in order to do what she could do advance women's empowerment. She currently serves on the board of the Gig Harbor AAUW branch as well as serving on Board of AAUW-WA.



Kyle McEligot – VP of Finance

Kyle joined the Portland, OR branch of AAUW in 2001 to connect with smart, interesting women and to support the AAUW mission. She served as the AAUW-WA State Communications Director 2016-2020. Kyle's previous treasurer/finance experience includes AAUW branch roles and Toastmasters roles.



Susie Johnson – Secretary

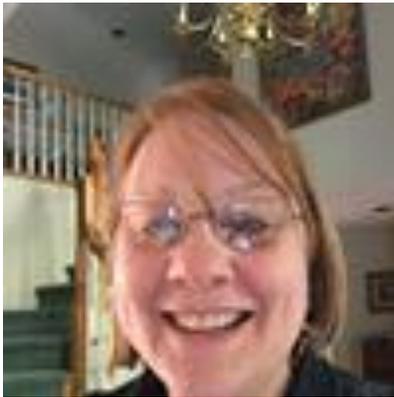
Susie is a graduate of the University of Minnesota with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration. She has moved a lot and always joined AAUW thus belonging to 6 AAUW branches in 4 states. She has held practically every branch board position/office AAUW has had over the years, at least once, as each time you move you get to start over doing your share for that branch and State. Susie belongs to the Lake Washington Branch and is their immediate past president. She was the first woman in Illinois elected to be a Park Commissioner and served as President and Treasurer during her tenure. She has served on many local and national charitable, religious, collegiate, and arts boards in various capacities and has done the usual mom things such as coaching and PTA. She and her husband are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary this summer and had hoped to take a nice trip somewhere. Maybe next year.



Judy Peasley – Membership Director

Judy Cole Peasley is a proud educator, retired since 2016. Her childhood and college years were spent in Montana, but for the past 36 years, she has called Walla Walla home. Judy joined her local branch of AAUW in retirement as a way to serve with a purpose, and to engage with women from diverse backgrounds and professional careers. She finds inspiration in other women, young and old. She sees AAUW as a national organization that has the potential to reach across generations for the common purpose of advancing equity for women and girls.

Judy has served in her local branch as President/Past-president, and is currently Tech Trek chair and Social Media chair.



Marziah Kiehn – Program Director

A lifelong Washingtonian, Marziah Kiehn (Mar’ zee-ah Keen) grew up in Bellingham and returned to live there in 2019. She graduated from Washington State University with a major in Public Administration/Political Science and minors in English and History and holds a Master’s degree in Land Use Planning from Portland State University. Marziah has worked for several Oregon and Washington local, county, regional and state governmental units, including the Washington House of Representatives, the Higher Education Coordinating Board, and the Office of Financial Management, the Governor’s budget office. Before deciding to stay in state service to accept a career defining project in higher education, she completed coursework for a Master’s in Education with special emphasis on Native American learners.

In July 2015, Marziah retired from the Washington Department of Enterprise Services (formerly the Department of General Administration) where she managed construction projects and budgets for the community and technical colleges, including the establishment of the University of Washington-Bothell/Cascadia Community College Campus.

She has been an AAUW member over 30 years after joining in Portland, Oregon and is a dual branch member of Online, Olympia, and Whatcom (formerly Bellingham) branches. She served as State Finance Director for two terms, was a Tech Trek dorm monitor at PLU and EWU for three years and camp director for one session.

Marziah comes from a family of educators and traveling background. Her name is Persian and she encourages those who are uncertain of pronunciation to call her “Marz”.



Yvonne Berliner – College and University Relations Director

Yvonne Berliner has been a fervent supporter of women's education since receiving her BA in Political Science (1973) from Bryn Mawr College. She also holds an M.Ed. in Education from Virginia Polytechnic University, and MA and PhD degrees in History from the University of Chile. She taught history for over three decades in the Americas and Europe. In 2008, Berliner moved to the Palouse from Switzerland and taught mostly Latin American History at Washington State University for 11 years until her retirement. During this time, she also co-authored four textbooks and designed new face-to-face and online courses. As a feminist, she supports the AAUW mission and since 2008 has been an active AAUW member. She has focused on education for girls in the Palouse, helping to send girls from rural eastern WA to Tech Trek Camp.



M. Clare Chesney – Communications Director

A transplant in 1990 from Northern Minnesota (but not a Ranger), Clare is a second-generation member of AAUW. Her mother, who was an English teacher in the 1930's, was also a member. Clare likes to describe her education background as an exercise in accumulating small pieces of paper to hang on the wall. She holds bachelor's degrees in Family and Consumer Education (Home Economics) and Nursing, a master's in Public Health with a nutrition focus, an additional master's in nursing education and a PhD in Public Health with a focus on program planning and evaluation. Clare's work background is as diverse as her education having been a high school teacher, community focused nurse, County Extension Agent for Washington State University, nursing home inspector and university educator. She recently served as president for the Stanwood/Camano Branch of AAUW.



India Nishi – Director at Large

India Nishi is an At-Large board member of AAUW Washington and a member of the AAUW National Finance Committee. She has two undergraduate degrees from Western Washington University (BA – Business Administration; BS – Psychology), and an MBA from the University of Puget Sound. India retired in 2014 from Boeing after a long career in Finance, and currently works part time for Washington State University. She joined AAUW after moving to Camano Island in 2015, and served on the board of that branch. More recently, she completed a year as Co-President of the Whatcom (formerly Bellingham) branch, where they were one of the first branches in the country to receive the national Five Star award. India is also a board member of the Whatcom Literacy Council.

Public Policy

Karen Anderson
Vice President and Public Policy
AAUW Washington
advocacy@aauw-wa.org

This will be a year of change and challenge for AAUW-WA in achieving its public policy goals. Because Pam Crone has decided to retire, we will be hiring a new lobbyist. In response to the hazards posed by the spread of COVID-19, we will be planning for a virtual Lobby Day and a more flexible approach to lobbying. We hope that this will engage branch members from across the state, who will not have to travel to Olympia in order to advance our public policy goals. In addition, we will be encouraging branches to organize Public Policy Cafes to define their policy goals and asking all members to assist in revising our state's public policy principles and priorities (https://aauw-wa.aauw.net/files/2016/06/AAUW-WA-2016-8-Public-Policy-1-2-Approved_com.pdf). We will also be asking you to assist us in supporting R-90 in November. A yes vote means that you support retaining the sex education bill that passed in the last legislature. We are facing a potent campaign of fear and deception and will need your assistance.

We have benefitted enormously from the skills and efforts of Pam Crone, our outgoing lobbyist, for many years. She has overseen our efforts to secure important changes in Washington law, including laws to protect students from fraudulent student loan practices, to improve human trafficking enforcement, secure reproductive rights, and two laws to strengthen equal pay law. We will always be grateful!

We invite all branches to appoint a public policy chair and to designate someone to participate in the virtual August Leadership meeting and learn how to organize a Public Policy Café. Thereafter, a statewide public policy committee will take your recommendations and revise the AAUW-WA statement of principles and priorities.

If you have suggestions related to public policy, please contact me at advocacy@aauw-wa.org. With your help, we can make 2020-2021 a great year for AAUW advocacy!

AAUW Five Star Program

India Nishi
Director at Large
AAUW Washington
fivestar@aauw-wa.org

Have you heard of AAUW National’s “Five Star” recognition program? It was established last year as a way for branches to align their work with the AAUW strategic plan and initiatives that foster the organization’s mission of advancing gender equity for women and girls. The program is a great opportunity for branches to achieve goals in five different categories and receive National recognition.

The first of the five goal areas is Programs. Branches host programs that are related to AAUW’s strategic focus areas, as well as help AAUW build a stronger community resource map. The second star refers to Advancement, which focuses on membership retention, and financial giving. The third star is for Communications. To earn this, branches feature information on Work Smart and Economic security in their Social Media postings. Public Policy is the fourth star. To earn this, branches work to further our public policy goals, through activities such as meeting with congressional representatives during Lobby Days, and appointing a public policy chair. The final star is for Governance and Sustainability. To earn this, branches look to the future, building strategic plans and goals, as well as succession plans to ensure that members are being readied to assume future board positions. As branches achieve their stars, they receive various levels of recognition, culminating in a branch having their own online leadership meeting with AAUW CEO Kim Churches once all five stars have been earned.

The program has been in place for a year and will continue through June 2021. As of the start of the pandemic, only two branches had been awarded all five stars, one of them being AAUW Whatcom (formerly Bellingham). Other branches in Washington have also earned stars, including AAUW Seattle most recently. For those branches who wish to earn Five Star recognition, AAUW Washington will be working to find ways to help, such as consultations, and posting examples of activities that have been successful in meeting AAUW National’s criteria. Stay tuned for more later this summer.

Virtual Branch Meetings
Branch Meetings in the Time of COVID-19

M. Clare Chesney
Communications Director
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The likelihood of any of our Branches being able to safely meet again in person within the next year is slim to none. However, the survival and vitality of Branches depends on being together. The challenge is how to create some semblance of a group under these difficult conditions. Some Branches have already moved to virtual meetings with varying degrees of success. The purpose of this article is to help Branches successfully chose a method that works for their membership until we can meet in person again. Let's begin.

Virtual meetings can take place using a variety of software. Examples of software that host meetings include familiar names like WebEx, Go To Meeting, Zoom and Hangouts (a Google product). Google Meet, which permits larger groups, requires a G Suite account, is available free for not-for-profits-501(c)(3) organizations like AAUW Branches who have this designation. As your group begins the process of deciding what software to use, consider these six characteristics. They will assist you in evaluating which one you believe would be best for your Branch and are in no specific rank order.

Cost-most groups have little or no money to pay for meeting specific software. Free may be your only option. Free software services can limit participants to no more than 10. For small Branches, this might be the perfect choice. Some fee for service options can be as low as \$8 a month, allowing up to 100 participants. Some fee for service options allow more than one person to manage the meeting. However, if the person listed as owning the account is not available, the secondary organizer might not be able to start the meeting, let alone set it up. And what if that person is no longer a member of the Branch? If you would like to see a list of the wide variety of choices, use this link. <https://www.techfunnel.com/information-technology/11-best-virtual-meeting-platforms-for-business/> The article provides a brief description of some of the software referred to in this article, along with many more.

Security-this applies to your ability to determine who can participate as well as members computer security settings. How easy or difficult is it for someone to access your meetings? Based on recommendations from Homeland Security, avoid Zoom at all costs. None of us want to discover a breach in the meeting resulting in offensive images or text. If members have set their security setting beyond midpoint on their computers, they will have difficulty entering any meeting. They may need to temporarily lower their security settings in order to participate in the meeting.

Number of participants – note how many members can participate at one time. This is important for larger Branches.

Amount of time per session – What time limits are there on sessions? Needing to reenter can be very disruptive to a meeting.

Access via a secure phone number – If members use smaller internet providers (IP) they may have bandwidth problems and not be able to use the video feature. Bandwidth can also be an issue within a household if someone is trying to stream a movie when another is trying to attend a meeting. A secure phone number to participate via audio might be the only option.

Ease of use. Is it complicated to invite people or admit them to the meeting? A more secure site might be a bit more complicated or might not. What about tech support? Is there a fee or is it free? Is the support chat only or can you speak with someone? Is support available all the time or limited to specific days of the week and times of day? This may be important to solving members issues with accessing meetings. Can participants join with just a click on a link or do they require additional software or a unique email address in order to participate?

For some, the need to use technology to virtually meet can be overwhelming. However, for now it is the only option. There might be someone in your membership that is looking for an opportunity to feel they can support the Branch in a unique way. They would be delighted to help find the best fit, set it up and give it a road test (that was me in our Branch). Do ask for help.

Opportunity for Book Groups

Ellen Dubois, *Suffrage: Women's Long Battle for the Vote*

Karen Anderson
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Ellen Dubois, who is professor emeritus of history at UCLA, has agreed to do a Zoom meeting with AAUW-WA book groups focused on her recent book, *Suffrage: Women's Long Battle for the Vote*. An eminent women's historian, Dubois has published several books on woman suffrage in her long career, culminating in this broadly inclusive analysis of the long history of the struggle for all women to obtain this basic right of citizenship. We expect that this meeting will occur in October or November so that those interested will have time to get the book.

Those who want to know more about the history of this struggle can do no better than to start with *Suffrage*, which has received very positive reviews. *The Guardian* (<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2020/feb/22/suffrage-review-womens-long-battle-vote->

[19th-amendment-carol-dubois](#)), for example, wrote that “Ellen Carol DuBois has written a comprehensive history that deftly tackles intricate political complexities and conflicts and still somehow reads with nail-biting suspense.” *Kirkus Reviews* (<https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/ellen-carol-dubois/suffrage/>) called it an “authoritative, brisk, and sharply drawn history.”

Please let your book group leaders know about this opportunity. If interested, they should contact Karen Anderson at advocacy@aauw-wa.org.

Tech Trek WA 2020



Karen Manelis
Tech Trek Director
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In consultation with AAUW national, the 2020 Tech Trek camps were canceled in early April nationwide, including those in Washington. The safety of the girls and our volunteers was the leading factor for the cancellation.

As we are all aware, the COVID-19 situation is ever evolving even with the stay at home orders over the last several months. The risk of contracting coronavirus is still with us for the foreseeable future.

With the close proximity of campers to each other and volunteers, including the overnight stay required for camps, social distancing will be impossible to effectively implement at camp. For our dorm moms and volunteers, it will be exceedingly difficult and a huge liability risk for branches, for affiliates and for AAUW.

It was suggested that we consider "virtual camps" online. However, since Tech Trek is about 85% hands-on with classes in laboratories, dormitory living, field trips, recreation activities, Professional Women's Night, etc., it was generally felt that having camp online would significantly change and diminish the overall Tech Trek experience.

While we are cancelling the 2020 camp, AAUW-Washington branches continued with their selection process for 2020 campers who have been invited to attend one of our camps in 2021. Over 100 campers have been selected for 2020 through a combination of in person and online interviewing. Our members took hold of technology and completed interviews either via Skype or Zoom sessions.

Two weeks of camp will be held at Pacific Lutheran University in 2021, with one week reserved for 2020 campers and the other for 2021 campers. All campers (for 2020 and 2021) will attend the single week scheduled for Eastern Washington University. So far, both campuses anticipate having summer programs in 2021

All the funds branches raised for 2020 are being held for use in future years by AAUW WA Special Project Fund.

The AAUW WA Tech Trek team and Board of Directors appreciate how much hard work branches put into Tech Trek throughout the year. Coronavirus has led us all to think about our lives and our work differently. We are so grateful for your continued commitment to Tech Trek and to helping girls realize their dreams and aspirations. You have made a difference in the lives of countless girls and we need to keep their health and wellbeing, as well as that of everyone involved in Tech Trek, as the top priority. We know you'll continue to provide wonderful experiences for girls after the nation and the globe recovers from this health pandemic.



Scenes from Tech Trek 2019. Left, girls in protective gear studying the human body. Right, learning about the life cycle of a star.

Tech Trek WA Evaluation Report



**AAUW WASHINGTON STATE
TECH TREK 2015-2019**

EVALUATION REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Highlights of the evaluation report are listed here, in the executive summary.

1. The attendance at Tech Trek camps has increased from 2015-2019. This reflects the capacity of AAUW Washington to offer additional camps.
2. AAUW Washington has consistently provided high-quality activities for participants. Core classes, workshops/labs, evening activities and Professional Women's Night, averaged 91.3% excellent/good ratings.
3. The location of Tech Trek at university campuses provides the girls the opportunity to become familiar with navigating a college campus. Not only is this opportunity strategic, but AAUW simultaneously provides them with a high-quality campus experience. Classrooms, teachers, food, and interactions with staff scored consistently above 92% excellent/good ratings.
4. In general, the analysis of variance (ANOVA) results show no differences in responses between years or locations signifying that AAUW Washington is providing a consistent experience for girls attending Tech Trek.

5. The use of a validated survey to assess Pre/Post gains in psychometric traits has the potential to contribute to the literature on the relationship between factors that influence middle school girls' career choices in STEM careers. Paired-samples t-Tests showed statistically significant gains in PRE/POST responses for Knowledge, Interest, and Confidence in STEM.
6. The gains in knowledge about STEM careers were particularly strong indicating that the girls benefit the most from information about STEM careers. AAUW might consider broadening their curriculum to include more information on STEM careers and how to make them appealing to middle school girls.
7. Perceptions of Women in STEM was statistically significant but had a small effect size indicating that there was no meaningful change in PRE/POST responses and that the girls were already in a favorable state of mind at the beginning of the program.
8. As a result of attending Tech Trek in Washington, 44% of the girls are interested in STEM careers that are currently underrepresented by females. The remaining 56% of girls chose traditional careers for women such as allied health, biology, or non-STEM careers. While the core classes in STEM were well attended, it did not translate into the intention to enter career that are underrepresented by females.

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Branch News

AAUW Garfield-Palouse

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Last Fall, our small branch in eastern Washington organized a large community event meant to make ourselves better known in the Palouse, as well as to attract new members. We are now down to only six members! Despite our size, our branch has sent twenty-nine girls to Tech Trek camp since 2015. These girls come from local farming communities and towns in the Palouse.

The event we organized was a public panel of local women in science and agriculture, held at the Palouse Community Center in the town of Palouse. After some lively discussion we decided to advertise the event under the name ***“Plowing Fresh Ground: A Discussion of Women in Ag and Girls in STEM.”*** We were fortunate to have the help of two journalists from Northwest Public Broadcasting: Anna King, who moderated the panel discussion, and Gillian Coldsnow, who introduced the event.

Our panelists (below) were:

Holly Neibergs, an Associate Professor of animal science at Washington State University; Sindhuja Sankaran, an Associate Professor in Biological Systems Engineering at WSU; Judy Olson, a fourth-generation farmer, who has been Washington State executive director of the Farm Service Agency, as well as the first woman elected to the Washington Association of Wheat Growers; and Margaret Parsley, co-owner of a small family farm southwest of Pullman, who grows vegetables and grass-fed lambs southwest of Pullman.





The Palouse Community Center was quite full, with an audience of people from Palouse and nearby towns, including Oakesdale, Garfield, and Pullman. Many former Tech Trek campers also attended with their families and participated in the event by asking (left) the panelists questions relevant to girls in STEM and women in science: These are some of the questions asked:



How important was education to you, and how important do you think it is for girls today?

What are the main obstacles you have had to face?

What are the advantages of the Palouse area for the work you are doing?

How did you (the panelists) overcome a lack of confidence when you were a very young girl?

It was an animated evening, with plenty of time to network and share experiences. Everyone enjoyed engaging in dynamic discussions about some of the obstacles to girls and women in science and agriculture, as well as some of the gains women have made in the past generations and some of their contributions.

A video of the event was made by WSU videographers; it can be viewed on our branch [website](https://palousegarfield-wa.aauw.net/events/). There are also more pictures at: <https://palousegarfield-wa.aauw.net/events/>



AAUW Whatcom

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After over 100 years of being known as AAUW Bellingham, it is time for an update. While Bellingham is the largest city in Whatcom County, the county is actually fairly large and contains other towns such as Blaine, Ferndale and Lynden, smaller rural communities, and is home to two tribes, the Lummi and the Nooksack. Branch members live throughout the county, and using the name Bellingham felt too limiting. So, going forward, they will now be known as AAUW Whatcom. This new branding will help the branch with their goal of broadening their reach when recruiting new members. In addition, it will be more reflective of their recruitment and selections for Tech Trek campers and candidates for the High School Scholars recognition program. Congratulations, AAUW Whatcom!



Scenes from Whatcom County. Clockwise from upper left, Bellingham, Lynden, Ferndale and Blaine.

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