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**AAUW 140th Anniversary
Celebration**

**Wednesday, November 17th
1:00 pm PT**

AAUW National is inviting you to a 140th Anniversary Celebration Event.

Join AAUW for a celebratory event honoring our rich past and looking ahead to a bright—and equitable—future. We’ll share an interview with our distinguished 2021 Alumnae Recognition Awardee, recognize notable branch birthdays*, and hear from our board chair Julia Brown and new CEO Gloria L. Blackwell.

Our distinguished 2021 AAUW Alumnae Recognition Award will be presented to **Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala**, Ph.D., the first woman and first African to serve as Director-General of the World Trade Organization. There will be a conversation between Dr. Okonjo-Iweala and AAUW’s new CEO Gloria L. Blackwell as part of the event.

*(Editor’s Note: WA branch birthdays being recognized are Walla Walla - 100 and Gig Harbor - 50)

Registration Link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_f-FJ55kDQ9CVLOgFovWdmA



President's Message



Mary Williams
President
AAUW Washington
president@aauw-wa.org

I hope you've been able to join us for at least one of our fall webinars in the Health Matters Series. We have only one left. On December 14th we will meet Leah Griffin, a sexual assault survivor, who has become an advocate for victim's rights. All of our presentations have been amazing. As I write this, it's only a couple of days since our third session discussing rural healthcare issues. I'm grateful to Mary Selecky and Dr. Leslie Waters, members of the Colville branch, for bringing us this important information. I hope that our series has led to some vibrant conversations during your branch meetings and given you some ideas for mission-based programming. If you can take a night off from your holiday preparations to join us on the 14th. I think you'll find it to be well worth your time.

Speaking of the holidays, we're already well into the season. Halloween is in the rearview mirror, and the days are soooo short. Next up is Thanksgiving, which means it's time for me to express my gratitude to the amazing team of women who make the state organization function. I hope they all know I appreciate them, but I'd particularly like to single out a few people. Sandra Ripley Distelhorst is an incredible Public Policy Director. She is on top of everything legislative. I know we can look forward to an informative Lobby Day in January, and that she will make sure we know everything we need to know as we dig deeper into our annual advocacy work.

Karen Anderson is the reason why our Webinar series has run so smoothly and provided so much valuable information. As last year's public policy chair she worked with Jeanie Glaspell to pull together the kickoff in June, and then as this year's Director for Programs she made sure we followed up with the quality Health Matters series that we promised. And, she's already working on hard on flushing out a quality annual meeting in April.

Judy Peasley and her communications team are always ready and willing to get out all the information you need to know. All of the emails you get from AAUW-WA come from Judy, so

you know she's busy! Our newest addition to that team, Katherine Cleland, has vastly increased our social media presence. When I asked her about taking the Evergreen Leader monthly, Melinda Hearsey quickly agreed. I'm not sure she really comprehended what she was taking on, but I've never once heard her complain even when I miss a deadline, as I did with this message. I've heard from many of you how much you appreciate being able to stay informed about and engaged with AAUW-WA activities. Leslie Priest Roubal makes sure the website stays current, which isn't an easy task when everything we're doing which makes it outdated about every fifth day. And, Mary Letterman makes sure that our Facebook page features our upcoming events and highlights our work so that our community knows what we're doing.

I don't want to leave anyone out because there is plenty of work to go around and everyone does their job enthusiastically and competently. Almost without exception, our full-board shows up month after month for our spirited board meetings that nearly always last at least two hours and have on occasion expanded to nearly three. That's a long meeting! So, please look at the list of board members at the end of this newsletter. I hope they know that I appreciate them and their work, and I hope that if you have a chance to talk with one of them you will let them know you appreciate them, too.

If you're still reading, please know that I am grateful to you, too. Our members, the causes you care about, and the work we all do are why we exist. You are the ones that really make a difference in our communities. Please take the time to enjoy Thanksgiving. I hope that this year you can spend it with family and friends. That will be something to really be grateful for!

Women's Health Webinars

AAUW
of Washington State
Fall Webinar Series

**Health Matters:
Advocating for
Washington Women**

**Preventing Violence
& Serving the Needs
of Survivors**

Leah Griffin

**December 14, 2021
7:00pm | Zoom**

The fourth and final in a series of virtual conversations
about critical health issues in Washington State.

Register: www.AAUW-WA-Health-Matters.eventbrite.com

There is a cost for attending the webinars, to defray the expenses of holding the events.

Members -- \$15 each
Non-members -- \$20 each

Click for [Tickets - Health Matters Webinar Series](#)

State News

*Diversity, Equity and Inclusion:
Energizing our branches!*

Yvonne Berliner
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Officer
AAUW-Washington
diversity@aauw-wa.org

Last month, on October 11, we observed Indigenous Peoples' Day in the U.S. In Washington state this observance has a particularly strong meaning, with twenty-nine federally recognized [tribes](#) plus five [non-federally-recognized tribes](#). Our state, in fact, is among the [six states](#) in the U.S. with the highest percentage of Indigenous American people.

AAUW's membership is predominantly white and we are actively working toward equity, diversity and inclusion, both within AAUW and in our own communities. In Washington state, most of us live within an hour's drive of an Indian tribe, and so several AAUW-WA branches have created programs to increase awareness and inclusion of tribal members.

Last September, Tri-Cities Branch invited Emily Washines of the Yakima Nation Tribe to speak on ***Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women***. Ms. Washines shared her research on this lamentable state of affairs and the lack of due diligence from authorities in investigating these [cases](#). Her work on the historical and present-day issues regarding Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women ([MMIW](#)) on the Yakama Reservation reveal unspeakable atrocities as she searches for descendants of those victims to stand with her in protest. The discussion and reflection on this crisis that affects our indigenous sisters is a first step in educating ourselves about taking the next step toward inclusion. On November 13, 2021, Seattle and Edmonds SnoKing Branches cosponsored an event with a Native American storyteller called Fern Naomi Renville, titled ***American Democracy's Indigenous Roots and Future***. Stanwood-Camano branch is also planning to invite a Native American speaker for discussion.

Do join in, to learn and grow as a branch. Two Indian friends recommended speakers on tribal women's issues. [Earth Feather Sovereign](#), is a member of the Okanogan and Sanpoil bands of the Colville Confederated Tribes, in the state of Washington. You can contact her via email: earthfeathersovereign@gmail.com. She was recommended to me by my friend Shawnee Bearcub. My friend Lori SiJohn recommended her niece [Lynette GreyBull](#), an Arapaho woman from the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming. She can be reached at (307) 438-0214.

The first step is educating AAUW-WA branch members about local Indian tribes and women's issues within them. However, we need to be mindful that adding interesting and diverse speakers to branch programs is not enough to make AAUW a truly inclusive women's

organization. The next steps are essential toward allyship and inclusion and this is where AAUW is providing powerful tools for branches. Have you checked out the [Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Toolkit?](#) AAUW National is constantly updating it to make it a truly useful tool for branches to grow. As your AAUW-WA state board Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Officer, I attend monthly Zoom meetings and have learned much from other state officers who share their experiences freely. I particularly recommend the [Plug-and-Play](#) tools from AAUW National, to prepare branch DEI officers or facilitators in spearheading difficult conversations about educating ourselves, exploring allyship and becoming more inclusive as an AAUW-WA branch.

Public Policy

Sandra Ripley Distelhorst
Public Policy Director
AAUW-Washington
publicpolicy@aauw-wa.org

What is the Public Policy team working on? Join a committee meeting and find out! We meet on Tuesdays at Noon. Email publicpolicy@aauw-wa.org for the link if you want to join a meeting. Our Lobbyist Nancy Sapiro joined us November 2nd for a legislative review of bills “left over” from last session and a discussion on bills in the works. We already have approval from national to support several bills:

- [HB1571](#) Concerning protections and services for indigenous persons who are missing, murdered, or survivors of human trafficking
- [SB5480](#) Concerning the use and disclosure of toxic chemicals in cosmetic products
- Old SB5335 Concerning the acquisition of health care facilities - a new version of the bill will be introduced.

Other bills from last session we are looking at include two related to STEM education bills:

- [SB5389](#) Creating teaching endorsements in computer science
- [HB1149](#) Concerning the public health knowledge of students in public school.

We are watching for bills to be introduced that support childcare, paid family and medical leave expansion, apprenticeship programs, and domestic violence protections. Please let us know if a bill comes up – especially one sponsored by your district legislators – that you would like us to review for support.

Karen Anderson and I attended a webinar hosted by Senator Manka Dhingra, where we talked about domestic violence protection laws, abuse litigation and coercive control. Sen. Dhingra noted that Washington is leading the country in providing services and support to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking but the issue with coercive controls isn’t covered.

We can expect a bill in 2022 to make sure it is. She noted that the Netflix series the Maid has generated a lot of calls to her office about coercive control in Washington State.

If you or someone you know is experience coercive control and/or domestic violence please know that there is support available. Call the national hotline anywhere in the country. 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) or 1-800-787-3224 (TTY).

To learn more about coercive control check out the [Domestic Shelters](#) website. Sign up for our December 14th Health Matters webinar [Preventing Violence and Serving the Needs of Survivors](#) . AAUW national released the data on states use of the [2-Minute Activist](#) (TMA). We had 2149 participants (more than our membership numbers) and a total of 4116 TMA letters sent to legislators in EOY July 2020-2021.

Let’s keep it up. If you haven’t signed up for the [2-Minute Activist](#) alerts, please do so! It is such an easy way to be an AAUW advocate! You can also text “AAUW” to 21333 to get text alerts. There is also a Washington DC update e-newsletter you can sign up for on the same webpage.

Robin Lucas our AAUW Grassroots Advocacy Manager talked to us about the importance of following AAUW lead on federal legislation. Members are often disappointed when AAUW doesn’t take a stance on a federal bill. Often it is a capacity and expertise issue. Just because AAUW doesn’t take a stance on a federal bill, doesn’t mean states can’t take a stance on state bills related to the topic. But states should get permission to do so. This same policy applies to Branches. If your Branch wants to take a stance on a state bill that AAUW-WA has not gotten approval from national, please let us know and we can work with you to review and ask for national support.

Stay safe, stay health, stay active in AAUW!

Branch Events

Money Matter\$

Marianne North
Co-Vice President of Programs
AAUW Seattle Branch

A monthly seminar focusing on topics to enhance women’s economic security, led by AAUW Seattle Member and financial planner Dana Twight on Dec. 1, January 26, and February 23. Topics will be driven by participants. For more information and to register go to:

[Money Matter\\$ - AAUW Seattle Seminar | What's New | What's New | American Association of University Women - Seattle Branch \(aauw-seattle.org\)](#)

Free and open to AAUW members and nonmembers.

DANA TWIGHT has several decades of financial planning experience. She is a Certified Financial Planner, has a B.A. in Economics and an M. Ed. She is completing a Graduate Certificate in Financial Therapy at Kansas State University. She currently assists Washington state military personnel with their finances. Dana is a past president of AAUW Seattle.

*Hormone-Disrupting Chemicals in Everyday Products:
How They Can Harm Our Health and What We Can Do About Them*

Marianne North
Co-Vice President of Programs
AAUW Edmonds SnoKing Branch
aauwprogramvp@gmail.com

An online seminar sponsored by AAUW Edmonds SnoKing Branch

Cosmetics and other personal care products may contain harmful ingredients that adversely affect our health. Women and women of color are particularly affected. This four-part seminar will be presented via Zoom by Dr. Fran Solomon, environmental scientist, January 11, 18, 25, and February 1, 7:00-8:30 p.m. The seminar includes what the chemicals are, how they affect our health, and how we can protect ourselves and our families.

A bill has been proposed to the Washington State Legislature to require manufacturers of personal care products to label what is in their product. See [SB 5480 - Washington Senate \(2021-2022\) - Open States](#) Concerning the Use and Disclosure of Toxic Chemicals in Cosmetic Products. It is very easy to read. The bill includes: "The legislature further finds that harmful ingredients in cosmetics and personal care products disproportionately affect women of color." Seminar cost is \$50. For more information and to register, contact Marianne North at aauwprogramvp@gmail.com

A Day in the Life of an Immunologist
Dr. Blythe Sather



Saturday, January 8, 2022
10:30 am

Christ Lutheran Church
2501 SW 320th St.
Federal Way, WA 98023

Diane Hoyer & Su Jordan, Program Co-Chairs
AAUW Federal Way Branch
federalwayaauw@gmail.com

Please join us and learn more about this rapidly changing field. A question-and-answer session will follow.

Dr. Blythe Sather received her PhD from the University of Washington, Department of Immunology in 2007. Her thesis work focused on understanding the role of homing receptors on the function of regulatory T cells in the laboratory of Dr. Danial Campbell at the Benaroya Research Institute in Seattle.

Her postdoctoral work in the laboratory of Dr. David Rawlings (SCRI), focused on developing gene therapies for primary immunodeficiency disorders, as well as groundbreaking work using

megaTAL nucleases and AAV6 to insert anti-HIV chimeric antigen receptors (CARs) via gene editing-mediated homologous recombination into the CCR5 locus of primary T cells.

In 2014, her desire to bring these types of therapies to the clinic on a larger scale led her to move to Juno Therapeutics to join their research team. There she was instrumental in building their CAR T cell platform, developing several multiple myeloma CAR T cell program(s) including the anti-BCMA CAR product Orvacabtagene-translucel (JCAR125), as well leading the collaboration with Editas medicine to bring CRISPER-mediated gene editing to CAR and TCR T cell products.

At the end of 2018 she left Juno to help build the discovery group at Lyell Immunopharma, in San Francisco and in Seattle, whose focus is developing next generation cell therapies. She is currently working in Seattle as the senior director of engineering, driving several unique cell products to the clinic for solid tumors.

General Information

Publishing Schedule

The next issue will be published on Wednesday, December 15, 2021. Articles submitted for publications are due by Wednesday December 8, 2021. Please send the articles to Mary Williams at president@aauw-wa.org, Judy Peasley at communications@aauw-wa.org, and/or Melinda Hearsey at evergreenleader@aauw-wa.org.