



The Evergreen Leader
AAUW Washington Newsletter
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President's Message

Mary Williams

President
AAUW Washington
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The Anthem of AAUW-WA 2020 – 2023

Borrowed from Frank Sinatra – sing to the tune of My Way

And now, the end is near
And so I face my final curtain
My friends, I'll say it clear
I'll state my case, of which I'm certain
The last three years were full
We traveled many highways
And more, much more than this
We did it our way
Regrets, I've had a few
But then again, too few to mention
We did what we had to do
We saw it through without exemption
We planned each charted course
Each careful step along the byway
And more, much more than this
We did it our way
Yes, there were times, I'm sure you knew
When I bit off more than I could chew
But through it all, when there was doubt
We ate it up and spit it out
We faced it all, and we stood tall
Because we did it our way

My apologies to Frank Sinatra. I hope his spirit isn't too upset about my minor adaption (and plagiarism) of his great lyrics. They so closely summarize my feelings as I end my term of office that I couldn't help myself and decided he wouldn't care. I can do it my way because there are only two more weeks until my tenure on the AAUW Washington Board of Directors comes to an end.

I'm very serious, however, about having done this our way. While leadership is floundering in organizations like AAUW around the country, our board has had a complete complement of 12 active, engaged, and hard-working members for most of the past 3 years. This board has shown up at least once a month, and frequently interrupted vacations and family activities to complete a time sensitive task. I think it's common knowledge that I think outside the box. Sometimes, so far outside the box that I can't even see the box. They've known when to let me go, and when to reel me in. We've tackled extremely complex issues together and been able to effectively work as a team to solve our problems and address our challenges.

I am hesitant to call out specific people because each and every one of our board members over the past three years has been essential to the process and made important contributions. I don't want any of them to think I don't recognize how much they were needed. Having said that, there are a few I just have to mention.

Barbara Sando has been the brain trust of the organization. She jumped in and went to work to successfully solve what seemed to be our insurmountable problem with the IRS. And, when that was done, before it had even faded in the rearview mirror, she took on rewriting the Bylaws and Policies and Procedures so that for the first time in many years they were complete and congruent. And, as if that wasn't enough, she assumed the responsibility of mastering the Community Hub and providing countless hours of time to working with members all across the state to resolve their Hub issues. Thank you, Barbara!

You're only reading this because of the work of our Communications Director, Judy Peasley. She put together a team to work on all of our communications tools and was supportive when I decided our engagement would be vastly improved if the Evergreen Leader was monthly, rather than quarterly. And then, when our long time editor, Melinda Hearsey, retired, she took on serving as Editor herself. Many, many times she has had to interrupt her own life to find internet service and send out the EL, a meeting notice, or a reminder that an event was coming up. This week you received registration information about the Kickoff to our fall webinar series. You got that because Judy was willing to pull together the information and send it out from her hotel room in Seattle while on a family visit to attend the UW graduation ceremony. Thank you, Judy.

I can't say enough about our Public Policy team, originally created by Karen Anderson and led for the past two years by our own human version of the Energizer Bunny, Sandra Distelhorst. Because of them, and our lobbyist Nancy Sapiro, we are gaining a wee bit of notice in Olympia. Much of their work has been either adopted nationally or will soon be a tool available to all branches across the country. Our team developed the Candidate Comparison Sheet that allows us to evaluate candidates at very important local level so that you can make informed non-partisan decisions about the people who impact your daily lives such as school board members and local judges. Sandra also introduced us to Bill Track 50, which we have used extensively, and is now being introduced nationwide by the AAUW National public policy team. Thank you, Karen. Thank you, Sandra.

Emily Hitchens may have made the single most important decision of all. When I asked, she agreed to serve as your president for the next 2 years. She has led our membership effort for the past two years and put together a committee to work on issues that not only include membership development, but retention, including the unpleasant task of helping a branch follow the rules set by national. should they decide to disband. Thank you, thank you, Emily.

I have to thank the rest of the old team, Susie Johnson, Sandy Heidergott, Yvonne Berliner, Kathy Cavness, Judi Edwards, and Kathy Halsan. They have always been ready and willing to go the extra mile to get the job done. And, I want to welcome the members who will be joining the board in just two short weeks, Jeanne Nygard, Nadine Stecklein, Mary Ross, and Jodi Forsell. I leave knowing you are in very capable hands.

And as the littles in our family say, see you "after later". It's been a blast.

State News

2023-24 AAUW-WA Webinar Series

Karen Anderson



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Still Time to Register!

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION - AND TO REGISTER](#)

Saturday, June 17 – 9am Our first speaker for the **2023-24 Webinar Series, OPPORTUNITY MATTERS, our 3rd Annual Webinar Series**. Dr. Season Hoard, Professor at WSU, will speak relating to the Gender Pay Gap, particularly as it relates to typically “women’s work” but will expand to discuss her work in that area on both a national and international level.

Watch for our full fall lineup and an opportunity to register for the 2023-24 series - coming in mid-July!

August 2023 AAUW-WA Leadership Conference

“Come and Connect”

Registration Link coming soon

When: August 5, 2023 9:30-1:30

Virtual via Zoom - \$20 registration fee

Registration Link coming soon

Some of the sessions confirmed for August include:

- *Community Hub*
- *Public Policy*
- *DEI - Diversity, Equity & Inclusion*
- *Records Retention - best practices*

Membership Corner

Cathy Cavness
Membership Director
AAUW Washington
membership@aauw-wa.org

Our State Membership committee meets twice monthly on the first and third Monday, to discuss membership development, and retention at the branch, and state level. A welcome letter is sent to each new member in the state by the chair of the group, Emily Hitchens. The committee recently held a zoom meeting with membership vice presidents from throughout the state. We developed a short list of ideas to promote branch membership, which will be available later in the month to all branches. Our idea exchange also provided solutions to various issues with The Hub, per our Hub expert, Barbara Sando. If you would like to join our monthly membership committee meeting, email Emily Hitchens: ameliahitchens95@gmail.com We look forward to seeing you!

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in AAUW-WA Branches

By Yvonne Berliner
AAUW-WA State Board
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Officer
diversity@aauw-wa.org

Anacortes: DEI planning will be done at a Board Retreat. The Board's biggest concern is losing members due to new ideas around diversity. For instance, the scholarship application now includes a new option: applicants can select "identify as female." Some members are concerned about these changes and would rather do things the way that they have been done over the years. With positive changes, the branch wants to attract younger members.

Hudson's Bay: A Peace and Justice Fair is held each September. The goal of the event is to sign up new voters. Organizations have the opportunity to table at the event.

Lewis County: LUNAFEST® is a traveling film festival featuring films by and about women that the branch holds yearly. The branch is now working on a Membership Engagement Team to start the conversation about DEI. The Book Group is reading and discussing "Nickel Boys" by Colson Whitehead.

Port Townsend: The branch collaborated with another organization in town, donating \$2,000 to two school systems and the City Library to purchase books. The local tribes were consulted and came up with book suggestions. They are also considering books by local authors.

Seattle: The branch is exploring a book presentation by an author who wrote a memoir, using the pen name Patricia Grayhall, dealing with her experience in the 1960s with an illegal abortion before Roe, then attending medical school before Title IX, and later coming out as a lesbian.

Stanwood-Camano: The branch is working on a DEI document with goals and areas of opportunity. The Board has approved it. They have adopted a Land Acknowledgement with suggestions from local tribes. They would like to meet the new poet laureate of Washington State, Arianne True, of the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations.

Online: Yvonne Berliner participated in a march at the Washington State University Campus at Pullman with the Native American Women's Association (NAWA) remembering Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW.) About 40 women in their teens and twenties, and a few men, marched through the campus with signs and voicing slogans. After the march there was a workshop held by NAWA. She took a risk (the only one with white hair), felt uncomfortable, and lonely. However, an allyship was forged and she met two young participants, the president and vice president of NAWA, who will join a panel discussion on MMIW in July.

Branch News

Gig Harbor Branch

Claudia Thompson
Gig Harbor AAUW Branch

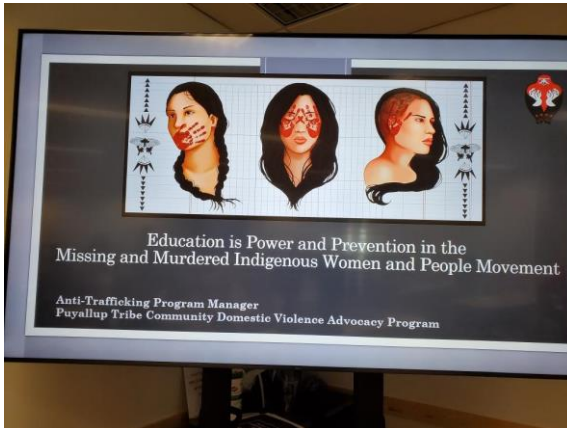
The Gig Harbor Branch recently held its annual Garden Party Luncheon at the Canterwood Golf and Country Club. Our guest speaker was Marianne Binetti, a humorous gardening expert! This year's Tech Trek speaker was Krislyn Davis, our own previous camper, then counselor and current Camp Director for McClintock 2023. She inspired us all! We're also proud to have Jennifer Dalziel as the Curriculum Director for both camps – previously a teacher in Peninsula School District.

The luncheon was attended by nearly 90 members and guests and raised funds through gift card purchases, Silent Auction items, and our famous Dessert Dash. Because of this event, grants from our community and donations from members, we are very happy to be sending 14 campers this year! Go Gig Harbor!!



Highline Branch

Emily Hitchens
Highline AAUW Branch



The Highline Branch partnered with Renton Technical College to host a discussion with Carolyn DeFord, a member of the Puyallup Tribe, a member of the state commission on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and People (MMIWP), and the tribe Community Domestic Violence Advocate. Members from 4 south King County and Pierce County AAUW groups attended; the Highline Branch co-president, Jean Munro who works at the college coordinated the program. The purpose of the program was to educate ourselves on the issues and to involve the college so that the Workforce staff could develop outreach for potential students.

Ms. DeFord is the daughter of a long-term missing person, her mother, and has extensive experience with those who have lost loved ones. One of her main points was the interdigitation between domestic violence and human trafficking. Often it is an abusive family member who traffics the person and the person is lost. Other times, the member entices the person with gifts and affection only to become abusive later and the person is lost.

Some facts that were shared include: the city of Tacoma is #6 in the country for domestic violence, Pierce County (per capita) has the highest domestic violence in the state, Washington and New Mexico are the top two states for trafficking, and Seattle and Albuquerque are the top two cities for trafficking!

Cultural healing is part of the domestic violence program the tribe offers the participants and community through such experiences as the medicine wheel, cedar, sage, tobacco wrapped, smudge, traditional arts and crafts. Red is the only color that can be seen from the spirit world of the ancestors, so it represents the involvement of the whole community, living and dead. The tribe's mission for this work is stated as "education is power." We want to empower, nurture and care for one another.

Carolyn also reported on the Commission goals: assessment of the problem, reporting to the governor, involving families, tribes from all over the state, inclusion of 23 members, focus on tribal jurisdiction, and four sub committees one of which the public can participate. The Missing Indigenous Persons (MIPA) alert system was launched 7-1-2022. Carolyn also shared the list of bills passed during the recent Legislative Session.

Augmented by art and visual aids, the program impacted us all.

Part two, a follow-up will focus on bringing indigenous community members to the college to learn about scholarships, financial, Workforce grants to increase educational opportunities that lead to sustainable careers that we hope reduce MMIWP.



Olympia Branch

The Olympia Branch and AAUW-WA are sad to have to share the news of the **passing of long-time member Mary Alice Peterson**. Most recently, Mary Alice was co-President of the Olympia branch, and has served as the long time coordinator of Washington State's Legacy Circle Program. Her dedication and commitment to all segments of AAUW will be greatly missed.

While it is our policy to not publish obituary notices in The Evergreen Leader, we are providing a [link to a Memorial Remembrance](#) which is posted on our Continuing the Legacy webpage and remind you about [special donations – click here...](#)

WA-Online Branch

The Crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and People

Cultivating Allyship

Melissa Johnsen
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Indigenous women are murdered at rates 10 times the national average in some jurisdictions, according to a recent federal survey cited by the Attorney General's Office. Washington state has the second-highest number of missing Indigenous people in the United States. Indigenous women and people go missing more than four times more than white women, according to research conducted by the Urban Indian Health Institute in Seattle.

Please join the **AAUW Washington Online Branch** for a **VIRTUAL panel discussion** on **July 17, 2023, at 7pm to 8:30pm PST**. The Panel will explore the crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous Women and people – why we have a crisis, what the Impact is of the crisis on the Indigenous community, especially college and graduate students, how we can be an ally to the indigenous community to address the crisis and what actions we can personally take to make a difference on this crisis.

Our panelists include:

- **Fabian Mondejar**, a member of Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, a Student at Washington State University, a Student Mentor | Compass Program, Native American Student Center and President of the Native American Women's Association and Ku-Ah-Mah (ASWSU)
- **Alesia Nez**, a member of the Navajo Nation, a Third-year Biology Major focusing on pre-pharmacy at Washington State University, Student Mentor - Compass Program, Native American Student Center, 2022-2024 Miss Pah-Loots-Puu and Vice-President of the Native American Women's Association
- **Christina Katsukis**, a member of the Yakama Nation, a Second-year undergraduate majoring in Organizational Sciences at the University of Idaho, Peer Mentor for the Native American Student center, Vice President of the Native American Student Association. Fellow for the Building indigenous communities of Hope fellowship with the Center for Native American Youth (2021-22), Miss Tutxinmepu of University of Idaho

Please register for the virtual Panel discussion at this [LINK](#). A zoom link will be issued with a meeting notice upon registration. The Panel Discussion will be **RECORDED** with the Link shared upon request, as well as via AAUW WA Online Web Site.

Questions, contact Melissa Johnsen at johnsen.melissa@gmail.com

Puyallup Branch

High School Scholars Event

Joan Cronk
Publicity Chair
Puyallup Branch

On May 16 AAUW Puyallup Valley Branch held their annual High School Scholars award program at the Puyallup Activity Center. The room was packed to the rafters as students, AAUW Puyallup members, families, mentors, and faculty gathered to honor the achievements of young women in Science, Math, and Technology.

After a social time for members and guests to meet and greet each other and enjoy a snack, Chris Wick presented information about Tech Trek followed by Florence Vining's explanation of the Innovative Teaching Grant. The program began 25 years ago to encourage excellence in education. \$23,000 in grants have been awarded so far and the program is funded by the annual Garden Tour.

Leanna Washington, a secondary Math Teacher, and AVID coordinator at Chief Leschi Schools in Puyallup for the last five years, was awarded the \$2,000 grant which was used to purchase flexible classroom furniture to create a classroom atmosphere where all students feel at ease and ready to learn.

Sandy Goelzer, Scholarship Committee leader, explained the Gwen Fletcher Memorial Scholarship and presented this year's winners, Grace Smith from Orting High School who will major in biochemistry and education and Olivia DeBoer, who plans to major in engineering. Sylvia Hagman, High School Scholars Committee Leader and committee members presented this year's High School Scholars. Each high school served by the Puyallup Valley AAUW branch chooses one outstanding junior girl in math, science and in technology.

The evening was peppered with an update on the girls' lives and their involvement in scholastic activities and plans for their future. Sylvia Hagman, High School Scholars Committee Leader, addressed guests and said it was the biggest crowd so far. Refreshments were served and after the event all the recipients gathered for photos.

Thank you to members of the committee, MJ Garlick, Jenny Holmstrom, Deanna Mitchel, Carol Silvernail, Mary Smith, and Jody Wickett who worked diligently with the schools and teachers to make the evening a great event.



Grace Smith and Olivia DeBoer were awarded the Gwen Fletcher Memorial Scholarship



High School Scholarship award winners

General Information

AAUW-WA website Member Area

password: evergreen

AAUW-WA YouTube Channel

Did you know that all videos, webinars and state meetings are available for you and your branch to view? All you need is this link that will take you to our private YouTube channel.

[AAUW-WA YouTube Video Playlist](#)

If you have any problems accessing the videos, or questions about the content or how to use them with your branch, please contact Judy Peasley at communications@aauw-wa.org

Publishing Schedule

Please send articles and images for the state newsletter to Judy Peasley at evergreenleader@aauw-wa.org

- **Please send photos separately - do not embed in your article**
- Please use MS Word format; Font: Calibri size 12
- Articles with images, limit to 450 words; without images, limit to 550 words

We are hoping that most articles can meet these guidelines. If you have a special article that exceeds this limit, we understand, but ask that you do your best to limit the article length.

The next issue will be published on Saturday, July 15, 2023. Articles submitted for publication are due by Saturday, July 8, 2023.

Please send the articles to Judy Peasley at evergreenleader@aauw-wa.org

The newsletter will be reviewed by Mary Williams before publishing - and as always, available on our website [AAUW-WA State](#)