



The Evergreen Leader

AAUW Washington Newsletter

July 2023 Volume 35, No. 1

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President's Message

Emily Hitchens

President
AAUW Washington
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Projects with purpose bring people together. One of my favorite channels is channel 68, HGTV, the home fixit channel. The programming now includes small-town America redos. One town is Fort Morgan, CO at the edge of the Great Plains. The Queen's Lounge was chosen for a redo. It was in an old building, formerly a hotel. Just off the lounge was a 'community room' for all sorts of activities. It was definitely 'down at the heel', dark and drab. They scrounged around in the basement and found an abundance of historical memorabilia. Signs, newspapers and embossed tin to name a few things. For example, the newspapers were used and designed as wallpaper. The proprietors of the establishment, husband and wife, were totally thrilled and amazed with the redo. But I liked what the wife said, "Some people see it as a headache, and some see it as a purpose." So, projects with a purpose! That's what brings folks together. In the past, I have been in lengthy conversations discussing mission and purpose and I think both go hand in hand. So, as you all plan the coming year, reframe the headaches to purpose! AAUW's purpose is: To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy. Our

state purpose is to provide leadership and training to invigorate and inform local branches and affiliates.

Another personal comment on purpose. Recently, I was on Country Club Lane, my old neighborhood, where I spent some time with my grandkid and a former neighbor. Passing the golf course, they commented that people golfing looked relaxed and probably retired, then they added "I look forward to retirement." My companions' age? Fifteen! That's hard for me to respond to; I've always appreciated structure and goals and having a purpose! An inter-generational challenge, to be sure. However, the process of life I think has a way of unfolding if people are given the opportunity. So, opportunity is key. Former President Barack Obama, recently in Athens with The Obama Foundation meeting with young women leaders from around the world, stated that we need to develop opportunity ladders. And guess what? Our theme for the fall series of webinars is Opportunity Matters! How can we support Opportunity Ladders for the next generations?

Emily

State News

2023-24 Webinar Series Opportunity Matters

Save the Dates. The Fall webinar will be here before we know it! Look for more information and registration in early August. You are not going to want to miss this Fall Webinar Series.

The theme this year is **Opportunity Matters** and will be held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month beginning in September. Tuesday dates are :

September 12, October 10, November 14 and December 12

The series will be held **virtually** on Zoom and will start at 6:30pm. Registration is \$50 for all 4 classes or \$15 per each class.

Our first presenter on Tuesday September 12 will be **Washington State Senator Karen Keiser of the 33rd District**. She has recently published a book titled " Getting Elected is the Easy Part". One of the reviewers of her book wrote "As we elect more and more women of color, people who have not traditionally come from the political world, it is crucial we provide them with the information to ensure their success. This book does exactly that ." Manka Dhingra, Washington State senator, Deputy Majority Leader, and Chair, Senate Law and Justice Committee.

If you would like to hear our speaker, Dr Season Hoard, from the June kick off, you can click on the link below to our AAUW-WA YouTube channel. Dr Hoard presented "The Gender Pay Gap: The Opportunity Lost Cost of the Gender Pay Gap on Washington Women".

[AAUW-WA YouTube Video Playlist](#)

AAUW-WA Leadership Conference “Come and Connect”

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

Virtual via Zoom - \$20 registration fee

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

Some of the sessions confirmed for August include:

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

Membership Corner

*Jeanne Nygard
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. Our next meeting will be **Monday, July 17th from 12:30-1:30**. We hope you will join us!

If you would like to join our monthly membership committee meeting, email Jeanne Nygard: membership@aauw-wa.org We look forward to seeing you!

Public Policy

*Sandra Distelhorst
Public Policy Director
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National news:

ERA is back on the agenda with a new twist - adding a discharge petition to force a vote. Sign up for the **Two-Minute Activist** to stay up-to-date on the ERA and other critical federal legislation up for a vote. [<https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/>]

Student Debt Relief has a new pathway - updates to the existing student loan forgiveness program will provide \$39 billion in student debt forgiveness. [<https://www.npr.org/2023/07/14/1187660793/student-loan-forgiveness-income-driven-repayment>]

Age discrimination is an AAUW's policy priority. National is partnering with the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights on age-related advocacy. Current age discrimination laws are too "short and broad" to be effective according to Dan Kohrman, AARP. They require a higher burden of proof than other discrimination laws and there are fewer avenues for compensation. Right now, the best age discrimination laws come from a few states.

State News

WA state discrimination laws often leave out age as a discrimination class. Adding age to all discrimination statutes was one of the recommendations from the Civil Rights Leadership webinar that national invite AAUW state public policy chairs to attend. We'll talk more about age discrimination laws at our state leadership conference public policy session on August 5th. Please sign up to join us!

Local election concerns dominated our public policy meeting conversations this month. Our state policy team reviewed a draft proclamation/position statement "AAUW-WA proclamation supporting public school educators, academic freedom and equity efforts in schools" that will be presented to the AAUW-WA Board for discussion. We hope this type of document can be used by branches to create talking points and support local advocacy efforts and conversations.

Federal legislators are "home" August 8 through September 5th. This is a great time to meet with them.

Branch News:

We want to hear about your advocacy work! Join the public policy team meetings or send us your advocacy reports, concerns and ideas. Email publicpolicy@aauw-wa.org.

DEI - Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

*Yvonne Berliner
DEI - Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
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diversity@aauw-wa.org*

See our new state web pages: <https://aauw-wa.aauw.net/diversity-equity-inclusion/>

Legacy Circle

*Kay McMurry
AAUW Legacy Circle Liaison
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Congratulations to Kay McMurry! Kay has been selected to serve as the AAUW-WA Legacy Circle liaison. As described in her nomination, Kay is a perfect candidate for the Legacy Circle committee. She is dedicated, creative, enthusiastic, and driven. She has

been the driving force in her Hudson's Bay (WA) Branch for many years. Kay cares deeply about AAUW and its mission, and is one of those behind-the-scenes members who always pushes in the right direction.

If you are considering becoming a Legacy Circle member, you may want to contact Kay to find out more, or visit the [national website](#) for more information.

Tech Trek WA 2023



Covid Couldn't Keep Us Down!

*Karen Manelis
AAUW -WA Tech Trek
techtrek@aauw-wa.org*

As I write this article (July 9), campers are lining up to check in to Camp Dunbar, the first of two weeks of Tech Trek at Pacific Lutheran University. As you read this (July 15), Dunbar campers are headed home from a fantastic week of all things STEM and Camp McClintock campers will be arriving Sunday, July 16! COVID 19 still had an impact on the 2023 camps – the vaccination requirement was still a sticking point with many families which precluded some qualified candidates from attending camp. COVID also hit our Dunbar staff, striking down a dorm leader and a teacher. With experience from the pandemic, our teacher was able to teach via Zoom (with in classroom support from Curriculum Coordinator Jennifer Dalziel) until she recovered. And Assistant Director Sue Reichart stepped in to cover the dorm leader role.

Between the two weeks of camp in July at Pacific Lutheran University, we will serve 96 campers from 16 branches. Our former campers, now in their early 20's, continue to be a big support to the program: volunteering themselves in every role available (camp director, assistant director, health aide, dorm leader, student counselor) and bringing college friends and roommates into the program. Special thanks to our two camp directors, Florence Young (Dunbar) and Krislyn Davis (McClintock). It's great to have such outstanding leadership.

Our work isn't over when the campers go back home. We get to shift our focus to the committee work of improving camp operations and strengthening the community of Tech Trek advocates which includes branch members and coordinators, donors from our communities, and our Tech Trek alumni! Planning for the 2024 Tech Trek WA camps begins now. Interested in more information on how you can help, email techtrek@aauw-wa.org. We need your expertise and enthusiasm for the program moving forward.

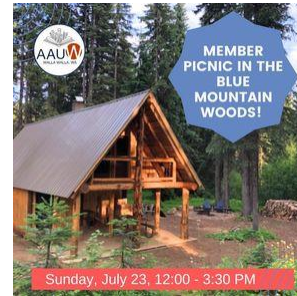


Tech Trek WA 2023

Want to follow along with Tech Trek 2023 Summer Camp?

Go to Facebook and search *Tech Trek 2023 Washington* and click JOIN to request to join the closed private group.

Branch Events



Walla Walla Branch

Judy Peasley
Walla Walla Membership Chair
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Our Walla Walla branch continues to grow, with membership at 267 in July 2023. We work hard to help new members find their place in our organization. This is different for everyone, but it may be helping with fundraisers, sorting books year-round, volunteering on a committee, enjoying one of our 12 interest groups, or joining together with other members for advocacy purposes or just to have fun.

We have a very active **Member Engagement committee** driven by their mission: *The Member Engagement Team helps members to connect with each other and to contribute to our branch's mission by offering experiences that are welcoming, inclusive, and meaningful.* Member Engagement gatherings have included wine tasting at a local winery, field day with games at a local park, trivia night at a local venue, brushes & brix and the next gathering will be a "picnic in the woods" hosted by past president, Tracii Hickman. Members will enjoy a potluck at Tracii's mountain cabin outside of Walla Walla. One of our members, Sue Wickham, will lead a casual

naturalist walk. These regular gatherings are proving to be a perfect way to connect and engage with our members.

Our newest members are invited to a small group welcome gathering shortly after they join. The intention of this gathering is to welcome the new members in person, help them meet other new members, and also hear about AAUW from a few experienced members. New members will soon be asked to complete a simple survey focusing on how their first year of AAUW has been. Information gathered from this survey will be used in planning how to move forward with membership next year. As we tell each new member, we are proud that our branch continues to grow, but our focus remains on ensuring each member feels connected to our branch and the mission of AAUW.

WA Online Branch

Melissa Johnsen
WA Online Branch
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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 7 pm to 8:30 pm**. The Panel will explore the crisis of missing and murder 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](https://www.evite.com/event/0001A4UUOZTOEMUTIEPN6HJ2HHZ44Q?utm_campaign=send_shareable_link&utm_source=evitelink&utm_medium=shareable_invite) [https://www.evite.com/event/0001A4UUOZTOEMUTIEPN6HJ2HHZ44Q?utm_campaign=send_shareable_link&utm_source=evitelink&utm_medium=shareable_invite]. 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.

Calendar and Upcoming Events

AAUW-WA State Calendar

The official calendar for AAUW-WA can be found on our website at:

<https://aauw-wa.aauw.net/activities-information/calendar>

and many events listed in detail on

<https://aauw-wa.aauw.net/activities-information/>

If you wish to have a branch event added to the calendar, please use the process described in the [Branch Sharing Form](#). [in our website Member Center > Forms]

General Information

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

AAUW-WA Member Web Sections

Password: Evergreen

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 them in your document**
- 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.

****Remember that written permission for publishing is required from any person shown in a photo that is published. The branch or officer submitting the photo is responsible for getting and keeping the signatures of the people granting permission to publish.**

Evergreen Leader issues are published on the 15th of each month. Articles submitted for publication are due by the 8th of each month Please send the articles to Judy Peasley at evergreenleader@aauw-wa.org The newsletter will be reviewed by our new AAUW-WA President, Emily Hitchens, before publishing - and as always, available on our website [AAUW-WA State](#)