



The Evergreen Leader

AAUW Washington Newsletter

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*For a printable PDF version of the
newsletter, click [here](#)*

In This Issue

President's Message

- Branch Presidents' Meeting

State News

- Programs - Annual State Meeting
- Public Policy
- Communications
- Legacy Circle
- Membership Corner
 - Open Up AAUW - Vote on Proposed Bylaws Change
 - "NOTICE" of Bylaws Changes
- Tech Trek
- Evergreen Leader Editor - 2024-25 position open

Branch News

- Lewis County
- Port Townsend
- Puyallup
- Stanwood-Camano
- Tacoma
- Walla Walla
- Whatcom

General Information

- AAUW-WA Member Area & YouTube Channel Access
- Submitting an Article & Publishing Schedule

President's Message

Emily Hitchens

AAUW-WA President
president@aauw-wa.org

Recently, Highline Branch member, Anneliese Ellerton, and I attended "Celebrating International Women's Day: Global Voices on Gender Equity hosted by the Washington State Women's Commission", inspired by Grace Yoo, Executive Director. She opened the discussion with a Washington State spin "Women making history month!" The WSWC commission serves 3.8 million women and is a voice in the governor's office. The focus is pay equity and in the industries that we have in Washington State, we are in the bottom 10 in the country. We celebrated with a gathering in the Women Painters of Washington Gallery in the Columbia Tower.

Three Consul Generals of Canada, India, and the Republic of Korea shared their countries' governmental policy support for women. They first described the role of consul; each was slightly different, but all had a ministry devoted to women at the federal level. Grace shared that the United States does not have this agency, however the Biden Whitehouse developed the Gender Policy



Council which has links to Counsel on Economic Advisors and the Defense Department. Other related connections include national security, health care and economics.

The Republic of Korea has a ministry on Gender Quality and Family which focuses on domestic violence, sexual violence, and equality in the workplace. Eunji Seo shared that the influence of Confucianism and male dominance was a prominent part of their history. She also stated that the seniority system precludes the career gaps that women experience with childbearing, however younger people in their twenties have a 10% decrease in the pay gap, but the fertility rates have also decreased.

India is the world's largest democracy, and it serves 1.4 billion of which 49% are women. At the federal level, the Ministry of Women and Child Development. In the 29 states it is mandated that 1/3 of the seats be held by women. At the village level, the leader usually is a woman and 50% of the participants are women. The highest paid official is the current president, Droupadi Murmu a former teacher came from a remote, impoverished village. Prakash Gupta stated that religious beliefs and backgrounds, goddesses support reverence for women. He also gave an example of expanding women's roles, women in space and the shuttle to the moon, the largest number of women pilots, and the number of significant women leaders.

The Department of Women and Gender Equality strives to advance equality and transparency for women across Canada, and to end gender-based violence for indigenous, disabled, LBGQ+, and immigrant women, as well have a feminist, intersectionality perspective in foreign policy, aiding women around the world. Nathalie Beaudoin also identified specific programs that support families and women; these include paid parental leave of 18 months, universal health care, and subsidized childcare in Quebec. The pay gap has been reduced from 15% to 9%.

In a brief Q & A, one of the questions asked was how they had personally experienced their leadership in the Consul General role and how had they supported increasing the number of women in consulate roles. Eunji Seo from the Republic of Korea stated that she was the first woman in all her roles as she advanced in her career, opening the door for others. Both Prakash Gupta and Nathalie Beaudoin stated that the incoming classes of state department personal now tended to be majority of women, by 75%.

Grace Yoo concluded by saying that we have much to learn from the global community as we begin to act on behalf of women in our state. Our AAUW-WA Public Policy group, under the leadership of Sandra Distelhorst is gathering data on pay equity for our state which I shared as a draft, and she stated that we really must work together on this!

Then Anneliese and I enjoyed the art collection afterward and voted on the artist that we liked best! **Alda Rojas Ebeling** was our favorite. **Below** are 3 of the pieces we enjoyed from her collection.

Emily



State Presidents' Meetings

If you are currently serving as president of your branch, we invite you to join AAUW-WA president Emily Hitchens for some lively discussions with other AAUW branch presidents in WA State. These meetings have typically been on the fourth Monday of each month, with a choice of either 10:30 a.m. or 7 p.m.

The next meeting will be on Monday, March 25. Zoom links will be posted on the [AAUW-WA calendar](#).

State News



AAUW-WA Annual State Meeting

Jodi Forsell
AAUW-WA Programs
programs@aauw-wa.org

Our annual state meeting will be on **Sunday, April 21, from 12:30-4:30**
2024 Theme:

The Climate Matters to Women

The meeting will be virtual on Zoom and we encourage all members to attend!

Look for the Zoom link in future emails and on our website

The Annual Business Meeting will begin at 12:30 with a social "half" hour, followed at 1:00 with a welcome and introductions. The afternoon program will include the annual reports from the President, updates from Public Policy, Communications, Membership, DEI, Finance, Bylaws, Policies & Procedures and the Special Projects fund.

Four current Board members have agreed to run for a second, 2-year term: Susie Johnson - VP of Finance, Barbara Sandro - Bylaws / Policies & Procedures and Board Vice President, Sandra Distelhorst - Public Policy and Judi Edwards - SPF Board Chair. Both Yvonne Berliner and Judy Peasley have completed their board terms. Thank you to Yvonne for her work on DEI and to Judy for her work in communications and as editor of the Evergreen Leader. Two nominees remain to be identified.

Please contact Sandy Heidergott, Chair of the Nominating Committee if you have questions, or if you have a nomination for our 2024-25 board. Sandy Heidergott - secretary@aauw-wa.org

The program committee is looking for some additional people to join, to help with content, speakers and behind the scenes Zoom support. If you'd like to join and help with this year's program, please contact Jodi Forsell at jrforsell92@gmail.com

Public Policy

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

Equal Pay Day - March 12, 2024

Washington women still make less than men: 82 cents for every dollar earned by men. WA's gender pay gap is worse than the national average (84 cents) and we rank 29th as a state. The pay gap in WA varies by legislative district: 59 cents to 92 cents. Why is there such a big difference? Why is the pay gap so hard to close?

The pay gap is worse in some occupations and better in others. The pay gap is typically worse for women of color and for moms. This year we have WA state data for women of color and data for moms overall and moms of color! WA's pay gap data is worse than the national averages across all groups!

We now also have data for WA on lifetime wage loss (\$549,00). WA ranked 44th highest in loss of lifetime wages. What policy changes would help close the pay gap? What social norms or systemic biases and practices contribute to the gender pay and opportunities gap?

Over the next few months, the public policy team will be discussing "why" the differences and "what" changes are needed to close the pay gap. See our [AAUW-WA Equal Pay](#) webpage for more information.

Its (almost) Springtime and Time to Move from Legislative Advocacy to Election Advocacy

The 2024 legislative session ended with several wins and several losses. See Nancy's end of session summary on our [Legislative Tracking](#) webpage. **A big thanks** to the AAUW-WA public policy team and AAUW advocates for supporting our Lobby Day bills!

Two Wins for Equal Pay and Opportunity

#1. [SB 5424](#) Flexible work for peace officers. Flexible workspace is considered one of the key changes that will help close the gender pay and opportunity gap. This new WA state policy will give women more opportunities in the law enforcement workspace.

#2. [SB 5793](#) Expanding the definition of family for paid sick leave. Government and business support for paid leave is considered key to closing the gender pay and opportunity gap for working women, especially moms.

A Big Loss: Keep Our Care Act ([SB 5241](#)) passed the Senate but not the House. AAUW-WA will continue to work with the KOCA Coalition to bring the bill back in 2025.

Election Advocacy

National is putting together a "capacity building" election action plan with a series of [webinars \(one a month\)](#). The first one was March 6. The next one is April 17. The WA state policy team will adapt the national tools and strategies for our state election work. See AAUW [Voter Education](#) for national tools as they are updated.

Interested in Election Advocacy?

Reach out to your branch public policy team leader. If you don't have an active branch advocacy team right now, you can work with the state team to keep your branch informed about election issues and get ideas from other branches about their election projects. For example, several branches plan to host candidate or issues forums or host candidate meet and greets.

The AAUW-WA Policy Team meets at noon on Tuesdays. Check the AAUW-WA [Calendar](#) for our meeting link or email me to get on the email reminder list: publicpolicy@aauw-wa.org.

Sign up for national [Two Minute Activist](#).



Communications

Mary Ross
AAUW-WA Communications Director
communications@aauw-wa.org

As Public Policy Director Sandra Distelhorst writes in her article, it's time to move from "legislative advocacy to election advocacy."

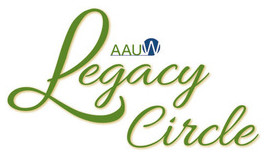
As we make that transition, I want to recognize the advocacy work done by Sandra and the Public Policy Team, and by Jodi Forsell and her Programs Team, in these specific areas:

*The informative and thought-provoking presentations on [Lobby Day](#). We learned about AAUW-WA legislative advocacy, AI and media literacy, and the Justice for Girls Coalition.

*The December webinar presented by Grace Yoo, executive director of the WA State Women's Commission. ([Recording and slides available at this link](#)) [March](#) is "Women MAKING History Month" in WA State, with a focus on bridging the gender pay gap in our state.

*[Resources](#) compiled by our Public Policy Team on pay gap data nationally and in WA State.

Even if you didn't sign up to receive the weekly legislative updates written by our lobbyist Nancy Sapiro, you can read them on our [2024 Legislative Tracking webpage](#) and see how your legislators voted on the bills that AAUW-WA supported.



Legacy Circle

Kay McMurry
AAUW-WA Legacy Circle Liaison
legacycastle@aauw-wa.org

LIVE – LOVE – LEAVE A LEGACY!

Make a difference in the future as well as today. Remember AAUW when you are gone by donating to our efforts in your will. YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

For more information, email planned-giving@aauw.org to discuss your options.

Membership Corner

Jeanne Nygard
AAUW-WA Membership Director
membership@aauw-wa.org



I love quotes! Especially snappy short quotes I might be able to remember. Several about the weather have come to mind recently. March comes in like a lion and leaves like a lamb. Recently we have had days with snow, rain, wind, and sunshine all within a few hours! Yep, we have a March Lion for sure. If you don't like our weather, just wait a few minutes. Ed, my husband who grew up in New England, taught me that one which also applies to our March weather so far. My favorite weather quote is from John Steinbeck - I've lived in a good climate, and it bores the hell out of me. I like weather rather than climate.

Steinbeck has it right in my opinion. Too much of the same thing can get boring. Are we doing "too much of the same thing" at our Branch meetings? Interest Groups? Membership outreach? Maybe we can be like a March Lion and shake up the "same thing" with something new, something fun, and something different. And, it doesn't have to be a big change to be new, fun, or different. If you Google "Ways to Make Meetings Fun" you will find oodles of suggestions. (Google Oodles! Ha-ha)

Our next State Membership Zoom Meeting will be Wednesday, March 20, at 3:00 pm. Join us for conversation, discussion and friendly chitchat. Share with us what is happening at your Branch. If you are not on our group mailing list and would like to attend, contact me at membership@aauw-wa.org
The Zoom login is always on our AAUW-WA Calendar. See the link to our calendar and the Zoom login below.

Membership Meeting, Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at 3:00 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81312331083?pwd=ZE9qTXdXblJyQUI4S0FOK3hmaEZTQT09>

Meeting ID: 813 1233 1083

Passcode: 649306

The recurring link is always in our AAUW-WA website calendar.

See our calendar at -

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

break our own barrier

Open Membership

April						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

May						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Open Up AAUW

Barbara Sando

AAUW-WA Bylaws Chair

Voting Period Begins on April 3rd!

By now, everyone is aware of the upcoming vote on “Open Up AAUW”, the initiative to eliminate the college degree requirement for AAUW membership. The proposed National bylaws changes are detailed on the AAUW website at [AAUW National Election 2024](#), where you can also find an Open Membership Toolkit and FAQ. In addition, the [Open Up AAUW website](#) contains much information on this change.

Let's make this vote to Open Up AAUW membership be our last vote on opening up AAUW membership! Please vote, and please vote YES to making AAUW the inclusive organization it strives to be. The voting period begins on April 3rd and runs through 9 am PDT on May 15th.



Barbara Sando
Bylaws Chair
AAUW Washington
bylaws@aauw-wa.org

Continued Evolution -

Proposed Changes to AAUW-WA Bylaws and Updated Policies & Procedures

I've long believed this quote attributed to Charles Darwin: "It is not the strongest of the species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change." The same is true for organizations. In 2023, significant changes were made to the AAUW-WA Policies & Procedures to bring them into alignment with the Bylaws, which had been significantly revised in 2021 and 2022 to allow for virtual operations and to incorporate updates to reflect how the organization actually conducts its business. Due to continued evolution of AAUW as an organization, both documents required further updates this year, though to a much lesser extent.

In February, the Board approved a few more revisions to the AAUW-WA Policies & Procedures. The majority of the changes were rewording various items for clarification purposes only. There were also two areas where operations were streamlined to be less cumbersome. The Executive Committee was reduced in size and its scope clarified to reflect that the Executive Committee acts in lieu of the entire Board only when a time critical issue or decision needs to be made AND the Board as a whole is unable to meet or is short of a quorum. The Executive Committee has no other duties. With all of today's technologies, the Executive Committee's meetings will be few and far between, as they have been for many years already. Another streamlining change was to reduce the requirement for conducting a Financial Review from every year to every two years, at the end of the Finance VP's term, with the Board still retaining the ability to request a review at any time, if they have concern. Beside fixing a few typos, that was it for changes to the Policies & Procedures. The latest Policies and Procedures manual (February 2024) and current approved Bylaws (April 2023) can be found on our website: Here is the link: [AAUW-WA Bylaws & Policies and Procedures](#).

The Bylaws will be changed in two ways. The first is that the AAUW-mandated articles I through VII

have been replaced in their entirety with the latest version provided by National after the spring 2023 approval vote of proposed changes by AAUW membership. There is no further vote on the mandated articles. The second is that the State Board is recommending some changes to the AAUW-WA unique articles – and those must be voted on by our membership at the April 21st Annual Business Meeting.

As with the Policies & Procedures, the Bylaws were streamlined in the areas of the Executive Committee and the Financial Review. The article on the Nominating Committee was also streamlined and clarified. In addition, several other areas were reworded for clarification purposes only. Please review the proposed changes posted on our website, [2024 Proposed Bylaws Revisions](#), to prepare for the vote. [Note you'll need the state website password to access this page; The current approved Bylaws can also be found on that page, but will require the password; if you need that password, email bylaws@aauw-wa.org or evergreenleader@aauw-wa.org] There, you will see the option to **"Click to review proposed changes..."** where you'll see a description of each proposed change including the current wording of the referenced section(s), the proposed wording of same, and the rationale for why the changes are being proposed. [Note that if an article is not mentioned, it's because that article remains unchanged.] To see a full version of the Bylaws with the proposed changes incorporated, click on **"clean final doc version..."** on that same webpage. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to e-mail me at the address above.



Tech Trek

Krislyn Davis
AAUW-WA Tech Trek
techtrek@aauw-wa.org

A very positive meeting was held with Branch Coordinators in February to go over camp updates and details. During the meeting, we discussed the leadership team members, PLU housing details, what a typical day at camp looks like, and camper numbers. Here is some information from that meeting, as well as news since then.

This is our team line-up:

- Program Director: Krislyn Davis
- Camp Director: Krislyn Davis
- Assistant Director: Alexa Mahoney
- Curriculum Coordinator: Jen Dalziel
- Volunteer Coordinators: Allyanna Hackenberg & Liv Witherspoon
- Leadership Team Member: Laura Tucker

For Tech Trek related questions, please reach out to techtrek@aauw-wa.org. This email goes to Krislyn and Alexa.

In regards to our housing discount: We have been receiving a housing discount of 33% for many years. PLU informed us in February that the discount would be reduced to 25% this summer. Emily and I found out last week that the reason for this is that PLU is capping all of their housing discounts at 25%. It was decided in our meeting that we would set-up a gradual decrease: we will maintain our 33% discount for this year, move to 30% next year, and 25% in 2026.

Camper Numbers: We now have the housing to accommodate higher camper numbers. We will be utilizing two residence halls, so we have room to add a few more people. If you anticipate adding more campers than what you estimated on the spreadsheet, please let me know so we can hire more staff, if needed.

Confirmed classes: Wearable Tech, Marine Biology, Bodies by Design (anatomy). We anticipate 6-7 options.

Confirmed field trips: Harbor Wild Watch (we are in talks with a few other organizations as well, but are waiting for confirmation before announcing them).

Please look for an email from Krislyn with information about the camper application.

Details for camp are starting to really take shape and come together. Thank you to all branch members for providing feedback, assistance, and support to make this possible.

We Need You!

EVERGREEN LEADER EDITOR OPEN POSITION 2024-2025

What is Involved?

- 2-4 hours per month
- Solicit material from the state board, committees, and branches
- Publish the monthly newsletter
- Use webmail platform - experience is helpful
- Share draft with EL review team for edit/feedback
- Distribute statewide

A team is in place to help you come on board!

If this interests you, contact us!
communications@aauw-wa.org

empowering women since 1881

Branch Events

Lewis County

Peggy Hammer
AAUW-LC

AAUW-LC 44th Annual Book Sale

The Lewis County Branch of AAUW will soon be holding its 44th Annual Book Sale. Details below:

Moose Lodge

1400 Grand Avenue in Centralia *(just off Kresky)*

Thursday, March 21 - Saturday, March 23, 2024

9:00 am to 5:00 pm each day

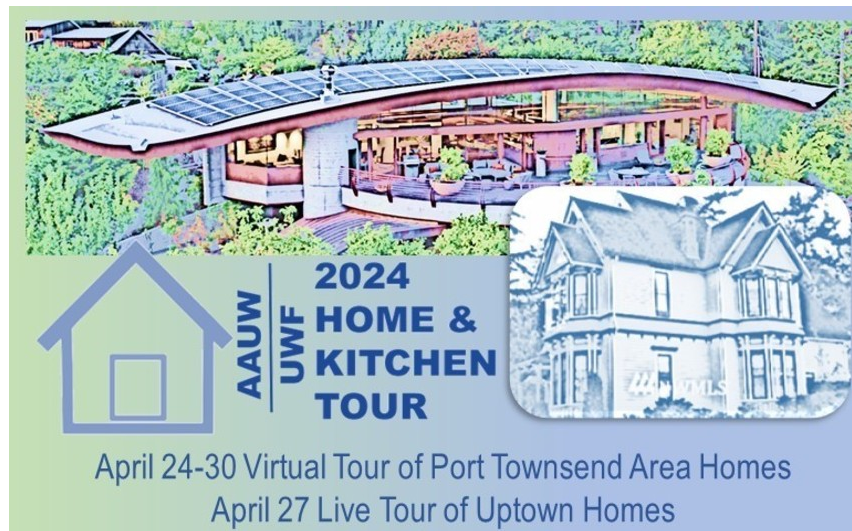
Book prices start at just \$3 for hardcover and \$2 for paperbacks on Thursday, dropping to \$2 for hardcover and \$1 for paperbacks on Friday, and finally to just \$5 for a bag of books all day on Saturday!

Thousands of fiction and nonfiction books, audiobooks, CD's and DVD's will be on sale. Nonfiction books are separated into more than 50 categories including biography, cooking, history, religion, self-help and a large selection of children's books. Shoppers can find books for their own reading pleasure, as well as gifts such as coffee table books, cookbooks, golden oldies, or the latest bestseller.

Donations of books for the sale are needed and will be accepted through March 11th. Please call or text Betty at (360) 827-5838 to coordinate pick-up or delivery.

Since our first event in 1979, the Lewis County AAUW book sale has provided thousands of locals with the opportunity to discover and purchase books of all types at bargain prices. Proceeds from the book sale support the mission of AAUW – education for women. With money raised from the book sale we have awarded numerous scholarships to local women attending college and to middle and high school girls for summer camps focusing on STEM subjects. Lewis County AAUW also co-sponsors Expanding Your Horizons, a hands-on career day for middle school students each October and has provided financial support to Hope Alliance as they assist survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

In 2023, our Lewis County branch proudly celebrated our 100th year since the branch was formed in 1923.



Port Townsend

AAUW Port Townsend Home & Kitchen Tour **Live Again!**

Making a comeback after COVID, the AAUW Port Townsend Home & Kitchen Tour will be back live in-person on **Saturday, April 27** and **VIRTUAL April 24-30**. It's going to be bigger than ever. Enjoy walking through unique homes in Uptown during the Live Tour and additional Jefferson County homes VIRTUALLY at your leisure online throughout the week.

Here are Good Reasons to buy tickets:

1. **Stretch your legs** in Uptown Port Townsend with guests, family, or friends. Most of the 9 homes on the Live Tour are within walking distance.
2. **Sneak a peek** inside **Windship**, a spectacular architectural landmark home on Morgan Hill with soaring rooflines and huge views.
3. **Marvel** at the rare, free-hanging staircase and the frescoes inside the **Starrett Mansion**. Pretty in pink, this Victorian beauty was recently purchased by Bayside Housing.
4. **Fall in love** with the saltbox home featured in Erica Bauermeister's book [House Lessons](#) and follow the author's transformative journey renovating an old house.
5. **Spark new ideas** for your own home improvements. Local experts in their fields will present a variety of live seminars, including NetZero energy, aging in place, and how you can support women in the trades.
6. **Indulge in more real estate fantasies**. The Virtual Online Tour that you can enjoy from the comfort of your own home gives you additional county homes available to explore from April 24 to 30.
7. **Most of all, feel good!** Every ticket sold supports the educational dreams of East Jefferson County women and girls. Last year the branch and its sister organization, the University Women's Foundation, granted over \$100, 000 to local girls and women, providing support for everything from Tech Trek summer STEM camp to scholarships for 2- and 4- year degrees, and tuition assistance for women to attend graduate and trade schools. The Home and Kitchen Tour is the major fundraiser for this support

Tickets are available for \$35 each at porttownsendhomeandkitchentour.com

OR on April 27 at the Welcome Center at First Presbyterian Church in Port Townsend.

Questions? Email kitchentour@aauwpt.org



Puyallup

Joan Cronk
AAUW-Puyallup
Joan791942@comcast.net

How Can We Know What Is Normal?

On Tuesday, February 19, AAUW members and guests were treated to an extremely informative and interactive presentation at Puyallup Public Library. Our guest speaker was Dr. Peggy Vandenberg, a professor emeritus of Philosophy from Grand Valley State University in Michigan, also a member of our local branch.

With examples from her years of teaching, Vandenberg's presentation moved from morals and where do they come from - to ethical theory, with the inquiry, "What is a good life?" The topics were presented in a way that everyone in the audience could relate to and hands were popping up with questions throughout her presentation.

Vandenberg knows her stuff, and began her presentation reminding attendees that people used to use the church to tell folks what to do. "Ethics are a way of life," she said, adding "you cannot have a good society without self-love". Vandenberg spoke with passion and a boatload of information.

The audience was inquisitive and Vandenberg always had an example that helped explain the issue at hand extremely well. She breezed through her topics and was clearly passionate about her subject. Vandenberg's presentation led to a lively discussion and before concluding her talk, she took questions from the group.



Stanwood Camano

Georgi Proulx
AAUW-Stanwood-Camano
PWP 2024 Chair
info@aauwsc.org

Purses With Purpose

Time is running out to purchase a ticket for the Stanwood-Camano branch 6th Biennial Purses with Purpose Benefit Luncheon and Live/Silent Auctions of designer and very gently used purses on Saturday, April 27th, 11:00 a.m. at the Camano Center on Camano Island.

Act now to get your ticket(s) while they still are available. Enjoy a glass of wine and a wonderful lunch. Bring your friends, sponsor a table, and revel in an afternoon of excitement and giving. Please visit <https://aauwsc.ejoinme.org/pwp> to purchase your ticket (s).

This year's purses are the best so far in the 11 years we've been holding this fundraiser. Something for everyone. Spend a marvelous afternoon of fun and excitement for the cause. Go home with a wonderful purse knowing it has fulfilled TWO purposes. Find everything from designer purses to unique treasures from around the world.

If you have any questions please email me at info@aauwsc.org.
You don't want to miss this event...



Tacoma

Dorothy McBride & Sandy Bowman

AAUW-Tacoma

mcbri6@gmail.com

Tacoma Community House Tour

Their mission “creates opportunities for immigrants and other community members in the Puget Sound region through comprehensive services focused on self-sufficiency, inclusion, and advocacy. On February 10, Tacoma Community house Director Aimee Khuu inspired members and guests with her energy, commitment, and leadership.

Because we were touring on a Saturday, rooms were vacant thus allowing Aimee to provide more details and backstories of how TCH operates, taking questions at any time. The newly constructed 27,000 sq ft building was built as part of the “Embracing the American Promise: Uniting Communities Campaign”. There are instructional classrooms, confidential meeting spaces, small eating areas, instruction areas where volunteers teach English to immigrants, rooms to prepare anyone to take the GED, rooms with small kitchens to learn new foods and how to shop.

As we went through the various areas, Aimee provided details explaining the care taken in the design of the facility to provide safety to individuals and families, and to provide hope and success at every age. There are two rooms with entrances from the outside. One is for the Citizenship Classes which are offered on Saturdays when the main building is closed. At end of our tour, we were invited to meet a class of enthusiastic future citizens from different countries and their instructor. The other room with an outside entrance is for the Reach Program. Reach works with youth and young adults in Pierce County and focuses on establishing safe and sustainable housing for them while facilitating career pathways.

As a result of our visit, some of our members were interested in doing volunteer work for this nationally respected community-based service center. Tacoma Community House has effectively served the South Sound since 1910 and continuously adjusts programs to reflect changes in the population and their needs. See <https://www.tacomacommunityhouse.org/>



Walla Walla

Kay Raddatz
AAUW-Walla Walla
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AAUW Walla Walla 59th Annual Book Sale

The 59th Annual AAUW Book Sale was the most successful ever, with a gross income of \$79,862. Of that total, \$13,338 was from Collectible Books. The largest categories in the regular collection were Children's Books, Cooking, Biographies and Autobiographies, Science Fiction, and Fiction. Proceeds fund scholarships for local women returning to college, and educational projects and events.

Throughout the year members sorted books, picked up books from drop boxes and from homes, cut boxes to size, priced Collectible books, managed categories, led sorts, took cardboard to be recycled, put up yard signs, handed out cards, and worked at the sale. With 348 shifts needed to run the sale, 154 members volunteered, so many people worked multiple shifts to make it work. Forty-five Walla Walla Community College John Deere program and welding program students loaded the boxes onto a semi. Sixty students from the Walla Walla High School and College Place High School Latino Clubs, and the Walla Walla Community College women's basketball team helped set up the tables and signs, and carried in the 1559 boxes.

The following positive comments were made by community members and AAUW members:

- I had so much fun welcoming, greeting and thanking shoppers and 'womaning' the express lane to count 6 books or less and send them through to the payment stations.
- I observed efficiency at every turn. It's an amazing event, well thought out and executed. Congratulations on an even more successful sale!
- The book sale is the hottest annual game in town. The community looks forward to it, relies on it and can count on its consistent delivery of a myriad of genres to quench their reading thirst.
- I'm so proud to be a part of AAUW helping Walla Walla be a literary- loving community. I've never seen such organization and dedication to a mission. It showcases people at their very best!
- As a new member of AAUW, this was my first time working the sale although I have been a shopper for a number of years. I am so pleased to have been a small part of such an extraordinarily well organized, worthwhile event and many thanks to you for coordinating yet another very successful event. In addition to the many benefits it provides to the community, the book sale is such a tremendous opportunity to feel useful. It is a joy to be part of this effort! It was just a wonderful event! I loved being a part of it.

- It was probably one of the best sales for selections and always so organized.
- Your book sale is always full of nice surprises! I think the best part of your fundraiser is that it recycles the books and I'm betting that some of the sales are repeats.
- Congratulations on another fabulously successful book sale! Many, many customer commented to me about how delighted they were by what they found, how well organized the sale was, and how eager they are to return next year.

AAUW Walla Walla is very grateful to the community for their generous donations of books, CDs, DVDs and audio books throughout the year. There are seven drop boxes in Walla Walla and one in Milton-Freewater. **The next Book Sale will be February 21-23, 2025.**



Whatcom

Judi Edwards
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Is That Image Real?

With the proliferation of tools to create and alter images, collectively called AI, we are seeing a wide variety of false images. These are being used to promote/enforce false information to meet nefarious ends. The images in this article are being floated on Facebook along with a plethora of false information. What we also see is a combination of an actual photo incorporated into an AI generated image. We also have the use of an old photo repurposed to enforce a new falsehood.

It is important for us to recognize fakes when we see them, or at least question what we see. Look at image 1. This image is intended to show how friendly and supportive the white person is towards the other people in the image. At first glance it appears fine. But the image looks flat, the lighting is wrong, and the red tie is defying gravity. Then there is the extra tiny finger on the right hand of the gentleman at the very left of the image.

Image 2 is a bit more difficult until you notice that the man on the right has a third arm. This image was created to illustrate active voter registrations in a black community.

As the algorithms and data behind them improve, AI images are going to get better and better. The extra arms and fingers will disappear, and lighting will improve. We need to stay vigilant and critical of

what we see and read. Most of us don't have the training to ferret out false images but we must always suspect them. Slow down and consider the source. The link <https://www.dw.com/en/fact-check-how-do-i-spot-manipulated-images/a-60001842> is an excellent site to help spot manipulated images. Snopes.com is also a good resource. A Google search will yield a "bunch" of resources for your reading pleasure.

So, always check multiple sources for the same information using sites like DW and the News Literacy Project. This is a good place to separate fact from fiction: <https://newslit.org/> Check out this site and you can even sign up for the newsletter. There are other sites like this; find them and use several to keep yourself accurately informed.

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>

If you wish to have a branch event added to the calendar,
please send event details to communications@aauw-wa.org

You can also use the template provided in this [Branch Sharing Form](#).

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 Mary Ross 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



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