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Hello Mary!

Welcome to the August issue of the Evergreen Leader.

What is in this issue:

President's Letter

Membership

Communications

Public Policy

Telling Our Stories

Legacy Circle

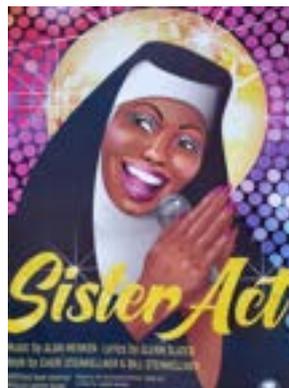
Fireside Chats

C/U Update

Branch Doings - SnoKing, Whatcom and Online Climate Change Event

Stories are wonderful things. Recently,

my husband and I saw “Sister Act” at the Taproot Theatre. Originally released in 1992, starring Whoopi Goldberg and Maggie Smith. Adapting the story to the stage was a challenge, but isn’t all of life a process of challenge and adaptation? The themes of individualism and community, power, and divisive forces to the unifying tune of disco music was lively and fun but spoke to our current day situation.



Emily Hitchens



In one of our program planning/budget meetings Jodi, Susie and I got to talking about some the door prizes we would be giving at “Telling Our Stories,” our October 19th meeting. We digressed a bit as is usual in meetings, and Susie shared a story of one of her branch members and followed up by sending the member’s email. It was so fascinating that I called the member, and we had a chat.

Her name is Helen Szablya and is a Life member of the Lake Washington Branch. Some of you may have heard her story about her escape from Hungary in 1956, and her thoughts about women’s status in the U.S. “It just struck me as archaic when we first came in 1957. The way women were treated felt like arriving in the Middle Ages. In Europe by that time women were encouraged to become engineers. When we were here, an episode of “Father Knows Best” was exactly about that topic, explaining that girls should NOT become engineers.”

She told me about the challenges involved in becoming Honorary Consul General of Hungary, for Washington, Oregon, and Idaho, a role she had for 23 years. Under communism, Hungary had no such relationships and of course people fleeing from their country had many needs which arose all hours of the day and night. In responding to Susie’s email, Helen stated, “I am sure you must have many eager women who want to talk about how they feel, but if you want to see how far we really came, you would be astonished by our stories. . . I was the only woman in the class of the first forerunner of an Executive MBA (at the UW) among sixty men. When we could not open a bank account in our own name, or invest in the stock market, etc.”

At this point Helen will be 90 years old in a week or so and will be celebrating with eighty family members. She had seven children, sixteen grandchildren, and eleven great children one on the way. Ages range from 2-71 years! Such inspiration.

AAUW-WA is hoping that the stories and sharing will be inspiring for the October 19 in-person meeting. To make this happen, two branches, the Spokane Branch and the

Seattle Branch, are funding the documentary, [Arise Firebird](#), that will be shown.

Emily Hitchens, president@aauw-wa.org

Membership Matters

Jeanne Nygard membership@aauw-wa.org

The month of August personifies, IMHO, “Summertime.” Growing up in Southern California we traveled the 40 minutes to Zuma, our beach of choice, as often as possible. Swimming, riding the swells, body surfing – oh, so much fun and excitement. (Surfboards were later in our teenage years when we could drive.) By summer’s end we had turned a lovely shade of tan and had bright sun-bleached highlights in our hair.

However, the last week of August was different. It was the time to evaluate what we had outgrown and needed to replace for the upcoming school year, which always started the Tuesday after Labor Day. New clothes and new school supplies! That last week before school started had its own excitement and anticipation.

Most of our branches take a summer break. As September approaches, it’s time to reevaluate what we have outgrown and may need to replace. Is there something that could be changed or added to your branch?

One suggestion - start a Facebook and/or Instagram account for your branch. If your branch already has one, check it out and make sure it is current. How’s your Branch Webpage? Needs updating? Join us for our September State Membership Zoom Meeting where we can share ideas and suggestions. Share your excitement and anticipation for your new branch year.

State Membership Zoom Meeting:

Reminder for our new date and time - We are meeting the second Monday of each month at 1:30 p.m. The Zoom link is always in our AAUW-WA Calendar.

State Membership Zoom Meeting 09/09/24 at 1:30 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

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

[pwd=ZE9qTXdXblJyQUI4S0FOK3hmaEZTQT09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81312331083?pwd=ZE9qTXdXblJyQUI4S0FOK3hmaEZTQT09)

Meeting ID: 813 1233 1083

Passcode: 649306

Communications

Mary Ross communications@aauw-wa.org

The AAUW WA Communications Team has been busy this summer!

We welcomed a new *Evergreen Leader* editor, Judi Edwards, and switched our webmail application from MyEmma to MailChimp.

With Patricia Griffith's inspiration and leadership, we sent out a communications survey to branch presidents. (Survey results will guide our team efforts and assistance to branches.)

We purchased a Canva Pro account to help branches create brochures, flyers, and images for all types of printed and online communications.

What's ahead? We'll be contacting branches that indicated they want our help. In advance of the theme refresh for the national AAUW-hosted WordPress websites, we'll set up multiple ways to keep you informed and reassured.

Let us know how we can help you and your branch in any area of communication. And, we hope to see you at the October 19 in-person meeting in Renton! [Click here for more information.](#)



Public Policy Update

Elections - Sandra Distelhorst
publicpolicy@aauw-wa.org

The AAUW-WA public policy team will be reviewing our state primary elections results this month and discussing which races to prioritize for candidate issues comparisons. See [General Election Notes](#). If your branch has a race you want to add to the list, email me or join our Tuesday noon meetings.

AAUW-WA web update

We added a new section on [Women's Health](#) to our Issues We Care About webpage. We updated our [Title IX](#) webpage.

November Ballot Initiatives: AAUW-WA endorses a NO vote on three initiatives. See [Actions We Take](#) for talking points.

Advocacy Actions I-2124: Gay Armsden (Seattle Branch) represented AAUW-WA at

the No on I-2124 press conference! (see photo above) Emily Hitchens published a [Letter to the Editor](#) in the Seattle Times. See also LWV-WA opinion piece, [I-2124 would undermine Washington long-term care insurance](#), in the *Tacoma Tribune*.

Advocacy actions I-2117: Stay tuned for Dorothy McBride's article on I-2117 next month and how climate change is a women's equity issue. Don't miss out on the AAUW-WA Online Branch's [Webinar on Climate Crisis](#) on August 29.

Title IX Rules – “compliance is the floor not the ceiling.”

The **Summer Olympics** is a good reminder of how important laws and policies are for shaping national “mindsets” about gender equity. I like this quote from [Billie Jean King](#) in Paris:

“It's now over 50 years since Title IX was passed and it's amazing how great U.S. women athletes are doing here. Finally, hearts and minds are getting closer to matching the law. People are investing in women's sports as a business, not a charity. All these things are helping to create the results we're seeing at these Olympics.”

In Washington state we are reaching high, not stooping low, on Title IX and gender-inclusive education! We have strong policies for [gender-inclusive schools](#). OSPI committed early to [implementing the new Title IX rules](#). The [OSPI Bulletin](#) has a good summary of how the changes impact WA schools. 1) updates training (whole school approach); 2) streamlines grievance process and makes it a student-focused safety and trauma-centered approach; 3) calls out protections for pregnant and parenting students; 4) adds accountability factors.

Our state held listening sessions with students, parents, K-12 administrators, teachers, staff, and community members to help inform our Title IX-related policies and create not just a whole school approach but to shift our “mindset”. See [2023 Supporting Survivors of Sexual Assault in K-12 Schools](#) recommendations.

Don't let the old “protection trope” slide into your conversations and advocacy! Is your local school board defying state law using the outdated protection trope that kept your grandmother, mother, or you from working, owning a home, and participating in sports?

Several school districts in WA state ([Kennewick](#) and [College Place in Walla Walla](#)) passed resolutions to ban transgender girls from participating in girls' sports activities using the outdated protection trope – “we need to keep girls and women safe”.

What can you do? Check in with your school board and local schools and make sure they know that you and AAUW WA support our state Gender-inclusive School policies.

Learn more about our K-12 state policies:

- OSPI [Discriminatory and Sexual Harassment \(Title IX\)](#)
- OSPI: [Sex Equity in athletics](#)

Share AAUW's statement in [support of transgender and nonbinary students](#):

“As an organization that fights every day for equal opportunities for all women and girls, we speak from experience and expertise when we say that nondiscrimination protections for transgender people—including women and girls who are transgender—are not at odds with women’s equality or well-being, but advance them.

AAUW-WA supports laws and policies that protect transgender people from discrimination, and we reject the suggestion that cisgender women and girls benefit from the exclusion of women and girls who happen to be transgender.”

What about Title IX and Higher Education?

The report [A New Title IX Era Brings Confusion and Frustration](#) summarizes what is going on in higher education with the new Title IX rules.

- The Department of Education released a two-page [Pointers for Implementation](#).
- In Washington state there has been an [on-going spat](#) between legislators and college administrators over the lack of accountability and protections provided students.

We will be tracking Title IX-related legislation in 2025.

What can you do? As an alumnus, contact the college or university you attended or contact the schools your loved ones attend. Ask them what they are doing to implement the new Title IX rules. Ask them what they are doing to this year to address the [Red Zone](#) on campus to ensure new students are safe from sexual assault and that young men are [engaged in the conversation](#), too.

Much of the pushback on the new Title IX rules is misunderstandings about transgender students.

Learn more about transgender issues:
[Trans 101](#), Advocates for Trans Equality

[Americans’ Complex Views on Gender Identity and Transgender Issues](#), PEW Research Center

[Debunking 8 Top Myths About Trans and Nonbinary People](#), UW Medicine

[Transgender Exclusion in Sports](#): Discussion Points, American Psychological

Association

National News

We have a new Advocacy Manager, Kalina Majercak. National will be posting our endorsement of a NO vote on the three initiatives as well as helping create candidate comparisons for “battleground” congressional races – like CD3. They will be sharing more information with states about their DC advocacy so we can stay in the loop. AND they have updated the [5-Star program](#) to make earning a public policy star easier!

Want to learn more about national work? Talk to other state public policy chairs, consider being a state co-chair and you can join in the monthly meetings with me!

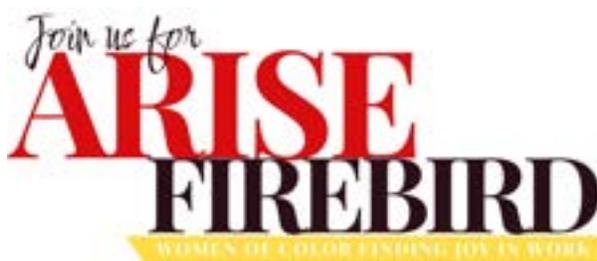
Let’s talk! Join the Public Policy Team to discuss issues you care about. All members are welcome. We meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at noon. Check our state calendar for the Zoom link.

Can’t make the meeting? Email me to set up an evening or alternative time to chat.

Sandra Distelhorst
publicpolicy@aauw-wa.org

Save the date, October 19, 2024

Jodi Forsell
programs@aauw-wa.org



Telling Our Stories is the theme for our first in-person meeting in 4 years!

Saturday October 19th It will be held at Renton Technical College from 9-4pm (check in from 9-10).

Cost is \$40 per person, including a box lunch, coffee, tea and snacks.

Key Note Speaker:

April Sims
President of The Washington Labor Council

Program also includes:

[Click Here to Register](#)

- Viewing the film [Arise Firebird](#), a documentary celebrating the resilience and empowerment of women and BIPOC professionals in the workplace. Q&A to follow the film.
- Welcome and remarks by [Dr. Yoshiko Harden](#), RTC president. Personal stories of women in the trades.
- We want to hear your stories! There will be time to tell them in the breakout sessions.

- Door prizes and plenty of time to socialize.

ARE YOU READY TO JOIN THE LEGACY CIRCLE?



August is “National Make a Will Month.” It's the perfect time to be reminded to draft or update your will. It's important to have your estate planning affairs in order at any stage of life. A planned gift to AAUW could be part of it, making a commitment to the future of women and girls. Become a member of the Legacy Circle.

No one will ask you how much you are donating or how it is being given. When you are ready to join our AAUW-WA Legacy Circle, leaving part of your estate to AAUW, please include the following wording in your will:

After fulfilling all other provisions, I hereby give, devise, and bequeath to AAUW (Federal Tax ID #52-6037388), a charitable organization duly existing under the laws of the District of Columbia and located at 1310 L St. NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20005, _____ percent of the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate [or \$_____ if specific amount] to be used in the areas of greatest need as the board of directors may determine.

For more information, contact planned-giving@aauw.org.

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



Fireside Chats

AAUW -WA will be presenting "Fireside Chats" beginning this fall.

These chats will be instead of the Fall Webinars we have hosted the past few years. They will be in virtual format via Zoom, and will be an opportunity to discuss topics that are of interest to our membership.

Our first Chat is scheduled for September 25th and the topic is “The Future of AAUW.” Links to the Zoom chat will be in the September newsletter and on our website.

Future dates include:

- 2/19 Sharing Fundraising Ideas
- 5/21 AAUW Visibility in our Communities

If there are topics you would like to chat about please let me know and we can add it to the chat list. Jodi Forsell programs@aauw-wa.org

College/University

Update

It's Nadine Stecklein, your College & Universities Relations Chair. I'm excited to announce that we have updated C/U web pages!



AAUW National has put together a comprehensive toolkit for colleges and universities, which you can check out [here](#). The current list of participating colleges and universities can be found [here](#). If you don't see a university on this list, it may be because they have not renewed or registered yet. The annual fee is \$250, and colleges and universities can designate two college representatives for free. Please feel free to email me if you have any questions.

Thank you!

Nadine Stecklein

she/her/ella

collegerelations@aauw-wa.org

"Only a life lived in the service to others is worth living." - Albert Einstein

Branch Doings

Seattle, Edmonds SnoKing, and Issaquah Branches

On June 28th members from the Seattle , Edmonds SnoKing Branch and Issaquah Branches volunteered at the Washington State Women's commission (WSWC) to

help launch their year-long campaign called "Activate 3.8.The Pay Equity Tour." The year-long campaign will be visiting ten cities throughout Washington state raising awareness of the gender pay gap. Leaders from government labor, non -profit and business came together to commit to achieving pay equity in WA. There are eight more opportunities for our members to volunteer at one of these events. For those of us that volunteered, we came away excited and recharged to work toward pay equity!



Whatcom/Bellingham Branch September Tech Trek Celebration

Plan now to hear our September speaker!

Bellingham Mayor Kim Lund will speak at our meeting on September 14. This summer's Tech Trek students will be guests at this meeting, also, and will hear Mayor Lund talk about her early STEM education, her career pathway and her leadership role as a woman.

Invite your friends! More information about a venue, etc., will be available in the August/September newsletter.

Online Branch Upcoming Program on Climate Change on AUGUST 29, 2024 at 5:30pm PST

In 2023, we witnessed the hottest year on record and just recently we experienced the hottest day on record - July 22, 2024, underscoring the urgency of the climate crisis. Drastic weather events, droughts, floods, wildfires, compromised air quality, and diminishing biodiversity are all tangible manifestations of this global challenge.

The solution lies in preventing catastrophic overheating of the Earth by significantly reducing Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions, as outlined in The UN Paris Agreement, aiming for 100% reduction by 2050. Can we achieve this goal, and what are the associated costs? Moreover, can we pursue this goal in a manner that is just and equitable? There is a growing movement for environmental justice, recognizing the disproportionate impact of GHG emissions and climate change on impoverished and marginalized communities. It is imperative that we address both the climate crisis and environmental justice concurrently, both now and in the future.

What are the most effective climate solutions that can address the GHG challenge while promoting environmental justice? What are some examples of equitable climate actions? Washington State has been at the forefront of developing policies to combat the climate crisis. How are we progressing in meeting GHG reduction targets? And how effective are these policies in advancing equity and justice?

Join the AAUW Washington Online branch on August 29, 2024, from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm PDT for a virtual program that will delve into the climate crisis, potential solutions, and the imperative of achieving outcomes that are just and equitable. Take part in our call to action to contribute to addressing climate change both within Washington State and nationally. [RSVP for the event HERE.](#)

The event will feature a dynamic panel of experts who will discuss various aspects of the topic and address your questions. Our esteemed panelists include:

- **Meagan Carmack:** Meagan specializes in environmental politics, with a particular focus on environmental justice issues. [Link to bio and photo](#)
- **Francisca Santana:** Francisca is an environmental social scientist dedicated to advancing equitable conservation and adaptation in a changing climate. [Link to bio and photo](#)
- **Martin Gibbins:** Martin serves as the chief policy advocate on Climate and Environment for the WA State League of Women Voters (LWV). With a commitment to promoting legislation that ensures a healthy environment for both people and wildlife, Martin has been a vital part of the LWV of Washington's Advocacy Team since early 2017. [Link to bio and photo](#)

Don't miss out on this insightful discussion on Climate Change – The Climate Crisis, Solutions and Justice. [RSVP for the Climate Change Program HERE.](#) We look forward to welcoming you to our AAUW WA Online virtual program on August 29, 2024, from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm PDT.

Warmly,
MelissaC. Johnsen (she, her, hers)
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I hope you have enjoyed this edition of the Evergreen Leader.

Judi Edwards
evergreenleader@aauw-wa.org

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 [BranchSharing Form](#).

Newsletter Publishing Schedule

Please send articles and images for the state newsletter to Judi Edwards at evergreenleader@aauw-wa.org by the 8th of each month. Evergreen Leader issues are published on the 15th of each month.

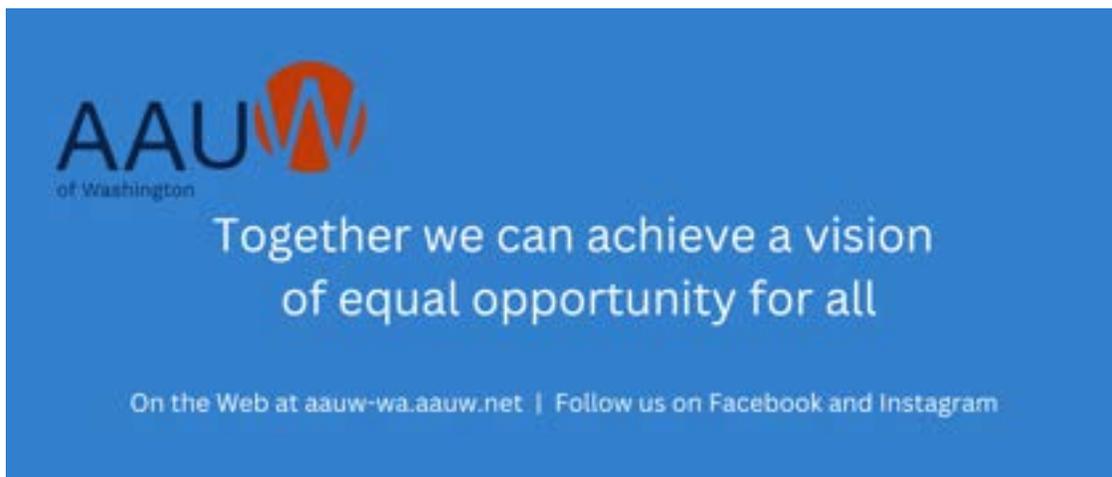
The newsletter will be reviewed by our AAUW-WA President, Emily Hitchens, before publishing - and as always, available on our website [AAUW-WA State](#)

- 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 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.**

Top



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