

[View this email in your browser](#)



*December, 2024*



The "Evergreen Leader" Newsletter

## Hello Communications!

### **Index**

President's Message

Public Policy

[Programs](#) Lobby Day, Fireside

[Membership](#)

[Diversity](#) People and Food

[Communications](#)

[Branch News](#), Seattle

[Editor's Ramblings](#)

AAUW-WA

CELEBRATE THE SEASON



CONNECTIONS

EQUAL PAY

LEGACY

EDUCATION

BELIEF IN THE MISSION

RELATIONSHIPS

ACTS OF SERVICE

TECH TREK

EQUITY

Emily Hitchens  
President, AAUW Washington State  
president@aauw-wa.org

THESE WORDS REPRESENT OUR VALUES AND OUR STRENGTHS.  
LET US CELEBRATE THEM AS WE GATHER FOR OUR HOLIDAY  
FUNCTIONS.



Happy Holidays – Here is hoping for peace and public policy equity for all!

**Save the Date:**

Lobby Day is Monday, January 27, and is a virtual event again this year. The theme is “Challenges and Opportunities,” and there are A LOT of challenges including our state’s \$10-12 billion deficit over the next four years AND significant changes in federal policies and funding. But there are also A LOT of opportunities. Join us to hear about both.

We’ll send out the **list of bills** and talking points to registered members so please [register](#).

Plan to schedule a meeting with your legislators once the session starts (January 13). The state has a new website designed to [inform and engage](#) citizens and it should make it easier to find your [legislators’ profiles](#) and contact information. Some branches share legislative districts with other branches or have a few members in a district where another branch takes the advocacy lead. You can find your branch partners [here](#).

Note: If your group can’t meet in person or via Zoom with your legislators, we will offer some easy alternatives this year.

While the 2025 session officially starts January 13, committees have already had their first work session! The work sessions set the tone for the session priorities and provide a primer for new legislators (over 20 new legislators this year). You can review the sessions and documents [here](#).

Bills are already being [pre-filed](#). Last year we had over 1,000 bills filed, and 300 bills passed. Here are two bills we supported last year that didn’t pass and have been pre-filed

for 2025. They are good examples of “policy bills” vs “fiscal bills” – something the policy team will be paying close attention to this session.

- **HB 1012 Women’s Commission** to solicit for gifts, grants and endowments (Taylor) is a good example of a policy bill that doesn’t have a significant fiscal note (cost).
- **SB 5007 support chronically absent and at-risk student** for not graduating high school (Braun) is a good example of a bill with a high cost to implement. In 2024 a similar bill had a fiscal note of \$1.2 million for the first year.

**One challenge** this session with the budget deficit will be to pass bills with significant fiscal notes. One opportunity will be to pass good policy bills.

Please join us on January 27 for Lobby Day to learn more about the issues we care about and the bills we will support in 2025.

**Stay informed:**

[Sign up](#) for our weekly legislative update from Nancy Sapiro: “This Week In Olympia.” Join in a policy team meeting. Check our event [calendar](#) for meeting times and links. Hope to see you on Lobby Day.

Happy Holidays!  
Sandra Distelhorst  
publicpolicy@aauw-wa.org

Time to sign up for "**This Week in Olympia**," the [weekly legislative reports](#) written by our AAUW-WA lobbyist. There will be lots of information about our legislative priorities and Action Alerts.



Use this link, <https://eepurl.com/i1eSN2>, and you'll start receiving them in January. Even if you signed up last year, you will still need to sign up for this year's mailing list.

Top

prog



**Lobby Day** is Monday January 27, 2025.

The theme this year is "Challenges and Opportunities."

Nancy Sapiro will be joining us along with two other guest



speakers.

Jodi Forsell  
programs@aauw-wa.org

Free and online via Zoom, and registration is required.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUIce6qqT4oGNyYz5FUN7dynWpAh0Vz7yc>



### Save the Date

Our Third Fireside chat will be on Wednesday, February 19, 2025. The topic is Fundraising.

- What ideas do you have for fundraising?
- What tools do you use for ticket and product sales?
- How do you collect money prior to and at the event?
- How do you promote it?

This will be a valuable session for branches that want to do fundraising but don't know where to begin. And for branches that want to explore new ideas and approaches to fundraising.

Top

membership



Two quotes for your enjoyment.

**Summer** is for surrendering; **winter** is for wondering. – Debasish Mridha

Winter: the season when we all look like our driver's license photos. – unknown

The busy fun-filled days are upon us. Family Reunions. Holiday Parties. Cookie Exchanges. Seasonal Plays and Concerts. There is so much happening. But I agree with Debasish Mridha –wintertime is also a time for wondering. Wondering about the new year ahead. Wondering how we will spend our days and months. Wondering how we can help our local AAUW Branch further our AAUW mission statement:

“Advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.”

Wishing you all Happy Holidays. Please join us in the New Year on January 13, 2025, for our **State Membership Zoom Meeting**. Share what is happening in your branch and catch up with membership officers from other branches.

We are meeting the second Monday of each month at 1:30 pm. The Zoom link is always in our [AAUW-WA Calendar](#).

State Membership Zoom Meeting January 13, 2025 at 1:30 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81312331083?  
pwd=ZE9qTXdXblJyQUl4S0FOK3hmaEZTQT09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81312331083?pwd=ZE9qTXdXblJyQUl4S0FOK3hmaEZTQT09)

Meeting ID: 813 1233 1083

Passcode: 649306

Jeanne Nygard  
membership@aauw-wa.org

To Branch Membership Chairs, a quick note from your editor: **Please avoid** using commas (,) when entering address information in the Community Hub. Those pesky commas really mess up the roster downloads.

Top

dei



The **AAUW-WA DEI Team** has discussed sharing resources including presentations that are DEI-related. The Seattle Branch will meet via Zoom on Saturday, January 18, at 10 a.m. Dr. Itohan Idumwonyi, an assistant professor of religious studies at Gonzaga University, will present:

“Ubuntu: How an Ancient African Concept Can Help Humans Flourish.”

I am happy to announce that the Seattle Branch has extended an invitation to join them in learning about how to address loneliness and anxiety through Ubuntu.

Registration is required for this free Zoom presentation at

<https://aauw-seattle.org/calendar/filter-by/event/208/2025/01/18>

Myrna Muto  
diversity@aauw-wa.org



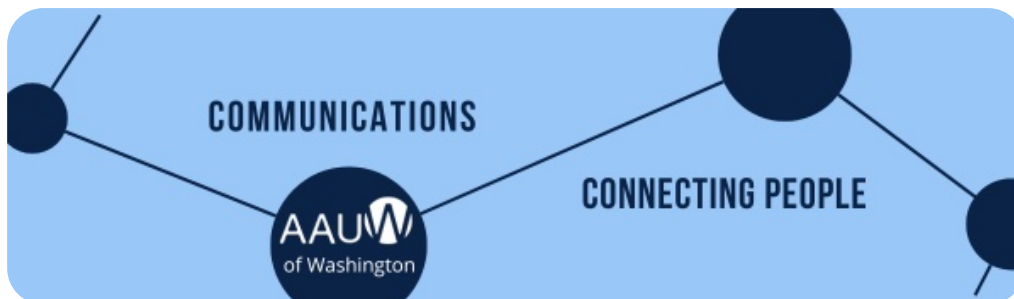
This a map of where many of our **foods originated**. Without all this diversity our diets would be vary different and not as flavorful. For more information on this click [here](#).

I saw this in the newsletter from the Lodi, California Branch, and I never realized how really diverse we are.

Judi Edwards  
 evergreenleader@aauw-wa.org

Top

comms



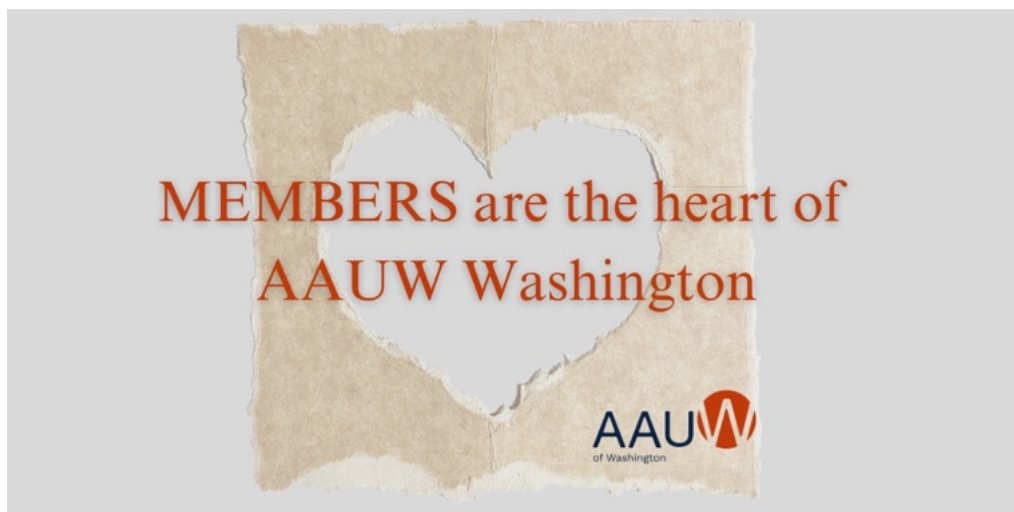
The [Member Center](#) on the AAUW-WA website has been updated, thanks to our VP Barbara Sando. This webpage is password-protected and the password is the same as it has been for many years. (Hint: Washington is often called the "\_\_\_\_\_ state.")

In the updated [Member Center](#) you will find links to resources for state and branch leadership.

You will also find a link to a presentation, [Canva for AAUW-WA Use](#), that shows the many kinds of images that can be created [using Canva](#).

Watch for announcements of our **online workshops** on getting started with Canva and on taking your Canva skills to a higher level.

Mary Ross  
Communications Director  
[communications@aauw-wa.org](mailto:communications@aauw-wa.org)



[branch](#)

[Top](#)



**Seattle Branch January Program**

**“Ubuntu: How an Ancient African Concept Can Help Humans Flourish”**  
**Featuring Humanities Washington Speaker Itohan M. Idumwonyi**  
**All branches and guests are welcome to attend.**

Saturday, January 18, 2025

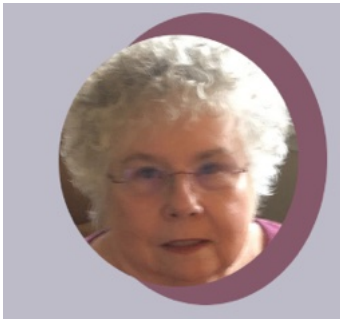
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Free on Zoom - Use link below to register

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEIcuuuqDwrGt29xgzoXrq3xjVoG2Y8j3Ho#/registration>

We all increasingly struggle with multilayered modern wounds — loneliness, alienation, depression, anxiety, and more. How can we address these concerns? Gonzaga professor Itohan M. Idumwonyi invites us to explore Ubuntu. Ubuntu emphasizes community building, a way to re-approach our relationships so we can break the artificial borders that separate us and look out for one another. Directing one’s own humanity to others helps us navigate beyond superficial solutions to rethink, adapt, and foster human interconnectedness.

More Information <https://aauw-seattle.org/calendar/filter-by/event/208/2025/01/18>



### Editor’s Ramblings

As we approach this festive season, I want to take a moment to extend my heart felt wishes to each of you. May this holiday season bring you peace, joy, and cherished moments with loved ones

Top



### **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](mailto:communications@aauw-wa.org)

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



## Newsletter Publishing Schedule

Please send articles and images for the state newsletter to Judi Edwards at [evergreenleader@aauw-wa.org](mailto: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 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.



Together we can achieve a vision  
of equal opportunity for all

On the Web at [aauw-wa.aauw.net](http://aauw-wa.aauw.net) | Follow us on Facebook and Instagram



*Copyright (C) 2024 AAUW WA State. All rights reserved.*

You are receiving this email because you are a member of AAUW WA. Want to