

# Edmonds SnoKing Branch March, 2017 newsletter

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## Calendar

**Annual spring fundraiser and luncheon on Saturday, March 11, noon to 3 p.m., at Trinity**

Lutheran Church. Registration forms for this event are due by March 3. ([Form on our website.](#)) More about the March 11 program on page 2.

## Other March events and programs:

- **Wednesday, March 15, 7 p.m. Diversity Book Group.** (Please note change in time.) The book to be discussed is [The Girl Who Wrote in Silk](#) by Kelli Estes. For more information, contact Helen Behan.
- **Friday, March 17, 10 a.m., Coffee and Conversation,** at Café Louvre, 210 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, Edmonds. Sponsored by the Membership Team.
- **Monday, March 27, 12:30 p.m.** Bridge Group at the home of Barbara Sivertsen.

## Looking ahead to April...

Saturday, April 8, 10 a.m. to noon. Branch meeting and election of officers. EdCC Snohomish Hall, Room 338. Our guest is Suman Jaiprakash, demonstrating traditional East Indian dress.

Our Local Scholarships Team is now accepting applications for our \$1500 high school STEM scholarship. [More information and the application form are available on our website.](#)

## From Your Co-Presidents

We're heading into warmer weather and it's time for our annual Spring Fundraiser for scholarships and branch projects. Did you know that once we have raised the money for our high school and college scholarships, other funds go to fulfilling the commitments in our branch budget? These include support for the Expanding Your Horizons conference and for EdCC students to attend NCCWSL, honoraria for our guest speakers, expenses for the website and newsletter, and other financial commitments for an effective branch program year.



We're very happy to have Andrea Bonnicksen agree to continue being our recording secretary and for Anne to continue working with our Program Team. These are vital positions for our branch.

On page 2, in the section on Notes from the Board, there is a report on our last Board meeting and the brainstorming we did on future leadership. Have you considered being our next president or co-president? Our branch is lucky to have effective teams that work well together. To be president or co-president is more like being an administrator.

Were you able to see *The Hunting Ground* on February 22? What a very powerful movie! We greatly appreciate the use of the Black Box Theater and the support of the EdCC staff for this program.

We look forward seeing you at the Spring Fundraiser on March 11. Enjoy the longer light in the morning and evening.

*Anne Penny and Nadine McCray*



## Notes from the Board

The main agenda item at the February Board meeting was brainstorming about our leadership needs. Who will come forward to be president after Anne's and Nadine's term as co-presidents is up? Is there an alternative administrative structure? A few years ago, our branch experimented with rotating leadership. There are pros and cons to that structure.

The Board came up with a list of responsibilities for the president:

- Serve as principal Branch contact for communications from national and WA State AAUW
- Facilitate Board and Branch meetings and develop agendas
- Write monthly article for the newsletter
- Send reminders of Board meetings
- Secure rooms for meetings (usually at EdCC)
- Attend WA State annual meeting or summer training
- Organize year-end recognition and thank-yous for Board and team leaders

Because our Branch has a strong team structure and solid communications tools, the president is mainly an administrator.

April is our annual meeting and elections will be held. Some Board members have volunteered to contact individual members about their readiness for a leadership position.

## Day to Night Outfits at our Spring Fundraiser

Have you mailed your registration form? Our program at the fundraiser is coordinated by Chico's at Alderwood Mall. Our models (Geri Linkins, Aline Wilson, Phyllis Keiley-Tyler, Debbie Smith, and Sandy Reisman) will wear outfits that can go from day wear to evening.



In addition to seeing our fun fashion show, and enjoying lunch together, we will have wonderful theme baskets to raffle. Themes include Wine and Chocolate, Adult Coloring Books, Knitting Lessons, a Chico's Gift Card, and more.

The doors at Trinity Lutheran Church will open at noon. When you enter, the theme baskets will be on display, so you'll have the opportunity to take a look at them and buy your raffle tickets. We are hoping for another enjoyable and successful day, and to raising money for our scholarships and our Branch projects.

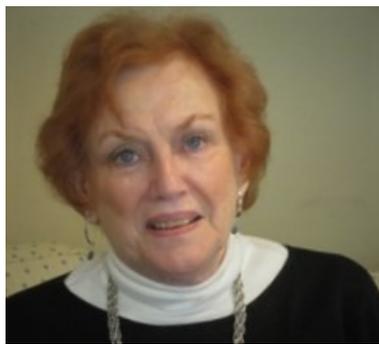
See you on March 11!

*Sharon McGinnis*

## Member Profile: Mary Adele Hornish

Mary Adele Hornish attended both college and law school after marriage and while raising her family. She graduated magna cum laude from Kean University with a major in Art History in 1976 and received her J.D. from Seton Hall University Law School in 1979. After clerking for one year for Charles Eagan, Presiding Criminal Judge in Morris County, she joined the law firm Morgan, Melhuish Abrutyn in Livingston, New Jersey.

Around 1987, Mary became a partner in the firm. The firm specialized in insurance defense work and Mary



spent nearly 30 years trying cases in such areas as products liability, malpractice in various professional fields, construction issues, and personal injury. She also practiced in New York Supreme Court and Federal Court, and

argued quite a few cases in the Appellate Divisions and at the New Jersey Supreme Court on three occasions.

During her professional career, Mary was active in the Bar Association, and was a member of and chair of various committees. While Vice President of the Executive Women of New Jersey, she served on the committee responsible for awarding scholarships to women pursuing graduate degrees. She also taught English as a Second Language for about 10 years.

Mary first learned of AAUW about 25 years ago from a family relative. She was invited to play golf with some members, but since she claims she was a truly dreadful golfer, her acquaintance was brief! Because she was a recipient of a scholarship to Law School from the Essex County Bar Association, Mary is fully cognizant of how welcome such help can be to a student, and applauds AAUW's efforts in this regard.

Mary was a life-long resident of New Jersey but moved to Washington a few months ago to be near her children and her ten grandchildren, who all now live on the West Coast. She is continually struck by how beautiful Washington State is and looks forward to exploring more of her new surroundings.

## New Member Lunch



Some new and not-so-new faces from our New Member Lunch on February 11. Clockwise from upper right corner: Shirley Buono, Barb Bailey, Janet Robinson, Sandra Distelhorst, Mary Adele Hornish, Phyllis Keiley Tyler, Susan Teel.

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Last week, AAUW expressed its disappointment that the Trump administration, supported by Jeff Sessions and Betsy DeVos, decided to rescind federal guidance on Title IX civil rights protections for transgender students. This decision leaves an uneven patchwork of attitudes and rules related to transgender students' rights, creating chaos for these vulnerable children and teens. [More on AAUW's position...](#)

# Public Policy Update

Phyllis Keiley-Tyler and I attended Lobby Day last month in Olympia. This is such an informative and well-organized event! Callandra Sechrist, a lawyer from OSPI discussed equity and civil rights policy and the responsibility of the state to make sure students are protected, complaints are investigated and resolved, and students with disabilities have access to education

and are treated fairly. AAUW-WA legislative consultant Pam Crone discussed a number of bills that are being heard including paid family leave, pregnancy accommodation, restricted sale of assault weapons (opposed by the NRA), and pay equity. The funding of education in Washington State is still undecided. It was supposed to be out of committee by February 17, and in place by the end of the 2017 session. Governor Inslee and the Democrats have had their versions months ago. The Republicans came out with their version this session. So now there are three different plans. In light of past actions on education funding, how confident can the public be that these legislators will be able to compromise and do something for the good of students and taxpayers?

*Helen Behan*

## Film Screening and Discussion of Title IX

Our Branch sponsored the screening of *The Hunting Ground* at the Black Box Theater on February 22, with refreshments and a membership table. This powerful movie about sexual assault on college campuses makes it clear that sexual assault and rape charges are NOT priorities for college administration. Reporting and pending charges are complicated, time-consuming processes that might become drawn out over several years before a decision is reached. Even then the decision is often not in favor of the victim. One case concluded, "Expulsion upon graduation." The film reports that men who are raped have a more difficult time reporting the incidents than women.

Discussion followed the film with audience questions answered by a panel from EdCC. The panel discussed their Healthy Relations Team and the Intervention Team. The Title IX Coordinator stated all cases must be investigated and followed through providing a safe learning environment for all students. An audience member asked, "What is Title IX?" A quick summary of the 1972 law was given, but perhaps would have been more appropriate at the beginning of the event.

The Title IX issue most applicable to the film is Sex-based Harassment (see article in February newsletter). The following are types of sex-based harassment:

- Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct of a sexual nature
- Sexual violence is a form of sexual harassment and refers to physical sexual acts, perpetuated against a persons will, or when a person is incapable of giving consent.
- Categories include rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, sexual abuse, and sexual coercion.
- Gender-based harassment is based on gender identity, or nonconformity with sex-stereotypes.

All are prohibited by Title IX, and if reported, they must be investigated.

Questions and comments following both the film and the small group discussion the next day, were thoughtful and engaging (such as cultural differences, belief systems, how men are raised, etc.) A comment brought up during both discussions was that the only male named in the film was a black football star, which continues the stereotype of the black athlete perpetrator. Questions were asked about the director of the film and was this done on purpose or accidentally? Hmm, this was a completely new idea to me!

Small group discussion ended with ideas to make the EdCC campus safer for everyone:

- More lights in the parking lots
- Posters with more specific information
- Post Security phone number all over campus

A final statement was made by a member of the discussion group, " I feel women need to feel safe going outside by themselves at night."Great event! Great conversation! We all have lots of work to do!

*Phyllis Keiley Tyler*