

Edmonds SnoKing Branch Newsletter



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- **Monthly Branch Meeting**
January 9,
10 am, on Zoom.
Rebuilding for a More Equitable Future (see page 3)
- **Great Decisions**
Conversation on Public Policy, Monday, January 11, 1 pm on Zoom. Note change. Topic: Human Trafficking. Contact Beth Wood for more info.
- **Diversity Book Group,**
January 20, 7 pm on Zoom. Caste by Isabel Wilkerson. Contact Cathy Draper for more info (see page 3).
- **Coffee and Conversation, Friday, January 15, 10 am on Zoom.** Pre-register [here](#) (see page 3).
- **Bridge Online, Monday, January 25, 12:30-4 pm.** Contact Marianne North for more info (see p. 2).

Send submissions to
Pam Canell, Editor



President's Message

Welcome to 2021! It's got to be better than 2020, don't you think?

Short message for you this issue. Most important in this newsletter is the January program speaker on Legislative Priorities for Washington in 2021 and the information on Public Policy and Lobby Day.

And be sure to read the information on Coffee and Conversation from Debby Smith, VP-Membership. That's a fun way to get to know others and share info.

That's all for now. Happy New Year!

Anne Penny
President

Board Notes



At its December 17 Zoom meeting, the Board reviewed the results of the online

survey seeking the members' preferred focus for a diversity workshop. Plans for the workshop are ongoing.

Details for setting up a PayPal account with online payments through our website are being explored.

There was discussion about a suggestion that our chapter collect member stories in an oral history format. The first order of business is to establish who will lead this effort.



Your foundation needs board members. We recently changed the bylaws so that, among other items, all board members are voting board members. This is your chance to help manage the activities that generate funds for scholarships. Please contact a board member if you are interested in participating. We will be contacting members of the branch in the new year. Sandra Distelhorst has resigned to devote more time to public policy. Also, Judy Prince's term as treasurer comes to an end next fall and she will be leaving the board at that time. There is also one open member-at-large position.

The foundation has not been actively

disbursing funds lately. That will change in the new year with scholarship checks going to Edmonds College Foundation and to a high school senior from the Edmonds School District.

—Judy Prince

Money Matters

Thank you to all the wonderful people who donated to the holiday celebration fundraiser during our December meeting!



Donations add up to over \$1000 to continue our branches programs.

A special thank you to Cathy Draper for her organization and donation to bring the RBG masks and Made by Karina certificates to our people!

A big thank you to all our members for continuing to support AAUW.

—Ruth Allen

Want to Join Us in Online Bridge?

Several of us have been playing together using online Trickster Bridge. If you would like to join a game with other AAUW-ESK members, email Marianne North. We used to play bridge the fourth Monday of the month from 12:30 to 4 p.m., but we could look at other times. Let us know what days and times you would be available to play online.



New to bridge or need a refresher? You can practice on Trickster Bridge. Let us know if that is your interest also.

—Marianne North

Diversity Book Club

The book club met via Zoom on Dec. 16 to discuss Pramila Jayapal's *Use the Power You Have: A Brown Woman's Guide to Politics and Political Change*. Several participants have heard her speak in person. All agreed that she is an amazing woman with many positive accomplishments during her time as a community activist/organizer, and in the legislatures of both Washingtons. Several suggested she would make a good senator.

The plan for the next books and meetings are as follows:

January 20: *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson (note: it is not THE Caste, which is a novel)

February 17: *My Own Country: A Doctor's Story* by Abraham Verges

March 17: *The Girl with the Louding Voice* by Abi Dare (Nigeria)

April 21: *The Warmth of Other Suns* by Isabel Wilkerson

Meetings will be at 7 PM on Zoom for now.

—Cathy Draper

January Program

Our January program will focus on public policy and state legislative issues. We are

pleased to have Marilyn Watkins of the Seattle-based Economic Opportunity Institute back to present



“Rebuilding for a More Equitable Future: Priorities for Washington’s 2021 Legislature.” Marilyn is Policy Director of the EOI, an independent, nonpartisan nonprofit policy center using research, education and advocacy to encourage public debate and advance new policy ideas that help build an economy that works for everyone. EOI recently led the effort to implement our statewide Paid Family & Medical Leave program.

Sandra Distelhorst, our Public Policy Chair, will tell us about plans for the virtual Lobby Day and AAUW’s public policy priorities this year.

We hope to see you via Zoom at 10 AM, Saturday, January 9, 2021.

—Marianne North

Coffee and Conversation

Come join in the fun, as we reconnect with friends and get to know new members at our reinstated monthly gathering on Friday, January 15, at 10 am on Zoom. Shirley Buono is our host this month. Be sure to register beforehand on our branch calendar [here](#). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with information about joining the meeting.

—Debby Smith

Big Welcome!



Annette Thomas, our newest member, had been an intensive care unit (ICU) trauma nurse for 20 years before her current position as an assistant professor of nursing at Seattle University. Her research is on stress in trauma nurses and in midlife women.

Annette has been a long-time proponent of equity for women as well as education and sports for girls. She likes to swim, garden, knit, and hike in her spare time. She also loves to read for pleasure. In non-Covid 19 times, she enjoyed traveling and learning about different cultures and food.

—Debby Smith

Do You Have a Story to Tell?

I am always so impressed with the life histories of our members as well as our scholarship recipients and NCCWSL leaders. I proposed to the Board at the last meeting that now that we are getting accustomed to Zoom, maybe we could use it to create a “Story Bank” and give members an opportunity to share their stories with each other. In particular, stories related to overcoming gender barriers in education and the workplace, or racial or age-related barriers could help inform our Public Policy efforts. The landscape for women has changed over the years thanks to changes in public policy driven by changes in community norms often driven by advocacy efforts, but many of the barriers remain the same. Our member stories could

highlight old barriers broken and barriers that are still standing strong.

We are still in the brainstorming phase for this project so if you are interested in helping shape a “AAUW-ESK Story Bank” please contact me, Anne Penny, Mary Ross or Marianne North.

—Sandra Distelhorst

2021 is Virtual Public Policy Year

Several of us from the Edmonds-SnoKing branch joined the Tacoma Branch December meeting to hear House Speaker Laurie Jinkins (long-time AAUW member) give an update on the 2021 legislative process.



She expects legislation to be **laser focused** on just a few topics.

- COVID response
- Economic recovery
- Global climate change
- Racial equity

Speaker Jinkins issued [Guidance](#) for House Legislators that included limiting the number of bills and making sure they are “important and urgent.” The senate is also urging senators to make sure bills already have the groundwork done and strong support from advocates and stakeholders.

A virtual platform and strong emphasis on advocate and stakeholder support is good news for AAUW. Jinkins noted that AAUW members

can view committee meetings online, testify online and even testify by email this year. See [How to testify](#) on the State website.

Speaker Jinkins' additional guidance to legislators is to only introduce bills that have bipartisan support and do not cost a lot of money. Jinkins also expects committee chairs and floor leaders to screen bills and use an equity lens to prioritize bills.

This is also good news for AAUW. AAUW has been pushing the use of a gender equity lens to develop policy priorities. See [COVID-19 Through a Gender Lens](#).

[Sign up](#) for Lobby Day on February 1.

Sign up to meet your legislators.

Every member of our Branch will have a chance to meet with their legislators via Zoom the week of February 1. We already have several meetings lined up and more to come. We will update the member calendar as more meetings are confirmed. You will need to let me know you want to meet with your legislators, and I will send you the link.

The meetings are only 15 minutes, so we need to be well-organized and prepared with our talking points. AAUW-WA will provide talking points. If you prefer to be a silent supporter and just listen or submit a written question, that is OK too.

Sneak Peek at the AAUW-WA list of bills by topic.

Women's reproductive health care: several bills we supported last year will be back.

- Postpartum care extension for Medicaid patients (passed but was vetoed)
- Pregnancy and miscarriage care will be part of a new Pregnant Patient Care Act
- Student health plans / reproductive health care (HB 1009)

Education: Speaker Jinkins says the focus on K-12 education will likely be “narrower – focused on getting kids back to school safely.” While AAUW-WA hasn't identified specific education bills, AAUW-ESK members will be glad to see two bills back that almost made it to the finish line last session.

- School counseling programs (SB5030)
- Prison to postsecondary education pathway (HB1044)

Childcare will be a hot topic this session. The change in title of the House Committee on Human Services and Early Learning to *Children, Youth & Families* reflects the changes in policy thinking about early education and childcare. We will watch for bills on childcare to support. Last session several bills passed that addressed the need for childcare accommodations for high school and college students.

Workplace protections: AAUW will support a bill to protect domestic workers that was left on the floor last session.

Gender-related violence and abuse: AAUW-WA will continue to support or watch bills related to sexual harassment and abuse. We supported a bill last session to fund training of nurses in recognition of strangulation victims. Other bills include eliminating the spousal exemption to

child rape and prohibiting female genital mutilation.

If you have ideas for bills you would like AAUW-WA to support, please let me know.

The [Two-Minute Activist](#) is not just for AAUW members. **Anyone can sign up.** Spread the word! You can find the form at the bottom of the main AAUW website.

Stay safe, stay home, stay engaged.

—*Sandra Distelhorst*

AAUW-ESK Public Policy Chair

AAUW-WA Public Policy Committee member

Holiday Party Memories



Who knew we could have such a good time at a Zoom party? Kudos to everyone who planned this event!

David Little, pianist and entertainer, was such a delight—beautiful music, easy interaction with the audience—so fun.

Then the opportunity to purchase very special donated face masks with the money supporting our branch.



And the raffle! So many generously donated beautiful raffle items. And however did the party planners create the spinning wheel with all our names on it? Whatever name the wheel stopped on was the recipient of a raffle item. In case you've forgotten or missed the party, the raffle items can be viewed with their descriptions on our website [here](#).

—*Pam Canell*

