

Edmonds SnoKing Branch Newsletter



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- **Monthly Branch Meeting, February 13, 10am on Zoom.** The Challenges of Midlife & Older Women (pg. 3)
- **Great Decisions Conversation on Public Policy. Feb. 8, 3pm on Zoom.** Global Supply Chains & U.S. National Security. Beth Wood for info.
- **Diversity Book Group, Feb. 17, 7pm on Zoom.** *My Own Country: A Doctor's Story* by Abraham Verges. Cathy Draper for info (pg. 2)
- **Coffee and Conversation, Feb. 19 10am on Zoom.** (pg. 3)
- City of Edmonds Diversity Commission **2021 Film Series kickoff, Feb. 21, 4 pm on Zoom** (pg. 4)
- **Online Bridge Group, Feb 22, 12:30-4pm** Marianne North for info

Send submissions to
Pam Canell, Editor



President's Message

Welcome to a new era, with a new President and administration. President Biden has a big agenda for his first 100 days. Let's hope he meets with success!

There are two big items facing our branch in the next few months. One, we need to prepare to elect a new president and a new secretary. I encourage each of you to ask yourself if this is the time for you to serve your branch. We have wonderful, smart, active members that make these posts easy. The president and secretary really function as part of a team, and there is no "going it alone." I have thoroughly enjoyed the time I have spent with these women, getting to know them, and working together on important projects for the branch.

The second big item is to fill the board of the foundation, AE3. This group meets once a month for 30 minutes, reviews the budget, and writes checks to the scholarship winners. This is about the easiest organization to join but it does need members to keep it alive.

Hope each of you will think hard about how you can make a contribution of effort to our branch.

—Anne Penny, President

Board Notes



The Board discussed the need to fill three Foundation Board open positions and to establish a Nominating

Committee to recruit candidates for President and Secretary as the current officers have fulfilled their two-year terms.

Lobby Day on February 1 is virtual this year and, as always, has required a great deal of planning and coordination with AAUW-WA and legislators. All members have been encouraged to participate.

Also virtual this year is Expanding Your Horizons to be held March 24, 9 am to 1 pm, with five speakers lined up so far.

The Great Decisions virtual discussion group is starting the new year of topics, beginning with “Global Supply Chains and U.S. National Security.” (see calendar).

COVID Vaccination Info

As you know, there is a [phased approach](#) in WA State, and we are currently in [Phase 1B1](#). Everyone over 65 years old can receive the vaccinations but the difficulty is uncertainty about vaccine supply. This [website](#) lists all the vaccination sites. Be patient and be prepared to check back numerous times for appointment availability.



Diversity Book Club

I enjoyed our January book discussion of *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson so much that another member convinced me to present a Toastmasters speech about it.

We have added a few books to our schedule. If you are the person who suggested a title and are willing to lead its discussion, please let me know.



We continue to meet on Zoom the third Wednesday at 7 pm until things change. I send the link out a few days before. It is always the same link.

Here is a list of what we have so far:

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

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

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

May 19: *My Own Words* by Ruth Bader Ginsberg, Mary Hartnett, & Wendy W. Williams

June 16: *Plundered Skulls and Stolen Spirits* by Chip Colwell

Sending good wishes for health and happiness until we meet again!

—Cathy Draper

Coffee and Conversation



Our January 15th meeting came at a crucial time. After an angry mob surged into the National Capitol and another mob moved toward the WA State capitol, it was time to sit down, relax and have coffee with friends. And that is exactly what happened. Thirteen members had a very good conversation.

We all expressed things in our lives for which we are grateful. The imaginary headlines we proposed for this new year were both amusing and serious.

Our discussion about the news and how we obtain it was also revealing. Some of us are die-hard newspaper readers. Who would have thought that? Maybe that's an age thing. We continued our discussion wondering if we should turn off the tv and not listen to TV news for awhile.

Finally, we shared the ways we stay grounded, how we stay calm, and the best way to take care of ourselves.

We hope you will join us on Friday, February 19, at 10 am, for another stimulating Coffee and Conversation.

—*Shirley Buono*
Membership Committee

Welcome, New Member

Welcome to Autrina Martindale, a mother of two college students, and a 25-year Independent Financial Services professional.

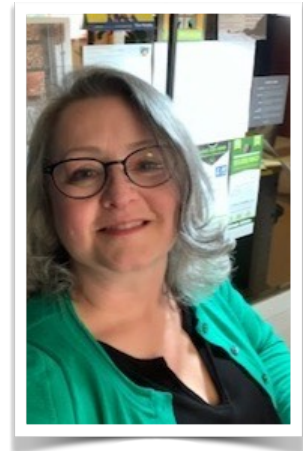
Autrina lives and works in Snohomish County. She is an Executive MBA student at Washington State University with a career goal to expand her practice.

We look forward to getting to know Autrina and hope she will discover new outlets for her energy and creativity within AAUW.

—*Debby Smith*
Membership Chair

February Program

Our speaker for February is our new member Annette Thomas, who will talk about her research “The Challenges of Midlife and Older Women: The Menopausal Transition and Nutrition.”



Annette has been an intensive care unit nurse for 20 years and recently became an assistant professor of nursing at Seattle University. Her research is also about stress in trauma nurses.

Annette has been a long time proponent of equity for women and education for women and girls.

Please join us on February 13 at 10 am for this informative program, and feel free to

bring along a friend or daughter by forwarding the Zoom link to them.

—Marianne North
Program Team

Diversity Film

Enjoy the City of Edmonds Diversity Commission’s first offering in their 2021 Virtual Film Series on Sunday, February 21, at 4 pm. The first film is *Outside the House: Black Folks Mental Health, Our Stories Being Heard* by Darnell Lamont Walker.

These free screenings of poignant insightful, and topical films on themes related to diversity, inclusion, and equity are available on Zoom the third Sunday of February, March, April, and May at 4 pm. The screenings are followed by Q & A sessions afterwards. Visit their website to see this season’s offerings [here](#).

—Sunny Strong

Public Policy

Lobby Day is finally here! Sixteen Branch members signed up and over 170 AAUW members across the state registered. Using a virtual platform has really expanded our outreach.

We are also reaching out to legislators. Our branch has 12 virtual meetings with legislators scheduled during Lobby Week thanks to all of you who signed up to meet with your legislators!

We have a good group of legislators representing us, but they can all use a nudge, some more than others. AAUW-WA identified 8 Senate bills and 4 House bills to support on Lobby Day 2021.

Our **gold star** Senator sponsor for AAUW-WA bills so far this year is **Sen. Stanford**

(LD1) who co-sponsored 5 out of the 8 Senate bills AAUW is supporting.

- Sen Liias (LD21) and Sen Salomon (LD32) co-sponsored 3 of the 8 bills.
- Sen Robinson (LD38) sponsored one bill and co-sponsored one bill.
- Sen Wagoner (LD39) co-sponsored one bill.
- Sen Hobbs (LD44) is not co-sponsoring any of the 8 bills.

Our **gold star** House Representative sponsor so far this year is **Rep Ryu** (LD32) with 4 out of 4 bills!

- Rep Kloba (LD1) and Rep Davis (LD32) co-sponsored 3 out of 4 bills
- Rep Ortiz-Self (LD21), Rep Wicks (LD38) and Rep Sells (LD38) co-sponsored 2 out of the 4.
- Rep Duerr (LD1), Rep Peterson (LD21), Rep Eslick (LD39) and Rep Lovick (LD44) co- sponsored 1 bill.
- Rep Berg (LD44), a new legislator, and Rep Sutherland (LD39) are not sponsoring any of the 4 bills.

What does it mean if a legislator sponsors a bill, co-sponsors a bill, or does not sign on in support?

Sponsorship is a big deal. It is a lot of work to write a bill, then convince your colleagues to co- sponsor, get the chair of the committee to put the bill on the agenda, and then keep pushing the bill throughout the session. We really want to THANK bill SPONSORS. Co-sponsors deserve a thank you too, especially if it is outside their “lane”.

Many legislators like to “stay in their lane”. You can tell what their lane is by looking at their public profile (what issues do they mention), reading their newsletters

or social media posts (what are they proud of accomplishing), and by their committees. Let's make sure our legislators make our lane their lane.

We want legislators to co-sponsor the bills we support, but they can only co-sponsor a bill at the beginning of a bill's cycle. In the first two weeks of 2021 over 1000 bills were introduced! You can imagine with hundreds of bills circulating at the beginning of the session why some legislators who always VOTE for AAUW policy bills don't always sign on to co-sponsor all of them.

There is a good description on bill sponsorship in the [Guide to Lawmaking](#). Legislators have two chances to co-sponsor a bill.

- 1) When a bill is drafted and approved by the sponsor, a signature sheet is attached, and it is circulated for co-sponsors before it is "dropped" in the hopper outside the Code Reviser's Office.
- 2) An abbreviated description of bills being introduced is sent to members' offices the day before the bill is scheduled for floor consideration. Members have until 2 PM on the day the bill is scheduled to be introduced to sign on as a co-sponsor.

Making sure legislators know we expect them to co-sponsor bills that advance equity for women and girls can help them watch for related bills. Keeping them informed throughout the year about our policy priorities can help them include our policy priorities in bills that they sponsor.

Lobby Day/Week is a good opportunity for you and other AAUW members to remind legislators about AAUW policy priorities.

—Sandra Distelhorst
Public Policy Chair

Letters to the Editor



If you missed it in the *Edmonds Beacon*, our very own Cathy Draper responded to a writer who objected in a sarcastic and scornful tone to the concept of racism in Edmonds and its application to himself. Cathy responded with this:

Re: "Looking for information on racism" letter to the editor, December xx:

Congratulations! You are on the right track to enlightenment! Awareness and seeking information are positive steps and, I believe, one of the goals of the sign wavers on Edmonds Way.

I recommend two books to start your journey. Because I am also a teacher. And that is what teachers do. Assign reading.

So You Want to Talk about Race is by Ijeoma Oluo, a Seattle writer. She also has interviews on YouTube, one sponsored by the Seattle Library.

A little heavier reading but more action oriented is *How to Be an Antiracist*, by Ibram X. Kendi.

The book and movie *Just Mercy* and *The Hate You Give* are also well done and informative.

Of course the public library has many more. Reading, asking questions, and active listening are worthwhile goals for us all.

Good luck on your journey!

Cathy Draper
Edmonds