

Edmonds SnoKing Branch Newsletter



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- **Monthly Branch Meeting, April 10, 10am, on Zoom.** Election and Annual Meeting (see page 3)
- **Conversation on Public Policy. April 12, 1 pm, on Zoom.** Topic: “Brexit: Taking stock and looking forward.” Contact Beth Wood for info.
- **Diversity Book Group, no meeting in April.** Contact Cathy Draper for info.
- **Coffee and Conversation, April 16, 10 am, on Zoom.** Sponsored by the Membership Team, hosted by Jane Simpson (see page 3)
- **AAUW-WA State Annual Meeting, April 17, 8:30am - 4pm on Zoom.** Info and registration [here](#).
- **Online Bridge Group, April 26, 12:30-4 pm.** Contact Marianne North for info.

Send submissions to
Pam Canell, Editor



President’s Message

There are two Board positions open for 2020-2022: President and Secretary. Jodi Forsell is our nominee for President. She has been a member of both the Edmonds SnoKing and Everett branches and served as Secretary for our branch for the last two years. Jodi is passionate about the mission of AAUW and this shows in her work with our branch.

Pam Canell is our nominee for Secretary. An experienced editor, she has been working on the branch newsletter for the last year. She is diligent and thorough and will bring some strong skills to the position of Secretary.

At the April 10 meeting, we will hold a voice vote on these candidates for the open Board positions. A zoom link for the meeting will be emailed to you. Please attend and show your support for your fellow members.

—Anne Penny
President



Board Notes

The Board discussed plans for our Branch’s annual meeting in April. A new President and

Secretary will be elected, and future program ideas discussed.

NCCWSL will be virtual this year, so there is no cost to our Branch. Edmonds College students will be selected to attend this annual event on May 25-26.

The AAUW WA State annual meeting will follow our Branch annual meeting by one week, on Saturday, April 17, 8:30am-4pm, on Zoom (see info [here](#).) Our Branch is represented by three delegates (to be selected at our Branch annual meeting).

The Board discussed our June program with Aisha Hauser on “Micro-Aggressions: How to Handle Them and What They Are” being held June 5th. This is a week earlier than our usual meeting time so that we can support the Women’s Health program by AAUW-WA on June 12.



Your foundation has received \$300 in donations in memory of Judith

Zoellick. The total amount raised from our Chinese Farmer Art fundraiser in March is \$765.

The foundation bank account is healthy. However, the foundation board is not.

We are still looking for more board members.

If you are interested in helping to fund scholarships through tax-deductible giving, please contact Judy Prince (see branch directory).

Enjoy your Spring and get vaccinated!

—*Judy Prince*

Another Successful EYH Event

The virtual Expanding Your Horizons Conference this year presented many interesting workshops for the students. I counted about 80 participants at one point, with some coming and going at different times.

Karen Brun, the keynote speaker, was a delight and an inspirational leader as she related the challenges and successes in achieving her goals and dreams. Her biography is listed on the [EYH Edmonds College website](#). She was a Mission Specialist who participated in an analog mission for 45 days in a simulation of the space capsule with three other people. The students asked many questions and seemed thoroughly engaged with her talk and slides. She was eager to answer every question. As she advanced in her career, she used the mantra “I’m good enough. I am awesome!” to fight her “Imposter Syndrome” which is the feeling of not being good enough.

There was a Cookie Packaging Design Challenge and many prizes to motivate the students.

There were 11 workshops which I thought were interesting enough for all to attend. I was cohost in “How a Hollywood Movie Star Saved the World with STEM,” presented by Melissa

Edwards from the Museum of Flight. This was the story of Hedy Lamar, who was born in Germany, eventually escaped to London and then came to the U.S. She invented a method of oscillating signals to block enemy torpedoes, but the government discounted her invention. Eventually she was inducted into the National Inventor Hall of Fame.

The recorded workshops are available to view at the Expanding Your Horizons Edmonds College website. No dates given for how long they will remain posted.

—Shirley Buono



Coffee & Conversation

Jodi Forsell hosted a very successful and informative Coffee and Conversation last Friday morning with 16 people in attendance. The topic discussed was the upcoming vote by members of AAUW National to eliminate the college requirement for membership in our organization.

Participants expressed differing views although the majority seem to prefer an open membership policy that would allow people to join even if they are not themselves college graduates or are on that journey themselves.

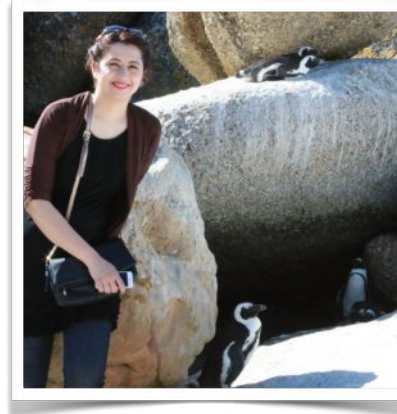
Please join us for the next virtual coffee hour on Friday, April 16, when Jane Simpson will be hosting. You will be receiving a reminder email with a link to register for the event. After you

register, you receive an email confirmation with the Zoom link.

—Debby Smith

April Meeting and Looking Ahead to May Program

The agenda for our Annual Meeting on **April 10** includes election of officers, planning for next year’s programs and activities, selection of delegates to the WA State AAUW Annual Meeting, and discussion of state and national bylaws changes. One major change proposed is to drop the college degree requirement for AAUW membership.



For our **May 8** Branch meeting, our guest speaker is Samia Ibtasam, 2020-21 recipient of an AAUW International Fellowship.

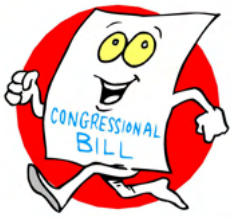
She is a third-year PhD student at the Paul G. Allen School of Computer Science and Engineering at the University of Washington. Her focus is developing tools and frameworks for increasing women’s inclusion in technology and finance. Samia taught computer science at the University in Lahore, Pakistan before coming to University of Washington.

The May meeting will be held on Zoom and we will also be introduced to our high school scholarship recipient.

—Marianne North

AAUW Mission: Equity

Kudos to Sandra Diestelhorst for an amazing Lobby Week this year! I appreciated the opportunity to attend without leaving my home. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet my representatives and hear their views on selected bills.



Reading through the bills that AAUW promoted reminded me that our organization is so much more than scholarships. Besides promoting education, the other leg of our mission is equity – social, economic, and political. This is reflected in AAUW legislative priorities.

In Washington State there are several bills that support AAUW's legislative priorities:

- SB5096. This bill would put a 7% tax on extraordinary wealth from capital gains. It would generate a projected 20,000 new jobs each year. Remember how many women left the work force during the pandemic?
- HB1297 Working Families Tax Credit - Would provide a \$500 annual cash payment to low-and moderate-income workers each year with an additional payment for children in the home.
- HB1213/SB5237 Fair Starts for Kids Act - New investments in early learning which has been neglected.
- HB1073/SB5097 Improving Access to Paid Family and Medical Leave
- In addition, there are several bills addressing health care.

You can follow the progress of all these bills on the [AAUW-WA website's Legislative Update](#)

which is prepared by our lobbyist, Nancy Sapiro. You can also sign up for the newsletter.

—Shirley Buono

Book Club Schedule Change

Due to *The Warmth of Other Suns* running close to 600 pages, we decided to take another month to read it, so there will be no book club meeting in April.

The revised schedule is as follows: All meetings will be the third Wednesday of each month, at 7 pm, location TBA unless specified.



May - *The Warmth of Other Suns* by Isabel Wilkerson - Hosted by Ann McNulty - Meeting at Liz Sears' home

June - *Ruth Bader Ginsberg: In My Own Words* - Hosted by Helen Behan (I have the book and audio book from the library that I can lend if you finish reading *Warmth* early)

July - *Dream in Polar Fog* by Yuri Reytkeu - Hosted by Liz Sears

August - *Speak Okinawa* by Elizabeth Mimi Brina - Hosted by Harriet Fuji

September - *Plundered Skulls and Stolen Spirits* by Chip Colwell - Hosted by Ann McNulty

October - (?) *The Widows of Malabar Hill* by Sujata Massey - Hosted by Cathy Draper

Happy Spring and Happy Reading!

—Cathy Draper

Public Policy



Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) – are we almost there?

One step closer. The House of Representatives voted 222 to 204 to remove the deadline for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA).

Our ten state representatives contributed seven Yes votes and three No votes. Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler (CD3), Cathy McMorris-Rodgers (CD5), and Dan Newhouse (CD4) voted No. With no apologies.

Why ERA matters?

- It matters at a philosophical and symbolic level. Gender inequities result from individual behavior and social practices.
- It matters at a practical and policy level. Legal sex discrimination is not a thing of the past. The progress of the past 60 years is **not** irreversible.

Without the ERA, women must fight for incremental changes, one law at a time. It is tiring. It distracts us from other good work.

Without the ERA, there is no political guidance or incentive to change individual behavior.

Without the ERA, the courts can claim a lower level of scrutiny to gender discrimination cases.

Next step: Learn about the difference between the levels of [scrutiny in court cases](#) and why it matters! The April 17 AAUW-WA annual meeting will include a presentation about the ERA and legal scrutiny.

Next step: The Senate will vote on the ERA. Our WA State Senators will vote YES. Let them

know you support them. Reach out to your friends and family in other states and ask them to let their Senators know to vote YES.

Don't forget to add the April 17 AAUW Wa State Annual Meeting to your Spring Schedule. We will vote on the AAUW-WA Public Policy Priorities. Then we can make our own Branch priorities for next year. The proposed Public Policy Priorities are posted in the [March Evergreen Leader newsletter](#). Let me know if you have any policy questions!

—Sandra Distelhorst

Scholarships

Don't forget the deadline of **April 16** to apply for our Branch \$2,000 STEM scholarship. This is for female students graduating from any Edmonds School District high school.



Do you know any family members or friends' family members who might be eligible to apply?

The application form is online [here](#).

Contact Cathy Draper, Scholarship Team Leader, for more information.

