

Member Profile: Liz Sears

Liz Sears began teaching at Edmonds Junior High School in 1960 (the building is now the Edmonds Center for the Arts), moved to Meadowdale High School when it opened in 1963, and taught biology and related sciences until she retired in 1988. During the summers, she was able to do research projects and get field experiences that enhanced her teaching—especially her classes in vertebrate and invertebrate biology and marine science—and contributed to her work on her masters' degree.



She spent two summers in the Galapagos Islands. Other summers were spent at the marine biology station in Papua New Guinea, in Bornea working with orangutans, and in Ethiopia studying the

behavior of baboons. *Editorial note: Liz worked with Dr. Birute Galdikas. Galdikas was a student of Louis Leakey, and she was one of the three women whom Leakey called the "Trimates," the other two being Jane Goodall (chimpanzees) and Dian Fossey (mountain gorillas).*

Liz was named Washington State Teacher of the Year in 1973-74.

After retirement she went to Kenya and taught biology in a girls' boarding school in the Pokot tribal area. Her accommodations were basic—no running water and no electricity.

In 1990, she went to Shanghai, China, to teach English, intending to stay one semester, and stayed three years. She still keeps in contact

with Chinese teachers she met while there. She laughed as she recalled receiving the "White Magnolia Award" as "outstanding foreign expert" from the City of Shanghai, and how she was filmed and featured on local television.

After she returned to Edmonds in 1993, she became involved in the Creative Retirement Institute as an instructor and joined the Edmonds Branch of AAUW.

It was her interest in local scholarships that attracted her to branch membership and it continues to be her major interest, as she serves on the Scholarship Team. She believes that our commitment to scholarships is enhanced by our partnership with Edmonds Community College. Clearly Liz cares about making a difference at the local level. She values her "up close and personal" involvement with the Scholarship Team, and our branch involvement with Project Home, the EdCC support organization for homeless students. She says that she feels enriched by her interaction with so many women who share these values.

Lobby Day, 2016

The [fall issue of the Evergreen Leader](#) has details on the 2016 AAUW Lobby Day, Monday, January 25, including the line-up of speakers. You'll find a link to online registration. There will be carpooling organized for our branch. Contact Helen Behan for more information.

Coffee and Conversation

Mark your calendar! The third Friday in January comes early. Coffee and Conversation is on January 15, 10 a.m., at [Third Place Books](#) in Lake Forest Park. See you there as we kick off this popular activity in 2016.

Gerri Linkins