

Hello AAUW members! Lots of important news and dates to put on your calendar. Any questions or concerns? Reply to this email or contact me directly, [mbucherross@yahoo.com](mailto:mbucherross@yahoo.com).

Mary Ross  
AAUW ESK Communications



## Newsletter | November, 2022

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## President's Message

Happy November, dear AAUW members!

This is a big mid-term election. I hope you have put your ballot in the dropbox so your voice is heard. Several of us mailed out postcards to remind people to vote. I am hoping we have a good turnout of women of all ages this year.

After our October meeting and learning about [Pathways for Women](#), we talked about different ways our branch could support organizations like this on an ongoing basis. We will be discussing this over the next few months. Pathways is always accepting donations at their Lynnwood location and [their greatest needs list is available online](#).

November brings the beginning of the holiday season. We all have so much to be thankful for. My hope for all of you is that you find time to be with family and friends and create wonderful memories.

Looking forward to seeing you in November!

Jodi Forsell  
President

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## Diversity Book Group Public Policy Updates



### **Put These Dates in Your Calendar**

*Tuesday, November 8*, your ballot must be in a [dropbox](#) by 8 p.m. or be postmarked on that day. Be an informed voter! Check the [League of Women Voters website](#) for candidate forums.

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*Saturday, November 12, 10 a.m. to noon*, [Lynnwood Library](#), branch meeting and program, "Trailblazing Black Women in Washington State." More information under [Upcoming Programs](#).

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*Monday, November 14, 2:30 p.m.*, Diversity Book Group meets at the apartment complex in Bothell where Susan Teel and Pam Canell live. Contact Cathy Draper if you need more information.

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*Tuesday, November 15, 7 p.m.*, AAUW WA State webinar. Kelly Jones, professor of microeconomics at American University, describes the economic consequences of restricted access to reproductive health services. [Register at this link](#).

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*Wednesday, November 16, 11 a.m.*, Coffee & Conversation, location and details coming soon.

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*Thursday, November 17, 3:30 to 5 p.m.* Board meeting via Zoom.

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Saturday, November 19, noon, at the Edmonds Theater, [Edmonds Diversity Film series](#). Free films on diversity, equity, and inclusion. "Disclosure" examines Hollywood's depiction of transgender people and its impact.

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Thursday, November 24, Happy Thanksgiving!

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## Membership Matters

We have a membership that is so rich in experience. Our members include those who have been in this branch for decades, months, and weeks. Many are retired, others in the work force, and a few are working towards new careers.

At each meeting and social event, I learn something new about our branch history and about what AAUW has to offer. What we each bring to the conversation is unique and worthwhile. It's unlikely that a book will be written about us, so how to best celebrate the shared interests, skills, and histories?

Last year's survey showed overwhelmingly that we not only support the mission of AAUW and are action-focused, but that we also want to have fun and get to know one another. What would you like to see? A movie group? Restart a Bridge group or try another card game? A walking group? Or...?

I want to hear from you

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VP for Membership

lindarclay@gmail.com



## Upcoming Programs

**Branch meeting and program on Saturday, November 12, 10 a.m. to noon, Lynnwood Library**

This month we are joining the AAUW Seattle Branch, via Zoom, to hear Marilyn Morgan, author of a new book, *Trailblazing Black Women in Washington State*.

Our meeting is in-person. You can come to the Lynnwood Library, with other members of our branch, to watch Ms. Morgan on a large screen via Zoom. We'll have our own discussion afterwards, and then our branch meeting, raffle, snacks, books for sale, etc.

[Marilyn Morgan](#) is an author, historian, and photographer living in Seattle. Join us to hear her describe the incredible lives and contributions of Washington's Black women!

**NOTE:** If you want to watch Ms. Morgan from the comfort of your own home, [then you should register for the Zoom meeting in advance](#). If you come to the Lynnwood Library for our branch meeting, there is no need to register in advance.

## The Economy Matters, Watch and Discuss

Here's an opportunity to watch and discuss an outstanding webinar on post-pandemic financial security for women.

WA State AAUW has made the first webinar in its series, [The Economy Matters](#), available for streaming. This allows us to gather together as a group to watch it at a time and place convenient for our

members.

Our first steaming webinar will be in conjunction with Coffee and Conversation, November 16 at 11 a.m. Stay tuned for the location and other details. We'll keep you informed via "The Week Ahead" emails.

Ann McNulty  
VP for Programs



## **Fundraising: We're Having an Art Show!**

With approval from our branch board and support from the A3E Foundation, we had the green light to enter into a contract with the Edmonds Center for the Arts to host an event on Friday, March 31. ECA was excited to have us back. With all we learned, the relationships developed with artists, and the enthusiasm from participants, we're confident that our Art Show in 2023 will be even more successful.

Next steps include the forming of the all important Planning Team. The Team Leaders will meet once a month to discuss action items, activity within their own area, and issues that may need addressing. Yes, there's work involved, but team leaders have support every step of the way. PLUS, our meetings were a lot of fun! The camaraderie was delightful and made the winter months a little brighter. The first meeting will be in November. We met in person and on Zoom as needed.

Here are some areas for you to consider volunteering: **Sponsorships, Ticket Management, Raffle Baskets, Publicity, Food, Silent Auction.** It's extremely important that everyone who can participate, does. Not everyone needs to be a team leader, but we encourage everyone to be on a team!

If you're not sure of what you might want to do, but would like to be involved in the planning, please contact Linda Clay, [lindarclay@gmail.com](mailto:lindarclay@gmail.com), or 425.293.7613, or Elena Cervantes, [elena.cervantes1@gmail.com](mailto:elena.cervantes1@gmail.com), 425.293.4682.

Linda Clay  
VP for Development and Fundraising



Jodi, Elena, and Cindy at our table



## Outreach News

In October, we held two very successful events at WSU Everett that allowed us to connect with students and faculty. We even ran into one of our 2014 scholarship awardees, Kari Mikesell. Kari now works at WSU!

Our October volunteer crew included: Linda Clay, Jodi Forsell, Cindy Gobel, and Judy Prince. Thank you so much for all your help, ladies!

I'm in need of two more volunteers to (wo)man the AAUW Table for the First-Generation College Student Fair on Tuesday, November 8, at WSU Everett (event details to come). WSU is [First-Gen Forward](#), recognized for its dedication to serving first-generation college

students.

Want to volunteer? Please contact me: [elena.cervantes1@gmail.com](mailto:elena.cervantes1@gmail.com) or 425-293-4682.

Elena Cervantes  
Community Outreach Team Leader



## Notes From the Board Meeting

The Branch Board met on October 13, via Zoom. Planning is underway for [Expanding Your Horizons](#) to be held at Edmonds College on March 21, 2023. EYH is a national conference, co-sponsored by the college and our AAUW branch, that encourages girls in grades 8-12 to explore careers in the STEM fields. Shirley Buono, Jodi Forsell, and Linda Clay are involved in the planning.

Our EC liaison Aubrey Healey has resigned her position at the college. Aubrey did an amazing job of supporting us in planning our [June scholarship awards event](#). We will miss her!

Fundraising for the branch will be part of our December holiday event.

The board approved having an Art Show in March and again using the Edmonds Center for the Arts as the location.

Mary Ross  
Communications Team Leader  
[aauw.esk.communications@gmail.com](mailto:aauw.esk.communications@gmail.com)





The Diversity Book Group will meet on Monday, Nov 14, at 2:30 p.m. (Note the change in date and time.) The book to be discussed is [How the Word Is Passed](#). Contact Cathy Draper for information about the location.



## Public Policy Updates and Actions

In 2019, [SB 5689](#) sponsored by Senator Marko Liias, created a new section in the Common School Provision laws: Transgender student policy and procedure. It had bipartisan support. We are so fortunate to have this law in place right now. This bill:

1. Requires school districts to adopt or amend a transgender student policy and procedure and to designate a primary contact. As a result, we now have Gender-inclusive School Coordinators in all our school districts.
2. Requires the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) to develop mandatory training for the new coordinators. We now have great gender-inclusive schools training modules! Check out the [YouTube video](#).
3. Protects teachers from negative evaluation if they choose to use curriculum or materials that address sexual orientation, including gender expression or identity, if the materials are age-appropriate and connected to the content area.

The last one was a fight to get enacted. Rep. Steele (LD12) tried to strike all of #3. Rep. Kraft (LD17 - retired) tried to flip it - insisting on changing it to "teachers will not get a negative evaluation if they choose NOT to use..."

The enacted law protects teachers from future [Don't Say Gay](#) type biases AND establishes a safe and supportive gender-inclusive environment for our students and our communities.

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## How to Talk About...

During the WA Online Branch panel discussion on the Dobbs Decision, we had a helpful discussion on the use of the term "abortion" versus "reproductive health care" or "pro-choice." You can view the recording on their [branch website](#). Pro-Choice Executive Director Kia Guarino, one of the panelists, introduced [How to Talk About Abortion](#) as a helpful resource. [Planned Parenthood also has a guide on how to talk about abortion](#). My favorite guide, because it goes into myths about abortions, is the [International Planned Parenthood guide](#).

Approaching issues like abortion using different scenarios and word choices can help us have more comfortable conversations when an issue feels like a heavy lift. Let me know if you have a favorite "How to Talk About" guide or an issue you want to talk about.

Sandra Distelhorst  
Public Policy Team Leader  
[aauw.esk.publicpolicy@gmail.com](mailto:aauw.esk.publicpolicy@gmail.com)



Are you taking [required minimum distributions](#) from your IRAs? Remember that you can designate [Foundation A3E](#) as a [qualified charitable distribution](#). A QCD excludes the amount donated from your taxable income.

Contact A3E officers Susan Teel or Judy Prince for more information.

