

Hello AAUW members! February is a busy month for our Branch, with lots of planning and events happening. More about all of this following in this newsletter.

Any questions or concerns? Reply to this email or contact me directly, JenniferL91@hotmail.com.

Jennifer Long
AAUW ESK Newsletter Coordinator



Newsletter | February, 2023

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President's Message

Hello Branch members,

It's that time of year when the days are short, the clouds are grey, and we are ready to hunker down and read a good book. I don't know about you, but I felt very energized by our January meeting; and Sandra Distelhorst did a great job of presenting some of the bills that AAUW is supporting this legislative session. There are 5-6 bills we will be watching. You can always join Sandra and our state public policy on Tuesdays at noon via Zoom to stay informed.

For our upcoming Art Show, we will need everyone's help the day of the Show on March 31. This is our annual fundraiser and, because of last year's success, we are able to award \$10,000 this year to young women continuing their education post high school. See more info in this newsletter.

For the first time in 3 years, AAUW will hold a statewide conference on April 14-16 in Walla Walla. More details will be coming out soon but this is a way to learn more about AAUW, make new friends or visit with those you have met through Zoom, listen to engaging speakers, and have a fun weekend.

Also, on April 27 *Expanding Your Horizons on Edmonds College* is back in person and we will need volunteers to help support that program. It's a great day of learning about STEM fields for young women in grades 8-12. The College is hoping to have 400 young women attend. More details will be coming.

I do hope to see you at our February meeting. It promises to be educational with a bit of an interactive activity! Thanks to all of you for supporting our branch and promoting gender equity for women and girls!

Stay warm my friends,

Jodi Forsell
President

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Put These Dates in Your Calendar

Wednesday, February 1, Applications open for high school scholarships. See <https://esk-wa.aauw.net/initiatives/scholarships/> for more information.

Saturday, February 11, 10am, Branch Meeting at Edmonds College, Snohomish Hall Room 338. Details in this newsletter.

Sunday, February 12, 2-3:30pm, AAUW WA State Sustainability Meeting. More information available here: <https://aauw-wa.aauw.net/2022/11/07/statewide-summits-2022/>

Thursday, February 16, 3:30-5pm, Branch Board meeting via Zoom.

Looking Ahead:

- *Saturday, March 11, 10am*, Branch Meeting at WSU Everett. Details in this newsletter.
- Annual Meeting, AAUW WA State, will be held on *April 15-16, 2023*, in Walla Walla.



Membership Matters

Coffee and Conversations met on January 24 at Third Place Books and was well attended with lively conversation. We were joined by a woman who was interested in learning more about AAUW and our branch! While I've followed up with her, I am reminded of the value of us being able to meet together!

Now that lives are opening up more, I'd like to get more Interest Groups established. If you are interested in being a part of a movie group, starting another book club, having a game and card night, lunch bunch group, let me know. I'll put interested people in touch with one another. When, where, how often and what time you meet would be up to the group. I'll include monthly updates to what's happening once the group is established and there is a contact person within the group.

Linda Clay
VP for Membership
lindarclay@gmail.com



Programs

Our February 11 meeting features Deepti Agrawal: *The Ancient Art of Madhubani Painting*. The women in a small region in Northeast India have been using Madhubani painting to tell the stories of their lives. Depicting mythological and social scenes, every painting reflects the belief systems, cultural practices, and social arrangements of a specific era in history. After centuries of being limited to its region of origin, the art form is now being discovered by the urban populace worldwide and is fast emerging as a commercial art form.

Having practiced this style of art since childhood, artist Deepti Agrawal (photo below) explores the changing forms, trends, and mediums of Madhubani painting over time, while also exploring the hidden tales behind some of its most popular artworks from the early 1900s. Agrawal provides a demo and a work-along session where participants practice the Madhubani style and learn more about its rich heritage. Come prepared to try your hand at the art form and have some fun!



March Branch Meeting

The March 11 meeting will be a tour of the WSU Everett new Learning Center...scheduled to open in the spring. Our outreach team leader Elena Cervantes has recruited Corrie Wilder (photo below), faculty at WSU, to join our branch, and together they are planning what should be an interesting and fun time. Since WSU is further afield than our normal meeting space, we will set up carpools to make sure everyone has transportation.



Ann McNulty
VP for Programs



Art Show Update

Things are progressing well with planning for the *Art for Scholarships* Art Show on Friday, March 31. We've heard from a few artists after the Call of Artists went out and will continue to follow up on new suggestions. The Sponsor Outreach Team is busy seeking sponsors and donations.

The Silent Auction is also a very important part of the event although it doesn't often get as much attention. It's important to have a variety of items that will spark interest in bidding. Perhaps you can ask a business you frequent for a gift card for product or services. Do you belong to a gym, know a music teacher, artist, gardener or have a favorite restaurant? Any of these might be a place to ask for a donation of goods or services. Let me know if you would like donation forms.

Linda Clay (425.293.7613, lindarclay@gmail.com)

Elena Cervantes (425.293.4682, elena.cervantes1@gmail.com)

Art Show co-chairs



Outreach

WSU Everett is hosting their 2nd annual *Girls in STEM* event on March 4th and 25th for middle and high school female students. Last year their event was fully financed by an AAUW National grant and hosted nearly 70 students!

This year, as a board, we pledged a \$250 contribution to the *Girls in STEM* event as well as donating pens and pencils.

There is a potential volunteer opportunity for branch members to help with events on March 4th and 25th. More details to come!

Elena Cervantes
Outreach Team Leader



Notes From the Board Meeting

Jodi is involved in planning for the Expanding Your Horizons conference at Edmonds College. (<https://www.edmonds.edu/eyh/>) The date has been changed from March 21 to April 27. Our members will be asked to help with some advance preparation and registration on the day of the event. Female students in grades 8-12, in the Edmonds and Mukilteo School Districts, will be invited to attend and explore STEM careers.

WSU Everett is planning two *Girls Explore STEM* events: March 4 for middle school students and March 25 for high school students. This is an expansion of a highly successful event last year. (<https://everett.wsu.edu/girls-explore-stem/>)

The Call for Artists for our Art Show on March 31 has gone out. If you know an artist who would be interested in participating, forward the information on our homepage. (<https://esk-wa.aauw.net/>)

The Scholarship Team is working on the application process and form for our 2023 high school scholarships. There will be links on our scholarship webpage soon. (<https://esk-wa.aauw.net/initiatives/scholarships/>)

There was a long discussion of fundraising and working with non-profit groups, and making in-kind donations (including time). This could take the form of a new interest group for our branch. Stay tuned! The Board will be discussing this and voting on one or more recommendations.

Sita Bhaskaran
Secretary



The Diversity Book Group is reading *Ordinary Girls, A Memoir*, by Jaquira Diaz.

We will discuss the book on Friday, February 17, at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Helen Behan.



Public Policy Updates and Actions

It was great fun to see so many of you at the January meeting. Even if you are not joining the State AAUW team for Lobby Day, you can "Get Ready for Lobby Day" with this "What to Read list".

- AAUW Policy Team [AAUW-WA Latest Legislative Update](#)
- *Sex, Gender and Engineering: Harassment at Work and at Home*

by Jennifer VanAntwerp & Denise Wilson. [Sex, Gender and Engineering: Harassment at work and in school*](#) (Book excerpts available for reading)

- *Broadband access and digital literacy in Washington State - Digital Divide* by Cathy MacCaul. [AARP Digital Literacy Program](#). [AARP WA 2023 Legislative Agenda](#)
- *Broadband access and digital literacy in Washington State - Digital Equity* by Sharonne Navas. [ConnectWA Digital Navigator Report](#)
- *Apprenticeship Programs in Washington State* by Kelly Jenkins-Pultz. [Apprenticeships help tear down barriers for women in the workplace](#)

Sandra Distelhorst
Public Policy Team Leader
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