Hello AAUW members! March is here and with it some exciting events and a reminder about the Membership of Spring. More about all of the following in this newsletter.

Any questions or concerns? Reply to this email or contact me directly, jennifer2@1hydrical.com.

Jennifer Long
AAUW EIA Newsletter Coordinator

AAUW Edmonds Waterfront Branch
Contact us: www.aauwfd.com/ or ... Like The Branch on Facebook!
Find us on Meetup.com - Follow us on Instagram!
Together, we can achieve a vision of equal opportunity for all.

Newsletter | March 2023

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President's Message

Happy March wonderful Branch members,

I hope everyone enjoyed our February meeting. It was great to see so many in attendance.

Spring continues with a calendar full of opportunities to engage with our community and connect with our Branch members. Our two positions we need to vote for at our April general meeting, Site Bhakaham will continue as Secretary, and I will continue as president; however, if you are interested in being on the Board we can always use additional help.

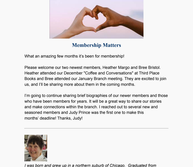
Our annual fundraiser is on March 31. Please invite friends and family to this fun event! All proceeds go to support our scholarship program.

Hope the snow is behind us and we all can enjoy sunnier and warmer weather!

Jodi Forrest
President

These links take you to sections of our newsletter.

Calendar
Membership News
Programs
Outreach
Scholarship
Notes from the Board Meeting
Diversity Book Group
Public Policy Updates



Put These Dates in Your Calendar

Wednesday, February 1, applications opened for high school scholarships. Submission deadline is Tuesday, April 25, 2023. See https://www.aauw.org/edfds/grants-scholarships/ for more information.

Saturday, March 11, 10am, Branch Meeting at WSU Everett. Details in this newsletter.

Sunday, March 12, 2-3:30pm, AAUW WA State Meeting. More information available soon.

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

Saturday, March 18, 12-1:30pm, Diversity Film Series: Who We Are, a Chronicle of Racism in America, Edmonds Theater, 415 Main Street.

Friday, March 31, 6-8pm, An Evening of Art for Scholarship Event at Edmonds Center for the Arts.

Looking Ahead:

- Saturday, April 8, 10am, Branch Meeting at Edmonds Waterfront Center. Details in this newsletter.
- Saturday, April 29, 10am, Branch Meeting will be held online on April 15, 2023. Details are available on the AAUW WA State website: https://aauw-wa.org/convention-18262-annual-state-conference/.

Membership Matters

What an amazing few months it's been for membership!

Please welcome our two newest members, Heather Margo and Bree Bristol. Heather attended our December "Coffee and Conversations" at Third Place Books and Bree attended our January Branch meeting. They are excited to join us, and I'm sharing more about them in the coming months.

I'm going to continue sharing brief biographies of our newer members and those who have returned after many years. I will be a great way to share our stories and make connections within the branch. I reached out to several new and seasoned members and July Prince was the first one to make this months' deadline! Thanks, July!

I was born and grew up in a northern suburb of Chicago. Graduated from Macalester College, St. Paul, MN. Got married and came west in 1974. Went to work for Boeing. Had a number of jobs. Some I like better than others. Knew interesting people wherever I was working. At that time, all Boeing people originally from Washington were the minority in the salaried categories. Left Boeing to be a stay-at-home mom. Volunteered. Continue health. I've gone back to work. So many good people doing good work.

Now I'm having fun with 2 AAUW branches. I also take on-line exercise classes, 3 days a week, and belong to 2 on-line book groups - one fiction, one non-fiction.

Note: July is a Lifetime Member of AAUW, having joined in 1997. She is past president for the Everett and Stanwood-Camano Branches and past president for Washington State. She currently is VP of Finance for Edmonds Sorting and Finance Officer of the AJE Foundation.

Programs

You will want to put our March 11 branch meeting on your calendar - a meeting not to miss. It will be full of finds, and should be fun to boot.

Corrie Wilder, a new branch member, is the Executive Director for Marketing and Communication at WSU Everett. She will be our host for the meeting.

Washington State University is a long-standing partner with AAUW. Corrie will share how WSU Everett is growing as a great seven at EvCC's Innovation Campus. Learning Resource Center (scheduled to open in Spring 2023) and a visit to the state-of-the-art WSU Everett campus. We'll also discuss higher education opportunities in Everett, including who are the WSU students, their hopes and plans for WSU's future.

The tour is planned to take advantage of elevators and show us some gems above and beyond teaching facilities. It will start at the CLRC and then we will move across to the WSU building.

The campus is located at 915 N. Broadway, Everett WA 98201 at the intersection of Broadway and Lincoln Street. Parking is available on lots L and K.

The Program Committee will call members to find out who would like a ride, who can drive, and to arrange rides for everyone who would like to attend.

April Branch Meeting

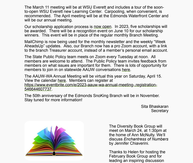
Come to the Edmonds Waterfront Center on April 8. The last few meetings have been packed, with little time to visit. April's meeting will be a bit more relaxed. Jodi will lead us through our annual business meeting, voting in Board members, and by-law changes. We'll have an overview of what is upcoming in the Branch, and then time to visit and munch on snacks - with a raffle basket and books for sale of course.

May Branch Meeting

Were you a Girl Scout? Did you program robots as part of scouting? Probably not , but that is what the Terrific Techbots do, an award-winning all-girl team sponsored by the Girl Scouts of Western Washington. Our own Heather Margo is their coach, and our May meeting should be inspiring.

The Terrific Techbots will be here with their robot, and Heather will share how they do what they do, and what their hopes for the future may be. Come see the robots and learn how they design and build them.

Ann McNulty
VP for Programs



Art Show Update

Things are happening! Do you have your ticket for the March 31 Art Show? Click this link to purchase a ticket.

We have several new artists joining us for our 2nd annual Art Show and Scholarship event. Karen Epperson, retired Marysville Pilchuck art teacher, will be amongst the talent. Here's a sneak peek of her offerings:

Linda Clay (425.293.7613, lindaterclay@aol.com)
Elena Cervantes (425.293.4652, elena.cervantes@gmail.com)
Art Show co-chairs

Outreach

March is a busy month for us! We're supporting a Girls Explore STEM event on March 4 and a Girls Scouts Leadership Day on March 18 for girls in grades 6-9. Our branch will provide pens and pencils for those participating and include an informational flyer about AAUW for their parents.

Our branch will also have a table at WSU Everett's Career Fair on Wednesday, March 29. We'll have a chance to meet students and share AAUW's mission as well as publicize our scholarship and an Evening of Art for Scholarship Event.

If you would like to volunteer to help (wo)man the table, that would be fantastic! We will need 2-3 branch members to assist. Table setup begins at 9:30am and the Career Fair is 10am-1pm. Please email Elena at elena.cervantes@gmail.com if you'd like to help.

Elena Cervantes
Outreach Team Leader

Notes From the Board Meeting

This month's meeting will be at WSU Everett and includes a tour of the soon-to-open WSU Everett new Learning Center. Computing, where appropriate, is recommended. The April meeting will be at the Edmonds Waterfront Center and will be a hybrid meeting.

Our scholarship application process is now open. In 2022, five scholarships will be awarded. There will be a recognition event on June 10 for our scholarship winners. Our Art Show is March 31 and is a fundraiser for scholarships.

MakeChang is now being used for the monthly newsletter and the weekly "Week Ahead&Up" updates. Also, our Branch now has a pro Zoom account, with a link to the branch Treasurer account, instead of a member's personal email account.

The State Public Policy team meets on Zoom every Tuesday at noon. An overview of the state budget was given. Two bills of interest to Branch Action members on which issues are important the Branch. There is lots of opportunity for members to get involved in state public policy issues.

The AAUW-WA Annual Meeting will be virtual this year on Saturday, April 15. View the calendar tags. Members can register at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2023-aauw-wa-annual-meeting-registration-tickets-519...

The 50th anniversary of the Edmonds Sorting Branch will be in November. Stay tuned for more information!

Site Bhakaham
Secretary

The Diversity Book Group will meet on March 24, at 1:30pm at Jodi's home. We will be the discuss Enchantment of Lemons by Jennifer Chiaverini.

Thanks to Helen for hosting the February Book Group and for her review of Enchantment of Gwilhary Gilly, a Memoir. Helen also served a delicious meal of Asian Nori and Ruth Reichl.

Tell Weber Who Is Voting Your Priorities!
Tuesday, March 14, 7:00 pm
Zoom

Did you miss any of the excellent webinars in "The Economy Series"? Tune in to "Tell Weber Who Is Voting Your Priorities" at the State AAUW? All webinars and Zoom recordings are available to view. You need the link that will take you to WA State AAUW Edmonds YouTube channel.

Public Policy Updates and Actions

March is a big policy month!

It's Women's History Month; March 8th is International Women's Day; and March 14th is Equal Pay Awareness Day.

Women's History Month is a good time to talk about gendered wealth and the ongoing impacts of discriminatory practices. Women in Washington State United States owe a mere 32 cents to every dollar owned by men.[1] See Washington Post article. It has only been 50 years since women in the USA could obtain a credit card or buy a home without a male co-signer. Even when a policy demands gender equity, business practices or customs might demand women pay more. For example, "Women in Washington State pay an average of $1,400 per year for a car. This gendered difference in car sales and repair charges were worse in states that had ratified the Equal Rights Amendment Policy and practice do not always align. See Forbes article.

AAUW-WA is supporting a bill that would address the "pink tax" on consumer goods. SB 5121 addresses consumer gender discrimination (Donigan). Note the WA state has an ERA amendment.

March 8 is Ultra International Women's Day. AAUW CEO Gloria Blackwell is our International Ambassador. The theme is "Ultra Women Leading Change in 2023" are female genital mutilation and child marriage. Our state is working to enact policies to stop these two harmful practices:

HB 1452 - child marriage
SB 5410 - female genital mutilation

One of the least advocacy groups on child marriage is Unchained at Last. The World Health Organization has a good review of current practices in female genital mutilation.

March 8 is also the deadline for bills to pass their house of origin. You can follow our Lobby Day bills on our state Legislative Update website.

March 14 is Equal Pay Awareness Day for 2023. Check out the AAUW-WA Equal Pay webpage for ideas on how to honor this day. This symbolic day represents how far into the year women must work to earn what men earned in the previous year. The 2023 gender pay gap is 85% for full-time workers and 77% for all workers (including part-time and seasonal). See AAUW's Equal Pay Calendar for related dates by state.

The State Public Policy team meets virtually at noon every Tuesday. See our calendar for the link to join the group discussion.

Sandra Disdelhorst
Public Policy Team Leader
aauw.wa.publicpolicy@gmail.com

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