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Hello AAUW members! April is here and with it some exciting events for our Branch, and a good-bye to one of our treasured members. 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 | April 2023

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President's Message

Hello Wonderful Branch Members,

Spring is finally here, and boy am I glad! This winter was tough with the crazy snow at Christmas and all the rain. Hopefully we all have beautiful gardens!

It is with mixed emotions that I report that Mary Ross has officially resigned from being our Branch Communications Director. She has been very meticulous at keeping our Branch informed on our events, meetings, and gatherings through our website, emails, and social media; as well as keeping our member rosters up to date. Finally, she has been our branch photographer helping to memorialize so many events. Mary leaves big shoes to fill! If you know a photographer or

are one yourself, we can use your help. We also need a new Webmaster and someone to help maintain our branch directory in MailChimp and on our website. Please let me know if you can help or know someone who would like to learn how to do these important tasks. Some of these are not a big time commitment.

Mary is moving to Vancouver, Washington to be closer to her son and family. We will miss Mary but are happy for her next chapter. Come to our April 8 meeting for a celebration and goodbye for Mary.

We still have many events ahead of us on our Branch calendar. April 29 is *Expanding Your Horizons* at the Edmonds College Campus. If you'd like to help direct traffic or help prepare swag bags, reach out to me and I'll add you to the volunteer list. Also, we will have our Scholarship Award Brunch on June 10 from 10:00am-12:00pm which will be a fun morning to celebrate and wrap up our year.

A big thank you for everyone who came to, volunteered at, or sponsored our Annual Art Show / Fundraiser. A big **Thank You** to Linda Clay and Elena Cervantes who put in hours of planning time and leadership for another successful event.

Hope to see all of you at the Edmonds Waterfront Center for our monthly meeting on April 8!

Jodi Forsell
President

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Put These Dates in Your Calendar

Saturday, April 8, 10am, Branch Meeting at Edmonds Waterfront Center. Details in this newsletter.

Thursday, April 13, 3:30-5pm, Branch Board meeting via Zoom.

Saturday, April 15, 8:30am-12pm, AAUW WA State Annual Meeting. Register at this link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2023-aauw-wa-annual-meeting-registration-546644607737>

Saturday, April 15, 12-1:30pm, Diversity Film Series: MAJOR!, Edmonds Theater, 415 Main Street.

Tuesday, April 25, Application deadline for high school scholarships. See <https://esk-wa.aauw.net/initiatives/scholarships/> for more information.

Thursday, April 27, Expanding Your Horizons conference, Edmonds College.

Looking Ahead:

- Saturday, May 13, 10am, May Branch Meeting, Edmonds College. Details in this newsletter.
- Saturday, June 10, 10am-12:00pm, Scholarship Awards Event.



Membership Matters

This month we're continuing to share brief biographies of our newer members and those who have been members for years. It will be a great way to share our stories and make connections within the branch. This month's member feature is Jodi Forsell, Edmonds SnoKing Branch President.



I grew up in San Diego and received my Bachelors from the University of Washington and Masters from Seattle University. I retired from accounting

after 31 years.

I've been married to my husband, Shane, for 31 years and we're the proud parents of 4 adult children. I enjoy hiking, camping, kayaking, reading, and baking. I love having long dinners with friends and family.

My husband and I are looking forward to some international travel when he retires in two years. We recently moved to Chelan and I'm busy meeting new friends and setting up our home.

Linda Clay
VP for Membership
lindarclay@gmail.com



Programs

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. The Edmonds Waterfront Center is located at 220 Railroad Avenue, Edmonds.

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. The May meeting will be at our usual meeting location at Edmonds College, Room 338.

Ann McNulty

VP for Programs



Art Show Update

The Planning Team wishes to acknowledge the help, donations, and support of the Branch members. We couldn't have done it without you! The news article deadline is before we know the final results. Stay Tuned!

Linda Clay (425.293.7613, lindarclay@gmail.com)

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

Art Show co-chairs



Outreach

March was a busy month for our Branch!

We sponsored a Girls in STEM event with WSU Everett. And we hosted a table at WSU Everett's Career Fair where volunteers, Ann McNulty and Judy Prince, helped spread AAUW's mission and encouraged students to participate in the salary negotiation program National offers.

But our biggest outreach efforts this past month have been focused on our Art Show and Scholarship fundraiser, *An Evening of Art for Scholarships*.

With all that said, April's a little light on outreach efforts currently - but if an opportunity arises, you'll see it in *The Week's AHeads Up* email blast.

Elena Cervantes
Outreach Team Leader



Notes From the Board Meeting

Scholarships: The speaker at the recognition event on June 10 for our scholarship winners will be Cathy Draper's former student. She is currently working at SpaceX, and is excited about being our speaker! Cathy reported that the speaker is bright and articulate.

The tour, on March 11, of the Cascade Learning Resource Center at WSU Everett was a lot of fun and we saw a great, new facility and met faculty and administrators.

Preparations for the Art Show are in full swing. The Art Show will have 16 artists this year: 4 returning and 12 new.

Public Policy: Equal pay day was on March 14. The data shows that there is a gender inequity in pay, but the inequity diminishes in jobs that require higher education. Also, Sandra Distelhorst reported on the healthcare bills that are under consideration. She further reported that our high cost of housing is an issue for recruiting across many professions, especially when trying to attract more diverse candidates.

The AAUW-WA Annual Meeting will be virtual this year on Saturday, April 15. Members can register [here](#).

Mary Ross has resigned from the Board in preparation for her family's move to Vancouver, WA. She will be at the April branch meeting. It is taking multiple members to begin filling her shoes!

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

Sita Bhaskaran
Secretary



Lori Cross will host our next book club meeting on **Friday, April 21** at 1:30pm. The book is "**Mink River**" by **Brian Doyle**. It is set in a coastal town in Oregon and is told from a native American point of view.

Merrie Emmons will host the May meeting on **Friday, May 12**. The book to be discussed will be "**The Book of Hope**" by **Jane Goodall**.



Bring Your Books!

One way we raise money to support our Branch operations is through our book sale. AAUW members tend to be readers and life-long learners, so this is a great way to support our Branch. Please bring books that you want to donate and share with others to our branch meeting on April 8. Hopefully, we will raise a little money and take home some new books for our enlightenment and/or reading

pleasure.



Public Policy Updates and Actions

See our state website for [public policy legislative updates](#) from our state AAUW Lobbyist Nancy Sapiro. The budgets have been released and thanks to our new state capital gains tax, we should see some additional support for education, childcare, and housing included.

2023 ELECTIONS. May 15 is the official start of the 5-day filing period, but I am already seeing signs for candidates in my neighborhood! This is a big year for LOCAL elections.

- Snohomish County positions: Snohomish County Executive, two Council positions, Assessor, Auditor Clerk, Sheriff, and Treasurer.
- King County: 3 Council positions, Assessor, and Director of Elections.
- Three cities have Mayor positions: Edmonds, Lake Forest Park, and

Marysville.

- All our cities have at least 2 City Council positions up for election. Edmonds has 6!
- All School Districts have at least 2 Director positions up for election.

See a list of positions on the [Secretary of State Election](#) website.

AAUW has some good candidate comparison tools we can use to review candidates, and the League of Women Voters is already starting their planning for candidate forums. Shirley Buono was our liaison last year for candidate forums for local candidates and I also joined in a bit. It was fun, frustrating, and informative.

Let's start brainstorming about how our Branch wants to participate this year. The state public policy team will brainstorm in May (after the legislative session is over) on how we can support branches in local Get-Out-the-Vote and nonpartisan Candidate Comparison strategies. If you know anyone considering running for office, now is the time to give them a nudge! They have until May 19 to file. There are a lot of good resources available for those interested in running for office. And AAUW has a new one!

The state Public Policy team is reviewing a California Program, [GovTrek](#), as a possible program to launch in Washington in the future. It is a "virtual program for high school junior and senior girls designed to elevate the next generation to pursue careers in public service and elected office."

At our April Branch meeting we can talk more about your ideas for public policy for our Branch. You can also pop-in to the state public policy meetings held at noon on Tuesdays. See our calendar for the Zoom link.

Sandra Distelhorst
Public Policy Team Leader
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