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Hello AAUW members. Welcome to Fall with the changing weather and beautiful Fall foliage! We have some great updates and events for our Branch this month. More about all of this following in this newsletter. Thank you to all who joined our 50th Anniversary on September 9.

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

Jennifer Long
AAUW ESK Newsletter Coordinator



Edmonds SnoKing (WA) Branch

**Together, we can achieve a vision
of equal opportunity for all**

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President's Message

Dear fellow AAUW members,

Fall is definitely here! We sure saw a lot of rain the last week of September.

I'm excited about our Fall speakers for October and November and our upcoming *Meet the Candidate* lunch on October 5th in Edmonds City Park.

I'm glad to announce that Harriett Fuji has accepted the position of Treasurer for our Branch and our Foundation. Judy Prince needed to step down to attend to her health. Let's all thank Judy for all her hard work and many hours of volunteering for our Branch. As soon as she is able to drive again, Judy will be joining us once again. Here's to a speedy recovery to Judy.

If you have not signed up for our State's Tuesday Evening Fall webinars on Opportunities Matter, there is still time to register and

Hope to see you at our next meeting on October 14!

Thanks to all of you for making our branch such a positive, engaged branch!

Jodi Forsell
President

These links take you to sections of our newsletter.

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Put These Dates in Your Calendar

Thursday, October 5, 11am-1pm, "Meet Your Candidates". Edmonds City Park (600 Third Ave, Picnic Shelter). Pack a lunch and join the conversation.

Thursday, October 19, 3:30-5:00pm, Branch Board meeting via Zoom.



Membership Matters

FUNdraising October 2023

Branch Funding will continue to be supported by a monthly Basket Raffle and a Holiday Luncheon Potluck and Auction. I am open to suggestions and offers of homes for the luncheon. Be thinking of what little treasure from a trip, something you've made, or a purchase from another event, that you would like to disguise in beautiful wrapping. Guests will bid on your tantalizing clues with highest bid winning.

Members will have opportunities to sign up to do a 'basket' for one of the monthly meetings. You do not need to do a traditional basket. If you have a couple of items to put together as one, that's great. And, if you want to partner with another person, please do!

Raffle tickets are \$5.00 each. However, if you bring a name and contact, preferably a business card, from a potential artist for the Art Fair, you will be given a raffle ticket. (Limit of one ticket per person)

Scholarship Funding comes from proceeds of the *Annual Evening of*

contacting businesses for donations. This being our third year should also give us some cache with the ask, especially in Edmonds.

Seeking donations can be a fun activity because you meet some amazing business owners who are more often than not ready to donate and are very supportive of AAUW. Also, if you wish to go to businesses with someone else, that's wonderful. This team will be reaching out via email, phone calls, and in person, so, like everything else in putting this event together, there is something for everyone!

Membership October 2023

This year social groups will be operating independent from Membership, although I will be in contact with whomever is listed as the lead or coordinator so that news of upcoming events can be shared with the whole membership.

Sign-ups for various social groups have been available at the last two meetings, (the retreat in July and our 50th Anniversary Celebration in September). There is a Field Trip/Movie Group, Lunch Bunch, and Walking Group so far. If you would like to see something added, please let me know. Next week I will send the lists out to everyone and if you would like to be added to a group, please let me know.

At the last two meetings, members have also had opportunity to sign up to be on one or more of the various teams that make up our Branch. I will be sending an updated list out next week, as well. Again, if there's a team you'd like to be on, please let me or the team leader know. The teams are: Outreach, Public Policy, Publicity, Membership, Fundraising, Community Outreach, Scholarships, Programs, and Sharing and Caring.

Between social groups and action teams I'm sure everyone can find at least one thing to pique their interest. If not, let's talk so we can change that!

An updated Membership List will be available on our website soon. I'm

currently impacts the majority of our membership.

Linda Clay
VP for Membership
lindarclay@gmail.com



Programs

Sharing & Caring

If you would like to be part of a new interest group, Caring and Sharing, with a focus on aiding members of our community (college students? Pathways for Women? Other groups?), there will be a meeting Friday, October 6, at 1:30pm, Waterfront Center. Let Ann McNulty know if you plan on attending (call, email or text).

Our October meeting will feature Roxana Gomez of the Washington ACLU, speaking on issues facing school boards in Washington. Roxana Gomez is the Youth Policy Program Director at the ACLU of Washington, where she advocates on education equity, school to prison pipeline, classroom censorship, and juvenile justice issues statewide. She most recently served as ACLU-WA's lobbyist in Olympia. Prior to joining ACLU-WA, Roxana worked as a Legislative Aide on the Seattle City Council. Roxana earned her BA in Public Health from the University of Washington and is a lifelong Washingtonian.



Please note! Our November meeting is hosted by our sister branch for Seattle. Mark your calendar for **November 19, 2pm (a Sunday)** for a talk by Patricia (Patsy) Whitehead via **Zoom**. [Register here](#)

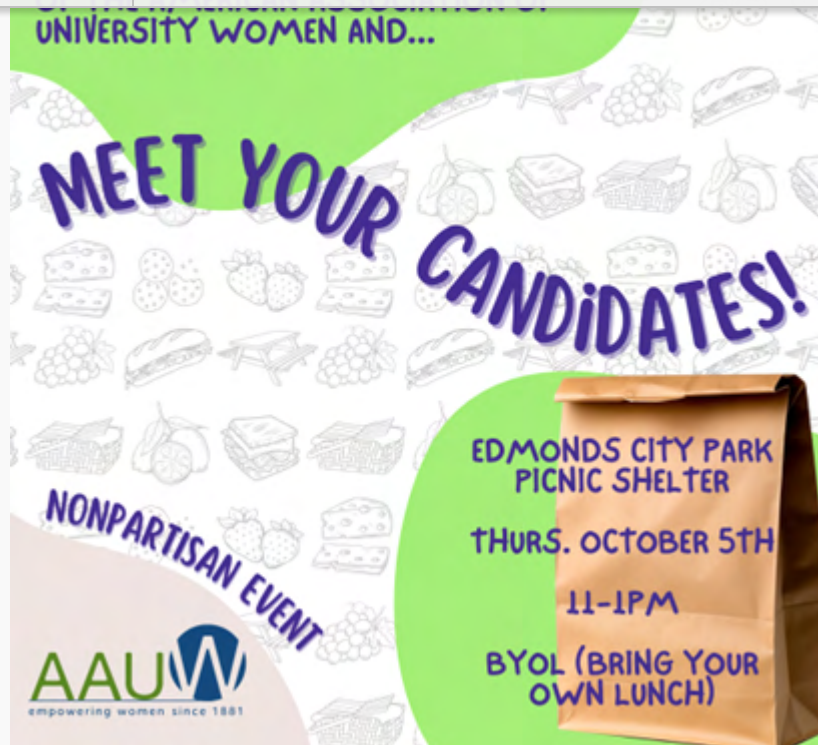
An Indigenous Woman's Perspective with Patricia "Patsy"

Whitefoot: a noted elder, traditional food gatherer for the Yakama Nation, an activist for Indigenous rights, and professional educator. Whitefoot has an incredible background. She served as president of the National Indian Education Association and was appointed by President Obama as a member of the National Advisory Council on Indian Education. She is a prominent advocate for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and counts her own sister as one of the many victims of this crisis.

Join us for this important program. Whitefoot's perspective goes way beyond "land acknowledgements."



Ann McNulty
VP for Programs



Outreach

Public Policy and Community Outreach have teamed up and are throwing a “Meet Your Candidates” picnic and hope you can attend!

There has been an overwhelming response from candidates and we’re eager to fill the audience with AAUW members, friends, and neighbors. Pack a sack lunch and join us!

Thursday, October 5th from 11am-1pm at Edmonds City Park (600 Third Ave S. *picnic shelter*).

Please spread the word! We look forward to seeing you on October 5th.

Elena Cervantes
Outreach Team Leader



Notes From the Board Meeting

Sandra and Elena are planning a “Meet Your Candidates” event for local political races at Edmonds City Park, Thursday October 5, 11am-1pm. Bring your own lunch. Thank you, Sandra and Elena!

Our Branch needs to develop its Public Policy priorities.

The Scholarship Committee will formalize the requirements for our scholarships. These will be published in our newsletter and posted on our website.

Jodi will send out the Branch budget. Harriet Fuji will be our next Treasurer. Thank you, Harriet!

The search for a Branch historian is on-going.

Sita Bhaskaran
Secretary

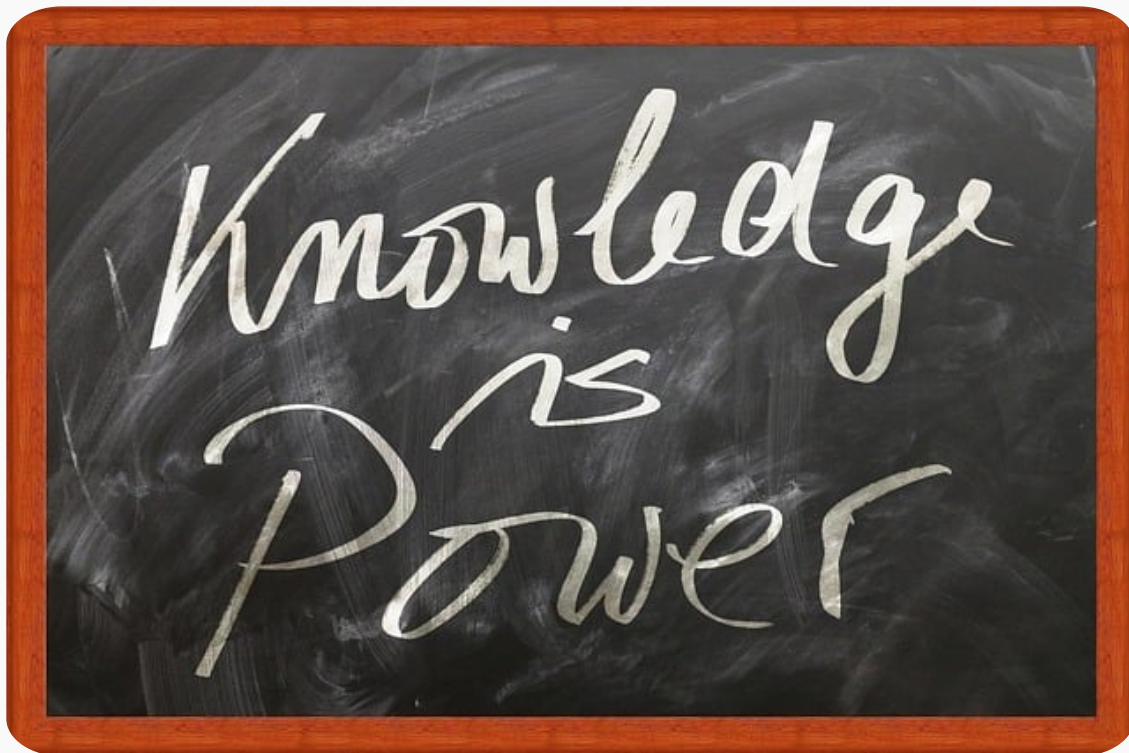


The October 13 meeting on **No-No Boy** will be held in a meeting room at Edmonds Landing.

Upcoming books will be **Endurance, Shackleton's Incredible Voyage** by Alfred Lansing (November 10), and **The Covenant of Water** by

Book Sale

We will have our first book sale of the year at our October Branch meeting. This is one way that we raise money to fund our Branch activities. Please bring the books that you read over the summer and are willing to share with other members. We have a lot of readers in our Branch! Any questions? Contact Lori Cross

**Public Policy Updates and Actions**

Please join us at the Candidates Picnic on October 5th. It's your chance to chat with Snohomish County candidates and other local candidates.

Meetings with politicians are becoming an important component in our evolving democracy, according to Dr. Gina Masullo who spoke at AAUW-WA's Opportunity Matters webinar on September 12th. See [*New Town Hall: Why we engage personally with politicians.*](#)

Our AAUW-WA "Meet the Candidates' Picnic" is a free community event. I was surprised to see the "candidate conversations" hosted by [MyEdmonds News](#) and ECA on October 12th is charging a fee to attend.

Should we have to pay to meet candidates or attend a debate? How does that impact access to democracy?

We've talked at AAUW about privatization of schools ([Wolf at the School House Door](#)) and privatization of healthcare including Medicare. Do we need to start talking about privatization of elections and voter information?

What free sources of voter information are available?

The Voter Pamphlet information is sent free to all registered voters. It can be a helpful snapshot, although important to know the information is submitted by the candidate and not verified. Some candidate credentials have been questioned by local news sources. Other candidates have been called out as "stealth" candidates who do not make their strong position on controversial issues apparent, or intentionally hide their associations.

The [League of Women Voter's](#) holds free candidate forums.

AAUW has an issues-based [voter's guide](#) and candidate comparison template that members can use to [research candidates](#).

Many advocacy groups do the "research and information gathering" for you and endorse candidates based on issues.

But nothing really beats meeting candidates in person. As Dr. Gina Masullo said, "personal engagement with politicians helps people feel as if they have a stake in politics. These interactions offer a fleeting glimpse of public opinion, as people attempt to convey what they think and feel to people with power to change the policies that influence their lives."

"In a democracy" this open interplay of opinion and policy is the

I hope this is the first of many collaborations between AAUW-Edmonds SnoKing Public Policy and Community Outreach. A big thanks to Elena for her leadership role!

Hope to see you all soon!

Sandra Distelhorst and Susan Teel
Public Policy Team Leaders
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