

Hello AAUW members. I wish everyone a warm and joyous month as we wrap up 2023. We have some great updates and events for our Branch this month. 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 | December 2023

[View this newsletter in your browser](#)



## President's Message

Dear wonderful members,

The December holiday season is here whether we are ready or not! I put up my tree and will soon be doing a bit of holiday baking.

We had about 8 members join the AAUW Seattle Branch online in November to listen to Patsy Whitefoot share her story. It was a great presentation. She is a former teacher and spent part of her talk on human development, which I found interesting. Much of it I knew intuitively; however, she had a bit of a twist so I thought I would share her stages of development with you.

The first stage of development is learning to trust which is usually done in infancy and early childhood. Children are taught consequences, boundaries, and the ability to feel safe. The second stage is mastery and is typically in adolescence to the early 20s. We allow them to take healthy risks to learn valuable skills and life lessons. The third stage is interdependence. We learn these skills as adults - to work together with shared outcomes and relying on each other. The fourth and final stage is generosity and fostering resilience. We do this by building strong, positive relationships with loved ones and friends; and provide support, guidance and acceptance in good and bad times. It's our time to give back - our time, money, and talents.

As a member of AAUW we are leaving our legacy as we support the generation of women coming behind us.

What can we look forward to in the upcoming months? We have some great meetings lined up for January – March 2024! January is preparing for our state Lobby Day. February, we have Diane Johnson speaking on "And it has Pockets", The Battle for Women's Clothing Equality. And in March, Diedre Dittmer will be performing a one-woman show as Rachel Carson. Some of you may have seen her perform as Eleanor Roosevelt.

Jodi Forsell  
President

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

*Saturday, December 9, 11am*, our annual Holiday Potluck Luncheon.  
More details in this newsletter.

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*Tuesday, December 12, 6:30-8:00pm*, Washington State Fall Webinar.

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*Thursday, December 14, 3:30-5:00pm*, Branch Board meeting via Zoom.

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## Membership Matters

### Sharing and Caring Winter Project

The Sharing and Caring Committee is encouraging your participation in supporting homeless teenagers with gifts this holiday season. We will work with Cocoon House, whose mission is to empower young people, families, and the community to break the cycle of homelessness through outreach, housing, and prevention. This organization is highly regarded and is committed to equity, inclusion, and diversity.

If you would like to contribute to our holiday project, please visit their Amazon wish list and purchase an item(s) and either bring to our December party or contact Vicki O’Gorman (408-502-0636) to coordinate pick up. We recommend purchasing hoodies, jackets, underwear, blankets, or gift cards. There are many requested items on the wish list if you prefer to choose something else. All sizes are needed. [bit.ly/CocoonHouseHolidays23](https://bit.ly/CocoonHouseHolidays23)

It is requested that all items be new and unwrapped. It is ok to donate gift bags or wrapping paper if you would like.

Many thanks for any donations you make to support teens in need. Our last date to accept items is December 14. Questions: Vicki O’Gorman, [ceili456@icloud.com](mailto:ceili456@icloud.com) or 408-502-0636. Members of the team are also willing to pick up items. Please contact Vicki (408-502-0636) or Debby Smith (425-233-7093).

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Mark your calendars for December 9, 11am for our Holiday Potluck. It will be at Ann McNulty's home, 731 - 198<sup>th</sup> Place SW, Lynnwood. Thank you, Ann, for offering your home to us again this year!

Back by popular demand, the "Auction" Gift Exchange. Please bring a wrapped gift of around \$20 value to be auctioned off to the highest bidder. You will be giving clues to the contents prior to bidding. Bids will begin at \$5.

Items can be from a trip, event, made by you, or even a regift of an item - no white elephants, please. Have fun thinking of what to bring and the clues you can give!

There will also be a raffle, donated by Pat Hooper.

All money received will be added to the Branch funds for operations during the current year. Questions: Linda Clay, [lindarclay@gmail.com](mailto:lindarclay@gmail.com) or 425-293-7613

Linda Clay  
VP for Membership  
[lindarclay@gmail.com](mailto:lindarclay@gmail.com)



On December 6 at 6:30pm the Washington State online branch is holding a presentation on book banning. Register on the AAUW Online branch [website](#).

December 9 is our AAUW Edmonds Sno-King Holiday Party at Ann McNulty's house.

December 12 is the last Zoom webinar, "Opportunity Matters" featuring Grace Yoo from the Washington State Women's Commission. This was created by Governor Inslee in 2018 with the vision that every woman and girl is healthy, safe, prosperous, and empowered to achieve their full potential. Register on the WAAUW [website](#).

January 13 is our Monthly Branch meeting at 10am at Edmonds College - prep and discussion for Lobby Day facilitated by Sandra Distelhorst, our state Public Policy Director and Branch Public Policy Committee chair.

Ann McNulty  
VP for Programs



## Outreach

### Art Show / Scholarship Event Update

Due to lack of Branch member participation, the Art Show /



For our event to be successful it takes a team. With collective effort, hard work, and a positive outlook we can continue to raise substantial scholarship funds for women's education.

If roles are not filled, the Art Show / Scholarship fundraiser will be cancelled. This will directly impact our ability to provide scholarships to young women in our community.

Below are vital positions to be filled for a successful event. Please reach out directly if there is a role you would like to fill.

Elena Cervantes: [Elena.Cervantes1@gmail.com](mailto:Elena.Cervantes1@gmail.com) or 425-293-4682

### Roles Needed

*Please know that all roles will be provided guidance and assistance. Those of us with experience are here to help. It's important all members feel confident in our volunteer roles.*

Artist acquisition (Responsibility of entire Branch): This role seeks out potential artists and encourages them to apply for a spot at our event. Timeline: Now – September.

Sponsorship acquisition (6-8 volunteers needed): This role seeks out small and large businesses that could potentially pledge a significant amount of money. These businesses are listed as “sponsors” of our event. This task is best suited for folks who like to strike up a conversation with anyone or that has a personal relationship with shop keepers or frequents small businesses and feels comfortable asking for a sizeable donation. There will be information, tips, and suggestions along with a “training lesson” via Zoom. Timeline: January – September.

Silent Auction assistance (Responsibility of entire Branch & 2-3 volunteers needed for event): This role asks volunteers to not only assist with setting up the silent auction but also includes acquiring items for the auction itself. This, like our Sponsorship role, involves approaching businesses for donations including tickets to events, restaurant gift cards, etc. as well as the set-up of the silent auction the

Advertising (1-2 volunteers needed): This involves advertising our event in various locations and publications. Both in print and online as well as in partnership with the marketing team.

Timeline: July – October

Marketing (1-2 volunteers needed): This team will work alongside the advertising team and involves the promotion of the event and ticket sales. In the past, our event has been listed on Eventbrite and cross promoted on Facebook and Instagram as well as promoted by our membership. Timeline: July – October

Volunteer roles need to be filled by January's meeting (January 13, 2024) and will be followed by an Art Show team meeting on January 20.

Elena Cervantes

Community Outreach & Scholarship Fundraiser Event Coordinator



## Notes From the Board Meeting

There is discussion at the National level about expanding the membership eligibility of AAUW to include a wider population by:



- us look elitist.
- Focusing on gender equity for all, by expanding membership eligibility to all individuals across the gender spectrum. Currently, female-only organizations are at a funding disadvantage as they are viewed as non-inclusive organizations.
  - The above would require interpreting AAUW simply as an organization name without a connection to “University” or “Women”. It would no longer be an acronym for an organization with a longer name.
  - It is recommended that members educate themselves on the above issues as it will be on a ballot that will be sent out to all AAUW members next year, and voting will start on April 3, 2024.

Elena will lead the Publicity team.

Elena is working with Mary Ross on a Statewide teaching demo of CANVA, an online graphic design platform. This demo will be on December 7, 2023. Online registration is available at the [AAUW Washington website](#).

Cathy and Lori have prepared a document detailing the requirements for the high school and college scholarships. The scholarships criteria will be revisited annually at the Branch retreat to get input from the membership. This will allow visiting issues such as scholarships for the arts, and for apprentice programs in the Trades, and other areas that we do not include at this time.

Ann has organized meetings for December 2023 through April 2024, and these have been published on our Branch website.

Sita Bhaskaran

Secretary



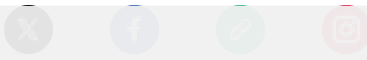
The January Book Group selection is ***The Covenant of Water*** by Abraham Verghese.



## Public Policy Updates and Actions

Washington State Lobby Day will be held virtually on January 22, 2024. We will discuss the bills that AAUW Washington will be advocating for during the upcoming legislative session. In addition, we will discuss how to engage with your own legislators. Registration will be coming out shortly.

Sandra Distelhorst and Susan Teel  
Public Policy Team Leaders  
[aauw.esk.publicpolicy@gmail.com](mailto:aauw.esk.publicpolicy@gmail.com)



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