

Hello AAUW members. Welcome to 2024! We have some great updates and events for our Branch in the upcoming months. Our January meeting will have important legislative updates, and February and March meetings promise to be inspiring with great presenters. 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 | January 2024

[View this newsletter in your browser](#)



## President's Message

Happy New Year!

Hope everyone had a positive, healthy, and fun holiday season. My husband and I came back home on December 27 after being gone 17 days from Chelan.

It was so nice to see so many of you at our get together at Ann's house, and I hear we had a lot of donations for the Cocoon House so thanks to everyone who participated in that.

Our last speaker for our State Fall webinar series was Grace Yoo. She is CEO of the Washington State Women's Commission and her commission is fairly new. It was started by Governor Inslee in 2018 and is in direct alignment with the mission of AAUW. The Washington State board is working hard on building allies with organizations like this and, as a result of this new connection, we will be an ally with the Washington State Women's Commission. I was nominated to participate with the commission starting in January. I will be attending

organization can support the work the commission is doing. The hope is that we can continue to grow the awareness of AAUW in our state and support the work being done by other organizations with the same mission.

Lobby Day is coming up on January 22 and will be held virtually via Zoom. We will be hearing from our lobbyist, Nancy Sapiro, who will discuss the new bills we will support in the upcoming legislative session. We'll also hear from speakers on Media Literacy/AI, voting and voting safety, and a speaker on Girls at Risk.

You can sign up and register today at the link below! Cost is \$10.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/aauw-wa-lobby-day-tickets-774031417807?aff=oddtcreator>

Finally, our next monthly meeting is January 13 at Edmonds College at 10am. We will have a regular business meeting as well as listen to Sandra Distelhorst get us ready for Lobby Day and ways our Branch can engage this upcoming legislative session!

Hope to see you all soon.

Jodi Forsell  
President

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## Put These Dates in Your Calendar

*Saturday, January 13, 10am*, monthly Branch meeting at Edmonds College, Snohomish Hall, Room 338.

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*Wednesday, January 17, 11am-Noon*, Coffee & Conversation.

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*Thursday, January 18, 3:30-5:00pm*, Branch Board meeting via Zoom.

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## Membership Matters

### **Recap: Holiday Potluck Luncheon and Gift Auction**

Those who attended our Holiday Potluck on December 9 enjoyed delicious food and a fun “Auction” Gift Exchange. The Auction raised



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



## Programs

**January 13:** Our own Sandra Distelhorst will give us an update on the AAUW-related public policy issues facing Washington and any related legislation to be introduced into the legislature. We'll also talk about lobby week and how to prepare. The meeting will be in our usual location at Edmonds College, Snohomish Hall, Room 338, 10am.

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February 10: Join Diane Johnston, Washington Humanities speaker, as she presents ***“And It Has Pockets! The Battle for Women's Clothing Equity”***. Come to Edmonds College, Snohomish Hall, Room 338, 10am.

How many times have you heard someone wearing women's clothing exclaim, “And it has pockets!” Comparisons have shown that modern garments designed for women have about half the storage space of clothing designed for men. From their invention, pockets in women's fashion have represented independence—so much so that in the 18th century, laws were enacted to strip women of their personal liberty by making the contents of their pockets the property of their husband. The right to have pockets went hand-in-hand with the right to vote. And people today are still speaking out about the inequality between men's and women's clothing based on this simple storage system.

Join costume designer Diane Johnston to dig into the pockets of the past, tracing the history of the humble pocket to determine if the battle for equality may still be decided by a few inches of extremely influential fabric.

Diane Johnston (she/her) is a theatrical costume designer who has spent the past 33 years creating costumes for productions large and small throughout the region. She holds a Master of Fine Arts in Costume Design and is a member of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees. Johnston has always been fascinated with fashion history and the historic trends that find their way into our modern closets. She is currently the Theater Teacher at Snohomish High School.



American scientist, marine biologist, and author of **“*Silent Spring*”**, the book many believe started the environmental movement. The meeting will be at 10am at Edmonds College, but the room location will be announced in the next newsletter.



**April 13:** This is our business meeting, election of officers, and we will also take an opportunity to socialize with brunch on the agenda!

Ann McNulty  
VP for Programs



**Outreach**

helping out WSU students!

Our contributions to the WSU Everett Clothing Closet afford students the opportunity to “shop” through the donations for business attire needed for job interviews and internships.

Please bring your gently worn professional clothing for donation to WSU Everett’s Professional Clothing Closet to February’s meeting.

\*Clothing must be freshly laundered prior to donation. Shoes and accessories may be donated as well.

Elena Cervantes

Community Outreach & Scholarship Fundraiser Event Coordinator



## Notes From the Board Meeting

To accommodate the travel plans of Board members, the December Board meeting was a “share via email” meeting.

**Lobby Day.** The State will host Lobby Day on January 22. Registration is \$10 and will be online.



bag stuffing day and March 27 is the event. The College is trying to expand the student participation to 400!

**Art Show update:** The Art Show fundraiser is on hold until we have more volunteers. We have the potential to have a successful fundraiser, but it will take more people. The scholarship event raised nearly \$10,000 the first and second year (the second year with little to no support from the Liz Sears donations). These successful fundraising events have afforded us the opportunity to increase scholarship awards to an impactful amount.

**Scholarships:** Edmonds College and WSU Everett have been contacted to confirm that we will be offering a \$2,000 scholarship at each of their schools with the same criteria as last year. These criteria and process have been posted on our Branch website.

**Publicity:** Notices regarding our January branch meeting have been submitted to the online and print newspapers for our local area (Shoreline up through Marysville).

**Holiday luncheon.** About 12 people attended the Holiday Luncheon and the Gift Auction raised \$450. This money is for Branch operations.

**Diversity Book Club:** Our book club continues to meet monthly, except for a holiday break in December.

**Budget:** Harriet is working on presenting the financial summary of the past 6 months to the Board.

**Upcoming Programs:**

- . January - Distelhorst on upcoming legislation and lobby day
- . February - Washington Humanities speaker Diane Johnston (And it Has Pockets)
- . March - Debbie Dimitre as Rachel Carson
- . April - Business meeting and social time
- . May - Days for Girls speaker
- . June - Scholarship awards

Sita Bhaskaran

Secretary



Our January meeting is at the home of Lori Cross, at 1:30pm, on Friday, January 12. The book we will discuss is "**The Covenant of Water**" by Abraham Verghese, which is set in the state of Kerala in India and spans multiple generations (beginning in the era of British occupation).



## Public Policy Updates and Actions

Happy 2024!

At our branch meeting on January 13, we will preview our Lobby Day bills and celebrate our legislators who have stepped up to be key players in the 2024 legislative session!

Here is a snapshot of what our legislators are championing in Olympia:

- Senator John Lovick LD44 (Mill Creek area) is championing a bill on **gender equity in law enforcement**. This is considered a landmark gender equity bill.

- Rep Lillian Otriz-Self (LD21 Edmonds area) introduced a bill to support children of seasonal farmworkers in Washington state. Rep Ryu (LD32 Lynnwood, MLT, Shoreline area) is a co-sponsor and also sponsored an important **digital equity** bill.
- Senator Marko Lias (LD21 Edmonds, Martha Lake, Paine Field area) sponsored bills on **media literacy** and **inclusive school** standards.
- Rep. Strom Peterson is our housing rights champion as the Chair of the House Housing committee.

Hope to see you January 13.

Don't forget to register for *This Week In Olympia*, our new legislative update. Here is the sign up link:

<https://signup.e2ma.net/signup/1964781/31230/>

### **A sneak peek at our Lobby Day presentations**

**Media Literacy** – Tammie Schrader will wow us with her media literacy expertise and insights into how artificial intelligence (AI) is being used as an educational tool in our schools. If you haven't tried ChatGPT we can test it out on January 13.

**Students at Risk** is a new focus for AAUW-WA. We will hear from our allies from the Justice for Girls Coalition about how we can support girls at risk for not graduating.

**Elections and Voting Rights** – We have a full deck for our Washington State elections: all our House Representatives, half our Senate, and nine Executive Offices including Governor, Attorney General, and Superintendent of Public Instruction. There are 6 Initiatives likely to be on the ballot that threaten to roll back important gender rights advances including our comprehensive sex education rules and our new Capital Gains tax that is funding our early education and childcare programs.

I hope you can find time on Monday January 22 from 9am to 12:30pm to join the public policy team, our lobbyist Nancy Sapiro, and our guest speakers as we get ready for the 2024 legislative session.

Sandra Distelhorst and Susan Teel  
Public Policy Team Leaders  
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