

Hello AAUW members. We made it through the first month of 2024, and the days are starting to stay light a bit longer each day. We have some great updates and events for our Branch in the upcoming months. Our 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 | February 2024

[View this newsletter in your browser](#)



President's Message

Hello wonderful members,

Hope your January was a good one as we start a new year! I just came back from Florida where I celebrated my mom's 85th Birthday.

My mom was the inspiration for me joining AAUW. While I was growing up she often said, "I'm off to an AAUW gathering". AAUW was in my blood but it wasn't until my kids were in high school that I gave it a thought to join. I'm glad I did!

We had a wonderful line up of speakers for Lobby Day on January 22nd. In case you missed it, you can hop on our AAUW WA website and listen to the speakers - topics include the use of AI in the classroom, an organization called Justice for Girls, and Nancy Sapiro discussing our priorities for this upcoming session.

We have all of our Board positions currently filled, but will be looking for someone to fill our VP Programs and Membership for the July 2024

and plan our Branch activities let me know. We are a fun group.

I am on a task force to start the discussion about having regional in-person meetings this summer for our annual leadership conference. I'd love to hear your feedback on in-person regional meetings and whether or not you would like to attend.

I'm looking forward to our speaker in February on clothing equity. We are also holding a clothing drive for students on the WSU/Everett campus for clothes they can wear for interviewing. We will also have our raffle basket so bring a little cash to support our Branch activities.

See you on the 10th in our regular room on Edmonds Campus.

Jodi Forsell
President

These links take you to sections of our newsletter.

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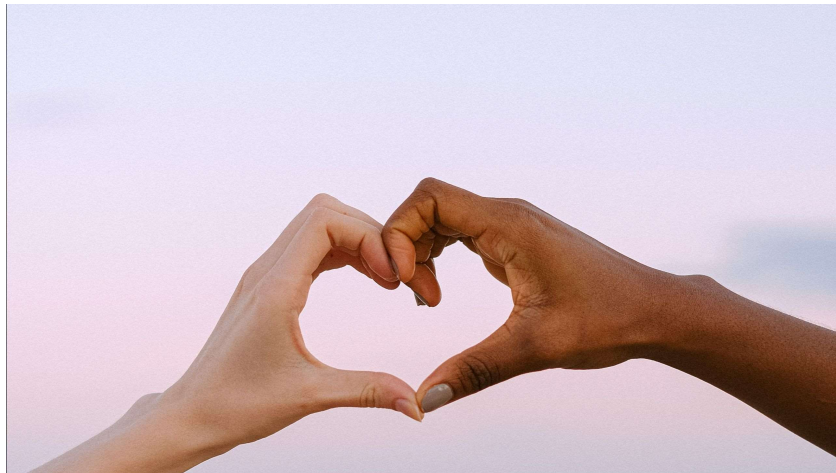
[Diversity Book Group](#)

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Put These Dates in Your Calendar

Saturday, February 10, 10am, monthly Branch meeting at Edmonds College, Snohomish Hall, Room 338.



Membership Matters

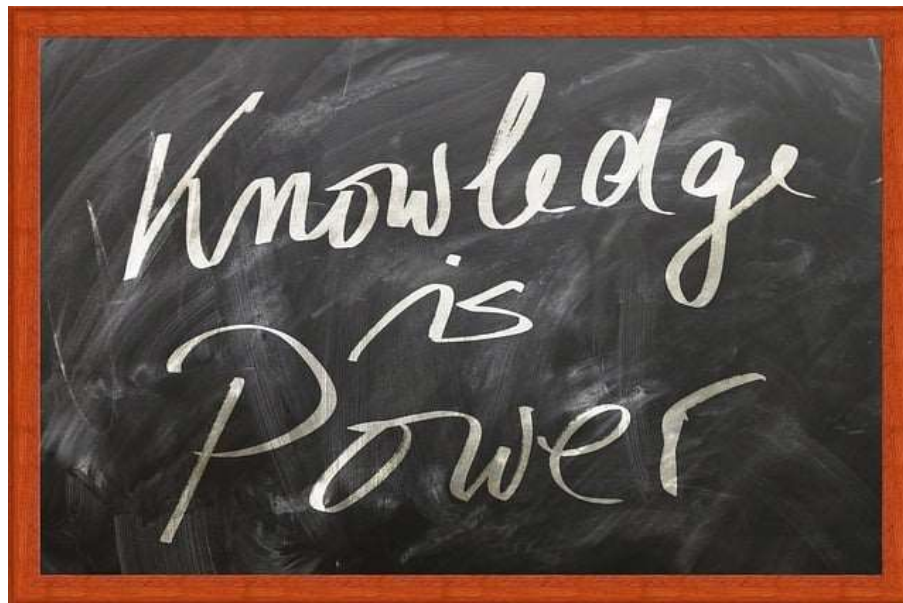
A word from our own Heather Margo to let us know that the Terrific Techbots Robotics team received the Motivate and Inspire awards two weeks ago. Heather is an amazing coach/mentor for this team, which is a perfect embodiment of what AAUW's mission is about. Congratulations, Heather and team!

They will compete in the State Championship on February 3rd. Competition will be held at the Amazon Meeting Center in Seattle. It's free and all that's needed to enter is a government issued ID. The event will run all day, but most of the fun will be starting around 1:30p.m. I hope there are a few of our membership available to attend.

Other membership activities have included two movies, “*The Killers of the Flower Moon*” and “*Boys in the Boat*.” There is also a group planning to attend the Driftwood Players production of “*Ada and the Engine*.”

Getting together outside of meetings is a great way to get to know other members and enjoy the company of like-minded women. What would you like to suggest for the Social Team? Contact Debby Smith or Cathy Draper with your ideas.

Linda Clay
VP for Membership
lindarclay@gmail.com



Programs

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

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.



March 9: Debbie Dimitre will give a performance as Rachel Carson - 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

February Program:

AND IT HAS POCKETS!

The Battle for Women's Clothing Equality

Join Edmonds SnoKing AAUW along with costume designer Diane Johnston from Humanities Washington, and dig into the pockets of the past.

Diane will trace the history of the humble pocket to determine if the battle for equality is linked to a few inches of extremely influential fabric.

February 10, 2024
Edmonds College,
Snohomish Hall,
Room 338
10am - Noon

AAUW
Edmonds SnoKing (WA) Branch

Outreach

What is professional clothing? Think business apparel. Clothing that students can wear for job interviews and internships. Please bring your gently used and freshly laundered, professional clothing to the February meeting.



PROFESSIONAL CLOTHING DRIVE

Help stock the WSU Everett Business Professional Clothing Closet. Bring your freshly laundered, gently used business professional clothing to the February meeting.

The Professional Clothing Closet is available for students to "shop" for professional clothing for interviews and internships.

February 10, 2024
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AAUW
Edmonds SnoKing (WA) Branch

The poster features a purple background with a pattern of faint icons representing various clothing items. At the top, the title 'PROFESSIONAL CLOTHING DRIVE' is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. Below the title, there are two paragraphs of white text. To the right of the text, a pink sticky note is pinned with a yellow pushpin, containing the event details. At the bottom of the poster, there is an illustration of a clothing rack with several items of professional attire, including shirts, blouses, and jackets in various colors like blue, orange, yellow, green, and black. In the bottom right corner, the AAUW logo is displayed, consisting of the letters 'AAUW' in a stylized font above the text 'Edmonds SnoKing (WA) Branch'.

Elena Cervantes

Community Outreach & Scholarship Fundraiser Event Coordinator



Notes From the Board Meeting

The State Board is in favor of expanding the membership eligibility of AAUW to include a wider population by eliminating the college degree requirement for membership in AAUW. The current college degree requirement may be making us look like an elitist organization. There are expected to be 2-3 openings on the AAUW Washington State Board.

Plans for Lobby Day are underway. It will be a virtual event. There will be talks on election security, justice for girls, and absenteeism. Tammie Schrader will speak on media literacy and gender equity.

Forthcoming meetings have been organized for the February and March meetings featuring costume designer Diane Johnson in February, and actress Diedre Dittmer as environmentalist Rachel Carson in March.

There will be an Art Show fundraiser in the Fall. It will be in a new, yet to be determined, location. Cathy is looking into the Edmonds Waterfront Center, and the team is also considering the possibility of moving north of Edmonds.

Our Branch bank balance at the end of December 2023 was \$5,646.72.

documents.

There is a need for a member to spearhead our scholarship award event, as Vicki O’Gorman will not be available this year.

Sita Bhaskaran

Secretary



There will not be a book sale at our February Branch meeting. We encourage everyone to bring professional clothing to stock the WSU Everett Business Professional Clothing Closet instead of your used books. The book sale will return in March.



Public Policy Updates and Actions

attend AAUW-WA Lobby Day on January 22nd, you can watch the videos posted on our AAUW [state website](#). My favorite presentation was [Justice for Girls](#) Coalition. Tammie Schrader talking about AI in education is a must see.

Thanks to all who sent a letter to or met with their legislators asking them to support our Lobby Day bills. It is so important that we all continue to advocate for women's rights and that we elect candidates who support women's rights.

Track your legislators. You can use our Legislator Scorecard to keep up to date on the legislation we support and how your legislators are voting. It is updated every afternoon.

You can sign up for our [This Week in Olympia](#) to get action alerts and updates every Monday morning through March 7th.

Send thank yous. There is a record number of bills introduced for a short session and a surprising number of the bills that are bipartisan! But there is also a record number of individuals signing in CON on our AAUW bills and other bills that in the past would have seemed like an easy pass. Like HB 1241, a bill to add some protection for election officials (staff and volunteers) from harassment.

This year is a good time to send thank you emails to legislators who support AAUW issues or other issues you support. They need to hear from the PROs not just the CONs.

National news. Salary history ban. The use of salary history in setting wages for federal employees is now banned! This is a big deal because the U.S. government is the largest employer in the country.

Washington State passed a law in 2019 to prohibit wage and salary history that includes remedies for violations. You can learn more about all our state [equal pay](#) protections on the state website – it is pretty impressive.

Title IX new rules will be released in March. Despite frustration with the long delay, the rules are anticipated to be good news! AAUW is

We have a bill this session that addresses shortcomings in Title IX: [HB 2242](#) Supporting sexual assault survivors at institutions of higher education. (Rep. Orwall is the primary sponsor and Rep Fosse (LD38) and Davis (LD32) are co-sponsors.

Sandra Distelhorst
Public Policy Team Leader
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