

Hello AAUW members.

Welcome to 2025! I hope everyone had a festive December and is looking forward to the great programs we have lined up for the next couple of months. There is some great info and updates in this newsletter.

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

Jennifer Long
AAUW ESK Newsletter Coordinator



AAUW
Edmonds SnoKing (WA) Branch

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

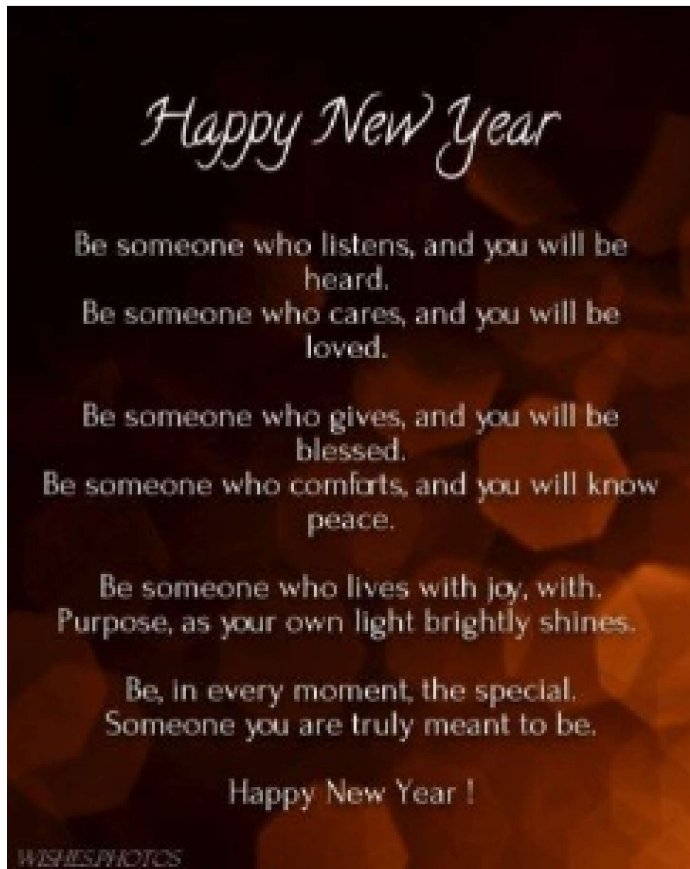
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President's Message



Jodi Forsell
President



Programs

January 11th – Regular Branch meeting at Edmonds College, Snohomish Hall Room 338.

Sandra Distelhorst will present the bills that AAUW WA State will follow this session and help us work on our own Branch public policy agenda. We will have a new and prospective member lunch and meet and greet.

Come and get informed!

January 27th – AAUW WA State Lobby Day

All members are encouraged to register for our state Lobby Day! We will hear from various speakers including about our State budget, the state of our State health care system with a representative from the Washington State Nursing Council, a representative from the LGBTQ commission, and of course Nancy Sapiro. This is a free program, available online via Zoom. [Register using →this link.](#)

February 8th – Branch meeting Edmonds College

A speaker from AARP will join us to speak on aging and six pillars of longevity. We'll also have our Caring and Sharing project

March 8th – Branch meeting Edmonds College

This month's topic is on autism. Many of us know a child or grandchild with autism; but what does it really mean, how is it diagnosed, and what is the care plan? Come and get your questions answered!

April 12th – Branch meeting at Edmonds College, location TBD

AAUW will be hosting a Pink Tea party much like the ones held during the suffrage movement in the early 1900's. Tickets will be available online and at our Branch meetings. Hats and gloves optional but encouraged! Cost is \$20 and will include a menu of sweet and savory bites and of course tea!

Once again, Debbie Dimitre brings her talents as story teller to bring to life Alice Stokes Paul (January 11, 1885 – July 9, 1977) was an American [Quaker](#), [suffragist](#), [feminist](#), and [women's rights](#) activist, and one of the foremost leaders and strategists of the campaign for the [Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution](#), which prohibits [sex discrimination](#) in the [right to vote](#). Paul initiated, and along with [Lucy Burns](#) and others, strategized events such as the [Woman Suffrage Procession](#) and the [Silent Sentinels](#), which were part of the successful campaign that resulted in the amendment's passage in August 1920.^[1]

Jodi Forsell
Interim Program Director



Outreach

With the holidays behind us I hope you've all had a chance to relax, rest, and find pockets of happiness amongst an often busy and chaotic season.

As of now, there aren't any specific outreach events on the horizon. However, if you know of a community event you think our Branch should be part of, let's connect!

Below are the upcoming meeting topics / dates / times for our January, February, and March gatherings. If you have friends that might enjoy the topic, invite them along.

Looking forward to seeing folks at the January meeting!



WOMEN & AGEISM

**8 February
10am-12pm**

Edmonds College
20000 68th Ave W.
Lynnwood, 98036
Snohomish Hall Rm 338

AAUW
Edmonds SnoKing the Branch



A poster for an event titled "AUTISM, GIRLS & THE LOW RATE OF DIAGNOSIS". The background is dark blue with pink cloud-like shapes and confetti. On the left, a young girl with pigtails sits on the floor with a teddy bear and colorful blocks. On the right, a woman with curly hair and glasses smiles broadly. The text "AUTISM, GIRLS" is in large green letters, and "& THE LOW RATE OF DIAGNOSIS" is in white. The date and time "8 MARCH 10am-12pm" are in white. The location "Edmonds College 20000 68th Ave W. Lynnwood, 98036 Snohomish Hall Rm 338" is in white. The AAUW Edmonds SnoKing Branch logo and a rainbow infinity symbol are at the bottom.

**AUTISM,
GIRLS**

**& THE LOW RATE
OF DIAGNOSIS**

**8 MARCH
10am-12pm**

Edmonds College
20000 68th Ave W.
Lynnwood, 98036
Snohomish Hall Rm 338

AAUW
Edmonds SnoKing Branch

Elena
Cervantes
Outreach &
Scholarship
Fundraising



Membership News

This section will return in the next newsletter.

Linda Clay
VP for Membership
lindarclay@gmail.com



Other News

Our Branch is in need of a treasurer willing to spend about 4 hours/month reconciling our bank and checking our Post Office box weekly. This position is great for anyone who wants to get more involved with the Branch and participate in our monthly board meetings.

We are also in need of someone who would like to do Programs for our branch. This will include giving suggestions for topics for speakers and making arrangements for our monthly meetings. We have a list of potential topics already. This work is done mostly through emails so very easy to do from home.

Please let Jodi know if you are interested in either of these positions and becoming a member of our board! Contact Jodi at 425-877-7044.



Notes From the Board Meeting

Harriet has resigned her position as Treasurer. Jodi (as Acting Treasurer) reported that the Foundation account has approximately \$23,000 in the bank account and approximately \$2,000 in CDs. The Branch account has approximately \$4,200 in the bank checking account and approximately \$2100 in CDs. There was discussion about not having the same person as Treasurer for both the Foundation and the Branch, but to separate out these two functions, each with its own Treasurer. Also, to have a more comfortable budget, there was discussion about increasing income in small ways, such as increasing annual Branch dues by a modest amount and cutting some expenses in the hospitality arena.

Elena is planning “The Pink Tea”, a Branch fundraiser for April. She is making a graphic for the event and this will appear on social media and our website.

Linda said there will be a new member luncheon after the January Branch meeting. The Christmas party went well and raised a little over \$500 for Branch expenses.

There will be Lobby Day on Monday, January 27, 2025. Sandra said there is opportunity for people to get involved in Public Policy.



The Diversity Book Club will meet at 1:30PM on Monday, January 20, in the lounge of Maplewood Presbyterian Church (196th and 84th in Edmonds). The book we will discuss is "Braiding For Sweetgrass" by Robin Wall Wimmerer.

Our book sale returns to our Branch meeting on Saturday, January 11. Please bring any books that you are willing to donate, and some cash to buy new books! Proceeds go toward Branch operations.



Public Policy Updates and Action

I'm looking forward to seeing you all on January 11th at our Branch meeting. We can preview the list of Lobby Day bills, talk about our Branch policy priorities, and compare notes on effective strategies for advocating positive change.

For basic information about the 2025 state legislative session see our December newsletter.

The biggest challenge in 2025 will be the budget deficit. Most of our sitting legislators have never had to deal with big budget cuts, and 10 to 12 billion dollars is big. The last big state budget deficit (also 10 billion dollars) was in 2010. The cuts implemented disproportionately hurt women, according to the **Washington State Budget and Policy Center** (WSBPC) report: [Women, Work, & the Economy: How State Budget Cuts are Hurting All Three](#). You can learn more about our budget deficit on Lobby Day from Mia Shigemura from the WSBPC.

Lobby Day is January 27th with a virtual event starting at 9AM (8:30AM for those who want to start with a social chat) and ending by 1PM. Nancy Sapiro, our legislative consultant, will provide an update on "What's Happening" in Olympia". Please sign-up to get her weekly Legislative Update that includes important (and easy) action alerts. This is one way we can all advocate for AAUW issues.

Healthcare access and reproductive rights are key AAUW issues. On Lobby Day, we will hear from healthcare policy experts about healthcare related legislation. The Keep Our Care Act (hospital merger regulation) will be back and there are already seven prefiled bills related to reproductive health care.

We will also hear from the Washington state LGBTQ Commission about the policy issues they are supporting in 2025 (see their recent press release: local anti LGBTQ+ attacks in WA state). The Lobby Day session ends with the AAUW-WA policy team providing talking points on our Lobby Day bills. The talking points will be posted on AAUW-WA Public Policy webpage: Actions We Take.

Hope to see you on the 11th and the 27th!

Sandra Distelhorst
Public Policy Team Leader
aauw.esk.publicpolicy@gmail.com



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