

Hello AAUW members.

The weather the last couple of days is giving us a look into Spring. I hope everyone had a chance to enjoy some time enjoying the warmer weather. We have some great programs 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

Contact Us at aauw.esk@gmail.com | On the Web at esk-wa.aauw.net
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Newsletter | March 2025

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President's Message

Hello wonderful AAUW members!

If you're like me, your head may be spinning with all the executive orders, firings and then re-hirings, and changes in policy with respect to issues we care about.

We are lucky to be in Washington State where we have protections for women that some other states don't. This is a time to come together in community and be informed of proposed State and local legislation that may harm us now and the generations behind us. We have tools we can use - contact our legislators and let them know our concerns; write letters to newspapers; and take action by voting pro/con on the bills AAUW Washington State supports. I am hopeful this flurry of shock and awe will slow down and we can all stay focused on things that matter to us.

This newsletter has lots of information on upcoming programs, Public Policy information, fundraising updates, and more.

A big **Thank You** to Vicki O'Gorman and our Sharing and Caring Interest group for coordinating a collection of items for Cocoon House! Thanks to everyone who donated!

Happy almost spring and better weather!

Jodi Forsell
President



Programs

Programs - Branch

March 8 at Edmonds College, Snohomish Hall: Our speaker, Tanya St. John, is from University of Washington Autism Center. Perhaps you have a child or grandchild who has been diagnosed. Come and get informed on the diagnosis. We will also hear from Su Nelson from Edmonds College about the Expanding Your Horizons program to be held later in March.

April 12: our Pink Tea will be held in Woodway Hall. Tickets can be purchased at our March Branch meeting for \$20 or use this link to order via Eventbrite

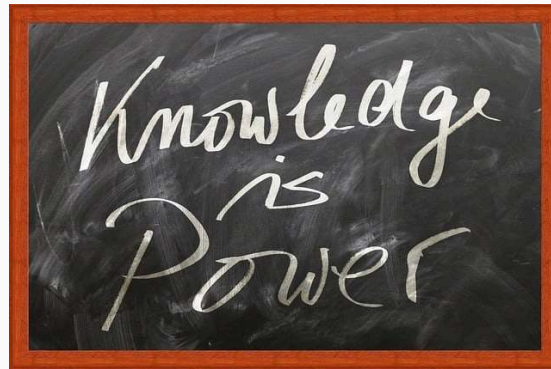
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/pink-tea-with-aauw-tickets-1225363628599?aff=oddtcreator>

Programs - State

Lobby Day Follow up on **March 12 at 7-8pm**. Join us as we get updates from the bills we are supporting, chat about school boards, Progressive budget revenue sources, and advice from national on their stance on Protests.

April 13, 1pm: "The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict," a Great Decisions presentation. Free, via Zoom. **Click -> here** for more information and free registration. Join us as three states join in on what will be a very informative lecture.

April 26: Washington State annual business meeting. We will vote on bylaw changes as well as new state officers. Speaker topics are still being discussed. Free registration and meeting will be held virtually!



Outreach

We have some piping hot things brewing...

A pink-themed poster for a "Pink Tea" event. The title "PINK TEA" is in large, bold, black letters. Below it, the text reads: "AAUW Edmonds Snoking hosts a Pink Tea! We'll sip tea and take in Debbie Dimitre's live rendition of Alice Stokes Paul, Suffragette and author of the Equal Rights Amendment." The date and time are "April 12 10am-12pm". The location is "Edmonds College Woodway Hall 20000 68th Ave W Lynnwood, 98036". A price tag of "\$20" is shown. The background features various teapots, teacups, and a tea bag. A note at the bottom says: "*Attendee's are encouraged to dress in theme with Suffragette's throughout the decades".

PINK TEA

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We'll sip tea and take in Debbie Dimitre's live rendition of Alice Stokes Paul, Suffragette and author of the Equal Rights Amendment.

\$20

April 12
10am-12pm

Edmonds College
Woodway Hall
20000 68th Ave W
Lynnwood, 98036

*Attendee's are encouraged to dress in theme with Suffragette's throughout the decades

Tickets for the Pink Tea are available through the Eventbrite link:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/pink-tea-with-aaup-tickets-1225363628599?aff=oddtcreator>

Or...if you'd like to purchase tickets using a personalized check, you can fill out the form below (or keep an eye on your mailbox- Jodi will be mailing them out shortly) and send it to the branch PO Box listed at the bottom of the form.



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Name: _____ Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

ITEM DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	PRICE	SUB TOTAL
TABLE PURCHASE (6 SEATS)		\$100.00	
INDIVIDUAL TICKET(S)		\$20.00	
RAFFLE TICKET(S)		\$5.00	
		TOTAL	

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: **AAUW ESK BRANCH**
 MAIL-IN PAYMENT TO: **PO BOX 722 LYNNWOOD, WA 98036**
 OR BRING IN-PERSON TO FEB. OR MARCH MEETINGS AT EDMONDS COLLEGE

In other news... **What an impact!** Together as a Branch we're contributing more than \$1000 to the WSU Everett Girls Explore STEM educational program! It is absolutely touching to see everyone come together for such an important and exciting hands-on educational opportunity for young girls in our community.

If you'd like to volunteer with the *Girls Explore STEM* program on Saturday,

March 29 @10am, please send me an email:
elena.cervantes1@gmail.com

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the March meeting.

Elena Cervantes
Outreach & Scholarship Fundraising



Membership News

I'd like to introduce our newest member to the branch, Laura Yurka. Laura attended our meeting in February on Public Policy and stayed to join! Laura lives in Bothell and has had some very interesting jobs and hobbies.



She currently works from home for the King County Industrial Waste Program. In the past she has been a lab technician, lifeguard, swim instructor, and in Forensic Biology as a Forensic Autopsy Technician. Laura enjoys swimming, camping, and hiking. She is also interested in sustainable living, homesteading, farming, self-sufficiency, and foraging. When she was 18, she tried out skydiving in New Zealand and hopes someday to travel in Africa.

As well as supporting the AAUW Mission, Laura has a passion for advancing racial and social justice. It makes sense that she is interested in the Sharing and Caring Committee, but she's also interested in Fundraising! Already, Laura has stepped up to become Branch Treasurer.

We are fortunate that Laura attended our meeting in February! Welcome!

Linda Clay
VP for Membership
lindarclay@gmail.com



Fundraising

PSSST.....Did you know we're having a Pink Tea?

"We're having a WHAT?"

The women's suffragette movement used tea parties to raise money and awareness. They could have the 'Pink Teas' to discuss their cause and plans under cover of the feminine appearance or a social tea in which men would not question. The teas happened for years leading up to the ratification of the 19th Amendment on August 18, 1920.

At OUR Pink Tea there will be light refreshments, raffles (of course), and an assortment of teas served in dainty teacups. How fun is that? This event is open to the public and you are encouraged to invite friends. Hope to see you all there!



Notes From the Board Meeting

Preparations are underway for “A Pink Tea” in April. Also, “Coffee and Conversation” is going to try out a new location: the Richmond Beach Coffee Co. in Richmond Beach.

Our membership has voted in favor of continuing with the Art Show fundraiser. So, it is likely that we will have the event again next year. Our scholarship information and application procedure have been posted on our Branch website.

AAUW WA is tracking the progress of five WA state bills that align with our priorities.

Sita Bhaskaran
Secretary



The Diversity Book Club will meet on Monday, March 17 at 1:30pm at the home of Lori Cross. The book we will discuss is "Master Slave Husband Wife: An Epic Journey from Slavery to Freedom" by Ilyon Woo. This is a true story, and the book won the

2024 Pulitzer Prize. All members are welcome. Please let Lori know if you plan to come so she will know how many to expect.

Our popular book sale will return at our March Branch meeting. We currently have some excellent books available for sale, so remember to bring some cash! All proceeds go to our Branch operation expenses.



Public Policy Updates and Action

Lobby Day Follow-up

March 12, 7pm

Via Zoom

Hear about progress of our priority legislation, the state budget, [This Week in Olympia](#) newsletter, and other follow-ups to Lobby Day 2025. **Register using → [this link](#).**

Equal Pay Day is March 25 this year.

The day an average woman must work into the next year to achieve the same annual wage as a man.

The current state of the gender pay gap for women did not change much – 83% for full-time, year-round workers and 75% for all workers (including part-time and seasonal).

We also have pay gap data by [state](#) and [congressional districts](#).

WA state's average was 79.2% (it was 82% last year) so we dropped by almost 3%!

By Congressional District it ranged from 74% (CD1) to 89% (CD10).

One of our goals this year is to make sure young women know about the gender pay gap and strategies we are working on to close the gap.

One of the policy strategies is to require **salary range transparency**. Laws that require companies to share salary ranges can help reduce pay gaps. See [Pay Range Transparency Helps Reduce Gender Wage Gaps](#) National Women's Law Center 2023.

WA state passed a law in 2022 to require salary range transparency in WA state but there is a bill this session in play that would weaken that law: [SB 5408](#) Allowing for corrections to wage and salary disclosures. There was an [article](#) in the Seattle Times that has some members fuming because it focuses on the lawsuits against employers who don't follow the law.

AAUW continues to be a leader in advocating for equal pay and opportunities for women.

See our 2025 report [The Not So Simple Truth: about the gender pay gap](#).

We will be talking more about the pay gap over the next few months. In a few weeks we should have equal pay awareness [calendar dates](#) by race, LGBTQ and Moms.

These are tough times politically as well as socially and economically, and I hope you are all doing ok and taking care of yourselves and your loved ones.

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



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