

Hello AAUW members.

Welcome to May and happy May Day! This is a busy and exciting time for our Branch, and 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



## Newsletter | May 2025

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## President's Message

Happy May wonderful members!

After having the pleasure of serving as President for our Edmonds SnoKing Branch, it is time to say goodbye and thank you! I will continue to be an active member of our Branch but will be doing a bit of travel as my husband retired on April 30th!

What a great 4 years it has been - we have such an active Board with such creative minds. We have had 3 very successful Art Show Fundraisers (lead by Linda Clay and Elena Cervantes), which have raised over \$30,000!! Our scholarship team works diligently every year to help screen our applications. A Caring and Sharing interest group formed where we as a Branch have made donations to Pathways for Women, Cocoon House, Edmonds Food Bank, and WSU Clothing Closet.

Thanks to Vicky O'Gorman who keeps the Caring and Sharing group active! Thanks to Linda Clay, we have had some very fun Holiday party fundraisers that have supported our Branch activities. This Spring, we hosted a Pink Tea party that brought in approximately 100 people to enjoy the morning. We held our first ever Meet the Candidate event, planned by Elena and Sandra, which was a big success as well!

I'm proud of the teams and all you wonderful members who have put these activities on and to all of you who have tirelessly helped with donations, getting sponsors, setting up and cleaning up, and many Zoom calls (we did learn new skills during the Covid years). What a ride it has been.

Yours in AAUW unity,

Jodi Forsell  
President

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## Programs

**May 10th Annual Business Meeting.** Edmonds College, 10am-12pm – Snohomish Hall, room 338.

Join the annual meeting where we'll vote in new Board members, review State Public Policy just approved at our State meeting, committee reports, and also time to socialize. We'll also honor Sue Renhard's 50th anniversary as a member of AAUW!

**June 7th Scholarship Event.** Edmonds College, 10am-12pm – Woodway Hall, room 202.

Join us for our end-of-year celebration as we meet our 6 scholarship recipients!! We are presenting our first ever *Elena Cervantes Art Scholarship*!! Light breakfast and coffee will be served.



## Outreach

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### **Pink Tea Wrap Up!**

We are delighted to share that our recent Pink Tea fundraiser was a tremendous success! Over 100 guests joined us for a wonderful morning of tea, treats, and community at Edmonds College. The highlight was a riveting performance by Debbie Dimitre, who brought to life the inspiring story of suffragist Alice Stokes Paul, a key leader in the fight for women's voting rights and the Equal Rights Amendment.

Thanks to the generosity of attendees and supporters, we raised approximately \$2,400 to support our Branch. A heartfelt thank you goes out to all the volunteers who helped with event setup and tear down - your efforts made this event possible.

Be sure to check out the photos (above and below) capturing the spirit and style of the day, including the beautiful suffragette-inspired fashions and lively moments from the tea.

Also, if you have any rogue teacups or tea pots, please bring them to our May 10 Branch meeting at Edmonds College. *All unclaimed teacups/pots will be donated to Goodwill after May 10.*

We look forward to seeing you there!



Elena Cervantes  
Outreach & Scholarship Fundraising



## Membership News

We have been growing quite a bit this year and it just may be that AAUW Edmonds SnoKing is not the best kept secret anymore! I am heartened not only by the increase in members, but also that several have become involved in a variety of ways within the Branch.

Allison Jack-Hannan joined us this year and I think I'd be hard pressed to name an event or meeting in which she hasn't attended and/or helped!

In the questionnaire I asked her to complete, her response to the question of "what committee would you be interested in joining," was "I don't know yet, but I want to know options!" So, she's been checking them out!

Allison recently retired as a Speech-Language Pathologist with the Everett School District. In retirement she is keeping busy by volunteering with the Edmonds Food Bank and Rotary. She is also a member of Edmonds Floretum Garden Club and enjoys gardening and cooking as well as spending time with her two cats.

Those of you who have met Allison probably know that AAUW is not something new to her. Her mother, who is now 101 years old, was once a member of this Branch and is a Lifetime Member. What a wonderful thing for us that Allison has chosen to follow her mother and join us! No matter which team(s) Allison chooses to join, I suspect we will see her a lot and benefit in many ways! Welcome, Allison!

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Coffee and Conversations was well attended last week with several new and prospective members. We met at the Coffee House in Richmond Beach, which has become a popular place for us. We also discovered that one of our members, Nancy Bishop Harvey, has a piece of her original artwork gracing the walls! **(shown above)**



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

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## **Fundraising**

At the May meeting we will briefly chat about the scholarship fundraiser to be held in October. Think about what team you'd like to join: Sponsorship, silent auction, grant writing, publicity, event set up and breakdown, etc.

The money we raise makes a HUGE positive impact on the girls and women in our community and affords our Branch the opportunity to award \$12,000 worth of scholarships locally.

There is something for everyone to lend a helping hand with, and it's a



great way to meet some of our new members!



### **Notes From the Board Meeting**

The Pink Tea was a big success and generated a profit of about \$2,400. Debbie Dimitri's performance and Nancy Bishop Harvey's photo booth were big draws. Among the lessons learned is that people should mark the cups or other personal items they bring in for use at these events, as that will make returning items easier.

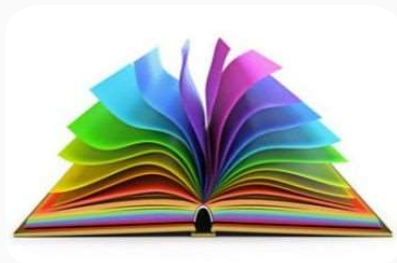
There has been a lopsided response in the scholarships received, with far more applications from the Everett school district than from Edmonds or Marysville districts. Because of this the application deadline has been extended by one week.

AAUW opposes the H. R. 22 or SAVE (Safeguarding American Voter Eligibility) Act, as this would disenfranchise women and block millions of women from voting. AAUW recommends members call their Senators about their opposition to this Act, and spread the word. Sandra may set up meetings with congressional representatives.

This year our membership has increased with 16 new members.

Sita Bhaskaran  
Secretary

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On May 19th, at 1:30pm, our Diversity Book Club will be meeting to discuss "The Personal Librarian" by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray, a historical novel about J. P. Morgan's

personal librarian, Belle da Costa Greene, the Black American woman who was forced to hide her true identity and pass as white in order to leave a lasting legacy that enriched our nation. Our hostess will be Debby Smith. All Branch members are welcome. Please notify Debby if you plan to come, so she has an idea of how many people to expect.

July will be “By Any Other Name” by Jodi Picoult, location TBA. We will likely take a break in August.

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Our ever-popular book sale will be held during the May Branch meeting. Proceeds benefit Branch operations. Please bring some cash to make a purchase and stock up for your summer reading.



### **Public Policy Updates and Action**

**Sine Die!** The 2025 legislative session is over! There could be a special session but the bulk of the work this year is done. You can read Nancy Sapiro’s [This Week in Olympia](#) (April 28) for the final update on our Lobby Day bills. If you missed the State AAUW annual meeting on April 26, you can see the recording [here](#).

At the annual meeting, we talked about the importance of advocacy (both quiet and loud actions). AAUW just released [Guidance for Public Demonstrations](#) for those who want to be LOUD!

*“Taking to the streets can be a powerful expression of solidarity and a way to create real, lasting change.”*

Many members want to know how to be LOUD and nonpartisan and if and when they can represent AAUW. Here is a check list:

### **Before You Go**

- . Understand the purpose. Ask: *What is this event trying to achieve?*
- . Evaluate alignment. What are the messaging / demands? Do they align with AAUW?
- . Research the organizers. Is it nonpartisan and aligned with AAUW's public policy principles?

### **If YES - Bring your AAUW pride!**

For nonpartisan demonstrations aligned with AAUW's mission, values, and public policy principles, you're encouraged to show your affiliation through signs, AAUW shirts or buttons.

### **Safety and Civility**

- . Dress for comfort and weather. Pack essentials. Charge your phone.
- . Understand the risks. Do not engage with counter-protesters. Know your surroundings.
- . Respect others' privacy. Refrain from posting photos or videos in which others can be identified.

### **Keep the Momentum Going!**

Demonstrating is one step on the path to change.

Connecting with your legislators is another important advocacy action. (a quieter one) Call their office. Some AAUW members are calling once a week or every day!

Email them. Let them know what your concerns are.

Let them know you expect them to take action NOW to protect our democracy.

**May 27 – June 1 is Congressional Recess.** Today is a good time to contact your congressional rep's local office and ask to meet with AAUW members during their recess. Be sure and invite other AAUW from your congressional district to join you. Set up a meeting NOW for the week of the 27<sup>th</sup>. Let me know if you want contact information and talking points. See AAUW's [Meet with your legislators](#) during recess toolkit.

**Elections are coming soon!** August 5 is our primary. Many branches are already gearing up for candidate forums. We are lucky in Snohomish County to have a great [League of Women Voters](#) to host our candidate forums. Candidate filing for the 2025 Primary is [May 5-9](#). You can see what offices are up for election in Snohomish County [here](#).

Let me know if you would like more information on any of the above,



and let me know what advocacy actions you are taking or want to take. We can set up a Branch public policy group meeting in May if there is enough interest. Email me at [publicpolicy@aauw-wa.org](mailto:publicpolicy@aauw-wa.org). Meanwhile enjoy the Spring. Be Safe!

Sandra Distelhorst  
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