

**Tuesday, November 28 – 10:30am - 12:30pm**

**Dress For Success Seattle**

**Volunteering Opportunity - Sorting Clothes**

**1118 5th Ave**

**Seattle, WA 98101**



Dress For Success's purpose is to offer long-lasting solutions that enable women to break the cycle of poverty. They are part of a global movement for change, empowering women to obtain safer and better futures. Dress For Success provides each client with professional attire to secure employment. Besides physically equipping the client with apparel and accessories, their programs furnish her with a confidence that she carries forever and the knowledge that she can actively define her life, the direction she takes and what success means to her.

**Dress For Success Seattle: "We are about much more than simply a new outfit."**

*"Our vision is a world where women do not live in poverty. We strive for a world where all women are financially independent, are treated with dignity and respect, and are directly impacting their lives and those of their families. We aspire to a world that fully harnesses the power of women and recognizes their role in economic sustainability."*

Seattle branch will volunteer by sorting clothes at Dress For Success Seattle. We are excited to work together with this wonderful organization to make an impact in women's lives.

**Come Join Us!**

**Location:** Dress for Success, 1118 5th Ave, Seattle, WA 98101

**Cost:** FREE

**Parking:** fee for parking at Olympic Garage, 415 Seneca St, Seattle  
**Space is limited -**

***Reservations are required by Sunday, November 19, 2017.***

RSVP to Pam Forsha at [RSVP@aauw-seattle.org](mailto:RSVP@aauw-seattle.org)



Visit AAUW

***And Next Month...***

**Holiday Program with Endolyne  
Children's Choir**

**Saturday, December 16, 2017  
AAUW-Seattle Meeting  
9:30-noon**

**Seattle Yacht Club  
1807 East Hamlin Street  
Seattle, WA 98112**

## Leadership Corner—Renée Agatsuma

I want to talk about privilege, and how some of my various intersecting identities carry privilege or disadvantage with them. As a woman, I am disadvantaged due to a sexist society. However, many other identities carry privilege. For example: I am cis-gendered, I can “pass” as white, even though I am mixed race, I am middle-class, I am able-bodied, and I am heterosexual. I know that this privilege come with blinders - what we think is “normal” and that everyone has come from my particular cultural lens. It makes me think that I have earned what I have gotten through my own hard work, but I didn’t realize that I started out with an advantage due to these invisible privileges, that *I didn’t earn*. It is usually not until I get to know someone without these privileges, that I realize the invisible advantages I took for granted.



Especially weighing on my mind recently is White Privilege. I remember first learning the term in high school, when I read Peggy McIntosh’s *Invisible Knapsack* (vital reading - email me if you’d like a copy, or just Google it!), and realizing all the advantages that I had that I didn’t even realize were advantages since they were so “normal” to me. Examples include being able to walk into a store without having an employee follow me around, having “nude” make-up that matches my skin tone, and being thought of as representing myself rather than my entire group. This White Privilege blinds us in society, unless we become aware of it. As quoted in Teaching Tolerance (<https://www.tolerance.org/professional-development/on-racism-and-white-privilege>) “White Privilege is a hidden and transparent preference that is often difficult to address. Only on closer inspection do we see how it creates a sense of entitlement, generates perks and advantages for white people and

elevates our status in the world.” This privilege gives me the idea that I earned everything that I got (the American Dream). It lets me wash over history, such as the nature of wealth in the country. Much of our wealth is passed down through property. Property was given to families of veterans with generous government loans after World War II, but these loans did not include Black families.

*This newsletter is a publication of the*

**Seattle Branch of the AAUW**

### Mission Statement

The Seattle Branch American Association of University Women advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

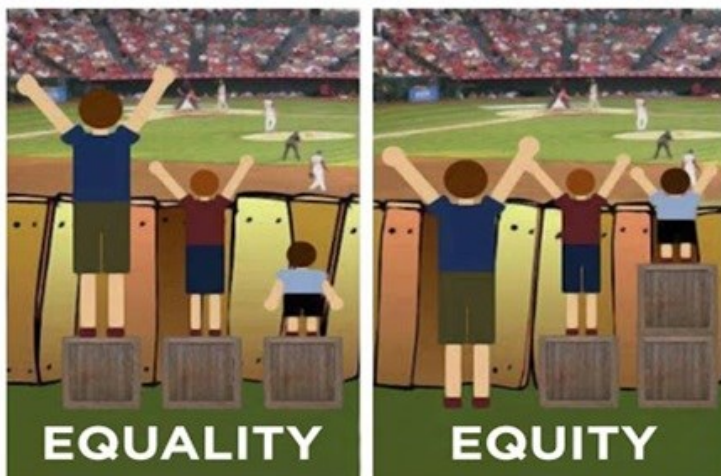
### Value Promise

By joining AAUW, we belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

### Diversity Statement

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership.

There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin or disability.



Equality vs. Equity. Image from United Way of Columbia, adapted by the City of Portland Office of Equity and Human Rights from the original graphic: <http://indianfunnypicture.com/img/2013/01/Equality-Doesnt-Mean-Justice-Facebook-Pics.jpg>

I have unearned advantages that others don’t have. You can see this clearly in the illustration of equality compared to equity in the figure. Those identities that give me privilege are like the natural height of person on the left. Simply giving everyone a box (a societal intervention) means that those who have identities that give them a disadvantage are still disadvantaged. Equity means that those that have identities that cause them to be disadvantaged in society need to have more boxes (more interventions) than those who have the privileges. I want to help AAUW-Seattle move towards Equity, rather than Equality, in all of our future work. It is important now more than ever.

## October Board Meeting Summary - *Barbara Sando*

The Seattle Branch Board conducted its first ever teleconference meeting on October 16<sup>th</sup>. Overall, the approach worked well, and the board now has a viable approach for meeting when inclement weather may preclude an in-person meeting.

Barbara Sando summarized the status of each of the Strategic Planning Situation-Target-Proposal (STP) plans. Updated versions of 3 of the 8 plans have been developed, and initial dialogue has occurred on most of the others. The STPs will be a continued focus of the Board this year. Pam Forsha reported on the Program Committee's plans for this year, including the upcoming Dress for Success volunteer event.

Tonna Kutner reported on Tech Trek. More volunteers are needed to work with the schools. In addition, in order to send the 15 students we're planning for, we must identify two Dorm Monitors - women who will spend the week at the camp. Renee Agatsuma provided a summary of her recent meeting with the UW Women's Center. Renee suggested that the Women's Center may be able to help us with our STP on Diversity & Inclusion. Renee also reported that she is still looking for a co-chair for Scholar Recognition. Gay Armsden reported on her attendance at the recent Betsy DeVos Rally, addressing concerns about the weakening of Title IX. The Board meets monthly and all branch members are welcome to attend. Contact Fiona Goodchild at: [secretary@aaauw-seattle.org](mailto:secretary@aaauw-seattle.org) for details.

## October Program Summary – “A Look at Today's Foster Care and Youth Homelessness” – *Penny Tetter*



Annie Blackledge and Pam Crone

Annie Blackledge, Executive Director of the Mockingbird Society spoke to us about her experience in foster care, sharing her personal journey into and out of the foster care system in the 1980's. Annie says it was a Catholic Nun named Sister Peter, the one significant adult in her life, who was always there for her, helping her find herself through her turbulent teen years. She discussed how the history of child welfare in the U.S. has evolved and the crisis we face today with the lack of primary services/resources. The Mockingbird Society is an advocacy organization that works with young people and families to improve foster care and end youth homelessness.



In addition, the two University of Washington students, whom we sponsored to attend NCCWSL last summer, attended the meeting and spoke briefly about their experiences at the conference. Both thanked the Branch for our support, and shared their highlights with the group.



NCCWSL students





## Strategic Planning Update: Committee on New Interest and Small Social Groups - *Gay Armsden*

In our recent interviews, members said they want more opportunities to get to know each other better, have some fun, and share ideas. Members recognize the importance of “social glue” in moving forward with our mission. People suggested additional interest groups and also told us they’d like to have some smaller, informal social group gatherings in between our monthly programs.

Gay Armsden, Ann Dennis and Bev Fogle are tasked with identifying a few interest groups we can start up and with figuring out some great ways we can gather socially. They are also working on how we can start having a yearly new-member event that various members can help host (e.g., wine and cheese party), to introduce new members to each other and to some current members, and to learn about our branch. The goal is to get these things rolling in less than a year’s time.

At the December meeting, which so many attend, the committee is going to ask members which interest groups on a list might interest you. In the interviews, members suggested groups such as movie-going, and wining and dining. As a lot of you know, we used to have quite a few interest groups up until the early 2000’s; they included things like hiking, bridge, and international dining. Let’s see what fun things we can get going in our branch! The committee also welcomes your ideas via email. Our contact information is in the Directory.

## The Directory Is Here - *Judy Waring*

Members who renewed their membership by October 18<sup>th</sup> and new members who paid by that date are included in the 2017-2018 directory. Directories were given to members who were present at our October 21st branch meeting. Those not present will receive their directory by mail. Please check to see if your entry is correct. If not, please notify Judy Waring at [membership@aauw-seattle.org](mailto:membership@aauw-seattle.org). If you didn’t renew your dues, it’s not too late to pay dues for 2017-2018—contact Judy for instructions.



You will notice that the new directory doesn’t include the list of past branch presidents. That list can be found on our web site [www.seattle-seattle.org](http://www.seattle-seattle.org) under the “About” tab where you’ll also find our branch history, our ByLaws, and other information about our branch history.

**AT THIS RATE, YOUR**



**GREAT, GREAT, GREAT,  
GRANDDAUGHTERS**

**MIGHT HAVE FAIR PAY.**

Progress is slowing down in the fight for fair pay.  
Learn more at [FightForFairPay.org](http://FightForFairPay.org) 

### Fight for Fair Pay!

[https://salsa4.salsalabs.com/o/50796/p/dia/action4/common/public/index.sjs?action\\_KEY=22984](https://salsa4.salsalabs.com/o/50796/p/dia/action4/common/public/index.sjs?action_KEY=22984)

**All the work. Half the pay.**



This is what a \$10 bill looks like for Hispanic and Latina women in the United States, who are paid only 54 cents for every dollar paid to white non-Hispanic men.

**Help AAUW close the pay gap.** 

Latinas are paid 54 cents for every \$1 that white men are paid in a year. That means it takes an extra 10 months for their earnings to “catch up”. Read more at:

<https://www.aauw.org/event/2017/11/latinas-equal-pay-day/>

## Raffle Baskets Needed for our December Holiday Party- *Tonna Kutner*



Seattle Branch will again be selling raffle tickets for gift baskets at our holiday party in December. All proceeds will go to Tech Trek so more girls can attend the STEM camp next summer. This is always fun and exciting. Perhaps get together with a friend or two and put something together. There are lots of possibilities here's, but here are a few ideas: Garden, Dogs, Cats, Chef, Chocolate, Soups, Gift Card or some other idea of your own. Please let us know if you would like to provide a basket and what the theme is, so we can avoid duplicates. Contact Penny Tetter at: [pt@aauw-seattle.org](mailto:pt@aauw-seattle.org).

## A Check-In on Two AAUW Public Policy Priorities - *Gay Armsden*

This article selects two AAUW public-policy priorities and summarizes some current issues that relate to them. What is happening in these areas that we can focus on in our own advocacy efforts? AAUW supports *“a strong system of public education”, which includes “vigorous enforcement of Title IX and all other civil rights laws pertaining to education.”*

Local issue. On October 24<sup>th</sup> the WA State Supreme Court heard oral arguments about whether the state has a plan to fully fund public education. While the new education funding plan proposes billions in increased funding, many feel it falls short. In late August, a number of organizations filed briefs arguing, in part, that the Legislature's failure to pass a capital budget prevents more than \$1 billion from going to renovation and new construction of schools; that the 2018 deadline for funding will not be met, as some phases of the plan go through to 2021; that the plan delays funding for competitive educator salaries and smaller class sizes; and that, by reducing local levies, the ability of school districts to meet local needs is seriously limited. If the court determines that the state still hasn't provided ample funding, lawmakers must come up with a fresh plan. (Some court documents here: <https://goo.gl/LXfcRK>.)

National issue. AAUW National has strongly criticized Secretary Betsy DeVos' actions to scale back investigations into campus sexual harassment/assault. Such changes would discourage women from coming forward and creates a too-strict standard of proof that will only weaken enforcement of Title IX. What's needed instead, it can be argued, is a strengthening of Title IX, so that the 90% of colleges that are now reporting no sexual assaults (which doesn't square with research) will be compelled to improve campus resources and to comply with the law (<https://goo.gl/THJF6H>). AAUW urges members to help schools enforce Title IX (<https://www.aauw.org/title-ix/>).

*AAUW advocates “increased access to quality, affordable health care and family planning services” and “choice in the determination of one's reproductive life.”*

National issue: There is a push to curtail women's reproductive rights. Access to birth control is being threatened by changes to federal mandates; some companies will more easily opt out of covering the cost of birth control. To try to stop this action, a bill has been introduced by Democrats and several lawsuits have been filed, including one by WA's AG (<https://goo.gl/wUMHrK> & <https://goo.gl/13H9J7>). To justify their actions, and despite research to the contrary, the White House is stating there isn't good evidence linking access to birth control to lower rates of unintended pregnancies (page 45 in <https://goo.gl/xNdKx3>). The House passed a ban on abortion after 20 weeks, but the bill might not be taken up by the Senate any time soon (<https://goo.gl/uZa1RZ>). Lastly, the Health and Human Services agency's Office of Refugee Resettlement has tried to block a teen in custody as an illegal immigrant from obtaining an abortion, claiming she has very “minimal” constitutional rights (<https://goo.gl/fSNF5S>).

***Remember to vote by November 7<sup>th</sup>!***

## Gearing Up for Tech Trek 2018 - Tonna Kutner



Tech Trek is an AAUW-sponsored week-long STEM camp for girls between 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Two camps are planned in Western Washington next year so more girls can attend. A camp at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma will be July 7-14, 2018. Dates and location are still being determined for the second camp.

Seattle Branch hopes to send 15 girls again for Tech Trek 2018 next summer. Beyond sponsoring each girl, contacting the schools, and interviewing the girls, we must provide two dorm monitors! Dorm monitors must be female, at least 21 years old, organized, interested in STEM and good with 12-13 year old girls. Most of the Dorm Monitors are in their 50s-70s. A stipend of \$250-500 is paid to dorm monitors and room and board is also paid for. Tonna has decided to volunteer to be sure that we can send at least seven girls to camp in 2018. Dorm monitors must be identified by January 1, 2018, to complete the necessary paperwork. If you or someone you know is interested, more information is available here: <http://techtrek-wa.aauw.net/volunteer/> or contact Tonna Kutner at [techtrek@aauw-seattle.org](mailto:techtrek@aauw-seattle.org).



The Seattle Branch has three very active interest groups and hopes to add new ones in the near future. Check this space each month to learn what's happening with each interest group and consider joining one or more. The more members who join in, the merrier. A contact person is listed with each group below.

### Art Smart—Ann Dennis

In October some of the Art Smart interest group (pictured to right) met at the Bellevue Arts Museum

to see the exhibition "Cut Up/Cut Out", an amazing show honoring the art of cutting and piecing diverse materials such as paper, wood, and metal and featuring the work of over 50 national and international artists.

Here are a couple of comments from members who went: "The cuttings were fantastically intricate and creative." (Gay Armsden) "I just didn't realize the tradition of this art and all the intricacies as well as the varieties it involved. Truly amazing!" (Emily Hitchens). Following the exhibition, the group went next door to Wild Ginger for a delicious lunch. If you are interested in being added to the mailing list for future outings, email Ann Dennis at: [ad@aauw-seattle.org](mailto:ad@aauw-seattle.org).



Art Smart Group

### Book Group - Bev Fogle

For a change of pace, next month the AAUW Book Group will be reading *The Oregon Trail* by Rinker Buck. It is a tale of a modern adventure retracing that famous pioneer route. Come join us November 28th at the Lake Forest Park Town Center, 17171 Bothell Way NE, Seattle at 2pm in the Stadler Room, upper level near Third Place Books. We won't be meeting in December, but on January 23, 2018 we'll read *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* by Rachel Joyce, which is a very different type of adventure tale that has become a modern classic. Contact Bev Fogle at: [bevfogle@gmail.com](mailto:bevfogle@gmail.com) for more information.

### Writer's Group - Tonna Kutner

Writer's Group is a small group of women interested in writing. We share writings with each other and get feedback and encouragement. With advice and encouragement from the group, Tonna got an article published in *Northwest PrimeTime* (<http://northwestprimetime.com/news/lifestyles/> - see page 15 of the October 2017 issue). We generally meet at various members' homes once a month on Wednesdays around lunch time. Contact Tonna Kutner at: [techtrek@aauw-seattle.org](mailto:techtrek@aauw-seattle.org) for more information.

Ideas for new interest groups wanted, contact Gay Armsden at: [publicpolicy@aauw-seattle.org](mailto:publicpolicy@aauw-seattle.org).



## Member News:

**Lydia Aguilar-Bryan**, has been an AAUW member since 1997 when she was living in Houston. She moved from Texas to Vashon Island 10 years ago and joined our branch about 5 years ago. Lydia and her husband's 30 years of research on the genetic causes of insulin secretory abnormalities, including diabetes and hypoglycemia, has been part of the Pacific Northwest Research Institute for the past 10 years. This fall they spent nearly a month in Europe, participating in a conference in Vienna and communicating about their current research at other locations. Lydia's volunteer work includes mentoring for YearUp Puget Sound, a program started in 2011. It provides a one-year, intensive training program that provides low-income young adults, ages 18-24, with a combination of hands-on skills development, coursework eligible for college credit, corporate internships, and wraparound support.

**Meagan Beckmeyer** writes from New York: "I am in my first semester at NYU Wagner, where I am working on my Masters of Public Administration in Public and Nonprofit Policy and Management, focusing on Advocacy and Political Action. I am studying under some excellent professors, including two inspiring women who served in the Obama administration. I've been fortunate enough to land a part-time job at an education nonprofit, Matriculate, that focuses on helping low-income, high-achieving high school students gain access to top colleges. Needless to say, life in NY is busy, and I'm working in time for exploration as I can. I am still exploring the post-graduation possibilities; however, my plans will be focused on fighting for immigration reform, social justice and equality."

**Barbara Sando** enjoyed a fall trip to the Ozarks and surrounding area. In addition to pretty scenery and an opportunity to visit a niece attending the University of Arkansas, highlights included the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City and the Crystal Bridges Museum of Art in



Bentonville, AR. The latter was featuring a special Chihuly in the Forest exhibit, which was fabulous.

## Membership Deals! Shape the Future - Invite a Friend

AAUW Seattle Branch will be offering prospective members who join at a branch meeting the opportunity to get a deal on dues, paying just half price on the national membership portion of their dues. National Dues are \$49, so that means a savings of \$24.50! A new member who joins at a meeting pays \$50.50 instead of \$75.00. Contact: Judy Waring at: [membership@aauw-seattle.org](mailto:membership@aauw-seattle.org).

### AAUW-Seattle Branch Officers 2017-2018

#### Elected

President:

Barbara Sando [president@aauw-seattle.org](mailto:president@aauw-seattle.org)

VP Finance:

Lynn Dissinger—[finance@aauw-seattle.org](mailto:finance@aauw-seattle.org)

VP Programs:

Pamela Forsha & Sam Montgomery -  
[programs@aauw-seattle.org](mailto:programs@aauw-seattle.org)

VP Membership:

Judy Waring [membership@aauw-seattle.org](mailto:membership@aauw-seattle.org)

Secretary:

Fiona Goodchild - [secretary@aauw-seattle.org](mailto:secretary@aauw-seattle.org)

#### Appointed

Web Site: Heather Dohan

[website@aauw-seattle.org](mailto:website@aauw-seattle.org)

Catalyst Newsletter Editor:

Heather Dohan - [catalyst@aauw-seattle.org](mailto:catalyst@aauw-seattle.org)

Public Policy:

Gay Armsden - [publicpolicy@aauw-seattle.org](mailto:publicpolicy@aauw-seattle.org)

AAUW Funds:

Barbara Sando - [aauw-funds@aauw-seattle.org](mailto:aauw-funds@aauw-seattle.org)

College/University Relations:

Renée Agatsuma - [c-u@aauw-seattle.org](mailto:c-u@aauw-seattle.org)

Scholar Recognition:

Renée Agatsuma - [scholars@aauw-seattle.org](mailto:scholars@aauw-seattle.org)

Tech Trek:

Tonna Kutner - [TechTrek@aauw-seattle.org](mailto:TechTrek@aauw-seattle.org)

#### Board Members at Large

Penny Tetter—[pt@aauw-seattle.org](mailto:pt@aauw-seattle.org)

CJ Nash—[cjnash@aauw-seattle.org](mailto:cjnash@aauw-seattle.org)



Seattle Branch AAUW  
 16921 28th Ave SW  
 Seattle, WA 98166-3207  
 Address Service Requested

### ***Upcoming Events...***

Date	Day	Time	Location	Program
November 13, 2017	Monday	6:30pm	Contact Secretary— ( <a href="mailto:secretary@aauw-seattle.org">secretary@aauw-seattle.org</a> ) for location	Branch Board Meeting
November 28, 2017	Tuesday	10:30am	Dress For Success Seattle 1118 5th Ave, Seattle, WA	Volunteer Opportunity—Clothes Sorting
December 11, 2017	Monday	6:30pm	Contact Secretary— ( <a href="mailto:secretary@aauw-seattle.org">secretary@aauw-seattle.org</a> ) for location	Branch Board Meeting
December 16, 2017	Saturday	9:30am	Seattle Yacht Club	Holiday Program with the Endolyne Children's Choir
January 20, 2018	Saturday	9:30 am	Best Western Plus Executive Inn	Branch Meeting—Eve Riskin & Sonia Cunningham— “Diversifying the Engineering Workforce”
January 29, 2018	Monday	8:30am	St. John's Episcopal Church, Olympia, WA	AAUW-WA Lobby Day
February 17, 2018	Saturday	9:30 am	Best Western Plus Executive Inn	Branch Meeting—TBD
March 10, 2018	Saturday	6:00 pm	Seattle Sheraton Hotel	UW Women's Center Annual Gala
March 17, 2018	Saturday	9:30 am	Best Western Plus Executive Inn	Branch Meeting—Barbara Spraker— “Where We Are Now and How to Move forward”