



**Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup> – 9:30am**  
**Eve Riskin & Sonia Cunningham on**  
**“Diversifying the Engineering Workforce”**

**Best Western Plus Executive Inn**  
**200 Taylor Ave North**  
**Seattle, WA 98109**

Sonya Cunningham and Eve Riskin will speak about increasing diversity in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) disciplines. Specifically, they will focus on the Washington State Academic RedShirt (STARS) program, funded by the National Science Foundation. Ms. Cunningham directs STARS activities that support Engineering and Computer Science students from low-income backgrounds and underserved high schools in navigating the transition to college level engineering. For the past 3 years, STARS students have been outperforming their peers in key engineering prerequisite courses. Professor Riskin, Associate Dean of Diversity of Diversity and Access at the University of Washington, will address how STARS illustrates UW goals for recruiting and retaining a more diverse cohort undergraduate students.

## **Come Join Us!**

**Location:** Best Western Plus Executive Inn, 200 Taylor Ave North, Seattle, WA

**Cost:** \$15 inclusive - *No charge for students with ID (reservations required)*

**Menu:** Breakfast buffet including fluffy scrambled eggs, sausage, roasted breakfast potatoes, breakfast breads, fruit juice, freshly brewed coffee, and decaffeinated coffee, and tea.

**Parking:** Free in hotel garage. Members who park in the garage or hotel lot can sign the book at the front desk and give their name and license plate number. 10-hour curbside pay stations on Taylor and on Thomas at \$1.50 per hour. Bus: #8 on Denny.

***Reservations required by Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup>***

Contact Pam Forsha at [RSVP@aauw-seattle.org](mailto:RSVP@aauw-seattle.org) or check our web site at [www.aauw-seattle.org](http://www.aauw-seattle.org) to pay in advance via PayPal.

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

**Dr. Devon Atchison**  
**“A Crash Course on the History**  
**of Intersectionality: When White**  
**Privilege and Sexism Collide”**

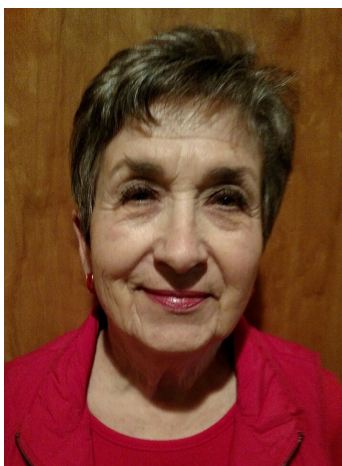


**Saturday, February 10, 2018**  
**AAUW-Seattle Meeting**  
**9:30-noon**

**Best Western Plus**  
**Executive Inn**  
**200 Taylor Ave N, Seattle**

## Leadership Corner—Penny Tetter

As we begin a new year, I reflect back on last year and the amazing efforts of our dedicated board members as we embarked on a new venture—Strategic Planning, and improved our processes with Tech Trek and Scholar Recognition I am so impressed with our board members, who are a dedicated group of ladies with amazing backgrounds (see below) that believe strongly in the Mission of AAUW: Education and equity for Women and Girls. I have asked each one to say what her biggest/proudest accomplishment has been. Here are their answers...



**RENEE AGATSUMA:** Feeling like I have made a difference in multiple students' lives and gotten them excited about careers in science, and in particular genetics, in their future.

**GAY ARMSDEN:** My proudest accomplishments are raising a special needs child with whom I have a great relationship and getting my doctorate under very difficult circumstances.

**LYNN DISSINGER:** I'm most proud of navigating through life as a single, successful businesswoman in an era when women were not represented in top management and unmarried status was viewed as an oddity at best.

**HEATHER DOHAN:** I am proudest of my family.

**FIONA GOODCHILD:** I am most proud of becoming a professional educator and winning a Presidential Award for Excellence in Science Math and Engineering Mentoring (PAESMEM, 2002) for creating new opportunities for women and under-represented minority students to pursue STEM degrees and careers.

**TONNA KUTNER:** I'm grateful that I was able to work and thrive in technology and have my own business - now I enjoy helping young girls participate in Tech Trek.

**SAM MONTGOMERY** - I'm most proud of obtaining my degree in science and being able to work in the technology field my whole career.

**CYNTHIA NASH:** I am most proud of my 25 years in the newsroom of The Seattle Times, my experience before that in Detroit as the first woman sports columnist at a major metropolitan newspaper and the two adult children in my family with their strong social service values.

**BARBARA SANDO:** I am most proud of being the first person in my family to go to college, and now, after a successful career in aerospace, having the opportunity to help other first-generation college students achieve their educational goals.

**PENNY TETTER:** Raised two children as a single parent and seeing them as successful adults, and being the only one in my family to get a college degree nights and weekends.

**JUDY WARING:** My family while making success of frequent Air Force moves, a brief career working in public health and family planning and carrying that passion for Reproductive Rights forward through work in AAUW.

I know you will find these responses interesting. We all bring something different to the table but we usually don't know that much about each other unless it comes up in conversation. I would like to encourage others to serve on the board in the future since diversity and fresh blood are always good, and to invite your friends and family members to come to our branch meetings and encourage them to join. Most of us became members because we were invited by someone.

*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.



### **BFF - Bring a Friend for Free! - Tonna Kutner**

Bring a first-time visitor to our January meeting and your guest gets in for free! Please be sure to make a reservation. We know our members enjoy the mission and comradery of AAUW. Talk it up to your friends and they may want to join in too. Invite them to try our meeting in January for free.

### **December Board Meeting Summary—Fiona Goodchild**

The December 11<sup>th</sup> Board meeting was held at the Best Western Plus Executive Inn. The board discussed the possibility of implementing a local scholarship program using some of the Weter monies as a fund. Gay Armsden outlined the main objectives of starting this program and explained several of the options for choices that would be necessary regarding administration and organization.

Barbara Sando outlined plans for the first meeting of the Strategy Steering Team will be held on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at the Best Western Executive Plus Inn from 10 am - 1 pm. This team is comprised of the Board plus the branch members who were on the Strategy Team over the summer. The purpose of this meeting will be for each STP team to present the updated/final version of their STP plan for review, discussion, and approval.

Tonna Kutner reported on Tech Trek plans and will be contacting schools early in January. She is looking for volunteers to help with interviews later in the year. The Nominating Committee of Gay Armsden, Fiona Goodchild and Ann Dennis are hoping to add a 4th person to their committee soon. No one responded to an appeal in the December Catalyst. Gay asked for suggestions and a couple of members were suggested.

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### **Strategic Planning Update - Barbara Sando**

Last year, Seattle Branch embarked on a Strategic Planning process with the goal of ensuring a strong and stable future for the Branch as we carry out the AAUW mission. Such a future depends on attracting and retaining a more diverse membership as well creating visibility in our community.

Since last September, small teams have been off working on detailing a set of eight Situation-Target - Proposal (STP) plans, each addressing one of the main themes identified during the data synthesis process:

STP #1 - Publicity & Marketing	STP #5 - Branch Leadership
STP #2 - Diversity & Inclusion	STP #6 - Branch Programs
STP #3 - College & University Partnerships	STP #7 - Collaboration w/Organizations
STP #4 - Communications	STP #8 - Interest & Smaller Groups

On January 9<sup>th</sup>, the Strategy Steering Team will meet for the first time, to review each of the plans to ensure that, in aggregate, we have a cohesive, integrated approach to meeting our goals. This review will include ensuring that we do not have duplicative or conflicting actions between the individual STPs and will also identify areas where we need to apply additional resources (budget and/or woman-power) to achieve our goals.

It's not too late to help! If one of these areas resonates with you, we would love for you to get engaged with us in working on ensuring the future of Seattle Branch. Please contact Barbara Sando at: [president@aauw-seattle.org](mailto:president@aauw-seattle.org).



## ANOTHER GREAT MEETING AT THE YACHT CLUB! - Penny Tetter

Fifty-four members and guests attended another successful Holiday Brunch at the Seattle Yacht Club on Saturday, December 16th. We heard from four of last summer's Tech Trek students, who were all grateful for the opportunity they were given to attend and inspired to continue their STEM studies after the experience. Seven Holiday baskets were donated by members and raffled off which garnered us \$935 for Tech Trek! Mary's Place received many donations of clothing and hygiene items, which were delivered by Judy Waring and Paddy Shivanand to their facility in South Seattle after the meeting. There were sixteen members of the Endolyne Children's Choir who sang a variety of Holiday Music. Thanks to all who helped and volunteered to make this such a joyous occasion, and thanks for the generosity of all the members and guests who attended.



**NEW**

## Would You Like to Served on the Brand New Local Scholarships Committee? - Gay Armsden

Our branch is considering implementing a college scholarship program for local women in financial need. This would be an exciting and rewarding new chapter. We would ramp up this program gradually, beginning with fairly restrictive eligibility criteria, figuring out, among other things, how many applications we receive. To get this project going, we will need to make a number of decisions and see if some members are willing to help by serving on the scholarships committee for a time. If you were one of the members who suggested a scholarship program on our survey, would you like to be in on the ground floor of this project, helping shape the eligibility and selection criteria and application process? Or are you otherwise someone who wants to help disadvantaged women obtain higher education, while also raising AAUW-Seattle's visibility in the community? Please contact Gay Armsden at: [publicpolicy@aauw-seattle.org](mailto:publicpolicy@aauw-seattle.org) with your questions.

## Scholar Recognition Program Launches for 2018 -Renée Agatsuma

January marks the start of a new year, and the beginning of our Scholar Recognition season, where we begin contacting schools to help us find senior girls that stand out in science, math, and technology. On the evening of April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018, we will honor these students and their families in our 18th annual ceremony. We are excited to hear from Dr. Saadia Pekkanen, Professor at the Jackson School of International Studies and Adjunct Professor in the School of Law.

Without our volunteers, we would not be able to pull this off! We also need more volunteers that would be willing to help contact schools and contact the girls at each school. The members who have acted as school focal points are: Barbara Sando (Cleveland and Franklin), Judy Waring (Ingraham), Cynthia Sheridan (Nathan Hale), Heather Dohan (Roosevelt), Marilyn Mears (West Seattle), Ann Dennis (Chief Sealth), Sam Montgomery (Holy Names), Senait Habte (Making Connections at the UW Women's Center), and Renee Agatsuma (Garfield, Southlake, Rainier Beach). We NEED your help in contacting schools and finding scholars. Please email Renee at [scholars@aauw-seattle.org](mailto:scholars@aauw-seattle.org) if you can help.

## Public Policy Update – Gay Armsden

### ***Come on Down! ...To Olympia for AAUW Lobby Day - Monday, January 29, 2016 - Gay Armsden***

If you're looking for even more ways to grow your political activism, Lobby Day could be just the ticket. If you've never been - or even if you have - come join Seattle Branch members (Ann Dennis, Fiona Goodchild, Judy Waring, Gay Armsden and others) and meet members from other branches from around the state to hear informative speakers, learn about our lobbying issues and tips for lobbying, **meet your legislators** to lobby, and **observe hearings on bills**. Registration, including lunch is \$20. **Register at (shortened URL):** <https://goo.gl/BShKUv>

**Program focus.** **Equal Pay** and the **Student Loan Bill of Rights**. Last session the Equal Pay Opportunity Act did not advance. With the recent shift in political power, perhaps it will (although it's a short session, so no guarantees). Did you know that student loan debt is also a women's issue? Women receive less financial aid from colleges *and* parents than do men. Read AAUW's report on this here:

[aauw.org/research/deeper-in-debt/](http://aauw.org/research/deeper-in-debt/). Pre-filed Senate Bill 6029, on establishing a student loan bill of rights, would set up provisions for a student loan advocate (details here: <https://goo.gl/Bsyry4>).

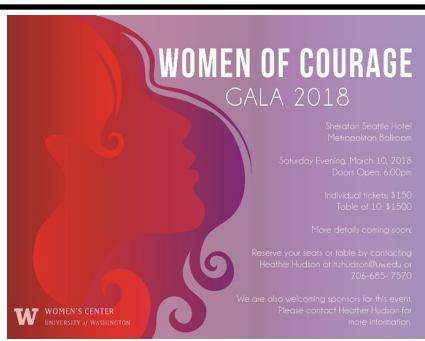
**Program speakers.** Our intrepid **WA Attorney General Bob Ferguson** (wouldn't you like to meet him?), a strong advocate for student loan legislation ([atg.wa.gov/](http://atg.wa.gov/)); Rep. Tana Senn, a sponsor of our equal pay bill; and Pam Crone, our lobbyist/consultant.

**Schedule.** We convene at 8:00 am at the St. John's Episcopal Church in Olympia with a continental breakfast. We'll have lunch before proceeding to the "halls of power" at the capitol at 12:30 and meet the legislators or their staff with whom we've made appointments. You can also attend hearings on bills; check: [leg.wa.gov/](http://leg.wa.gov/) for information on what's scheduled on January 29th as the day nears. Check the blog on the AAUW-WA web site ([aauw-wa.blogspot.com/](http://aauw-wa.blogspot.com/)) for regular updates after the 2018 legislative session begins on January 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Getting there.** Carpooling is highly recommended. Judy might be able to take 1 or 2 more. Contact Gay at: [publicpolicy@aauw-seattle.org](mailto:publicpolicy@aauw-seattle.org) if you want to carpool and she'll put you in touch with others.

**Other legislative issues of interest.** There are other bills pertinent to AAUW's public policy priorities that you could lobby for. In particular, the Voting Rights Act (SB6002; see December's *Catalyst*) is coming up yet again and a bill has been pre-filed that would make it easier to disclose workplace sexual harassment or assault (SB5996).

**Making appointments.** You don't have to make appointments to attend Lobby Day if you're not so inclined. You're welcome to come along and visit with others' representatives. Some of us, if we live in your district, may have already made appointments with your representatives, so get in touch and we'll let you know whether or not you need to make them yourself. To make appointments (the sooner the better), click here to find your legislators' contact info: <http://app.leg.wa.gov/Rosters/Members>. You can also call the Hotline at 1-800-562-6000 for contact info and requests for bills and other legislative documents; they can answer questions about meeting times and places, pending legislation and the legislative process.

 <p><b>WOMEN OF COURAGE</b> GALA 2018</p> <p>Seattle, Seattle Civic Metropolitan Ballroom</p> <p>Saturday Evening, March 10, 2018 Doors Open: 6:00pm</p> <p>Individual tickets: \$150 Tables of 10: \$1500</p> <p>More details coming soon</p> <p>Reserve your seats or table by contacting Heather Hudson at <a href="mailto:hudsonh@uw.edu">hudsonh@uw.edu</a> or 206-685-7570</p> <p>We are also welcoming sponsors for this event. Please contact Heather Hudson for more information.</p> <p><b>W WOMEN'S CENTER</b> UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON</p>	<p align="center"><b>Save your place at the table -</b>  <b>UW Women's Center Women of Courage Gala</b>  <b>6 pm, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018 - Seattle Sheraton Hotel</b></p> <p>AAUW Seattle Branch is again a proud sponsor of this annual event and will be hosting a table for 10 this year. The gala is inspirational and fun. The cost for our members to attend is \$50, which basically covers the cost of your dinner. If you're interested in attending the Gala this year, please contact Renée at <a href="mailto:c-u@aauw-seattle.org">c-u@aauw-seattle.org</a>.</p>
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The Seattle Branch has three very active interest groups and hopes to add new ones in the near future - stay tuned. 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**

The Art Smart interest group will visit the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Discovery Center on Thursday, January 18 to see the exhibit "Women Hold up Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide," which is based on the work of Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn. The group will then go for lunch across the street at the Chihuly Collections Café to discuss what they have seen and learned at the Foundation exhibit. If you are interested in joining the Art Smart group, please contact Ann Dennis: [ad@aauw-wa.org](mailto:ad@aauw-wa.org). The group generally meets on the third Thursday of each month except when a special art exhibit calls for a different schedule.

#### **Book Group—Bev Fogle**

The AAUW Book Group will meet on Tuesday, January 23, 2:00 p.m., at our usual place, the Stadler Room at the Lake Forest Park Town Center, 17171 Bothell Way NE, Seattle, to discuss *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* by Rachel Joyce. This book inspired enough of a following, with some specific questions directed at the author, that an unplanned sequel was written. Come and learn what all the excitement was about! In February, the group will discuss the *It's What I Do: A Photographer's Life of Love and War* by Lynsey Addario on February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

#### **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. We meet the first or second Wednesday of the month at various member's homes. We will meet January 10<sup>th</sup> this month. Contact Tonna Kutner at: [techtrek@aauw-seattle.org](mailto:techtrek@aauw-seattle.org) for more information.

### **Gearing Up for Tech Trek 2018 - Tonna Kutner**



Tech Trek is an AAUW-sponsored week-long STEM summer camp for girls between 7th and 8th grade. It was quite an honor to have four of our Tech Trek girls and their families at our Holiday Program in December. Tech Trek interviewees commonly think of a career as a math or science teacher, but there is so much more. It's so rewarding that after Tech Trek camp they find they are talented coders, fascinated with cyber security, and see their futures in the STEM world. Having Tech Trek attendees visiting reinforces that this is a really great program and is worth the time and money to sponsor the girls.

If you are inspired to help with this program and an incredible team, please contact Tonna Kutner ([techtrek@aauw-seattle.org](mailto:techtrek@aauw-seattle.org)). We need women to contact the schools and get girls nominated by their teachers, a process that starts in January. We also need a team of women to interview the girls at their school in March. When dates are set, the team is contacted to get two and hopefully three women for the interviews. We need you, as we hope to interview more than 20 girls this year.

We still need Dorm Monitors. There will be two camps at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma so more girls can attend: July 8-14, and July 15-21. 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. Dorm monitors can volunteer for either of the camps. A stipend of \$250-500 is paid to dorm monitors and room and board is provided. To make tax deductible donations to Tech Trek: Online at <https://techtrek-wa.aauw.net/> using the Special Projects Fund or via check to AAUW-WA SPF with Tech Trek Seattle Branch on the message line sent to: AAUW-WA SPF, PO Box 1665, Bellevue WA 98009-1665.



## Member News:

**Laila Adams** attended our December meeting with her granddaughter Rana, a senior at Case Western Reserve, and grandson Dane, a freshman in nursing at University of Portland. The two stopped for a visit with their grandmother on their way back to Taipei for the holidays with their parents and sister.

**Meagan Beckmeyer** e-mailed that she's writing for the Wagner Review, the student publication through NYU's Wagner School of Public Service. She's finishing her first semester in a Masters of Public Administration in Public and Nonprofit Policy and Management, and recently had her first piece published. It addresses the need of accessible self-care and mental health services for immigrants, which is something that is rarely addressed. Meagan shared the link to her article: <http://www.thewagnerreview.org/2017/11/why-self-care-shouldnt-be-a-prescription-for-privilege/>.

**Fiona Goodchild** attended our meeting with her granddaughter Maggie who assisted with selling tickets for the raffle baskets. Maggie is a member of the Jane Adams Middle School Soccer Team that just won the city championship.

Congratulations to **Pam Forsha** on her retirement from Boeing, effective 1/1/2018. Pam worked 15 years at Boeing here in Seattle as a Software Manager and previously at Motorola in Arizona for 22 years in the software engineering field. Pam is looking forward to participating in daytime activities including AAUW and more time for travel.

**Barbara McHargue** brought her daughter Eileen as her guest to our meeting. Barbara was heading off to see her other daughter sing in the chorus of "Annie" at the Seattle Musical Theatre performance in Magnusson Park. This is the oldest musical theatre company in Seattle, celebrating its 40th anniversary, and was formerly known as the Civic Light Opera. Barbara was one of the company's founders.

**Sandra Wheeler** gives gifts to her family based on a theme—last year was National Parks and this year it's "Birds". Gifts include mugs, t-shirts, books, and some miscellaneous items. The books she selected were Edgar Allen Poe's "The Raven" and Daphne du Maurier's "The Birds." Both are classics but copies were surprisingly hard to find.

**Margaret (Peggy) Craig** a member of our Seattle Branch for over 30 years, passed away in late November at the age of 93. She was a graduate of the UW and had a long career in federal government, retiring from the US Forest Service in 1986. Peggy served as branch corresponding secretary and branch treasurer and enjoyed attending a branch dining-out group. She believed deeply in advancements and opportunities for women.

### 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)



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 Seattle, WA 98166-3207  
 Address Service Requested

### *Upcoming Events...*

Date	Day	Time	Location	Program
January 15, 2018	Monday	7:00pm	Contact Secretary— ( <a href="mailto:secretary@aauw-seattle.org">secretary@aauw-seattle.org</a> ) for location	Branch Board Meeting
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 10, 2018 (new date)	Saturday	9:30 am	Best Western Plus Executive Inn	Dr. Devon Atchison— “A Crash Course on the History of Intersectionality: When White Privilege and Sexism Col-
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”
April 18, 2018	Wednesday	7:00 pm	Best Western Plus Executive Inn	Scholar Recognition Reception
April 27-29, 2018			Spokane, WA	AAUW WA State Convention
May 19, 2018	Saturday	9:30 am	Best Western Plus Executive Inn	Annual Meeting/Elections with Mary Lou Sanelli—”Among Friends”