



Saturday, March 17—9:30am

Barbara Spraker -former Antioch University Seattle professor

“The Road to Full Equality and to Full Impact”

Best Western Plus Executive Inn

200 Taylor Ave North

Seattle, WA 98109

Barbara Spraker is a former professor at Antioch University Seattle. Her professional focus is Women Leading the Way (www.womenleadingtheway.com). Barbara will speak to us about Gender Equity - where we are and where we need to go. In 1960, in the US, it was perfectly acceptable, and legal, to refuse to hire a woman, simply because she was a woman. If she wanted to attend Harvard, Yale, or Princeton - too bad - they did not admit women. And if she wanted to open a bank account or get a credit card, the bank required that her husband co-sign.

HUGE strides have been made. Now women are engaged in every imaginable occupation and profession. AND yet, there is a long journey ahead before women are able to bring their full perspective abilities, wisdom and vision to every aspect of our society. Come join the conversation. What have you experienced? What are your frustrations, concerns, hopes? Vision for the future?

This is a topic that impacts every woman! This is a great opportunity to bring a guest. Considering bringing a woman from another culture, a woman of a generation younger or older than yourself.

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: Corned beef hash, roasted breakfast potatoes, breakfast breads, fruit juice, freshly brewed coffee, 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 Monday, March 12, 2016

Contact Pam Forsha at RSVP@aauw-seattle.org or check our web site at www.aauw-seattle.org to pay in advance via PayPal.

Book Exchange - March Branch meeting

Bring a book to pass along or take a book to enjoy.

And Next Month...

Dr. Saadia Pekkanen
on “The Prospects for Peace in Outer Space”

Scholar Recognition Reception
Wednesday, April 18, 2018
7-9 pm

Best Western Plus
Executive Inn
200 Taylor Ave N, Seattle

Leadership Corner—Fiona Goodchild

Whenever I participate in Lobby day, I am reminded that AAUW has an outstanding track record for research and public advocacy. That was even more clear this year when I visited Washington State legislators on January 29th with Gay Armsden. Gay Armsden, our Seattle Branch Public Policy Chair, was ready to provide data and resources that were relevant to current bills under consideration. AAUW's reputation for producing research reports was also one of the reasons why Bob Ferguson, Washington Attorney General, had agreed to be a guest speaker at AAUW Lobby Day.



Bob Ferguson's appearance attracted a larger than usual crowd at AAUW Lobby Day in Olympia. First, he acknowledged the recent report, *Deeper in Debt*, published by AAUW, to document that women currently hold almost two-thirds of student loan debt. As women are 56% of the overall population of students and that debt is estimated to be \$800 million, this issue has emerged as a serious problem for women and their families across the US. Student debt is a crisis for Washington State as well and Bob Ferguson outlined three current bills designed to address the need for resources for those in debt and regulation of the activities of for-profit educational institutions.

Our Attorney General did not disappoint as he outlined his position on current issues and his track record on filing law suits against the current administration. He has initiated 19 suits and won all

six that have been decided up to the present. Consistent with his wanting to 'chat' with the audience, he also invited questions about any other topic. AAUW members had plenty, ranging from specific inquiries about the proposed debt legislation to more general concerns about education, environmental protection and medical care. Bob Ferguson displayed an impressive understanding of the need to address these problems and outlined some of the legal strategies that his office is currently pursuing. As he proved on the issue of the initial ban on immigration, he is passionate about legislation that promotes equality and protects civil rights in our state.

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

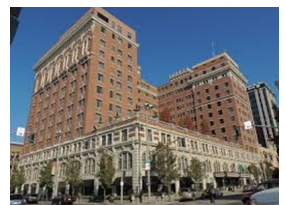
In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership.

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.

Attend the AAUW Washington State Convention April 27-29, 2018 in Spokane

Barbara Sando

It's AAUW Washington State Convention time again. This year, the Convention will be held at the historic Davenport Hotel in Spokane the last weekend in April. The Keynote speaker will be Pamela Oakes, Associate Program Officer of Strategic Planning & Engagement at the Gates Foundation. Her presentation is entitled "Big Risks. Big Impact." Programs will be presented by individuals and organization with similar goals to AAUW's. For more details and conference registration information, check out the latest *Evergreen Leader* and/or the AAUW-WA website, <https://aauw-wa.aauw.net/>. If you plan to attend, and would like to serve as a delegate for Seattle Branch, please let me know (president@aauw-seattle.org).



Seattle Branch and Washington State are 'tops' for AAUW Funds - *Barbara Sando*

In case you didn't notice in the recent "Outlook" magazine, Washington State is among the Top 10 States *and* the Top 10 States Per Capita for giving to AAUW Funds. Seattle Branch is again among the Top 50 Branches for contributions. AAUW has a long and distinguished history of advancing educational and professional opportunities for women in the United States and around the globe. Your contributions help ensure that this will be the case well into the future. Thank you for your generosity and continued support of AAUW Funds!



February Board Meeting Summary—*Fiona Goodchild*

The Seattle Branch board met at Fiona Goodchild's home on February 12th. Some of the Strategic Planning Groups provided an update on their on-going activities.

The Marketing and Publicity team presented the update to the board on the requirements they are developing for their search for a marketing firm. Diversity and Inclusion team proposed offering a workshop on privilege in the fall, as was discussed at a board meeting last fall. Dr. Robin DiAngelo from the University of Washington leads such workshops at a cost is \$3,500 with an agenda that is likely tailorable. For this cost, there would need to be significant outreach to attract a much larger audience and the event would most likely be held at a larger venue. Lynn Dissinger stated that such a workshop could be a great opportunity to collaborate with another organization.

The team working on *Interest and Smaller Groups* indicated that they would like to plan an event for new members, possibly in May this year. This group has sent our queries about starting new interest groups, but has had little response to date. The board also discussed the use of the term Treasurer, as opposed to VP Finance in the context of the current search for a member to assist in the financial management of the Branch.

Give Every Grad You Know the Gift of AAUW Membership at No Cost! - *Heather Dohan*

Do you know a woman graduating college? Did you know you as an AAUW member you can gift a one year national membership to as many recent college graduates that you like at no cost to them or you? Well you can! I did last year for the first time. This is a great way to introduce the AAUW to our members of the future. Anyone who has completed an undergraduate degree in the past two years can receive a free membership. You need some basic information from the graduate, and then enter the information online. Shortly, the graduate will be an AAUW member! It is that easy. For more information and the form visit: <https://www.aauw.org/resource/give-a-grad-a-gift/>.



Scholarship Program Committee Set to Meet in March *Gay Armsden*

Our branch is planning a college scholarship program for local women in financial need (see January's *Catalyst*). The first committee meeting will be on March 14th at 1:00 pm. **Additional help is needed!** If you would like to be in on the ground floor of this project, helping shape the eligibility and selection criteria and application process, please contact Gay Armsden at: publicpolicy@aauw-seattle.org or feel free to call her with your questions (number in the directory).

Summary of February Seattle Branch Meeting with Dr. Devon Atchinson

Reneé Agatsuma

We learned a lot from Dr. Devon Atchison in our February program. Her talk gave us a great history of intersectional feminism, showing how feminism has been intersectional from the beginning of the movement. She gave great examples of the ways that race and gender couldn't be separated from the ways people experience discrimination throughout history from Harriet Jacobs to Sojourner Truth to Ida B. Wells to Dolores Huerta. Many of these women had to choose to "side" with people of their same race or people of their same gender—a very difficult decision. It can be hard to separate the discriminations that might affect a person due to who they are. Discrimination that someone faces is a combination of these "-isms", and can't be separated into one or the other (for instance, racism or sexism may not be able to be distinguished from each other).



This has been something I have been thinking about a lot for our branch, as someone on the Inclusion and Diversity committee. As Dr. Atchison's slides mentioned, "If I claim to be interested in women's rights and women's equality, I have an obligation to not just think about those rights and that equality from my own lens . . .", as a white-passing, middle class, heterosexual, Christian, English-speaking, and able-bodied woman. There are parts of my identity that match with the dominant social norms ("privilege") and others that do not.

So what do we do about this reality, and recognize where we're coming from? How do we as a AAUW branch become more intersectional? Dr. Atchison gave us great pointers, quoted below:

Recognize Difference: different people with different facets have different experiences that are all REAL and VALID experiences.

Avoid Oversimplified Language: try not to use language that assumes that all women have a shared experience/lens.

Analyze the Space you Occupy: be an ally, not a director, and make sure your community is accessible.

Seek Other Points of View: Share your experiences, be open to hearing about the experience of others, actively seek out experiences through allies, podcasts, articles, etc.

Show Up: Don't just show up for causes that matter to you, find opportunities to embrace causes that impact other.

It's not feminism if it's not intersectional!



Tammy was a guest of Marianne—they taught together at Casper Community College in WY.



Sarah and member Penny compared plans for future trips to Peru.



Member Joan visits with Gail who's attending her 3rd meeting and plans to join.

AAUW Lobby Day Report - Gay Armsden

Gay Armsden, Fiona Goodchild and Cynthia Nash attended the Lobby Day program in Olympia on January 29th. Judy Waring and Ann Dennis had intended to go as well, but unforeseen circumstances prevented it. Turnout was very good: about 80 people attended. The morning program speakers, WA Attorney General Bob Ferguson, Rep. Tana Senn (45th district), AAUW-WA's lobbyist Pam Crone, and AAUW-WA's Public Policy Chair, Karen Anderson were engaging and informative. Ferguson has requested a Student Loan Bill of Rights bill (SB 6029, which passed), which would protect students from deceptive practices and establish an advocacy office. Rep. Senn sponsored the House version of the Equal Pay Opportunity Act (1506), which passed. Fiona and Gay met with assistants to their 2 of their legislators, and, since both legislators are sponsors of student loan bills, they left copies of executive summaries of AAUW's report on the gender gap in student loan debt.

Cynthia Nash reported on her impressions of Lobby Day: "As a somewhat introverted newcomer to Lobby Day, I wasn't sure what to expect. But I was drawn by the chance to hear Washington State Attorney General Bob Ferguson, spend time with friends, and support women's issues with my presence even if I didn't actually lobby. Ferguson was entertaining as well as informative - who knew the Washington State Attorney General's office had a team of attorneys devoted to "all things Trump?" Representative Tana Senn, 41st Legislative District Democrat, educated us about the danger of an amendment to the Equal Pay Opportunity Act that would keep Washington cities from doing more than required—possibly, she said, "a reaction to Seattle's tendency to be aggressive on pay issues." AAUW-WA's paid lobbyist, Pam Crone, coached us all on best practices for meetings with state legislators that afternoon, making it sound completely doable. I will definitely be back next year and maybe I'll even visit my legislators."

This was an exciting year to be a part of Lobby Day because many bills whose aims are consistent with AAUW's public policy priorities have more of a chance to pass due to the shift in the power balance. A bill to establish a **state women's commission** (HB 2759) has passed the House and it is hoped the House version will pass the Senate. The director of the commission would, among other things, monitor legislation and advocate for legislation affecting women and work as a liaison between the public and private sector to eliminate barriers to women's economic equity. As we've seen with enforcement of Title IX, watchdogs for ensuring women's rights are protected are still needed.

WA's 1943 Equal Pay Act needs updating and the **Equal Pay Opportunity Act** aims to address this. The bill has been passed to the Senate for four years now, and has a good chance of becoming law this session. Details of the bill include banning pay secrecy policies; allowing discussion of wages; and prohibiting retaliation against workers for discussing their pay, or for asking for equal pay and opportunities. Rep. Senn talked about how, although attempts were made to weaken the Equal Pay Opportunity Act by adding language that would prevent cities and counties from creating stronger laws, these attempts failed. You are urged to get behind this bill by contacting the senator for your district.

Cost-free reproductive health care is essential to gender equity. The **Reproductive Parity Act** (SB6219), which protects women's access to contraceptives without co-pays, and improves access to abortion care, has passed the Senate after five years of effort. The act would require all insurance plans covering maternity care to also cover abortion care and would guarantee that everyone gets access to all FDA-approved birth control methods without cost sharing, delays or denials.

STEMpack: Cyber Security Curriculum - Heather Dohan

Cyber security company, Symantec, has partnered with AAUW to develop STEMpack: Cyber Security curriculum. The four-lesson curriculum cover the origins of the internet, binary code, an introduction to programming languages and coding, deconstructing a computer, and more; all with the intent to inspire and introduce participants to cyber security and computer science. The STEMpack Cyber Security curriculum can be downloaded at: <https://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/stem-education/stem-pack-cyber-security/>.





Interest Group Corner



Sign Up for New Interest Groups

Gay Armsden—publicpolicy@aauw-seattle.org

In addition to being fun and educational, interest groups attract and draw in new members, building more “social glue” for the branch. A survey done at the December 2017 Branch meeting revealed that the most members expressed interest in walking/hiking, dining in/dining out, arts (drama, music), and gardens & nurseries, but the ideas are endless, like movies, genealogy, knitting and more. If you want to be in the know about the first get-together of any of these possible new interest groups, e-mail Gay Armsden or call (number in the directory).

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—Marianne North—ad@aauw-seattle.org

Art Smart visited the Northwest Design exhibit at the Cascadia Art Museum on the Edmonds Waterfront on February 15th. The eclectic collection by Northwest artists included furniture, fashions, jewelry, weaving, paintings, printed fabric and sculptures of wood, metal and stone from the mid-20th Century. Pictured is some jewelry by James Peck and Bev Fogle, Marianne North, Cynthia Sheridan, Penny Tetter, and Beth Turner.



The Art Smart Bunch

Book Group—Bev Fogle—books@aauw-seattle.org

The AAUW Book Group will meet on March 27th to discuss *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine* by Gail Honeyman. This 2017 novel about a young woman with serious problems, has been reported as “reading like a contemporary Jane Eyre ----”. Sandy Schwartz will lead our discussion. We will continue to meet in the Stadler Room at the Lake Forest Park Towne Center, 17171 Bothell Way NE, near Third Place Books, at 1:00 on the fourth Tuesday of most months. All AAUW members and their guests are invited to join us.

Writer’s Group—Tonna Kutner—techtrek@aauw-seattle.org

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 at 11:30am. We will meet March 7th this month.

Nominating Committee at Work! Input wanted! - Gay Armsden

This is the year to elect a new Membership Chair and Treasurer. While the Nominating Committee is working on gathering potential nominees, members are encouraged to throw their hat into the ring and/or suggest possible candidates. Just in case you were wondering, you don’t need to be an accountant (or have heaps of free time) to take the Treasurer position. The slate will be published in the May newsletter.



AAUW Dues and Membership Renewal 2019—Judy Waring

Dues for the July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019 membership year can be paid beginning March 16th. We will be e-mailing invoices in April or May with a link so that you can easily pay using a credit card. National dues have increased from \$49 to \$59—so with state dues of \$10 and branch dues of \$16, the total is now \$85 for Seattle Branch membership. New AAUW members who join on or after March 16th will be paid up through June 30, 2019. If new members join at a meeting, they can save half on national dues. To get this \$55.50 rate, payment with a check or cash is necessary.

Member News:

Jo Vos is extending an invitation to two different opportunities:

1. About 14 years ago she began hosting **First Friday Parties** at her home in the Ravenna area. These casual potluck open houses aim “to build community with multi-generational, political, cultural, economic, and racial/ethnic diversity, so she encourages people to bring family and friends. Conversation is the goal, sometimes there’s a theme, and sometimes there’s some music. The parties start any time after 6 PM and are scheduled for March 2, April 6, May 4, and June 1 before taking a summer/fall break. You’ll find Jo’s contact info in our branch directory or you can e-mail membership@aauw-seattle.org to reach Jo.
2. Jo and her husband Charlie encourage participation in **Common Purpose**, a program of civic and voter engagement—an opportunity for those who want to “do something” in this political moment. “We will start a series of five 5-hour trainings on March 3rd that will run every other Saturday through April 28, followed by targeted travel to areas in Washington and other states considered crucial to more voter engagement. We will work on voter registration. Another training and travel wave will happen in the late summer and fall.” This program is nonpartisan, free, and open to all. Common Purpose is a program of UW Communications Dept. Chair David Domke’s **Project Pilgrimage** <http://projectpilgrimage.org/> “designed to foster community, further social justice and civil rights, and repair our divided and endangered democracy.” For more information and to sign up for **Common Purpose**: www.bit.ly/commonpurpose2018.

We were please to have number of guests and potential new members attend the February 10th meeting! We hope to see you again!



Cathy (potential member) and daughter Nicole (Tech Trek attendee July 2017)

Member Elise visits with national member Nancy who plans to join our branch.



Rebecca and Kimberly with Pat (potential members)

AAUW-Seattle Branch Officers 2017-2018

Elected

President:

Barbara Sando president@aauw-seattle.org

VP Finance:

Lynn Dissinger—finance@aauw-seattle.org

VP Programs:

Pamela Forsha & Sam Montgomery - programs@aauw-seattle.org

VP Membership:

Judy Waring membership@aauw-seattle.org

Secretary:

Fiona Goodchild - secretary@aauw-seattle.org

Appointed

Web Site: Heather Dohan

website@aauw-seattle.org

Catalyst Newsletter Editor:

Heather Dohan - catalyst@aauw-seattle.org

Public Policy:

Gay Armsden - publicpolicy@aauw-seattle.org

AAUW Funds:

Barbara Sando - aauw-funds@aauw-seattle.org

College/University Relations:

Renée Agatsuma - c-u@aauw-seattle.org

Scholar Recognition:

Renée Agatsuma - scholars@aauw-seattle.org

Tech Trek:

Tonna Kutner – TechTrek@aauw-seattle.org

Board Members at Large

Penny Tetter—pt@aauw-seattle.org

CJ Nash—cjnash@aauw-seattle.org

Connect with us!



Timeline About Photos Likes More ▾

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

Upcoming Events...

Date	Day	Time	Location	Program
March 10, 2018	Saturday	6:00 pm	Seattle Sheraton Hotel	UW Women's Center Annual Gala
March 12, 2018	Monday	6:30 pm	Contact Secretary (secretary@aauw-seattle.org) for details.	Seattle Branch Board Meeting
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 9, 2018	Monday	6:30 pm	Contact Secretary (secretary@aauw-seattle.org) for details.	Seattle Branch Board Meeting
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"
June 18-23, 2018	Monday— Saturday		University of Washington Women's Center	Alene Morris NEW Leadership