



Saturday, February 9—9:30am

**Michelle Merriweather—President & Chief Executive Officer of
Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle
“Getting to Equal: United Not Divided”**

Executive Inn by the Space Needle

(formerly the Best Western Plus Executive Inn)

200 Taylor Ave North

Seattle, WA 98109

Michelle Merriweather will discuss the racial disparities and the opportunities we have to close the divide if we all work together and not leave anyone behind. Michelle Merriweather joined the Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle (www.urbanleague.org) team in August of 2015 as the Vice President. Her passion is combining her extensive sales, fund development, event planning and marketing background to better the communities in which she serves. As a Los Angeles native, her dedication for the Los Angeles community and for being a voice for the voiceless, led her to volunteer for the Los Angeles Urban League. Her role grew from volunteer, to the first woman President of the Los Angeles Urban League Young Professionals and an active member of their board of directors. Prior to changing her career to follow her passion in advocating for African Americans and underserved communities she had a successful career in sales and marketing with major organizations such as Starbucks, Heinz, and Coca Cola. In February 2018, Michelle became the 13th President of the Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle. “I am not anxious to be the loudest voice or the most popular, but I would like to think that at a crucial moment, I was an effective voice for the voiceless, and effective hope for the hopeless” a quote by civil rights leader Whitney M. Young is Michelle’s mantra as she leads the organization towards its 90th anniversary. Michelle is an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated and a graduate of Xavier University of Louisiana with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a concentration in Marketing. Our 2018 NCCWSL students from UW will also join us and speak briefly about their experiences at the leadership conference.



Book Exchange at the February Meeting! Bring a book to pass along and/or take a book to enjoy!

Come Join Us!

Location: Executive Inn by the Space Needle, 200 Taylor Ave North, Seattle, WA

Cost: \$15 inclusive - *No charge for full-time students or matriculated students with corresponding student ID (reservations **still** required)*

Menu: Frenchie buffet-Challah bread, egg batterd and fried, served with warm maple syrup and orange spice syrup, fluffy scramble eggs, hickory bacon, and roasted bay red potatoes served with fresh fruit juice, freshly brewed coffee, decaffeinated coffee, and tea.

Parking: Free in hotel garage (sign the book at the front desk). Paid parking can usually be found on the street.

Reservations required by Friday, February 1, 2019

To reserve you place, send an email to: RSVP@aauw-seattle.org.

And Next Month...

Immigration and Refugee Panel

Saturday, March 16, 2019
AAUW-Seattle Meeting
9:30-noon

Executive Inn by the
Space Needle
200 Taylor Ave N, Seattle

Leadership Corner—Marianne North

During a bridge game recently, we lost track of our bids, because of a vigorous discussion about daughters-in-law. The most common complaint was that daughters-in-law did not interact very much with us. They not did come to visit when their spouses did. They acted angry at times, but wouldn't reveal the cause of their anger. On the other hand, I have heard a new mother say, "I cried when my mother-in-law went home after she came to help with our first baby for a month."



So how do we go from little interaction to a close bond with our daughters-in-law? What does this have to do with AAUW? What does this have to do with our community and our nation? Interaction is the key to connectivity. Connectivity is the glue that holds an organization, a community, a nation together. Connectivity creates an environment in which ideas take off and people feel valued as members of an organization, residents of a community, and citizens of a nation.

I was troubled by the complaints about daughters-in-law. If we cannot even feel comfortable with new members of our family, how can we develop connectivity with people we don't know, even with people who have historically been on the outside of our social circle?

The most important step we can take is to open our minds and our hearts. What closes them is a rush to judgment. "Someone judged me without knowing me," Michelle Obama said on CBS Morning News during an interview last November. She recalled how she had been labeled by some as an "angry black woman" during President Obama's first campaign for office.

How often do we judge someone without knowing them? How often have we judged someone as "old", "young," "too aggressive," "wealthy," "uninformed"? How often have you felt judged because of these labels? How does that make you feel?

After suspending judgment, the next step to connectivity is to stop acting as gate keepers, especially in an organization. What are signs of "gate keeping?" Comments like, "We don't do things that way." Or swooping down on someone not "in the know" who takes a misstep. If it is true we cannot do something, then provide a brief explanation rather than a disapproving comment.

Be open to suggestions; follow up on suggestions and offers of help promptly. This tells others they matter to you and to the organization. A successful policy that Marriot Hotels uses to improve customer service is to place the responsibility for taking suggestions and resolving complaints on the employee who has received the feedback. If a customer mentions to the waitperson in the dining room that his room is too hot, the waitperson contacts hotel maintenance rather than telling the customer to make the contact. If a member has a program idea, for example, contact the program chair or introduce the member to the program chair immediately. Then follow up with the program chair and tell the member what has resulted from the suggestion. That's two interactions with the member. That's the beginning of connectivity.

***This newsletter is a publication
of the
Seattle Branch of the AAUW***

Mission Statement

To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, advocacy.

Vision

Equity for all.

Values

Nonpartisan. Fact-based.
Integrity. Inclusion and
Intersectionality.

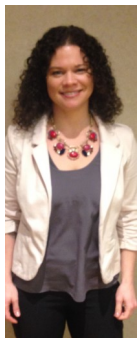
Fundraiser at January Branch Meeting Raises \$1,384 for the Legal Advocacy Fund

After a fun and challenging LAF Quiz conducted by Gay Armsden, and thanks to generous members and guests attending the January 19th Branch Meeting, \$884 was raised for the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF), which are tax-deductible. Per prior Board agreement, the Branch will match the first \$500, for a total contribution of \$1,384 being sent to National to support the LAF mission of challenging sex discrimination in higher education and the workplace. All contributions will be in memory of LAP Founder, "Kappy" Eaton.



Take the free, one-hour online course (<https://salary.aauw.org>) focused on teaching women to secure higher salaries or hourly wages, in addition to increase your leadership and communication skills. And of course spread the word about the course!

Summary of January Branch Meeting – Marianne North



We were pleased to have two AAUW Grant Recipients at the Branch Meeting. Jessica Supinski spoke on Title IX and Laura Cannon spoke about her studies in speech pathology.

Jessica Supinski, a Title IX educator and advocate, provides workshops to her Renton Technical College students on “What Is Consent” and supports campus community members who have been impacted by sexual misconduct. A 2015 AAUW Career Development Grant recipient, Jessica said she developed the workshop while working on her Master’s Degree. She was inspired to do so when she learned two of her student leaders had been victimized by another student leader who told her the women “wanted it.” Jessica channeled her outrage at this statement into a mission to make her campus safe for all students. She now is Director of Student Programs and Engagement at Renton Technical College and is pursuing a doctorate in organizational leadership through Northeastern University.

Rather than making college campuses safer for students, Jessica believes the proposed changes in Title IX will make it more difficult for victims to report sexual misconduct and for faculty and staff to help victims of sexual misconduct. She outlined the major changes which she said are described succinctly in The Chronicle of Higher Education article “What You Need to Know about the Proposed Title IX Regulations” dated 11/16/2018. A further problem with the changes, she said, is the changes do not cover harassment directed at the LGBT community.

Laura Cannon is pursuing an M.S. in Speech/language Pathology at the University of Washington. Her studies in medical speech language pathology focus on understanding the underlying mechanisms behind language deficits in stroke survivors with aphasia, or speech loss due to brain damage. Branches who raised funds for this fellowship include Bellingham, Seattle (Winifred Weter Fund) and Yakima (Lillian Butler Fund).



Our State Legislature is Now in Session: Here’s What is Likely in Store - Gay Armsden

Last year, bipartisan votes by the WA Legislature advanced this state toward greater justice in education, voting rights, equal pay and women’s health. The composition of this year’s legislature is more reflective than ever of the diversity of our residents and has more women in leadership positions. Let’s see what they will accomplish! Here’s a sample of this year’s bills that have the potential to improve the lives of women and disadvantaged students.

Pay: SB 5090 would prohibit employers from seeking the pay history of a job applicant, which perpetuates lower wages for women.

Women on Corporate Boards: SB 5142 would require a certain proportion of women on corporate boards. Publicly held companies perform better when women serve on their boards of directors.

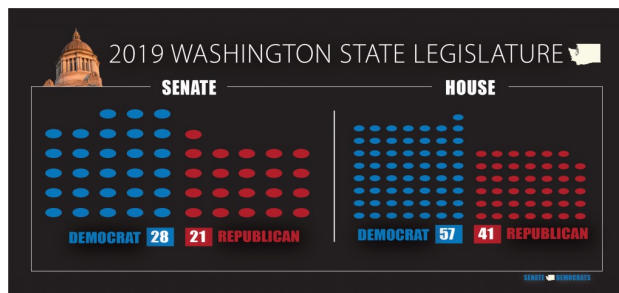
Rape kits: HB 1166 would greatly improve and reform policies on rape kits. And HB 1016 would require hospitals to help victims coming to them locate rape kits if the hospital does not have them.

Reproductive Health Care: *The Reproductive Health Access for All Act* (no bill number yet), drafted by the Health Equity and Reproductive Rights Organizations Coalition (Judy Waring is our representative to the coalition), would expand existing law to ensure reproductive health access for *all* people, specifically immigrant and transgender communities.

Domestic Violence: A number of bills would serve to increase protections for domestic violence (DV) victims. HB 1050 would create a DV registry. SB 5199 concerns monitoring DV perpetrators. SB 5143 would remove guns from DV perpetrators.

Education: HB 1123 would make college more affordable to ‘financially needy’ or ‘disadvantaged’ high school students going to community college (“Washington Promise” program) by expanding funding for state need grants and pilot testing a new Promise program.

Relevant links: Our lobbyist Pam Crone’s weekly report on the legislative session. <http://aauw-wa.blogspot.com/>. Find bill info here: <https://app.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/>. February 22nd is the cutoff date for most committees to pass bills onto their House or Senate floor. April 17th is the last day to pass most opposite-house bills.



AAUW January Board Meeting Summary—*Marianne North*

A Pay Equity Forum will be sponsored jointly by Seattle AAUW and the UW Women's Center on April 17, 2019, 3:30-5:00 p.m. Robin Hendricks and Marianne North will represent the Branch. The UW Women's Center Gala is March 2.

Due to the power outage during our last Branch meeting, the Board is formulating a plan to communicate quickly with members on meeting cancellations, perhaps via a telephone tree. The letterhead has been updated to reflect AAUW's revised mission, values, and vision. A work party was held at the AAUW storage unit to go through Dr. Weter's items, including school annuals, slides, SPU paperwork and journals. The financial report showed a 5% loss in assets due to market fluctuations in December. The Branch currently has 97 members with two or three more in process. The Board agreed we should try to reserve the Yacht Club for our 2019 holiday meeting, either December 7th or 14th. The first test of the web-based *Catalyst* format was successful. *The Catalyst* will open in an email. The format allows for larger pictures, more clean space, and easier access via cell phone.

Bylaws revisions, to be voted on in May, will be discussed at the February Board meeting in preparation for distribution to members by April. Revisions will include wording for a regular financial review. The next Board meeting will be 1 p.m., Sunday, February 17th. All members are welcome to attend. Contact: secretary@aauw-seattle.org for details.

Looking for Branch Officers - *Tonna Kutner*

We are looking for volunteers to fill three elected positions on our board:

Secretary – A perfect position for a new person to join the Board, take minutes, and share them with the rest of the board.

Programs - This is a perfect position for a team approach. We need members who are able to develop one or two programs in a team environment and do the legwork to communicate with the speakers. We have two volunteers already for this and need more. We need people to take reservations and to check people in for our meetings. We also need a coordinator to make sure the team is checking all the boxes.

President or Admin Team - Our current president, Barbara Sando, has done a remarkable job guiding our branch for the last several years. We are thinking two women could make this job into a team and provide our branch with continued leadership. We would definitely consider a new member as a part of this team. Have questions or want to throw your hat into the ring? Just to let you know, you should expect a call from the Nominating Committee, so be thinking on how you might help out the branch with your skills.

Contact the Nominating Committee Judy Waring, Fiona Goodchild and Tonna Kutner at: nc@aauw-seattle.org.

Scholar Recognition Update – January 2019 – *June Arnold*

The Scholar Recognition program is off and running with a great committee. Once again, emails, letters and calls are going out to high school counselors and principals across Seattle requesting nominations in the areas of mathematics, science and technology. This will be the Seattle Branch's 19th year of recognizing young women who have attained excellence in these fields. Be sure to mark your calendar for the evening of April 17th, when we will honor these young women.

Thanks to everyone who volunteered to participate in our 2019 Scholar Recognition Program.

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|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| • Rachel Foe: | Chief Sealth | • Susan McLeod: | Nathan Hale |
| • Heather Dohan: | Roosevelt | • Judy Waring: | Ingraham |
| • Senait Habte: | Making Connections | • Robin Hendricks: | Lincoln |
| • Marilyn Mears: | West Seattle | • June Arnold: | Summit Sierra |
| • Sam Montgomery: | Holy Names Academy | • Renée Agatsuma: | Garfield, Rainier Beach, |
| • Joan Peterson: | Ballard | | Southlake |
| • Barbara Sando: | Cleveland, Franklin | | |

First Storage Unit Work Party Held – Barbara Sando

On Friday, January 11th, five branch members participated in a “work party” at our storage unit. The “party” was organized by Tonna Kutner, who participated along with Lynn Dissinger, Sam Montgomery, Judy Waring and Barbara Sando. For those who aren’t aware, since the branch does not have a headquarters, we have a storage unit where our branch records and mementos are kept, as well as residual items from the home we inherited from Dr. Winifred Weter in 2006. The branch was tasked with clearing out the Weter home and readying it for sale – a huge set of tasks. Most of what was in the home was dispositioned at the time, but some more personal items remained.



The goal of this first “work party” was to make a first pass at the Weter items, identifying what could definitely be dispensed with, and what should be kept for a closer look. Items that fall into the latter category are Dr. Weter’s personal journals and papers and many slides and photographs. Among the former were many books (Greek/classics and poetry), old travel guides and maps, some framed artwork, and a few miscellaneous household items. In just under two hours, the group was able to fill two carts with items to be dropped off at Goodwill on the way home, as well as a few things for recycle or trash. All of the Weter items now fit on shelves along one side of the storage unit, with room to walk in front – not the case when we arrived.



In the near future, the Board will be discussing plans for the remaining Weter items, determining their historical value, and exploring what could potentially be archived at a museum or library. If you are interested in participating in a more detailed review of the Weter papers and slides that remain, and helping to figure out a plan for archiving her legacy, please let us know. At some point soon, our branch records and mementos also need more organization. If that’s your forte, and you’re willing to help, please let us know that, too. You can contact president@aauw-seattle.org if you’d like to participate in a future “work party” at our storage unit (located near the Magnolia Bridge).



Tech Trek is moving into high gear. Tech Trek is a great science, math and technology camp for girls now in 7th grade. All girls are sponsored by AAUW to level the playing field for all girls. I am so grateful to have members helping to contact schools and get teachers to nominate girls for this incredible program. June Arnold, Rachael Fae, Linda Harris,

Gaby Tosado, and Judy Waring are working at various schools and organizations to help on this project. By March 1st we hope to have many girls to interview. Interviews involve another volunteer team. If you want to be involved or find out more about Tech Trek, please contact Tonna at: techtrek@aauw-seattle.org or to make donations go to: <https://techtrek-wa.aauw.net/>.

Catalyst Workgroup Making Progress – CJ Nash

The workgroup is working on modernizing and updating *The Catalyst* to provide an all-digital newsletter in the near future, which will arrive directly in your email inbox, instead of clicking a link to access it. Our consultant, Allison Carney, used content from the December *Catalyst* to design the new prototype. A prototype of the newsletter has been tested by Heather Dohan, Tonna Kutner, CJ Nash, and Barbara Sando. The work group found that the new format not only works, but is much easier to read, with a cleaner, more open design. The new design features include an index of articles at the top of the newsletter, with the article linked directly to the content. The hope is to allow the reader easy, direct access to articles they want to read. Our consultant continues to refine the prototype with the workgroup’s suggestions, with a final prototype soon. Before seeking Board approval in March, the final prototype will be provided to the membership for review and comment.



Interest Group Corner

The Seattle Branch has four very active interest groups and hopes to add new ones in the near future, so 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—ad@aauw-seattle.org

Determined not to let the “Viadom” interfere with our art experience, the Art Smarts interest group will venture to the Columbia Tower in downtown Seattle on February 13th to see the winter exhibit of the Women Painters of Washington, “On Location,” which features “plein air” paintings either done completely out of doors or sketched on site and finished in the studio. After seeing the exhibit, we will gather for lunch in the expansive food court in the Columbia Tower. For more information or to be added to the Art Smart mailing list, contact Ann Dennis. In addition, Marianne North reports that the speaker for our May Branch meeting will be the president of the Women Painters of Washington.

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

AAUW Book Group will meet at 1:00 pm on Tuesday, February 26th, at the Lake Forest Park Town Center (Stadler Room), 17171 Bothell Way NE, Seattle. Our book this month is *The Dreamer* by Pam Munoz Ryan. Our young hero doesn't fit in with his friends or his father, but he persists and finds his way. This fictionalized biography of Latin American poet Pablo Neruda is especially directed toward teens.

Looking ahead, on March 26th we'll discuss Kate Quinn's historical novel *The Alice Network*, featuring a female spy in World War I. Have fun with this one!

Stage Presence—Bev Fogle—books@aauw-seattle.org

Stage Presence has two plays lined up this spring. First up is Village Theater's presentation of *I DO! I DO!* A Musical about Marriage with a stellar cast and noted writers. The tentative date is Sunday, February 24th, for a 2:00 pm matinee performance at the Village Theater in Issaquah. Contact Beverly for more information.

In June, there will be performances of *Behold the Dreamers*, presented by Book-It Repertory Theatre at the Center Theater at The Armory (Seattle Center) on Sunday, June 9th. If you have other performances you'd like to see, contact Bev.

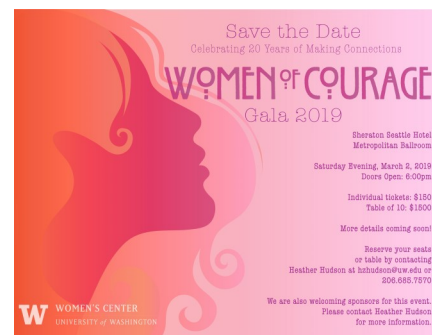
Writer's Group—Tonna Kutner—TechTrek@aauw-seattle.org

The Writer's Group meets at members' homes on the first Wednesday of the month at 11:30 am. We work on a variety of projects from fiction to family history. The group discusses each member's work for the month and offers our thoughts and advice. New members are welcome!

Women of Courage Gala 2019 – Please RSVP - Renée Agatsuma

As you may have heard at our Branch meeting, AAUW is again supporting a table at the fundraiser for our partner at the University of Washington – the Women's Center. The Women's Center stands on the frontlines at the University of Washington, dedicated to being “a catalyst for change. We disrupt cycles of oppression and break down gender-based barriers through transformational education programs, leadership development, and advocacy for girls and womxn. We believe womxn's rights are human rights. Programs and services are open to all students, staff, faculty and community members.” We have benefited from their help in our diversity initiatives and speakers, and we support many of their programs.

Come join other members at the Sheraton to learn more from our partners at the UW. We have 8 spots left! Please contact Renee at: c-u@aauw-seattle.org. While we ask our members to contribute \$50, we want all of our members to be able to attend – scholarships are available.



Member News:

Connie Kapner, one of our newest branch members, moved to Seattle in early December. Our member Lynn Dissinger brought Connie to our December meeting—they connected because Lynn's sister in PA is a friend of Connie's. Connie is retired from teaching Middle School language arts at Hutchison School in Memphis, a private all-girl college preparatory school. Her volunteer work included membership in the Brooks Museum League which supports the fine art museum in Memphis. This included heading up the League's Mid-South Scholastic Art Awards to identify and encourage budding artists in the schools. Connie also served in various leadership roles in the Josephine Circle which provides interest free loans to college students in the Memphis area. She served as president of the Twentieth Century Garden Club for two years. Connie is looking forward to participating in our Branch Book Group and "whatever else strikes my fancy." Welcome Connie!

Sending Sympathy to **Tonna Kutner** on the loss of her mother Noreen who died in Davis, CA, on Dec. 24th at the age of 100 years and 3 months. Tonna frequently visited her mother and helped her out in many ways. Our branch used to present a "Her Story" program each year and some of us remember Tonna sharing her mother's story of attending nursing school in Cincinnati during the depression when every dollar was important. Noreen believed in the importance of educational opportunities for women. Though not an AAUW member, she financially supported the AAUW Educational Foundation.



Bernice Sandler, a women's rights activist who was instrumental in the passage of Title IX - along with Reps. Edith Green and Patsy Mink and Sen. Birch Bayh - passed away on January 5th.



<https://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/two-minute-activist>

AAUW-Seattle Branch Officers 2018-2019

Elected

President:

Barbara Sando - president@aauw-seattle.org

VP Finance:

Beverly Fogle - finance@aauw-seattle.org

VP Programs:

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

VP Membership:

Judy Waring - membership@aauw-seattle.org

Secretary:

Marianne North - 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

College/University Relations:

Renée Agatsuma - c-u@aauw-seattle.org

Scholar Recognition:

June Arnold - recognition@aauw-seattle.org

Tech Trek:

Tonna Kutner - TechTrek@aauw-seattle.org

Marketing & Communications:

CJ Nash - marketing@aauw-seattle.org

Nominating Committee:

nc@aauw-seattle.org

Board Members at Large

Penny Tetter—pt@aauw-seattle.org



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Seattle, WA 98166-3207
Address Service Requested

Upcoming Events...

Date	Day	Time	Location	Program
February 9, 2019	Saturday	9:30am	Executive Inn by the Space Needle	Branch Meeting—Michelle Merriweather, President of Urban League
February 17, 2019	Sunday	1:00pm	Contact Secretary— (secretary@aauw-seattle.org) for location	Branch Board Meeting
March 2, 2019	Saturday	6:00pm	Seattle Sheraton Hotel	UW Women's Center Women of Courage Gala
March 16, 2019	Saturday	9:30am	Executive Inn by the Space Needle	Branch Meeting-Immigration and Refugee Panel with Barbara Spraker
March 16, 2019	Saturday	11:30am	Executive Inn by the Space Needle	Branch Board Meeting
April 8, 2019	Monday	7:00pm	TBD	Branch Board Meeting
April 13, 2019	Saturday	9am-3pm	Bellingham, WA	AAUW State Annual Meeting
April 17, 2019	Wednesday	7:00pm	Executive Inn by the Space Needle	Scholar Recognition Reception -Marian Gillert of Blue Origin
May 13, 2019	Monday	7:00pm	Contact Secretary— (secretary@aauw-seattle.org) for Telecon information	Branch Board Meeting
May 18, 2019	Saturday	9:30am	Executive Inn by the Space Needle	Annual Branch Meeting