



Saturday, December 21st—9:30am

Annual Holiday Program with RainTones Quartet

Seattle Yacht Club

Fireside Lounge

1807 E. Hamlin Street

Seattle, WA 98112

We are delighted to have RainTones sing for us at our December Holiday Party. They are a fun and dynamic quartet singing acapella harmony in the barbershop style. They've been singing together for five years, finding and growing their unique sound.

We will have raffle baskets to sponsor 2020 Tech Trek girls and some of our 2019 Tech Trek graduates will tell us about their extraordinary experiences at the week-long math, science and technology camp for girls between 7th and 8th grade.

Don't forget your donations for Mary's Place, which provides safe, inclusive shelter and services that support women, children and families on their journey out of homelessness. Please check out their website for most needed items <https://www.marysplaceseattle.org/share-your-stuff>, also see page 2 for more information.

Come Join Us!

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

Menu: Thick-sliced, grilled French toast with butter and maple syrup, fruit compote, bacon, link sausage, fruit juice, freshly brewed coffee, decaffeinated coffee, and tea.

Parking: Free behind the Seattle Yacht Club

Reservations required by Sunday, December 15, 2019

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

And Next Month...

"Advocacy In Action"

Saturday, January 18, 2020

AAUW-Seattle Meeting

9:30-noon

Executive Inn by the

Space Needle

200 Taylor Ave N, Seattle

In This Issue

Leadership Corner	2	Public Policy	5
Mary's Place	2	Marketing & Communication	5
Branch News		Interest Groups	6
Branch Meeting Summary	3	Joint State Convention	6
Board Meeting Summary	4	Member News	7
Tech Trek	4	Next Month & Upcoming Events	8
Small Social Groups	4		

Leadership Corner-Gay Armsden

What makes for a strong AAUW Branch? Number of members? Leadership excellence? Dedication to the mission? Member engagement? These are all powerful assets, of course. But *all* of them are vital for ensuring a strong and stable future for Seattle Branch. Behind each of these assets is a kind of cohesive force that makes it all work. Successful organizations have many members with strong ties to each other. People's feeling of social connection is strengthened through shared experiences and belief in a shared mission, which becomes a kind of 'social glue'. Social glue binds organizations, whether they are non-profits, corporations or sports teams.



Some of us have been referring to our newly formed small social groups (SSG's) and the new-member socials as "social glue activities". The idea of increasing social glue in our branch came out of our strategic planning initiative a few years ago. Members have told the Board that as much as they were motivated to join AAUW because of its mission, many joined also to make new social connections. So we decided to create more opportunities to get to know one another.

Three of our SSG's are going strong so far. We expect more to get going after the holidays. Members seem to be having a lot of fun (Poetry readings! Great snacks!); but more than that, they're learning more about each other personally, finding common ground in concerns over social problems, vested interests, hobbies, and just wonderful new things about each other. Our monthly branch program – wonderful as it is - isn't as conducive to these things. The SSG's will no doubt evolve over time and, we hope, settle in to a feasible, ongoing branch activity.

Our annual new-members socials offer new members the opportunity to spend relaxed time with longer-term members, to become well-informed about branch programs and activities, and to learn how member engagement makes all the difference in branch vitality. Following these socials, we've seen our newest members take up leadership positions, join committees, and volunteer for branch activities. It's clear that many of the newest members felt an immediate connection with the branch and its members and an early sense of empowerment for helping to ensure its success. We are thrilled about that, and very much enjoyed getting to know them as well.

With more opportunities to socialize, together we can create mutual bonds of recognition, connectedness, and feelings of support for others in the branch as well the well-being of the branch itself. And have a fun time doing it!

This newsletter is a publication of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) Seattle Branch.

Page one [Seattle cityscape](#) by Michael Tompsett

Mission Statement

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

Vision

Equity for all.

Values

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

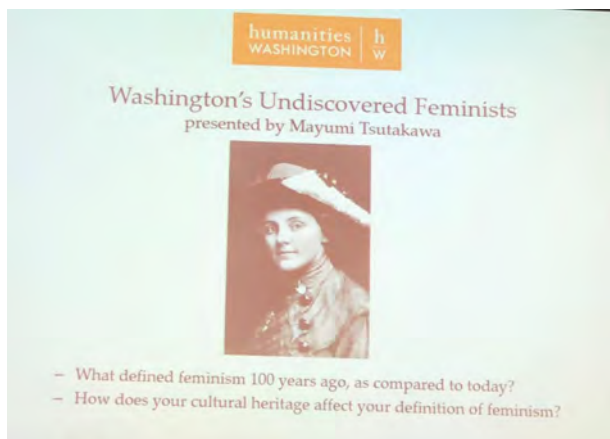


Seattle AAUW has a tradition of collecting items for Mary's Place at our December meeting. Mary's Place began in 1999 as a day center for homeless women. With the surge of homeless women with children who need a safe place to stay at night, Mary's Place has grown to include eight night shelters available for moms and dads with children. See their website <https://www.marysplaceseattle.org/> for information on the many services they provide.

Particularly needed are maternity clothes, stroller covers, twin sheets and blankets, towels, new underwear (all sizes and genders), socks (new). Also needed are season-appropriate clothing for men, women, and children, raincoats, diapers (high demand for sizes 5 & 6), baby wipes, and cough drops. For more information on items to donate see <http://www.marysplaceseattle.org/support-us/share-your-stuff/>. Tax receipts will be available.

November Branch Meeting—Judy Waring

This was our second year of having a joint November meeting with Edmonds/Sno-King Branch with a Humanities Washington speaker. This time we met at a new location, the Shoreline City Hall, where we had nice facilities and plentiful parking. Mayumi Tsutakawa of Humanities Washington spoke on “Five Women Warriors,” Washington’s undiscovered feminists from the past century.



First, we heard a bit about our speaker's early activist background, focused on housing. We learned the significant dates in Women's Suffrage and how our Washington was the fifth state to gain voting rights, ahead of the national 1920 date we'll be celebrating next year. She asked us why WA and the other states granting women the right to vote were all out West. The other question she asked, was "What is feminism?"

Then, Mayumi Tsutakawa proceeded to tell us about the five warriors: Imogen Cunningham, Priscilla Chong Jue, Vi Hilbert, Anna Louise Strong, and Ruby Bishop.

Questions and comments afterwards featured the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) and the Washington State Conference for Women that was held in Ellensburg in July 1977, attended by our speaker and a couple of others in the room. Some 4,000 women from around our state met on the campus of what is now Central Washington State University. Conservative and liberal feminists strongly disagreed about the ERA but pro-ERA delegates were elected to the national women's meeting held in Houston later that year.

Edmonds/Sno-King provided the coffee and snacks. Our member Marianne North, who is a dual member with Edmonds Branch, coordinated the arrangements for our joint meeting. A couple of guests at the meeting requested AAUW membership information and one joined our branch. Many comments were heard of "Let's do this again next year."



November Board Meeting—*Rachel Foe*

The Seattle Branch Board met on November 16, 2019 at the Lake Forest Bar and Grill after our excellent Branch meeting with speaker Mayumi Tsutakawa. Co-President Fiona Goodchild led the meeting and the Board began by discussing the Woman's March on January 18, 2020. It was brought to the Board's attention that AAUW could help sponsor the event and that it is scheduled for the same day as our branch meeting. The Board decided that Rachael Foe will meet with the Woman's March organizing team to gain understanding of what's needed and will report back to the Board. Then, Board members reviewed program plans for Branch meetings and solidified plans for the January and February meetings.

Judy Waring reported that we lost a few members that did not renew their membership and predicts our Branch will still have more than 93 registered members after November 30th. CJ Nash and Tonna Kutner reported about their efforts with our website and making it more mobile-friendly and searchable. Beverly Fogle presented our financial report and a questionnaire that she is filling out to support the preparation of our tax return. The next Board meeting will be held via conference call on Monday, December 9th.

Tech Trek—*Tonna Kutner*

We are excited some of the Tech Trek girls we sponsored last summer will be at our December meeting to tell us about their experiences. You will be able to hear firsthand what camp is like and what it means to them.



TechTrek is an exciting week-long, residential, hands-on STEM camp for girls currently in 7th grade who show promise in math science and/or technology. It's held at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma where girls live in college dorms for a week during the summer and take classes from an excellent group of female scientists. The camp is designed to create interest, excitement, and confidence in young women.

All girls attend on sponsorships so there are no financial barriers to attending camp. There are many activities we need to complete before these girls can go to camp. One is to raise \$1,000 to sponsor each girl. You can help out by attending our Holiday Program on December 15th. Meet with old and new friends and help out Tech Trek at the same time. We'll be selling raffle tickets for some great baskets and all proceeds will go to sponsoring Tech Trek girls.

If you can't make the meeting, here are some ways to make a tax-deductible donation to Tech Trek:

- Online, via credit or debit card, <https://techtrek-wa.aauw.net/>
- Via check made out to "AAUW-WA SPF" with "Tech Trek Seattle" on the message line sent to: AAUW-WA SPF, PO Box 1665, Bellevue, WA 98009-1665

Small Social Groups (SSG's) – *Gay Armsden*

The West Seattle + Points South SSG will next meet on December 10th at 10 am at Penny Tetter's home. Please contact her for details. This group's last meeting was at Barbara Spraker's home where each of the 8 attendees brought a favorite poem to read—and the story behind why each poem was selected was interesting, too. The next get-togethers for other SSG's, which will likely be in January, have not

yet been scheduled as of this newsletter. If you are not already on the email list for the SSG in your area, here are the contacts: Penny Tetter (host of next W. Seattle and Point S. SSG), Fiona Goodchild (host of next NE Seattle), Pat Dubrow (host of next Central), and Gay Armsden (Northernmost). The NW Seattle SSG doesn't have a person of contact yet. Please note that until there is a volunteer from each SSG to be the "official" contact person, contact names will change month-to-month. Email Gay Armsden if you are a new member and don't know which group you belong to (although you may attend any SSG) or if you have any questions.



Public Policy—*Katherine Cleland*

Lobby Day

Mark your calendars for Lobby Day, Monday January 27th at 8am at St. John's Episcopal Church, Olympia. Our morning speakers include Steve Breaux of Planned Parenthood who will speak on a bill to provide comprehensive, scientifically accurate, and age appropriate sex education in Washington's public schools. The proposed curriculum will include information about the importance of consent in sexual encounters. More details to follow as we know what bills have been proposed.

Equal Rights Amendment

The ERA is making rapid progress towards ratification, but needs our help. Virginia's new pro-equality legislature has proclaimed that ERA ratification will be early in the agenda of their new session. That makes them likely to be the 38th and final state needed to make the ERA a constitutional amendment. However, in 1972, when passed in congress, a deadline for ratification was added, and then revised. There are two bills in Congress today to REMOVE the DEADLINE. The house bill HJResolution79 had a hearing in the Judiciary Committee on Nov 13th, and was passed out of committee for full vote in the House. There are sufficient co-sponsors in the House to expect passage. The sister bill in the Senate has been introduced by Sen. Murkowski of Alaska. That bill, Senate Joint Resolution 6, needs us to make phone calls to our senators. Call Senators Murray and Cantwell and ask them to support the Senate Resolution SJRES6 to remove the deadline for the ERA by becoming a co-sponsor with Senator Murkowski, because there should never be a deadline on equality. I'm also happy to report that AAUW-Virginia has been a strong force in the push for Virginia to be the 38th and final state needed for ratification.

Marketing & Communications Update: Branch Website Progress—*CJ Nash*

The Branch website can be one of our most important outreach tools, bringing in newcomers trying to find a Seattle group working for women's equity. But until recently, even a Google search on something like "AAUW Seattle" would not have sent someone to our website.

Since this summer, Tonna Kutner has worked hard to change that and has gotten results. She has also had help from member Katherine Cleland, whose business includes search engine optimization, commonly known as SEO.

Among the recent accomplishments:

- Discovering an unintentional instruction on our host site, AAUW National, that prevented search firms like Google from including us, and getting that removed. This was a huge change.
- Getting site analysis tools from Google that told her the many ways our site is not "mobile friendly," which reduces the outreach we might have. Now we know what needs to be fixed if we want more people to find us.
- Creating an updated site map and sending it to Google, so changes we've made to the site since 2016 are visible to Google's computers.
- Taking her findings to AAUW-Seattle's board with a plan for how we might move forward.

Recently, a search for us returned one of Google's top-of-page "featured snippets" – a box with our logo and website address, describing who we are. That's a direct result of this work. As Tonna moves forward, we'll keep you informed.



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

After a delicious lunch of fry bread and other Native American specialties at the “Off the Rez” café at the newly completed Burke Museum and a photo op under the tail of a mighty whale, the Art Smart interest group agreed that the Burke is a wonderful asset. Those who remember the old museum (or even the older one) will appreciate how spacious and open the new one is. Of special interest were all the instructive interactive displays and the ability to watch researchers at work. What fun! Where will we go next month? We don't know yet, but if you would like to be part of Art Smart, contact Ann Dennis to be added to the email list.



Book Group—Fiona Goodchild—books@aauw-seattle.org

Come join us to discuss the November choice on November 26 at 1.30 – 3pm at Lake Forest Park Towne Center. We will meet in the Stadler Room, near Third Place Books to review *Daughter of a Queen*, an African American women's history, by Sarah Bird. We will not meet in December, but will resume in the new year on January 28, 2020 and our book focus will be *This is How It Always Is* by Laurie Frankel. For more information contact Fiona Goodchild.

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

For our next Stage Presence excursion, let's try something different! The University of Washington School of Drama will be presenting a 'pared-down reimagining' of Chekhov's tragicomic masterpiece *Three Sisters* at the Glenn Hughes Penthouse Theatre on the campus. This historic theater was the first “theater in the round” in the country. Let's plan to go on **Thursday, December 5, at 7:00 p.m.** I'll get tickets for those who contact me by Tuesday, December 3rd.

Our January excursion to *Guys & Dolls* is still planned for the Village Theater in **Everett on January 25, 2020** (a Saturday matinee). Considered by many to be the perfect musical comedy, it has been an iconic crowd-pleaser since it first hit Broadway. This beloved multi-award-winner is a non-stop treat full of romance, hilarity, and irresistible charm. I have one unclaimed ticket. Let me know if you are interested.

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

The writing group meets on the first Thursday of most months at 10:30 am. Members share and critique their writing, which can range from memoirs to fiction to short stories based on writing prompts. If you are interested in joining this group, contact Tonna Kutner.

Joint Washington-Oregon State Convention—April 17-19, 2020—Judy Waring

Together Women Make History...

Mark April 17-19 on your 2020 calendars—you won't want to miss the joint convention that will be held at the Heathman Lodge in Vancouver, Washington. Celebrate women's suffrage with like-minded women from the two states, and others invited from around the country. Suffrage night on Saturday night features women dressed in white and a festive evening of historical entertainment. In other sessions learn from a diverse group of experts who will give presentations based on AAUW's major themes of education and training; economic security; and leadership. You'll enjoy hands-on learning about social media and writing postings for Wikipedia during Friday afternoon special sessions. You'll have the chance to explore the Vancouver area with a number of guided tours on Friday afternoon. Details and hotel information, registration forms, and meeting agendas will be available early in the new year. There will be an early-bird discount again this year.

Member News —Judy Waring

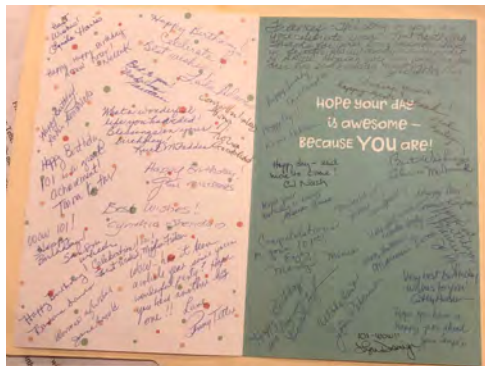
Gay Armsden and her husband Ken Berkun traveled to New England, where Gay has roots, for some leaf-peeping (as the locals call it). They drove the length of Vermont's Green Mountain range and reveled in the luscious leaf-scapes.



DeLancey Lane was the campaign manager for the re-election of the County Council member in the district where she lives. She organized volunteers for knocking on doors in the district, arranged hosting of fund raisers, coordinated endorsements and wrote ads for mailers. DeLancey is also the college-university board member for WA State AAUW and has been assisting branches in forming partnerships with local colleges.



Frances Kwapil celebrated her 101st birthday in November with a visit from her niece—a quieter celebration than her 100th when family came from around the US, the Czech Republic, and South Africa. Our members signed a birthday card for Frances at our October branch meeting and the picture shows Frances reading the card when Judy Waring visited to deliver the card—and was treated to lunch in the Ida Culver Dining Room. Frances is a retired Seattle Public Schools teacher, served as branch secretary and was active on



joined our branch in 1945.

committees for many years, and enjoys reading this Catalyst newsletter to keep up on our activities. She sometimes attends our December holiday meeting—we hope to see her again this December. Frances is our longest serving branch member—she

AAUW-Seattle Branch Officers 2019-2020

Elected

Co-Presidents:

Lynn Dissinger & Fiona Goodchild - president@aauw-seattle.org

VP Finance:

Beverly Fogle - finance@aauw-seattle.org

VP Programs:

Cynthia Sheridan - programs@aauw-seattle.org

VP Membership:

Judy Waring - membership@aauw-seattle.org

Secretary:

Rachael Foe - secretary@aauw-seattle.org

Appointed

Web Site:

Heather Dohan - website@aauw-seattle.org

Catalyst Newsletter Editor:

Heather Dohan - catalyst@aauw-seattle.org

Public Policy:

Katherine Cleland - publicpolicy@aauw-seattle.org

College/University Relations:

Renée Agatsuma & Robin Hendricks - c-u@aauw-seattle.org

Scholarship Program:

Gay Armsden—scholarships@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

Gay Armsden—scholarships@aauw-seattle.org

June Arnold-recognition@aauw-seattle.org

Connect with us!



Timeline About Photos Likes More ▾

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Seattle, WA 98136-2332
Address Service Requested

<i>Upcoming Events...</i>				
Date	Day	Time	Location	Program
December 9, 2019	Monday	7 pm	Contact Secretary— (secretary@aauw-seattle.org) for information	Branch Board Meeting
December 21, 2019	Saturday	9:30 am	Seattle Yacht Club, Seattle, WA	Annual Holiday Program with the Raintones and Tech Trek girls
January 18, 2020	Saturday	9:30 am	Executive Inn by the Space Needle, Seattle, WA	TBD
January 27, 2020	Monday	8am	Olympia, WA	AAUW State Lobby Day St. John's Episcopal Church, Olympia
February 15, 2020	Saturday	9:30 am	Executive Inn by the Space Needle, Seattle, WA	TBD
March 21, 2020	Saturday	9:30 am	Executive Inn by the Space Needle, Seattle, WA	Michele Matassa Flores Executive Editor of the Seattle Times
April 15, 2020	Wednesday	7 pm	Executive Inn by the Space Needle, Seattle, WA	Scholar Recognition
April 17-19, 2020	Friday— Sunday		Heathman Lodge, Vancouver, WA	Washington-Oregon State Convention
May 16 ,2020	Saturday	9:30 am	Executive Inn by the Space Needle, Seattle, WA	Annual Meeting and Elise Hop- per, author