



**Michele Matassa Flores**  
**The Seattle Times Executive Editor**

**“The Fight Against Fake News: An Inside View”**

**Saturday, March 21, 2020**

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

As we enter this election year, *The Seattle Times* Executive Editor Michele Matassa Flores will give us her take on fake news – what it’s doing to the local news business, editors’ roles in guarding against anything truly fake, and how individuals can distinguish between the fake and the real.

As executive editor, Matassa Flores is responsible for the news content of both the printed newspaper and [seattletimes.com](http://seattletimes.com). She has worked in nearly every news department, as well as at *Crosscut* and the *Puget Sound Business Journal*. A graduate of The University of Oregon, she lives in West Seattle.

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

**Come Join Us!**

**Cost:** \$15 inclusive. No charge for first-time visitors, full-time students, or matriculated students with corresponding student ID. Reservations still required.

**Menu:** Greek vegetable scramble (onions, tomato, bell peppers, olives and Feta cheese topped with fresh basil), ham, roasted baby red potatoes, breakfast breads, fresh fruit juice, and freshly brewed Cafe Vita 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. Bus: #8 on Denny.

**Reservations required by Sunday, March 15, 2020.**

To reserve your place, send an email to: [RSVP@aauw-seattle.org](mailto:RSVP@aauw-seattle.org).

**And Next Month...**

**Scholar Recognition with  
Deputy Chief Reba Gonzales  
Seattle Fire Department**

Wednesday, April 15, 2020  
AAUW-Seattle Meeting—7 pm

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

**In This Issue**

Leadership Corner .....	<a href="#">2</a>	Tech Trek .....	<a href="#">5</a>
AAUW OR-WA Convention .....	<a href="#">2</a>	Interest Groups .....	<a href="#">6</a>
Branch Meeting Summary .....	<a href="#">3</a>	Nomination Committee .....	<a href="#">6</a>
Scholar Recognition .....	<a href="#">3</a>	Dues and Membership Renewal .....	<a href="#">6</a>
Board Meeting .....	<a href="#">4</a>	New Zealand Women Celebrate 125 years of Suffrage .....	<a href="#">7</a>
Lobby Day .....	<a href="#">4</a>	Next Month & Upcoming Events .....	<a href="#">8</a>
Womxn’s March .....	<a href="#">4</a>		
Small Social Groups .....	<a href="#">5</a>		

## Leadership Corner—Robin Hendricks

A few years ago, I was invited to attend a meeting of the Seattle Branch of AAUW by my neighbor, Lynn Dissinger. Both of us were avid readers and the program for that meeting featured Mary Ann Gwinn, who wrote about books and authors for *The Seattle Times*. I went expecting to hear interesting stories about meeting authors and favorite books that she had read. Indeed I did, but I also found a group of women who were committed to making a difference in the lives of women and who were busy with many activities to do just that.



It had been a while since I had been involved with an organization that sparked my interest and I was keeping my eyes open for something. Past volunteerism had been with the Ulster Project in Cincinnati and Atlanta. This was a community group that brought Northern Irish teenagers, Catholic and Protestant, to host cities to spend a month with American teenagers, getting to know and learning from each other. For several years in Seattle, I helped organize a marketplace at my church each December that sold products from around the world that often were made by groups of women who were working to support their families. The mission of the AAUW appealed to me and it was evident from the business meeting how many activities the members of the Seattle branch were participating in. Although I didn't join at that meeting, I was a member before that year ended.

Finding opportunities to become involved wasn't hard. Narrowing down the various possibilities wasn't as easy. Since I worked at the University of Washington and was on the Seattle campus, I became one of the liaisons between the AAUW and the Women's Center. Renée Agatsuma and Barbara Sando carried most of the responsibility the first year, but I hope I've picked up my share now. When needed, I have also helped with membership and a little bit with Scholar Recognition.

AAUW opened my eyes to how wide the distance to be covered by women to achieve equity is and that small actions will help to reach the goal as well as big ones. The branch meetings, small social groups, and interest groups provide opportunities to make connections with other women, to learn, and to just have fun. There is something for all members in AAUW!

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

### **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.

## **Call for 2020-21 Program Planning Committee Members—Cynthia Sheridan**

We have already secured our program speaker for the September 2020 AAUW Branch Meeting. We cordially invite you, our members, to join us for a gathering to plan the rest of the 2020-21 program schedule. Let's meet the week of March 23-27. Please email Program Chair Cynthia Sheridan, [csheridan01@gmail.com](mailto:csheridan01@gmail.com), if you wish to be part of this committee, and include what times and days of the week are best for you. We appreciate your energy and great ideas!

## **AAUW Oregon-Washington Joint Convention April 17 – 19, 2020**

A fun and informative gathering of AAUW members is occurring this spring at the Heathman Lodge in Vancouver, WA. Join Washington and Oregon members as we celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women's suffrage. National AAUW CEO, Kim Churches will be on hand to present "The Equity Network". There will also be various workshops including "Combatting Sexual Assault", "They Persisted", and "Recruiting Women for Non-Profit Boards".

The convention early registration fee is \$120 on or before March 25th and includes Saturday lunch. There are separate charges for Friday and Saturday dinners. Lodging arrangements should be made directly with Heathman Lodge. We anticipate good participation from Seattle Branch members. You can register here: <https://aauw-wa.aauw.net/2019/07/13/2020-multi-state-aauw-convention/>. If you plan to go and want to carpool, contact Lynn Dissinger at: [president@aauw-seattle.org](mailto:president@aauw-seattle.org).



## February Branch Meeting—*Cynthia Sheridan*

We had a great turn-out at the Executive Inn and enjoyed a lovely light buffet breakfast with AAUW members and several guests. Co-President Lynn Dissinger suggested we share our favorite Seattle outing as we dined together. Before the program, Tonna Kutner led us in a rousing “Happy Birthday” song to Susan B. Anthony, as well as to our own February birthday people.



Rachael Foe introduced our speaker, Dr. Gwen Hanson, who spoke about “Climate Solutions and The Power of Women”. As a member of the Citizens Climate Lobby, Dr. Hanson is well-informed on the issues and solutions for the global warming crisis. She suggested carbon can be reduced thru a carbon tax, carbon regulation and carbon subsidies. The Citizens’ Climate Lobby is currently pursuing the Carbon Dividend Act, HB 763: a carbon tax and dividend bill. Dr. Hanson suggested that a bipartisan approach to climate change is most important so that new practices will be durable and sustainable, regardless of changes in political administrations. She also talked about the powerful role of women, who have (1) the ability to develop relationships that are meaningful rather than arguments that are resisted and (2) the mission of promoting education - which correlates with how people care for the earth. Dr. Hanson closed her presentation with a lovely reading by Rachel Carson, celebrating the beauty of the earth. The meeting ended with a lively discussion between the audience and the speaker. For more information about climate solutions, see the website: [energyinnovationact.org](http://energyinnovationact.org) and [citizensclimatelobby.org](http://citizensclimatelobby.org). Also, recommended reading from our speaker is the book *Draw Down* by Paul Hawken.



## Scholar Recognition Update – March 2020 – *June Arnold*

The Scholar Recognition program is off and running with a great committee. Once again, emails, letters, and calls are 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 20th year of recognizing young women who have attained excellence in these fields. Be sure to mark your calendar for April 15<sup>th</sup> and join us for one of the most enjoyable events of the year, when we will honor these young women. Our speaker is Deputy Chief Reba Gonzales, 2017 Seattle Chief of the Year.

Thanks to everyone who volunteered to participate in our 2020 Scholar Recognition Program.

- Sandra Wheeler: Garfield
- Rachael Foe: Chief Sealth
- Heather Dohan: Roosevelt
- Senait Habte: Making Connections
- Marilyn Mears: West Seattle
- Katherine Cleland: Holy Names Academy
- Joan Peterson: Ballard
- Barbara Sando: Cleveland, Franklin
- Cynthia Sheridan: Nathan Hale
- Judy Waring: Ingraham
- Renée Agatsuma: Rainier Beach

## February Board Meeting—*Rachael Foe*

The AAUW Board met via teleconference on February 10<sup>th</sup> and began with a discussion of upcoming program logistics for February and March. Rachael Foe then gave an update on our involvement with the Womxn's March on March 8<sup>th</sup> and how our branch might gain membership from a more diverse group of women. Judy Waring reported that membership is about the same with a total of 96 members. Bev Fogle gave a brief update on financials, Robin Hendricks commented on our collaboration with the UW Women's Center and the board voted to sponsor a new leadership conference, and CJ Nash commented on our marketing strategy. June Arnold updated the board on the successful progress of the Scholar Recognition planning. The next board meeting will be on March 9<sup>th</sup> at Fiona Goodchild's home.

## Lobby Day 2020—*Amy Klosterman*

Five Seattle Branch members made the trip down to Olympia on January 27, 2020, to participate in AAUW Washington's annual Lobby Day. Katherine Cleland, our public policy chair, helped organize our participation and hosted a wonderful letter-writing campaign at our January branch meeting to get people excited and motivated for Lobby Day. Our other attendees included Rachael Foe, Tonna Kutner, June Arnold, and me. The speakers were very engaging and informative. They included:

- **Steve Breaux of Planned Parenthood Votes NW & Hawaii** told us about the bills put forward to provide comprehensive, scientifically accurate, and age appropriate sex education in Washington's public schools.
- **Margaret Babayan and Andy Nicholas of the Washington Center for Budget and Public Policy** talked to us about the need for tax equity in Washington, including the effects on women of our current regressive tax structure and the contents of the bills proposed to address it.
- **Pam Crone, AAUW-WA lobbyist, and Karen Anderson, AAUW-WA public policy director** also provided information on bills we supported. In her remarks, Karen included some fascinating anecdotes about her experiences in academic leadership, where she and other colleagues spoke up to voice concerns about hiring faculty who were known to have harassed people at their previous institutions, an issue that one of the proposed bills specifically addresses.

For our legislator visits, Katherine had a visit with one of her legislators, June joined up with the newly renamed Whatcom branch (formerly the Bellingham branch) as she is a San Juan County resident, and Tonna, Rachael and I teamed up even though we have different legislators. We went through the legislative office buildings as a group of three, visiting two each of our elected officials. We had several nice conversations, especially with Rep. Gael Tarleton of my 36th legislative district, who is leaving the House of Representatives at the end of the March term and running for Secretary of State. We reminisced about past Lobby Days we have attended and the special tours that Judy Waring gives that illustrate her family's legislative history in our state. We toured the Temple of Justice, which houses the Washington State Supreme Court, and marveled at how our state's Supreme Court currently has a female majority, with a female Chief Justice.

## Womxn's March Update – *Rachael Foe*

This year's march will be on International Womxn's Day Sunday March 8<sup>th</sup>. The theme is, "The Next Revolutionaries" with the emphasis being on youth and young women. A rally will start at Beacon Hill Playground at 1pm and we will march to City Hall Park. There is talk of getting a group of AAUW women together to march behind a banner. Please contact Rachael Foe at: [rachaelfoe@gmail.com](mailto:rachaelfoe@gmail.com) if you would like to be part of this or help organize it. If you would like to volunteer the day of the march please fill out [this volunteer form](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScnSFEoRKvBeubam8zNkm4EPdJU1IStvLXC6hxF4dVKsL8KA/viewform) (<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScnSFEoRKvBeubam8zNkm4EPdJU1IStvLXC6hxF4dVKsL8KA/viewform>).

## Small Social Groups (SSG's)—Gay Armsden

All five SSG's are up and running! Reports are coming in of lots of fun. The NW SSG had its inaugural gathering at the Dane Café in Ballard on February 6th. It was great for members whose paths have not crossed at monthly meetings to meet and get to know each other. The next **Northwest (NW) Seattle SSG** will meet on



Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm. Contact Laurel Erickson for location. The next get-together of the **South End SSG** (formerly W. Seattle and Points South) will be at Ann Dennis's home on March 10<sup>th</sup> at 10 am. The **Central Area SSG** will next meet on Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> at Tonna Kutner's home (time TBD). The **Northernmost SSG** will meet at Marianne North's on March 29<sup>th</sup> (time TBD). The SSGs thank Gay for kicking off the idea of applying some Social Glue!



## Tech Trek—Tonna Kutner

Tech Trek is an exciting week-long, residential, hands-on science, technology, and STEM camp for girls currently in 7th grade who show promise in math science and/or technology. At camp, girls live in college dorms and take classes from an excellent group of female scientists. The camp is designed to create interest, excitement, and confidence in young women.



We are in full swing, seeking nominations from teachers for girls to attend this camp. We are in contact with a number of schools; however, we find that teachers are overwhelmed and often need a boost to nominate girls for this great opportunity. Even so, nominations are coming in.

All girls attending the camp are "sponsored", which means their way is paid by AAUW. The program is particularly focused to serve girls who might not otherwise be able to afford this kind of enrichment.

We are hoping to send 10 girls to camp in July 2020. Once the nominations and applications are in, our next step is interviewing the girls at their schools. Interviews take about 10 minutes and generally happen in March. We like to have two or three AAUW members there to ask a set of questions. We interview girls one at a time. If you have helped with this in the past, we will be calling on you again to see if you can participate. If this is something you'd like to help with, please let us know and we'll add you to the list:

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

We have had some great donations this year from individuals and from our holiday party raffle baskets. It costs \$1,000 to send each girl to camp. Here are some ways to make a tax-deductible donation to Tech Trek:

1. Online, via credit or debit card, <https://techtrek-wa.aauw.net/>
2. 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



## Interest Group Corner

The Seattle Branch has several very active interest groups and would love to hear your ideas about new groups. 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](mailto:ad@aauw-seattle.org)

Here are some photos from the “Faces” and “Knitted Glass” exhibits the Art Smarts visited at the Bainbridge Island Art Museum on February 12<sup>th</sup>. What a fantastic little museum that is – well worth the ferry ride, and our delicious lunch was an added bonus. On March



11<sup>th</sup> the group will go to the newly reopened Asian Art Museum in Volunteer Park in Seattle, and on April 8<sup>th</sup> we will visit the Georgia O'Keefe exhibit at the Seattle Art Museum. New Art Smart members are always welcome. Contact me at [ad@aauw-seattle.org](mailto:ad@aauw-seattle.org) to be added to the email list.



### **Book Group**—Leanne Bly—[books@aauw-seattle.org](mailto:books@aauw-seattle.org)

Come join us at the March book group gathering on Tuesday, March 24 from 1:00 – 2:30 pm at Haller Lake United Methodist Church, 13055 1st Ave NE, Seattle. Sandy Schwartz will be leading the discussion of *Becoming* by Michelle Obama (non-fiction). For more information, contact Fiona Goodchild.

### **Writers' Group**—Marianne North—[writing@aauw-seattle.org](mailto:writing@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 Marianne.

## **Nomination Committee News & Call for Volunteers**—Tonna Kutner

We are really proud to have some great volunteers step up as nominees for elected positions on our board. Elections will take place at our May meeting.

Barbara Sando has agreed to be nominated for Finance VP and Robin Hendricks has agreed to be nominated for Membership VP. We will have pictures and bios of these two women in our May *Catalyst*. If any other members are interested in these positions, please let the Nominating Committee, Tonna Kutner, Cynthia Sheridan, and Judy Waring, know at: [nc@aauw-seattle.org](mailto:nc@aauw-seattle.org).

We also need volunteers to help us in several other areas. Our longtime Webmaster and *Catalyst* editor, Heather Dohan, will be stepping down from both positions in May. We are currently working with a member who is interested in editing the *Catalyst*. We also need someone to update our website, which is in Word Press, send out email, and work on other technology tasks. Training is available for all these tasks.

The Marketing Committee is looking for volunteers to help guide our marketing efforts, as well as helping with Facebook, Meetup and other marketing tasks. Please contact CJ Nash at: [marketing@aauw-seattle.org](mailto:marketing@aauw-seattle.org) if you have questions or want to know more about these volunteer positions.

## **AAUW Dues and Membership Renewal 2020**—Judy Waring

Invoices for dues for the 2020 membership year (July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021) will be e-mailed to you in late March with your personal link, so that you can easily pay using a credit card. Starting March 16<sup>th</sup>, dues also can be paid by mail. Seattle Branch membership dues are \$85 (National dues \$59, Washington state dues \$10, and Seattle branch dues \$16). If you prefer to renew your membership by paying with a check, please bring your \$85 check made out to Seattle AAUW to a branch meeting or contact Judy at:

[membership@aauw-seattle.org](mailto:membership@aauw-seattle.org) for instructions for mailing your check. New AAUW members who join on or after March 16<sup>th</sup> will be paid up through June 30, 2020. If new members (or previous members who haven't belonged in over 2 years) join at a meeting, they can save half on National dues. To get this \$55.50 rate, it is necessary to pay with a check or cash. We plan to print the 2020-2021 Branch Directory in September. Please let Judy know if you have any questions regarding membership.

## New Zealand Women Celebrate 125 years of Suffrage in 2018—*Judy Waring*

Visiting the “Suffrage in Stitches” exhibit at the Wellington Museum was a highlight of my recent trip to Australia and New Zealand (NZ). With the United States celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women’s suffrage, it was interesting to find that NZ was the first self-governing country in the world to give all women the right to vote. I learned



that Kate Sheppard was the leader of the movement involving the Women’s Christian Temperance Union (WCTU), which gathered signatures on petitions to submit to Parliament in 1891, 1892, and 1893. Success finally came with the passage of the Electoral Act on September 19, 1893. The 1893 petition contained nearly 32,000 signatures on 546 pages collected across NZ.

To commemorate the anniversary, the Wellington Museum and Vinnies Re Sew (an organization that aims to reduce textile waste) worked together to create an art masterpiece. Descendants of petition signers and volunteers designed and individually or as a small group each made one of the 546 panels, honoring women signers and other women who continued the fight for women’s rights. Many of the makers of the panels were ordinary people from diverse backgrounds, of varied ages and skill levels. The panels are hung in three rows in the special exhibit and the total length of the rows of panels is 300 meters, which matches the length of the original pasted-together petition.



You can find pictures of all 546 of the panels as well as the unique stories of the women at: <https://www.suffrageinstitches.nz/catalogue>. Scroll down the list of 546 panels and pick one to open to see a finished work, read the story of the featured signer, and learn about the maker(s) and the materials chosen.



New Zealand women gained the right to vote in 1893 but they were not eligible to be candidates in parliamentary elections until 1919. Finally, the first woman was elected to parliament in 1933. Kate Sheppard (1847-1934) was honored when her picture was featured on the NZ ten dollar bill in 1992. She is the NZ suffragist who wrote: “All that separates, whether of race, class, creed, or sex, is inhuman, and must be overcome”

### AAUW-Seattle Branch Officers 2019-2020

#### Elected

Co-Presidents:

Lynn Dissinger & Fiona Goodchild - [president@aauw-seattle.org](mailto:president@aauw-seattle.org)

VP Finance:

Beverly Fogle - [finance@aauw-seattle.org](mailto:finance@aauw-seattle.org)

VP Programs:

Cynthia Sheridan - [programs@aauw-seattle.org](mailto:programs@aauw-seattle.org)

VP Membership:

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

Secretary:

Rachael Foe - [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:

Katherine Cleland - [publicpolicy@aauw-seattle.org](mailto:publicpolicy@aauw-seattle.org)

College/University Relations:

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

Scholarship Program:

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

Scholar Recognition:

June Arnold - [recognition@aauw-seattle.org](mailto:recognition@aauw-seattle.org)

Tech Trek:

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

Marketing & Communications:

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

Nominating Committee:

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

Board Members at Large

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

June Arnold-[recognition@aauw-seattle.org](mailto:recognition@aauw-seattle.org)

[Connect with us!](#)



AAUW - Seattle  
Non-Profit Organization

SEATTLE INC.  
(WA) BRANCH

Timeline About Photos Likes More ▾



**Seattle Branch AAUW**  
**4127 SW Kenyon St.**  
**Seattle, WA 98136-2332**  
**Address Service Requested**

<b>Upcoming Events...</b>				
<b>Date</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Program</b>
March 9, 2020	Monday	7 pm	Contact Secretary— ( <a href="mailto:secretary@aauw-seattle.org">secretary@aauw-seattle.org</a> ) for information	Branch Board Meeting
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 2020	Monday	7 pm	Contact Secretary— ( <a href="mailto:secretary@aauw-seattle.org">secretary@aauw-seattle.org</a> ) for information	Branch Board Meeting
April 15, 2020	Wednesday	7 pm	Executive Inn by the Space Needle, Seattle, WA	Scholar Recognition with Seattle Fire Department Deputy Chief Reba Gonzales
April 17-19, 2020	Friday— Sunday		Heathman Lodge, Vancouver, WA	Washington-Oregon State Convention
May 2020	Monday	7 pm	Contact Secretary— ( <a href="mailto:secretary@aauw-seattle.org">secretary@aauw-seattle.org</a> ) for information	Branch Board Meeting
May 16, 2020	Saturday	9:30 am	Executive Inn by the Space Needle, Seattle, WA	Annual Meeting with Elise Hooper, author, & Scholarship Winners