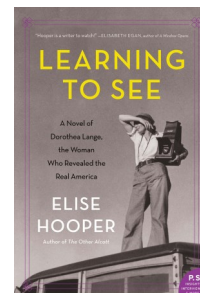
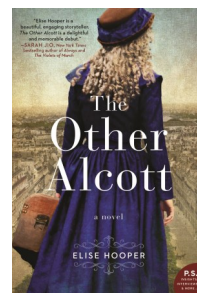


Cancelled

Saturday, May 16—Annual Branch Meeting with Author Elise Hooper

Due to Governor Inslee's stay-at-home order for Washington and the uncertainty of when it again will be safe to congregate, we have canceled the May 16th Branch meeting. This is normally when we would hold our annual business meeting and elect officers, in addition to having a program. Our planned speaker was author Elise Hooper, who wrote *The Other Alcott* and *Learning to See, An Historical Novel about Dorothea Lange*. If you're looking for something to read while staying at home, these might be worth a try. We hope to have her as a speaker next year.



Election of Officers via Survey Monkey



We will have our elections via Survey Monkey, so be on the lookout for an email in early May so you can vote to elect our candidates for Vice President of Finance and Vice President of Membership. Below are the open positions and candidates identified by the Nominating Committee. See page 5 for candidate information.

Barbara Sando for
Vice President of Finance



Robin Hendricks for
Vice President of Membership

Save the Date for the September Meeting—Saturday, September 19, 2020

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage, storyteller/actress Debbie Dimitre will perform her newest presentation of Alice Paul, the suffragette who powered the movement to its successful conclusion in 1920. Come join us on September 19, 2020 9:30 am at the Executive Inn by the Space Needle, Seattle, WA.

In This Issue

Leadership Corner	2	Outgoing <i>Catalyst</i> Editor	5
Protect Women's Economic Security	2	Branch Election Nominees	5
Give-a-Grad	2	My Covid-19 Experience	5
AAUW's Position on the Coronavirus.....	3	Interest Groups	6
Board Meeting Summary	4	Decline to Sign R-90	6
Tech Trek	4	Scholar Recognition	6
Membership Renewal	4	Member News	6
AAUW National Update	4	Next Month & Upcoming Events	8

Leadership Corner—Fiona Good-child

What a difference we have seen in our world since our last branch meeting in February. The impact of Covid-19 has changed U.S. society in a dramatic way and has prompted women to take on a new challenge. In this crisis, they are the majority of all 'essential workers' who carry the burden of healthcare and social work jobs. On top of this, many are also responsible for full time child care, a particular problem for single mothers.



The New York Times has reported on this issue consistently, noting on April 19th that women account for 73 percent of the U.S. healthcare workers who have been infected since the outbreak began. Governor Cuomo acknowledged that this 'care workforce', which is now so important, has long been undervalued. Evidence of this attitude is the lack of safety gear and equipment that has been provided to these workers. A recent *New York Times* editorial called for the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to increase mandatory legislation that requires such protection.

How can we respond? We can continue to support the mission of AAUW to promote better and equal pay, safer work conditions, and comprehensive healthcare. We can promote the idea that this crisis should encourage political leaders to pivot and recognize the importance of service to people and communities, as well as to economic progress. We can also focus on Getting out the Vote.

AAUW recognizes that the Covid-19 crisis threatens to distract and to prevent citizens from voting this November. Yesterday, I watched their webinar that outlines strategies to register and mobilize voters in this unusual climate. I encourage you to check it out (Advocacy at [aauw.org](https://www.aauw.org)) and find a way to engage in this campaign.

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

Page one [Seattle cityscape](https://www.seattlecityscape.com) 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.

Protect Women's Economic Security—AAUW National

Please, help fight for the women on the front lines of the Covid-19 pandemic. From now through May 30, your gift will be matched by 100% up to \$18,000, thanks to the generosity of AAUW's board of directors, national leaders, CEO Kim Churches and several AAUW staff. Info here: <https://www2.aauw.org/donate-gift-new/?treatment=AAUW9110PWES&AppealCode=F20BDM0420-1&emci=354f8873-6a85-ea11-a94c-00155d03b1e8&emdi=a99e3b13-fd86-ea11-86e9-00155d03b5dd&ceid=950048>

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

Do you know a woman graduating from college? Did you know you, as an AAUW member, can gift a one year national membership to as many recent college graduates as you like at no cost to them or you? Well you can! I have in the past. 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/>.

That's how much it costs to give AAUW membership to the recent college grads in your life.

Give one, give 100, give 1,000!

AAUW

AAUW's Position on Coronavirus

Wondering about AAUW's work with the coronavirus pandemic? Here are the thoughts of CEO Kimberly Churches as it took hold last month. There are links to this and the webinar "AAUW and the Impact of the Coronavirus" at: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/initiatives/connected-community/>. Churches has also been very active on Twitter @ChurchesK. You can find her latest tweets by googling "Kim Churches tweets."



We at AAUW are deeply concerned about the impact of COVID-19 on our members, supporters, fellowship alumnae and their families around the world. Your health and safety are our top priority.

We are all only beginning to wrap our heads around the unprecedented repercussions in the months and possibly years ahead, as well as the economic and social rebuilding efforts that will be needed.

AAUW has been at the cutting edge of fighting for economic equity for nearly 140 years. And what we're witnessing is how the pandemic is amplifying and exacerbating all of the nation's inequities.

The issues we've long been fighting for are now alarmingly urgent, and our efforts are needed now more than ever. Consider:

- Close to 30 percent of working Americans have no sick leave and have to choose between a paycheck and potentially losing their job or risking exposure to infection.
- Women comprise more than 70 percent of the healthcare industry, including more than 85 percent of nurses. They are on the frontlines, putting themselves and their families at risk to care for others.
- More than 10 million Americans have already filed for unemployment due to the outbreak – and women may well be the majority. The female labor force accounts for a large proportion of service jobs: more than 80 percent of waitstaff, 65 percent of retail cashiers and 65 percent of hotel and hospitality workers. These fields are among those most likely to face furloughs and layoffs.
- Part-time workers and hourly wage workers will face job loss, hourly wage loss and will need reskilling and retraining as we move beyond the immediate pandemic crisis.
- Education is being upended, exacerbating existing education gaps for lower-income and students of color.
- Women in college and graduate schools will be entering one of the worse economies in modern history, while still holding two-thirds of the nation's \$1.3 trillion of student debt.
- Retirement and other savings have been hard hit. Already, retired women are twice as likely as men to live at or below the poverty level. As the economy falters, retired women's ability to pay monthly bills and survive will be at risk.

AAUW has always used our collective influence to fight for economic justice from grassroots to national and international fields. But never has our work been as badly needed as it is right now. So my promise to you is that, when things finally settle down, we will be on the front lines of the coming battle to ensure equity and economic security for all.

These are trying times for everyone: for us as individuals, for our families and friends and for our fellow AAUW members. But we are part of a community that is there for each other – as we have been since our inception.

Please stay well, be kind to one another, and know that I along with the AAUW national staff are available and thinking of you.

We're all in this together. And together, we can make a difference!

April Board Meeting Recap—*Rachael Foe*

On Monday, April 13th the board met via a Zoom video call for the first time. Most of the discussion focused on branch impacts related to Covid-19 and the next steps we are taking. The board approved an alternative process for the election of officers due to meeting cancellations associated with the state stay home order. Also, board members discussed branch requirements for five-star status and approved a \$3,000 contribution to National's Greatest Need Fund. Other requirements will be further researched and discussed next month. Finally, Judy Waring pointed out that membership invoices will be mailed out at the end of April, and Gay Armsden and Bev Fogle discussed next steps for our scholarship applicants.

Tech Trek Update—*Tonna Kutner*

Due to Covid-19, AAUW National has canceled Tech Trek for 2020. Tech Trek is the STEM camp for girls currently in 7th grade. All the girls are sponsored by AAUW and it is an incredible experience for them. Canceling camp was not an easy decision, but the safety of the girls is the primary concern. AAUW has established a good fix, which is that girls selected for 2020 will be invited to attend camp in 2021 along with a new batch of 7th grade girls. We received applications, interviewed, and selected four girls this year. Interviewing the girls was fascinating. We interviewed them via Zoom, which worked out well for everyone during this time of social distancing. Thanks to Maryanne, Leah and Fiona for being on the interview committee. All the girls were interesting in different ways and amazingly articulate for their age.



Time to renew your AAUW Membership—*Judy Waring*

Be on the lookout for your personal invoice for renewing your membership for July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. The invoices are being sent via e-mail as this May Catalyst issue is going to press. Please contact membership@aauw-seattle.org with any questions regarding your Seattle Branch membership. (After June 30th our new Finance VP (finance@aauw-seattle.org) will be taking over the invoice process, working with our new Membership VP)

National AAUW Update—*Lynn Dissinger*

National Board Election

In early April, you should have received an email with information on voting for four new AAUW board members at the national level. Please take the time to review the profiles of these high caliber candidates and place your vote before the May 18th, 3pm PDT deadline.

Updated Website

During the week of April 4th, a much-needed upgrade to the national website, aauw.org, was implemented. This is Phase I only. Phase II will update state and local branch pages, as well as automate membership management. Take a test drive and experience the upgrades!

National AAUW Office and Events

The national office is closed, and all planned national events, including NCCWSL, have been cancelled through June. However, the staff has been working from home and offering online opportunities to connect. Almost 800 members tuned in to a webinar featuring NPR journalist, Diane Rehm on April 14, and one on 2020 Election Voter Access and Education during the COVID-19 Pandemic was held later in the month.

Shouting Out a Big ‘Thank You’ to Heather Dohan, Outgoing *Catalyst* Editor— Barbara Sando

On behalf of the past board, the current board and our general membership, I would like to shout out a big thank you to Heather Dohan for her five years of dedicated service to Seattle Branch as our newsletter editor and nine years as our webmaster. She has done a fabulous job and is leaving big shoes to be filled by her successor. I was ever so grateful when, during the very start of my first term as branch president, Heather voluntarily stepped in to take over as editor of *The Catalyst* when our previous editor took seriously ill and could not continue. Heather was a lifesaver – and also a pleasure to work with over the years. Even with a busy family life and a full-time job, Heather has tirelessly put together the newsletter each and every month, ensuring that our members have the information they need via e-mail or US mail, as well as on our website. Heather also created processes and procedures to document how everything works, which will give her successor a leg up on familiarizing herself with the job. Although we will miss Heather in these roles, we all wish her the very best as she pursues new endeavors and are happy that she remains an integral member of Seattle Branch. **THANK YOU, HEATHER!**



Election of Officers

Barbara Sando Vice President of Finance



Barbara has been a member of AAUW and Seattle Branch since 1991. Over the years, she's served on the local and state boards in various capacities, including President of our branch for four years and co-President of AAUW Washington State before that. As a math major who had a 32-year career in engineering at Boeing, Barbara enjoys working with numbers. She's currently a member of our Finance Committee and is looking forward to re-joining the Board and serving as our Treasurer. Always enjoying a new challenge, during her hiatus from the Board this year, Barbara has been working to restore a fixer upper house across the street, which she purchased to preserve her view of Puget Sound.

Robin Hendricks Vice President of Membership

Robin joined the Seattle branch of AAUW in 2017 after attending a couple of meetings as a guest. She has lived in Seattle since 1999 having moved to work at the Bon Marché. In 2006 she took a position at the University of Washington in the Office of Research Information Services where she still works. In past years Robin helped organize arts and craft festivals, held various positions with the Ulster Project Cincinnati and Atlanta, and served on committees at churches she attended. Robin enjoys reading, movies, attending dance performances and plays, and attempting knitting in her free time.



My COVID-19 Experience by Tonna Kutner



I came down with a cough on Feb. 28th. With all the talk of the virus, I decided to cancel my plans for the weekend. Good thing I did, as it was the beginning of Covid-19 for me. I felt pretty good for a few days and then started feeling exhausted, had an achy body like super flu. Called my doctor who thought it was maybe just regular flu. Slept for about 3 days, not hungry. Then I found I was not sleeping well, feeling very sad and weepy so called my doctor again and went to urgent care. I put on a mask and gloves and took an Uber, as I was not able to drive. Got tested and found out the next day that I had Covid-19!

There's nothing really to take for it. I was feeling reasonable again by March 16th and quite good by March 23rd. You just have to wait it out. It's no fun, so avoid it if you can. I was fortunate that it did not hit my lungs badly. I was never out of breath, just exhausted - out of breath is a bad sign and you should seek help right away. I am grateful for my friends and family who kept calling me and my nephew and online services who brought needed items to my door. My chorus was hit hard by the virus so I believe I got it there. Stay safe everybody!



The Seattle Branch has three 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.

Interest Group Corner

Art Smart—Ann Dennis—ad@aauw-seattle.org. Events are cancelled until further notice. Members will be emailed when it is safe to resume events. Contact Ann to be added to the e-mail list.

Book Group—Fiona Goodchild —books@aauw-seattle.org. Let us know if you would like to ZOOM with us May 26 at 1 pm. Sandy Schwartz will lead the discussion of *Becoming* by Michelle Obama, and Marianne North will facilitate the ZOOM meeting. Onward! Likewise, we plan to ZOOM June 23 at 1 pm. Fiona Goodchild will be leading the discussion of *The Silence of the Girls* by Pat Barker, a historical fiction about female slaves during the Trojan War. For more information contact Fiona Goodchild.

Writers' Group—Marianne North—writing@aauw-seattle.org. The writing group will meet via Zoom on May 7th 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.

Decline to Sign R-90: Don't Sign Referendum 90 (R-90) Petitions—Katherine Cleland & Judy Waring

AAUW supported Senate Bill (SB) 5395, the age-appropriate sex education bill, that passed late at night at the close of our legislative session on March 7th. At AAUW's January Lobby Day speakers informed us about this bill, which requires that public schools provide an age-appropriate sexual health education for K-12 students. The organized opposition to SB 5395 turned out in large numbers at hearings during the session and placed pressure on the governor to not sign the bill. After Governor Inslee signed on March 27th, the opposition immediately filed a referendum with the Secretary of State's office to overturn the new law. As a referendum, they have to collect 130,000 signatures. We are joining in the call to DECLINE TO SIGN R-90. They began collecting signatures on Referendum 90 (R-90) on Easter weekend and have until early June to complete. The easiest way to avoid re-litigating this important issue would be to keep R-90 from getting the required number of signatures. Please help spread the word to **NOT** sign the R-90 petition. For more information on SB 5395 details that show its importance, see <https://www.k12.wa.us/student-success/resources-subject-area/sexual-health-education/new-legislation-senate-bill-5395> on the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) website.



Scholar Recognition Packets—Lynn Dissinger

A huge thank you goes out to June Arnold for her leadership of the Scholar Recognition program this year. Despite the disappointment and challenges due to the cancellation of our annual reception to recognize our scholars, she managed to compile and mail packets to all the recipients, while working many hours at the business on Lopez Island. The packet included a Certificate of Excellence, an award check, *The Catalyst*, and information about AAUW. Kudos June!!

Member News —Judy Waring

Gay Armsden and her husband, Ken Berkun, traveled to Anchorage and Fairbanks in late February, returning in early March. Gay reports: "We attended the incredibly fun, longtime Anchorage winter festival known as the Fur Rendezvous (outhouse races!), and then took a gorgeous 12-hour train ride to Fairbanks, made longer by a mama moose and her calf who could not get off the tracks due to high snow banks. An hour-long dog sled ride was a highlight. We also stayed up until 2 a.m. to catch the Northern Lights; they weren't too spectacular that night, but we had lots of fun hanging out with others in the w-a-r-m cabin. The temp was -29 degrees (real feel of -37). It was a most interesting experience. I'm all set to return to try our luck again."



Member News –continued

Joan Peterson and her husband, Kim, were passengers on the Zaandam ship that spent 12 extra days at sea, confined to their cabins as passengers and crew on their ship came down with Covid-19. They had flown to Buenos Aires on March 3rd to spend a couple days there before boarding the ship for a planned 2- week cruise south with a stop in the Falklands, around the Cape Horn, and north through the Chilean fjords. When receiving “head to your cabin” word half-way through their cruise, Joan stopped at the ship library and picked-up 10 books. They enjoyed the views from their veranda cabin including seeing whales and porpoises, delicious meals and wine if requested, entertainment over the internet with daily exercise classes, games, and trivia. Joan said they were never in danger and were kept informed by the captain’s three-times-a-day messages to passengers. The Peterson’s cruise was supposed to end on March 21st with them flying home from Santiago, Chile, a few days later. She does feel it was important that their friends, neighbors, and relatives put pressure on their U.S. Senators and members of Congress regularly during their ordeal. The ship was finally able to pass through the Panama Canal and land in Florida. Joan was dismayed by the Florida governor’s reluctance to allow American citizens entrance to their own country. The Petersons had no complaints about Holland America. They arrived home on April 4th.



In January, **Ruth McFadden** went on a Smithsonian Journey,



a two-week tour to South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Botswana. Ruth reported on her blogspot: “It was an amazing trip, not entirely what I had expected, involving airlines, safari vehicles in a national park in each country, and a three-day train ride on Rovos Rail, the most romantic and luxurious train.” The tour visited the Cape of Good Hope and Robben Island, where Nelson Mandela spent so many years incarcerated as a political prisoner. Ruth took over 3,000 pictures, many of animals and

birds, and of the spectacular Victoria Falls where tourists wore raincoats because of the spray that was like heavy rainfall.

Cynthia Sheridan is a volunteer reporter for the Shoreline Area News. She represented the on-line news journal at the press conference on April 1st, held at the unveiling of a new Covid-19 tent field hospital constructed on a former Shoreline soccer field.

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
May 2020	Monday	7 pm	Contact Secretary— (secretary@aauw-seattle.org) for information	Branch Board Meeting— Teleconference
May 16, 2020 CANCELLED	Saturday	9:30 am	Executive Inn by the Space Needle, Seattle, WA	Annual Meeting with Elise Hooper, author, & Scholarship Winners
September 19, 2020	Saturday	9:30 am	Executive Inn by the Space Needle, Seattle, WA	100 th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage with Debbie Dimitre, Storyteller & Actress