

Tuesday, February 23 at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom*

Myths and Misinformation: Contemporary Immigration Politics in the U.S.

Dr. Sophia Wallace

Our February meeting's speaker will be Professor Sophia Jordán Wallace, an Associate Professor of Political Science at the UW who specializes in Latino politics, immigration and policy. Her presentation will focus on the major stereotypes that plague media depictions of immigrants and the distorted beliefs that make immigration reform in Congress extremely difficult.



She will also discuss the rise of misinformation surrounding the 2020 Election, and how the study of the polarization of public opinion regarding immigration over the last thirty years can lead to eventual improvements in the political status-quo.

Dr. Wallace received a B.A. from UC San Diego and a Ph.D. from Cornell University. Her book in progress, *United We Stand: Latino Representation in Congress*, examines the impact of Latino representation and the ways it serves the interests of Latinos. She is currently teaching a UW course on the politics of race and ethnicity.

***Join us! [Register here](#) to attend this free presentation.**



And Next Month...

Pandemic, Protests, Presidential Politics: Inside a Local Newsroom in a Historic News Year, with Michele Matassa Flores, Executive Editor, *The Seattle Times*.

Saturday, March 20 at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom

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Leadership Corner—Gay Armsden

Open Up AAUW?: A Spring Vote on the Education Requirement

AAUW members nationwide will have the opportunity in April and May to vote on a significant amendment to our bylaws: opening our membership to people who don't have at least a 2-year college degree (or equivalent). Previous efforts to enact this official change have failed, even though there are plenty of branches that unofficially welcome people, as non-voting members, who do not have a college degree (including at least two branches in Washington). When this issue came up for a vote before, I belonged to a different branch and most of the women I discussed this with were hesitant to support the change. They thought that the education requirement distinguished us from other women's organizations, and some wanted to continue hobnobbing with "like-minded" women. When I joined AAUW years ago, I was fine with the education requirement. I was excited by the chance to meet highly educated, progressive women *like myself*. My fellow branch-members then were fairly financially comfortable Whites, and I gave only cursory consideration to the people with terminal high-school degrees – much more likely to be non-White and low-income – who were excluded from membership. I suspected that AAUW's opening up membership was mostly a survival tactic. These are cringe-worthy recollections. Our society has changed, AAUW has changed, and I have changed since then.

What does it mean to want to belong to an organization of "like-minded" people? Does it mean wanting to spend time with people who have similar values, intellects and lifestyles? This sounds like a description of our circle of friends. But should it be a requirement for our fellow feminist activists? Seattle Branch has been strategically working toward greater social connection among our members, and we have seen substantial success in that regard. We are also endeavoring to be a more inclusive branch - a much more difficult, but nevertheless exigent, goal.

When we limit our membership, we limit our collective thinking and energy. Representation matters. One of the important messages of the Black Lives Matter movement is that people must be willing to step out of their comfort zones. We can open ourselves more to getting to know feminists of *all kinds* as allies in our mission - expanding the edges of our comfort zone by interacting with diverse, differently-educated people. This is imperative to our mission to promote gender equity for *all*. We don't have to depend on mostly upper middle class, mostly White, college graduates to do that. As Jamie Pardau, past president of AAUW Kona (HI) and a strong leader I have met, has written, "The strength of AAUW is its mission, not the background of individual members." And as to our losing our "specialness" by eliminating the higher education requirement, AAUW is considered unique due to, among other things, our research, public policy, advocacy, and fellowships. Opening up AAUW will let go of nothing but its exclusivity, and stands to gain us even more respect, a more diverse membership, and the promise of greater success of our mission.

To comment on the proposed amendment, [click here](#).



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.



SAVE THE DATE:

Saturday, June 12, 2021

AAUW-WA Virtual Women's Health Summit Watch future issues of the *Evergreen Leader* for details and how to register.

AAUW has broadened its membership requirements over the years:

- 1882 – Degree from certain colleges or universities
- 1949 – Degree from any accredited four-year college/university
- 1987 – Male as well as female college graduates
- 2005 – Graduates with a 2-year or 4-year degree



...for a Very Successful Greatest Needs Fundraiser!

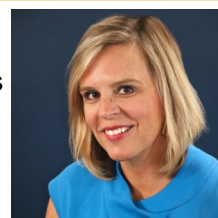
—Barbara Sando

Thanks to generous Seattle Branch members, \$1,978 was contributed to the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund during November and December. These donations have been matched by our branch and by the AAUW national board, for a total contribution of over \$5,900!

Our financial record also shows that we don't necessarily need a fundraiser to open our hearts and wallets for AAUW. During the first ten months of 2020, Seattle Branch members contributed \$1,629 to the Greatest Needs Fund, and our branch contributed another \$3,000 as part of our efforts to successfully achieve AAUW Five-Star status. The calendar year total for Seattle Branch contributions to the Greatest Needs Fund is \$6,600. With matching funds included, our total impact exceeds an impressive \$10,500 for 2020! Thank you again to all of those who so generously contributed.

Kim Churches, CEO AAUW, in a recent letter to our branch:

I just learned from our team that your fabulous Five-Star Seattle Branch has made generous donations to our Greatest Needs Fund. Please share my personal thanks with all those whose passion for AAUW's mission made these gifts possible. Your generosity gives us a head start as we finally have turned the page on 2020 to embrace 2021 with determination, an abundance of resilience and clear-eyed optimism.



Branch Meeting Summary—Lynn Dissinger

Journalism: One Woman's Story, with Linda Kramer Jennings



Speaker Linda Kramer Jennings shared her views on the current state of journalism and her experience as a woman journalist. Instead of notebooks and recorders, tools of the trade are likely to include [helmets and flak jackets in today's environment](#) where the press has become a target. In addition to the potential for physical violence, women journalists must deal with online violence and harassment. Statistics show that nearly one third of women consider leaving journalism jobs as a result.

While women were once relegated to the Society section of a newspaper, it took discrimination lawsuits in the 1970's to open the doors to political coverage, one of the biggest journalistic hurdles for women to clear. Today's journalists have pioneers such as Betsy Wade of the *New York Times*, Peggy Simpson of the Associated Press, and Lynn Povich of *Newsweek* to thank for fighting to remove those barriers. Linda shared the Shirley Chisholm quote, "If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair."

No matter how objective the journalist, each can see things through a different lens. That makes it critically important for diversity among the professionals who report the news. Yet, *The Status of Women in US Media in 2019* reports that of the overall workforce in newsrooms, 41.7% are women and 22.6% people of color. What stories are missed if equal representation is missing? Also important is the availability of diverse expert sources. With that in mind, the organization that posted the report also has a She Sources tab on their website, with a rolodex of women experts (womensmediacenter.com).

Despite having the opportunity to report on notable people and events, Linda feels her most important stories are those about everyday people in extraordinary situations.

THERE'S MORE ON OUR BLOG!

- Link to the [recorded presentation](#)
- List of [books and other resources](#) on women and journalism

Public Policy—Katherine Cleland

The AAUW-WA Lobby Day virtual information session is happening on February 1.

Lobbying will be all virtual and if you act *right away*, you can still sign up to lobby by emailing Katherine Cleland at publicpolicy@aauw-seattle.org. She will connect you with the team for your legislative district, and send you details so you can make online comments or send letters to your representatives.

Exactly how you lobby your legislators depends on the lawmakers in your district. All WA legislative sessions and testimony will be virtual. [Here are some tips.](#)

AAUW-WA will be focusing on the following bills and topics (subject to change, final list will be presented with handouts at the virtual Lobby Day training). More information will be at the [AAUW-WA public policy page](#).

- HB 1297 expands eligibility for the Working Families Tax Credit
- SB 5140, Pregnancy and Miscarriage Care Act, requires that medical professionals in all medical facilities follow best care protocols for women facing crises caused by miscarriages or ectopic pregnancies
- SB 5068. Expands Medicaid funding from two months postpartum to 12 months.
- [SB 5237](#) and [HB1213](#), The Fair Start for Kids Act, is a multi-faceted approach to solving the child care crisis, addressing racial equity and helping the economy.
- HB 1073 and/or SB 5097. Expands paid family and medical leave
- SB 5177 will eliminate marriage as a legal defense for rape, impacting sex registry
- [SB 5183](#), will address domestic violence strangulation
- HB 2511 enacts protections for domestic workers



Seattle Branch Members
at Lobby Day 2019

More Ways to Get Involved:

- ♦ Search for bills by topic [here](#).
- ♦ Use the [free LegiScan tool](#) to follow bills that you're interested in.
- ♦ Attend committee meetings online via [TVW](#)

Reminder from AAUW-WA

Our members have been receiving Nancy Sapiro's weekly legislative reports via email.

If you wish to keep receiving these reports after February 1, send an email with your name to legupdate@aauw-wa.org.

THERE'S MORE ON OUR BLOG!

Get more [online resources and information](#) for following the 2021 session of the Washington State Legislature on Seattle AAUW's News Blog.

Board Meeting Summary—Rachael Foe

The board met via Zoom on January 11. June Arnold gave an update about the scholar recognition program and brought up possibilities for its future. Robin Hendricks shared that our branch is growing and discussed how certain events are impacted by the coronavirus and possibilities for attracting new members. Katherine Cleland reviewed her work to ensure a successful AAUW Lobby Day and updated us on a few legislative bills.

Cathy Anderson continues to do a great job with *The Catalyst* and Cynthia Sheridan reviewed some logistics for programming. Barbara Sando updated us on the positive state of our financials and moved that we increase our student recognition award to \$500 for this year only. The board passed the motion unanimously. Tonna Kutner continues to work hard on the new website and would like to have volunteers for web committees.

Special Section: Remote Learning During the Pandemic

Introduction—*Gay Armsden*

In this issue, we hear from two Seattle Branch members who have been involved with schooling during this time of COVID-19: one, a mother of a 3rd grader, and the other, a kindergarten teacher. They've detailed with candor how they dealt with the challenges they were faced with.



Photo: August de Richelieu, Pexels.com

Anxiety and depression are rampant these days among mothers with paying jobs and teachers. Telecommuting mothers have watched their productivity suffer while supervising their children's remote learning and/or providing childcare. Many single mothers with jobs that can't be brought home have had to leave their jobs, often leading to financial ruin. Little wonder, then, that there were 2.2 million fewer women in the labor force in October 2020 than there were in October 2019 (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics). Teachers are experiencing low morale and anxiety about their own health as they transition back and forth between remote and socially distanced in-classroom teaching and try to reach disengaged students. Twenty-seven percent of teachers have considered leaving their job. To read more:

- [Mothers Share What Happens to Working Parents When Schools Shut Down](#) (Forbes, Nov 2020)
- [The Hidden Impact of COVID-19 on Educators](#) (Horace Mann Study, Nov 2020)

Teaching Kindergarten During COVID: One Teacher's Perspective—*Marilyn Mears*



With the advent of COVID-19, Seattle Public Schools moved abruptly to remote learning last March – with little planning on just what that would look like! Thus began the most surreal period of my 25-year teaching career – very stressful, yet incredibly rewarding.

I teach at Genesee Hill Elementary in West Seattle, a large and privileged school. Educators planned extensively, shell-shocked, but rising to the challenge of remote learning. There was a steep learning curve for all involved. We had 1:1 student/family check-ins, one whole-class meeting per week, and students posting

audio/video responses to our taped lessons on Seesaw, a teaching platform. Teachers responded with audio comments.

Since the fall, daily schedules have included a live class meeting, whole class and small group lessons in Reading & Math, Music/Dance/PE or Library, Story Time and Build/Create or guided drawing/craft. Students continue to also respond to short taped lessons on Seesaw. Live instruction takes about three hours per day, with built in breaks/snack time and one-and-a-half hour lunch break.

Challenges/Concerns: These include: maintaining relationships, learning new technology, tech glitches, maintaining student engagement, getting needed materials to students, minimizing student on-line time, lack of student-peer interactions/socialization, and more.

Upsides: It has been challenging, but overall, concerns have been met. On-line attendance has been strong. My K Team has honed our teaching schedule with succinct lessons. Parents can see much more of their child's school day, view taped lessons, and hear teacher audio comments on their children's work. Many shy students have blossomed. Amazingly, students and teachers have bonded just as well remotely. When kids share their favorite part of the day, it is often, "I loved everything!" Students and parents are making friends. Planning, flexibility, and building relationships have been key!

Is learning remotely ideal? No. That said, our school found remote learning has worked better than we imagined. I channel my inner Captain Kangaroo! Keep Calm and Teach On!

Special Section: Remote Learning During the Pandemic (continued)

The Parent/Student Experience—*Amy Klosterman*

My perspective on online schooling comes from my experience and my 9-year-old son's experience. He attends a private Montessori school and is in the 3rd grade, which means he's among the oldest students in his class of first- through third-graders. We are grateful that, starting this fall, the school began having a daily schedule of regular Zoom class meetings and group lessons - which differs from last spring when all that was available was a biweekly solo Zoom meeting between my son and his teacher, as well as lists of activities/lessons to do at home.

My son, an only child, craved connection with his peers, so to have basically none was very difficult for him and also for my husband and me, who both work full time now from home. I recall the first time my son saw a friend in person after school shut down in March. In early June we invited one of his best friends to take a low tide walk along with our family from Carkeek Park Beach to Golden Gardens. My son excitedly exclaimed to his friend, "Is this the first time you've been with a friend? It is for me!" My heart broke a little. I knew his friend lived close to several other classmates and probably had played outside with them, and I wished I'd been more proactive about finding social opportunities for him.



At my best moments I try to focus on the good parts of being all at home together: increased family time and increased knowledge for me of what my son is studying and how he learns. We've luckily been able to have regular playdates starting last summer so he does get some social interaction, but we are very eager for the day when school can resume in person.

University of Washington Alene Moris Women's Center—*Robin Hendricks*



The Alene Moris Women's Center provides access to resources and opportunities that promote gender equity, and advocates for issues that are of importance to women. A major focus is to support girls and womxn who are first generation attending higher education and returning or non-traditional students. This support is done through conferences, workshops, tutoring, mentoring, and generally being there to give a helping hand.

When the pandemic swept the globe last year, the Women's Center adjusted programs and continued providing services to students who were counting on them. They did so successfully and have continued to do so in the 2020-2021 academic year. Here is some of the activity that has been underway and that is planned for winter and spring quarters.

- Making Connections is in full swing with high school students participating in online mentoring and getting assistance in completing college applications.
- AAUW Start Smart workshops are promoted by engaging students online rather than at workshops on campus.
- AAUW's NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders) conference will be held online this year, which will allow us to sponsor more participants beyond the two we have sent to the conference in the past.
- NEW Leadership Institute, scheduled for June 21- 26, will be online. June 23 is designated as Political Day, where the plan is to have three state supreme court justices as speakers.

SAVE THE DATE:

Saturday, April 17, 2021

Washington State Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting will be held virtually with a morning business meeting followed by inspirational speakers who will remind us that our work can go forward with new vision.

Watch for more information in the February and March *Evergreen Leader*, including how to register for this free event.

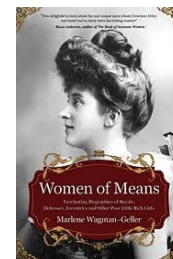


The Seattle Branch has three very active interest groups (one is currently on hiatus) and hopes to add new ones in the near future, so stay tuned. Check this space each month to learn what's happening with each interest group and consider joining one or more. The more members who join in, the merrier. A contact person is listed with each group below.

Book Group—Ruth McFadden — books@aauw-seattle.org

Our next discussion will be on February 23 at 1 p.m. Sue Greenfeld will lead our discussion of *Women of Means: The Fascinating Biographies of Royals, Heiresses, Eccentrics and Other Poor Little Rich Girls*. The Zoom session will be organized by Mari-

anne North. For more information contact Ruth.



Writers' Group—Marianne North—writing@aauw-seattle.org

The writing group is meeting via Zoom on the first Thursday of the month at 10:30 a.m. Members share and critique each other's 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.

Neighborhood Social Groups—Gay Armsden

"Small Social Groups" will be called simply "Neighborhood Groups" going forward, which, although it is a bit of a misnomer, makes it clearer what they're all about.

Our members who are working full time might like to attend some of these meetings. Perhaps on occasion all groups could accommodate their schedules. And remember that you can attend any group you want. Get to know members in other groups, too!

With a certain amount of discretion - because AAUW is a nonpartisan org after all - two Neighborhood Groups ventured to talk about political matters last month. At the most recent **NE Seattle** Zoom (pictured), members chatted about media "bias", the former president's behavior vis-à-vis Georgia, and the blog of historian Heather Cox Richardson, who writes about the connection of current issues with American history. The **Northern** group got to know two newer branch members better, and got lively over what has motivated certain national political leaders and their backers (personal ambition versus desired system of government).

- **Central Seattle:** Next Zoom: February 22 at 4 p.m. Current contact: Tonna Kutner.
- **NE Seattle:** Next Zoom: February 2 at 11 a.m. Current contact: Ruth McFadden. Meets on the first Tuesday of the month.
- **Northern:** Next Zoom: Feb. 10 at 5 p.m. Current contact Gay Armsden. Meets every other month on the second Wednesday.
- **NW Seattle:** Next Zoom: February 10 at 5:30 p.m. Current contact: Lynn Dissinger Meets on the second Wednesday of the month.
- **West Seattle and Points South:** Next Zoom: February 9 at 10 a.m. New member Kerry Lohr will lead the discussion. Current contact: Barbara Sando. Usually meets on the second Tuesday of the month.



Please send Zoom screen captures to Gay Armsden scholarships@aauw-seattle.org so your group can be

Scholarship Program Update—Gay Armsden



Interested in seeing what the 2021 scholarship application asks applicants? It's on our website at seattle-wa.aauw.net/college-scholarships/, where you can also view the eligibility criteria. Current committee members are: Gay Armsden, Suzanne Baker, Fiona Goodchild and Joan Peterson.

If you'd like to be a part of the committee, email Gay at: scholarships@aauw-seattle.org.

Member News—Judy Waring

In Memoriam: Dr. Patricia Dawson

Many members of our branch received the sad message from the UW Women's Center on December 29 that our Seattle Branch member Dr. Patricia Dawson had died: "Dr. Dawson was one of the founding mothers of Making Connections and a longtime Women's Center Advisory Board Member. We honor Dr. Patricia Dawson's lifetime work as a transformational leader in gender, racial, and healthcare equity. She will be missed tremendously."

After graduating from medical school in NJ, "Dr. Pat" finished her surgical residency training at Virginia Mason in 1982, the year that she joined AAUW. As a breast cancer surgeon, she practiced at Group Health, then Providence, and finally as medical director for the Swedish Cancer Institute Breast Program and True Family Women's Cancer Center before retiring. Then she joined UW Medicine as Medical Director for Healthcare Equity.



Soon after she was the surgeon for one of our members, Pat presented a program for us on breast cancer; years later she presented another program on breast health. Barbara Sando remembers Pat being a presenter at Seattle Branch's Expanding Your Horizon (EYH) program with hands-on workshops for middle school girls: "In the early 1990's, her workshop on suturing pig's feet was very popular. I got to know her better when we both participated in a Women's Integral Leadership Circle at Antioch University Seattle in 2003."

Pat and her spouse had moved to a First Hill condo in 2020 and Pat participated in our Central Seattle Neighborhood Group. When our branch members attended the UW Gala over the years, we would see Pat. At the last Gala on March 2, 2019, she was at the podium honoring Women of Courage and presenting the Women's Center Woman of the Year award to Ayan Hassan, an early Making Connections graduate who was later her patient. [Click here to read the story](#), which was later sent out by the UW.



Have a Member News story to share? Contact Judy Waring at catalystnews@aauw-seattle.org.

AAUW-Seattle Branch Officers 2020-2021

Elected

Co-presidents:

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

VP Finance:

Barbara Sando - finance@aauw-seattle.org

VP Programs:

Cynthia Sheridan - programs@aauw-seattle.org

VP Membership:

Robin Hendricks - membership@aauw-seattle.org

Secretary:

Rachael Foe - secretary@aauw-seattle.org

Appointed

Website:

Nella Kwan - website@aauw-seattle.org

Catalyst Newsletter Team:

Cathy Anderson - catalyst@aauw-seattle.org

Gay Armsden - scholarships@aauw-seattle.org

Judy Waring - catalystnews@aauw-seattle.org

Public Policy:

Katherine Cleland - publicpolicy@aauw-seattle.org

College/University Relations:

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:

Tonna Kutner - 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

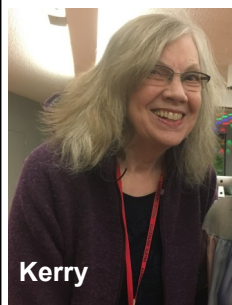
Judy Waring - catalystnews@aauw-seattle.org

Member News (continued)

Rachael Foe and her husband have moved from Seattle to live temporarily in Albuquerque, NM, because of an opportunity to live in a family-owned rental house while her husband continues to work remotely. They sold and donated most furniture, packed possessions in a small U-Haul, and loaded their two dogs into their car, departing December 17 for a three-day drive. Weather and driving conditions cooperated and they celebrated the holidays by Zooming with family and basking in the sunshine.



They are enjoying the blue skies, expansive views, and nearby hiking trails, but their dogs cannot be allowed to run off leash because of the many cacti nearby. Rachael is continuing her online Masters in Public Administration program at the University of Montana, where she was [recently nominated](#) as a Baucus Montana Leader. She is also working part time for the Montana State Legislature as a Remote Meeting Coordinator. She sits in on committee meetings (Natural Resources and Agriculture) and assists the public with testimony, as well as helps all things run smoothly for committee members (half are in person, half at home digitally). Rachael plans to continue serving as our branch secretary from about 1,400 miles away and will keep her AAUW branch, state, and national memberships.



Kerry

Welcome Newest Members!—Gay Armsden

We are delighted to welcome our new members **Sierra Clouse** and **Kerry Lohr**! We'll be having a welcoming orientation Zoom in 6 to 8 weeks for all new members since fall of 2019. New branch members have been receiving their welcome packets in the mail.



Sierra

Upcoming Events...

Date	Day	Time	Location	Program
February 1, 2021	Monday		Email publicpolicy@aauw-seattle.org for information.	Virtual Lobby Day
February 8, 2021	Monday	7:00 pm	Email secretary@aauw-seattle.org for information. Zoom meeting.	Branch Board Meeting
February 16, 2021	Tuesday	2:00 pm	Humanities WA event hosted by Olympia AAUW. More info.	She Traveled Solo: Strong Women in the Early 20th Century , Tessa Hulls
February 23, 2021	Tuesday	4:00 pm	Click here to register. Zoom meeting.	Myths and Misinformation: Contemporary Immigration Politics in the U.S. , Sophie Wallace, UW Associate Professor
March 20, 2021	Saturday	10:00 am	Email RSVP@aauw-seattle.org to register. Zoom meeting.	Pandemic, Protests, Presidential Politics: Inside a Local Newsroom in a Historic News Year , Michele Matassa Flores, <i>Seattle Times</i> Executive Editor
April 17, 2021	Saturday			WA State AAUW Virtual Annual Meeting
June 12, 2021	Saturday			AAUW-WA Virtual Women's Health Summit