

**Wednesday, April 28 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom\***

## **Scholar Recognition 2021**

Keynote speaker:

**Dr. Kelly Stevens**

Every year we honor high-school senior girls who excel in math, science and technology. This year's celebration will be virtual as we **recognize 36 young women from all over the Seattle area for their achievements**. All the girls have sent in short videos of themselves and we have a great keynote speaker.



**Dr. Kelly Stevens**, Assistant Professor of Bioengineering and Lab Medicine and Pathology at the University of Washington, will be speaking on **Engineering Social Transformation**. Specifically, she will talk about her role in a network of academics calling on national funding agencies to address disparities in their support of Black researchers. She has published a recent paper in *Cell*, entitled "[Fund Black Scientists](#)."

**\*Join us! [Register here](#).**

*Watch for our special Scholar Recognition Catalyst issue later in April, featuring student bios and more information about AAUW support for girls in STEM.*

### **And Next Month...**

Don't miss our annual meeting for branch business and the **election of officers**. We will also **celebrate our new members**, learning about them and how they happened to join AAUW.

**Saturday, May 22 at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom**

### **In This Issue**

Leadership Corner.....	<a href="#">2</a>	AAUW Membership Renewal Dues.....	<a href="#">5</a>
Board Meeting Summary.....	<a href="#">2</a>	New-Member Event.....	<a href="#">5</a>
Nominating Committee Report.....	<a href="#">3</a>	Special Interest Groups.....	<a href="#">6</a>
AAUW-WA SPF Board Openings.....	<a href="#">3</a>	March Program Recap.....	<a href="#">6</a>
Husky Giving Day.....	<a href="#">3</a>	Member News.....	<a href="#">7</a>
Neighborhood Groups Discuss AAUW		Tech Trek.....	<a href="#">8</a>
Membership Vote.....	<a href="#">4</a>	Upcoming Events.....	<a href="#">8</a>

## Leadership Corner—Robin Hendricks

This past year has been a doozy, but it has given opportunity for reflection. One of the things that I have thought about is what groups I am part of, why I am part of a particular group, and what is my part within the group.

There are many types of groups that a person can belong to. There can be a team at work that counts on you holding up your end of the workload. Family groups ripple out, from those that are closest to you and are interacted with daily, to those that are seen once or twice a year. Friends consist of people with common interests that are chosen by you and generally provide fun and relaxation. Then there are organizations that you join because you believe in the mission and vision and want to be part of making something happen.

AAUW is an organization that I chose to join because of its work towards gender equity and the projects being done to empower young women to stretch for opportunities as far as possible. Joining AAUW allows me to meet others who are also interested in equity and to add my voice to theirs. Being part of the Seattle Branch gives me a means to learn from others with more experience and expertise. It is also a great place to make friends with smart, energetic women.

Being part of a group does have responsibilities, the most important of which is to show up and be present. Attending meetings and events is important as it conveys support for the organization. It is also where you learn from people who share their experience and knowledge and where you can share yours in return. It is also fun! Another responsibility is to lend a helping hand when possible. There are always small tasks to volunteer for, as well as larger ones.

Why did you or why might you want to join AAUW? Where do you want to fit in? Think about it. If you are looking for a way to be more involved, there are many options. If you are interested in the Membership team, help is needed in sending out new member packets or assigning neighborhood groups. Other groups like the Programs team, Tech Trek, and more can also use some extra hands. Just ask! Your skills are needed.



**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 Women's Virtual Health Summit**

Watch future issues of the *Evergreen Leader* for details and how to register.

**Looking for a WA legislative update? Check out [our blog](#)!**

## March Board Meeting—Rachael Foe

The board met via Zoom on March 8, 2021, and began by discussing programming for the rest of the year. Robin Hendricks reviewed our branch's membership status and upcoming events with the UW Women's Center. Barbara Sando gave a financial update, followed by Cathy Anderson reviewing what's needed for upcoming issues of *The Catalyst*. June Arnold talked about the great work she's doing for Scholar Recognition night, and then Gay Armsden updated the board on the progress of the scholarship committee. Finally, Tonna Kutner reviewed the progress of our new branch website and gave a brief update on Tech Trek.

## Nominating Committee Report—Lynn Dissinger

The nominating committee is pleased to present the following candidates for the 2021-2023 term of office:

- **Co-Presidents:** Fiona Goodchild & Gay Armsden
- **Programs Co-Vice Presidents:** Marianne North & Tonna Kutner
- **Secretary:** Kathy Swanson

Continuing for one more year are Robin Hendricks as Membership VP and Barbara Sando as Treasurer.

Seattle Branch members will vote on the election of officers for the 2021-2023 term at the May 22 Branch meeting.

Thank you to all the above for their willingness to serve in Seattle Branch leadership roles.



Fiona



Gay



Marianne



Tonna



Kathy

## Please Apply: AAUW Washington Special Projects Fund (SPF) Board Openings—Barbara Sando



The AAUW-WA Special Projects Fund (SPF) is the 501(c)(3) fiscal agent for Tech Trek and other approved AAUW projects. The SPF allows branch and state endeavors to benefit from charitable contributions that, as 501(c)(4) organizations, we cannot receive directly.

**The SPF currently has three board openings: treasurer, secretary, and member-at-large.** Details for each of the three positions are included in a March 2021 [Evergreen Leader](#) article (pp 13-14) by SPF President, Judy Rogers. I served on the SPF Board for seven years as both a member-at-large and secretary. The SPF has a bookkeeper, so its treasurer is responsible for oversight and reporting, not for doing the day-to-day tasks.

**Serving on the SPF board is a relatively easy way to contribute to our being able to ensure projects like Tech Trek happen in Washington, and it doesn't take a huge time commitment, either.** Please consider applying. If you have questions, feel free to contact Judy Rogers at [specproj@aauw-wa.org](mailto:specproj@aauw-wa.org).

## Looking to Make a Difference?—Robin Hendricks

The Alene Moris Women's Center at the University of Washington is a partner of Seattle Branch in the work of gender equity and is a great place to touch the life of someone. Husky Giving Day is coming up on April 8. If you would like to make a difference in someone's life, consider donating to the Alene Moris Women's Center.

The Moris Women's Center supports students and the community through educational programming and policy development. One of the ways is through the Making Connections program. Making Connections provides academic support to underrepresented high school students, so they can go on to higher education and be more prepared to participate in the workforce and their community.

To donate, follow this link: <https://www.washington.edu/womenscenter/get-involved/donate/>

## COMING UP!

### AAUW Washington Annual Meeting

**Saturday, April 17, 2021**

Don't miss this virtual meeting featuring dynamic speaker Lisa Maatz, former AAUW VP of Government Relations and Advocacy.



Watch for an email with registration information from AAUW-WA soon. [More info here.](#)



## Neighborhood Groups Discuss Opening Up AAUW Membership—Gay Armsden

This month, all groups discussed the upcoming National vote on eliminating the college-degree membership requirement. A total of 34 members participated. Several groups raised this subject: *Removing the education requirement must happen hand-in-hand with embarking on a powerful effort to attract more diverse members.* Here are some additional discussion highlights (many thanks to the scribes!):

- **Central:** The group was in agreement that “the time has come” for this change – that it fits AAUW’s mission (equity for all = membership for all). There was a little skepticism about whether this is a move to just increase membership, but AAUW doesn’t expect much of an increase. Someone mentioned that they have felt “guilty” about being a member of an exclusionary, “elitist” organization. Two people shared stories about the knowledgeable people they’ve known who didn’t have college degrees, and others said there were people aligned with our mission whom they wanted to invite to join, but couldn’t because of the education requirement. It was agreed that “education” means other things besides a college degree.
- **North:** Some members questioned whether opening up membership would result in more members and wondered if this vote is all about getting more grants [AAUW has assured us otherwise]. A couple people strongly objected to AAUW’s statement, “It’s the right thing to do” because it implied that if you wanted to vote No, you were somehow “bad”. It was commented that AAUW’s image is one of snobbishness and exclusion, and that by opening up membership our image might improve, but only if AAUW makes itself more relevant to more people. By opening up, someone remarked, AAUW will finally Walk our Talk.
- **NE Seattle:** All of the members attending support abolishing the education requirement. Some would support an additional goal of AAUW to add a focus on reducing date rape and changing [young] men’s attitudes toward [young] women. We believe that the process of change must be in steps: (1) change membership requirements, (2) change name to remove “University”, since it’s exclusionary, (3) focus on increasing membership by men in an effort to improve men’s attitudes toward women. The group also discussed whether the branch’s meeting place/location and its solely in-person meetings affect whether a more diverse group of people would be interested in joining.
- **NW Seattle:** There was a general feeling that we need to move forward in the spirit of inclusion, but there was also a sense of loss of the key educational element that has been the core of AAUW. There is the acknowledgment that not everyone has the same opportunity for higher education and that should not stand in the way of people joining us in the quest for gender equity. One positive we discussed is how the removal of a degree requirement eliminates what can be an awkward conversation with acquaintances who we think would be interested in AAUW but whose educational backgrounds are unknown to us. Someone mentioned that she hesitates inviting friends to AAUW events because she doesn’t know if they have a degree.
- **W. Seattle + Points South:** About half clearly articulated why they supported the amendment; the other half seemed non-committal, mostly sharing concerns and questions about it. Many had the negative impression that the change is primarily proposed because we need it to qualify for certain grants. Someone felt that they worked hard for their degree and are proud of it, but another said she had felt the same way, but now her desire for equity causes her to favor the proposal. Those more unreservedly in favor of the change spoke of how they would be able to invite non-degreed friends, meet like-minded people with different backgrounds, and examine this issue through the lens of white privilege, which favors recognition of the fact that many people

**REMEMBER TO VOTE!**

**AAUW  
National Election  
Voting opens in  
April**

Watch your inbox  
for your online ballot.

[Learn more](#)

## Neighborhood Groups Meeting Dates—Gay Armsden

- **Central Seattle:** Next Zoom: April 26 at 4 p.m. Current contact: Tonna Kutner.
- **NE Seattle:** Next Zoom: April 6 at 11 a.m. Current contact: Ruth McFadden. Meets on the first Tuesday of the month.
- **North:** Next Zoom: April 18 at 4 p.m. Current contact Gay Armsden. Meets on the third Sunday of the month.
- **NW Seattle:** Next Zoom: April 14 at 5:30 p.m. Current contact: Lynn Dissinger. Meets on the second Wednesday of the month. (pictured at right)
- **West Seattle and Points South:** Next Zoom: April 13 at 10 a.m. Ann Dennis will lead the discussion. Current contact: Barbara Sando. Usually meets on the second Tuesday of the month.



Full-time working members: You are most welcome to join the North group or NW Seattle group.

Please send Zoom screen captures, including photos of shared items, to Gay [scholarships@aauw-seattle.org](mailto:scholarships@aauw-seattle.org).

## Coming soon.....Your AAUW Membership Renewal / Dues Invoice—Barbara Sando

It's getting to be that time of year again. In early May, Seattle Branch members will receive a membership renewal / dues invoice for the 2021-2022 AAUW fiscal year. Current memberships expire effective June 30 and the new membership year begins on July 1. Your invoice will be in the form of an e-mail from [memberinfo@aauw.org](mailto:memberinfo@aauw.org) entitled "AAUW Membership Renewal for Fiscal Year 2022."

The invoice you receive will include a personalized link that you can use to renew online with your credit or debit card. Renewing online is the fastest way to process your renewal, and you'll receive an immediate confirmation e-mail from AAUW when you do so. For those who prefer to pay by check, the invoice also includes information on how to do that. When we receive a check, we will process your renewal manually through the AAUW system. You will not receive a confirmation e-mail from AAUW in that case; however we will notify you by e-mail when we've received your check. For any questions on dues invoicing, please contact Barbara at [finance@aauw-seattle.org](mailto:finance@aauw-seattle.org).

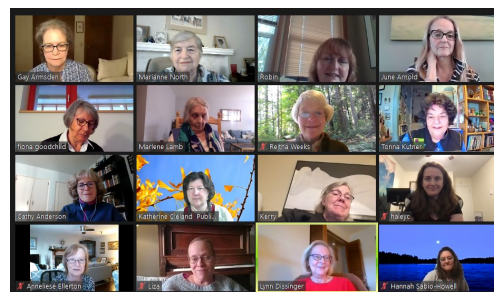
We always appreciate timely renewals – and renewing your membership in May will mean you won't get another invoice in early June! (Renewal notices will be sent out monthly to all members who haven't yet renewed. AAUW has a generous five-month grace period, but does drop all non-renewed members from branch rosters in late November.)

Also of note, any new member joining AAUW between March 16 and June 30 of 2021 will be a paid member through June 30, 2022. For membership information, please contact Robin Hendricks at [membership@aauw-seattle.org](mailto:membership@aauw-seattle.org).

## New-Member Event – Gay Armsden and Robin Hendricks

On March 7 we held our first new-member orientation event since 2019. We were pleased that seven new members could attend on Zoom. Nearly all heads of our branch programs were also present. Everyone's self-introductions were a lot of fun; even board members learned interesting things about each other. We were delighted that our new members were so enthusiastic about our programs and activities, and some might be volunteering (woot!).

Reitha Weeks was the first to come up with the answer to the question, "What does "Nick-whistle" stand for"? NCCWSL – who among us can remember National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (but such a fabulous program)? Since we couldn't have a party, new members were mailed goody bags with all sorts of AAUW loot and a box of Fran's chocolates (woman-owned!). New member Kathy Swanson tells us she grew up with Fran.



### Want to get more involved?

Tell us about your interests and skills on [our online Member Survey](#). It takes only a couple of minutes to complete!



## Interest Group Corner

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](mailto:books@aauw-seattle.org)

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 27 at 1 p.m. Jane Simpson will lead our discussion of ***The Falcon Thief: A True Tale of Adventure, Treachery, and the Search for the Perfect Bird***, by

Joshua Hammer. The Zoom session will be organized by Marianne North. For more information contact Ruth.



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

### **March Program Recap**—Cynthia Sheridan

"Pandemics, Protests and Presidential Politics" was the topic of speaker **Seattle Times Executive Editor Michele Matassa Flores** at our March 2 branch meeting, via Zoom. Thanks to a connection with branch member CJ Nash, "Mich" regaled us for an hour, focusing on one hectic and historical year in our Seattle history: 2020.

She began with February, when the COVID pandemic hit Washington State. By March 9, everyone at *The Times* was ordered to work entirely at home—a difficult transition for 160 or so journalists who normally base their work on collaboration with peers in a very busy newsroom. This brazen move was profiled in *The New York Times* on March 13, while *The Seattle Times* struggled to procure PPE for reporters, photographers and warehouse workers.



News coverage was directed toward investigative COVID articles, a complex graphing system of COVID and vaccine statistics and tracking the struggles of the Seattle business economy.

By May, the Black Lives Matter upheaval added to the mix, with *The Times* diligently covering the issues while ensuring the safety of journalists and photographers. Next came the wildfires, which destroyed an historic number of homes in Washington State.

Without a breather, *The Times* plunged into an unprecedented presidential election, constructing a Zoom room for journalists to exchange information and preparing for possible additional safety concerns, including issuing bullet-proof vests.

By fall, managers realized they were also dealing with staff mental health issues due to the incredibly frantic and demanding pace of the news.

On a positive note, Matassa Flores highlighted digital subscriptions growth, some "lessons learned", and the importance of celebrating accomplishments such as *The Times* winning a 2020 Pulitzer prize for coverage of the Boeing story.

Seattle Branch offers its gratitude to this incredibly busy, successful woman who made time for a truly inspirational and informational presentation on the news and newsroom. As always, we ended our meeting with a delightful and varied Q and A between members and our speaker.

If you missed the presentation, you can view a recorded version [here](#). Passcode: H5PV!ew?



## Member News—Judy Waring

We are delighted to welcome new member **Liza Ewell**, who joined our branch in March. Liza lives in Ballard and is already involved in the branch, helping us with our social media and new website development.

Congratulations to **Loveday Conquest** on her selection by the Women's University Club (WUC) Nominating Committee as their candidate for President-Elect.

The announcement at the Club's posting party on March 4 is an honor and means that Loveday is accepting the considerable responsibility of leading the WUC. After a year as president-elect, her year as president will begin in May of 2022.



The WUC was founded in 1914, 10 years after AAUW Seattle, and the two organizations have always had an overlap of membership. In 2004 Seattle Branch celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a reception, dinner, and program at the WUC. Loveday has been an AAUW member since 1980 and she's been a speaker for our branch programs, including our Scholar Recognition Reception. *Loveday is pictured at our December 2019 meeting at the Seattle Yacht Club.*

Loveday, who holds a PhD in statistics, is a professor emeritus of the University of Washington's School of Aquatics and Fisheries Science, where she served as Associate Dean when she retired. She was [interviewed in 2018](#) when the School celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

After 11 years managing programs that help people save on their electric energy bills, **Cathy Anderson** retired from



Snohomish County PUD in March of this year. Cathy transitioned into the energy efficiency field after a long career in marketing and communications, working primarily with technology companies in the Seattle area (Microsoft, Intermec/Honeywell) and in Vancouver, Canada. She relished the fast pace and constant opportunities for learning

in both industries, but her heart was in the work she did at the PUD to help income qualified customers reduce their energy costs. Cathy earned a BA in English literature from the University of British Columbia in Vancouver in the 1980's and moved to the US in 2002. She joined AAUW in 2018, and currently edits this newsletter. An avid outdoors person, Cathy loves running, travel, books, and writing, and plans to fill her days with more of all of these in retirement.

## AAUW-Seattle Branch Officers 2020-2021

### Elected

Co-presidents:

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

VP Finance:

Barbara Sando - [finance@aauw-seattle.org](mailto:finance@aauw-seattle.org)

VP Programs:

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

VP Membership:

Robin Hendricks - [membership@aauw-seattle.org](mailto:membership@aauw-seattle.org)

Secretary:

Rachael Foe - [secretary@aauw-seattle.org](mailto:secretary@aauw-seattle.org)

### Appointed

Website:

Nella Kwan - [website@aauw-seattle.org](mailto:website@aauw-seattle.org)

Catalyst Newsletter Team:

Cathy Anderson - [catalyst@aauw-seattle.org](mailto:catalyst@aauw-seattle.org)

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

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

Public Policy:

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

College/University Relations:

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:

Tonna Kutner - [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)

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

## Tech Trek—Tonna Kutner

Washington Tech Trek is planning a very exciting virtual STEM camp this summer from July 11-16, for middle school girls from all over the state. This has always been a hands-on camp and this year will be no exception. Each girl will receive their own “toolkit” with all the tools, electronics and supplies they need. Seattle Branch is sponsoring four girls to attend camp.



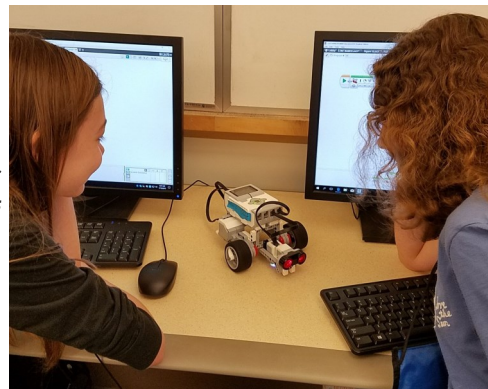
Camp will feature three-hour “core classes” taught by female scientists every morning. **Classes include Chemistry, Climate Change, Cybersecurity, Human Body Designs and Thinkabit™ Tech.** Girls will use their “toolkits” for their hands-on learning and there will be many breakout sessions where the girls can meet in small groups and get individual coaching.

Afternoon labs will provide choices that include **genetics, roller coaster physics, Barbie bungee jump, crime scene forensics, eye see you** (eyeball dissection), **cryptography** and **colander trampoline**.

There will also be exciting keynote speakers, a mystery guest, and **Daily Dialogues** with professional women in STEM fields. **Virtual field trips** are on the program as well as **Financial Beginnings** – a financial literacy program in which each camper is assigned a career and learns how to live within her means.

We hope that next year Tech Trek will be in person again at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma. More Information on Tech Trek is on [our website](#).

Tonna Kutner, who has headed up Seattle’s Tech Trek participation for nine years, will not be heading it up next year; however, she has lots of information to share. **Anyone interested in working on Tech Trek for 2022, please contact Tonna at [techtrek@aauw-seattle.org](mailto:techtrek@aauw-seattle.org).**



## Upcoming Events...

Date	Day	Time	Location	Program
April 5, 2021	Monday	7:00 pm	Email <a href="mailto:secretary@aauw-seattle.org">secretary@aauw-seattle.org</a> for information. Zoom meeting.	Branch Board Meeting
April 17, 2021	Saturday		Zoom Meeting	<b>AAUW Washington Annual Meeting</b>
April 28, 2021	Wednesday	7:00 pm	Zoom Meeting. Register <a href="#">here</a> .	<b>Scholar Recognition 2021.</b> Keynote: <b>Engineering Social Transformation</b> , Dr. Kelly Stevens
May 22, 2021	Saturday	10:00 am	Zoom Meeting.	<b>Annual Branch Meeting.</b> Officer elections and new member
June 12, 2021	Saturday		Zoom Meeting	<b>AAUW Washington Virtual Women’s Health Summit</b>