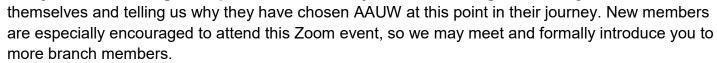
Volume 69, Issue 9 May 1, 2021 <u>www.aauw-seattle.org</u>

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

Seattle Branch Annual Meeting

We're Giving Three of Our New Members the Floor & Voting in New Officers! Don't miss it!

What do a Shoreline Community College program coordinator, a state senate communications specialist and a power systems engineer have in common? All three are new members of Seattle Branch. **Reitha Weeks, Hannah Howell and Haley Coutts will be guest speakers for our May Branch meeting,** introducing



Also on the agenda: the **election of new officers** and a review and vote on our branch bylaws.

We hope all members will attend this, our last meeting of the 2020-2021 program year! It's a great opportunity to say hello, learn a little more about each other, and contribute to the growth of our Seattle Branch.

*Join us! Register here.

Seeking Program Speaker Ideas for Next Year—Marianne North

As we prepare for the coming year, **we'd love to hear your suggestions for program topics** that fit with the AAUW vision of equity for all and mission of advancing gender equity through research, education and advocacy. Think about programs in terms of informing our members, providing education and inspiring advocacy in the community, and attracting new members.

Email ideas to us at RSVP@aauw-seattle.org. Thank you!

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Lifelong Learning—Tonna Kutner

This past year has been fraught with new learning experiences – whether you wanted them or not. I'm proud of AAUW Seattle because so many were able to become proficient on Zoom and enjoy our meetings and interest and neighborhood groups remotely.



Some of us had to learn about testifying to

WA legislative committees via video and lobbying with legislators over Zoom. Most of us had to find grocery fetching apps and learn which ones didn't empty our bank accounts. All of this will still come in handy after the pandemic.

I want to encourage everyone to continue to embrace electronic learning. It's not going away and will only become more important. With electronic learning you have incredible tools right at your fingertips. One thing to discover is electronic library apps like Overdrive or Libby. Type "How to get Overdrive or Libby" into your search engine. This is a great way to get library books to read electronically or to hear on your phone, and it's all free. I love listening to books while I'm walking. YouTube is practically like a college, and it's free too. You can learn anything from knitting to moon walking and everything in between. Learning more about your phone is a great way to get started, but you can substitute anything else you want to learn about. Go to Youtube.com. (Try not to get distracted by all the great videos you can watch!) Search for your phone's make and model to find "Tips and Tricks".

You might want to listen first or maybe dive right in depending on your learning style. One of the best things about YouTube education is that you can stop any time you want using the pause button at the lower left and then click the arrow in the same place when you want to start again. You can go back and listen again (and again) if you don't get something right away. Presenters often speed along so rewinding is essential. Go for it! I guarantee you will learn something. I just tried it and discovered something I didn't know before (see article below).

Remember to keep trying. The thing you want to learn is not usually on the top of the list. You have to dig a bit and take multiple passes. Next time you have a question about your camera or juggling or Zoom, I hope you'll be able to step up and continue your lifelong learning.

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

Page one <u>Seattle cityscape</u> by Michael Tompsett

Mission Statement

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

<u>Vision</u>

Equity for all.

Values

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



DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!

AAUW
National Election
Voting
closes May 17

Learn more

Zoom Fatigue—Tonna Kutner

Several studies have shown that one reason why Zoom meetings can be so tiring is that we become attracted by and concerned about looking at our own image. It's odd and off-putting to constantly look at your own image and it distracts from the group you're with.

Here's the solution:

On Zoom you can hide yourself without turning off your camera so others can still see you, but you can't see yourself. If you're in Gallery mode (the Brady Bunch–style view), right-click your video box to display the menu and choose "Hide Self View." Especially for smaller groups, this is a great choice. I tried it on my last meeting and had a much better Zoom experience – it was more like talking to others in person.

Officer Elections at May Meeting—Lynn Dissinger

Get to know our candidates for open branch officer positions for 2021-2022.

Co-Presidents: Gay Armsden, Fiona Goodchild

 Gay has been an AAUW member since 2006, first joining the Windward O'ahu Branch, where she served as Legal Advocacy Fund Chair for eight years. She joined Seattle Branch in 2015 as a dual member and has served as the Public Policy Chair, launched our neighborhood groups, and currently serves on the board as a Member-at-Large, heading the Scholarship Program.





Gay

Fiona

 Fiona joined AAUW as a member-at-large in 1993 and the Seattle branch in 2013. She has served the Seattle branch as Secretary and most recently as Co-President for 2019-2021. With strong interest in public policy and STEM education, she has participated in AAUW-WA Lobby Day the past few years and has been involved in Scholar Recognition and Tech Trek.

Co-Program Vice Presidents: Tonna Kutner, Marianne North

 Tonna joined the AAUW Seattle branch in 1997 and has been an active member ever since. She served as Seattle Branch President in 2003-2005 and again in 2009-2011. More recently she has led the branch's efforts in recruiting girls for Tech Trek and served as a dorm monitor for the event. She also is the current Marketing & Communications Chair and is instrumental in the branch website development.

Tonna Mai

Marianne

 Marianne has been an AAUW member for 40 years, first joining the Casper, WY branch where she served as both branch and state Program Vice President and President. She continued that program focus at the Grand Junction, CO branch. She is a dual member of Edmonds SnoKing and serves as their Program Team Leader.

Secretary: Kathy Swanson

• Kathy has been a member of the AAUW Puyallup Valley branch for nearly 30 years, and joined the Seattle branch as a dual member in 2020. In Puyallup, she has been involved in the high school scholar events and with the selection of Tech Trek participants. She was instrumental in coordinating that branch's first Garden Tour in 2018 and is currently serving as their Public Policy Chair.



Also on the Ballot: Proposed Changes for Seattle Branch

—Barbara Sando

In addition to officer candidates, the ballot for our annual meeting will include two proposals for our membership to vote on this year. The board recommends approval of both proposals.

Proposal to reduce branch dues: As detailed in the March Catalyst (page 3), the board proposes a decrease of \$3 in Seattle Branch dues from \$16 to \$13 for FY 2021-2022 to offset an increase of \$3 in the AAUW National dues from \$59 to \$62. (State dues remain at \$10.) Approval of this proposal results in no change to the annual dues of \$85 for each branch member.

Proposal to revise bylaws: The board periodically reviews branch bylaws to determine if any changes are advised. Given current realities, the board identified two areas that we recommend should be revised. (Note that the AAUW Washington State organization approved similar changes at their annual meeting in April.)

• The first change recommended is to include a provision for branch meetings to be conducted via video-conference, including a provision for members to vote electronically if the annual meeting is conducted virtually rather than in person. Despite the branch successfully operating this way during the pandemic, our bylaws don't currently support this option. Approving this change gives us needed flexibility now and in the future.

Also on the Ballot (continued)

The second change recommended is to eliminate term limits from the Nominating Committee membership. The long-standing requirement is no longer feasible, and we haven't complied with it in recent years. The proposed change still requires 3 members of the Nominating Committee each year, with at least one being on the board. However, the proposed wording allows the committee to select their own chair (rather than it being a board member), as well as eliminating the requirement that no member can serve for more than 2 years (or 3 years, if they're chair that year).

In addition to these two changes that the membership must vote on, there are a few administrative clarifications (not requiring a vote) included in the proposed version. Please note that the first 8 articles of the Seattle Branch Bylaws document are articles mandated to be included by AAUW National. AAUW national voting concludes on May 17, and we expect that an update to the mandatory articles will be available for us to include in this next version of our Bylaws document soon. All changes made will be annotated in the revision summary on the last page of the document prior to being published.

Click here to review the proposed changes. If you have any questions, feel free to ask Barbara Sando at finance@aauw-wa.org.

Board Member Thanks—Fiona Goodchild

We are very grateful for the contributions of three officers who will be leaving their positions this year.

Lynn Dissinger served as Co-president, bringing extensive knowledge of branch history and operations to her leadership. Her professional expertise in accounting helped to put our finances in a strong position and she shepherded our successful application to the AAUW Five Star Program in 2020. We are now one of five branches to earn that recognition in Washington State.



Lynn

Lynn reports that she has enjoyed working with the energetic and supportive members of the current board and is proud of how we have been able to pivot to virtual communication during the COVID-19 lockdown. She was pleased to be able to divide responsibilities with Copresident Fiona Goodchild so that each pursued individual interests as well as their collaborative roles.

Lynn is looking forward to spending more time with friends, especially the group who support the annual Seattle International Film Festival.

Rachael Foe, who served as Secretary, has been a breath of fresh air, bringing new ideas and perspectives to our branch. We appreciate her focus on environmental stewardship and the fact that she introduced us to local high school students who belong to the Citizen's Climate Lobby.

Rachael's interest in community collaboration also prompted her to represent our branch at the planning meetings for the Women's March to be held in March 2020. Sadly, that event had to be cancelled, but the precedent for local partnerships has been established.



Rachael

Even after moving to New Mexico last winter, Rachael has continued to attend board meetings and record our minutes. We know that she will continue to be busy in her master's program and hope to hear more about her career progress.

Cynthia Sheridan has been Programs Vice President, building on her local knowledge to identify topics and speakers that have engaged AAUW members from our own branch as well as from others around Washington State and beyond. She quickly adapted to the need for virtual events and continued to recruit speakers who appealed to a wider audience, while addressing our AAUW mission.

We will miss Cynthia's generosity – I still remember that board lunch paid for by one of her auction purchases - and the humor found in her articles and poems. She will no doubt continue these literary interests.

Cynthia

AAUW Membership Renewal is Here!—Robin Hendricks

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 entitled, "AAUW Membership Renewal for Fiscal Year 2022."

The invoice you receive includes a personalized link that you can use to renew online by paying 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. You can pay by check if preferred. The invoice includes information on how to do that. When a check is received, the renewal is processed manually through the AAUW system. You will not receive a confirmation e-mail from AAUW in that case, but Barbara Sando will send an email when she receives your check. For any questions on dues invoicing, please contact Barbara at finance@aauw-seattle.org.

Timely renewals are always appreciated – and renewing your membership in May will mean you will not get another invoice in early June or follow up phone calls over the summer! Renewals notices will be sent out monthly to all members who have not yet renewed.

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.

Why Your Membership Matters—Cynthia Sheridan

AAUW is a community of more than 170,000 people standing strong for gender equity. Your AAUW membership makes our powerful voice even louder on critical issues affecting women and girls. Whether you are a 50-year member or a newcomer to AAUW, your membership will help close the gender pay gap by 2030, ensure schools and workplaces are free of discrimination and harassment, and create more opportunities for women to lead.

You're also directly funding our work to:

- Train millions of women to negotiate for higher salaries and benefits.
- Support state and local fair-pay legislation to ban the use of salary history in hiring, a practice that puts women at a financial disadvantage.
- Develop more women leaders through workshops and conferences.
- Fund the research that is informing national conversations on the gender pay gap, women's student-debt burden, and other key equity issues.

Thank you for belonging to AAUW. Please visit the national AAUW website to learn more.

2021-2022 Member Directory Deadline

-Robin Hendricks

Membership renewal is required to be included in the Branch Directory for 2021-2022.

The Directory will be revised and printed for distribution at the September meeting, provided an in-person meeting is possible. If the September meeting is a virtual meeting, the directory will be mailed to you.

The deadline to be included is August 27. All non-renewed members will be dropped from the branch roster in late November.

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!



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 meeting will be on Tuesday, May 25 at 1 p.m. Sandy Schwartz will lead our discussion of *Caste: The Origins of our Discontents*, by Isabel Wilkerson. 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.



RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE IN MATH



RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE



RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE IN TECHNOLOGY

Scholar Recognition Recipients

Our 2021 Scholar Recognition event took place on April 28. Pictured at left are the recipients of the Math, Science and Technology awards for each participating school.

Wilkerson

Check out our <u>AAUW Seattle Branch blog</u> to read a summary of the event, get a copy of the special *Catalyst* program issue with student bios, and learn more.

Congratulations to everyone involved!

April 5 Board Meeting Summary

—Lynn Dissinger

The board voted on delegates to the April 17 AAUW-WA state meeting. Gay Armsden, Katherine Cleland, Fiona Goodchild, Tonna Kutner, and Marianne North will represent the branch. Robin Hendricks was named the alternate in the event one of the five delegates is unable to attend the virtual meeting. Barbara Sando presented proposed branch bylaws changes, which were approved and will be presented at the May branch meeting for a members vote. Membership renewal notices for 2021-22 will be sent out in early May.

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, June 12, 2021

AAUW-WA Women's Healthcare Kickoff (via Zoom)

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

AAUW State Convention Comments

Marianne North: I enjoyed the AAUW WA State convention from the comfort of my armchair. It was an impressive meeting with attendance of 122 at one point. Our state officers did a great job.

It was thrilling to hear **Lisa Maatz** once again. I first heard her at a Wyoming AAUW convention way back when her hair was flaming red and when she inspired us to be engaged with public policy. She talked at this convention about the problems of redistricting and the last US census, as well as the ERA. She noted that for the first time a President has included childcare in infrastructure funding and that working women have been the most adversely affected by the pandemic because of lack of childcare. Maatz is no longer with AAUW but is willing to do virtual talks for branches on these and similar issues.

Also speaking were **Dr. Virginia Scharff** and **Dr. Barbara Corrodo Pope**, two history professors who write historical fiction. Two of their books are *Cezanne's Quarry* and *Brown-eyed Girl*. They have also published nonfiction history books.

Gay Armsden: Some of the things I learned at the convention:

AAUW has representatives at **the UN**, and two of them are students. AAUW has special consultative status with the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Among other things, AAUW works with the **Commission of the Status of Women** (CSW) and submits a written statement to the CSW annually offering recommendations to governments, corporations, and institutions of higher education on how to increase women's access to education in STEM fields. https://www.aauw.org/issues/leadership/global-connections/

There are two new AAUW research reports: Factory Flaw: The Attrition and Retention of Women in Manufacturing and The Power Gap Among Top Earners at America's Elite Universities.

The passage of the **Equal Rights Amendment** could be hampered by states who have "rescinded" their previous ratifications and by the long-past deadline for the 38-state ratification. *But* are these impediments actually constitutional? AAUW is among those challenging their constitutionality.

Check out the new Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Toolkit.

Fun fact: Half of the women present at the signing into law of the **1963 Equal Pay Act** were AAUW members, as were the women involved in writing the legislation.

Ann Dennis: I thought the meeting was excellent. As a former state co-president, I especially appreciated how smoothly the **first virtual meeting** ran. Mary and the other presenters did a fantastic job of managing the technology and keeping the agenda on schedule. It was so gratifying seeing how many members attended. It was far and away the **best-attended** state meeting. I hope that we will at least keep a hybrid model for future meetings.



Ann

Neighborhood Groups–*Gay Armsden*

The West Seattle + Points South group (pictured) very much enjoys sharing their written stories each month. The group wants to continue meeting on Zoom -- at least most of the time -- even once we can actually go out again. The North group discussed creative energies they have put to good use during isolation: writing, art and cooking were mentioned most often, and they shared learning resources on those topics.

- Central Seattle: Meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 4 p.m. Current contact: Tonna Kutner.
- NE Seattle: Meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 11 a.m. Current contact: Ruth McFadden.
- North: Meets on the third Sunday of the month at 4 p.m. Current contact: Gay Armsden.
- NW Seattle: Meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. Current contact: Lynn Dissinger.
- West Seattle + Points South: Meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 10 a.m. Current contact: Barbara Sando.

Full-time working members: You are most welcome to join the North group or NW Seattle group. All: Please send Zoom screen captures, including photos of shared items, to Gay at scholarships@aauw-seattle.org.



Member News

We are pleased to welcome new member **Shaylee Markley**, who is currently a graduate student and lives in Seattle.

Judy Waring writes: ""After many moves during Mike's military career and with his subsequent employment, we arrived back in my hometown of Seattle in 1993. Mike and I have lived in our West Seattle home for 27+ years, enjoying the view and our neighborhood; we're now the old-timers on the block. We're still active but aren't getting younger and we need to be out of a 3-level house while we can still assist in the process.

Downsizing is a daunting task as we've accumulated so much—books, items from our parents' homes, boxes of papers from organizations including AAUW, tax records going back over 30 years, our kids' stuff, boxes of photos, sacks of opera and theatre programs for every performance we've attended, and old computer and stereo

equipment including vinyl records. I have an emotional



attachment to things—wanting to look through everything that brings back lots of memories. Mike is more taskoriented, making many trips to the Goodwill, Friendly Earth, Clothesline, plus scheduling all the tasks to get the house ready to go on the market. He's

advertised items for free or at low cost on Nextdoor—fun to see happy people come and take stuff away.

We've found treasures and surprises, but realize that we should have gone through our stuff over the years instead of being buried in it now. Stay tuned for an update in the September *Catalyst*."

June Arnold writes: "In April my husband and I completed our round-trip from the San Juan Islands to Seattle and back. Five years ago, we moved to Seattle for our son to finish his last two years of high school at University Prep. It was a big academic leap for him and a return to living "just off campus" for both Joel and I, as we are both UW grads and moved to the Laurelhurst neighborhood. The relocation paid off, as our son received a full tuition scholarship at Massachusetts Maritime Academy where he will graduate next year with a degree in Marine Transportation Engineering. For Joel and me we found we loved being in the city, so much so that here's a picture of our new city home – a Nordhavn 47 (see next page). We are working our way to the top of the wait list at Shilshole Marina and should find a permanent moorage by early summer.

(...continued on page 9)

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@aauwseattle.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: June Arnold (continued)

As some of you know, I also live on Lopez Island where we own the hardware store/lumber yard. After successful careers in technology, we pulled the plug in 2006 and purchased a small business, which landed us in the SJI's for the past 15 years. It was one of the best decisions we ever made.

If I count the Norhavn 47 as a "home", this will be Joel's and my 14th in 25 years together. Almost all those moves were in the first 10 years and were related to our corporate lives. It was hard to amass too much stuff in those days. Furniture rarely translated from house to house, sometimes we didn't even need a lawn mower. But somehow moving always leaves you with a sense of "how did I collect all this stuff?".

This time most of the Seattle house furniture and goods went to Habitat. They send nice strong people to move the heavy stuff! A few things went into storage to save for our son, but given his chosen field of study he may not even have a home except on a ship. So those things will probably become "free to a good home" in the future.

For now, we continue to sort through what we really love of our things and put them in our Lopez Island house. Most of what has made the cut is art. I can see now I will have to really assess the wall space available on the Nordhavn 47 if the current trend continues. Maybe we will need a bigger boat to accommodate the pieces we most enjoy; I am sure my husband won't mind that kind of upsizing.

So, as Judy said in her move update: stay tuned for future installments. Did I mention the Nordhavn has a range of 3,000 miles and is built for blue-water crossings?"

Help Us Find New Locations for Our In-person Branch Meetings

We need your creative thinking and sleuthing abilities!

The Executive Inn by the Space Needle, where we've been holding our branch meetings for more than 30 years, has closed. Our new space should hold 30-50 people and be as centrally located as possible in Seattle near public transportation (or even Shoreline for the occasional meeting). If there's food available, all the better, but it is not essential. Campus? Library? Restaurant? Museum? All meetings do not have to be in the same location.



Photo by <u>Marten Newhall</u> on <u>Unsplash</u>

Please send suggestions to president@aauw-seattle.org as you find time.

Upcoming Events				
Date	Day	Time	Location	Program
May 10, 2021	Monday	7:00 pm	Email secretary@aauw-seattle.org for information. Zoom meeting.	Branch Board Meeting
May 22, 2021	Saturday	10:00 am	Zoom Meeting. Register here.	Annual Branch Meeting. Officer elections and new member presentations.
June 12, 2021	Saturday		Zoom Meeting	AAUW Washington Women's Virtual Health Summit