



March 2021 Newsletter

AAUW PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITY ISSUES

Strong system of Public Education
Equality, Individual Rights and
Social Justice for a Diverse
Society.
Economic Self-sufficiency for
Woman

MISSION

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

VISION

Equity for all.

VALUES

Nonpartisan. Fact-based.
Inclusion and Intersectionality.

AAUW FUNDS

The Educational Foundation is
one of the largest sources of
funding for graduate women in
the world awarding millions
each year in scholarships.

LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND

(LAF) works to combat sex
discrimination in higher
education and the workplace.

Highline AAUW theme for
2020 "Celebrating Five
Generations of Women"

March 2021 – Celebrating Women and their Impact on History

Since many of the **women's suffrage** centennial celebrations originally scheduled for 2020 were curtailed, the National Women's History Alliance is extending the annual theme for 2021 to "Valiant Women of the **Vote**: Refusing to Be Silenced.



According to the National **Women's History** Alliance, states began declaring the whole **month** of **March** as **Women's History Month** all the way up until 1986, when a more national push finally made headway. The following year, Congress declared **March** 1987 as the first official **Women's History Month**.

Besides International Women's Day, March holds a few more important milestones for women's history:

Title IX, which prohibits sex discrimination in all federally funded education programs, was passed by the Senate on March 1, 1972. It became law later that year. In fact, the educators who formed the first Women's History Week a few years later [did so to help schools comply with Title IX regulations](#).

- The Equal Rights Amendment, a constitutional amendment which guarantees rights regardless of sex past those assured by the 19th Amendment, passed the Senate on March 22, 1972. ([P.S. -- it's still not fully ratified.](#))
- Earlier in the 20th century, two significant women's suffrage events took place in March. [The first major suffragist parade took over Washington, DC](#), on March 3, 1913, and the National Woman's Party, a political group dedicated to women's suffrage, [was officially formed in March 1917](#).

Why is Women's History Month in March?

By McKenzie Jean-Philippe Feb 3, 2021

It all began with one single day in 1908 in New York City when thousands of women united and marched for better labor laws, conditions, and the right to vote. A year later on February 28, in a gathering organized by members of the Socialist Party, suffragists and socialists gathered again in Manhattan for what they called the first International Woman's Day.

The idea swiftly caught on and made its way to Europe. And in March of 1910, according to the BBC, German socialist Clara Zetkin introduced the concept at the International Conference of Women in Copenhagen. The 100 women in attendance, representing 17 countries, all agreed. International Women's Day was then formally honored on March 8, 1911 by Germany, Austria, Denmark, and Switzerland.

Russian feminists also had a strong influence on the beginnings of the Russian Revolution, with Communist leader Vladimir Lenin making Women's Day a Soviet Holiday in 1917.

To read the entire article, please copy this link in your browser:

<https://www.oprahmag.com/life/a26294031/womens-history-month/>



Bold Women Who Changed the World – Legacies of the female Paul Revere and a Hollywood starlet-turned inventor to a political pioneer and the first female sports star

Sybil Ludington: The Female Paul Revere

On the night of April 26, 1777, 16-year-old Sybil Ludington rode nearly 40 miles to warn some 400 militiamen that the British troops were coming. Much like the ride of [Paul Revere](#), Ludington's message helped Patriot leaders prepare for battle. But Ludington was less than half Revere's age and rode more than twice as far to carry her warning.



Claudette Colvin: Teenaged Civil Rights Activist Too tired to give up her seat on the bus home from high school, on March 2, 1955, Claudette Colvin refused to move for a white passenger—nine months before [Rosa Parks](#) would do the same.

Jane Addams: Pioneer for Social Change

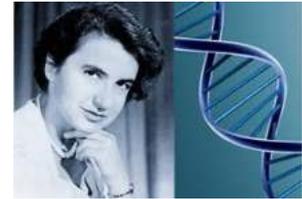
Suffragette, settlement house founder, peace activist and Nobel Peace Prize winner, Jane Addams rejected marriage and motherhood in favor of a lifetime commitment to social reform.



Hedy Lamarr: Invented Tech Behind Wi-Fi

Often [called](#) “The Most Beautiful Woman in Film,” Hedy Lamarr was more than what met the eye. While Lamarr’s screen presence made her one of the most popular actresses of her day, she was also an inventor with a sharp mind. Along with avant-garde composer George Antheil, Lamarr [developed](#) a new method of “frequency hopping,” a technique for disguising radio transmissions by making the signal jump between different channels in a prearranged pattern.

Rosalind Franklin: Revealed DNA's Structure Rosalind Franklin knew she wanted to be a scientist at the age of 15. Enrolling in college, despite her father's protests, she eventually received her doctorate in chemistry. She spent three years studying X-ray techniques, returning to England to lead a research team to study the structure of DNA—all at a time when women weren't even allowed to eat in her college's cafeteria.



Babe Didrikson Zaharias: First Female Sports Star Mildred Didrikson Zaharias, known as “Babe,” played her way into national fame in 1932, when she entered the U.S. women's track and field championship as the sole member of her team. Despite competing in team events alone, she won five events and the overall championship. Her next stop: The [1932 Los Angeles Olympics](#) where she took home three medals—one silver and two gold.

Sojourner Truth: A Voice that Changed a Nation Born into slavery in Swartekill, New York, Sojourner Truth escaped to freedom with her infant daughter in 1826. Six feet tall, with a powerful voice and driven by deep religious conviction, Truth was an ardent abolitionist and women's rights activist. Among many of Truth's legacies, the tone and substance of her language looms large. She stumped the country speaking on emancipation, politicians, political action, racism, women's rights and segregation.

Jeannette Rankin: Broke Barriers Before Women Could Vote The first woman elected to Congress in 1916, Jeannette Rankin didn't always know she wanted to be in politics. Her political interest began when she returned to school in 1910 at the University of Washington in Seattle, and joined the state suffrage organization. Over the next four years, she spoke and lobbied for women's suffrage.

Chien-Shiung Wu: Disproved a 30-year Old Law of Nature Born in Liu Ho, China in 1912, Chien-Shiung Wu was recruited to Columbia University as part of the [Manhattan Project](#). Working as senior scientist on the atom bomb in 1943, she conducted research on radiation detection and uranium enrichment.

Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rae Rivera: LGBTQ Activists Who Dared to be Themselves LGBTQ activists and drag queens prominent in New York City's Greenwich Village in the 1960s, Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rae Rivera were instrumental members in the burgeoning gay-rights movement.

*There are so many more women who deserve credit and many girls who may be making history one day.
My granddaughter, Josie, says she plans to be President of the USA -Anneliese Ellerton*





Lobby Day 2021 Highlights

This year AAUW Washington State had a virtual Lobby Day on February 1st. We also heard from our Lobbyist and Public Policy Chair, Karen Anderson. The most interesting speaker for me was Dr. Laura Sienas, OBGYN from the University of Washington, on her observations and experiences with high-risk pregnancy and miscarriages. **SB5140, the Pregnancy and Miscarriage Act** did pass the Senate on February 17th. Here's what it is about:



Little known to the public is the fact that miscarriages occur with a high frequency. According to the March of Dimes, 50% of all pregnancies end in a miscarriage. Fifteen to 25% of all *known* pregnancies end in a miscarriage. Eighty percent of miscarriages are within the first three months. So why do we need a law? Currently 50% of all hospitals in Washington State have policies/rules about how to treat miscarriages and ectopic pregnancies both of which are considered high-risk conditions. If someone has a miscarriage and there is still tissue left in the uterus, it could result in infection if not removed. Likewise, if the "water" breaks early, there is risk to maintaining the pregnancy. If the pregnancy is an ectopic one, it means the fetal sac has not been implanted in the uterus but in the fallopian tube or perineal cavity. If in any of these situations, there is a fetal heartbeat, practitioners in 50% of our hospitals are not allowed to do emergency treatment. Dr. Sienas gave several examples of women who had to drive several hours to reach a hospital for emergency treatment. Often, women do not know that the hospital where they are taken, does not give emergency treatment, so then the search for another facility begins. For example, women in Bellingham and Spokane have no hospitals that will allow emergency treatment for these situations, even if providers are credentialed to do it. If they do carry out the treatment, they are censured and their practice limited. This bill would give credentialed practitioners the right to treat these high-risk PBGYN situations no matter which hospital.

AAUW of Washington State is offering a virtual meeting once a month for branch presidents. The last one was March 22nd. The Board is planning the Annual Washington State Meeting on Saturday April 17th. It will be an all day virtual meeting with breaks (so it is tolerable!), starting at 8:30 am. The morning focus will be on annual reports: Bylaw changes, Finance, updating Washington State's Public Policy Statement and State elections. In the afternoon, Kimberly Churches, AAUW Executive, will speak on "Changes: Post Pandemic". The keynote speaker will be Lisa Maatz, formerly with AAUW and now with Women's Information Network; she is a very dynamic speaker and usually very informative on public policy. There will also be an entertaining book review. **So join in!** It's free, no long ride to wherever, no overnight stay, but sadly, no bumping elbows.

Submitted by Emily Hitchens

Since I live in the 34th District, Judy Waring and Ann Dennis from the Seattle branch invited me to attend three 15-minute Zoom sessions with legislators, Rep. Joe Fitzgibbon, and assistants for Rep. Eileen Cody and Senator Joe Nguyen.

We discussed our AAUW bills, SB 5140 Pregnancy & Miscarriage Act, HB 1009 Reproductive Parity Act, HB 1297 Expands Eligibility for Working Families Tax Credit, HB 1231 Fair Start for Kids Act, HB 1073 Expands Paid Family & Medical Leave and SB 5177 removes Proof of Marriage in Sexual Assault Cases, which were sponsored or being considered by each legislator. Each of the legislators and assistants was welcoming, attentive, well informed and open to discussion on the bills supported by AAUW

Submitted by Anneliese Ellerton

**HIGHLINE BRANCH
OF AAUW ZOOM
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
February 19, 2021**

IN ATTENDANCE

Board Members

Emily Hitchens, Mary Kay Ault, Anneliese Ellerton, Wendy Meyers-Wenger, Kathie Walker

Guests

Jean Munro, Kay Crane

The Meeting was called to order at 12:07 pm. by Co-President Mary Kay Ault

Agenda Items

1. The Purpose of the meeting was to discuss with members (Jean Munro and Kay Crane) who showed interest in becoming officers. The minimum requirements are for there to be an Administrator and a Treasurer. Current Board members discussed options for filling the positions. For the past five years Mary Kay and Emily have been Co-Presidents. One of the reasons for this arrangement was that Mary Kay was brand new to AAUW. With Emily's experience and Mary Kay's efforts they provided good leadership. Current Board members volunteered to help with training and on-going assistance to those who take over the leadership roles. Jean Munro stated that she had not been very active with the branch in attending meetings, etc. Kay stated that in the past she has held leadership positions in the branch and in the state organization. However, it was several years ago. Jean has some ideas about encouraging students and staff to join AAUW. There was a discussion about EYH and its future.
2. It was agreed that both Jean and Kay would consider the options and further discussions will be held at the **next Board Meeting on March 12 at noon**

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 pm

Seattle webinar on Immigration will be held on February 23 at 4 pm. Anneliese will send the link to members who wish to attend. Registration is required.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathie Walker, Secretary



<i>Jean Munro</i>	<i>3/1</i>
<i>Wendy Meyers</i>	<i>3/2</i>
<i>Barbara Sando</i>	<i>3/11</i>
<i>Penny Tetter</i>	<i>3/19</i>
<i>Joanna Brunso</i>	<i>3/27</i>

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Highline Members Joining the Seattle Branch for On-line Monthly Meetings.

Several of our Highline members have joined some of the Seattle interest groups, such as the West Seattle & Points South on the second Tuesday of the month at 10 am. The current theme is "Writing triggers". Seattle invites all Highline members to the monthly Zoom programs, generally on the third Saturday.

Saturday, March 20 at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom*
Pandemics, Protests, Presidential Politics:
Inside a Local Newsroom

Michele Matassa Flores, Seattle Times Executive Editor

National headlines might come to mind when we think about the past historic news year, but local stories were plentiful and huge. Michele Matassa Flores, executive editor of *The Seattle Times*, will talk about newsroom coverage of the year that began in January with the nation's first confirmed case of COVID-19.

As executive editor, Matassa Flores is responsible for the news content of both the newspaper and seattletimes.com. She will talk about how these news outlets had to adapt to new challenges, face dangers and rethink coverage.

Matassa Flores has been the *Times*' Executive Editor since 2019. In 2020, the newspaper won the Pulitzer Prize for National Reporting for its coverage of Boeing's 737 MAX.

Seattle Magazine named Matassa Flores one of Seattle's 25 most influential people in 2020. She also has worked at *Crosscut*, the *Puget Sound Business Journal* and the *Statesman Journal* in Salem, Oregon. A graduate of the University of Oregon, she lives in West Seattle.

To register for the meeting, click on the link below to view and/or print the newsletter:
<https://seattle-wa.aauw.net/files/2021/02/AAUW-Catalyst-March2021.pdf>

If this link doesn't work for you, please contact Seattle branch at programs@aauw-seattle.org

Local Events

Highline Board Meeting – **–Friday, March 12th at 12 pm** per Zoom

Highline Branch Membership Meetings – **No in-person meetings scheduled until further notice.**

***See next page for our Book Discussion Group meetings.



Morning and Afternoon Book Discussion Groups – per Zoom



"I love this reading group."

Morning at 9:30 am

March 26 – *The New Silk Roads*, by Peter Frankopan

April 23 – *Moment of Lift*, by Melinda Gates
(Members will be selecting books for the remaining year at the February meeting)

Afternoon at 3:00pm

March 1 – *The Book Women of Troublesome Creek*, by Kim Michele Richardson

April 6 – *Caste: The Origins of our Discontents*, by Isabel Wilkerson

May 3 – *The Vanishing Half*, by Brit Bennett

June 7 – *The Other Alcott*, by Elise Hooper

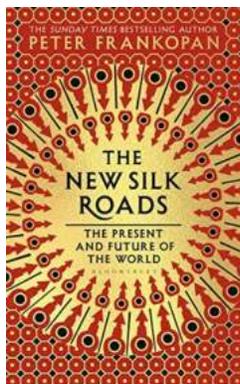
July 5 – *The Body: A Guide for Occupants*, by Bill Bryson

August 2 – *Hell and Other Destinations*, by Madeleine Albright

September 6 – *The Manifesto for the Moral Revolution*, by Jacqueline Novogratz

The New Silk Roads: The Present and Future of the World

by Peter Frankopan



'All roads used to lead to Rome. Today, they lead to Beijing.'

When *The Silk Roads* was published in 2015, it became an instant classic. A major reassessment of world history, it compelled us to look at the past from a different perspective. *The New Silk Roads* brings this story up to date, addressing the present and future of a world that is changing dramatically.

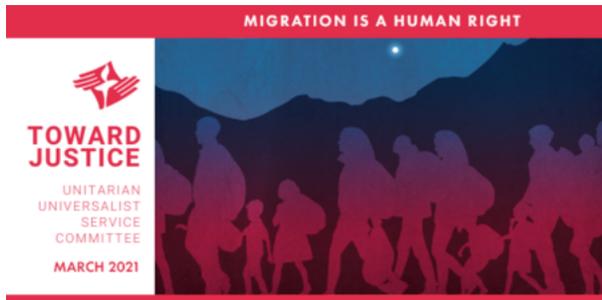
Following the Silk Roads eastwards, from Europe through to China, by way of Russia and the Middle East, *The New Silk Roads* provides a timely reminder that we live in a world that is profoundly interconnected. In an age of Brexit and Trump, the themes of isolation and fragmentation permeating the Western world stand in sharp contrast to events along the Silk Roads since 2015, where ties have been strengthened and mutual

cooperation established.

With brilliant insight, Peter Frankopan takes a fresh look at the network of relationships being formed along the length and breadth of the Silk Roads today, assessing the global reverberations of these continual shifts in the centre of power - all too often absent from headlines in the West. This important - and ultimately hopeful - book asks us to reassess who we are and where we are in the world, illuminating the themes on which all our lives and livelihood depend. *GoodReads*

Hello Highline Members:

If you are interested in joining our book discussion groups, please let us know. We would love to see more of you at our afternoon book discussion group at 3pm on the first Monday of the month. We are a bit more informal, and invite you to join us on Zoom or maybe in our homes again, when we are all fully vaccinated. Now that we are so proficient with Zoom, we might even consider a combination of Zoom and in person meetings in the future?



After reading and discussing *The Line Becomes a River*, by Francisco Cantu, we have received this interesting and important topic from Carol Mohler

“It takes courage to abandon the only home you’ve ever known and set out on a perilous journey with no promise of safety. But that’s exactly what so many families from El Salvador, Guatemala, and

Honduras do every single day — forced to migrate to escape pervasive violence, corruption, and profound economic hardship caused by natural disasters in their home countries.

Dismantling Barriers to Migration Safety

Along the route to freedom and security, many will encounter not life-saving assistance, but rather laws and systems designed to punish those on the move.

With partial funding from UUSC, our partner No More Deaths recently released a new report demonstrating the routine disappearances and loss of lives due to U.S. Border Patrol enforcement policies targeted at those in migration”

Providing Humanitarian Assistance

In addition to emergency life-saving responses for individuals in migration, our partners recognize long-term support and resources are critical as people navigate different paths to asylum. Measures to contain COVID-19 have only compounded the migration crisis, narrowing options for passage to safety.

UUSC grants bolster the critical services provided by grassroots organizations well beyond the border areas, including Scalabrinianas Misión con Migrantes y Refugiados (SMR), who operates the Casa Mambré shelter in Mexico City. Our funding helps to ensure our partners are able to respond to the immediate needs of people they receive, many of whom are relying on these safe spaces while they apply for asylum in Mexico.

The Mexican government's institutions have been overwhelmed with asylum cases. Our partner reports how processes that used to take between 45 days to 2 months have stretched out to 3 to 4 months — and in some cases upwards of a year because of the pandemic. These prolonged processes mean that people in migration must stay in shelters like Casa Mambré for extended periods of time — demonstrating that the services offered there are truly a lifeline of care and support

Pressuring the Biden Administration to Make Good on Its Asylum Promises

It is encouraging that the United States **will resume processing the asylum claims of thousands of families** stranded by the government's "Remain in Mexico" program, but this alone does not go far enough to meet the urgent needs of families in migration. In fact, the recent news of the Biden administration's **reopening the Homestead child detention facility and its refusal to end Title 42 expulsions** are examples of an immigration system that continues to inflict severe harm on families seeking safety at our borders. Grassroots movements are reimagining new systems, built on equity and centering people's humanity. We must continue to **push our policymakers to keep their promises** to families in migration and fully restore asylum protections.

Our partners are working toward a day when people in migration have rebuilt their lives instead of living with feelings of uncertainty about tomorrow. We all can contribute to efforts that ensure migrant families receive the protection needed during journeys to freedom and can arrive safely in their new homes, fully welcomed into the fabric of its community

[Watch a short video](#) explaining why systemic transformation of U.S. border and asylum policies is so important for saving lives.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6xWKQq79Hxo&ab_channel=NoMoreDeaths

[Joanna Brunso shared some of her thoughts on the border near her Arizona home.](#)

“While reading *“And the Line becomes a River”*, especially the first part, it felt so much like the area around my house in Green Valley, AZ. I live only 36 miles from the Mexican border. The UU church I belong to is almost 10 miles farther south. Several of our members belong to a group called *“No More Deaths”*. They are trained and then make trips into the desert to help migrants who are in trouble. They provide them with water, food, dress wounds, etc. and will take stranded migrant to the Border Patrol if these people express a wish to return to Mexico. They do nothing illegal, such as drive those stranded farther into someplace in AZ. The whole Tucson sector is involved with the migrant issue one way or another. Church ladies who are quilters have made quilts illustrating the reality of the many deaths and/or bodies found in the desert around us using scraps of material left in the desert, on bodies, and with information that they could glean from the government sources in Tucson. My church created one of these quilts. We were included in the tour of quilts, which made it all the way to the Smithsonian in Wash. DC. I have attached some photos I took when the tour was located at our church’s parish hall. (I am not a quilter. Only took these photos.)”



“Below is a photo of the AZ desert in the area where I live. I walked up behind my house in a water tank easement road. Green Valley is tucked into the valley below and you can't see much of it. Look at those trees close by. They are full of thorns, brittle, and harsh. They have names like mesquite, creosote bushes and devils claw. They tear at your skin and clothes. The green or dark patches you see in the desert valley below are thickets of trees and bushes like these. What looks like a plain is really riddled with washes or ravines, which harbor snakes and other critters. There is no water there, unless it has just rained. It's a harsh march through this area for the migrants.

A view like this is what gave Susan Kirk, the quilter who created the middle panel on our quilt, the inspiration for the design. All the other fabric is from found material in the desert from bodies or skeletons or discarded backpacks.”



For contributing your news! Please continue to share any news or information that might be of interest to all our Members

AAUW Highline Branch Newsletter
2121SW 152nd Street, #203
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This Women’s History Month is an exercise in living history. As we look ahead to these next critical weeks in our nation’s battle with health inequities and economic instability, there will be many quickly shifting priorities and solutions to keep track of. AAUW will continue to advocate for women and girls and to hold our elected officials accountable to the American people throughout these crises. In December, we ended the year with a wish to soon embrace the

progress to come in 2021. Now it’s time to make that a reality.

May we all do our part in history, The AAUW Public Policy & Legal Advocacy Team

The U.S. House of Representatives passed two critical bills in the past week. Now we need your help to demand that your Senators support:

- **Crisis Relief:** *The Senate is debating this TODAY — act now!*

With nearly 30 million cases of COVID-19 and more than 515,000 dead, our nation needs relief now. Acknowledging these painful milestones, we must demand that Congress act boldly to secure our future. The American Rescue Plan Act passed the U.S. House of Representatives. More than 70 percent of Americans support this bill, including 2 in 5 Republicans, three-quarters of independent voters and nearly all Democrats. Our country needs the comprehensive relief provided in the plan, including paid family and sick leave, vital K-12 school funding, and unemployment benefits set to expire in a few days. The legislation now moves to the Senate — take action to urge your Senators to pass this [critical legislation for American survival!](#)

- **Equality Act:** Equality means including all people. America's civil rights laws should reflect that promise and protect everyone. That's why it's crucial that Congress pass the Equality Act, which would amend existing federal civil rights laws to provide explicit protection against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. The Equality Act passed the U.S. House of Representatives with bipartisan support—urge your Senators to join them and solidify protections against discrimination by [voting yes on the Equality Act.](#)