



May 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"

Comments on the 2021 AAUW WA State Convention

The 2021 virtual state convention was a huge success. There was greater attendance due to the fact that members could watch their screens in the comfort of their homes, thus saving time, money and travel. Our branch had three delegates, Emily Hitchens, Kathy Linnell and Anneliese Ellerton. Other members who attended were Carol Mohler and Kerry Lohr.

For Highlights of the morning see below:

My Brief but Spectacular Experience as a Delegate!

By Kathy Linnell

I served as your Highline AAUW Delegate to the April 17th Zoomed morning business meeting for the State Annual Meeting/Convention. Highlights for your quick review included:

- There are 1,579 branches in the State with Pt Townsend and Walla Walla increasing membership by 150, but overall membership decreased by 12% - it was 1,875 in 2011.
- 24 branches declined in members, 6 grew, 1 maintained and 3 branches have 1 or 0 members. Smaller branches are partnering with larger ones.
- There is an "Online Branch" with Zoom program offerings. June 12 will feature a Health Care Symposium. <https://wa-online.aauw.net/>
- A major communication tool is the use of the State AAUW Facebook page
- The 501C4 status for AAUW and a resultant IRS problem is being resolved. It does not affect the branches.
- Public policy - A new Lobbyist has been hired. Issues concern hospitals in WA state and reproductive rights, family and medical leave, and the hospital merger bill. A rating system for Bills with candidate comparison is available along with scorecards for easy status rankings. A group of 5 State AAUW officers and or members lead the Policy group. They were approved and are looking for additional members.
- All bylaw changes were approved. The Evergreen Leader lists the changes.
- Options are available for leaving estate funds to AAUW. Check out the Legacy Circle at <https://ww3.aauw.org/legacy/>
- **Emily Hutchins was nominated and approved for Position 1 on the Board of Directors. Congrats Emily...we are most proud of you!**



*For those of you who couldn't attend the AAUW-WA Annual Meeting & Convention
You are welcome to use the video links in the following message provided by Mary Williams, President of AAUW-WA*

"Thank you again for your attendance and participation in the AAUW-WA Annual Meeting and Convention! We are pleased to share the video links with you in case you missed part of the day. We are very appreciative of all our presenters who took the time to share their wisdom and experience with us.

- [National Bylaws Vote for Inclusive Membership](#) | Kim Churches, AAUW CEO
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g-kBtlCsF1c&ab_channel=AAUWWAState
-
- [Education Post-Pandemic](#) | Dr. Michaela Miller, OSPI Deputy Superintendent
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g-kBtlCsF1c&authuser=0>
-
- [Employment Outlook for Women Post-COVID, Getting Back What We've Lost](#) | Lisa Maatz, Keynote Presentation
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4hGlbSe-DrU&authuser=0>
-
- [Discussion on Writing Historical Fiction](#) | Barbara Pope Virginia Scharff, Authors
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PNMjPaTbLSE&authuser=0>

Thank you!
Mary Williams

If you can't open the links, you can paste and enter them into your browser header. This will enable you to watch the videos on YouTube.

2021 Vote: Bylaws Amendment
Every Voice Matters!
Don't forget to vote by May 17, 5:00 PM ET

This spring, AAUW members will vote on a long-standing membership requirement, which creates a barrier to women who do not hold a college degree. By eliminating this requirement, AAUW can become a more diverse and inclusive organization, better aligned with the needs of women.



HIGHLINE BRANCH OF AAUW ZOOM BOARD MEETING MINUTES April 9, 2021

IN ATTENDANCE

Board Members

Emily Hitchens, Anneliese Ellerton, Wendy Meyer-Wenger, Kathie Walker

Guests

Kay Crane and Jean Munro

The Meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m. by Co-President Emily Hitchens

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Report on Phone Calls – Board Member and Nominees reported on the phone calls. All members seemed positive and pleased that we have members who will serve on the Board so we can continue our branch.
2. Membership Renewals - Renewals will be emailed to members. There was a positive response regarding keeping the dues at \$85. Members are encouraged to make donations when paying their dues.
3. No College requirement - There will be a vote to open AAUW membership to all that wish to join. This issue has been raised numerous times in the past, but it appears it will pass this time. The membership requirement of a college degree would be dropped making the organization more inclusive. As far as we know, the name will remain the same. An email will be sent to all members and we are urging all members to vote. Anneliese will send out a reminder email to our members.
4. The State Convention Annual Meeting – The state convention is approaching. It will be held via Zoom so there are no registration fees, but members must register in order to attend. At this writing, Emily, Anneliese and Kathy Linnell will attend.
5. Public Policy Statements – Emily read the statements and priorities were discussed. Of special note are Bylaw changes; using a nominating committee for Board positions to allow for a smooth transition, virtual meeting as well as in-person are allowed, and committees can only recommend to the Board for their vote.
6. Highline College Issues – Jean reported on issues at the College. Title IX changes are being worked on and should be available by the end of April. Gender equity issues will be included. Highline may transition back to some in person classes by summer.
7. Expanding Your Horizons Program This program is now in limbo due to a recent court case that allows boys to attend. Emily will prepare an article for the newsletter. She will also be meeting with the SE Chapter and it will be a topic for discussion. *(Continued on Page 4)*

Highline Branch Leadership Team

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8. Highline Branch Officers They were elected to serve in the incoming Board. They will be assisted by out-going officers to allow for a smooth transition.

**NEW HIGHLINE BRANCH OFFICERS will assume their duties on
July 1, 2021**

Co- Presidents – Kay Crane and Jean Munro

Vice President for programs – Linda Leader

Secretary – Wendy Meyer-Wenger

Treasurer and Newsletter – Anneliese Ellerton

High School Scholars – The event has been cancelled for this year, as school has not been in session. We hope to resume the program in 2022. A big “Thank You” goes out to Eva Parks for her many years of service to this program.

The Meeting was adjourned at 1:08 p.m.

The Next Board Meeting is scheduled on May 14 via Zoom

Respectfully submitted by Kathie Walker, Secretary



AAUW Membership Renewals for 2021-2022 fiscal year - Due by June 30, 2021

New membership year starts July 1, 2021

If you are interested in renewing or inviting friends to join AAUW (Branch, State and National) through the AAUW Membership Program online, please let us know. Starting in April 2021, branch members will be emailed an invoice with a personalized link to renew online with a credit or debit card, or with the option to pay per check. For those members who do not have email, renewal notices will be sent by mail. We are encouraging members to pay online to defray the costs of printing and mailing renewal forms.

Total AAUW membership dues will remain at \$85 for this year, despite the annual increase by National to \$62. Decreasing the Highline Branch fee from \$16 to \$13 will offset the total annual fee. This change was accepted by phone vote by the branch members. Thus the breakdown will be: National: \$62, WA State: \$10 and Highline Branch \$13.

If you want your name to appear on the member roster, please make sure to renew by June 30th



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.

Next meeting is on Tuesday, May 11th at 10 am. If you are interested in joining this virtual coffee club, email me at ellerton13@gmail.com.

<u>Coming up in Seattle Branch</u> May 22, 2021 Saturday	10:00 am	Zoom Meeting. Register here. Annual Branch Meeting. Officer elections and new member presentations.
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Local Events

Highline Board Meeting – **–Friday, May 14th at 12 pm** via Zoom

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

Morning and Afternoon Book Discussion Groups – via Zoom



Morning at 9:30 am

May 28 – The Truths We Hold, by Kamala D. Harris

June 25 - Elephant Whisperer, by Lawrence Anthony & George Spence

July 23 – The Coddling of the American Mind, by Greg Lukianoff & Jonathan Haidt

August 27 – The Woman in White, by Wilkie Collins

September 24 – Flowers of the Killer Moon, by David Grann

October 22 – The Doctors Blackwell, by Janice P. Nimura

December 3 – The House of Unexpected Sisters, by Alexander McCall Smith

Afternoon at 3:00pm

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

(All meetings will continue per Zoom until the “all clear” to resume in person)

Hello Highline Members:

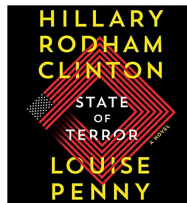
If you are interested in joining our book discussion groups, please let us know. We would love to see more of you at our afternoon book discussion group at 3pm on the first Monday of the month. We are a bit more informal, and invite you to join us on Zoom or maybe in our homes again, when we are all 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?

New Louise Penny Books- by Carol Mohler



WOW - is Penny getting political or just going with the times- see blurb below (from her newsletter) for her next book, *The Madness of Crowds* coming this Fall. Happy to see that Gamache returns to Three Pines, although I did enjoy the Paris location in her last book, *All The Devils Are Here*.

She and Hilary Clinton have co-authored a book *State of Terror* that is also coming out this Fall.



From the #1 bestselling authors Hillary Clinton and Louise Penny comes a novel of unsurpassed thrills and incomparable insider expertise—*State of Terror*.

State of Terror follows a novice Secretary of State who has joined the administration of her rival, a president inaugurated after four years of American leadership that shrank from the world stage. A series of terrorist attacks throws the global order into disarray, and the secretary is tasked with assembling a team to unravel the deadly conspiracy, a scheme carefully designed to take advantage of an American government dangerously out of touch and out of power in the places where it counts the most.

This high-stakes thriller of international intrigue features behind-the-scenes global drama informed by details only an insider could know.

Chief Inspector Armand Gamache returns to Three Pines in #1 New York Times bestseller Louise Penny's latest spellbinding novel

You're a coward.

Time and again, as the New Year approaches, that charge is leveled against Armand Gamache.

It starts innocently enough.

While the residents of the Québec village of Three Pines take advantage of the deep snow to ski and toboggan, to drink hot chocolate in the bistro and share meals together, the Chief Inspector finds his holiday with his family interrupted by a simple request.

He's asked to provide security for what promises to be a non-event. A visiting Professor of Statistics will be giving a lecture at the nearby university.

While he is perplexed as to why the head of homicide for the Sûreté du Québec would be assigned this task, it sounds easy enough. That is until Gamache starts looking into Professor Abigail Robinson and discovers an agenda so repulsive he begs the university to cancel the lecture.

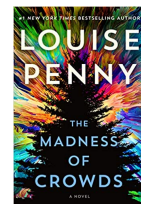
They refuse, citing academic freedom, and accuse Gamache of censorship and intellectual cowardice. Before long, Professor Robinson's views start seeping into conversations. Spreading and infecting. So that truth and fact, reality and delusion are so confused it's near impossible to tell them apart.

Discussions become debates, debates become arguments, which turn into fights. As sides are declared, a madness takes hold.

Abigail Robinson promises that, if they follow her, ça va bien aller. All will be well. But not, Gamache and his team know, for everyone.

When a murder is committed it falls to Armand Gamache, his second-in-command Jean-Guy Beauvoir, and their team to investigate the crime as well as this extraordinary popular delusion.

And the madness of crowds.



I'm eager to read both of these! Carol

Our Morning Book Group Discussion on “Moment of Lift” was so inspiring that we decided to devote some of the newsletter to Melinda Gates, Philanthropist, businesswoman, and global advocate for women and girls.

Book Discussion Group Feedback on “Moment of Lift” by Melinda Gates

Most of you have heard of Melinda Gates. She wrote a book in 2019 called *The Moment of Lift: How Empowering Women Changes the World*. Our book group thought that the book was well worth reading and that she expressed herself well.



She started off by saying that, “When you lift women, you lift humanity.” This coincides with the statement behind “The Girl Effect” which says that when you educate a girl, you advance her village, but when you educate a boy, he usually will leave the village and not stick around to help others learn as well.

The primary causes of poverty and illness are the cultural, financial, and legal restrictions that block what women can do and think they can do for themselves and their children, according to Gates, and she said that every wall is a door.

Poverty is the most disempowering force on Earth. The core remedy for poverty and most social ills is including the excluded. Contraception is also a contributing factor in poverty. If you have more children than you can afford, then you will lack food, medical care, and energy to address the children’s needs. Contraception needs to be available to all, not just to the wealthier people. There is also unpaid work and in some countries this amounts to the majority of the day. Unpaid maternity and paternity leave as well as other forms of gender bias are prevalent in this country. That means the society does not value families and certainly does not listen to women. The US is one of only seven countries that do not provide paid maternity leave (the others are Papua, New Guinea, Suriname, and some other island nations).

She defends diversity as the best way to defend equality, and states that diversity is good for anyone who wants results. Progress depends on inches; we have to end factions to become whole.

Gates goes on to say, “When we love without limits, we see ourselves in others and others in ourselves.” That is the moment of lift.

As a whole, we thought Melinda Gates is a reasonable woman who has many privileges but she seems to be quite down-to-Earth as far as her willingness to visit other countries and report what she sees and then is willing to do something about it. – *Submitted by Kerry Lohr*

COVID-19 has been ‘an emergency’ for women. Melinda Gates proposes some solutions

By [Megan Burbank](https://www.twitter.com/meganireneb) <https://www.twitter.com/meganireneb> *Seattle Times features reporter*

When her book “The Moment of Lift: How Empowering Women Changes the World” came out in April 2019, Melinda Gates could not have imagined how important the ideas in it would become in the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak. The pandemic cast systemic inequities facing women and people of color into newly sharp relief, as parents [struggled to manage](#) both full-time childcare and full-time work, and [women of color left the workforce](#) in staggering numbers.

Gates wrote the book in what feels more and more like a very different world, but the ideas she raises in it provide a practical road map for rebuilding when the pandemic is over — and responding to the problems it has amplified. Here’s what she had to say about gaining back the progress COVID-19 has stunted, through policies that acknowledge the needs of women and their families. (This conversation has been edited for length.)

One of the things you map out in the book is that women are often doubling up on paid and unpaid labor, and work environments are often unsupportive of working parents, and as the pandemic has progressed, we've only seen this exacerbated. What are some of the things that you would like to see happen on a policy level that would improve these disparities?

Since I wrote the original book in 2019, we thought we were on our way in terms of gender equality in the world, but the pandemic has absolutely set that back in country after country, and in our own country. I'm sure you saw [the jobs report in December](#) — of the 140,000 jobs lost, they were all women's jobs, and the majority were women of color, and so women have lost a million more jobs in the United States than men have [during the pandemic], and that's really for two reasons. One, they are the ones who predominantly are in the low-wage jobs, those service jobs that have been shed from the economy with people not going out and getting the services they were using before.

And No. 2 is because of the burden of childcare, and we're finally seeing it in our homes; the pandemic has exposed it, so it's right there in front of us. It's always been there, though, as I say in my book, this burden of unpaid labor. And so to address it, we absolutely need at the federal level a paid family medical leave policy. We're the only industrialized nation that doesn't have it. Twenty-one percent of women have paid maternity leave in this country. That's all — 21%. So it is well past time that we pass a paid family medical leave policy. I think now that legislators are seeing it in their own homes, now that we have more women in Congress, I think we have a far better chance than we did before.

And then during the pandemic, we need things like paid sick days, so that when somebody gets sick or their child gets sick, or a family member, they can take the time off from work, they can actually quarantine for 10 to 14 days. That has to be part of the next stimulus package. It was part of some of the early ones, but was not part of the latter ones. And to be frank, we need to deal with the elder care that's going on in this country. We've got 800,000 elderly people sitting on the Medicare rolls who cannot find an elder care facility. And that's got to be taken care of, too, because who's taking care of not just the young but the old? It's women. And it's pushing them out of the labor force.

Another thing this connects to is your discussion about family planning and birth control. In your book, you described the attacks on birth control access that have happened in the United States. What kinds of policies would you like to see to restore that access?

Around the world, there are over 200 million women that are asking us for contraceptives that don't have access. Two hundred million. So I would like to see President-elect Biden's administration rescind [the Mexico \[City Policy\]](#) that has gotten put back into place in the Republican administration, so that our foreign aid can flow more freely to contraceptives around the world. Because of the lack of contraceptives and the supply chains being broken during the pandemic, we're forecasting 15 million unplanned pregnancies this year around the world. Every one of those pregnancies is a woman that then gets stuck in a cycle of poverty if she's in a low-income country. And these women will tell you when you meet them, "I can't have another child, I can't feed the three or four that I've got, much less educate them." So this is actually an emergency for those women.

One of your major philanthropic focuses is the need to make lifesaving vaccines available to children in developing countries. That's something that's going to be especially important with the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccine. What do you think should be considered as the vaccine is implemented among women and families in developing countries?

Well, I think in every country around the world, you start with health care workers everywhere, because they take care of everybody else. And worldwide, 70% of the health care workers are women. So you start there. And then you've got to get it out to the most vulnerable populations. But you do have to do special things to make sure that women know the vaccine is available. The good news is that in many of these low-income countries, women are used to taking their children for vaccines. In fact, we talk about vaccine hesitancy in our country, but when you go stand in a health

care clinic line, and you talk to women, they'll say to you, "I've got my child with me, it's vaccine day," and if you ask them why they're getting vaccines, they look at you like there must be something wrong with you. They're like, "Well, because my child will stay alive because they get these vaccines."

In the book, you describe coming to the discovery that gender equity could be used as a strategy for fighting poverty in the developing world, and you acknowledge the pitfalls of global philanthropy more broadly. What are the things that you've learned about what helps and what hurts coming in as a Westerner?

First of all, there isn't a single thing that a philanthropic organization is going to do that they won't do in concert. If you're going to do work and do it at scale, you have to do it within the ecosystem of understanding you're just one player, and that it takes government to scale up things — big solutions. It takes the private sector — business — to come up with new innovations. Often they have to be stimulated to do that, because there isn't a market there. And it takes civil society to call out what is right and what needs to get done.

I've also learned that we as Westerners can't go in and tell someone, "This is the right tool for your country, or your community or your family or your body." Nobody wants to hear that from somebody from another country. We have to go in with local partners who have the trust of those communities, understand the cultural context, are listening to the locals on what they need and want and build up trust, and when you do that, then people are willing to take up new information, just as we learn here in the United States about things, then we're willing to take up new behavior changes or new policies. We change what we eat, we don't smoke anymore in the rates that we used to, we put our kids in car seats because it's safer, and we wear seat belts.

Do you have an example of a time when you've seen all of those pieces come together successfully?

I would say honestly it's around vaccines, because around the time that we started the foundation and then began to get involved in vaccine systems, it was taking 20 to 25 years from when a vaccine would come out in the United States or in Europe until it would get to a country like Kenya or Tanzania or Bangladesh, and quite often by the time it got there, it didn't have the right strains of what was needed in those countries. Now that time lag is down to one to one and a half years, and the right strains are in the vaccine.

As well, new vaccines have come out where there wasn't a market before. The biggest predominant killer of children in the developing world was diarrhea and pneumonia, and we now have vaccines for rotavirus, which is the biggest diarrheal disease, and pneumococcus, which is the biggest pneumonia killer for children. And those vaccines have the right strains, and as soon as they come out in a place like the United States, they're getting out [to other countries] very quickly. So that's a success story. But it took the entire ecosystem working together.

And look, you're seeing it with a COVID-19 vaccine. This vaccine has been created in rapid time, but it's going through great regulatory systems called the FDA or the EU in Europe. And then it's getting out in the U.S. Yes, it's bumpy right now. But it'll get better in the next 45 days. And hopefully in a year, you'll start to see a lot more vaccine out in low- and middle-income countries as well.

Article Sent by Kathy Linnell



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



AAUW-WA Women's Health Summit

June 12, 2021 - Tentative Plans - Check for updates

Event: AAUW's Health Care Kickoff

Date: June 12, 2021

Title: Health Matters: Advocating for Washington Women

Time: 9:00 – 12:30

Keynote Speakers: Dr. Alyson McGregor; Dr. Dorothy Roberts

Dr. Alyson McGregor, Brown University

Book: Sex Matters: How Male-Centric Medicine Endangers Women's Health and What We Can Do About It (2020)

Professional profile: <https://vivo.brown.edu/display/ajmcgreg>; **TedTalk:**

https://www.ted.com/talks/alyson_mcgregor_why_medicine Often_has_dangerous_side_effects_for_women/footnotes?language=en

Dr. Dorothy Roberts, University of Pennsylvania

Topic: The problem with race-based medicine

Professional profile: <https://www.law.upenn.edu/cf/faculty/roberts1/>

Books: Fatal Invention: How Science, Politics, And Big Business Re-Create Race In The Twenty-First Century (The New Press, 2011); Killing The Black Body: Race, Reproduction And The Meaning Of Liberty (Vintage 20th Anniversary Ed., 2017); Shattered Bonds: The Color Of Child Welfare (Basic Books/Civitas, 2001; Paperback, 2002).

TedTalk: https://www.ted.com/speakers/dorothy_roberts

MLK Jr. Health Equity Summit presentations: <https://penntoday.upenn.edu/news/penn-medicine-implements-anti-racism-program-across-health-system>

Possible Additional Speakers: 10 to 15 minutes each; primary purpose is to introduce the topic of and talk about one of the fall webinars)

- Nancy Sapiro, Becky Reitzes, Leslie Waters, MD
- Representatives from Cancer Care Alliance and University of Washington Center for Antiracism

Webinar 1 – September

Convener: Nancy Sapiro

Topic: Seeking Solutions through Advocacy

Possible Additional Presenters: Laurie Jenkins; Karen Kaiser; Eileen Cody; Emily Randall

Webinar 2 – October

Convener: Becky Reitzes, MA

Topic: The impact of challenges to reproductive health care and reproductive justice

Possible Additional Speakers: Melanie Mazza, Economic Opportunity Institute

Webinar 3 – November

Convener: Leslie Waters, MD

Topic: Health Care Access in Washington State

Possible Additional Speakers: Rep from UW Center for Antiracism in Nursing; Rural Healthcare Assn. Rep

Webinar 4 – December

Convener: TBD

Topic: Health Care for a Lifetime

Possible Additional Speakers: Rep from Moms Rising; Rep from Cancer Care Alliance; Rep from WA State Department of Health on the WA State Health Care Improvement Plan

Additional Opportunities for sessions focusing on healthcare: SLM; Lobby Day, Perhaps a capstone activity at next year's annual meeting



May 2021

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
					1 <i>May Day</i> <i>Global Love Day</i>	2 <i>Astronomy Day</i>
3 <i>PM Book Group 3pm (Zoom)</i>	4	5 <i>Cinco de Mayo</i>	6  <i>Happy Birthday Gwen Koch</i>	7 <i>Highline Board Meeting - 12pm (Zoom)</i>	8 <i>World Red Cross Day</i>	9 <i>Mother's Day</i>
10	11 <i>West Seattle Coffee Club 10 am</i>	12 <i>Last Day of Ramadan</i>	13 <i>Ascension Day</i>	14	15 <i>International Day of Families</i>	16 <i>International Day of Light</i>
17 <i>Income tax filing deferred to May 17th</i>	18 <i>International Museum Day</i>	19	20 <i>National Rescue Dog Day</i>	21 <i>AM Book Group 9:30am (Zoom)</i>	22 <i>Seattle Branch Annual Branch Meeting (Zoom) 10 am</i>	23
24/ 31 <i>Memorial Day</i>	25  <i>Happy Birthday Jane Emerson</i>	26	27 <i>National Sunscreen Day</i>	28	29	30 <i>National Creativity Day</i>

AAUW Highline Branch Newsletter
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From the AAUW Board of Directors

“The AAUW National Board of Directors strongly supports elimination of the degree requirement for membership and will put the requirement up for a membership vote this spring. This important change is a critical step in bringing AAUW’s bylaws and membership requirement in line with our mission of advancing equity for women and girls. While AAUW is fiercely committed to the educational attainment of all women, given our commitment to inclusion, this is simply the right thing to do.

“Proposals to eliminate the degree requirement for membership have come before the membership for vote a number of times. The Board feels very strongly that while the degree requirement made perfect sense at AAUW’s inception, this requirement is now counter to our mission, and limits our ability to build the capacity needed to increase our impact as an organization.

Voting will open on April 7, 2021 and close May 17, 2021 5:00 PM ET.”