



Holiday Issue - December 2022



**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
2022-23 "Diversity, Equity and
Inclusion"

Happy holidays, everyone!

Christmas Theme for 2022

First lady Jill Biden unveiled this year's White House holiday decorations, announcing the theme as "We the People." More than 150 volunteers from across the country spent a week helping to decorate the inside and outside of the White House with 25 wreaths, 77 Christmas trees and over 83,615 holiday lights.



December 2022 Diversity Calendar

12/1 - World AIDS Day: helps raise awareness of HIV/AIDs and money to cure it

12/3 - International Day of Persons with Disabilities (United Nations): raises awareness for the rights and well being of those with disabilities

12/10 - International Human Rights Day (United Nations): adopted by the UN in 1948, celebrates the day it the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

12/16-12/24 - Las Posadas (Mexican): religious festival in Mexico and some parts of the U.S. (primarily those with Mexican-Americans) of the Christmas season

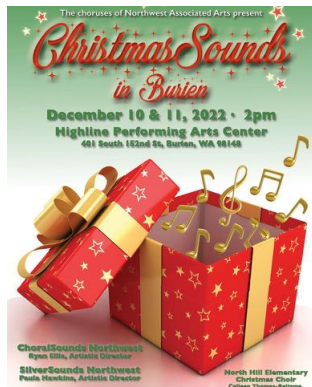
12/18-12/26 - Hanukkah (Jewish): celebrates the Jews triumphing over the Syrian Greeks for their independence

12/21 - Winter Solstice/Yule: the winter sabbat according to the Pagan and Wiccan faiths

12/25 - Christmas (Christian): holiday celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ

12/26 - Kwanzaa (Black): 8-day holiday inspired by African harvest celebrations

Highline Member News & Announcements



The choruses of NWAA and 909 Coffee & Wine present

Christmas Sounds in Burien

December 10 & 11, 2022 2pm
Highline Performing Arts Center

401 South 152nd St, Burien

The cost is \$20 (17 and under are free with adult). Seating is limited so contact Carol Mohler, 206-870-3497 or cmcmohler@gmail.com to get a ticket(s).

Submitted by Carol Mohler



I returned to Zenith Holland Nursery for their annual Holiday Open House. The gift shop was laden with a beautiful assortment of holiday plants and decorations! I highly recommend this place for your holiday shopping! The resident dog greeted us again, as well as Santa Claus!

Anneliese Ellerton



Renton Technical College Holiday Buffet – December 2, 2022

Jean Munro, AAUW Highline Co-President, invited us to join her and the students of the RTC Culinary Arts and Professional Baking Programs for a festive holiday luncheon buffet. Highline members, Emily Hitchens, Anneliese Ellerton and their friends enjoyed a delicious meal, accompanied by music from the RTC students.



Photos submitted by Emily Hitchens



What does the Christmas tree symbolize?

In ancient cultures, the [winter solstice](#) was heralded as the beginning of brighter days ahead, an indication that the Sun God was regaining strength. Because evergreen trees retain their color through all four seasons, they were displayed and embraced in coordination with the solstice as a reminder of warmer months to come.

This content is imported from poll. You may be able to find the same content in another format, or you may be able to find more information, at their web site.

In Egypt, a similar mindset was adopted. The Sun God, Ra, typically grew weak as conditions became colder and darker. The solstice was seen as the turning point in seasons, so Egyptians decorated their homes with palm leaves and branches. Similarly, in ancient Rome, a feast called Saturnalia was held during the solstice, which also encouraged people to celebrate the springtime (and bountiful harvest) ahead with evergreen decorations.

When did Christmas trees originate?

The true Christmas tree tradition can be traced to 16th-century Germany, where Christians began to decorate trees—or, if times were tough, simple pyramid-shaped stacks of wood—inside their homes. The tradition of adding candles to the tree branches is most commonly attributed to Martin Luther, leader of the Protestant Reformation movement in the 1500s. (Legend suggests he was inspired by the stars in the night sky and wished to re-create the scene in his own home using candlelight.)

In what country did the Christmas tree originate? And are Christmas trees religious?

Despite the Christmas tree's roots in Christianity, most Americans refused to adopt the tradition at first because they believed it to be attached to pagan beliefs. The tradition was mostly contained to Germany until the late 1700s and early 1800s. Until then, the Puritans of New England upheld especially strict views of Christmas in America, and people were severely punished if they celebrated or decorated in any way. (They believed the holiday was so sacred that a church service was the only appropriate way to celebrate.) This solemn American observance of Christmas continued until Irish and German immigrants began to settle in America and established their own traditions despite the Puritan rule.

German settlements, particularly in Pennsylvania, decorated community trees in the late 18th century, and soon the trees started to show up in the individual homes of German families. But most of the



country was still skeptical. It wasn't until England's Queen Victoria and Prince Albert (who was of German heritage) were shown in a popular newspaper in 1848 standing around a Christmas tree with their family that the tradition became more widely embraced.

Where did the custom of decorating Christmas trees originate?

Other than the candle aesthetic already established in Europe, decorations like ornaments (often imported from Germany) became more popular in the late 1800s, and homemade [decorations](#) like cookies and garlands (think: popcorn, berries, nuts, and more) became decorating staples.

As technological and industrial developments progressed throughout the 20th century, the more [homespun decorations](#) gave way to glitzy electric lights and synthetic materials, like tinsel. The popular Shiny Brite ornaments, inspired by imported German glass ornaments, marked the beginning of the U.S. ornament industry in the early-to-mid 1900s.



AAUW HIGHLINE BRANCH ZOOM BOARD MEETING MINUTES November 11, 2022, 9:07 – 10:25 am

Present: Mary Kay Ault, Emily Hitchens, Kay Crane, Jean Munro, Anneliese Ellerton and Kerry Lohr - Absent: Wendy Wenger

AGENDA

Future of AAUW-Washington

Emily reported on her meeting with Mary Williams, current President of AAUW-WA. Her term is up in April, and a nominating committee is needed. Other issues discussed were the sustainability and leadership for the future of AAUW-WA.

Highline Meeting Program Plans

The theme for 2023 is “Diversity, Equity & Inclusion”. In keeping with this theme, the following programs were suggested:

Kay is planning to get a speaker from the Muckleshoot Tribe.

Kerry mentioned the Right To Be organization, which offers workshops such as Bystander Intervention “to train hundreds of people to respond to, intervene in, and heal from harassment.”

Jean suggested a branch meeting with guest speaker Jaime Black from The Red Dress Project. She has emailed Jaime Black to see what we do if we emulate or if she travels with this display or sells a video for example:

“AN AESTHETIC RESPONSE TO THE MORE THAN 1000 MISSING AND MURDERED ABORIGINAL WOMEN IN CANADA.”

This is also available on YouTube:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IH7FuxzrFvs&t=7s&ab_channel=SmithsonianNMAI

Suggested locations for this meeting were: Burien Community Center, Burien Heritage Museum, or Des Moines County Heritage Center Museum.

Kay said she would look for a national monthly calendar, featuring Diversity Awareness events.

Further planning will be discussed at the Christmas greetings card writing at Kay Crane’s on Tuesday, December 6th.

Branch meeting on Friday, January 13, 2023. The board decided to book the Wesley Gardens Clubroom for a ‘gift and book exchange’ event with refreshments. Since it will be Friday, the 13th, an interesting theme was suggested.

Proposed Grants or Scholarships

Emily suggested some ideas on how Highline Branch might help with grants or scholarships to help disadvantaged women with childcare, housing, food, etc., while staying in school. AAUW National does offer these types of grants. The High School Scholar Recognition program has been tabled for 2023, due to burnout from past volunteers and lack of response from branch members to take on new responsibilities.

Communicating with Local Small Branches

The WA State Board had discussed combining some regional branches that are finding it hard to maintain membership, even closing down. Mary Kay suggested that local branches, such as SE King County and Federal Way could group together. Anneliese said it would be preferable to invite their members to our meetings.

Health and Welfare of Older Members

Kay suggested the importance of keeping in touch with older members of the branch, like Gwen Koch, who is recovering from a recent illness.

Adjournment

The next board meeting is scheduled for Friday December 9th. However, since Kay is hosting the annual greeting card signing on December 6th, the board may prefer to combine both meetings on the 6th.

Submitted by Anneliese Ellerton

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Jean Munro, Anneliese Ellerton, Kay Crane, Emily Hitchens and Kerry Lohr



AAUW Highline Branch would like to hear from you!

The Highline Board will be conducting a telephone survey in the New Year, but in the meantime, please feel free to share your thoughts and suggestions via email to Anneliese Ellerton at ellerton13@gmail.com

1. When did you join the AAUW and do you have a story about what motivated you to join at the time?
2. What do you enjoy or value the most about being a member of AAUW Highline?
 - a. Have you been able to attend any monthly Branch Meetings?
 - b. Have you been able to attend any Interest Groups (Book Group, Cuisine Group)? Do you have any suggestions for other interest groups?
 - c. Have you been able to be involved in any of the activities of the branch (such as Scholar Recognition, Tech Trek)?
3. Is there anything that “bugs” you about Highline Branch? *If so*, What could we do differently to address that?
4. Do you feel that Highline Branch is welcoming? *After ‘yes’ or ‘no’*, Please explain. What suggestions do you have that would make our Branch more inclusive in terms of age, ethnicity, etc.?
5. Is there anything more that you think Highline Branch could do to substantially energize and grow our membership? Is there anything that your previous AAUW Branch(s) did that we should consider?
6. What other organizations do you know about where you think we might collaborate with on programs, events and idea sharing?
7. Is there anything else you’d like to tell us?

[The above questions were adapted for our use from the Seattle Branch survey script]



AAUW- Washington - DEI (Diversity, Equity & Inclusion) Meeting
November 28, 2022

Yvonne Berliner, our Washington Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) chair, led eleven of us in a brief meeting on November 28. She comes from Eastern Washington and is not familiar with the overlapping areas covered by the Western Washington branches. We were each asked what our branches are doing for DEI. Our Highline branch theme for the year is, in fact, DEI. I was able to mention that we are sounding out possibilities for supporting the Red Dress Project, informing people about the problem of missing and murdered indigenous women. We may be able to have a Muckleshoot speaker, and then a different speaker on immunology as it affects different populations. We plan to meet again on December 13.

Submitted by Kay Crane

From The Seattle Branch newsletter, The Catalyst

AAUW-WA Online Virtual Panel: Great Balancing Act – A Global View

In honor of US Mother’s Day in May 2022, the **Pew Research Center** coalesced data around working moms that validated much of what many working moms already knew – [the pandemic exacerbated an already difficult balancing act of juggling family, career, and life](https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2022/05/06/working-moms-in-the-u-s-have-faced-challenges-on-multiple-fronts-during-the-pandemic/). However, these data were collected in the US.

<https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2022/05/06/working-moms-in-the-u-s-have-faced-challenges-on-multiple-fronts-during-the-pandemic/>

What about in other countries? How did ongoing challenges for working mothers collide with new pandemic hurdles – was it a perfect storm, or do other national and cultural contexts provide different mechanisms to support mothers?

Please join the **AAUW Washington Online Branch** for this **VIRTUAL** discussion with an **international panel of speakers on January 24, 2023 at 8:00 a.m., PT.**

The panel will explore perspectives of working mothers across the globe, reaching across cultures, borders, and sectors, to understand how policy, family dynamics, societal expectations, and socioeconomic factors present both challenges and opportunities to achieving gender parity in the workplace.

Please [register here](#). Contact [Melissa Johnsen](#) with any questions.





Future Branch meetings will be held on a quarterly basis through 2023 (tentatively for January/March)

Highline Board Meeting – Friday, December 9th at 9:30 am via Zoom

(Greeting card signing by Board on Tuesday, December 6th at 10:30 am)

Economy Matters Webinar Series – The remaining AAUW Washington webinar will be held:

Tuesday Dec. 13 at 7pm – Childcare Policies in Washington State with State Senator Claire Wilson

Online: Zoom – To register contact: www.aauw-wa.org. This link is on the AAUW of Washington State website https://aauw-wa.aauw.net/2021/08/11/health-webinars-2021/

Join the Seattle Branch Meeting – Saturday, December 17 – 9:30 am - 12:00 pm

Holiday Brunch and Raffle at the Seattle Yacht Club with Ray Skjelbred, Jazz Pianist.

Reservations: RSVP@aauw-seattle.org.

Seattle Branch 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, December 13 at 10 am. If you are interested in joining this virtual coffee club, email Barbara Sando at barbarasando@yahoo.com

AAUW-WA Online Virtual Panel: Great Balancing Act: A Global View – Tuesday, January 24, 2023 at 8:00 am PT

Monday, January 30, 2023 - Lobby Day, sponsored by AAUW-WA State. A full day of statewide and local advocacy for AAUW legislative priorities. Online sessions will be available.

Tentative February Branch Meeting with guest speaker Jaime Black from The Red Dress Project. Here is a short vide which you can watch on YouTube:



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IH7FuxzrFvs&t=9s&ab_channel=SmithsonianNMAI

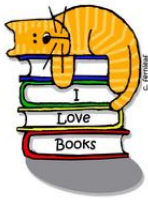
If you would like to keep up with AAUW Washington news, we suggest that you add the Seattle Catalyst and the Evergreen Reader to your list of resources

AAUW The Catalyst December 18, 2022 Holiday Gathering at the Seattle Yacht Club Returns! Saturday, December 18 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon 1807 E HAMLIN ST. SEATTLE, WA 98112 Free Parking Available

The Evergreen Leader AAUW Washington Newsletter November 2022 Volume 33, No. 5

https://aauw-seattle.org/

https://aauw-wa.aauw.net/



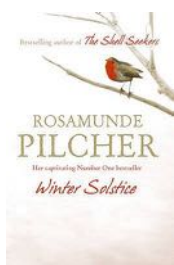
Morning and Afternoon Book Group Discussion Meetings

4th Friday – Mornings at 9:30 am unless otherwise specified *

* December 2 – *The Midnight Library*, by Matt Haig – host Mary Kay Ault and leader Eva Parks
A new schedule for the 2023 books will be presented at the meeting.

1st Monday - Afternoons at 3:00 pm unless otherwise specified *

*December 12 at 2:30 pm – *Winter Solstice*, by Rosamunde Pilcher – host Lynn Smith
*January 9 at 2:30 pm - *Indian Creek Chronicles*, by Peter Fromm – host Kathy Fitch
February 6 – *All The Devils Are Here*, by Louise Penny – host Mary Kay Ault



In *Winter Solstice* Rosamunde Pilcher brings her readers into the lives of five very different people...

Elfrida Phipps, once of London's stage, moved to the English village of Dibton in hopes of making a new life for herself. Gradually she settled into the comfortable familiarity of village life -- shopkeepers knowing her tastes, neighbors calling her by name -- still she finds herself lonely. Oscar Blundell gave up his life as a musician in order to marry Gloria. They have a beautiful daughter, Francesca, and it is only because of their little girl that Oscar views his sacrificed career as worthwhile.

Carrie returns from Australia at the end of an ill-fated affair with a married man to find her mother and aunt sharing a home and squabbling endlessly. With Christmas approaching, Carrie agrees to look after her aunt's awkward and quiet teenage daughter, Lucy, so that her mother might enjoy a romantic fling in America.

Sam Howard is trying to pull his life back together after his wife has left him for another. He is without home and without roots; all he has is his job. Business takes him to northern Scotland, where he falls in love with the lush, craggy landscape and set his sights on a house.

It is the strange rippling effects of a tragedy that will bring these five characters together in a large, neglected estate house near the Scottish fishing town of Creagan.

It is in this house, on the shortest day of the year, that the lives of five people will come together and be forever changed. Rosamunde Pilcher's long-awaited return to the page will warm the hearts of readers both old and new. *Winter Solstice* is a novel of love, loyalty and rebirth. (*GoodReads*)



*This holiday and always, we wish you much love,
health, and joy! We also hope for peace and
happiness in 2023!*

December 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 <i>World AIDS Day</i>	2 <i>AM Book Group 9:30</i>	3
4 <i>2nd Advent Sunday</i>	5	6 <i>St Nicholas Day</i> <i>Greeting card signing</i>	7 <i>Pearl Harbor Remembrance</i>	8	9 <i>Highline Board Zoom Meeting 9:30am</i>	10 <i>Human Rights Day</i> <i>Christmas Sounds in Burien</i>
11 <i>3rd Advent Sunday</i> <i>Christmas Sounds in Burien</i>	12 <i>PM Book Group 2:30pm</i> <i>Int'l Universal Health Coverage Day</i>	13 <i>Seattle Coffee Group 10 am</i> <i>AAUW-WA Webinar 7:00 pm</i>	15 <i>Bill of Rights Day</i>	15	16	17 <i>Seattle Branch Holiday Meeting 9:30 am to Noon</i>
18 <i>4th Advent Sunday</i> <i>Hanukah starts</i>	19	20	21 <i>Start of Winter Solstice</i>	22	23	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i>
25 <i>Christmas Day</i>	26 <i>Hanukah ends</i> <i>Kwanzaa starts</i> <i>Boxing Day UK, Canada & Australia</i>	27	28 <i>Happy Birthday Carol Mohler</i>	29	30 <i>Happy Birthday Carol Thomas</i>	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i>

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