



January/February 2024



Hello AAUW Highline Members - It's a Brand New Year! Here's a special message from Co-President Kay Crane

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
2023-24 "Diversity, Equity and
Inclusion"



OUCH!

Someone managed to use my credit card for some sort of purchase. I don't even know what they bought, and I really don't care. The point is, it wasn't me and it wasn't Garry. I found out when I looked at the detailed list online of our various charges on the credit card. This one stood out as not something we could identify, for \$49.95.

I called the credit card company. The charge was still pending, so the company suggested I wait to dispute the charge officially until the charge was posted. A couple of days later, there it was, posted. I called the company again, and they said they needed to pull the card and issue us a new number. We've had to do this before, and it seemed like the most awful nuisance, but here we go again. Our new cards came promptly. We have activated them with just one easy phone call, and we now have our new number. Next up, we need to notify every vendor who used to use our previous card number that we now have a new number.

Scams are all around us, it seems. Are the people replacing your roof actually using the shingles you ordered? For one friend of mine, as a matter of fact, no, they weren't. Is the young boy at the door selling chocolate bars actually trying to support a local kids' football team? As a matter of fact, the team no longer exists. From investments of thousands down to a couple bucks for candy, scams seem to be multiplying like toadstools after a rain.

We had a couple of guys turn up at the door one day, asking if they could look over our roof for their company, since they were doing work in the area and could give us a good deal. They climbed all over the roof and gave us the unhappy news that we needed a new roof, for something like \$40,000. I said thank you, and called a roofer our son had dealt with successfully. They sent someone out. He climbed all over the roof, and said, "Your roof is fine. Here's my card. Call me if you need me." I will, gladly!

I've had a phone call from someone anxiously saying, "**Grandma, I'm in trouble and I need money right away!**" Really? Who is this? "Your grandson!" Really? Which one? "Michael." "Well, Michael, I hope your mother is proud of you. I have several grandsons, but not a Michael. And by the way, their voices haven't changed." One response to phone calls clearly asking for money is, "Oh, I'm so glad you called! Give me your credit card number right away so I can send money to it!" They hang up on me.

Do not give out ANY personal information over the phone unless you made the call in the first place. Your bank will not be calling you to get your social security number! The IRS never does business over the phone: if they need to get in touch with you, they will write you a letter.

A scammer will try to play on your emotions. One of the scammers' favorite methods is to make you feel rushed. Watch out particularly for "deals" that are

good for only a very short time. A reputable company will be glad to do business with you at any time.

Let's make 2024 a year when none of us have to give up hard-earned money to scammers. **Be careful.** Check the statement. Call the bank yourself. And if it sounds too good to be true, it's probably not true. **Kay Crane**



Lobby Day is fast approaching, and this coming year it will be 22 January 2024. There is information in the *Evergreen Leader* regarding times, registration, and the issues. Registration is \$10, the event is all online and registration is quite simple. The issues we are looking at are Voting, Media Literacy, and Girls at Risk. There will be bills on a priority list, but right now I can tell you that the Keep Our Care Act is very important. Please do consider joining us to speak with and/or let our state representatives know what our priorities are. This is important. If you do not have zoom access, let me know, and we can work something out.

On another note, I've accepted the request of the 33rd District Democrats to be the next PCO (precinct officer) in my precinct. I've also been elected to serve as Floor Leader for my floor at Wesley Gardens. I cannot do everything, so I am asking someone to step up and replace me as Public Policy Chair for the Highline Branch of AAUW. Any number of you could do this job –

Submitted by Kerry Lohr – Public Policy

Lobby Day 2024



Washington State is hosting our annual Lobby Day on January 22 from 9-12:30. The session will open early at 8:30 for a "meet and greet" that will be an opportunity for you to interact with others, but this half hour will not be led by any one individual. Please join us at 8:30 if you enjoy this more casual interaction with members across the state.

2024 Lobby Day will be held virtually on Zoom to encourage all members to join us. We hope you will make time for this important session!

Lobby Day speakers will discuss

Voting

Media Literacy

Girls at Risk

Various topics from our lobbyist Nancy Sapiro

Stay Informed with Legislative Updates!

Our AAUW-WA legislative consultant, **Nancy Sapiro**, provides regular news and updates for our state membership during the legislative session. If you are interested in receiving these updates for 2024, please click on the link below.

Click HERE to sign up for AAUW-WA 2024 Legislative Updates, *This Week in Olympia*

Did you receive the legislative updates in 2023? **Sign up again in 2024** to continue receiving these informative weekly emails.

Cost is \$10.00

Click HERE to register or click the link below

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/aauw-wa-lobby-day-tickets-774031417807?aff=oddtcreator>

AAUW National News

Open Up AAUW



In spring 2024, AAUW members around the country will be voting on proposed National bylaws change that would fully open up AAUW membership by removing the requirement for a college degree.

**Proposed Amendment to “Open Up AAUW”
Ready for Review and Comment
Deadline January 26th**

Members should have received an e-mail from AAUW Chief of Staff Shannon Wolfe on Monday, January 8th kicking off the comment period for the proposed amendment to “Open Up AAUW” by eliminating the degree requirement for AAUW membership. The e-mail included this link to the national website where you can [review and comment on the proposal to open membership](#). There you will find the “Overview and Reasons for the Proposed Amendment,” as well as a link to where your comments can be made. **The comment period closes at 2 pm PST on Friday, January 26th.** We encourage every member to review the proposed change and provide any feedback they have during the comment period.

After thoughtful discussion and a vote, **the AAUW Washington State Board, as an entity, has taken a position in favor of supporting “Open Up AAUW”.** To support AAUW’s value of being inclusive, and in recognizing that it doesn’t take a college degree to believe in and fight for gender equity, the Board believes that opening up membership is a critical step in ensuring a strong future for AAUW as an organization. Let’s break down our own barrier!

This initiative was last voted on in spring 2021, when it came very close to passing. In fact, there was a quorum and the majority of members who voted were in favor of eliminating the degree requirement. Unfortunately, that number fell just short of the 2/3 votes required to pass such an amendment. Statistics from the 2021 vote varied significantly around the country, but here in Washington State, we should be proud that just over 1/3 of our members voted, and 76% of them voted to eliminate the degree requirement. Both statistics were higher than the national average. To learn more about the evolution of AAUW membership requirements and about prior campaigns to open membership, go to <https://openupaauw.org/>.

Barbara Sando
AAUW-WA Bylaws Chair
bylaws@aauw-wa.org

Source: AAUW-WA Evergreen Leader, January 2024 Newsletter



For more information on Washington State public policy and legislative updates, go to AAUW WA State website <https://aauw-wa.aauw.net/>

The Evergreen Leader can be downloaded from this site.



AAUW Highline Branch Zoom Board Meeting
January 5, 2024 – 11:00 am – 12:00

Present: Kay Crane, Emily Hitchens, Mary Kay Ault, Jean Munro and Anneliese Ellerton
Absent: Kathleen Rathbun and Wendy Wenger

Agenda

Correction to Nov 10 minutes: Pat Scott, not Pat Hodges has moved to Arizona. Since she and her husband don't get much mail at their Arizona or Seattle address, they use a PMB mailbox.

Holiday Greetings to Branch Members: Instead of a board meeting on December 8, 2023, board members met to sign and send greeting cards. Emily also contacted Gwen Koch, Georgette Valle and Elise Stratton to check on their wellbeing.

Highline Branch Recipe book: Recipe books were distributed at the November 13 meeting. So far \$170 was received, pending payment from those who had ordered and not yet received the books.

February 23, 2024 Branch Meeting: Mary Kay said that lunch reservations had been made with Tony Poplin at Puget Sounds Skills Center (PSSC) for Friday February 23rd at approximately 11:30 am. Since Rep. Adam Smith will not be available Kay suggested her son Paul as an alternative speaker. The theme will be based on brain health/mental health issues. Emily said she would check with her daughter Amy who knows a person who might want to share some of her experiences with these issues.

March 2024 Branch Meeting: Plans for a meeting have been put on hold for now.

April 2024 WA State Meeting: This is the month for the Annual AAUW Washington State meeting which will be available per Zoom. The date and time will be announced on the Washington State website and in the newsletter *The Evergreen Leader*.

April Branch Meeting & Elections: April is officially the month for electing branch officers, but no arrangements have been made yet. As discussed at the November board meeting, Anneliese requested that a new treasurer be nominated and elected in 2024.

Also, the branch bylaws will be updated in accordance with AAUW National guidelines. Barbara Sando has offered to help.

May 4, 2024 Branch Meeting: Guest speaker Dr. Blythe Sather said she would be available on Saturday, May 4th. Anneliese will contact her to confirm the date, time. Reservations to hold meeting and beverage orders at the Wesley Gardens clubroom need to be confirmed.

Tech Trek: Emily will ask Lynn Zachow to help with Tech Trek; Also, Kerry Lohr has volunteered to contact students at St Philomena Catholic School for possible campers.

Other Business: Kay suggested that some future branch meetings might center around less serious business, such as a trip to King Music radio station. Emily suggested that 'music therapy' might be a good idea, such as meeting at local music events, like Music in the Park.

Newsletter: Since she was in Australia for the month of December, Anneliese apologized that the newsletter would be late and combine the months of January and February for the first edition of 2024.

Next Board Meeting: Friday, February 2, 2024 at 11:00 am.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:00 pm

Submitted by Anneliese Ellerton

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Jean Munro, Anneliese Ellerton



Christmas 2023 in Australia

By Anneliese Ellerton

I escaped to Australia in December to avoid a month of winter, or so I thought. Even though it was officially summer in South Australia (Adelaide area), it was cool and windy some of the time. However, it was sunny and the SPF factor was strong.



The reason for my trip was to visit my son Shôn, daughter-in-law Fang and eight-year old grandson, Arthur for Christmas. I was welcomed at the airport by Shôn after a long, tiring journey from Seattle, via San Francisco and Auckland, New Zealand and finally to Adelaide. We stopped at the local soccer club for a delicious lunch and my first glass of excellent Australian wine. (Shon relaxing at home)



During the month we visited several local wineries, set in the beautiful Adelaide Hills and McLaren Vale.

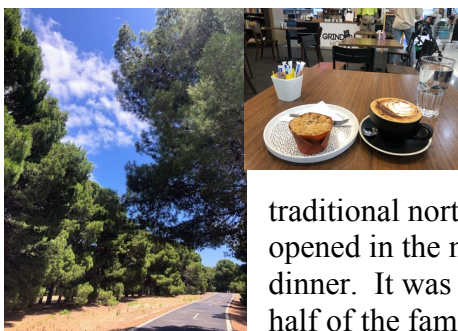
Arthur (to the right) was allowed to join us in the wine tasting rooms, but preferred climbing the trees in the surrounding area.



One day, Shon, Arthur and I went to West Beach Adventure Mega Climb, a very challenging, not for the faint hearted such as myself! Arthur had just reached the height requirements and I watched with clammy hands.



Meanwhile, Fang baked the delicious Mushroom Pastry Bites, recipe from our member Karen Keiser. (Puff pastry from scratch!)



South Australia has wonderful parks and trails, so I decided to walk to a local mall from the house (just 4 miles roundtrip) to enjoy a delicious cappuccino. Australian coffee is great!

Christmas Day felt just like a traditional northern hemisphere one. Presents were opened in the morning and turkey served for dinner. It was wonderful to share with my Aussie half of the family!



I hope it won't be another four years before I return.

February is...



Black History Month is a time to celebrate the accomplishments of Black leaders from our region and beyond, as well as engage in conversations about how to better support Black community members today.

- [Bertha Pitts Campbell](#)
The first Black woman to exercise the right to vote on YWCA's board
- [Madame Luella Boyer](#)
Everett's first Black female business owner
- [Corrine Carter](#)
Seattle's first Black policewoman, and one of the two first black policewomen in the country
- [Stormé DeLaverie](#)
The Black lesbian who played a crucial role at the Stonewall Uprising
- [Dorothy Hollingsworth](#)
The first Black woman school board member in Washington State
- [Florise Spearman & Dorothy West Williams](#)
Previously trained at YWCA, they became Boeing's first Black employees
- [Phillis Wheatley](#)
The first Black woman to publish a book in America
- [Dr. Carter G. Woodson](#)
The founder of Black History Month
- [Gertrude Harvey Wright & Ruby Bishop](#)
The Black women and musician union members who helped save jazz in Seattle
- [Women of the Civil Rights Movement](#)
A resource list spotlighting the critical (and often overlooked) role of BIPOC women in the civil rights movement
- [Ijeoma Oluo](#)
Author, *New York Times* best-seller, and 2021 Stand Against Racism keynote
- [Dr. Sharon Knight](#)
Race and social justice activist with expertise in culturally responsible leadership and pedagogy
- [Maya Manus](#)
Advocacy Organizer at the Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle & co-Chair of YWCA's Public Policy Committee
- [Michele Andrasik & Joycelyn Thomas](#)
Doctors addressing health inequities among BIPOC, gender, and sexual minority communities
- [Stacey Abrams](#)
Lawyer, voting rights activist, author, and our 2021 Inspire Luncheon keynote
- [Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson](#)
First Black woman appointed to the Supreme Court of the United States
- [Marcus Harrison Green](#)
Publisher of the South Seattle Emerald, a columnist with the Seattle Times, and 2022 Stand Against Racism panelist
- [Dominique Dawes](#)
Olympic gold medalist and Winning Within keynote
- [Anita Hill](#)
Women's rights advocate, educator, acclaimed author, and 2022 Inspire Luncheon keynote

Source: *Annalee Schafranek at ywca*

<https://www.ywcaworks.org/blogs/ywca/wed-02012023-1030/2023-black-history-month-pioneers-and-change-makers>



Highline Board Meeting – Friday, February 2nd, 2024 at 11:00 am via Zoom

Join the Seattle Branch Meeting – Saturday, February 17, 2024, 6:00 pm (in person), 6:30 pm zoom
Creating a More Equitable Healthcare System with Dr. Kumhee Ro. To register go to the Seattle website,
or: RSVP@aauw-seattle.org

West Seattle & Points South online interest group

Several of our Highline members have joined the above group, which meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 10 am. The current theme is “Writing triggers”. Next meeting is on **Tuesday, February 13, at 10:00 am**. If you are interested in joining this virtual coffee club, email Barbara Sando at barbarasando@yahoo.com

Monday, January 22, 2024 - Lobby Day, sponsored by AAUW-WA State. A full day of statewide and local advocacy for AAUW legislative priorities. Online sessions will be available. Register on AAUW-WA website: <https://aauw-wa.aauw.net/> Registration fee \$10.

Online AAUW-WA -Thursday, February 22, 2024 at 12:00 pm - “Artificial Intelligence: A Brave New World of Concerns and Possibilities”. Contact Melissa Johnsen at Johnsen.Melissa54@gmail.com if you are interested.

Highline Branch Meeting – Friday, February 23, 2024 – Luncheon Meeting at Puget Sounds Skills Center (PSSC) at 11:30 am. Theme will be “Brain/Mental Health”: guest speaker to be arranged.

AAUW-WA 2023 Annual Meeting –Check the AAUW-WA website for date and location in April.

For more information regarding AAUW events, see *The Evergreen Leader* at <https://aauw-wa.aauw.net/files/2023/11/Nov-2023-Evergreen-Leader.pdf>

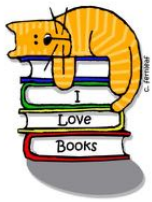


Happy January and February Birthdays to:

***Linda Hagen 1/18
Jenny Rydberg 1/20
Kay Crane 1/30***

***Anneliese Ellerton 2/13
Kathie Walker 2/15
Bonnie Verhunce 2/21***

If we have missed anyone's birthday, please email Anneliese at ellerton13@gmail.com



Morning and Afternoon Book Group Discussion Meetings

2nd Friday – Mornings at 9:30 am unless otherwise specified *

February 9, 2024, 9:30 am – *Why We Sleep*, by Matthew P. Walker – Discussion Leader: Vicki Moore, Host: Kathy Walker – Wesley Family Lounge.

March 8, 2024, 9:30 am – *Lessons in Chemistry*, by Bonnie Garmus - Discussion Leader: Kerry Lohr, Host: Judy Storey at her home.

April 12, 2024, 9:30 am – *A Fierce Radiance*, by Lauren Belger- Discussion Leader: Jane Emerson, Host: Pat Hodges – Wesley Family Lounge.

May 10, 2024, 9:30 am – *The Only Woman in the Room*, by Marie Benedict – Discussion Leader: Kathy Linnell, Host: Jane Emerson at her home.

June 14, 2024, 9:30 am – *Susan, Linda, Nina & Coki*, by Lisa Napoli – Discussion Leader: Joanna Brunso, Host: Kathy Linnell – Wesley Family Lounge

1st Monday - Afternoons at 2:30pm unless otherwise specified *

February 5, 2024, 2:30 pm – *Fahrenheit 451*, by Ray Bradbury – Host: Carol Erickson

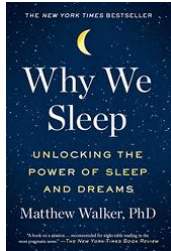
March 4, 2024, 2:30 pm – *A Life on our Planet*, by David Attenborough – Host: Anneliese Ellerton

April 1, 2024, 2:30 pm – *Five Little Indians*, by Michelle Good – Host: Emily Hitchens

May 6, 2024, 2:30 pm – *Horse*, by Geraldine Brooks – Host: Janis Jacobson

June 3, 2024, 2:30 pm – *Lessons in Chemistry*, by Geraldine Brooks – Host: Mary Kay Ault

Why We Sleep: Unlocking the Power of Sleep and Dreams, by Matthew Walker



Neuroscientist and sleep expert Matthew Walker provides a revolutionary exploration of sleep, examining how it affects every aspect of our physical and mental well-being. Charting the most cutting-edge scientific breakthroughs, and marshalling his decades of research and clinical practice, Walker explains how we can harness sleep to improve learning, mood and energy levels, regulate hormones, prevent cancer, Alzheimer's and diabetes, slow the effects of aging, and increase longevity. He also provides actionable steps towards getting a better night's sleep every night. *Goodreads*

Fahrenheit 451, by Ray Bradbury



Sixty years after its original publication, Ray Bradbury's internationally acclaimed novel Fahrenheit 451 stands as a classic of world literature set in a bleak, dystopian future. Today its message has grown more relevant than ever before.

Guy Montag is a fireman. His job is to destroy the most illegal of commodities, the printed book, along with the houses in which they are hidden. Montag never questions the destruction and ruin his actions produce, returning each day to his bland life and wife, Mildred, who spends all day with her television "family." But when he meets an eccentric young neighbor, Clarisse, who introduces him to a past where people didn't live in fear and to a present where one sees the world through the ideas in books instead of the mindless chatter of television, Montag begins to question everything he has ever known. *Goodreads*

February 2024



Black History & American Heart Month

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<i>1/30</i> <i>Happy Birthday Kay Crane</i>			<i>1</i> <i>First Day of Black History Month</i>	<i>2 Highline Board Meeting 11am</i> <i>Groundhog Day</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>4</i> <i>World Cancer Day</i>	<i>5</i> <i>PM Book Group 3:00 pm</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i> <i>Safer Internet Day</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i> <i>AM Book Group 9:30</i>	<i>10</i> <i>Lunar New Year</i>
<i>11</i> <i>Super Bowl Sunday</i>	<i>12</i> <i>Darwin Day</i>	<i>13</i> <i>Seattle Coffee Group 10 am</i> <i>Happy Birthday Anneliese</i> <i>Mardi Gras</i>	<i>14</i> <i>Valentine's Day</i> <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	<i>15</i> <i>Happy Birthday Kathie Walker</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i> <i>Seattle Branch Meeting 6:00 pm or 6:30 pm (zoom)</i>
<i>18</i>	<i>19</i> <i>President's Day</i>	<i>20</i> <i>World Day of Social Justice</i>	<i>21</i> <i>Happy Birthday Bonnie Verhunce</i>	<i>22 George Washington's Birthday</i> <i>Online-WA "Artificial Intelligence" 12 pm</i>	<i>23</i> <i>Branch Meeting at PSSC 11:30</i>	<i>24</i> <i>:</i>
<i>25</i> <i>Quiet Day</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i> <i>Retro Day</i>	<i>28</i> <i>National Pancake Day</i>	<i>29</i> <i>Leap Day</i>		

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