



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

Advancing Gender Equity 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 2024-2025 is "Harmony"

March is Women's History Month



Since you may not have read the Evergreen Leader, here is an excerpt from President of AAUW-WA, Emily Hitchen's message:



"On a whim, I picked up a 'Ready Reads' at my local library, *On Call, A Doctor's Journey in Public Service*. So far it has been a very satisfying read. Tony Fauci's themes are relationships, focus, and family. He spent 54 years at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases in the National Institute of Health. He doggedly persisted in studying and caring for those with HIV/AIDS which culminated in PEPFAR, the program to prevent and treat people living with HIV/AIDS around the world which is now under threat of ending.

He states, "... I was apolitical in my professional and public life, but I had developed friendships with government officials on both sides of the aisle." (p. 120) The Acknowledgement section was 71/2 pages testifying to relationships! I think that we in AAUW-WA can apply his wisdom in several ways during this time of tumultuous change. Here is a **suggested analysis** and strategy that can help us apply Fauci wisdom and practice."

To read more of this article, see The Evergreen Leader February Newsletter:

<https://mailchi.mp/aauw-wa.org/here-is-your-february-el?e=8e08f6a522>

I highly recommend this book! Anneliese, Newsletter Editor





AAUW Highline Branch Meeting – January 23, 2025 Reading Partners with Laura Mariko Marx



Eleven Highline members attended a pleasant and informative meeting at Normandy Park United Church of Christ.

Kay Crane started the meeting by asking members if they remembered their first reading teachers and what were their best reading experiences.

Laura Mariko Marx, volunteer coordinator for the Seattle branch of Reading Partners was guest speaker. She and volunteers, Clara Monk, Sara Albertson and Cecil Lycoris gave an overview of the Reading Partners program which serves Seattle and Highline school districts.

She mentioned that volunteering can give a “life-changing experience when you help a child learn to read.”



To be enrolled in Reading Partners’ direct tutoring program, students must meet the following criteria: Kindergarten through 4th grade student, six months to 2.5 years behind grade level in reading and attend on the partner schools or community organizations.

There are four levels of reading assistance from Emerging readers, Beginning readers, Advanced readers and Social emotional learning.

The presentation was followed by a lively Q & A session.



Refreshments were provided by the board members.

Submitted by Anneliese Ellerton

In Celebration of



February 28, 2025, Branch Meeting with Guest Speaker Gaylloyd Sisson

The meeting held at Wesley Gardens Club Room, featuring local poet and novelist Gaylloyd Sisson.



Wendy and Gaylloyd

Branch members and guests, including residents from Wesley attended.

Wendy Wenger introduced Sisson, who gave an entertaining presentation which included readings from his poems and introduction to his latest book “Down the Road a Piece”, a memoir of his family road trip to the Deep South from San Diego.

Many of the guests were eager to obtain a signed copy of the book.



Kathleen and Gaylloyd Sisson with Judy Story

Refreshments were provided by the Highline Board. The event was a huge success!



More pictures showing:

(left) Emily Hitchens and (right) Jean Munro with Gaylloyd Sisson

Submitted by Anneliese Ellerton

Kindness and Friendship

By Kerry Lohr



When I contemplated moving to Wesley three and a half years ago, it was not without some trepidation. True, I knew three women residents already: Molly Cone, Carol Mohler, and Kaylene Moon, but I was still concerned about my non-religious rather liberal approach to life.

I need not have been worried; what I found was an outpouring of kindness and friend



Kerry with Molly Cone

There were people who helped me carry items from my car to my apartment and others helped me locate the garbage and the dining hall. People offered me a seat at their table after the Covid restrictions for two to a table were removed. Others helped me understand how breakfast in the bistro worked.

I will confess that I lost my way going to the mailboxes – twice – by simply turning the wrong direction. And I had felt that I was gaining in confidence for finding my way around! It got better quickly after that.

Wesley is full of kind people, staff, and residents alike, looking for nothing but to be helpful. Were they friends? Not then, but a number of them have become friends, I am pleased to say. We are a large peer group, and we work to support one another. We care if someone is ill or injured and will do what we can to help.

Maya Angelou once said, “Try to be a rainbow in someone’s cloud.” What a perfect notion even if it is not always practical. But what a great idea, to brighten up someone else’s day as that will surely also brighten yours.

What does friendship mean to you? To me it is someone who really focuses on what I am saying without trying to immediately offer solutions. It is someone who offers an opportunity to laugh, to smile, and to be myself.



And remember, “There is nothing better than a friend, unless it’s a friend with chocolate!” (Linda Grayson, author).



2025 Diversity Calendar & Holidays

March Diversity Calendar 2025 Highlights

March is dedicated to celebrating Women's History Month, a time to recognize the contributions and achievements of women throughout history. This month also features important observances across different faiths and cultures, emphasizing the importance of equality and diversity.

Zero Discrimination Day – March 1

Observed by the United Nations, Zero Discrimination Day promotes equality and addresses the discrimination faced by individuals worldwide, fostering a more inclusive global society.

Employee Appreciation Day – March 7

Employee Appreciation Day is a chance for organizations to recognize and celebrate their employees' hard work and dedication, building morale and fostering a positive workplace culture.

International Women's Day – March 8

International Women's Day celebrates the achievements of women worldwide while advocating for gender equality and women's rights, bringing attention to critical issues that women face globally.

International Day to Combat Islamophobia – March 15

This day addresses and raises awareness about Islamophobia, encouraging global communities to work together against prejudice, promote inclusivity, and support Muslim communities.

Medal of Honor Day – March 25

A U.S. observance honoring Medal of Honor recipients, this day recognizes those who have demonstrated remarkable valor and sacrifice, highlighting the importance of courage and service.

About DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion)

"In the United States, diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) are organizational frameworks that seek to promote the fair treatment and full participation of all people, particularly groups who have historically been underrepresented or subject to discrimination based on identity or disability". Google

An update on DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion)

"The backlash against DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) primarily stems from a perception that DEI initiatives can lead to reverse discrimination, where individuals from dominant groups feel unfairly targeted or disadvantaged by efforts to promote underrepresented groups, often leading to feelings of threat to their status quo and discomfort with addressing systemic inequalities; this is particularly prevalent among certain political groups who view DEI as a form of "woke" ideology, leading to accusations of unfair treatment based on identity rather than merit." Google AI Overview



AAUW Highline Branch Zoom Board Meeting
February 7, 2025 – 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Attending: Teri Riordan, Kay Crane, Emily Hitchens, Wendy Wenger, Mary Kay Ault, Anneliese Ellerton and Jean Munro

The meeting was opened with board members updating their life experiences since last month.

Old Business

January 23 meeting was a success. The speakers from Reading Partners talked about the volunteer opportunity to help students learn to read. Anneliese reported that she has written up a short summary for the newsletter with some pictures to accompany the article.

Membership fees were discussed. National fees are going up by \$5.00 a year for the next three years, starting April 1, 2025, at \$77. Also, lifetime and honorary member fees were reviewed with a request to Teri to clarify. The question came up as to who is eligible for these memberships.

Post note –Teri emailed the board members this information.

Tech Trek updates: The state officers are updating the program and will release that information later. Emily has nominated three girls for our branch and is going to contact the counselors. This information came from a board memo. If members want to donate to this program, the funds should have Highline Branch mentioned with specific mention of our branch through WA state website.

New Business (meeting updates)

February 28, 2025

The meeting is scheduled to be at Wesley Gardens, 5th floor clubroom at 1:00. Wendy confirmed that the speaker, Gaylloyd Sisson, has agreed to be there and 1:00 will be best. He will be arriving a little early with copies of his books. Kerry made reservations for the room and refreshments. Anneliese volunteered to create a flyer for our members and residents of Wesley Garden.

Post note: Gaylloyd requested a flyer for his Facebook page. Wendy has sent it.

March events

Emily agreed to confirm the date for March 6 at the Normandy Park UCC Church. The meeting theme discussed by the board was Women's Day and having members bring books written about women from around the world. Also, Jean offered the idea for a meeting at Renton Technical College (RTC) for a movie and brown bag lunch. The movie would also center on Women's Day and the college would sponsor it. A general meeting could follow the event. Jean reported that all the details were not set and would let us know when that happened.

Post note: Jean emailed the final details about the meeting to board members for further distribution to the branch.

April meetings

A branch meeting is required to conduct elections for the year 2025-26 year. The annual state meeting will also be held this month. We discussed having two meetings available for our members. Emily recommended that our local meeting be held, providing another opportunity to encourage attendance at the state zoom meeting. We also discussed that the Women's Day idea concerning books about women be moved from March to April. Wendy volunteered to check out the Burien Community Center and details to make a reservation in the conference room. Normandy Park UCC was also brought up as a possible venue for the April meeting. As the plans are set, more information will be published.

**Highline Branch
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Jean Munro, Lynn Zachow

May Event

The board discussed finalizing the plans to have a garden tour at Zenith Holland Nursery in Des Moines. Members would meet there for a tour and then move to a local eatery afterwards. Jean suggested The Quarterback with further investigation to be done.

Washington State AAUW meeting updates

Lobby Day January 27 – recap: check the web page per Emily

Fireside Chat. February 19 – zoom, but must register – the link is in the Newsletter

Annual Meeting (zoom) April 26, 9:00 A.M. -3:00 P.M.

The meeting was adjourned around 2:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Wendy Meyers-Wenger
Recording Secretary



Highline Branch Member News

To Our Highline Branch Members who may be feeling "Under the Weather", recovering from illness, injuries or surgery.

If you know of anyone who needs some well wishes or cheering up, please let us know so we can send a card.



March Birthdays

Wendy Wenger 3/2

Barbara Sando 3/11

Vicki Moore 3/24

Jean Munro 3/10

Penny Tetter 3/19

Joanna Brunso 3/27

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

You are invited...



Film Screening

For the Rights of All: Ending Jim Crow in Alaska

11:45 a.m., Thursday, March 6

Blencoe Auditorium

(Bring your own lunch)



–a young,



RTC is

For more information on this event, please contact Jean Munro at jmunro@rtc.edu

AAUW-WA Invites You



Lobby Day Follow-up

March 12, 7 p.m.

Via Zoom

Hear about progress of our priority legislation, the state budget, [This Week in Olympia](#) newsletter, and other follow-ups to Lobby Day 2025. [Register using → this link.](#)



Friday, March 7, at 1:00 pm
Highline Board Zoom Meeting

Thursday, March 6, 2025: Film Screening - ***For the Rights of All: Ending Jim Crow in Alaska***
11:45 a.m., Thursday, March 6 at Blencoe Auditorium, Renton Technical College (RTC)- Bring your own lunch
(For details see flyer on page 7)

Wednesday, March 12, 2025, at 7 pm Via Zoom: AAUW-WA Fireside Chat – Lobby Day Follow-up

Seattle Branch invites you: Saturday, March 15, 2025, 10:00am
By His Hand: The Works and Life of Hendrick Goltzius, Engraver, Draftsman, and Painter with Or Vallah
In-person at The Maxwell Hotel, 300 Roy Street, at the base of Queen Anne Hill.
Free, reservations required: RSVP@aauw-seattle.org

For more information on Seattle events, see The Catalyst at

<https://mailchi.mp/0df8238111a4/aauw-catalyst-january-9120211>

Saturday, April 26th, 2025, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm: AAUW-WA Annual Meeting – per Zoom

May 2025: Date and time to be decided. Garden fieldtrip: Theme “Harmony with Nature” – Zenith Holland Nursery, Des Moines, followed by lunch gathering at local eatery.

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, March 11, at 10:00 am**. If you are interested in joining this virtual coffee club, email Barbara Sando at barbarasando@yahoo.com

For more information regarding AAUW-WA events, see *The Evergreen Leader* at

<https://mailchi.mp/aauw-wa.org/here-is-your-february-el?e=8e08f6a522>



Morning and Afternoon Book Group Discussion Meetings

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

March 14, 9:30 am – *Good Night, Irene* by Luis Alberto Urrea, Discussion: Mary Kay Ault, Host Pat Hodges

April 11, 9:30 am – *The Confidante* by Christopher Gorham, Discussion: Jane Emerson, Host TBD

May 9, 9:30 am – *True Tales of Puget Sound* by Dorothy Wilhelm, Discussion: Anneliese Ellerton, Host: Judy Storey

June 13, 9:30 am – *The Women* by Kristen Hannah, Discussion: Kathie Walker, Host: Kathy Linnell

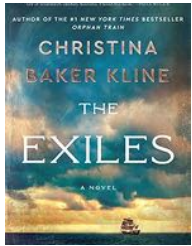
1st Monday - Afternoons at 2:30 pm unless otherwise specified *

March 3, 2:30 pm – *The Exiles* by Christina Baker Kline, Host: Kathy Fitch

April 7, 2:30 pm – *These Precious Days* by Ann Patchett, Host: Carol Erickson

May 5, 2:30 pm – *Northwest Trolls: The Way of the Bird King* by Thomas Dambo, Host: Janis Jacobson

June 2, 2:30 pm – *Underland: A Deep Time Journey* by Robert MacFarlane, Host Emily Hitchens



The Exiles: A Novel by Christina Baker Kline

Seduced by her employer's son, Evangeline, a naïve young governess in early nineteenth-century London, is discharged when her pregnancy is discovered and sent to the notorious Newgate Prison. After months in the fetid, overcrowded jail, she learns she is sentenced to “the land beyond the seas,” Van Diemen's Land, a penal colony in Australia. Though uncertain of what awaits, Evangeline knows one thing: the child she carries will be born on the months-long voyage to this distant land.

During the journey on a repurposed slave ship, the *Medea*, Evangeline strikes up a friendship with Hazel, a girl little older than her former pupils who was sentenced to seven years transport for stealing a silver spoon. Canny where Evangeline is guileless, Hazel—a skilled midwife and herbalist—is soon offering home remedies to both prisoners and sailors in return for a variety of favors.

Though Australia has been home to Aboriginal people for more than 50,000 years, the British government in the 1840s considers its fledgling colony uninhabited and unsettled and views the natives as an unpleasant nuisance. By the time the *Medea* arrives, many of them have been forcibly relocated, their land seized by white colonists. One of these relocated people is Mathinna, the orphaned daughter of the Chief of the Lowreenne tribe, who has been adopted by the new governor of Van Diemen's Land.

In this gorgeous novel, Christina Baker Kline brilliantly recreates the beginnings of a new society in a beautiful and challenging land, telling the story of Australia from a fresh perspective, through the experiences of Evangeline, Hazel, and Mathinna. While life in Australia is punishing and often brutally unfair, it is also, for some, an opportunity: for redemption, for a new way of life, for unimagined freedom. Told in exquisite detail and incisive prose, *The Exiles* is a story of grace born from hardship, the unbreakable bonds of female friendships, and the unfettering of legacy. *Amazon*



Good Night, Irene by Luis Alberto Urrea

In 1943, Irene Woodward abandons an abusive fiancé in New York to enlist with the Red Cross and head to Europe. She makes fast friends in training with Dorothy Dunford, a towering Midwesterner with a ferocious wit. Together they are part of an elite group of women, nicknamed Donut Dollies, who command military vehicles called Clubmobiles at the front line, providing camaraderie and a taste of home that may be the only solace before troops head into battle.

After D-Day, these two intrepid friends join the Allied soldiers streaming into France. Their time in Europe will see them embroiled in danger, from the Battle of the Bulge to the liberation of Buchenwald. Through her friendship with Dorothy, and a love affair with a courageous American fighter pilot named Hans, Irene learns to trust again. Her most fervent hope, which becomes more precarious by the day, is for all three of them to survive the war intact.

Taking as inspiration his mother's own Red Cross service, Luis Alberto Urrea has delivered an overlooked story of women's heroism in World War II. With its affecting and uplifting portrait of friendship and valor in harrowing circumstances, *Good Night, Irene* powerfully demonstrates yet again that Urrea's “gifts as a storyteller are prodigious” (*Amazon*)

AAUW Highline Branch Newsletter
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