

Highline Branch - April 2025 Newsletter
Serving Highline & South King County Area of Washington State

**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 is "Harmony"

Save the Date

"Stronger Together"
Virtual Annual Meeting
Saturday, April 26,
10 am to 1pm

A graphic for the AAUW of Washington 2025 Annual Meeting. It features a hexagonal frame containing a group photo of several women. To the right of the photo is the AAUW of Washington logo, which consists of the letters "AAUW" in a bold, dark blue sans-serif font, with "of Washington" in a smaller font below it. To the right of the logo is a grid of orange dots. Below the hexagonal frame is another grid of orange dots. To the right of the hexagonal frame, the text "STRONGER TOGETHER" is written in a bold, dark blue sans-serif font, with "2025 ANNUAL MEETING" in a smaller font below it. Below this text is a blue rectangular box with the text "ONLINE via ZOOM" in white. Below the box is the text "Saturday, April 26" and "10 a.m. to 1 p.m." in a dark blue sans-serif font. At the bottom right is a small globe icon followed by the website address "aauw-wa.aauw.net".

Come join us as we gather together for our AAUW-WA Annual Meeting.

We will be hearing from Emily Hitchens, our state president, on the "state of the state." Our state treasurer, Susie Johnson, will give our annual finance report.

We also will be electing new officers, approving Bylaws changes, reviewing our state Public Policy Priorities and listening to an uplifting talk on Moving Forward Together in Difficult Times.

There will be breakout rooms so we can continue the conversations.

Registration is free using the link below!

When: Apr 26, 2025 10:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/G-Hf2wWFRNeEqxixX6rECw>





AAUW Condemns Executive Order to Dismantle the U.S. Department of Education

by Gloria Blackwell, CEO of AAUW



March 20, 2025

Action Jeopardizes Students' Futures; Congress Should Not Allow Further Cuts and Take Immediate Action to Protect Students

Washington, D.C. — The American Association of University Women (AAUW) unequivocally condemns President Trump's executive order "Improving Education Outcomes by Empowering Parents, States, and Communities" dismantling the U.S. Department of Education.

Gloria L. Blackwell, CEO of AAUW

"This reckless and shortsighted action threatens to gut vital protections that ensure equal access to higher education and will have devastating consequences for students — especially women, students of color, and those from low-income backgrounds — who rely on federal oversight for their right to an equitable education.

Eliminating the Department of Education would decimate federal civil rights enforcement, slash protections against gender-based discrimination, and roll back decades of progress toward making higher education accessible and affordable. This decision is not about streamlining government; it is about stripping students of their rights and futures.

AAUW urges Congress to speak out against this move and protect the Department from any further cuts that could hinder enforcement of federal civil rights laws protecting students and preserving access to higher education. The cost of inaction is too high, and the futures of millions of students — especially those from marginalized communities — hang in the balance."

"In response to these coordinated and continuing attacks on education in America, AAUW is launching [The Defend Higher Education Fund](#) to enable AAUW to elevate the critical higher education issues impacting women, mobilize advocates across the country, provide strategic resources to students, staff and faculty on campus, and fuel investments in the infrastructure and technology necessary to move our mission forward.

Support to this fund ensures AAUW can effectively fight on behalf of women on campuses across the country and ensure that AAUW remains a trusted and powerful voice for equity. To give to the fund, [please visit our website.](#) "

Highline Branch Member News & Announcements



Some of our members will be joining in a demonstration of support for the U.S. Constitution as part of the national demonstrations on Saturday, April 5.

This will be held in Big Catch Park by the Dollar Tree in Des Moines from 1:00-2:00. Please join us and wear red, white and blue; bring flags and enthusiasm!

Questions, contact Linda Hagen: 206 870-5694 H, 253 486-8629 C or lcrlhagen@gmail.com

About this event - Donald Trump and Elon Musk think this country belongs to them. Seattle is fighting back. They're taking everything they can get their hands on—our healthcare, our data, our jobs, and our services—while daring the world to stop them. This is a crisis, and the time to act is now.

 **On Saturday, April 5th, we're sending a clear message: Hands Off!**

Alternative location in Federal Way, at the Commons. Please join Emily Hitchens - 12 pm- 2 pm.

Member Spotlight

Please Celebrate our Honorary Lifetime Members!

Thanks to Barbara Sando for keeping up with AAUW to convert our members who have paid membership dues to AAUW for 50 years!

Our Highline Branch now has six honorary lifetime members:

Kay Crane (1974), Carol Mohler (1970), Pat Scott (1974), Elise Stratton (1962), Elsie Taniguchi (1958) and Linda Wade (1974).



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

Wishing all the best for Elise Stratton to regain her full energy to participate at our branch meetings with her cheerful presence.

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



April Birthdays

Nancy Wilson 4/1

Kathy Fitch 4/15

Jane Armstrong 4/26

Leilani Schuh 4/6

Carol Erickson 4/21

Emily Hitchens 4/29

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



AAUW HIGHLINE BRANCH BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 7, 2025 – 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Meeting called to order by Kay Crane with a brief check-in.

Those present: Kay Crane, Mary Kay Ault, Emily Hitchens, Anneliese Ellerton, and later, Jean Munro.

Recap of February 28 meeting: Gaylloyd Sisson speaker, at Wesley. Attendance 23 people, including five residents from Wesley Gardens, as well as Gaylloyd Kathleen Sisson. Wendy Wenger introduced the speaker and presented a check from our branch. March 6 meeting at Renton Technical College (RTC) with film on ending Jim Crow in Alaska. Emily has family letters and from people important in Alaskan history. We encouraged her to write something for our newsletter as well as the Evergreen Leader, and to give the actual letters to a historical society in Alaska for preservation. Attendance 33 people, including those from RTC.

By-laws: No revisions to the branch by-laws were discussed this time.

April Branch Meeting: With the virtual annual state meeting coming up on April 26, the board decided to have no branch meeting in April.

May 15 Branch Meeting: Plans were discussed for a possible meeting at Huckleberry Gardens in Burien, and then lunch at a local restaurant. Other gardens considered were Zenith Holland Nursery in Des Moines and PowellsWood Garden in Federal Way.

Fireside Chat Zoom Session: Lobby Day wrap-up on March 12. Preregistration required. Details in the Evergreen Leader.

Survey: Anneliese has drawn up a suggested survey. Branch members will be asked for ideas, to be collated later.

Membership: – Kay suggested giving fliers to real estate agents for people new to the area. Emily says state has a tool kit on the website, but we need to update our flier. Perhaps distribute at local farmers' markets. Printing costs discussed. *(Update: Anneliese is working on a new member brochure with Canva resources)*

Membership Renewals: Teri would like members to renew online. Various ways to help with that were discussed.

Other Business: Possible May meeting at RTC to coincide with their May Art exhibit in the culinary dining room, could include lunch.

June celebration: Tentative date June 21, no plans made yet.

Emily is following up with Tech Trek and has three girls in mind, from the Kent school district. Dates for staff are July 12 through 19, with Trekkers coming on the 13th.

On April 13, state AAUW will offer a Great Discussions zoom talk with Michael Scott-Baumann from Florida, author of *The Shortest History of Israel and Palestine*. Sign up through the Evergreen Leader.

Olympia Branch is celebrating its 100th birthday. Emily is going down, will take congratulatory letter from Kay and Jean. Kay will write letter for Jean to sign and deliver to Emily.

Encourage more members to join the board. Jean discussed the value of volunteering and the career paths that may open.

Respectfully submitted, Kay Crane and Jean Munro

Highline Branch Leadership Team

Co-Presidents

Jean Munro 206-579-6035
jeanmariemunro10@gmail.com

Kay Crane 206-242-0605
gandkcrane@msn.com

Finance

Teri Riordan 425-228-7485
teririordan@yahoo.com

Secretary

Wendy Wenger 206-242-0245(w) 206-276-6494 (c)
2015AAUW@gmail.com

Tech Trek Liaison

Emily Hitchens
206-824-6816
Ameliahitchens95@gmail.com

Membership/Newsletter

Anneliese Ellerton
858-205-3771
ellerton13@gmail.com

Social Communications

Mary Kay Ault 206-772-4156
marykayault@msn.com

Public Policy

Kerry Lohr 206-870-4136

State Board

Emily Hitchens 206-824-6816
ameliahitchens95@gmail.com

Mailer

Carol Erickson 206-246-5767
ericksoncarol677@gmail.com

Website

Jean Munro, Lynn Zachow



"The beauty of diversity — and the thing that makes it so powerful — is learning to appreciate it and creating an environment where it can grow and thrive. Diversity can be a great source of strength. Our aim is to create an environment where we can explore our differences in a safe and respectful way that helps each person understand their value and celebrates what diversity brings to AAUW."



April Diversity Calendar 2025 Highlights

April is dedicated to **World Autism Month**, raising awareness and promoting understanding and acceptance of people with autism. This month also includes diverse religious and cultural celebrations, highlighting the rich tapestry of global traditions.

April 2 – World Autism Awareness Day

Promotes understanding and acceptance of people with autism.

Gold Star Spouses Day – April 5

This U.S. observance honors the surviving spouses of military members who lost their lives in service, recognizing their sacrifices and supporting their resilience.

International Day of Pink – April 9

This day stands against bullying, homophobia, transphobia, and all forms of discrimination, with communities worldwide encouraged to wear pink in solidarity. It's a call for inclusivity and respect, fostering awareness and support for a safer, more accepting world.

April 12 – Jehovah's Witnesses: The Memorial of Jesus' Death

Commemorates the death of Jesus Christ.

April 12 evening - 20 – Jewish: Passover

Celebrates the liberation of the Israelites from Egyptian slavery.

April 14 – Sikh, Hindu: Vaisakhi

Marks the Sikh New Year and celebrates the spring harvest.

April 20 – Christian: Easter Sunday

Celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Earth Day – April 22

Earth Day raises global awareness about environmental protection, inspiring action to combat climate change, reduce pollution, and promote sustainability. It's a reminder of our shared responsibility to protect the planet for future generations through conscious, everyday choices.

Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day – April 24

This day commemorates the lives lost during the Armenian Genocide, honoring the heritage and resilience of Armenian communities worldwide. It serves as a call for reflection, understanding, and recognition of historical injustices to prevent future atrocities.

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 (This is not the opinion of AAUW)



AAUW of Washington is honored to sponsor this free presentation, via Zoom, informing Great Decisions Interest Group members in our state, Oregon, and Idaho, as well as others interested in the topic. Although this program features a speaker who is with the Foreign Policy Association, you do NOT have to be a member of a Great Decisions group to attend.

"The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict", A presentation by Dr. Jeffrey S. Morton
Sunday, April 13, 1 to 2 p.m. Pacific time [Use this link to register.](#)



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

Seattle Branch invites you: Wednesday, April 23, 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm
High School STEM Scholar Recognition with Keynote Speaker Alyssa Lind
Location: Center for Urban Horticulture, 3501 NE 41st St Seattle, WA 98105
Free, reservations required: RSVP@aauw-seattle.org
For more information on Seattle events, see The Catalyst at
<https://mailchi.mp/e888c9d349e9/aauw-catalyst-march-9120766>

Saturday, April 26, 2025, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm: **AAUW-WA Annual Meeting – per Zoom**
(Details on page 1)

May 15, 2025: Date and time to be confirmed. Garden fieldtrip: Theme "Harmony with Nature" – Huckleberry Nursery & Garden, Burien or 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, April 8, 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://drive.google.com/file/d/1zxSvk-xOmjD3Yi6gpRvRO-dAPA9lfFII/view>

Dues, By Laws and Public Policy Priorities

By Barbara Sando

The AAUW National Board met on February 28. Among agenda items, the proposal to increase National dues by \$5/year for the next five years was discussed. Based on feedback received from members during the comment period in January, and staff recommendations, a smaller National dues increase was approved by the Board. National dues will increase of \$2/year this year and again next year. The new dues rates become effective on April 1 for each year.

The membership voting period for the proposed National bylaws changes and revised public policy priorities will run from April 14 through May 13 at 2pm PDT.

Watch your e-mail for your ballot and instructions. Results of the voting will be available on May 14.

bylaws@aauw-wa.org



Morning and Afternoon Book Group Discussion Meetings

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

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

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

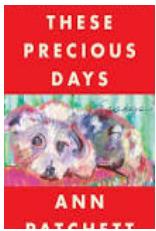
1st Monday - Afternoons at 2:30 pm unless otherwise specified *

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

These Precious Days: Essays by Ann Patchett



The beloved New York Times bestselling author reflects on home, family, friendships and writing in this deeply personal collection of essays.

"The elegance of Patchett's prose is seductive and inviting with Patchett as a guide, readers will really get to grips with the power of struggles, failures, and triumphs alike." --Publisher's Weekly

"Any story that starts will also end." As a writer, Ann Patchett knows what the outcome of her fiction will be. Life, however, often takes turns we do not see coming. Patchett ponders this truth in these wise essays that afford a fresh and intimate look into her mind and heart.

At the center of *These Precious Days* is the title essay, a surprising and moving meditation on an unexpected friendship that explores "what it means to..."

Source: Publisher

The Confidante: The Untold Story of the Woman Who Helped Win WWII .. by Christopher C. Gorham



Goodreads Choice Award

Nominee for Readers' Favorite History & Biography (2023)

Perfect for readers of *A Woman of No Importance*, *Three Ordinary Girls*, and *Eleanor: A Life* comes the first-ever biography of Anna Marie Rosenberg, the Hungarian Jewish immigrant who became FDR's closest advisor during World War II and, according to *LIFE*, "the most important official woman in the world" —a woman of many firsts, whose story, forgotten for too long, is extraordinary, inspiring, and uniquely American. Her life ran parallel to the front lines of history yet her influence on 20th century America, from the New Deal to the Cold War and beyond, has never before been told.

"Far and away the most important woman in the American government, and perhaps the most important official female in the world."
—*LIFE* magazine, 1952

AAUW Highline Branch Newsletter
2121SW 152nd Street, #203
Burien, WA 98166

