



Highline Branch - December 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 for 2025-2026 is "Participation & Engagement"

TAKING TIME

With the days so short and cold, our plan for each day has to shift a little. The sun is setting earlier and earlier, the temperature is dropping, and a "nice"

day is defined as one with no rain. Almost all of the beautiful autumn leaves have fallen. People are beginning to set out holiday lights to brighten the streets, though, and organizations plan events and activities to tempt us away from our firesides. It's time to find your gloves and your warmest sweaters. You may want to add hot soup to the menu more often.

For each of us, our early winter activities are influenced by family customs and ceremonies. Christmas may have us remembering childhood years with parents and grandparents. We carry those memories forward into our own adult years and the childhood years of our own children, grandchildren and neighbors. Swedish pancakes for Christmas breakfast may fill our kitchens with the aromas of family history, making a welcome opportunity to tell the family stories.



When Aeneas fled from a flaming Troy, you may remember, he carried his father Anchises on his back and pulled along his son Ascanius by the hand. It was father Anchises, in fact grandfather Anchises, who carried the household gods in his hands. Equally, each of us brings the past forward into the future with our own traditions.

One of our branch traditions is that we do not have a meeting in December. The board recognizes that each of us has more than enough to do at this season of the year! The board usually meets by zoom, but in early December we will have our one in-person board meeting of the year, at my house, on Friday, December 5 at 2 p.m. We will gather to address holiday cards to each member of the branch, ourselves included, with each card carrying a tea bag. We welcome anyone who would like to join us for our annual card-sending bee!

We encourage each of you to save out a little time for yourself as the holidays gather momentum. Fix your cup of tea to enjoy in your favorite spot, perhaps with a book you're enjoying, perhaps with a birdfeeder full of feathered visitors, perhaps just with a little peace and quiet. Let the holidays, past and present both, wash over you to warm and light this dark and cold season of the year. No branch meeting in December, but the board sends you warm wishes for good health and cheer through the holidays and into the New Year.

See you in January!
Kay Crane
(photos by Anneliese Ellerton)



Photo by Anneliese Ellerton

Our community hosts so many events during this festive season, so here are some upcoming events that you might enjoy.

Christmas Sounds in Burien

Choral Sounds Northwest, Silver Sounds Northwest, & Teen Sounds Northwest

Saturday, December 13, 2025, 2:00pm

Sunday, December 14, 2025, 2:00pm

[Highline Performing Arts Center \(map\)](#)

[401 S 152nd St, Burien, WA 98148](#)

General Admission \$25 - Youth 17 and under with paying adult FREE



The City of Des Moines will host its annual Holiday Tree Lighting celebration on Saturday, Dec. 6, 2025, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., with this year's festivities moving to a new location at the Des Moines Marina.

New this year - Santa is scheduled to make a grand arrival by boat(!) - updating one of the community's most popular seasonal traditions.

The Des Moines Yacht Club's annual [Lighted Boat Parade](#) is also scheduled to cruise by between 6 - 9 p.m.

Member News



Get well wishes to Jane Emerson, who is recovering from knee replacement surgery.

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



December and January Birthdays

Carol Mohler 12/29
Jennifer Rydberg 1/20

Linda Hagen 1/18,
Kay Crane 1/30

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

December 2025 Diversity Calendar & Holidays



The theme for National Inclusion Week 2025 is 'Now Is the Time': with recent backlash against inclusion and diversity, economic instability, and tightening budgets, this theme emphasizes the importance of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) work and the need to push forward.

December is recognized as Universal Human Rights Month

December 1 – World AIDS Day: This day highlights the importance of HIV/AIDS awareness and raises money for its cure

December 2 - International Day for the Abolition of Slavery

December 3 – International Day of Persons with Disabilities: This United Nations holiday raises awareness for the rights of individuals with disabilities

December 5 - International Volunteer Day

December 9 - International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of The Victims of The Crime of Genocide

December 10 – International Humans Rights Day: A holiday adopted by the UN in 1948 following the Universal Declaration of Human Rights



December 14 - Hanukkah begins at sundown - An 8-day celebration in the Jewish faith that honors the victory of Jews over Syrian Greeks.



December 16 to December 24 – Las Posadas: A religious festival celebrated in Mexico and parts of the U.S. during the Christmas season

December 20 - International Human Solidarity Day

December 21 – Winter Solstice/Yule: A festival celebrated by Pagan and Wiccan faiths

December 22 - Hanukkah ends



December 25 – Christmas: A Christian holiday marking the birth of their lord and savior, Jesus Christ

December 26 – Boxing Day (Canada, UK & Australia)



December 26 to January 1 – Kwanzaa: A 7-day holiday often celebrated by Black Americans that was inspired by African harvest celebrations



December 31 – New Year's Eve

Branch News & Past Events



AAUW Highline Branch Zoom Board Meeting. November 6, 2025, 6:03 PM – 6:55 PM

Meeting called to order by Kay Crane at 6:03 p.m. Those present: Anneliese Ellerton, Emily Hitchens, Teri Riordan, Mary Kay Ault. Absent: Jean Munro. Everyone seems OK.

Branch Meeting for November 21. UCC Church not available. Kerry Lohr has reserved the 5th floor Club Room at Wesley from 10 am - noon for us. [Note: since the board meeting, she has also reserved coffee service for us and will need to know numbers when we know.] Anneliese will announce the meeting at the morning Book Club and will send email reminders. Kay will divide up the list of those who need calls among the board members after Anneliese publishes the new directory. Kay will see about a possible speaker from Sound Generations. Members will bring a favorite book to "book talk" and a favorite holiday recipe, made up or not, to share. Anneliese will bring recipe books and desk calendars she has made for sale, to support Tech Trek or use as door prizes. (Since board meeting, Anneliese suggests that raffle tickets could be sold).

Board Meeting will be December 5 at 2 p.m. at Kay's house, to address cards to the membership, enclosing tea bags. Anneliese will print address labels.

Lobby/Advocacy Day is January 26, 2026. Invitations will be emailed. Plans at the moment are for a zoom meeting on the 26th and the suggestion to make appointments with legislators for later in the week.

New Business: Plans for January include idea of lunch out, possibly Nordstrom Café at Southcenter, suggestion of Mary Kay. Date suggested is Saturday, January 24.

Other future plans – ask Christina Coulter back, perhaps for February branch meeting.

Possible future meeting with Debbie Demitre as speaker. She presents women from history. She needs a stage/audience setting.

Reminders: November 10, online Community Hub Q&A with Barbara Sando. Register on AAUW-WA calendar on the website. November 18 – Fireside Chat webinar on changes to Health Care and Medicare in WA. Register on AAUW-WA calendar on the website. Give Anneliese information for the December bulletin of holiday events. Culture and Cuisine group will gather in February for a French dinner with Lynn Smith and Anneliese, and in April for a Passover dinner with Kay and Garry Crane.

Next zoom board meeting on Thursday, January 8, 2026, at 6 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.
Respectfully submitted, Kay Crane

Highline Branch Leadership Team

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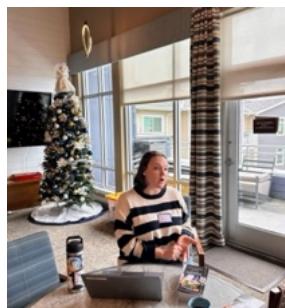
Website & Facebook

Anneliese Ellerton, & Jean Munro

Branch Meeting, Friday, November 21 at Wesley Gardens Club Room

There is nothing better than a friend, unless it's a friend with chocolate

It was a small and informal gathering of branch members and friends, but highly enjoyable and informative. Members shared chocolate, cookies and snacks. The theme of the meeting was participation and engagement. Members brought items to be auctioned off by raffle. Proceeds were donated to Tech Trek.



The highlight of the meeting was a presentation by guest speaker, Sabrina Jones from Sound Generations. She gave an overview on how her organization partners with older adults to provide accessible and inclusive services in the Seattle area. Some of the services are Meals on Wheels, Community dining, Hyde Shuttle transport in King County, Volunteer transportation, caregiver support and other services for seniors in the area. Members expressed great interest in the programs.



Submitted by Anneliese Ellerton

Holiday Recipe from our Cuisine Club Leader, Mary Kay Ault



Cranberry Gingersnap Pie

My show stopping Cranberry Pie with a gingersnap crumb crust is guaranteed to bring a little va-va-voom to your holiday dessert table this year. [Sue Moran](#)

Prep Time: 20 minutes

Cook Time: 20 minutes

Chilling: 2 hours

Total Time: 2 hours 40 minutes

Servings: 10

Ingredients

Crust

- 5 ounces gingersnaps
- 1 cup walnuts or pecans
- 3 Tbsp brown sugar
- 4 Tbsp butter, melted

Filling

- 12-ounce bag of fresh cranberries, you can use frozen berries too.
- 1 1/2 cups sugar, divided
- 3 large eggs
- 2 egg yolks
- pinch of salt
- 1/2 cup fresh lemon juice
- 4 Tbsp (1/2 stick) unsalted butter, at room temp and cut in pieces

Garnish

- sugared cranberries
- fresh thyme sprigs or mint leaves

Instructions

- Preheat oven to 350F. Lightly spray a 9-inch pie plate with cooking spray.
- Put the gingersnaps in a food processor and process until they are fine crumbs. (this should be a heaping cup) Add the walnuts, and sugar and process again until everything is finely ground. Add the butter and process briefly to combine.
- Pat the crust into your pie plate, and up the sides. Bake for 10-12 minutes. Set aside to cool.
- Put the cranberries, 1 cup of the sugar, and 1/4 cup water to a simmer in a saucepan. Lower the heat and simmer the cranberries, uncovered, for about 15 minutes until they've popped, and the mixture is quite thick. Let cool slightly and then puree until completely smooth.
- Whisk the puree, the eggs, yolks, salt, lemon juice and 1/2 cup sugar together in a saucepan and set over medium heat. Cook, stirring constantly, until the mixture thickens and coats the back of a spoon, this will take about 10 minutes or so. Stay by the pan the whole time and stir! ***Note: let the mixture just come up to a bubble, and then remove from heat.***
- Push the curd through a mesh strainer, using the back of a spoon to get it all through.
- Let the curd cool for a few minutes and then drop the room temperature butter in, bit by bit, while you stir to melt it.
- Pour the curd into the pie crust and smooth out evenly. Chill the pie until it is firm, about 2 hours or so.
- Decorate with sugared cranberries and sprigs of thyme or mint leaves if you like.

Sugared cranberries

- Roll damp cranberries in granulated sugar and let dry
Yum!

Some Fun Quotes for the Holiday Season



Santa has a senior moment



"The ultimate in longevity is the Christmas fruitcake. It is a cake made during the holidays with fruits that make it heavier than the stove it is cooked in." — Erma Bombeck

"I once bought my kids a set of batteries for Christmas with a note on it saying, 'Toys not included.'" — Bernard Manning

"Happiness is having a large, loving, caring, close-knit family in another city." — George Burns

"Three phrases that sum up Christmas are: Peace on Earth, Goodwill to Men, and Batteries not Included." — Unknown

"I left Santa gluten-free cookies and organic soy milk, and he put a solar panel in my stocking." — Earthman Adam

"I've learned that you can tell a lot about a person by the way he handles these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage and tangled Christmas tree lights." — Maya Angelo



Compiled from Google by Anneliese Ellerton



Highline Board & Card Signing Meeting - Friday, December 5, at 2:00 pm at Kay Crane's home.

Seattle Branch Holiday Party – Sunday, December 14, 2:00 pm

Location: Queen City Yacht Club on Portage Bay, 2608 Boyer Avenue East, Seattle, WA 98102
Reservations are required: 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, January 13, 2026, at 10:00 am.** If you are interested in joining this virtual coffee club, email Barbara Sando at barbarasando@yahoo.com

Highline Branch Meeting, Saturday, January 24, 2026

Plans to “Lunch out”, possibly at Nordstroms Café at Southcenter, suggestion by Mary Kay.

Advocacy (*formerly Lobby*) Day – Monday, January 26, 2026

Annual meeting hosted by our Public Policy Team, featuring our lobbyist and review of bills and priorities. Meet others from across the state and talk directly with lobbyist and office holders.



AAUW of Washington: For all the latest information, check the website:
<https://aauw-wa.aauw.net/>



Our Highline Branch website is still in the process of updating, and we'd appreciate your input.
<https://highline-wa.aauw.net>

We are also on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/people/AAUW-WA-Highline-branch/100083148625851/?rdr>

Still Open: Position for Board Secretary – We Need Your Help!

The Board is looking for a branch member who is willing to contribute just a few hours of her time a month. Duties of the secretary are recording and keeping minutes of all board, membership, and special meetings. The secretary shall also facilitate and promote the purpose and mission of AAUW. Please contact Kay Crane at gandkcrane@msn.com or call her at 206-242-0605 if you would like to help.

Public Policy/Advocacy Chair

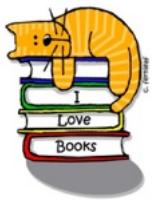
The board is also looking for someone to fill in Kerry Lohr's position as Public Policy/Advocacy volunteer. See description of this position. It should just take a couple of hours of your time a month. We REALLY need you!

Responsibilities:

- Keep current on local, state, national, and international issues of concern to AAUW and call to the attention of the board any seeming to mandate action by the branch.
- Keep current on all public policy issues of particular concern to the Highline branch. Update members on issues related to AAUW's local, state and national public policy priorities and relevant state and federal legislative activities.

Responsibilities to AAUW Washington State (AAUW-WA):

- Be familiar with National and AAUW-WA bylaws, policies, and procedures, and adhere to them as appropriate.
- Maintain regular contact with the AAUW-WA public policy chair by participating in committee meetings.
- Participate in AAUW-WA Lobby Day and encourage branch members to attend.



Interest Groups

Morning and Afternoon Book Group Discussion Meetings

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

December 12 - *The Woman in the Room: A Memoir* by Jane Hastings, Discussion: Vicki Moore, Host: Christmas Party at Wesley Gardens Lounge

January 9, 2026 - *Lincoln's Lady Spymaster*, by Gerri Willis, Discussion: Joanna Brunso, Host TBD.

February 13, 2026 - *Mastering the Art of French Murder*, by Colleen Cambridge, Discussion: Anneliese Ellerton, Host: Kathy Linnell

March 13, 2026 - *The Rose Code*, by Kate Quinn, Discussion: Liz Zietz, Host: Judy Storey

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

December 1 - *The Women* by Kristin Hannah, Host: Barbara Sando

January 5, 2026 - *Lucy by the Sea* by Elizabeth Strout, Host Kerry Lohr

February 2, 2026 - *A Walk in the Park* by Kevin Fedarko, Host: Carol Erickson

March 2, 2026 - *Earthed: A Memoir* by Rebecca Schiller, Host: Kathy Fitch



Cuisine Dinner Club

Coordinator Mary Kay Ault

Meetings to be held every two months or as planned by members.

Next meeting scheduled for Greek or French cuisine in February.

Details will be emailed to members.



New Discussion Group

Update: No formal plans have been finalized at this time.

Stay tuned for more updates...



Hello Branch Members:

*We would love to get some more ideas for more interest groups from you.
Please feel free to make some suggestions and submit them to the Board.*

AALW Higline Branch Newsletter
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