

Tacoma Branch News



October 2012 - <http://Tacoma-WA.AAUW.net> - P.O. Box 65303, Tacoma, WA 98464-1303
"By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through economic and educational barriers so that all women have a fair chance."

OCTOBER BRANCH MEETING

The Politics of Being a Woman: the 2012 Edition

Saturday, October 20th

Political ads, the so-called "war on women" - the parties want your vote! What does all of that political hype have to do with you?

Pacific Lutheran University professor Amy Young will discuss women's political style and the politics of women's rights and bodies in this election year. She says, "There is an extraordinary tension between wanting women's support and, in those instances, praising our autonomy and intelligence and the desire to control women via political means."

Anna Maria "Amy" Young is originally from Bellevue, Washington and has been on the faculty at PLU since 2007. She earned her B.A. in Communication Studies from Vanderbilt University in 1997, and her M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Texas. Her interests are the intersections of politics and intellectual life, rhetorical style, organizational rhetoric and critique and democratic participation. Her book, *The Politics of Thinking Out Loud: Rhetorical Style and Scholarly Engagement*, will be published by Southern Illinois University Press in 2013. She lives in Tacoma with her husband Tim and their two brilliant and beautiful children, Calynn and Campbell.

There also will be a brief business meeting to consider the 2012-2013 branch budget which was in the September newsletter

Location: PLU, Mary Baker Russell Building, Room 116, Time: 10:00 am

Note from the Programs Chair:

Many thanks to all of you who attended our joint meeting with the Puyallup and Gig Harbor branches! What a great crowd we had for Stephanie Coontz! And special thanks to Phyllis Izant for her work to bring it together.

Please mark your calendars for our upcoming meetings:

Saturday, October 20th – Dr. Amy Young, "The Politics of Being a Woman: 2012 Edition," at PLU

Saturday, November 17th – Beth Rivard of the Prison Pet Partnership (and a canine companion!) at Lakewood Library

Saturday, December 15th – Annual Holiday Luncheon and program, Adriatic Grill in Tacoma

Saturday, January 19th – Kathleen Britton of Multicare, Forensic Nursing, at Multicare

Bring a friend, join us! We look forward to a great year! Lee Ann Ufford

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

OCTOBER 2012

PHYLLIS IZANT

Golly...where to begin? Just when we thought we could relax regarding women and higher education data is released and we need to go to **Code Red**. There were two big newspaper articles recently that I think we need to understand and personally own to rekindle the urgency of what we do in AAUW. The first one published on Saturday, September 20, 2012 in the New York Times had this headline: "Life Spans Shrink for Least-Educated Whites in the U.S." Apparently, researchers have been documenting for some time that the most educated Americans were making the biggest gains in life expectancy, but now they say mortality data show that life spans for some of the least educated Americans are actually contracting. The steepest declines were for white women without a high school diploma, who **lost five years of life** between 1990 and 2008. And by 2008, the study found life expectancy for black women without a high school diploma had *surpassed* that of white women of the same education level. The New York Times article doesn't go into the reasons for this but I wonder.... could rural life have an impact? Are many, if not most, poor, less educated white people living in rural areas? In rural areas, there is less access to primary health care, and hospitals are further away. Those without cars are in very big trouble. There are fewer jobs, and even fewer good jobs, in rural areas. What you think? The research article is behind a pay wall but to read an abstract connect [here](#) to the latest issue of Health Affairs.

The second article published on Saturday, September 22, 2012 in the Seattle Times had this headline: "Why Washington's kids aren't going to college". It tells us that once upon a time Washington State was well above the national average for the percentage of high-school students who went to college. But today, by some measures, we are one of the lowest states in the country. Education experts say there is no single reason why Washington has stumbled at getting kids to go to college. It's the sum of a variety of issues that have together created a weak college-going culture. Read all about it [here](#) then click over to [here](#) to see the helpful graphical representations of the problem. Even more of a wonder, in my view, is that we are only now learning of this distressing statistic **20 years** into the decline in college enrollment! What's missing from the article? Well, you can guess but I'll say it print as well. Although the data shows we rank among the bottom states for the rate of high-school graduates who go on to college, what's not shown in the data is how that breaks down in terms of gender. Does anyone know how to easily access that information? What would you predict before you saw the answer from the data? Is the gender angle on this worthy of further exploration? How would you go about exploring it? I'm seeing a great keynote session on this at the next AAUW Washington State convention.



INTEREST GROUPS AND NEWS

Hot Topics for October

What is Feminism? Where is Feminism? Are we *there* yet?

Following from Stephanie Coontz' talk at the September branch meeting about the strange stirrings of the early women's movement we'll bring our thoughts and experiences and get caught up on the current state of things. Are we better off than our mothers? Does feminism matter today? Which women can have it all? Which women are struggling to have just some of it? Are there any young feminists? What is post-feminism and how can we recognize it? Is feminism relevant? a dirty word? Come and discuss!

October 17, 2012 4-6 pm
Forza Coffee at Bridgeport and 27th St in University Place

Note: The group decided to meet in October at 4 so our teacher members can come. If you can't come at 4 and would like to attend hot topics at another time, e.g., lunchtime, contact Dorothy.

Genealogy & Family History Interest Group

Six of us met at the University Place Library Sept. 5, to share projects we'd been working on over the summer. Mary also had many PCLibrary genealogy books on display, as well as several from her personal collection. She briefly demonstrated the basics of accessing **Ancestry.com - Library Edition** (free access at any branch of TPL or PCL) and **Heritage Quest** database (free access from your home computer).

October meeting: we invite you to join us on **Tuesday, October 23, from 1-3 p.m.**, at the local **LDS Family History Center, at 5915 S. 12th Street** (on the north side, just west of Pearl). Staff will introduce us to the research center and materials available there. If you have particular research challenges, bring along what info you have (with sources), and maybe you'll be able to get some answers. RSVP to me (Mary H) by email, and please be prompt, as the first 15 minutes of orientation will likely give you the background needed to understand what's available here. To better prepare yourself to get the most out of this visit, go to https://familysearch.org/locations?PAGE=library_fhc_about.asp

Heritage Quest Research Library in Sumner is offering a very affordable all-day seminar - **Autumn Quest 2012** - on **Saturday, Oct. 13, from 8:15 AM until 3:30 PM** at Faith Covenant Church, 1915 Washington Street, Sumner.

Topics - to be presented by Lisa Louise Cook - include:

- o Get the Scoop on Your Ancestors With Newspapers
- o Google Earth for Genealogy
- o How to Save Your Research From Destruction and Ensure Its Future Survival
- o Tap Into Your Inner Private Eye: 8 Strategies for Finding Living Relatives

For more info and registration form, go to

<http://www.hqrl.com/autumnquest/autumnquest.html>

before Oct. 6, \$40 after; lunch available \$10.

Registration is \$35

- Mary Hammond, Chair, Genealogy & Family History

AAUW Daytime Book Group 2012-2013

Co-Chairs: Marianne Candioglos, and Lee Ann Ufford

The Daytime Book Group meets on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 10:00 a.m. unless otherwise noted.

OCTOBER 24
Moloka'i by Alan Brennert
Reviewer: Marianne
Hostess: Carter

NOVEMBER 28
The Decendants by Kauai Hart Hemmings
Reviewer: Marilee
Hostess: Helen

DECEMBER 12
Share your favorite poem
Hostess: Kay

JANUARY 23
Half Broke Horses by Jeannette Walls
Reviewer: Darlene
Hostess: Helen

FEBRUARY 27
Death Come to Pemberley by P.D. James
Reviewer: Jane
Hostess: Darlene

MARCH 27
Among the Mad by Jacqueline Winspear
Reviewer: Helen
Hostess: Marilee

APRIL 22
King Peggy by Peggelene Bartels and Eleanor Herman
Reviewer: Lee Ann
Hostess: Jane

MAY 22
Reviewers: Book selection for next year
Hostess: TBD

AAUW Evening Book Group, 2012-2013

The Evening Book Group meets on the 4th Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

OCTOBER 22

GAUDY NIGHT by Dorothy Sayers

Reviewer: Jane

Hostess: Susan

NOVEMBER 26

THE PARIS WIFE by Paula McLain

Reviewer: Colleen

Hostess: Dorothy
home; Sue's refreshments

JANUARY 28

GUERNICA by Dave Boling

Reviewer: Dorothy

Hostess: Jane

FEBRUARY 25

WILD—LOST TO FOUND ON THE PACIFIC COAST TRAIL by Cheryl Strayed

Reviewer: Susie

Hostess: Jeanne

MARCH 25

PIERCE COUNTY/TACOMA READS SELECTION

Reviewer: Mary L

Hostess: Kay /Joye

APRIL 22

THE IMMORTAL LIFE OF HENRIETTA LACKS by Rebecca Skloot

Reviewer: Jeanne

Hostess: Collee

MAY 20

POTLUCK BY THE GROUP

Time: 6:00

Reviewers: Everyone

Hostess: Jane Hahn

MORE INTEREST GROUPS!

Papercrafters

The first meeting for the program year will be October 4th at 10:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. We meet the first Thursday of each month. There is coffee and tea available, but bring your brown bag lunch. We do everything from scrap booking, making note cards, sorting old photos and/or just cleaning files without distractions of your own home. Oh, yes! We also have fun chatting about our projects.

There have been a few AAUW members stating they would come if it was not on Thursdays. We are not thinking of changing the day, but if you're interested perhaps another work day could be arranged at the Lakewood church where we meet. Let Connie Dunkelberger know if you are interested via email at aauwwa@gmail.com.

Not So Fast Food Group

The Not So Fast Food Group is planning a Halloween party/potluck. The date has not been decided, if you are interested in attending, please call Jane H.

Diggers and Delvers

Diggers and Delvers are planning an October trip to the Pumpkin Patch in Orting with a visit to Sumner for shopping and lunch. Friday, Oct 5. Call Jane for time and car pool info.

L.I.F.E./Elderhostel

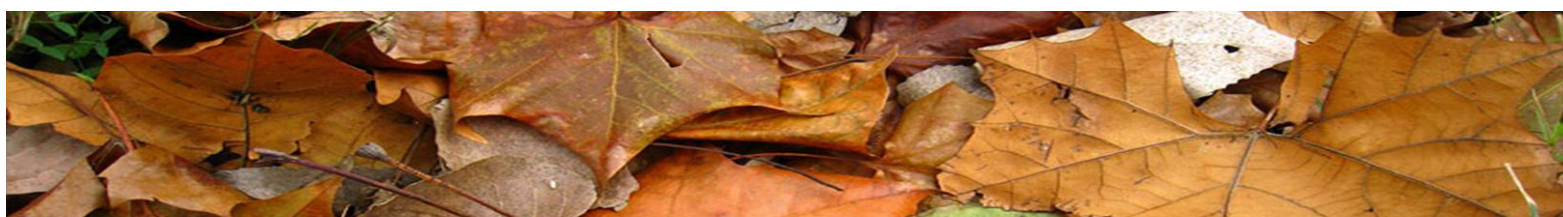
Marilee Titus volunteers with L.I.F.E./Elderhostel and while it is not affiliated with AAUW, it is reflective of our mission.

Each class costs \$10 and there is a \$5 per quarter registration fee. For more info, call Laura Stewart at 253 241-4166 or check out their webpage <http://www.plu.edu/~lifeeldr/>

October Meetings are on October 12th "Predicting the 2012 Election?", October 17th "The Egyptian tomb of Tutankhamun" and October 24th "Classic Cars: A Journey Through Time". All of these meetings take place at Garfield Book Company's Community Room at 10:30 a.m.

Activities Calendar

October 1	Mon	
October 2	Tue	Rethinking Scholarships - 4:30 – 6:00 pm home of Wanda J.
October 3	Wed	It's my vote! from 5:45 PM to 7:30 pm-ish at the home of Ann C.
October 4	Thu	Papercrafters - 10:30 am- 2:00 pm, YWCA Candidates Forum 6-8 pm
October 5	Fri	Diggers and Delvers trip to the pumpkin patch
October 6	Sat	
October 7	Sun	
October 8	Mon	
October 9	Tue	
October 10	Wed	
October 11	Thu	It's my vote! from 5:45 PM to 7:30 pm-ish at the home of Ann Copeland
October 12	Fri	Branch Board Meeting, 1 pm at Phyllis' house LIFE Elderhostel – Predicting the 2012 Election 10:30 am at Garfield Books
October 13	Sat	Heritage Quest Research Seminar - Faith Covenant Church 8:15 am-3:30 pm
October 14	Sun	
October 15	Mon	
October 16	Tue	It's my vote! from 5:45 pm to 7:30 pm-ish at the home of Ann Copeland
October 17	Wed	Hot Topics - Forza Coffee University Place 4-6 pm LIFE Elderhostel - The Egyptian tomb of Tutankhamun 10:30 am at Garfield Books
October 18	Thu	
October 19	Fri	
October 20	Sat	October Branch Meeting – PLU, Mary Baker Russell Bldg, Rm 116 at 10 am
October 21	Sun	
October 22	Mon	It's my vote! from 5:45 PM to 7:30 pm-ish at the home of Ann Copeland
October 23	Tue	Genealogy and Family History - LDS Family History Center 1-3 pm
October 24	Wed	Daytime Book Club – 10 am LIFE Elderhostel - Classic Cars: A Journey Through Time 10:30 am at Garfield Books
October 25	Thu	
October 26	Fri	Evening Book Club – 6:30 pm
October 27	Sat	
October 28	Sun	
October 29	Mon	
October 30	Tue	
October 31	Wed	



Dear Branch Members,

AAUW has been invited to cosponsor a community candidate forum early next month and we have agreed to do so. Won't you make plans to join us? AAUW Tacoma branch will be helping with hospitality.

OCTOBER 4, 2012 at the YWCA in Sunshine Hall, 405 Broadway in downtown Tacoma. FREE PARKING!

The **YWCA** and **AAUW Tacoma Branch** will be hosting their first ever general election candidate forum! Become better informed about your local elected leaders. Join us and moderator Rob McNair-Huff for a discussion on the many challenges facing our community. We will focus on open seats in the State Legislature and the audience will have the opportunity to ask questions.

Participating candidates will be: Eric Herde, Bruce Dammeier, Jack Connelly, Jake Fey, Lauren Walker, Terry Harder and Dawn Morrell.

Please register online

here: <https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?llr=y8zs5vdab&oeidk=a07e68278s082dd70b2&oseq>

IT'S MY VOTE: Presidential Debates Watch Party

You are all invited to the Presidential Debates watch parties on Wednesday, Oct. 3, Thursday, Oct. 11, Tuesday, Oct. 16, and Monday, Oct. 22, from 5:45 PM to 7:30 PMish, at the home of Ann C. AAUW Association suggested these get-togethers via email and I forwarded their watch party suggestions to all of you with email addresses. I have registered our watch parties with them and they have promised to send us stickers, pins and temporary tattoos, plus the AAUW Action Fund's Congressional Voting Record. I'll have some snacks available, but you may bring something, too, if you wish. We might as well have some fun during this political battle. Call or email Ann C. if you need a map.

Movies! Movies!

Our branch publicized two great films shown at the Grand this year: "Miss Representation" was about images of women in the media and how they limit opportunities for young women. "The Invisible War" (in August) uncovered the struggles of victims of sexual assault in the military for justice. Thanks to Women's Funding Alliance and the Fund for Women and Girls, these great movies are back along with "Wonder Women"!

Screenings will be held in Tacoma at the Grand Cinema on the following dates:

September 27 – Miss Representation

November 7 –The Invisible War

January 23 - Wonder Women! The Untold Story of American Superheroines

For tickets: <https://joinus.wfalliance.org/sslpage.aspx?pid=368>

Re-Thinking Scholarships

On Tuesday October 2, from 4:30 to 6:00 PM members are invited to convene at the home of Wanda J. to participate in a re-thinking of how we are using our time, money, and energy as related to our support of young women and their educational needs. We will discuss alternative and/or additional programs that might be more helpful to young woman than our traditional scholarships. If you can't come, please email Wanda and give her your input. You can also snail mail her. Snacks will be provided. Please come!

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

As of early September, we had 53 paid-up (through June 2013) and Life Members, and 10 members from last year who had not yet renewed their memberships. Since that time, several have renewed. And at our September 22 Branch Meeting at PLU, we gained several first-time members who took advantage of AAUW's "Shape the Future" Membership Campaign, where new members who join at an AAUW event open to the public get a 50% discount on the national portion of their dues; these lucky women joined for \$52.50, rather than the usual \$77. Smart move!

Our College and University Partners

Both PLU and UWT are now Tacoma Branch College & University Partners. Students attending those institutions may join AAUW as e-Members at Large. As of Sept. 1, 29 PLU students and two UWT students have taken advantage of this opportunity. They have electronic access to all national AAUW research, programs, etc.

- Mary Hammond, V.P. Membership

Tacoma Branch New Member Profile

She's not quite our newest branch member, having joined in 2011, but Sue McLean jumped right in with both feet last spring, volunteering to serve on the Membership Committee. You'll be seeing her at each branch meeting, stationed at the Membership Table handing out name tags, asking you to sign in, and answering questions. Although she lives in Gig Harbor, Sue joined the Tacoma Branch due to the influence of her long-time friend and colleague, Joye Bucklin.

Sue and Joye worked together as nutritionists at the VA Hospital, American Lake, for about 30 years. Sue has joined our newest interest group, Genealogy and Family History, and gave a fascinating "What I did Last Summer" report at our recent meeting. When the 1940 U.S. Census went online last April, but without any surname indexes, Sue volunteered to assist with the indexing for Ancestry.com. Throughout the spring and summer, Sue put in several hours a week at her home computer, inspecting original images of the 1940 census data, handwritten by enumerators - one page at a time - and transcribing the data.

A second person was given the same sheets to transcribe, and then the two transcriptions were compared and "refereed" wherever there was disagreement over the enumerator's handwriting. Finally, in August, it was announced that the entire 1940 census was now searchable by surname - all because of generous volunteers like Sue. Now she's continuing to transcribe for Ancestry.com - currently assigned to passenger lists. Sue also volunteers at her local FISH food bank - appropriate for a retired nutritionist!



AAUW TACOMA BRANCH MEETING SEPTEMBER 22ND 2012

'A Strange Stirring'

The September meeting at Ingram Hall at PLU, co-sponsored by Tacoma, Puyallup and Gig Harbor AAUW Branches, was well attended. Students and visitors came to hear Stephanie Coontz.

Phyllis Izant opened the meeting with thanks to Puyallup and Gig Harbor for the success of a joint venture. Dorothy McBride spoke briefly to introduce visitors and students to AAUW's missions. Karen Anderson introduced Stephanie Coontz.

Ms. Coontz spoke about her new book *A Strange Stirring: the Feminine Mystique and American Women at the Dawn of the 1960s*. She spoke about the intended audience for Betty Friedan's *Mystique* being middle class white women, and about how culturally divided along racial and economic lines women were at that time. She also reminded the audience of the 'feminist' writings already in existence when *Mystique* was published in 1963.

Her first question was how many women in attendance had read *Mystique* within a few years of its publication. Her research revealed many women who thought they had read the book, then realized they had not, but because the ideas became so wide-spread so quickly, our memories tricked us into believing we had read it. She also commented on how greatly white middle class women's place in society has changed since that decade. Viewing the book as a part of multiple cultural and social movements occurring in the 1960s helps to understand the way it challenged that decade's highly restrictive definition of 'being a woman'.

Ms. Coontz reflections on *Mystique* have convinced me to find *Mystique* and read it again, with a 40+ year historical perspective.

Carol Rikerd
Secretary



