



P.O. Box 65303, Tacoma, WA 98464

<http://tacoma-wa.aauw.net/>

“By Joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through economic and educational barriers so that all women have a fair chance.”

September 2016

[Events and News](#)

September Branch Meeting: Mount Rainier National Park: Past, Present and Future



Saturday, September 17, 2016, 10 a.m.

Washington State History Museum Auditorium
1911 Pacific Ave., Tacoma

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In 2016, we celebrate the 100th birthday of the National Parks Service Act (NPSA). The NPSA gathered 14 national parks (including Mount Rainier National Park [NP], established in 1899) and 21 national monuments, into a single system to be managed and protected by the federal government. The purpose of the system would be “to conserve the scenery and the national and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.”

The occasion of this anniversary provides an opportunity to assess to what extent this system, which now includes 59 national parks, has lived up to its promise. Our speaker, Tracy Swartout, Deputy Superintendent of Mount Rainier NP, will address the status of our near and beloved mountain park neighbor as it faces impact of increased visitation and climate change.



Also on the program is Laurie Ward of Washington’s National Park Fund, an organization dedicated to supporting Washington’s three national parks: Mount Rainier NP, North Cascades NP, and Olympic NP.

This is our annual joint meeting with the Puyallup and Gig Harbor branches. Come at 10 a.m. to mingle and enjoy coffee, tea and goodies. ***Invite your friends to come; all are welcome!***

Logistics: The program will start around 10:30. The Auditorium is located in the basement; take elevator in the lobby (there will be signs). Pay parking is available to the north of the museum (proceeds go to museum). Lower lot has handicap parking and entry to the building with elevator access. You can also find free parking at the Dome parking lot and take the link to the front door of the museum. ***You will enjoy free admission to all Museum exhibits after the program!***

Who is Tracy Swartout?



Tracy Swartout, a native of South Carolina, has been at Mount Rainier National Park since September 2012. She is a graduate of the University of South Carolina, the University of Waterloo, and Duke University, in environmental geography, natural resources, and coastal geology and environmental law. Prior to coming to Western Washington, Tracy was Superintendent of Congaree National Park in South Carolina, and at the National Park Service in Washington, D.C. She is married to Tom Swartout, an environmental engineer in Olympia. They have two children under age eight—both of whom attend school in Tacoma and are named after mountain peaks on the east coast.

Upcoming programs:

October 15: Pierce County Girls and STEM at UW Tacoma, Tioga Library

November 17: Post Election Party: Elect Her? What Now?

December 17: Christmas Luncheon, Landmark Convention Center

President's Corner



Sometimes you have to fight. I know the word 'fight' is a fraught one, full of negative connotations. Evil images of close physical conflict and war immediately leap to mind. You fight for a reason, for a cause,

sometimes for your life or the lives of others. You fight because you're backed into a corner and there's no other choice.

This word, though, requires a broader definition, because fighting doesn't necessarily mean fisticuffs. There's "the

AAUW Tacoma Branch Board of Directors 2016-2017

- President: Dana Holt
- Membership Vice President: Carol Rikerd
- Program Vice Presidents: Dorothy McBride and Dana Johnson
- Communications Co-Chairs: Mary Letterman and LesLee Eicher
- Recording Secretary: Dolora Neumaier
- Finance Officer: Phyllis Izant
- Governance and Development Committee: Chair Diane Palmquist, members Stella Jones and Jane Hahn
- College and University Relations: Phyllis Izant

good fight.” It's protest. It's standing up to power. In cases of injustice, fighting words need to be said and action must be taken, or the cruelty of the status quo will prevail and persist unchecked.

Some of the most powerful warriors of the 20th century have been pacifists.

From Mahatma Gandhi struggling against the British Empire in India, to Dr. Martin Luther King, along with so many other unsung fighters for the civil rights movement of the 1960s, people have battled with their hearts, their minds and their voices against oppressors



bearing not only the might of armies, but worse, propaganda machines that encourage and justify the closure of the hearts and minds of the citizenry. These warriors take the blows. They are imprisoned, abused, sometimes killed. As a force they endure, often with quiet dignity, standing tall in the face of what seems an insurmountable wall of noise, flack and furious resistance.

Fighting is not pleasant, but to fight is to be engaged. With implacable determination the brandished sword of tyranny, prejudice and inequity can be turned away. Conflict becomes the necessary clarion call for attention to the plight of those deserving more than to be dismissed as disgruntled or reaching beyond their designated status. It can become an enlightening catalyst for the passive among us, raising awareness, generating empathy, turning us into a fighting force that can't be denied.

AAUW has been a fighting force since its inception. Yes, we wear feathered hats instead of battle helmets. Yes, we stand up for the advancement of women and girls in education and the workforce. We fight for equity and a fair shake. Sisters, you have enlisted in an organization prepared for a scrap and I encourage you to put up your dukes and join the fray.

**OUR FIGHT
WOMEN'S
RIGHTS**

~ Dana Holt, President

[Membership](#)

Renew! Renew! Renew!

We'd like to get our 2016-2017 Branch Handbook and Directory to the printers no later than Friday, September 9. If you have not renewed as of August 22, you will have received a renewal form in the mail. ***Please send in your 2016 – 2017 membership dues or renew online before September 9 to be included in this year's directory.*** New Directories will be available at the September 17 meeting. ***Instructions for online renewals are at the end of the newsletter.***

Shape the Future

Our September 2016 meeting will be an **AAUW Shape the Future event**. The Shape the Future membership campaign is a recruitment tool for current members to offer a discounted rate to prospective members. With this campaign, new members and students can take 50% off the national dues rate when they join on-the-spot during an AAUW public event. Branches also earn one free national membership to give away for every two newly recruited members, with a maximum of five free memberships annually.

If you have friends who would find membership in Tacoma branch a rewarding experience, bring them along to our September branch meeting!

New members

We are delighted to have added new members since our last meeting in May. Please give a warm welcome to:

- Peg Dempsey,
- Linda Farmer,
- Mari Leavitt,
- Bonnie Loghry, and
- Shelly Speir.

Happy birthday!

Happy birthday wishes to all our summer born members:

- Wanda Abrams,
- Linda Ames,
- Sandy Bowman,
- Annette Funk,
- Laurie Jinkins,
- Robin Larson,
- Mari Leavitt,
- Linda Olson,
- Heather Shadko
- Carol Rikerd,
- Jennifer Smith,
- Stephanie Strampe, and
- Lauren Walker.

Happy birthday, too, to our September birthday members:

- Julie Anderson,
- Dana Holt,
- Sue McLean, and
- Sharon Parker.

~ Carol Rikerd, Membership



AAUW Tacoma branch members sporting their spring hats at the luncheon in May 2016. Back from left: Phyllis Izant, Dana Johnson, Dorothy McBride, Carol Rikerd, Dolora Neumaier, and front: Dana Holt.

Interest Groups (MeetUps)



Not So Fast Food Group

The Not So Fast Food Group (NSFFG) will not meet in September...unless a member makes a suggestion for a great place to dine and enjoy each other's company. Remember: friends and family are always welcome at NSFFG. It's a great opportunity to enjoy

food and friends in a casual setting. Please contact the newsletter editors if you have an idea for NSFFG.

Diggers and Delvers

Diggers and Delvers will not meet in September. Stay tuned for info about October's meeting.



Book Groups

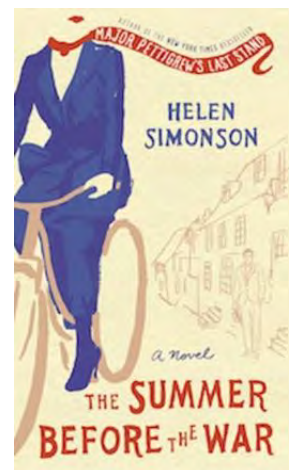


The *Daytime Book Group* will meet on Wednesday, September 28 at 10 am. They will be reading *The Nightingale* by Kristen Hannah.

Carolyn will review, and Marilee will hostess.

The *Evening Book Group* will meet on Monday, September 26 at 6:30pm to discuss *The Summer Before The War* by Helen Simonson

Jessica Marcinkevage will review, Marilee Titus will hostess.



Genealogy Group



The Genealogy group will not meet in September. Our next meeting will be on October 14, 1-3 p.m., at the Family History Center (5915 S 12th St., Tacoma). We'll tour the newly-remodeled facility and do some personal research.

Papercrafters

Papercrafters will hold an informal meeting on Wednesday, September 7 at the **Scrap That** store (4040 Orchard St., Fircrest). The store charges \$5.00 per person, but you can use any of the equipment in the store. We will meet at 10:00 a.m. and we can stay into the afternoon; in fact the store is open until 9:00 p.m. on Wednesdays. Bring your own bag lunch or be prepared to go to one of the restaurants in this strip mall. We will begin our usual meeting dates (2nd Thursday of each month) on October 13th at the Lakewood Presbyterian Church (8601 104th St., SW). Contact Connie for information about Papercrafters.



[From AAUW National](#)

She Was Told to Stop Caring So Much for Her Students — So She Started Her Own School

May 03, 2016

1989 AAUW Achievement Awardee Marva Collins was a teacher for more than 14 years before she realized what she really wanted from her career: to “be the teacher I sought to have when I was in school.”



Collins began teaching in Alabama, and then moved on to a full-time substitute teacher position in the Chicago public school system. After 14 years at a public school, she concluded that the institution “actually recruited children for failure,” as she explained in records from the AAUW archives. Each year she saw more and more students

become dropouts, or what she called “push-outs” — students who had no teacher to advocate for their academic success, and no tools to engage with their community and become productive citizens. In a 1968 statement, Collins wrote about the principal of her former school telling her that “the problem with you, Marva, is that you expect too much from these children. They are not your children. Close the door, do what you can, and stop worrying about whether the children are learning or not.”

But she wouldn't stop. She could not continue to witness the absence of encouragement from her fellow teachers and administrators and the disheartening number of students who seemed destined for failure. She was determined to help her students, and she knew that they had potential. “I see children's eyes holding wonder like a cup, and then I know why I teach,” she wrote in an AAUW-archived article.

So Collins left the Chicago public school system behind and founded the Westside Preparatory School in 1975 in Garfield Park. The school started with only six children (two of whom were her own) on the second floor of her home. The purpose of the Westside Preparatory School was to disprove the myth (which still persists in society today) that schools are better off leaving students behind when they do not learn quickly enough. “All children can learn if they are not taught too thoroughly that they cannot learn,” Collins wrote.

In just a few years, the school expanded into its own building with 12 teachers and 244 students. In addition to teaching, Collins also provided training to teachers from all across the country who were eager to learn her method that reached students who were elsewhere considered underachievers. Collins did not tolerate mediocrity and instilled in all of her students that “they have a right to fail, but they will not fail here.” She emphasized the importance of phonetics in teaching her students to read, often having them read aloud. She also focused on more abstract lessons such as self-reliance and self-respect, drawing on Martin Luther King Jr.'s writing to encourage her students to pursue dreams of their own.

Her progress did not go unnoticed: President Ronald Reagan offered her the U.S. secretary of education position, and she was also asked to be Los Angeles' superintendent of schools, but she declined both prestigious offers to continue teaching at the Westside Preparatory School.

In 1989, AAUW recognized Collins with the Achievement Award to acknowledge her dedication to and passion for reforming Chicago's school system. She passed away in June of 2015, leaving behind a tremendous effort to better our education system and create young leaders for our future.

FUN FACT: Prince donated \$500,000 to her school...and featured her in his music video.

This post was written by AAUW Fellowships and Grants Intern Jordan Brunson.

(See the article at <http://www.aauw.org/2016/05/03/marva-collins/>.)

September 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 Board Meeting – 4:30 p.m.	6	7 Papercrafters informal meeting – 10 a.m.	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 Joint Branch Meeting: Nat'l Parks Syst 100 th – 10 a.m.
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 Evening Book Group: The Summer Before the War - 6:30 p.m.	27	28 Daytime Book Group: The Nightingale – 10 a.m.	29	30	1

Stay Connected with AAUW!

Check your email for the latest copy of the AAUW-WA *Evergreen Leader*, or get it here: <http://aauw-wa.aauw.net/>.

The AAUW Tacoma Website is the place to go to learn about our branch. There is an officers list with contact information, a summary of the interest groups (including the reading lists for both book groups), our mission statement, community involvement and branch goals and a members' center with a newsletter archive, branch bylaws, forms, and membership benefits.

<http://tacoma-wa.aauw.net/>

AAUW Tacoma Facebook has daily updates of AAUW and other community events, as well as other items of interest. Feel free to add items of interest, as well as comment and 'like'. Truly, AAUW Tacoma has one of the best Facebook Pages in the country! Check it out at <https://www.facebook.com/AAUW.Tacoma/>

AAUW Tacoma Meetup. The goal of Meetup is to help "people find others who share their *interest or cause*, and form *lasting, influential, local community groups* that regularly meet *face-to-face*." AAUW Tacoma uses this tool for community outreach and many of our newer members have found us this way. We are so glad that they did! It is also a wonderful way to see all of our upcoming meetings in one place and to receive reminders. <http://www.meetup.com/AAUW-Tacoma/>

Useful links

AAUW Washington State Website <http://aauw-wa.aauw.net/>

AAUW Washington State Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/aauw.washington>

AAUW Washington State Tech Trek <http://techtrek-wa.aauw.net/>

AAUW National Website <http://www.aauw.org/>

AAUW National Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/AAUW.National>

AAUW Tech Trek Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/AAUWTechTrek>

~Mary Letterman and LesLee Eicher, AAUW WA Communications Co-Chairs

Communications Team Note

The chapter welcomes your ideas for interest groups, activities, priorities, recruitment, and...you name it. We are considering new ways and venues to attract new members including expanding our social media presence ([Facebook](#) and our [Website](#)). We'd like to use our [Meetup Tool](#) to reach out to other Tacoma area community groups.

Editors' Note

Please send notices of events and news to the newsletter team at aauw.tacomaneewsletter@gmail.com. Feel free to send photos as well!

Submissions should be out by the **16th of the month** unless otherwise noted and should not exceed 100 words. **Please notify the editors if you will be late.** If you have a later event that you would like included, please let us know by the 16th so we can plan accordingly. We reserve the right to edit as we see fit.

Online Membership Renewal Instructions

1. Enter aauw.org in your search engine – you will be taken to the home page.
2. Look at the gray bar across the top of the page. The tab 'AAUW' will be highlighted in white. Move your cursor to the seventh tab 'Login' and click. A new page will open.
3. The login page has two white boxes. The top one is for your member number (your number is by your entry in the paper directory). If you have not set up a password, do it now.
 - ✓ Go down to the line 'First time logging in? You will need to register.' Click on 'need to register. You'll be taken to a new page. The instructions are simple and you will be able to get a password registered in minutes.
 - ✓ Once you get your password – start over at step 1. You might want to write your password in your paper directory.
 - ✓ Type in your password. You will be taken back to the home page, but the gray bar at the top now has your name instead of 'Login' in the seventh tab.
4. On the right of the gray bar is a search box. Type in 'msd' (leave out the quotes), click on the search icon. On the new page, the first selection under the search box is 'Member Services Database'. Click on it.

5. The next page has a green box 'enter the msd'. Click on it. You will get a white page titled 'Access Member Services Database.' Click on the gray bar 'Enter Member Services Database'. It will turn blue, and then take you to your personal information in the database.
6. Click on 'renew my membership' toward the bottom of the list on the left hand side of the page. Fill out the form. Submit it.
7. You're done. 10 minutes. Now wasn't that easy? 😊