

# Tacoma Branch News



January 2012 - [www.aauw-tacoma.org](http://www.aauw-tacoma.org) - 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."*

## January Branch Meeting

### The Importance of Community Health Centers: A Model of Medical Care for Underserved Communities

with David Flentge, CEO of Community Health Care

**Date:** January 21, 2012

**Time:** 10 am

**Location:** Community Health Care

Eastside Medical Clinic

1708 East 44th Street

Tacoma, WA 98404

(East Portland Avenue and East 44th Street)

**Details:** Ample free parking in the parking lot behind the CHC building. We will meet in the community room on the ground floor. The main door to enter the building is located at the rear facing the parking lot where you will park your car.



**AAUW Tacoma Branch Newsletter**  
**President's Message**  
**January 2011**  
**Phyllis Izant**

I stumbled on a web site the other day. It captivated me: [Governing the States and Localities](#). The site is rich with content that provides intelligence and analysis on management, policy and politics to help guide leaders across state and local government. I love the content at the site as it deepened my understanding of governing as I follow the issues that challenge cities like Tacoma and University Place in this recession. One item that caught my full attention was a recent change in federal law that opens up a new -- and possibly large -- source of food donations: school leftovers. The language for the change was included in the package of annual spending bills approved by Congress and signed into law on November 18, 2011. Until then, leftover (untouched) food from school cafeterias went straight into the trash. Now, it can be sent to food banks because schools can no longer be sued if someone gets sick from eating their donated food.

Rep. Frank Wolf (R-VA) pushed for the language after learning many school districts are not donating excess food out of concern they were not covered under the Good Samaritan Act, which protects donors who give to food banks in good faith from all liability. Wolf's language amends the law that created the national school lunch program that provides free or low-cost lunches to needy children.

This change in federal law got me thinking about food security for women and K-12 girls in this time of politically chosen austerity. We know that food security is a problem internationally, especially for women and girls. We read reports detailing how adolescent girls and women are fundamental to unlocking the full potential of agricultural development and feeding the world. But I haven't been able to find anything about food insecurity and its impact on women and girls in the United States.

What I did find is a report: [The Half-Empty Plate: Fruit and Vegetable Affordability and Access Challenges in America](#) published in December 2011 by the Food Research and Action Center, a nonprofit organization working to improve public policies and public-private partnerships to eradicate hunger and under-nutrition in the United States. Using Gallup survey data of over one million Americans it tells us things we intuitively know: 1) the economy matters; 2) food inflation matters; 3) government assistance helps buffer households; 4) season matters; 5) race and ethnicity matters.

What's missing? You guessed it. Not a word about sex and gender. Do we really believe sex and gender don't matter for food insecurity in the United States today? I sure as heck don't. It's not as if the data wasn't collected. Gender, marital status and dependents are typically among the first questions asked. The problem is nobody bothered to look at it...because (I suspect) it merely dealt with women.

It would appear that, once again, research in this area ignored women and girls and as a consequence has treated us as peripheral concerns. I call on AAUW to engage the Food Research and Action Center and prod them to revise their report or, failing that, issue our own. The lives of women and girls depend on it.

# INTEREST GROUPS

## HOT TOPICS

January 18, 2012

### Should the Government require people (children, adults) to get vaccinations "for their own good"?

Look for stories and other aspects of the debate in the media. Such as:

"Michelle Bachmann claiming that vaccinations against HPV virus (to prevent cervical cancer) caused mental retardation"

"The story about a Facebook listing where parents could buy items infected with chicken pox so children would develop natural immunity."

Too Much Government Regulation? or Public Health and Safety

At Affairs: Lunch 12-1; discussion 1-3

### Our New AAUW partner: UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON/TACOMA

We are delighted to welcome our newest college/university partner to AAUW! UWT joins PLU in opening the benefits of AAUW membership to students and staff. Chancellor Debra Friedman is a strong advocate for the goals of AAUW and the campus has welcomed the state convention for April 13-15, 2012. We look forward to working with our new partner on NCCWSL, \$tart \$mart, E-student memberships, and more!

### Watch for these events in February:

Thursday February 16, 2012: Holly Kearl, AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund, will be at PLU campus for a lecture and discussion about her book: *Stop Street Harassment: Making Public Places Safe and Welcoming* (Praeger, 2010)

"Tired of strange men whistling and honking at her, calling out to her, following her, and grabbing her when she was alone in public, Holly wrote her master's thesis on gender-based street harassment and how women were using online websites to combat it."

Saturday, February 25, 2010: AAUW and Running Start bring another edition of the "Elect Her" workshop to the PLU campus. Speakers include branch member Julie Anderson, Pierce County Auditor. This is a good opportunity for branch members to volunteer for a PLU project and enjoy a very stimulating workshop as college students learn the basics about running for office.

## AAUW Daytime Book Group, 2011-2012

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.

- **January 25** Book – *Winter Solstice* by Rosamunde Pilcher; Reviewer – Jane Hahn; Hostess Helen Ellingson
- **February 22** Hostess – Jane Hahn; Book – *Swan Thieves* by Elizabeth Kostova; Reviewer – Darlene Anderson
- **March 28** Hostess – Marilee Titus; Book – *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand* by Helen Simonson Reviewer – Ruth Anderson
- **April 25** Hostess – Carter Taylor; Book – *The Dressmaker of Khair Khana* by Gayle Tzemach Lemmon; Reviewer – Lee Ann Ufford
- **May 23** – Book Selection – Hostess – The Green Spot

## AAUW Evening Book Group, 2011-2012

*The Evening Book Group meets on the days listed at 6:30 pm with the exception of the May Potluck which begins at 6:00.*

- **January 23** Hostess – Joye Bucklin; Book – Monuments Men by Robert Edsel  
Reviewer – Marilee Titus
- **February 27** Hostess – Dorothy McBride; Book – *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand* by Helen Simonson; Reviewer – Karen Hargus
- **March 26** Hostess – Kay Suiter; Book – *Pierce Co. or Tacoma Reads* Reviewer – Mary Letterman
- **April 23** Hostess – Catherine Sleavin; Book – *Little Princes: One Man's Promise to Bring Home the Lost Children of Nepal* by Conor Grennan; Reviewer – Darlene Parsons
- **May 23** – Potluck by the Group. Hostess – Jane Hahn

## MORE INTEREST GROUPS!

### Papercrafters –

Papercrafters will meet at the Lakewood Presbyterian Church from 10:30 to 2:00 on January 5th. Members are able to work on whatever project they want from organizing photos to sorting through old files. Bring your own brown bag lunch. Tea and coffee are available. Call Connie at 565-7518 for questions and directions to the church. All are welcome.

### Not So Fast Food Group

For the next meeting the group is considering branching out into German food.

### Diggers and Delvers

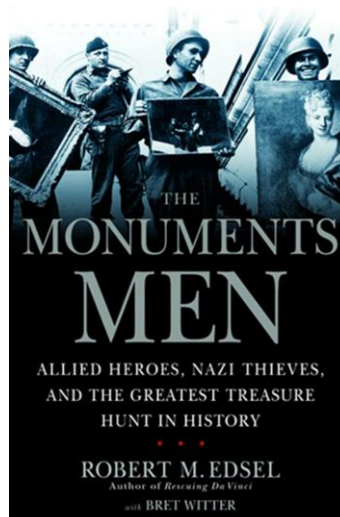
Diggers and Delvers is making fun plans. Look for them in the February Newsletter.

### L.I.F.E./Elderhostel

Marilee Titus volunteers with L.I.F.E./Elderhostel and while it is not affiliate with AAUW, it reflective of our mission. She would like to share this upcoming meeting.

1/23/12 A Chinese Worldview. PLU, Student Center, Regency Room.

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/>



The book we are reading for the January Evening Book Group

# *Activities Calendar*

January 1, 2012	Happy New Year!
January 2, 2012	
January 3, 2012	
January 4, 2012	
January 5, 2012	Papercrafters 10:30 – 2, Lakewood Presbyterian Church
January 6, 2012	
January 7, 2012	
January 8, 2012	
January 9, 2012	
January 10, 2012	
January 11, 2012	
January 12, 2012	
January 13, 2012	
January 14, 2012	
January 15, 2012	
January 16, 2012	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
January 17, 2012	
January 18, 2012	Hot Topics Lunch@12, Discussion 1-3, Affairs Cafe
January 19, 2012	
January 20, 2012	
January 21, 2012	Branch Meeting, 10 am, Eastside Medical Clinic, 1708 East 44th Street
January 22, 2012	
January 23, 2012	A Chinese Worldview. 10 am – 12, PLU, Student Center, Regency Room. Evening Book Group 6:30 AAUW Lobby Day in Olympia
January 24, 2012	
January 25, 2012	Daytime Book Group 10 am
January 26, 2012	
January 27, 2012	
January 28, 2012	
January 29, 2012	
January 30, 2012	
January 31, 2012	

**AAUW-TACOMA  
BRANCH MEETING**

December 17, 2011 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
Luncheon at Affairs

**MEETING RECAP**

Phyllis Izant welcomed 20 members and guests, Marta Wilcox, new member, Colleen Carmean, Meet UP, and family members of Phyllis, Rosetta Brown, Mary Letterman, and Darlene Parsons.

Carol Rickerd had handmade soaps available for a donation to the Scholarship Fund. Thank you, Carol.

As voted upon in a member survey, our Christmas Project donations will be given to the YWCA Encore Campaign.

A delightful program of Christmas musical selections by members of the Curtis High School Choir, Mr. Dickenson, Director, followed.

Darlene Parsons  
Secretary

## Membership Note

National AAUW recently sent us the updates on the latest membership campaign. Since last year's 130th Anniversary campaign was so successful the campaign has been extended through June 30, 2012.

Incentives are: Branch: All branches that have an increase in membership by 7% (Feb 2011-2012) will earn one free membership for a new member.

Individual: At the end of the campaign all members who have recruited one or more new members will have their names entered into a drawing. Sixty-five winners will win one free membership to give to a new Branch member.

We're working on a prize for Branch members who recruit new members as well. Ideas?

College/University : New AAUW college/university partner member dues are discounted to \$130 through the end of this campaign. Undergraduate students attending a C/U partner member institution are eligible for a free e-student affiliate membership and graduating students receive a free, one-year membership through the Give a Grad a Gift program.

Special bonus for students in Graduate School: Graduate students are eligible to receive a special membership rate of \$18.81 for the length of this campaign.