

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

News and Events



Saturday May 3, 2014, 11:30 a.m. at The Fircrest Golf Club located on Regents Boulevard in Fircrest.

Our speaker will be Kate Garrow, a PLU graduate and two-time scholarship awardee of the Tacoma Branch. Kate is a Union Representative of PTE 17, the Professional & Technical Employees Local 17, in Seattle. Kate will speak about her professional work with PTE 17 and how her scholarship from AAUW helped with her education and her career. She will also share her thoughts on educational and leadership challenges for young working women today.

Menu: Cranberry Turkey Salad (Roasted turkey tossed with spinach, pecans and a cranberry vinaigrette), coffee, tea and iced tea, plus an assortment of cookies.

Cost: \$25 **Advanced reservation through prepayment is required.** Payment at the door will not be accepted and admission will not be granted.

Payment is due by Monday, April 28th. Please make your check payable to AAUW Tacoma and mail to: AAUW TACOMA Attn: Treasurer, P.O. BOX 65303 Tacoma, WA 98464-1303

If you choose to bring a guest, they must also be pre-paid. Please include a note with your check or contact Phyllis Izant with special dietary needs. Phyllis can be reached at pjizant@gmail.com.

Note: the dress code at the venue precludes jeans and denim. Do wear your hats!



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Presidents' Corner



Diane Palmquist & Dana Holt (co-Presidents, AAUW Tacoma Branch)

"I believe for every drop of rain that falls a flower grows." This line is from a popular song written and recorded in the early '50's. I'm not quite that old. I recall it from an episode of the surprisingly long lived ('76 to '83!) sitcom, "Lavern & Shirley". I think of this lyric often in the face of our Washington springtime, as the weather cycles from a dour but magnificent downpour, to bright, fast-moving cloud-billows, to glorious blue skies and the most welcoming sunshine...sometimes all in the same afternoon! Such is the nature of seasonal transition in the northwest. We are on the edge of the convergence zone here, in flux, taking the rain, wind, and hail in stride, knowing that the warmth of summer is just ahead.

At our spring tea (a lovely affair, I must say) this lyric again came to mind, remembering the passing of two AAUW members. It's sad when people pass, but when friends gather to remember them, the light of their being fills a room...wonders, triumphs, accomplishments, warts and all, honored with thoughtfulness and warm laughter. With respect we bid our friends, Jane Whitney and Darlene Anderson, goodbye, knowing that they've helped plant seeds for the future. Flowers will grow, burgeon and bloom, literally and figuratively, in their wake.

One thing I'd like to add before signing off: It is the greatest experience to learn who our members are, what their interests and exploits have been. We have educators, businesswomen, medical professionals, foreign service diplomats, world travelers, political activists, librarians, scientists, master gardeners...and on and on. I struggle with the concept that we often don't learn of these things until our remarkable AAUW sisters have 'gone'. Please come to our meetings. Please engage with the women around you and realize just what amazing company you're in, here, right in our own Tacoma Branch...and you are one of them! Share your talents and experiences with us. Bring them to bear against the challenges we face and the barriers we're striving to break. We are an alliance against inequity and you have the power to contribute your strength, skill, and expertise to help topple the obstacles women endeavor to erase, in our quest, simply, for a fair shake. - Dana Holt - Co-President



Donations Needed

The Tacoma Branch will donate a silent auction basket at the Joint OR/WA Convention in April. The theme will be "**Pamper Yourself**" and donations of chocolates, a bottle of wine, and maybe even some bubble bath are solicited. Connie Dunkelberger will put the basket together and take the basket to Portland. She will take cash donations to purchase items to fill the basket, as well. Give her a call at 253.565.7518 or email her at dunkelberger@harboret.com. The proceeds from our basket will go toward Tech Trek.



The Two Minute Activist

Linda Isenson, AAUW Tacoma Public Policy Maven

Just a reminder that although the primary election is several months away, your local campaigns are kicking into gear. There are lots of kick-off parties, the doorbelling has begun and candidates need more money than ever thanks to the democracy

killing decisions of the Supreme Court. Please consider donating some time and/or money to your favorite candidates, some of whom are AAUW Tacoma Branch members!!! Contact me if you need help making a connection.



Tech Trek Update

Dorothy McBride

Tacoma Branch has selected 10 girls from Tacoma and Lakewood to attend Tech Trek WA's residential STEM camp for rising 8th grade girls to be held at Pacific Lutheran University from July 20-26, 2014. These girls come from Mason, Truman, Jason Lee, and Woodbrook Middle Schools. They will join 12 others from Pierce County selected by the Gig Harbor and Puyallup Valley branches. This year there may be up to 80 campers from all over Washington State! The girls will stay in the college dorms, eat in the college cafeteria, and make lots of new friends. There will be daily classes and labs, perhaps learning the chemistry of cosmetics, the use of DNA in forensic science or geometry in art. Girls will work on projects together, take field trips, and meet women who are in STEM professions. We learned from the reports of our previous campers, the experience is life-changing.

We are grateful for generous financial support from Branch funds, individual donors, the Fund for Women and Girls of the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation, and the Sequoia Foundation. Thanks also to the branch Tech Trek committee: Sandy Halvorson and Dorothy McBride, co-chairs; Carol Rikerd, Sarah Nainby, Linda Ames, Linda Isenson, and Joye Bucklin

The Branch will not have funds to support Tech Trek campers in 2015. Thus we need your support more than ever to ensure that all eligible girls can attend the camp and to increase our numbers for 2015. It's easy, tax deductible, and any amount is welcome.

By check: Make it payable to AAUW and put Tech Trek WA/Tacoma on the memo line. Mail to AAUW; P.O.Box 98045; Washington, DC 20090-8045.

By credit card on line: <http://www.aauw.org/program-gift/?treatment=TECHTREK>



NEW BUDGET PROCESS

Dorothy M. and Carol R. attended Washington Department of State workshop “Non Profits 101” in March and learned that that 504(c)4 nonprofit organizations, like the Tacoma Branch of AAUW, must adopt their budgets *before* the beginning of the fiscal year (Up to now we have considered the budget in September—after the beginning of the fiscal year). Our next fiscal year runs July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015. To comply with best practices, the Branch Board of Directors has amended the Finance Policies to bring the proposed budget for 2014-2015 to the branch members for approval in **June**. The proposed budget will be in the early edition of the June Newsletter.

Read elsewhere in this newsletter about the dates, location, and program for this new June meeting. Plan to attend because the branch can't function next year without a legitimate budget!

New Member Corner



Please extend a warm welcome to LesLee Clauson Eicher, the newest member of AAUW Tacoma Branch.

LesLee is a graduate of the University of Puget Sound, B.A. (International Affairs / German) and the University of Maryland, College Park, M.A. (German Philology). She enjoys reading, travel, cooking,

gardening, and politics. (Sounds like a perfect fit for this group!)

Some of LesLee's recently read and enjoyed books include *Let's Explore Diabetes with Owls* (David Sedaris), *The Corrections* (Jonathan Franzen), *Joyland* (Stephen King), *Gone Girl* (Gillian Flynn) and *The Casual Vacancy* (JK Rowling).

Leslee isn't afraid to push herself either, like many AAUW members. She recently tackled her fear of heights with two elevation defying

acts: She braved the high-ropes course at Adventura in Redmond and she parasailed over the bay in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.

LesLee is inspired by this quote: *Everyone you meet is fighting a battle you know nothing about. Be kind. Always.* - Ian Maclaren (and others)



Learning is ForEver Program

The Best Bad Idea: The True story of “Argo” is the subject of the May 13th LiFE program. The class will meet at the Garfield Book Company at PLU from 10:30 am to Noon. Retired Foreign Service Officer Mark Lijek was just assigned to Tehran when the revolution broke out. A minor consultant on the Oscar award-winning film “Argo”, Mr. Lijek has an interesting story to tell. (Ed. Note: I heard him speak several months ago. He is very engaging and has a fascinating tale. LI)

This lecture and many more are offered by Learning is ForEver, a Community Outreach of PLU to active seniors in Pierce County, and is affiliated with Elderhostel/Road Scholar Programs. AAUW Tacoma Branch Member Marilee Titus serves on the program committee. Tickets (\$10) are available at the door or by

emailing Laura Stewart at Stewarla@plu.edu. The PLU community is free with PLU I.D. For more info on the L.I.F.E. organization see: <http://www.plu.edu/lifeelderhostel>



Interest Groups

Paper Crafters

The Papercrafters will meet back at the Lakewood Presbyterian Church, 8601 104th St. S.W. Lakewood, on **May 7th** from **10 am to 2 pm**. Bring your brown bag lunch and whatever individual project you want to work on. This could include spring cleaning your files or an art project. Coffee and tea are provided. Since the weather is getting warm the tea and coffee will also be available on ice. For information and directions to the church call Connie Dunkelberger at 253 565 7518.

Book Groups

Evening Book Group will meet **May 19th at 6:30 pm**. Bring your suggestions for next year's reading list! This meeting is a **POTLUCK!!** Joye Bucklin will be hosting us. Her address is 5002 86th Ave. Ct. West in University Place. Joye's phone number is 253.565.3240.

Daytime Book Group will meet **May 28th at 10 am**. Bring your suggestions for next year's reading list! This meeting is a **POTLUCK!!** Please bring a salad or main dish to share. The current co-chairs are stepping down and we need a volunteer to chair the group. Please consider stepping up. Jane Hahn will host at 3319 N. 18th St in Tacoma. Jane's phone number is 253.272.3310.

Hot Topics

Common Core: Raising Standards, Expanding Knowledge and Critical Thinking or Corporate Takeover of Education?

The aim of the Common Core State Standards Initiative is to "provide clear and consistent learning goals to help prepare students for college, career, and life." AAUW supports states' voluntary adoption of these Common Core standards. Sounds great, right? Then why has the Common Core become so controversial?

Critics claim that the common core campaign is motivated by corporate interests, uses standards developed in secret, is enforced by the federal government against objections from states and teachers, and leads to national standardized testing on steroids.

Here are some websites to get started, but you'll find plenty more with your own Internet search.

<http://www.corestandards.org/>

<http://www.aauw.org/article/common-core/>

<http://dianeravitch.net/2013/02/26/why-i-cannot-support-the-common-core-standards/>

http://www.slate.com/articles/double_x/double_x/2013/09/common_core_either_you_re_agains_t_this_new_push_for_academic_standards_and_2.html

May 21st, 4-6 pm

YMCA Lakewood
9715 Lakewood Dr SW
253-584-9622

(there is a Black Bear on the premises)

Genealogy and Family History Group

We'll meet Friday, **May 9th, 1-3 pm**, at Heritage Quest Research Library in downtown Sumner (1007 Main Street, left/north side). Many new print resources have been added to the collection since we last visited. We can also use their databases. Non-HQRL members need to pay a \$5/day fee. BYO laptop or tablet if you'd like.

Try to join us for lunch first at 11:30 at Windmill Bistro, Windmill Gardens, at 16009 60th Street E. Just follow Main Street straight through town until it becomes 60th Street E. Windmill Gardens is on your left. Come and hear about members' surprising results of DNA analysis! Are you as curious as I am? RSVP to Mary Hammond by email. – Mary Hammond, Chair

Not So Fast Food Group

We hope you saved the date as you read last month's newsletter. **May 3rd** will be a busy day for AAUW members. You will not want to cook after the May luncheon so come to the NSFFG Scandinavian Supper at 208 Garfield, the cafe inside Garfield Books near PLU. We will meet at **6:30pm** for their evening menu, which features Small Plate specials or you can choose from their Charcuterie or Cheese Selections menu. If you are looking for Lutefisk we will have to book

a winter event. However, they sell Lefsa by the pound all year and their dessert menu is a smorgasbord of delights. Call Jane Hahn or Connie Dunkelberger for questions or to make a reservation. Guest are always welcome at NSFFG events.

Diggers and Delvers

The Diggers and Delvers will be going to the University Place Garden tour on Sunday, **May 18th**. If you would like to join us, call Jane Hahn.



April/May 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27 Last Day of Convention	28 Deadline to pay for Luncheon	29	30	1	2	3 Spring Luncheon NSFFG
4	5	6	7 Papercrafters	8	9 Genealogy	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 Diggers & Delvers	19 Evening Book Group	20	21 Hot Topics	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 Morning Book Group	29	30	31

Upcoming Programs: Saturday June 7, 2014, Ice Cream Social, time and place TBA

April Tea Recap

Carol Rikerd, Secretary

The April tea was held at the Financial Officer's home. Twenty members attended. We gathered to welcome new members and to remember our AAUW sisters who have left us.

Darlene Anderson, an AAUW member since 1961, passed away December 19, 2013. She was 85 years young, and an Honorary Life Member. Four children survive her.

Darlene took her degree in education and taught for thirty years in Lakewood. She was involved in community groups all of her life. She was an avid gardener, and a leading member of the Branch Diggers and Delvers. Her roses were 'gorgeous'. Darlene liked to socialize at lunches with her friends, and always ordered salmon and coffee. When others would drive her to outings, she would buy their lunch.

Darlene talked about seeing Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt when they stopped at the Union Depot station in 1937 on their way to tour the construction of the Grand Coulee Dam.

Darlene died from ovarian cancer. She was calm and collected about her cancer treatment. Her children were with her throughout her illness; at least one visited with her every day. She was an asset to Tacoma Branch, and will be missed.

Jane Whitney, a member of Tacoma Branch since 1994, passed away November 12, 2013. She was 73 years young. Jane had a career with the State Department, and served in increasingly responsible diplomatic roles. She was a member of the Rotary and Lakewood Country Club. She is survived by her niece and her father. Her State Department posts included Consul General in Australia and Turkey. She, with her family, funded educational opportunities for children in Turkey. Jane was also Consul in Argentina during the Falklands War in 1982. Her Foreign Service work was cut short when she needed to care for her aging mother. She missed the more formal aspects of diplomatic life in her retirement.

Jane was a strong-minded woman, who spoke French and enjoyed foreign language movies. She spoke her mind openly with friends, but never lost the grace of skilled diplomacy when a situation was delicate. Jane was a unique voice, and she will be missed.

Presidents Twin Peas introduced new member Dana Johnson.

The May Lunch will be held at the Fircrest Golf Clubhouse, 1500 Regents Blvd., on May 3. Start time is 11:30am. Our new officers will be installed, and Katie Garrow, a former scholarship recipient, will speak.

The Branch is submitting a basket for auction at the State Convention April 25-27th. Please contact Connie Dunkelberger to make a donation (either money or products) for the basket.

Be Connected with AAUW!

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 member's 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 comments 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/>

Other sites worth checking out:

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>

Editors' Note

Please send notices of events and news to Sarah Nainby and Linda Isenson at aawtacomaneewsletter@gmail.com. Feel free to send photos as well!

Submissions should be to us by the 16th of the month unless otherwise noted and should not exceed 100 words. **Please notify us 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.