

Tacoma Branch News



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

October 2011 Program

What:

Diversity Anyone?

When:

Saturday, October 15, 2011
10:00am – 11:30am

Where:

University of Puget Sound, Wyatt Hall, Room 326
1500 North Warner Street, Tacoma, WA 98416

The building has an elevator and accessible for all members. Parking is available in the adjacent parking lot as well as in the Thompson lot and along Union Ave. A map of the university can be found here: <http://www.pugetsound.edu/virtual-tour/>. Wyatt Hall is building 52.



Our guest speaker will be Dr. Kim Bobby, the University of Puget Sound's Chief Diversity Officer and Associate Professor School of Education. Dr. Bobby was appointed by the University President to serve as the first Chief Diversity Officer. She reports to the President and Academic Vice President (Dean of the University) and works with other members of the university's senior staff to provide leadership for diversity initiatives across campus. A fundamental purpose of the position is to serve the educational mission of the institution by helping to plan, coordinate, implement, and assess operational and strategic goals related to diversity; primary responsibility for coordinating implementation of the university's strategic plan for diversity and directing early college access and achievement programs, including supervision of program staff, budget development and administration. She examines climate and demographic patterns for faculty, staff and students; consultant to administrative and academic departments regarding climate, work place competencies and analysis of patterns throughout the system; serves as Affirmative Action Officer and Title IX officer.

President's Words

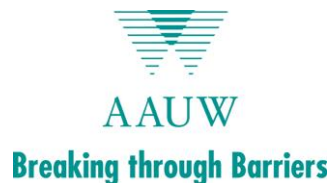
Phyllis Izant

The issue of "single sex" education flared to the front pages of our local paper early last month as we learned that a so-called "bold educational program" at Jason Lee Middle School ended after Tacoma Public Schools officials learned that it violated Washington State education regulations. The newspaper [article](#), a follow-up [editorial](#) and a subsequent [column](#) by News Tribune columnist, Peter Callahan, went a long way toward showcasing the lack of knowledge this publication and its editorial and reporting staff have about gender based education and the conflicting research on the issue. Mr. Callahan inflammatorily declared, "Opposition (to gender based education) comes mostly from women's groups and seems based on civil-rights history, especially the Jim Crow-era discrimination against blacks in public schools." Thank you Mr. Callahan for mansplaining that to me and being totally wrong.

The editorial board of The News Tribune and Mr. Callahan appear not to be aware of the conflicting research, and so they have wrongly assumed themselves to be more competent than, say, a significant body of research that questions gender-based education. Indeed a September New York Times article entitled, "[Single-Sex Education Is Assailed in Report](#)" describes a report, "The Pseudoscience of Single Sex Schooling," to be published in Science magazine by eight social scientists. In their review of the research they assert that "sex-segregated education is deeply misguided and often justified by weak, cherry-picked or misconstrued scientific claims rather than by valid scientific evidence." The strongest argument against single-sex education, the article said, is that it reduces boys' and girls' opportunities to work together, and reinforces sex stereotypes. (Me imagining this conversation with my 13 year-old youngster: "Son, why don't you have math class with girls in it?" Son: "Jeesh Mom, everyone knows girls can't do math. They split us up so we don't have to go as slow as the girls!").

In a [2008 blog post](#), Sara Mead said, "It would seem that recent neuroscience research shows significant differences in male and female brains and therefore educators must employ different approaches in teaching male and female students. *Unfortunately, many of the arguments for gender based education are bunk--and often have more to do with outdated gender stereotypes than the cutting edge research proponents claim they're based.*" [Emphasis mine.]

Mr. Callahan's argument that opposition by women to gender based education is simply rooted in opposition to (gender) segregation misses the target completely. There is no clear consensus or overwhelming data on the matter in the research literature. Are you familiar with the conflicting research on this issue? What is your perspective?



Membership Directories: The new Tacoma Branch Handbook and Member Directory are now available and will be distributed at the branch meeting and also at many interest groups. If you don't ever attend a calendar event or a monthly meeting maybe you could ask another member to pick one up for you!

INTEREST GROUPS

Hot Topics

September 21, 2011

Subject considered: Legalization of Marijuana

The discussion began with the legal status of medical marijuana and how easy it is to get a card allowing purchase of marijuana under Washington State's current law.

The active cannabinoid found useful in treating nausea in cancer, muscle spasms in multiple sclerosis, and as an appetite enhancer in wasting diseases like anorexia is delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). There was discussion about how THC is processed by inhaling, or in the case of a manufactured medication, through the digestive tract.

Mention was made of the differences between marijuana, a mild stimulant, and other depressive drugs derived from opiates and the relative dangers of each. We discussed the financial and social cost of substances labeled illegal versus those simply unhealthy but legal to consume. We concluded that legalization should be for any purpose, not simply medical.

Legalization has been accomplished in Portugal, with no increase in drug use. The group concurred that in the US business interests would quickly take over manufacture and distribution, but a federal regulatory agency (FDA?) would need to be closely involved with all aspects of production. Guidelines for use should follow those for tobacco and alcohol, with states making regulations.

The last part of the discussion turned to questioning why marijuana is still not legal, when the potential for tax income is so great. The group questioned who or what is currently deriving financial benefit from marijuana remaining illegal, in spite of very widespread use. The cost to local, regional and national law enforcement in the US, and in Mexico, is profound, and legalization would free funding for more important public safety initiatives.

The next Hot Topics Meeting will meet on Wed. Oct. 19 at Affairs, 2811 Bridgeport Way W. #15 in the banquet room at 12:00 for lunch (order from menu) and discussion from 1:00-3:00. (This is the café where we usually have our Holiday lunch in Dec.). Oct. discussion topic is the issues on the Nov. ballot. Bring your voter information pamphlet for a "Hot" discussion.

(Thanks to Carol Rikard for the great meeting notes!)

AAUW Daytime Book Group, 2011-2012

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

October 26 Hostess – Darlene Anderson; Book – *No Biking in the House Without a Helmet* by Melissa Greene; Reviewer – Carolyn Patterson

November 16 Hostess – Carter Taylor; Book – *Hotel On the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* by Jamie Ford; Reviewer – Marianne Candioglos

December – Date to be announced! Hostess – Green Spot; Book – Bring your favorite children's book; Reviewer – All

January 25 Hostess – To be determined; Book – *Winter Solstice* by Rosamunde Pilcher; Reviewer – Jane Hahn

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.

October 24 Hostess – Jeannie Sagle; Book – *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accent* by Juli Alvarez; Reviewer – Dorothy McBride



November 28 Hostess – Jane Hahn; Book – *Tender is the Night* by F. Scott Fitzgerald; Reviewer – Susie Guidetti

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 – Marilee Titus

May 23 – Potluck by the Group.
Hostess – Jane Hahn

MORE INTEREST GROUPS!

Papercrafters The next meeting of this group will be on October 6th. Papercrafters meet at Lakewood Presbyterian church. -Bring sack lunch, photos, scrapbooking material, cards to organize and create! Contact Connie Dunkelberger for more info!

Not So Fast Food Group

The Not-So-Fast-Food Group is Planning to Get "Stewed" on October 29. Mary Trodden is hosting a "Stew-off" Saturday, October 29, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Regency Park clubroom. The Dunkelbergers are bringing chili, the Hahn's submission is a Dutch oven stew and Mary's offering is a middle-eastern inspired lamb stew. Call or email Mary T. if you are willing to bring appetizers, tossed green salad or a light dessert. Potent potables will be BYOB.

Diggers and Delvers Diggers & Delvers October excursion is scheduled for Friday 21st @ 11:00. We're headed for a Pumpkin Patch near Sumner. Please contact dha1928@gmail

L.I.F.E./Elderhostel

Our very own Marilee Titus volunteers with L.I.F.E./Elderhostel and while it is not affiliated with AAUW, it reflective of our mission. She would like to share some of their upcoming meetings.

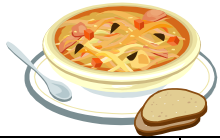
10/4/11 10:00 – noon, *The Gait Stimulator/War Children of Liberia* at Good Samaritan Hospital, Puyallup

10/11/11 10:00 – noon, *Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge: the Reclamation*. To be held at the Refuge.

10/19/11 10:00 – noon, *Analyzing Handwriting: What Does Your Handwriting Say About You?* Pierce County Library Processing & Administration Center

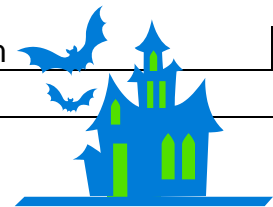
11/2/11 10:30 – 12:30 *Rafting the Marsh Folk of Alaska's Canning River*. Garfield Books.

Each class costs \$10 and there is a \$5 per quarter registration fee. For more info, call Laura Stewart at 253 241-4166.



October 2011 Calendar

Saturday	1	
Sunday	2	
Monday	3	
Tuesday	4	
Wednesday	5	
Thursday	6	Papercrafters 10:30 am at the Lakewood Presbyterian Church
Friday	7	
Saturday	8	
Sunday	9	
Monday	10	
Tuesday	11	
Wednesday	12	
Thursday	13	
Friday	14	
Saturday	15	Branch Meeting, Diversity Anyone? 10-11:30 at UPS, see Page 1
Sunday	16	
Monday	17	
Tuesday	18	
Wednesday	19	Hot Topics 12 noon (lunch), 1:00 Discussion at the Affairs Restaurant Board Meeting 6 pm Hess Conference Room, University Place Library
Thursday	20	
Friday	21	
Saturday	22	
Sunday	23	
Monday	24	6:30.pm Jeannie Sagle hosts the Evening Bookclub
Tuesday	25	
Wednesday	26	10 am Darlene Anderson hosts the Daytime Bookclub
Thursday	27	
Friday	28	
Saturday	29	Not So Fast Food Group 5-8, Regency Park Clubroom
Sunday	30	
Monday	31	



AAUW-TACOMA

Board Meeting

September 14, 2011

Steilacoom Library

MINUTES

Present: Phyllis Izant (President), Dorothy McBride (Financial Officer), Rosetta Brown (Program), Joye Bucklin and Ginny Linstrom (Membership), Darlene Parsons (Secretary)

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, October 19, 2011, 6 p.m.; site to be determined.

CONSENT AGENDA: August 23, 2011 Board Minutes

FINANCE (Dorothy McBride)

- Proposed Budget: no additional questions; to be approved at September 17, 2011 Branch meeting.
- Financial Review of branch records: Committee consisting of Kjeri Boyle, Roxanne Chavis, and John Ufford met with Phyllis. Lee Ann Ufford was also present. There were no notable problems. Some recommendations were discussed including referring a change in the wordage from "audit" to "review" to the Governance Committee.
- Financial Report: a handout of month to month income/expenses will be distributed monthly to board members and available to branch members by request.
- A report on the Greater Tacoma Community Fund was shared and reviewed.
- Branch liability insurance: liability insurance is not required by National AAUW. Our policy is a Fidelity Bonding program recommended by AAUW. There are 3 forms of coverage and Dorothy after further research will make a recommendation. The most feasible seems to be coverage A (\$10,000 limit, \$250.00 deductible at a cost of \$100.00 for 3 years). Dorothy McBride moved that the Governance Committee review the bylaws concerning branch insurance. Motion seconded and approved.

MEMBERSHIP (Ginny Linstrom/Joye Bucklin):

- Updated membership list reviewed. There are 43 paid members to date and contacts continue to be made
- Phyllis and Dorothy will each write an article about themselves for the newsletter.
- We have 2 possible Life Members. Joye will contact national AAUW for application information.

PROGRAM (Rosetta Brown):

- October 15 will be at UPS with Dr. Kim Bobby, Chief Diversity Officer as speaker.
- November 19 to be a program about the new programs at the YWCA.
- December 17 will be as earlier arranged. Possible luncheon arrangements for the music students from Curtis High School who are presenting the program were discussed.
- Other possible program ideas were discussed.
- The sound system was delivered to Rosetta's keeping.

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY RELATIONS AND PUBLIC POLICY (Phyllis Izant/Dorothy McBride): Report on meeting with new UWT chancellor Debra Friedman on August 26. She deferred AAUW membership until she has more information from the university system. Strategy for follow up was discussed.

NEWSLETTER/COMMUNICATIONS/SOCIAL MEDIA:

- The newsletter as published by Rachel Letterman received positive reviews. Next submissions are due by September 23; 250 words or less
- More information was forwarded to Mary Hammond for the tri-fold.
- Directory information not available.

GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT:

- Search for chairs for Public Policy, C/U Relations and Scholarships are ongoing.
- Need to be on national AAUW's scholarship web site soon.

STATE CONVENTION UPDATE (Dorothy and Phyllis)

- Dorothy participated in a conference call to decide the theme, "Equity and Education in Washington State". Next conference call will be to discuss program on October 3.
- Contract with UWT in process.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Darlene Parsons, Secretary

**AAUW-TACOMA
BRANCH MEETING
September 17, 2011
Tacoma Art Museum**

MINUTES

WELCOME (Phyllis Izant)

- Eighteen members present. Marci Howell was introduced as a returning member. Guest, Nancy Bishop, museum docent.

OVERVIEW OF BRANCH (Phyllis Izant)

BRANCH GOALS FOR 2011-2012 (Phyllis Izant)

- Retain branch membership to 60 individuals and beyond
- Bring in one more college or university partner to the branch. We've invited UW Tacoma and await a response
- Hosting the 2012 State Convention scheduled for April 13-15 next year on the UWT campus. Dorothy McBride, Mary Trodden and myself are on the state committee working on this.
- Finish sorting and organizing our branch's archives and report to the branch the conclusion of the effort.

BUDGET FOR 2011-12 (Dorothy McBride)

Following comments, Financial Officer Dorothy McBride moved adoption of proposed budget for 2011-12. Motion seconded and approved.

PROGRAM (Rosetta Brown)

- October 15 Branch meeting will be at the University of Puget Sound with a talk by Chief Diversity Officer, Kim Bobby.
- Introduced Nancy Bishop, docent for the Tacoma Art Museum.

Meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Following a short introductory talk we proceeded to the gallery to review the exhibit of the Photographic Art of Virna Haffner.

Darlene Parsons, Secretary



AAUW Tacoma May 2011, Fircrest Golf Club

Member Biography

By: Dorothy McBride

My mother, Louise Lilly McBride graduated from the University of Montana in 1929 with a B.A. in Spanish. When she became a widow in 1944 and returned to Butte with two small daughters, the significance of that degree grew: she had “something to fall back on”. The three of us spent several summers in Missoula—1948-51—while my mother earned her M. A. in Spanish

and prepared herself for her career as a college professor at Montana School of Mines (now Montana Tech). Mother was also active in the Butte branch of AAUW and became Montana state president in 1952. This early lesson of the importance of education for women ensured that there would never be any question that my sister and I, too, would go to college. Fast forward to 2005, when I retired and moved to

Tacoma. The first night I thought: “Here I’ve moved clear across the country to live and I don’t know anyone.” Remembering mother’s example, I joined the Tacoma branch and started attending branch meetings. Since I had had lots of experience at my university in policy and bylaws, I volunteered to chair the bylaws committee and write a column on public policy. I served as President-elect and then President for two years. The opportunity to participate, find new friends among women

who share my passion for women’s equality and rights, and make a difference in the organization that meant so much to my mother has been priceless.



Louise Lilly McBride

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.

Mission: AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.

Vision: AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education, through research, philanthropy and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls.

Diversity In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks diversity. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class.