

Tacoma Branch News



February 2011

<http://www.tacoma-aauw.org>

tacoma@aauw-wa.org

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

SATURDAY BRANCH PROGRAM

FEBRUARY 19 AT 10:30 a.m.

at the

Tacoma City Association of Colored Women's Club

2316 Yakima Avenue, Tacoma

Join us for the February branch meeting on Saturday, February 19, 2010 at 10:30 a.m. at The Tacoma City Association of Colored Women's Club (CWC). The Colored Women's Club is located at 2316 Yakima Ave. in downtown Tacoma.

The National Association of Colored Women's Clubs was founded in 1885. The Tacoma City Association was founded in 1944. The Association's mission is to promote and improve the education, health, economic and cultural awareness of all citizens regardless of race or ethnic group so that lives and relationships are improved and the quality of the community is enhanced. We will hear from club members and learn more about the "clubs within the club" that operate the association's clubhouse and the community programs that assist citizens in the Hilltop neighborhood and the larger community.

Directions: The clubhouse is a green building that faces Yakima Avenue, but there is a parking lot at the rear of the building. Coming from points west of downtown Tacoma take 19th Street, take a right on Yakima and then take a right at 23rd Street. Drive part way up the hill, make a left turn, then the first left back down to the rear of the building where you will see the parking lot.

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 in 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.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Dorothy McBride

There are lots of things to look forward to in February:

- The second is Groundhog Day
- The twelfth is Wear Red for Women Day
- the fourteenth is Valentine's Day
- President's Day is on the twenty-first

The *Washington Post's* Sara Milbank is even declaring February as Palin-Free Month.

February is also a month for more "barrier breaking" for our branch. On February 19, we celebrate black history by learning about The Tacoma Association of Colored Women's Clubs (CWC), which has been active in the community since 1944. The CWC has a large building that serves as a wonderful space for their programs but not resting on its laurels, has plans for a newer and even better building. The Association's mission is to promote and improve health, education, economic, and cultural awareness so that lives and relationships are improved and the quality of the community is enhanced. Since 1944, the Tacoma CWC has assisted women and families through educational endeavors, civic organizations, and social functions. The club was founded on three guiding principles:

- Help Those in Need
- Hold Ourselves Accountable
- Take Ownership

The CWC's Motto is "Lifting as We Climb". The dialogue between AAUW-Tacoma members and CWC members could be a launching pad for developing new projects together.

February 1 is the day when registration opens for the annual National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) which provides students a great opportunity to hone their leadership skills and become empowered to effect change on campus and in their communities. Tacoma branch awards scholarships to PLU students to attend NCCWSL. This is a worthwhile investment because they return inspired to work on campus and in the community for the AAUW mission. We supported Paige Griffith in 2009. Last fall she applied for and won the right to present "Elect Her—Campus Women Win" a day-long program that encourages women students to run for office on campus and beyond college. Only twenty schools nationwide were selected.

This is a good month to take some time to learn about the issues at stake in the national AAUW elections that start in May. For the first time, all of us will participate in deciding the officers, bylaws, and public policy agenda. Log in to the Member Center at www.aauw.org (using your member number which is in the branch directory). There you can read up on proposed bylaws amendments and the candidates. The public policy proposals are especially interesting. One of them is to include a position against human trafficking for the first time, an encouraging follow up to what we heard at the January branch meeting. At the annual branch business meeting on March 19, we will have an opportunity to learn more about these issues and the voting process.

Finally, February is "Nominating Committee" month. Please do your best to help the committee find nominees for Program Vice President, Treasurer; and three positions for the Governance Committee (the branch consolidated the old Bylaws and Nominating committees into the Governance committee at last year's annual meeting).

PUBLIC POLICY CORNER

By Dorothy McBride

What I learned at AAUW Lobby Day, January 24

“Higher education is the ‘rainy-day fund’ for balancing the state budget.” There is the well-known \$5 billion deficit anticipated for the 2011-13 budget. The voters have rejected the possibility of new general revenue sources. 60% of the budget, including K-12 education and Medicaid, may not be reduced due to constitutional and other protections. Furthermore, unlike other areas under the knife such as social and health services, colleges and universities do have a source of funding: tuition increases. So, expect tuition to rise, however, even tuition has a ceiling, so colleges and universities will sustain more cuts. As tuition increases, many students will be left with enormous debts or be priced out of the opportunity to attend a public college or university at all.

McCleary v. State of Washington has been appealed to the State Supreme Court. This case, brought by the Network for Excellence in Washington Schools (NEWS) and supported by AAUW-WA, charges that the state has failed to meet its constitutional duty stated in Article IX: “It is the paramount duty of the state to make ample provision for the education of all children residing within its borders without distinction or preference on account of race, color, caste, or sex.” The state’s basic education funding in 2008 was \$7 billion, while the actual costs for school districts was more than \$11 billion. The local school districts have to fill in the gap with larger and larger levies. NEWS hopes the Supreme Court will order the legislature to provide full funding.

Governor Gregoire has proposed the creation of a Department of Education to consolidate all education administration. Today, there is no elected official responsible for quality, affordable, accessible public education in the state of Washington. The elected Superintendent of Public Instruction has some authority over K-12, working through local elected school boards. In addition there are separate “pillars”, boards and departments, for community colleges; state universities; and a state board of education with little responsibility to the governor or anyone else. The governor has the department of early learning to manage. The reform would create a Department of Education, with a Secretary appointed by the Governor, which would have all parts of the system—K-12, higher education, early years, and support services. Since it eliminates the elected Superintendent of Public Instruction, there are constitutional implications. The bills needed to adopt this reform will be submitted soon.

AAUW-WA ANNUAL MEETING IN APRIL

AAUW Washington used to have a state convention every year; all branches had delegates (based on number of members) to elect officers and adopt various policy proposals. Beyond the business, the annual convention was an opportunity for AAUW members from across the state to get together, share information and enjoy interesting programs. In 2009, the state bylaws were amended to provide for a state convention every two years, rather than annually, primarily to ease the burden of hosting the conventions on branches. The last state convention was in 2010 in Walla Walla. The next will be in 2012 (location to be determined).

The rules of incorporation still require that AAUW-WA hold an annual meeting. That requirement used to be met through the annual convention. With no convention for 2011, AAUW-WA will hold an annual meeting in Bellingham, at Western Washington University (WWU) on April 16.

How is this annual meeting different from the convention? The main difference is that there is no state business to transact: no election of officers or adoption of policies. The 2011 election will be accomplished by a mail ballot system in March (more about this in the next newsletter). The annual meeting will be one day (8 a.m. to 3 p.m.) rather than two to three days. There will be the same opportunity to enjoy interesting programs, meet members from other branches, and, this year, learn about WWU, explore Bellingham, and have an excuse to stop off at the tulip fields on the way home.

ELECT HER WORKSHOP TO BE HELD AT PLU ON FEBRUARY 26

Pacific Lutheran University partner member of AAUW has been selected as a training site for “Elect Her—Campus Women Win”, a collaboration between AAUW and Running Start, a non-partisan organization with the sole goal of inspiring young women to run for political office (www.runningstartonline.org).

Paige Griffith, a sophomore, inspired by her experiences at the 2009 NCCWSL and on the 2009-2010 AAUW Student Advisory Committee applied to include PLU in the 20 campuses nationwide to hold Elect Her programs. Paige was able to attend NCCWSL with the financial support of the Tacoma branch in 2009. She has done all the work: recruiting speakers, marketing, working with PLU and AAUW; Running Start is sending a facilitator.

Now she needs help from the branch in the form of volunteers to make the program a success on February 26. Volunteer roles may include: registration check-in; set up and clean up; photography; setting out refreshments; counting simulation ballots; mingling with students to talk about AAUW.

Please contact Dorothy McBride if you or any of your friends would like to help at during the training session. We are also seeking assistance from the local chapter of the League of Women Voters.

MEMBERSHIP

Have you heard the latest news?

Nancy Covert, AAUW–Tacoma Branch’s new member of the month—is temporarily filling in for that lucky Wanda Johnson, who’s “vacationing” in Australia.

At the Branch’s November meeting, Johnson asked Nancy to help produce the group’s newsletter—Nancy couldn’t say “no”—so here you have it. She’ll be ensuring that members receive Branch news in a timely manner until March—or thereabout, when Wanda returns back in the US. (Hopefully, Wanda, you’re checking your email!)

In the meantime—who is Nancy?

Originally from the Keystone State (that’s Pennsylvania! Home to many renowned writers such as Nelly Bly (of *Around the World in 80 Days* fame) and mystery writer Mary Roberts Rinehart—said to have been the first woman reporter in Europe during WW I—and also a distant relative of Nancy’s—it’s understandable that, after several side tracks, Nancy arrived in the Evergreen State in 1964. It took a few more wanderings until Nancy earned her Communication Degree from Central Washington University.

Having spent the past three decades acclimating to Pacific Northwest climate, Nancy decided that she likes Washington best. During her Washington state residency, she’s lived on both sides of the state (Tacoma, Seattle, Ellensburg, Moses Lake, Spokane, Olympia and Steilacoom) and even for a brief stint in the Idaho Panhandle where she enjoyed an experience that continues to impact her life (just ask her to tell you the *Saga of Silent Film Actress Nell Shipman!*)

Nancy’s children, two sons and a daughter, are all graduates of Western Washington University. Now her Number one grandson has embarked on his academic career at Washington State University where he’s studying engineering—and recently made the President’s List for the first semester.

Besides her preference for writing for community newspapers, Nancy minored in Dance during her CWU days. She’s also a big history fan, particularly of Women’s History—having coordinated Steilacoom’s Centennial Celebration of Women in 2008. She’s also an author: *Mrs. Orr’s Pear Tree*, Steilacoom Historical School District: Celebrating 150 years of Educating Students, and *Kaniksu Magic*—the later of which is her first novel. Nancy’s stories also have been published in three Puget Sound anthologies.

In addition she’s a Travel Writer and also contributes articles to the *Suburban Times*, *South Sound Magazine*, and *Country Pleasures*. She’s currently completing a short, local history book about Early Newspaper History in the South Sound Region—Steilacoom’s paper, “*The 1855 Puget Sound Courier*,” was the first!

Besides her AAUW membership, she's also a member of Steilacoom's Chamber of Commerce, Steilacoom Historical Museum Association, and the Washington State Grange.

There's lots more she can tell you, but she's saving the "rest of the story" for another time. She's also eager to learn your stories.

Experienced Member of the Month Jane Hahn

When I was in high school, the local branch of AAUW invited all the senior girls to a very fancy tea at the country club. I remember they made us all feel very important and grown up. When my husband and I moved to Tacoma 30 years ago, I complained to my mother that I knew no one, she told me to join AAUW. Thankfully, I listened to her. I am truly thankful for the many friends I have made and for the many interest groups that I have enjoyed with them.

I have held the positions of corresponding secretary, membership vice president twice and scholarship chairman and have been on the nominating committee several times. I have attended both the evening and daytime book sections for many years and helped start the Diggers and Delvers gardening section. I love entertaining and like nothing better than to throw a party. I still have hopes of keeping our gourmet group going.

My husband and I grew up in Indiana and met at Purdue University. We came out to Washington after he was offered a job with the Weyerhaeuser Company. He is now retired and I work part time at Catholic Community Services in the International Foster Care Program. We just bought a different house in Tacoma's north end and are busy working on it and planning the rose garden I have always wanted. If you are in the neighborhood, stop by and I will make you a cup of tea.

Half-Price Dues

Membership dues are half price for State (\$5) and Branch (\$9) and 25% for National dues (\$12.25) at our February "Shape the Future" meeting (\$26.25 covers half the year February-June 2011). Remember National dues are tax deductible except for \$3.

SCIENCE FAIR NEWS

AAUW Tacoma Branch is again working with the South Sound Regional Science Fair held at PLU each year. Rosetta Brown and Connie Dunkelberger are on the Central Committee of SSRSF whose primary corporate sponsor is the Intel Corp. The branch provides monetary awards as well as volunteer judges. The members who have judged or helped with registrations have found this to be a worthwhile and interesting day. The judges for the high school entries should have some background in the category they are judging, however, the judges for the K-8 level need no experience or expertise in areas of science and technology. The fair is Saturday, April 2, 2011. Judges have an orientation while the children are registering and setting up their displays, so it is truly a short-term volunteer opportunity. The Science Fair website is at <http://www.plu.edu/scifair/>

Due to the economic climate, some local businesses, which have given awards and prizes in the past, are not doing so this year, therefore more non-profit organizations are being asked to contribute as AAUW has done for the past three years. If you are a member of an organization or know of a business which might want to participate in giving awards or you want to volunteer to help on the day of the fair please contact either Rosetta at: rosetta_b2000@yahoo.com or Connie at: dunkelberger@harbournet.com . We will email you an additional information sheet to solicit a donation. Awards are often small prizes or books especially at the lower grade levels, where the encouragement and recognition is more important than the monetary value.

MINUTES

Tacoma AAUW
Branch Meeting
January 15, 2011
Steilacoom Library

Phyllis Izant called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m.

The 14 members present shared their comments during check in.

Connie Dunkelberger shared information on the branch involvement in the Science Fair to be held at Pacific Lutheran University on April 2, 2011.

Marilee Titus talked about L.I.F.E. Elder Hostel "In Home".

A new Scrapbooking and Craft section is being formed with Joye Bucklin as chair. The first meeting will be January 31 with site to be determined.

PROGRAM: Holy Names Sister Marilyn Gooley and Dominican Sister Catherine Pendergast presented much informative material on Human Trafficking and the work that these two groups are doing to stop this number one growing crime in the world.

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Darlene Parsons, Secretary

INTEREST GROUPS

New Paper-Craft Interest Group Forms

Mary Hammond and Joye Bucklin started a new interest group—papercrafting, scrapbooking, making cards, whatever creative idea might hit their or your fancy. The first meeting/brainstorming session was held January 31. If you have family pictures that you would like to organize but you can't seem to get started, come join us! Contact Joye Bucklin if you are interested.

Daytime Book Group

February 23, 10 a.m.: *The Wives of Henry Oades* by Johanna Moran. Reviewer: Carolyn Patterson; Host: Darlene Anderson

Evening Book Group Has a Change in Host and the Host Has a New Address

February 28, 6:30 p.m.: *Twenty Chickens for a Saddle* by Robyn Scott. Reviewer: Catherine Sleavin; Host: Kay Suiter. Kay moved to The Villas at Union Park, 2010 S Union, Apt. 403, Tacoma on the last weekend of January. She does not know if she will have the same phone number, but the complex number is 752-6870.

Digger & Delvers

February 4, 11:30 a.m.: Chambers Bay Restaurant for lunch, conversation and bridge walking. Contact Darlene Anderson for reservations.

Hot Topics

Feb. 16, 1-3 p.m. (join us at noon for lunch.) at Green Spot Tea and Art Gallery, 3318 Bridgeport Way W., University Place. Nancy Covert (our Communications major) will be facilitating our discussion of "Communication Challenges in our Wired (often wirelessly) Age." Be prepared to compare and contrast old-fashioned face-to-face communication and hand-written letters with communication by electronic devices like social network sites, email, blogs, mobile phones, and texting. Is anything getting lost? What are the effects of constant connection? RSVP to Mary Hammond before Valentine's Day so that we can have the room set up to hold us all. Can we beat January's attendance of 13? Let's stuff the room!

FEBRUARY 2011 ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

| | | |
|-----------|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tuesday | 1 | |
| Wednesday | 2 | 6 p.m. Board of Directors meeting at Phyllis Izant's home. (See page 6.) |
| Thursday | 3 | |
| Friday | 4 | 11:30 a.m. Diggers & Delvers lunch at Chambers Creek Restaurant. (See page 6.) |
| Saturday | 5 | Happy Birthday to Catherine Sleavin! |
| Sunday | 6 | |
| Monday | 7 | |
| Tuesday | 8 | |
| Wednesday | 9 | |
| Thursday | 10 | |
| Friday | 11 | Happy Birthday to Rosetta Brown! |
| Saturday | 12 | |
| Sunday | 13 | |
| Monday | 14 | |
| Tuesday | 15 | |
| Wednesday | 16 | 1 p.m. Hot Topics at Green Spot Tea Room. (See page 6.) |
| Thursday | 17 | |
| Friday | 18 | |
| Saturday | 19 | 10:30 a.m. Branch Program. (See page 1 for details.) |
| Sunday | 20 | |
| Monday | 21 | |
| Tuesday | 22 | |
| Wednesday | 23 | 10 a.m. Daytime Book Group hosted by Darlene Anderson. (See page 6.) |
| Thursday | 24 | |
| Friday | 25 | |
| Saturday | 26 | Elect Her workshop at PLU. (See page 3 for more information.) |
| Sunday | 27 | |
| Monday | 28 | 6:30 p.m. Evening Book Group hosted by Kay Suiter. (See page 6.) |

NEXT MONTH'S PREVIEW

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|-----------|----|--|
| Friday | 1 | |
| Saturday | 2 | |
| Sunday | 3 | |
| Monday | 4 | |
| Tuesday | 5 | |
| Wednesday | 6 | |
| Thursday | 7 | |
| Friday | 8 | |
| Saturday | 9 | |
| Sunday | 10 | |