



February 2016 P.O. Box 65303, Tacoma, WA 98464

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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.”

News and Events

FEBRUARY BRANCH MEETING

Saturday, February 20, 2016

10am-noon

Carol Milgard Breast Center, 3rd floor

4525 S. 19th Street, Tacoma, WA

253-759-2622



JACKIE OSTRUM: BEHIND THE CURTAIN AT THE MILGARD BREAST CENTER

Join us for the February meeting of Tacoma AAUW when Jackie Ostrom, Executive Director of Carol Milgard Breast Center, will update us on the activities of the breast center, its history, and the critical health disparity statistics that are driving the outreach work done by the center.

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As Executive Director, Jackie Ostrom is one of the key leadership team members of the Carol Milgard Breast Center. She joined the breast center in 2010 where she coordinates the collaboration among the breast center's partners, provides oversight and management of operations, oversees philanthropy and community outreach, and supports the breast center's mission. Jackie has a wealth of experience in all phases of non-profit executive leadership as well as health care experience. Prior to joining the breast center in 2010, Jackie served as a consultant for over 18 years to a wide range of non-profits in Pierce, King and Thurston counties on projects ranging from development audits, capacity building, capital campaigns and strategic plans. She has worked for MultiCare Health System and developed and executed major gift programs for Tacoma General Hospital and Mary Bridge Children's Hospital. She also consulted with the CHI Franciscan Foundation on its capital campaign for Hospice House. Jackie has a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Central Oklahoma and a master's degree in English from California State University.

Next Program: **Saturday, March 19, 2016:** Annual General Meeting

President's Corner

I hesitate to say that January is my least favorite month. I would say, though, that after the holiday season, beginning with Hallowe'en and closing with the New Year, it does seem a bit anti-climactic. Vacation time, visits with friends and family, the anticipation of holiday gatherings, meals, goodies and gifts is all over. It's a cold, dark, often rainy time of the year to endure here in the Pacific Northwest. Some soothe themselves by **looking forward to spring training. Pitchers and catchers report to camp in** mid-February. The rest of the players begin to arrive in subsequent weeks. The pre-season games, taking place in warmer climes, Arizona and Florida to be specific, are a reminder that it's not cold and dark everywhere, that soon the daylight and fine weather will arrive.

If I had my druthers I think I'd prefer to spend January in hibernation!

Ah, but there's too much going on in these chill winter months. No, pulling the duvet overhead is not an option. There are mission projects to consider, Tech Trek candidates to find and fund, and NCCWSL'ers to convey to Washington D.C. There's an annual business meeting to prepare for, officers to nominate, a budget to consider. It's never nap time for AAUW.

AAUW Tacoma Branch
Board of Directors
2015-2016

President
Dana Holt

Membership Vice President
Carol Rikerd

Program Co-Vice Presidents
Dorothy McBride and
Dana Johnson

Tech Trek Chair
Sandy Halvorson

Communications Co-Chairs
Mary Letterman and
LesLee Eicher

Recording Secretary
Donna Woolverton

Finance Officer
Mary Garrett

Governance Committee
Jane Hahn, Diane
Palmquist, and Marilee
Titus

I don't expect I'd find any of my AAUW sisters sitting by a rain-spattered windowpane moping 'til the warm comes back around. You're not the twilight type. You're radiant, and now is the time to shine! Please volunteer. Please donate your energy, enthusiasm and effort. Remember, we're on a mission!

~Dana Holt

Membership News

Happy birthday to our February born sisters!

- 🇺🇸 Karen Irwin
- 🇺🇸 Marisa Peloquin
- 🇺🇸 Catherine Sleavin

If you have friends you'd like to invite to join AAUW, remember dues are half price (\$40) for new members joining before March 15. We also receive a special credit towards a free membership through the Shape the Future membership program for any new members who join at the January 30 meeting in Puyallup.

Please welcome **new member Elena Katrina Skjerping**, graduate of Central Washington University, recruited by Carter Taylor. A directory update has been sent.

Renewals: Member can renew online beginning March 16th. For online renewal directions, please see: <http://goo.gl/5mDo8c>.

~Carol Rikerd

State Legislature

The 2016 Washington State Legislature convened on January 11th for a 60-day session. Within this time frame legislators need to pass a supplemental budget reflecting any adjustments that need to be made to the 2-year budget they passed last session. In addition, in 2016 legislators face significant policy challenges, including trying to come to consensus on how to adequately fund our K-12 education system and overcome other budget constraints. Accomplishing all of this within a “short session”



could be rather challenging as the Legislature remains closely divided with the Democrats controlling the House (50-48) and the Majority Coalition Caucus retaining control of the Senate (26-23).

Did you know that AAUW Washington State has a lobbyist and produces a Weekly Legislative Report this time of year? It is full of timely information of interest to our members (including the above). Check out this link and feel free to comment! Be heard. <http://aauw-wa.blogspot.com/> If you go to the bottom of the page you can sign up for weekly updates while the legislature is in session.

~Mary Letterman

Tech Trek

WE CAN SEND MORE GIRLS TO TECH TREK!

What is Tech Trek? It's a week-long residential STEM camp for 7th grade girls. Sponsored by AAUW and AAUW Washington State, Tech Trek has engaged over 25 branches that select and pay the expenses of local middle school girls, ensuring them a life-changing experience that engages their interest in science and math and sets them on a path for success in education and careers. The Western Washington camp is in our backyard—at Pacific Lutheran University.



Sally Ride, on *Challenger*'s mid-deck during STS-7 in 1983
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sally_Rid

Tacoma AAUW has helped girls to attend Tech Trek since the first camp: 6 in 2013, 11 in 2014, and 15 in 2015. There is great satisfaction seeing the immediate effects of our hard work raising funds and recruiting campers.

It costs \$900 to sponsor one girl for Tech Trek. At present, our branch has \$7200, including \$2500 from branch mission funds, which will support eight campers. But we CAN send more. The Tech Trek committee would like to choose at least 10 girls for the 2016 camp. We need to raise \$1800.

Won't you help? Any amount would be welcome; many branch members have donated in the past.

Here are three ways that you can give a tax deductible donation:

1. *Online by credit card or PayPal:* go to <http://techtrek-wa.aauw.net/>. Use the “Donate” button for the AAUW Tech Trek Program Fund (You will need your member number. Look in the member directory or contact Carol Rikerd for your number.)
2. Make checks payable to AAUW and put Tech Trek WA and Tacoma branch in the memo line. Mail to: AAUW, Attn: STEM coordinator, P.O. Box 98045, Washington, DC 20090-8045.
3. If you want to donate to the branch directly, you can send your gift to the **Tacoma AAUW Projects Fund at the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation.** There are two ways to donate:
 - a. Online at <https://www.gtcf.org/donate-now> or
 - b. make your check out to GTCF with Tacoma AAUW Projects Fund/Tech Trek on the memo line. Mail to The Greater Tacoma Community Foundation, 950 Pacific Avenue, Suite 1100, Tacoma, WA 98402.

~Sandy Halvorson

AAUW Tacoma Branch Grant to PLU for the 2016 “Elect Her” Workshop

At the October 5, 2015 board meeting, the Board agreed to award up to \$1500 to PLU for the 2016 “Elect Her” Program. Due to recent cutbacks in enrollment at PLU, changes have been happening campus-wide since the new President, Thomas Krise, arrived in 2012. The university experienced a 5% budget shortage from 2013-2014. Budgets were tightened again in 2014-2015. The pain continues this academic year. President Krise has stated to the student newspaper that the root cause of the funds shortage has to do with and recent tuition reductions at popular state universities in the area, made possible by increased state funding in the last two budget cycles.

Our state currently fails to fully fund the State Need Grant, a funding source that has been vitally important to the PLU budget. As a result of this cut, PLU backfills any unmet need for its eligible students. Last year, that backfill amounted to \$1.7 million in university institutional funds invested to make up for the state’s inability to fund students who qualify for the help.

The impact of this to PLU Women’s Center has been felt. It has meant budget cutting all around at PLU, with every part of the institution feeling the loss. The operational budget for the PLU Women’s Center, one of the few non-violence related programs on campus, dropped from \$6,000 in the 2014-2015 year to \$4,320 in the current year. Women’s

Center Director and fellow branch member, Jennifer Smith, has informed us the annual “Elect Her” event is a strategic and marquee program at PLU. Your Tacoma branch board agrees.

Given the strategic value of “Elect Her” for women students -- the unique way it builds our branch relationship along with access to local women leaders in their role as elected officials, its continuing contributions to branch recruitment efforts, and our strong historical relationship with PLU -- the board authorized the Finance Officer to respond to a request up to \$1500 for the 2015-2016 year, from reserves, pending a participatory funding decision from the PLU student government association. As a precondition of this funding we required “presenting sponsor” status for the event and creatively “amped” campus publicity. I will attend the March 5, 2016 “Elect Her” event, and I look forward to returning to the branch with a detailed report on the success of the day’s workshop and key takeaways.

~Phyllis Izant

Interest Groups: MeetUp

MeetUp – What is It?

Have you ever wondered what this “MeetUp thing” is?

To put it simply, MeetUp is a website where people announce club meetings. Interest areas range from books, to gardening, to investment, to women’s issues, to foreign languages...anything that one can think of. The MeetUp website describes itself as:

...the world's largest network of local groups. Meetup makes it easy for anyone to organize a local group or find one of the thousands already meeting up face-to-face. More than 9,000 groups get together in local communities each day, each one with the goal of improving themselves or their communities.

Our Tacoma AAUW branch subscribes to MeetUp, and has several groups. Take a look: one might interest you! You can get started by going here:

<http://www.meetup.com/AAUW-Tacoma/>.

Daytime Book Group

The daytime book group meets typically at 10 am. This year we read/are reading the below books. Please contact Marilee Titus if you have questions.

- September: Leaving Time by Jodi Picoult
- October: Home Front by Kristin Hannah
- November: Orphan Train by Christina Baker Kline
- January: Mockingbird Next Door by Marja Mills
- February: The Wright Brothers by David McCullough
- March: An Uncommon Woman by Hannah Pakula
- April: Gray Mountain by John Grisham
- May: the group has a potluck to choose the following year's books.

Diggers and Delvers

Diggers and Delvers usually meets once a month to explore local nurseries or to attend garden tours during the summer months. We sometimes get together to do a project, such as planting bulbs. Our mission is to have fun and share gardening ideas. Please contact Jane Hahn for more information.

Evening Book Group

We convene for all discussions at 6:30 pm. Light refreshments are served. Our lively discussions are led by an AAUW member. The meetings are typically in our homes. This year we read/are reading the below books. We would love to have you join us. Please contact LesLee Eicher if you'd like more information.

- September: What Maisie Knew by Henry James
- October: Pigs in Heaven by Barbara Kingsolver
- November: The Residence by Kate Andersen Brower
- January: Orphan Train by Christina Baker Kline
- February: A Star for Mrs. Blake by April Smith
- March: The Girl on the Train by Paula Hawkins
- April: The Invention of Wings by Sue Monk Kidd
- May: the group has a potluck beginning at 6:00 to choose the following year's books.

Genealogy and Family History

This MeetUp group often has a speaker or a field trip. Have you ever dug into your family history, or charted your family tree? If you have, or would like to get started, this group is for you! Contact Joye Bucklin or Sue McLean for more info.

Hot Topics

The group meets about once a month to discuss important topics of the day, such as: campaigns for minimum wage; the state of mental health treatment; ballot initiatives such as the legalization of marijuana and funding of charter schools; polygamy; and sex trafficking. The topics and time and place for the meeting are chosen by the group, and those who attend investigate the topic before the meeting.

Hot Topics is seeking new leadership. There have been no meetings in the 2015/16 year, and we REALLY MISS it! Are you interested? Please contact Dorothy McBride if you are interested or need more information.

Leadership involves: sending meeting notices to the group; putting a notice in the newsletter for that month's meeting; reserving a location. In starting up the group again, the leader(s) should select a time and place and send out an announcement inviting people to come. Then, the group can plan from there.

Not So Fast Food Group (NSFFG)

The mission of NSFFG is: to eat, drink, and be merry! Who doesn't love to do that? Once a month, this fun group gets together and tries out a new restaurant. Friends, partners, and family members are also welcome to join in.

However...NSFFG is seeking a new organizer. This person will identify restaurants, put a notice in the monthly AAUW newsletter, and call ahead to arrange a reservation. Are you interested? If so, contact Connie Dunkelberger with your questions. Let's get this fabulous social event up and running again!

PaperCrafters

Everyone works on a project of their own. These projects can range from paper crafts to cleaning out your files to genealogy. We meet on the second Thursday of each month from 10:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m. at the Lakewood Presbyterian Church, which has large tables,

so that we can spread out. Participants bring their own snack or brown bag lunch, but coffee or tea are provided. Please contact Connie Dunkelberger for further information.

~LesLee Eicher

February



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|-------------------------------------|---------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| | 1 Board Meeting, 4:30pm | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 Papercrafters, 10 am | 12 Genealogy Group, 1pm | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 Monthly Branch Meeting, 10am |
| 21 | 22 Evening Book Group, 6:30pm | 23 | 24 Daytime Book Group, 10am | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | | | | | |

Useful Links

[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.

[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

Other sites worth checking out:

- [AAUW Washington State Website](#)
- [AAUW Washington State Facebook](#)
- [AAUW Washington State Tech Trek](#)
- [AAUW National Website](#)
- [AAUW National Facebook](#)
- [AAUW Tech Trek Facebook](#)
- [AAUW Public Policy](#)

Editors' Note

Please send notices of events and news to the newsletter team at aauwtacomaneewsletter@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.

~LesLee E., Mary L., Sue S.