



P.O. Box 65303, Tacoma, WA 98464
<http://tacoma-wa.aauw.net/>

www.facebook.com/AAUW.Tacoma/

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

March 2016

Events

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

COME ONE! COME ALL!

to the Sky Lounge at 505 Broadway, Tacoma

Saturday March 19th, 10 am to 12 noon

FEATURING

- Proposal to raise branch dues by \$2
- Finance Review and Consideration of 2016-2017 branch budget
- Election of Officers and Governance Committee member
- Decisions about award of Branch Mission Grants for 2016-2017 (\$5,500 at stake)
- President's annual report

Your Branch Board will provide the potluck spread of goodies along with coffee, tea and water

Keep the Tacoma AAUW ship on an even keel by taking care of our business and showing your support for hardworking volunteer officers and committee chairs!!

March 2016 Contents

- ✓ News & Events:
 - Annual Business Meeting
 - Future Programs
 - Puyallup Branch
- ✓ President's Corner
- ✓ Information for Annual Business Meeting
 - Dues, Budget
 - Officer nominations
- ✓ Branch Mission Funds
- ✓ Membership News
- ✓ Welcome New Member
- ✓ Scholarship Recipient Report
- ✓ MeetUps (Interest Groups)
- ✓ Celebrate Women's History Month
- ✓ Finishing Our Branch Scrapbook
- ✓ Calendar/Save the Date
- ✓ Useful Links
- ✓ Editors' Notes

Directions:

- Drive East on 6th Avenue toward Commencement Bay until 6th Avenue ends at Broadway. Turn left on Broadway; 505 is on the right side with 2 lions "guarding" the entrance.
- Park on the street or in the gravel lot on 4th that is marked for YWCA Staff.
- This is a secure building. If you arrive late and no one is there to let you in, call Dana for entrance to the building: 253-350-3591.
- We will be meeting in the Sky Lounge on the 9th floor.

Future Programs: Sunday, April 17, 2016 – Members' Potluck Tea at Phyllis Izant's home, 2-4 pm ; and

Saturday, May 21, 2016 – Spring Luncheon at Oakhouse Restaurant, 11:30-1:30 pm

Join the Puyallup AAUW Branch for Earthquake Preparedness

The Puyallup Valley Branch of AAUW would like to invite you to their **March 26, 2016** meeting. It will be held at the **Puyallup Library (324 S. Meridian, Puyallup 98371) at 9:45 AM**. The program is titled



"Personal Earthquake Preparedness" and will be presented by Roxanne Castleman of Pierce County Emergency Management.

Join us to gain an understanding of what we need to do to be prepared before, during, and after an earthquake.

President's Corner

It's that time of year again. Time for me to prompt (nag) all AAUW Tacoma branch members to please attend the annual business meeting. How can we apply the will of the branch without the participation of its membership? Be informed! Come hear about the state of our branch, its finances, its current and ongoing projects. We have avid and conscientious voters in our ranks, ones who know the value of their voice and their vote; ones who'd never let a ballot sit on their television and gather dust. Don't be silent when it comes to the decision-making process of your AAUW branch. We need you, Devoted Member, to make yourself heard, your choices known. I've said it before and I'll say it again: ***This is your AAUW.***

Our branch will be allocating mission project funding, electing officers and filling committee positions at this meeting. These decisions will reflect the nature of our branch and how it reinforces the AAUW mission for the coming year. Your involvement is essential.

Finally, I'd like to mention that we really need the position of board Secretary to be filled. It requires an individual willing to attend the monthly Board of Directors meeting, take notes as branch business is discussed and create a brief, coherent report of the proceedings. Please consider volunteering for the basic but critical task.

Also, since I'm on the subject of fulfilling needs, we're still seeking an interest group organizer for Hot Topics (featuring rousing conversations about current events). No experience – only enthusiasm – necessary.

~ Dana Holt

Budget Information for the Annual Business Meeting

PROPOSAL FROM THE BOARD: INCREASE BRANCH DUES BY \$2 -- TO \$23 -- STARTING JULY 2016

At its February 1 meeting, the Board of Directors carefully considered and approved a proposed budget for fiscal year 2016-17 and recommended a \$2.00 increase in branch dues. Members will have the opportunity to vote on both the budget and the dues increase at the March 19 Annual General Meeting.

As you may know, branch administrative expenses may only be paid from dues income. (Branch mission expenses and projects are paid from the branch's GTCF [Greater Tacoma Community Foundation] and Celia Grau Charitable Trust funds.) When dues income is not enough, expenses must be paid from reserves. We are anticipating increases in certain administrative expenses, the largest being insurance. The branch financial bond premium, which is due November 2016, is expected to be greater than the last premium by at least \$50. Additionally, the Programs Committee is running into many situations where the branch must show proof of liability insurance when reserving meeting places. The Board has now approved branch liability insurance, which is due annually (\$200). Member recruitment benefits from branch membership in the commercial social media platform, MeetUp, for which we pay dues. The branch maintains a USPS box. These are some of the costs anticipated to rise. At this time, total proposed administrative expenses are \$1,375; if dues remain at \$21 and our membership remains at \$60, we will be required to dip into reserves (*).

Accordingly, the Board proposes an increase of branch dues by two dollars, from \$21 to \$23 for fiscal year 2016-17. Please be aware that the Board, in making this recommendation, has thoughtfully studied next year's budgeting needs and anticipated membership. This action is necessary in order to maintain quality of branch events and programs and to prevent the use of branch reserves in order to meet the annual budget.

Dues increase must be approved by membership; specifically, a two-thirds majority of members attending the annual business meeting must vote to approve the two-dollar increase. Please join us on Saturday, March 19, to vote for our branch's sustainability! Thank you!

() Yearly membership fluctuates; and thanks to the efforts of our VP/Membership, the branch has reached 60 paid members. We cannot count on consistent dues income from 60 memberships. One way you can help is to remember to invite people you know to our events and encourage more members.*

PROPOSED BUDGET 2016-2017

		2016-17 BUDGET	2015-16 BUDGET	2014-15 ACTUAL
INCOME:				
Net Dues @ \$23/member		\$1,380 (with 60 paid members)	\$1,260	(59 paid) \$1,239
Celia Grau Trust		\$4,943.79	\$3,922.13	\$3,586.02
GTCF				
<i>Distribution</i>		\$2,100	\$2,300	\$2,200
<i>Fund Raising</i>		\$0	\$ 0	\$ 0
*****TOTAL INCOME		\$8,423.79	\$7,482.13	\$7,025.02

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES (paid from dues):				
Commercial Crime Insurance		\$ 250.00	\$ 0	\$ 0
Branch Liability Insurance		\$ 200.00	n/a	n/a
Communications		\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 513.06
Governance Committee		\$ 150.00	\$0	\$0
Member Directories		\$ 125.00	\$ 225.00	\$ 192.12
Officers' Expenses		\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 180.00
Membership & Hospitality		\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 64.21
Gift & Cards Fund		\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL ADMIN. EXPENSES		\$1,375.00	\$ 875.00	\$ 949.39
MISSION EXPENSES (\$7,043.79 available from GTCF & Grau Trust):				
Conventions (Ntl. & State)		\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00	\$0
Scholarships and Grants		\$5,500.00	\$5,000.00	\$3,500.00
Programs		\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00	\$ 501.39
Tech Trek		\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 77.65
Public Policy		\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 75.00
TOTAL MISSION EXPENSES		\$7,150	\$6,650.00	\$4,154.04
*****TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE and MISSION EXPENSES		\$8,525.00	\$7,525.00	\$5,103.43

NOTES:

- Administrative expenses are \$5 less than dues income.
- Mission expenses are \$106.21 more than the Grau Trust & GTCF distributions.
- Proposed 2016-17 Scholarships/Grants include: Tech Trek, NCCWSL, PLU Women's Center/Elect Her.

- Communications includes: USPS Box rental, newsletter distribution, Meetup dues.
- In fiscal year 2015-16, Board of Directors approved expenditures from Reserves as follows:
 - Liability Insurance \$254.50;
 - PLU Women’s Center-up to \$1,500.

~ Mary Garrett

Officer Nomination Information for the Annual Business Meeting

These candidates are running unopposed:

- Vice-President for Membership: Carol Rikerd
- Governance Committee: Stella Jones

This position does not have a nominee:

- Secretary: --

Please consider nominating yourself for Secretary. (This position could also be shared by two people.) The Branch Secretary maintains the bylaws and policies of the AAUW branch and ensures that accurate and sufficient documentation exists to meet legal requirements. The secretary shall be responsible for the minutes of the AAUW branch, and assist in such matters as may be delegated by the president.

~ Marilee Titus

Branch Mission Funds: Where Do They Come From?

At the March 19 Business meeting, the branch members will award \$5,500 in grants for projects that further the branch mission to break down barriers to equity for women and girls. Where do we get this money? Most branches promote the AAUW goal of philanthropy by raising funds from members or staging yearly fundraisers such as book sales and kitchen tours. Tacoma branch benefits from the hard work and generosity of members who have gone before us. We have yearly income from the AAUW fund at the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation (GTCF) and the Celia Grau Trust.

GTCF: Over 25 years ago, Tacoma branch established a permanent endowed fund with the Community Foundation. Its value generally is between \$50,000 and \$55,000 dollars. Each year, based on Foundation policy, the branch receives a distribution of the income from the fund, usually around \$2,200. These funds must be used to promote the mission of AAUW to promote equity for women and girls.

Celia Grau Trust: The branch budget for 2016-2017 lists income from Celia Grau received in December—over \$4000! Who *was* Celia Grau and why do we get this money? Celia was 24 when women got the vote in Washington and it’s nice to think that she was one of the first to cast her ballot. Born in Wisconsin, she graduated from Bryn Mawr, then taught French at the University of Puget Sound. Rilla, as her friends called her, was active in Tacoma branch of AAUW in the 1950s and early 1960s. Her friends

remembered her as very popular and an elegant hostess in her homes in Steilacoom and later north Tacoma. Her husband, Alfred Grau, invented a juicing machine. When Alfred died, Celia sold the patent to Vitamix (a company that still specializes in high quality blenders) and invested in real estate and stocks and bonds. She had a knack for investing and left a large estate when she died in 1980 at the age of 95. The Tacoma branch receives a percentage of the income from a trust she established. We share this income with UPS, University of Wisconsin, Bryn Mawr, the Tacoma Rescue Mission and the Animal Shelter among others. The Celia Grau Trust allows our branch to support active projects related to AAUW's mission of equity for women and girls.

~ Dorothy McBride

Membership News

Happy birthday to our March born sisters!

- ✚ Sarah Aaron
- ✚ Margo Fleshman
- ✚ Diane Mikhlin
- ✚ Dolora Neumaier
- ✚ Darlene Parsons
- ✚ Marisa Peloquin
- ✚ Marilee Titus

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 toward 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 Skjerpig**, 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

Welcome New Member: Marisa Peloquin

Marisa Peloquin was born in Taipei, Taiwan to Merlin Armstrong (deceased) and Shu-Yu Marie Armstrong. Her parents, neither of whom graduated from high school, impressed upon her the importance of education. She attended Curtis High School, and after graduating, her father encouraged her to try Army ROTC. She accepted a four-year ROTC scholarship at the University of Tampa and finished her degree at Seattle University. She also holds a Master of Business Administration from Saint Martin's University.

Marisa was commissioned into the United States Army (Quartermaster



Corps) and went to Germany for her first assignment. She deployed to Southwest Asia with the 10th Special Forces Group during Operation Desert Storm. After her overseas tour, Marisa served in the 82nd Airborne Division as a jumpmaster and company commander.

After nearly ten years on active duty, she then transitioned into the U.S. Army Reserve (USAR) as an Assistant Professor of Military Science at Pacific Lutheran University. Marisa has spent the past 16 years in the USAR in various assignments, including battalion and brigade command. She holds the rank of colonel and currently serves as the Chief of Staff for the 102nd Training Division (Maneuver Support).

Marisa has been active in her community, volunteering as a PTA president and as a region director on the WA State PTA board of directors. She also serves on the board of directors for the Friends of the Fort Lewis Military Museum. In addition, she was actively involved in Citizens for U.P. Schools and Project 5:1. Marisa is a 28th LD Senate candidate (D).

Marisa has been married to her husband, Michel Peloquin, for over 20 years. Together, they have two children: Gregory, 17, is a senior at Curtis High School and has been accepted to the American Honors program at Pierce College. Greg has danced ballet for over 13 years. Spencer, 10, is a fifth-grader at Drum Intermediate. He enjoys wrestling and running.

What Are They Up To? Scholarship Recipient Jacqueline Harmon Reports



I am proud of my connection to the American Association of University Women (AAUW), and its work of advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. I received an AAUW scholarship award during my first year at Pacific Lutheran University. It was an encouraging and needed gift, when I had returned to college as a single mother. In that same year, I served as Chair of Student Media, while majoring in English, singing with the women's choir, and performing as a freelance soloist around campus. After graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1998, I continued to lead something of a renaissance life. I co-authored an original production titled Blackbird Singing for educational outreach with the Broadway Center for the Performing Arts in 2000. I performed as a spoken word artist, creating special event pieces until 2007. For the past ten years, I have been an Educational Assistant for Tacoma and Franklin Pierce Schools, providing a variety of instructional support to classroom teachers in K-12 education. It has been my pleasure to spur students, especially young girls, on to excellence. I continue to sing and perform locally, as I plan to release some original recordings and eventually retire into singer-songwriting.

Celebrate Women's History Month

A good way to celebrate women this month is to make a donation to AAUW. The two areas where donations will make an impact on this area are: Tech Trek (STEM camp for 7th grade girls held at PLU) and Virginia Cummings NCCWSL (National Conference of College Women Leaders) fund, which funds scholarships to the held at NCCWSL at the University of Maryland. Priority for the Cummings NCCWSL fund goes to college students of Pierce County and Washington. All funds donated by April 1, 2016 will be used for scholarships for the conference held June 2-4, 2016.

Donations to both these funds can be made online at www.AAUW.org. Click the orange donate box at the top on the homepage. Scroll to the prompts to **Search for a specific program:** then to: **Other special funds and giving circles**. Both Virginia Cummings NCCWSL and Tech Trek can be found there. These two AAUW programs can be life changing events for college women and middle school girls.

~Connie Dunkelberger

Finishing Our Branch Scrapbook

With the help of a few other branch members the Papercrafters group is working on finishing the AAUW Tacoma branch scrapbook started a few years ago by a former member who is now living in Texas. We typically work on it during our monthly Papercrafters gathering; however, we will be having extra work days and/or asking members to do their part by writing short stories of their own AAUW experiences and/or items about members who have died or moved out of the Tacoma area.

To celebrate Women's History month I hope you will write something about or to a woman who has inspired you.

~Connie Dunkelberger

Interest Groups: MeetUp

Hot Topics

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.

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.

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.

Paper Crafters

Thursday, March 10 from 10 am to 2 pm.

Papercrafters will meet at the Lakewood Presbyterian Church, 8601 - 104th Street SW, Lakewood.

We meet each month for four hours (or less) of uninterrupted time to work on our own projects. Bring your own brown bag lunch or snack. Coffee and tea are available.

If you haven't been attending and/or you do not have a project to work on we still need help in finishing the branch scrapbook, which was started a few years ago. This is an opportunity to help sort Tacoma Branch's pictures and historical documents.

We also need pictures, writings and items you think should be included in the scrapbook or

sent to our archives at the State Historical Research Center.

Contact Connie Dunkelberger at 565-7518 for more information and directions to the church. All are welcome to come to this group.

**Genealogy and Family History Group
Friday, March 11 from 1 pm to 3 pm**

Genealogy and Family History Group will meet at the main branch of the Tacoma Public Library, in the Northwest Room. 1102 Tacoma Ave S, Tacoma.

Contact Sue McLean or Joye Bucklin if you are interested in being on our contact/reminder list for meetings. If you'd like a reminder email + update on the presentation topic, email either Joye: bucklj@comcast.net or Sue: ds98332@gmail.com

**Not So Fast Food Group returns!
Sunday, March 13 at 4 pm**

Join the Not So Fast Food Group (NSFFG) to celebrate St Patrick's Day at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Tacoma. 1001 N. J St., Tacoma, WA; use the entrance to the hall on 11th St.

There will be corned beef and cabbage for dinner and Irish singers and dancers to entertain us. All for just \$10 per person! Family and friends are encouraged to attend. All are welcome!

Please RSVP to Jane Hahn or Connie Dunkelberger by March 12th so we can save enough seats.

**Daytime Book Group
Wednesday, March 23 at 10 am.**

The Daytime Book Group will be reading An Uncommon Woman by Hannah Pakula in March.

Reviewer: Jane Hahn
Hostess: Connie Dunkelberger

**Evening Book Group
Monday, March 28 at 6:30 pm**

The Evening Book Group will meet on March 28 to discuss The Girl on the Train by Paula Hawkins.

Reviewer: LesLee Eicher
Hostess: Robin Larson

March



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 Board Meeting 4:30 pm	8	9 Papercrafters, 10 am	10 Genealogy Group, 1 pm	11	12
13 Not So Fast Food Group, 4 pm	14	15	16	17	18	19 Annual Business Meeting 10 am
20	21	22	23 Daytime Book Group, 10 am	24	25	26
27	28 Evening Book Group 6:30 pm	29	30	31		

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 aauwtaconanewsletter@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.