



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

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

January 2017

[Events and News](#)

As Goes Pierce County: What our own backyard can teach us about the 'New Normal' of the 2016 Election.



Speaker: Ben Anderstone, Progressive Strategies NW

Location: Tacoma Public Library Main Branch
1102 Tacoma Av. S.
Olympic Room

Unpack the strangest election in history with a local expert! Ben will take a look at the national dynamics around education and socioeconomics, through the lens of Pierce County. Pierce County is actually a fantastic microcosm of the national environment, from the Democratic swing of college-educated folks to the Republican swing of working-class whites who've felt economic turmoil. This is a great opportunity to understand the political world and its consequences for issues dear to AAUW Tacoma.

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Ben Anderstone is a political consultant with Progressive Strategies NW, a local firm that provides full-serve consulting to local candidate and issue campaigns and organizations. A self-proclaimed data nerd, Ben is a devout student of political

behavior and voting patterns. His writing on politics regularly appears in regional news sources including the Seattle Times, The News Tribune, Crosscut, and Seattle Weekly. Ben is a proud native of Tacoma's North End, and now lives in Downtown Seattle.

Note: Pay parking on the street is limited to 90 minutes. *However, the lot adjacent to the library charges \$1.00 per hour and the money goes to the library.*

Upcoming programs



Monday, January 30, 2017: AAUW Washington State Lobby Day. We are considering convening at St. John's Episcopal Church, which is walking distance to the Capitol and office buildings. Check out the AAUW Washington State Website for more details, <http://aauw-wa.aauw.net/>.

Saturday, February 18: Speaker Georgia Lomax Director, Pierce County Libraries

Saturday, March 18: Annual Branch Business Meeting

Saturday, April 22, 2017: AAUW Washington State Annual Meeting. It will be held at Cedar River Watershed Educational Center near North Bend. Click [here](#) for photos of the venue. Those who need to stay overnight can find hotels in Issaquah.

AAUW Tacoma Branch Board of Directors

2016-2017

- President: Dana Holt
- Membership Vice President: Carol Rikerd
- Program Vice Presidents: Dorothy McBride and Dana Johnson
- Communications Co-Chairs: Mary Letterman and LesLee Eicher
- Recording Secretary: Dolora Neumaier
- Finance Officer: Phyllis Izant
- Governance and Development Committee: Chair Diane Palmquist, members Stella Jones and Jane Hahn
- College and University Relations: Phyllis Izant
- Public Policy: Linda Isenson

Saturday, May 20: Annual Spring Luncheon: Celebration of Tacoma Branch 110th anniversary.

President's Corner



I have to admit, I'm a little worried. I find myself concerned about the oddest little things sometimes, yet it seems that somehow, somewhere down the line, these odd things unexpectedly become valid items for worry. Case in point: Reality TV. Herein, I will reveal to you, with a tinge of embarrassment, that yes, I regularly partake of the TV “drug,” and here are the programs from this genre I've found myself mildly invested in: “America's Top Model” (the first several seasons), “Chopped,” and “Top Chef.”

Yeah, I'm a sucker for a cooking show in spite of that fact that I myself cook purely out of necessity. “Top Model” I can't really justify except that it's a show about young women working toward a legitimate, if highly selective and unlikely, career path. I found the hidden “mechanics” behind modeling interesting and enlightening, and some of the contestants quite fascinating. I could have probably done without the purposely-generated and overly-scripted squabbling inherent in this type of programming, but I tolerated it.

In spite of being somewhat drawn in by this phase of television “entertainment,” I have indeed, from its inception, found it worrisome. Its basis is too often focused on fighting. Back-biting, vicious personal attacks and ignorant comments/views aired without embarrassment or regret, usually set within a family, friendship, or retail business dynamic, are the drivers behind many of the most popular programs. Rudeness and put-downs are the order of the day. Another feature, one that goes hand in hand with fighting, and the aspect that originally attracted me, is competition. What an idea! Make fussing, duplicity and nastiness part of a game show! What do we get? “Survivor!” I know I'm not the only one aware of the connotation that survival is a life or death matter. The implication is that those other than the survivor, die. I drew the line on cooking shows when they came up with “Cutthroat Kitchen.” And “Cupcake Wars”? Really?



Believe it or not, I was once an athlete. I played softball, basketball, soccer. I bowled and shot firearms competitively and played pool for fun. Call me old fashioned, but I believe in sportsmanship. My philosophy about trash talk is that any negativity put out by an individual is carried inside them. Any vitriol spewed at one in the heat of

a match, as a tactic, is generated within the individual putting it out. That's where it lives and festers. How would that ever affect me more than the person harboring it? Plus, why tear someone down when there's a chance that s/he might wind up being your teammate one day? As for winning, yeah, it's fun, but there's a big difference between competing with someone skilled on a fair field of play and beating them, versus having them make a mistake, scratching on the eight-ball for instance, and losing. That's not victory. That's luck. Admittedly, one thing I lacked when it came to sports and competition, was the killer-instinct. I always PLAY for FUN.

So, here we are, heading into a new year, perhaps a pivotal one. Are you worried? We have a reality television icon preparing to take office as the President of the Unites States. I think it's time to set aside our penchant for titillation in the face of THIS reality. Our prurient interests could truly wind up being our downfall if we don't make the choice to stand against the incivility, cruelty, vile behavior, evil in our neighborhoods, our society and our politics. Negative rhetoric must be challenged. Do we really want a nation where only the strong survive, where the deck is stacked in favor of those willing to participate in cutthroat behavior, to cheat whoever they must in order to "win"? Remember the concept of citizenship? AAUW is an organization striving for the idea of a fair shake. We play to win, we stand on the shoulders of those who came before, we raise up our fellows; we don't tear them down just to take the lead. There's nothing frivolous about fighting. This is not a game! We fight the good fight and it's the only thing worth fighting for.

BEHIND EVERY
SUCCESSFUL *woman*
IS A TRIBE OF OTHER
successful WOMEN,
WHO HAVE *her back*.

~ Dana Holt, President

Tech Trek

We can send more girls to Tech Trek!

It costs \$900 to sponsor one girl for Tech Trek. At present, our branch has \$4,300, including \$2,500 from branch mission funds, that will support only 5

campers. But we CAN send more. The Tech Trek committee would like to choose at least 10 girls for the 2016 camp. We have grant applications in process, but there is no guarantee they will be successful. **We need to raise \$4,700!**

What is Tech Trek?

It's a week-long residential STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) 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.

Tacoma AAUW has helped girls to attend Tech Trek since the first camp: 6 in 2013; 11 in 2014; 15 in 2015; and 14 in 2016. As we saw at the October 15, 2016 branch meeting, there is great satisfaction seeing the immediate effects of our hard work raising funds and recruiting campers.

Please donate!

Any amount would be welcome. Many branch members have donated in the past. Here are two ways you can give a tax deductible donation:

1. Online by credit card or PayPal: go to <http://techtrek-wa.aauw.net/>.
 - a. Use the "Donate" button for the AAUW Tech Trek Program Fund;
 - b. Select Tech Trek WA, PLU from drop down menu;
 - c. You will need your member number. Look in the member directory or contact Carol Rikerd for your number.

Girls who completed precalculus in 2009



87%

of respondents had completed algebra II, compared with 78 percent of female students and 73 percent of male students nationally.

2. By mail.

a. Make checks payable to AAUW and put Tech Trek WA and Tacoma branch in the memo line.

b. Mail to: AAUW, attn: Finance, 1310 L St. NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20005

Thank you for supporting girls in Tech Trek!

~ Dorothy McBride

[Membership](#)

AAUW History



The year 2017 will mark our branch 110th birthday. In 1907, the Association of Collegiate Alumnae founder Ellen Richards spoke about a research survey that questioned whether college educated women were being compensated for their work at the same pay as their male peers. Hmmm. One-hundred-ten years later – and equal pay for equal work is still an issue. The [history of AAUW](#) is available on the national website.

Welcome!

Our December Luncheon brought us new member Penny Loucas. We also regained Jo'el Roth. Joining us in January will be Lisa Dreyer and Diane Tilstra. Welcome new and renew! We are, indeed, stronger together.

Happy birthday to our January-born members!

- Linda Isenson
- Diane Palmquist
- Carter Taylor



Further Reading

History will be made in 2017 (for good or ill)! In recognition of that, here are two articles from the national AAUW site that members should read.

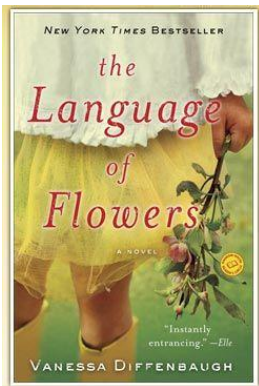
- An informative article on political advocacy at <http://www.aauw.org/resource/political-vs-partisan-guide/>
- A very interesting article about how the appointment of new cabinet members impacts women and girls, particularly incoming Secretaries of Education, Labor, Justice and Health and Human Services, at <http://www.aauw.org/article/trump-cabinet-picks-must-face-full-and-fair-vetting-process/>

~ Carol Rikerd, Membership

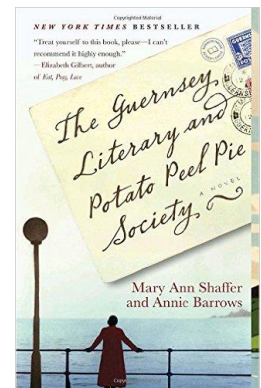
Interest Groups (MeetUps)

Book Groups

Daytime



The Daytime Book Group will meet on Wednesday, January 18 at 10 am at Carter's home to discuss *The Language of Flowers*, by Vanessa Diffenbaugh. Dolora will review. To RSVP, call Jane.



Evening

The Evening Book Group will meet on Monday, January 23 at Dorothy's home at 6:30 pm to discuss *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows. Mary H. will review.

Diggers and Delvers

Diggers and Delvers will not meet in January.



Genealogy Group

Join us on Friday, January 6 at 1 pm for a tour of the Steilacoom Historical Museum. Come

early, at 11:30, for lunch at the Bair Bistro, 1617 Lafayette St in Steilacoom. (You may know this location as the Bair Drug Store.) All are welcome.

Not So Fast Food Group

The Not So Fast Food Group will not meet in January.

Papercrafters



Papercrafters will meet on Thursday, January 12th, 10 a.m. - 2.p.m. at the Lakewood Presbyterian Church, 8601 104th St., SW.

Our main task will be to continue work on the branch scrapbook, which needs to be finished by our May meeting. Bring your own bag lunch or snack. Coffee and tea are provided.

If you have anything which might belong in the Branch Scrapbook, or that should be taken to the archives to preserve our history, please call Connie at 565-7518.

[Stay Connected with AAUW!](#)

Check your email for the latest copy of the AAUW-WA *Evergreen Leader*, or get it here: <http://aauw-wa.aauw.net/>.

The 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 members' 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 comment and 'like'. 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. 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/>

AAUW Washington Pinterest. Do you “pin”? Have you ever wondered what other Washington Branches are reading in their book groups or what other types of interest groups are out there? Check out AAUW Washington State’s Pinterest Page at <http://www.pinterest.com/AAUWWA/>

Useful links

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>

Communications Team Note

We welcome your ideas for interest groups, activities, priorities, recruitment, and anything else! Our goal is to attract new members by expanding our social media presence ([Facebook](#) and [Website](#)). We’d like to use our [MeetUp Tool](#) to reach out to other Tacoma-area groups.

Editors’ Note

Please send notices of events and news to the newsletter team at aauwtacomaneewsletter@gmail.com. You can send photos as well. Please send by the **16th of the month** unless otherwise noted. 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.

~Mary Letterman and LesLee Eicher, AAUW WA Communications Co-Chairs

January 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6 Genealogy Group: 1 pm	7
8	9 Board Meeting: 4:30 pm	10	11	12 Papercrafters: 10 am-12 pm	13	14
15	16	17	18 Daytime Book Group: The Language of Flowers 10 am	19	20	21 Branch Meeting: "As Goes Pierce County" 10am-12 pm
22	23 Evening Book Group: The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society 6:30 pm	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4