



TACOMA (WA)  
BRANCH



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.”

## September 2017

### Events and News

**Join us for a studio tour and conversation with DeAnne Hamilton, KBTC General Manager**



**When:** Saturday, September 16, 2017, 10:00 am

**Where:** Bates College  
Technical Campus  
2320 S. 19th Street in Tacoma

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DeAnne Hamilton of Bates Technical College is Executive Director and General Manager of KBTC Public Television, bringing more than 30 years of media experience to her position. Most recently she served as general manager of WESA FM in Pittsburgh, PA. Prior to joining WESA, she was director of broadcast services & general manager of WKAR public TV and radio at Michigan State University. She also served as VP and TV Station Manager at KQED in San Francisco. As a native Oregonian, DeAnne is thrilled she and her family have returned to the great Pacific Northwest, and that she can make a difference on the Hilltop in Tacoma and from British Columbia to Northern Oregon and all Westside Washington points in between. DeAnne is a 1977 graduate of University of Washington receiving a B.A. in Editorial Journalism.

## Details on Parking:

Attendees should park in the back of the Advanced Technology Building (ATB) in the big parking lot. Access to the parking lot is from the Trafton Street entrance to the campus. Turn onto Trafton from South 19th and then immediately right into the parking lot. The ATB is the newer building to the west of the TV station. See the map at:

<http://www.bates.ctc.edu/about-bates/campus-locations/centralmohler-campus-location>

## Accessibility:

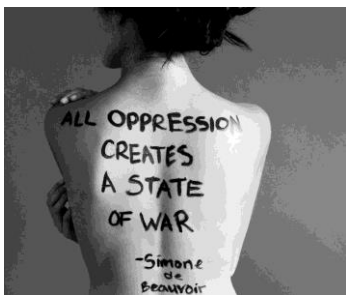
There are ADA ramps to get up onto the sidewalk from the parking lot and there are no steps to get into the conference room. There is a small patio outside the conference room that people can walk across from the sidewalk and then into the conference room. There will be signs pointing people to the conference room.

## Studio Tour:

For those who wish to participate, after DeAnne gives her talk, we'll have a walking tour of the Advanced Technology Building and then through the station.

### President's Corner

I will be blunt. It is hard for me to concentrate on day-to-day tasks (like writing this letter) when it feels like our country is coming apart at the seams. Ill-sewn seams, as it turns out. Like the Creature from the Black Lagoon, the monsters of misogyny, religious intolerance, and racism rise again, never truly defeated. A weary nation, we looked away, wrongly thinking the fight was won.



I will be brief. For AAUW, this makes our efforts in the fight for equality for women that much more important. As a woman in her sixth decade, if I am shaken by the hostile attitudes towards women gaining voice from

classroom to boardroom, how vulnerable must our girls and young women feel?

But I will be hopeful. We are part of a long tradition of fierce, opinionated women. Women who see that we fight not for ourselves but the daughters of our daughters and sons. And we have allies. We are stepping

## AAUW Tacoma Branch Board of Directors

### 2017-2018

- President: Susan Hesselgrave
- Membership Vice President: Carol Rikerd
- Program Vice Presidents: Phyllis Izant and Peg Dempsey
- Communications Co-Chairs: Mary Letterman and LesLee Eicher
- Recording Secretary: Dolora Neumaier / Connie Dunkelberger
- Finance Officer: Diane Palmquist
- Governance and Development Committee: Chair Dana Holt, members Linda Isenson and Donna Woolverton
- College and University Relations: Phyllis Izant
- Public Policy: Linda Isenson

into a new understanding of how our struggles intersect ineluctably with those of people of color, religious minorities, and all who are disenfranchised.

What I will not be is silent. We must not be bridled. I will not be appeased by the comfortable illusion of living in this “safe” state of Washington, where women’s voices have long been heard. We must not be complacent, thinking the insidious theft of our hard-won freedom is far from us, in places like Texas, Ohio, or Mississippi. The struggle is here: children losing their mothers through deportation; the hostile work environment for women in tech; college students facing homelessness due to rising rents.



Our AAUW Tacoma Branch is replete with accomplished women of substance. I am honored to be counted in your number.

~ Susan Hesselgrave, President

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### June AAUW National Elections – Results

AAUW announced the results of the national election in June. You can see full details at <http://www.aauw.org/resource/national-election/>. On AAUW National's website, the 2017 election was characterized as a "great success," with 11.49% of members voting — more than double the 5% quorum required by our bylaws.

Perhaps of most interest to voters, neither of the bylaws amendments concerning membership received enough votes to pass. The amendment to reduce quorums to 3% also did not pass. It was announced that the outgoing board of directors has approved a \$10 dues increase beginning with the 2018-2019 fiscal year. As a result of member survey responses, there will not be an AAUW convention in 2019. There was a high negative member response regarding bi-yearly meetings. Because 2020 is the 100th anniversary of universal women’s suffrage in the United States, AAUW will hold a national meeting that year. The location will be announced in future.

AAUW Bylaws

Proposal Topic	Pass	Yes	No	Did Not Vote
1. Advocate category of membership	No*	5,728	2,913	724
2. Eliminate degree requirement	No	3,456	5,519	390
3. Moving section on appealing membership	Yes	5,886	1,897	1,582
4. Change Nominations Committee appointment date	Yes	7,378	933	1,054
5. Eliminate specific voting methods	Yes	6,735	1,550	1,080
6. Allow board members to serve as committee chairs	Yes	6,538	1,865	962
7. Change Public Policy Program to Public Policy Priorities	Yes	7,593	833	939
8. Change the quorum to 3 percent	No*	5,400	3,084	881

## Membership

Thank you to the 46 members who have renewed for 2017-2018. Our branch needs and appreciates every member, so please renew. Member renewal paper forms, with online renew instructions, have been mailed.

The 2017-2018 Member Handbook / Directory should be available to pick up at the September 16 meeting.

### **Happy Birthday wishes to our August- and September-born members:**

- Julie Anderson
- Dana Holt
- Laurie Jinkins
- Robin Larson
- Sue Mclean
- Dolora Neumaier
- Diane Palmquist
- Catherine Sleavin



Happy birthday, too, to anyone born over the summer months whose birthday we couldn't celebrate!

### **Remembering Helen Sohlberg: May 8, 1920 – August 16, 2017**

Some of us live unselfishly. Helen was one of that special group. Jane told me she was in the hospital a few days ago, and asked if we could send a card. The next day Jane emailed Helen was gone.

I realized how little I knew about her, even though I've chatted with her at meetings. Helen was active in many civic groups. Here's a little of what she gave to Tacoma and Pierce County, recounted by other branch members.

- Helen was an active member and supporter in the South Sound Mountaineers. She was honored for 60 years of involvement in 2011. That means she joined in the 1950's.
- Helen joined AAUW in 1943 at age 23. She had a BA in Botany and a BA in Scandinavian Studies from University of Washington. She also had a MA in Counseling from UW. She was part of the Tacoma Branch Board in 1949 when the national convention was in Seattle. She could not attend, because of her teaching schedule. Helen is a Tacoma Branch gift honoree 1964-65. She was active in the morning book group, and often hosted the meetings. Helen was our longest lifetime member – 74 years.
- In 1952, Helen was teaching Swedish language classes at Tacoma Public Library. She was noted and commended in a 1952 article in the American Scandinavian Foundation journal.

- Also in the 1950's, Helen was an active member of the League of Women Voters, and a leader in fighting the corrupt city government by transforming the 'strong' Mayor system to the Council-Manager government system. She attended League meetings, hosted meetings in her home, and provided coffee and cookies up through this year. That's another 60+ years of civic service.
- Helen was also Co-President of the Pierce County School Retirees' Association last year.

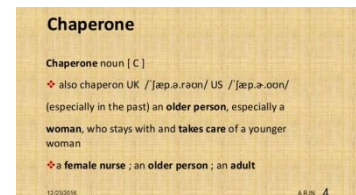
Our culture does not place high value on the lives of women who do not marry. Anyone looking at what this single woman accomplished in her 97 years should take umbrage at the carelessness of such a judgment. The selfless lives of single woman like Helen can build a city, a county and a nation one volunteer hour at time. Honor is due them, and due our Helen Sohlberg.

~ Carol Rikerd, Membership

## Tech Trek

WANTED: Guardians of the Galaxy

Yes, we need YOU, or other female family, co-workers, neighbors or friends to qualify and serve as Tech Trek dorm monitors during 2018 (PLU, EWU or a third campus still being finalized ).



Each camp can promise 16 hour days and all the institutional food you can stomach. Anyone can go to the beach for a vacation, but for a real break in routine, imagine yourself nurturing the young women who will create the future. (7-day time commitment, 6 days with campers)

Other features of this special AAUW "resort style" program are sharing a dorm bathroom with a group of adolescents, assisting Teachers by passing out papers AND collecting trash.



But there's more! You can participate in REAL TIME fire alarm evacuations complete with fire trucks (we had two at EWU in 2017) and try to operate finicky audio-visual equipment while managing a panoply of adolescent crises. And when you return home, you'll miss it all (well, maybe not sharing the bathroom).

The transformative changes of the STEM Tech Trekkers cannot be outmatched by a summer of beach lounging or scaling Mt. Rainier. The Tech Trekkers arrive as girls and leave as young women we can all be grateful for.

The person you encourage to grow through STEM may be the one that invents something that *saves your life*. While your time as a dorm monitor is not a traditional vacation. It is an

EXTREME vacation that creates a legacy. So if you are up for the challenge, get your qualification process started.

We don't have camp dates for 2018 as of this writing, but potential volunteers (or donors) can get updates on 2018 camping dates and campuses at: <http://techtrek-wa.aauw.net>. Click on Volunteers for a comprehensive dorm monitor job description.

And THANK YOU.

~ Judith Cichowicz

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We'd like to express our appreciation for the support given by the AAUW Tacoma Branch members. We sent 16 (!)n girls to Tech Trek camps: 13 to PLU and 3 to Eastern Washington University. We are now looking for new Tech Trek committee members to join us in preparing for the 2018 Tech Trek camps. Please contact Linda Ames, chair of the 2018 Tech Trek committee for more information. Thank you!

~ Linda Ames and Joye Bucklin, co-chairs of 2017 AAUW Tacoma Branch Tech Trek committee



EWU Attendees 2017



PLU Attendees 2017

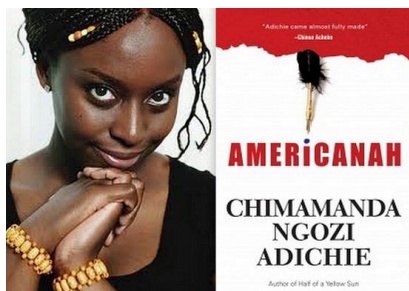
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## Interest Groups (MeetUps)

### Book Groups

#### Daytime

The Daytime Book Group will meet at 10 am on Wednesday, September 27 at Marilee's house to discuss *Looking for Betty Macdonald* by Paula Becker. Jane Hahn will review. Note: Due to Marilee having broken her ankle, please watch your email for any changes to the location that may occur.



#### Evening

The Evening Book Group will meet on Monday, September 25 at 6:30pm to discuss *Americanah* by Chimimanda Ngozi Adichie. Dorothy McBride will review, and Bea Geller will host.

## Genealogy and Family History Group

The Genealogy group will meet Sept. 8 at 11:30 at Bair Bistro (1617 Lafayette St., Steilacoom) to have lunch and plan the year's schedule.

Contact Joye Bucklin or Sue McLean.

## Papercrafters



Papercrafters will start their program year on September 14! We'll meet 10:00 - 2:00 at the Lakewood Presbyterian Church (8601 104th Street SW, in Lakewood). Members can work on their own projects and get ideas from others as they work and visit. Bring your own brown bag lunch or snack. Coffee and tea are available. RSVP to Connie Dunkelberger 253 565 7518.

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### **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](mailto:aauwtacomaneewsletter@gmail.com). You can send photos as well. Please send by the **16<sup>th</sup> of the month** unless otherwise noted. If you have a later event that you would like included, please let us know by the 16<sup>th</sup> 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

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# September 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8 Genealogy Group 11:30	9
10	11	12	13	14 PaperCrafters 10 am – 2 pm	15	16 Pierce County Annual Tri-Branch Meeting: Conversation with DeAnne Hamilton, KBTC General Manager 10 am
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 Evening Book Group: <i>Americanah</i> by Chimimanda Ngozi Adichie 6:30 pm	26	27 Daytime Book Group: <i>Looking for Betty Macdonald</i> by Paula Becker 10 am	28	29	30