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TACOMA (WA)
BRANCH

<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.”

February 2019

Events and News

Unlocking McNeil’s Past: The Prison, The Place, The People



“The remarkable history of this prison really pushes you to think deeply about how and why we lock people up.”

- Simone Alicea, KNKX reporter and podcast co-host of *Forgotten Prison*

Date: Saturday, February 23, 2019

Time: 10 am - 12 pm

Location: Washington State History Museum, 1911 Pacific Avenue, Tacoma

You will not want to miss this month’s program! We have arranged a special tour for AAUW Tacoma Branch members at the Washington State History Museum.

From its beginnings as a territorial prison through its tenure as a federal and state penitentiary, the story of McNeil Island reflects how incarceration in the U.S. has changed over time.

Unlocking McNeil's Past: The Prison, The Place, The People presents the island's history through accounts from prison staff, people formerly incarcerated there, and residents of the island. It describes McNeil's connections to significant state and national events. The exhibition also delves into the island's early settlement and the unique relationship between the prison and its island community.

Find out what it was like behind the scenes to research and create this exhibition, with a tour led by curator Mary Mikel Stump, Director of Audience Engagement at the museum. Reflect on the changing philosophies of imprisonment over the decades: punishment, protection of society, rehabilitation. See how those philosophies shaped the architecture of the prisons and the treatment of prisoners. Get the facts on the present-day scope of incarceration in Washington; for instance, do you know how many prisons, jails, and juvenile detention centers there are?

Parking and Admission Details:

- There is pay parking available at the museum. You can pay at the parking kiosk, or note your parking space number and pay at the admissions desk.
- The museum is large and a visit involves a fair amount of walking. There are a limited number of complimentary wheelchairs available for use. Ask at admissions.
- Your admission includes access to all the exhibits in the museum, and you are free to come and go for lunch, so don't hesitate to spend a bit more of your day there!
- AAUW Tacoma Branch Members' museum admission will be included in the program, at no additional cost to you. If you are also a member of the museum, please let us know at check-in, as you already have free entry (and that will save us some money on the program's cost). If you are bringing a guest, we ask that you contribute \$10 to the AAUW program host to cover your guest's admission cost.

Can't wait until February 23 to dive in? Then check out this ***special bonus***:

In partnership with the museum, and with support from Humanities Washington, KNKX Public Radio has produced a series of six podcasts called *Forgotten Prison*. The series is hosted by KNKX reporters Simone Alicea and Paula Wissel. The first

episode debuted on January 22, with new episodes every Tuesday. Each episode examines a part of the island's history through interviews, conversations, and oral histories. Go [here](#) for more info and to download their podcast.

President's Corner



Dear Branch Members,

There are many things to address in this month's letter, but I first want to say how much I appreciated our January branch program presenter, Desiree Wilkins-Finch. The group leadership and cooperation games she facilitated allowed us to experience both the strengths and the failings in our various individual leadership styles. I'm still thinking about it....

BRANCH SURVEY

My second thank you is to all of you! To date, we have received surveys back from nearly all of our branch members: 86% (42 responses). Every single response has been helpful. With your direct input, we can better understand what branch members want, need, and expect from their membership. In turn, your board can identify what direction the branch should take in terms of both governance and activities.

A summary report of the survey results will be shared with members in the March meeting's business materials (which will be sent by email). In the meantime, your board will be following up with those of you who expressed willingness to help with branch activities and governance. Those conversations will be happening this month. Based on the survey, I am (cautiously) optimistic that we will have board officer candidates for our March election, as well as committee leaders and members to help accomplish your goals for our branch.

BY-LAWS REVISION

My third thank you is to Dorothy McBride and Connie Dunkelberger, for assisting with the revision of our branch bylaws. The proposed bylaws revision now has been board-approved to present for member consideration and vote at the March business meeting. You will be receiving that revised bylaws proposal in advance of the March meeting along with the survey report.

MISSION PROPOSALS, BUDGET

Finally, I want to give you an update on the timing of certain business items that will be delayed until later in the year, namely mission project proposals and the July 2019-June 2020 budget. Because of the importance of ensuring we have branch leadership in place before we consider expenditures for the coming year, these decisions must be made after the results of our March business meeting are known.

(Interestingly, in reviewing branch history I discovered it was not all that long ago that the annual budget was set in September, under the board leadership by which it would be managed, rather than the prior year's board.)

We will announce dates for both mission proposals and budget approval as soon as they have been determined.

I do not want to close without passing on your thanks to your valiant board members, as so many of you noted in your survey comments: Dana Holt, Phyllis Izant, Peg Dempsey, Carol Rikerd, Diane Palmquist, Dolora Neumaier, Mary Letterman, LesLee Eicher, and yours truly. We have slogged together through a six-month process (to date) of reassessment, planning, and action so that as a branch we might discern our future. I am looking forward to seeing that effort yield solid results. Here's to the year ahead!

~ Susan Hesselgrave

Membership

Here are the numbers:

Tacoma Branch is 50 members strong, with a likely three or four new members coming in March. We have four life members and two members who live out of state.

December and January branch meetings were attended by 20 members. Our interest groups have stable attendance, and some are growing.

AAUW Tacoma Branch Board of Directors

2018-2019

- President: Susan Hesselgrave
- Program Vice Presidents: Phyllis Izant and Margaret Dempsey
- Membership Vice President: Carol Rikerd
- Communications Co-Chairs: Mary Letterman and LesLee Eicher
- Recording Secretary: Dolora Neumaier
- Finance Officer: Diane Palmquist
- Chair, Governance and Development Committee: Dana Holt

I hope everyone will think about these numbers over the next two months, and attend the March business meeting. Invite a friend to attend with you, and help us grow!

Kudos to Phyllis and Peg for bringing us outstanding speakers in December and January:

- Miriam Barnett, who spoke to us our December holiday luncheon, is a woman who has changed our local world for the better, and she's not finished with giving to our region.
- Desiree Wilkins-Finch, whom we enjoyed at the January branch meeting, is a young woman on her way to changing our community for the better. I'm looking forward to watching Desiree's career and cheering her on.

Kudos from AAUW to two inspiring community activists!

~ Carol Rikerd

Tech Trek

Tech Trek: Actions Toward Economic Security

In the contemporary workplace, *salary* becomes the differentiator between a "girl" and a "woman." "Girl," applied as a pejorative, downplays the responsibilities, contributions, and creative approaches that women bring to their jobs. The "girl" too often receives a smaller salary, and thus experiences economic insecurity.

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it's the only thing that ever has. Margaret Mead



For those of you new to AAUW or to the Tacoma branch, you can feel confident knowing that as AAUW promotes Tech Trek, one objective holds strong: improving the ability of girls to grow up to become competitive in the higher paid STEM fields.

So how can you help our branch to sustain this Tech Trek effort in an era of "too much to do"? Consider these scenarios:

Newly retired? The Tech Trek committee has an Immediate need for substitute interviewers to be on call for our March interview push. This is an extremely important part of the process; it is when we evaluate nominees for camper places. Interviews are very structured: we require two AAUW members for each interview, which means that you will always conduct an interview with an AAUW friend at your side. Interviews occur late in the school day or just after school. Each takes 15-30 minutes. If you're interested, please contact Marisa Peloquin at misapelican@gmail.com.

Are you a busy working professional, but still want to get involved? Add **Thursday July 18, 2019** to your calendar. It is Guest Day and Professional Women's Night for the conveniently-located Tech Trek Camp at Pacific Lutheran University. Attend for a morning or afternoon (or both), and we hope you'll stay for the evening meal to observe camp workings. Listen to a variety of classes and labs. Watch our Trekkers as they apply their expanded knowledge to hands-on projects or presentations. Consider the "life stories" of speakers at Professional Women's Night. Then get excited about donating your time and/or financial resources for Tech Trek 2020.

My own experience: Volunteering as a Dorm Monitor in 2017 helped my enthusiasm for Tech Trek to grow logarithmically as I watched these young girls turn into young women. One illuminating example was the workshops on financial management, designed specifically for teenagers. As our Trekker graduates find though, being better educated and competent does not guarantee wage parity or economic security. There is still work to be done!

~ Judy Cichowicz

Interest Groups (MeetUps)

Genealogy and Family History



The Genealogy and Family History group will meet on Friday, February 15, from 12 pm to 2 pm at Mary Hammond's home. Our topic will be **DNA: what it can and can't tell you about your**

ancestry. Bring your own DNA results for discussion. If you haven't yet had a test, bring your questions about what tests are useful. (Sample question: which DNA test can tell you if you have Neanderthal DNA?) Bring your own brownbag lunch, Mary will provide dessert! Please RSVP to Mary Hammond.

Papercrafters

Papercrafters meets the second Thursday of each month and in February that happens to be **Valentine's Day!** Join us on February 14 from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. You can do any number of paper projects -- make a last minute valentine, work on that project you have been meaning to start, even balance your checkbook. Take time for yourself. Come and work at you own table, but close enough to others to visit. We meet at the Lakewood Presbyterian Church at 8601 104th Street S.W. in Lakewood. Bring your own lunch or snack. Coffee and tea are available. Call Connie Dunkelberger at 253-565-7518 for more information or directions to the church.



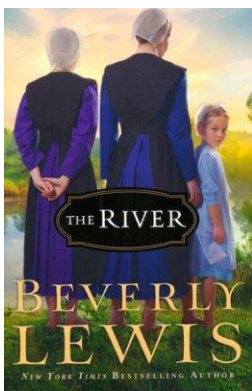
Second Saturday at the Cinema (SS@C)



Do you love movies? So do we! SS@C is our newest interest group. Our February movie will take place on – you guessed it! – the second Saturday in February (2/9). Which movie is still under discussion, but we know for sure that it will be the

first showing of the day. Please email Robin Larson if you are interested. As the date gets closer, she will let us know more details.

Daytime Book Group

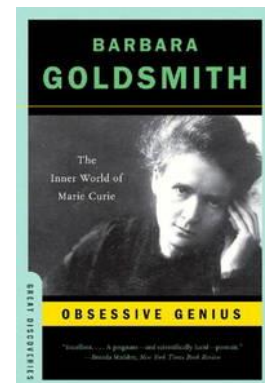


The Daytime Book will meet on Wednesday, February 27 at 10 am to discuss *The River* by Beverly Lewis. Catherine will review and Carolyn will hostess.

Evening Book Group

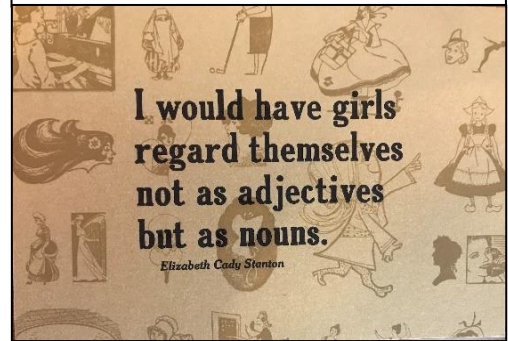
On Monday, February 25, the Evening Book Group will meet at 6:30 pm at Jane Hahn's home to talk about *Obsessive Genius: The*

Inner World of Marie Curie by Barbara Goldsmith. Amy Fisher will lead the discussion.





On January 28, 201, the Evening Book Group enjoyed the opportunity to discuss *Dead Feminists: Historic Heroines in Living Color* by Chandler O'Leary and Jessica Spring. Ms. Spring was kind enough to host our meeting and treat us to a tour of her studio. We even got to run the printing press and make cool postcards!



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/>. Remember that the password for the Washington State website (for all of us) is “evergreen.”

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. We reserve the right to edit as we see fit.

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

February 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Board Meeting 4:30 pm Susan's home	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 Second Saturday at the Cinema (first showing, other details TBD)
10	11	12	13	14 Papercrafters 10 am – 2 pm 	15 Genealogy and Family History 12 pm – 2 pm	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23 Branch Meeting: Unlocking McNeil's Past: The Prison, The Place, The People 10 am – 12 pm
24	25 Evening Book Group 6:30 pm <i>Obsessive Genius: The Inner World of Marie Curie</i>	26	27 Daytime Book Group 10 am <i>The River</i>	28		