



P.O. Box 65303
Tacoma, WA 98464

<http://tacoma-wa.aauw.net/>



TACOMA (WA)
BRANCH

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

Summer 2021

Welcome to our Tacoma Branch AAUW Newsletter



2021- 2022 Dues

AAUW dues should be paid by June 30. After that you may get dropped from our roster. Contact Robin L. about how to renew after June 30th. Also, please notify Robin if any of your contact information changes. We want to be able to keep in touch with you.



Thank You President Susan

Susan Hesselgrave has been our AAUW Tacoma Branch President for the past four years. We owe her a huge thank you for all she has done. She kept us involved through this pandemic year. Although she is stepping down as president, she will still be involved in many other ways. Hurray for Susan!

New Officers and Other Group Helpers

Mary Letterman and LesLee Eicher have agreed to stand as co-presidents for next year. We are still seeking a candidate for the office of secretary! This is a small time commitment but a vital role - in general requiring less than 2 hours a month! Have questions? Dolora Neumaier, our outgoing secretary, will be happy to give you the details. If you aren't in a position to take on an officer role there are several opportunities (needs!) to serve: communications committee; book group moderator; programs; public policy. If interested in finding out more, please contact one of the current board members.

AAUW ANNUAL MEETING from April 10, 2021

Our speaker Kayla Kuboyama talked about the Palmer Scholars Organization

Merle Palmer and the Reverend Al Davis established the Palmer Scholars Organization to provide guidance to students through their post-secondary education. The program has existed for over 35 years and has served 600 students.

The organization provides 100+ hours of post-secondary readiness training. Each student is assigned a 1-1 trained adult mentor. When students enter their freshman year in college, they receive a care package. The mentor and student visit on campus 2x a year for a meal. Students receive up to \$30,000 over 5 years. The organization has an 84% graduation rate. Students ages 19-20 receive an average of \$4,898 in loans.

In 2019 the Scholars Organization started the Pathway Initiative. The initiative serves individuals ages 16-24 who are not in school or employed. The goal is to fast-track careers in the trades through pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship. The same services are provided. The program is tailored to meet the student's needs. The Palmer Organization works with Bates and Clover Park Technical Colleges.

The public is encouraged to participate and get involved. The Palmer Organization has connections with social media platforms like LinkedIn. The Organization has partnerships with Rotary Clubs such as the Sunrise Rotary and the Tacoma Rotary. The mentors are paired with young adults through an application process. Mentors and students are matched based on personality. Mentors reach out to scholars 1 time a month from Senior year in High School through college.

The program serves 192 scholars mainly in the helping careers such as medical fields and social work. The program supports 1st generation students. The scholars stay connected after graduation. Alumni connect with students in the program. You can learn more on their website: <https://www.palmersscholars.org>

Tacoma Branch Meeting May 22, 2021 - Asian Pacific Cultural Center

Faaluaina Pritchard, Executive Director of the Asia Pacific Cultural Center (APCC) spoke about the mission and goals of the Center. The Center practices community advocacy for Asia Pacific Island (API) Americans. There are seven APCC chapters in WA State, giving a voice to API people. Every year APCC lobbies for legislation to improve API lives. Fifty nations in 47 countries, speaking 100 languages, make up the API communities in the Pacific Northwest.

The Center provides cultural teaching programs and activities for all ages, enhancing the quality of life, not only local Asia Pacific Americans but all citizens and residents living in the great Pacific Northwest.

The organization formed in 1996 when legislated 'welfare reform' would have seriously impacted immigrant and low-income seniors.

APCC work includes:

- Working with local school districts to bring cultural instruction to schools in Tacoma, Puyallup, UP, Franklin Pierce, Fife, and is negotiating with Bethel.
- Yearly celebrations are staged at the Tacoma Dome to showcase different nations; this year was the Marshall Islands; next year will be China.
- Language services are offered to local hospitals and government offices.
- The Center runs a youth program outreach with social workers to keep API children in school to graduation. When the program started 11 years ago, only 44% of API students graduated, now it's 95%.

The Center is currently planning to significantly expand their space with a new building and a garden. The new space will have more rooms for teaching and performance, a library, office space, and a gift shop. There will also be a new visual arts gallery.

The APCC's Annual Luau, held this year on August 28 is a main fundraiser. We hope many of you will attend to support this mission. Faaluaina issued us an open invitation to attend events at the Center. Everyone is welcome there.

Virtual presentations and performances are available on Facebook Live. Check <https://www.asiapacificculturalcenter.org/> for the schedule. More is available on <https://www.facebook.com/pg/AsiaPacificCulturalCenter/>

Health Matters: Advocating for Washington Women

AAUW State Program June 12, 2021

Washington State AAUW will be hosting a series of programs about women's health care this fall. Today's program was an introduction to the fall schedule. We heard interesting and educational talks from 2 speakers. The speakers for the fall programs introduced their topics. Recordings of today's program should be available on the state website.

Dr. Alyson McGregor, co-founder of the Sex & Gender Emergency Medicine program at Brown University's Department of Emergency Medicine, spoke about how her time as an emergency room physician made her aware that the models for diagnostics and treatment of health conditions were based almost entirely on males. This is also true for health and drug research studies. Even trials including women are not analyzed thoroughly to highlight differences in treatment and outcome for men and women.

Her research focus is the effects that sex and gender have on health conditions and has shown that the x chromosome even creates little differences in how all our internal organs function and react to medication. Her book, *Sex Matters: How Male-Centric Medicine Endangers Women's Health and What We Can Do About It*, explains her research and conclusions.

Dr. Dorothy Roberts, Professor of Law and Sociology at University of Pennsylvania School of Arts and Sciences, writes and lectures on gender, race and class in legal issues. She spoke about the history of racism in the US and how it has impacted medical practice for Black citizens, especially women. The current state of unequal health outcomes for Black citizens is based in the history, dating back to the 1600's, of defining people of color as genetically separated from those with less melanin. Some of those artificial social constructions used to justify slavery still impact the differential practice of medicine between Black and Caucasian patients today. Her book *Fatal Invention: How Science, Politics, and Big Business Re-create Race in the Twenty-first Century*, examines how a biological concept of race, based on evolution, is a myth that promotes inequality even as the human genome project proves that human beings are not divided by race.

Nancy Shapiro, our AAUW lobbyist, spoke about our legislative successes this session, and will speak about upcoming legislative issues in September.

Becky Reitzes, health educator in Seattle-King County, works in many venues advocating for equal health access and treatment, and health education for young people, especially in the LGBTQ community. Her program will be in October.

Mary Selecky and Leslie Walters are physicians in northeastern Washington, working on full access to health care for people in their rural community. They will present November's program.

Leah Griffin is an activist working to create and reform laws to ensure timely and appropriate medical care for sexual assault victims. Leah's meeting with Sen. Patty Murray inspired her Survivor's Access to Supportive Care Act, first introduced in 2016. The bill was reintroduced to the US Senate March 23, 2021. She will present her program to us in December.

These upcoming programs from our state AAUW will be relevant and interesting. I hope many of you will tune in. Check the AAUW state website for more information and registration.

<http://aauw-wa.aauw.net>



Membership

Welcome to our newest member, **Marie Godsey!** We are so glad to have you join us. Her email is marikirst@aol.com

Happy Birthday to our Summer Born Members

6/12 Linda Bringer
6/23 Sandy Bowman

7/22 Carol Rikerd
7/29 Shelly Spier
7/31 Stephanie Strampe

7/2 Wanda Abrams
7/11 Vicky Reidy
7/12 Linda Ames
7/15 Charlene Mayo
7/20 Bea Geller

8/7 Linda Hood
8/14 ThelmaJean Crovello
8/15 Robin Larson
8/22 Laurie Jinkins



Interest Groups

Daytime Book Group



Here is our book list for the 2021 -2022 year. We will meet at 10:30 a.m. for the discussions.

September 22 - *This Tender Land* by William Kent Kruegar

October 27 - *Dial A for Aunties* by Jesse Q. Sutanto

Nov. (Discussion will take place December 1st due to Thanksgiving) - *The Wives of Los Alamos* by Tra Shea Nesbit

January 26 - *The Bookman's Tale* by Charles Lovett

February 23 - *Murder by the Book* by Lauren Elliott

March 23 - *The Moment of Lift* by Melinda Gates

April 27 - *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig

May 25 - Next year's book selections and potluck

Evening Book Group

Here is our book list for the 2021 -2022 year. We meet at 6:30 p.m. for the discussions. The dates and hostess/reviewer are still to be determined. Sue Schub has taken over for LesLee as the group facilitator.

The House in the Cerulean Sea by T.J. Klune

Dear Miss Kopp by Amy Stewart

The Shadow Land: A Novel by Elizabeth Kostova

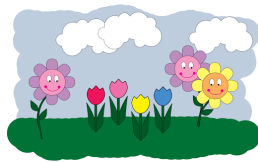
Murder at the Mission: A Frontier Killing, Its Legacy of Lies and the Taking of the American West by Blaine Harden

On Tyranny by Timothy D. Snyder

This Is How It Always Is by Lauren Frankel

The Plot by Jean Hanff Korelitz

We have scheduled our first in person book discussion. We will be meeting at Robin's house at 6:30 on September 27. Bring a chair (I have seating for 5). We also decide to have everyone bring their own meal or snack (no potluck). Hopefully, the weather will be nice.



Stay Connected with AAUW

- 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 Notes

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

**Robin Larson, Mary Letterman, LesLee Eicher, Susan Hesselgrave and Carol Rikerd
AAUW Tacoma Branch Communications Team**