



American Association of University Women



Gig Harbor Branch

APRIL 2016

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April GH Branch Meeting

Saturday April 16, 2016

10am-Noon

Harbor History Museum

Harbor Wildwatch and AAUW Business Meeting

We all love the amazing natural beauty of Gig Harbor and Puget Sound. Do you wish you could do more to protect them and educate others about this marvelous ecosystem? Join us on April 16th to learn about Harbor Wildwatch, a local organization that is dedicated to encouraging stewardship for Puget Sound. Bring a friend, neighbor, family member (school age kids are especially welcome) to this presentation. To learn more go to: www.harborwildwatch.org.

Following the presentation we will hold a business meeting to elect next year's board. Nominations from the floor are welcome. Read Karen Anderson's message for more information.

Upcoming Events-Mark your Calendar!

Saturday-Sunday April 23-24, 2016 AAUW-WA Convention

Suquamish Clearwater Resort Convention Center

Saturday May 21, 2016 GH Branch Meeting 10-Noon

Harbor History Museum-Mental Health Update for Pierce
County



Photo by Martha Shellenberger 2015

Presidents Message

Karen Anderson
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(253-509-0781)

The History of AAUW

As Presented At the March 19th AAUW Chapter Meeting

AAUW was formed in 1881 by women college graduates, who were drawn by ties of friendship, to fight stereotypes against women who wanted higher education. Educated women were considered troublemakers. In the 1950s Senator McCarthy made AAUW one of his seditious organizations. Also in the 1950s, AAUW fought Florida laws that undermined an educated citizenry. We see these efforts to limit education in the present day in Wisconsin where laws are eroding tenure laws and in Arizona where Programs in Ethnic Studies have been abolished. **Education has always been a site of struggle in this country.**

Women are still thought as “not legitimate” on college campuses. AAUW uses statistics and facts to fight this prejudice. These statistics have proven that educated women use their talents for the community's well being.

AAUW may be the largest organization that raises money for scholarships for women. AAUW has fought for equal pay, Title IX, and the Lily Ledbetter Act. **AAUW is the aggregate of everything educated women can do.**

Election of Chapter Officers

[Please plan on attending the April meeting](#) to elect and vote for next year's AAUW GH Chapter officers. **We need a quorum.** Many members have volunteered to fill positions but we still need volunteers for the following positions:

Scholarship Committee Chair-will oversee the scholarship program

Program Co-Chair- will plan Chapter Meeting programs in the fall of 2016 and the spring of 2017. Many programs have already been developed.

Communications-will oversee the chapter's website and issue press releases.

We need younger members to add to the multigenerational diversity of the GH Chapter so please bring awareness to younger women of the goals and accomplishments of AAUW.

In Case You Missed It-FOOD BACKPACKS 4 KIDS

At the March 19th Branch Meeting Mary Williams gave a presentation about Food Backpacks 4 Kids (FB4K) a community-based program that provides food for kids and their families on the Gig Harbor peninsula.

She said that food insufficiency affects 16 million kids in the US. Kids without adequate nutrition miss more school, are sick more often and suffer from delayed development. Well fed kids are ready to learn when they come to school and are 20% more likely to graduate high school.



Mary Williams giving presentation of Food Backpacks 4 Kids
Photo by Martha Shellenberger 2016

We think this is not an issue in Gig Harbor but statistics show that **20% of kids in the Peninsula School District do not have enough nutritious food to eat.** The Key Peninsula is an especially vulnerable area with 70% of kids at Evergreen Elementary School without adequate nutrition.

Many of the food banks in the area are only able to provide food to families once a month due to a lack of food donations and volunteers. Mary and her colleagues recognized the need in our community and developed the program **Food Backpacks 4 Kids** which distributes **1400 pounds of food per week in 400 backpacks to kids** and their families on the Gig Harbor peninsula. Each Friday, a backpack is given to these vulnerable kids with enough food to feed a family of 4 for the weekend. More food is given to larger families and prior to holidays. When kids are unable to return their backpacks for refills they are provided food in a plastic bag. FB4K is in every school in the Peninsula School District.

They recently began a new program, **The Crock Pot Project**, where every kid in the program is given a crockpot, a kit of recipes, spices and ingredients for a meal. Once a month, a non-perishable crock pot meal is provided. The goal is to provide a crockpot meal once a week. Another project, **The Summer Lunch Program**, feeds kids on the Key Peninsula three days a week from the first day of summer vacation to the last.

Governed by the Peninsula Community Foundation, FB4K relies solely on volunteers to operate. Each week, volunteers fill a backpack for every child and receive no compensation other than knowing their actions bring joy to a kid. Mary works hard to secure grants, but most of the food and funding comes from local merchants and personal donations. FB4K is considered a *Food Pantry* which enables them to get food from the Emergency Food Network.

In Case You Missed It-FOOD BACKPACKS 4 KIDS (continued)

Picking up and storing the food has proved a challenge. To help in the effort, a van was donated by Port Orchard Ford to transport food. A \$25,000



*Van donated by Port Orchard Ford
Photo provided by FB4K 2016*

regional grant was awarded by Walmart to build donation stations where food is stored and where kids and families can come to pick up food. Two have been built, one in Purdy and another in Key Peninsula. Nine more are planned.



*Purdy Donation Station
Photo provided by FB4K 2016*

The Gig Harbor Safeway is planning to give \$7,200 to honor the 72 employees who returned to the Gig Harbor store.



A future goal is to link into the grocery recovery program which will enable FB4K to obtain food from grocery stores as they pull food that is near the expiration date.



*Key Peninsula Donation Station
Photo provided by FB4K 2016*

Another goal is to provide perishable food. To make this possible, a refrigerated van has been donated by United Way and The Emergency Food Network. Adding refrigeration to donation stations is in the planning stages.

How you can help:

- Donate dollars
- Sponsor a child
- Organize a food drive
- Let FB4K know about vegetables and fruits available.
- Donate non-perishable food or backpacks
- Donate your time

For more information contact:

Food Backpacks 4 Kids

PO Box 173

Gig Harbor WA 98335

253-857-7401 (office) 253-720-4453 (message)

Website: www.foodbackpacks4kids.org

AAUW GH Calendar

April 2016

Board Meeting-Wednesday, April 13th at 3pm. Peninsula Library.

Bon Appetit- Tuesday, April 19th at 6 pm. Parsley hosts Everyone at Diane Edison's house with co-hosts Judy and Ginny Smith. Rosemary will help host with Mary Williams and Georgia Hoghaug lending a hand. For more information call Sue Engen at (253) 265-1677 or Diane Edison at (253) 851-1056.



Evening Book Group—Monday, April 18th at the Peninsula Library. 6:30 pm refreshments; 7:00 Meeting Time.. PLEASE NOTE THE DATE CHANGE FOR THE THIRD MONDAY. Our book for April is **The Nightingale by Kristen Hannah**. Karen Anderson will lead the discussion. Susan Petterson and Ellen Lowrie will provide refreshments. For more information please phone Sue Hines (253) 761-5080 or Salli Montgomery (253) 857-8057.

Who Done It (Mystery Book Group)—Tuesday April 12th. The hostess is Nancy Williams. We are reading **Ross MacDonald**, presented by Julie Buffington. For more information call Carol Robinson at (253) 265-6141.

Bridge-Day— Our group meets on the third Tuesday of each month in a member's home for an afternoon of bridge. Please call Marilyn Davis (253) 229-0953 for more information.

Bridge-Evening—The evening bridge group meets on the 4th Thursday of the month. Please call Mary Williams (253) 509-0524 or Bev Storkman (253) 851-2402 to confirm a date and time and reserve a seat at the table.



Lunch Bunch—The Lunch Bunch meets at 12:30 pm every second Wednesday of the month at the Inn of Gig Harbor. Everyone is invited. No need to call ahead.

Palette to Palate is on hiatus for a few months due to waning interest. If an exhibit looks intriguing, contact Ellen Lowrie at (253) 884-2610 and we'll see if there is any interest in attending.

Happy Birthday to members celebrating April birthdays.

Georgia Hoghaug	04-06
Claudia Wade	04-07
Nancy Lee Koehnke	04-08
Elizabeth Murray	04-12
Patricia Morton	04-23
Catherine Luria	04-24





Gig Harbor Branch-Announcements

Did you know that your AAUW Membership includes discounts at Office Depot? This page has all the information you need to take advantage of the discount in the store or online. Cut out the card below and take it to Office Depot for free lamination of the card. The discount applies to products and printing services.




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 93,000 Products Discounted Below Retail

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Gig Harbor Branch-Announcements

DONATIONS TO AAUW

Did you know that Washington State leads the nation in philanthropy to AAUW'S Legacy Circle? And, California is jealous!

It started with Ginnie DeForest, Washington State AAUW Member, who challenged her friends to become Legacy Circle members. Have you thought of leaving a philanthropic lifetime gift to AAUW in your will or trust? If so, read more below.

MAKE A LIFETIME GIFT TO AAUW-Join the Legacy Circle.

Have you considered making a legacy gift to AAUW? Your gift will help ensure that the work of AAUW continues long into the future. By providing for AAUW in your estate plans, you can become part of the distinguished AAUW Legacy Circle. Legacy Circle members are celebrated as philanthropists in their lifetime and receive a beautiful Swarovski-designed Legacy Circle pin along with invitations to special events at the National and Washington State level.

The simplest form of a legacy gift is a bequest, or a gift left to a charity in your will. Bequests often can allow donors to make a sizable gift to a charity that may not have been possible during their lifetime. You can also name AAUW as the beneficiary of your life insurance, bank account, stock account, or retirement plan. In addition to bequests in your will or living trust, charitable gift annuities are available that can provide you with tax savings and income during your lifetime.

If you have questions or want to learn more, please contact Legacy Circle Team Member Ginnie DeForest at ginniedeforest@yahoo.com or 425.739.0730. Or, contact Catherine Heffernan Gibson at the AAUW National Planned Giving Office at 877.357.5587 or email her at gibsonc@aauw.org. Learn more at: www.aauwlegacy.org.

A message from Nancy Williams, Treasurer

Thank you to everyone who contributed during the Red Envelope campaign which raised a total of \$1,745 - \$1,300 for the Branch Scholarship Fund and \$445 for Tech Trek.

To clarify whether your donations are tax deductible:

Donations made to the GH Branch Chapter are not tax deductible, as the Branch is not an IRS 501(c)(3) charity. The Branch is a nonprofit organization under IRS section 501(c)(4), but we are not a charity. Donations to the Branch Scholarship Fund for high school seniors are not tax deductible.

Most donations made to National AAUW are tax deductible – a portion of dues (\$46 non-students; \$16 students; \$980 lifetime), Tech Trek, Legal Advocacy Fund, Education Foundation, etc.

All donations to Minerva are tax deductible. Minerva awards a scholarship each year to a woman returning to school in the name of AAUW-Gig Harbor.



Gig Harbor Branch-Announcements

Newsletter Deadline: April 22nd for the May 2016 newsletter. Send your articles and pictures to marthashellen@comcast.net. Remember to include last names, locations, dates and times for the information you send.

Membership Directory Changes

Please make the following additions and changes to your directory:

Dearth, Shirley-new address:

1016 29th Street NW, Unit 123

Gig Harbor 98335-1643

Phone number remains the same but is a message phone only.

Wade, Claudia-new email: gcwade1@comcast.net



AAUW's ¡Adelante! Book Recommendations

¡Adelante! books help to open dialogues on women, diversity, and change.

A House in the Sky: A Memoir By Amanda Lindhout and Sara Corbett

As a child, Amanda Lindhout escaped a violent household by paging through issues of *National Geographic* and imagining herself visiting its exotic locales. At the age of 19, working as a cocktail waitress, she began saving her tips so she could travel the globe. Aspiring to understand the world and live a significant life, she backpacked through many Latin American countries, Laos, Bangladesh, and India. Emboldened by each adventure, she went on to Sudan, Syria, and Pakistan. In war-ridden Afghanistan and Iraq she carved out a fledgling career as a television reporter. And then, in August 2008, she traveled to Somalia, often cited as the most dangerous place on earth. On her fourth day there, she was abducted by a group of masked men along a dusty road. Held hostage for 460 days, Amanda survived on memory — every lush detail of the world she experienced in her life before captivity — and on strategy, fortitude, and hope.



Gig Harbor Branch-Public Policy

Julie Buffington, Public Policy Chair

(253) 267-1066

rjbuffington@comcast.net



Equal Pay Day is Tuesday, April 12!

Equal Pay Day is the symbolic day when **women's earnings "catch up"** to men's earnings from the previous year. It's also a powerful occasion to raise awareness about and organize action around the gender pay gap in your community.

What You Should Know about AAUW and Equal Pay Policy

The gender pay gap is a primary issue for AAUW, and one that we have been working on for years. As early as 1922, AAUW's legislative program called for a reclassification of the U.S. Civil Service and repeal of salary restrictions in the Women's Bureau. In 1955, AAUW supported a bill introduced by Reps. Edith Green (D-OR) and Edith Rogers (R-MA) requiring "equal pay for work of comparable value requiring comparable skills." Congress finally enacted the Equal Pay Act, a version of the 1955 bill, in 1963.

Despite the Equal Pay Act, the wage gap persists; **women are typically paid just 79 cents on average for every dollar paid to men** — and that number has barely budged in a decade.

Although enforcement of the Equal Pay Act and other civil rights laws has helped to narrow the wage gap, significant disparities still must be addressed.

To improve the scope of the Equal Pay Act, **AAUW advocates passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act**. This would give employers stronger incentives to follow the law, enhance federal enforcement efforts, and prohibit retaliation against workers asking about wage practices.

AAUW promotes Equal Pay Day to draw attention to the gender pay gap and build support for the Paycheck Fairness Act.

Think 79 cents is bad? The pay gap is even worse for women of color. AAUW also observes Asian American Women's Equal Pay Day in March, African American Women's Equal Pay Day in August, Native American Women's Equal Pay Day in September, and Latina Equal Pay Day in October.

So, on April 12, 2016, please phone or email your Senators and Representatives urging them to acknowledge the gender pay gap and to support the Paycheck Fairness Act.

National Legislators

Senator Maria Cantwell (202) 224-3441

Contact: www.cantwell.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/email-maria

Senator Patty Murray

(202) 224-2621

Contact: www.murray.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contactme

Representative Derek Kilmer (D) is the Congressional Representative from the 6th District.

Washington, D.C. (202) 225-5916

Tacoma, WA (253) 272-3515

Email: WA06DKima@mail.house.gov

Washington State Legislature

As the Washington State Legislature continues, you can follow the progress of bills by accessing the Washington State Legislature homepage at <http://leg.wa.gov/>

This website contains all kinds of helpful information about the Washington State House and Senate along with links to email forms so you can easily contact your senator and representatives. Click on DETAILS and then BILL SPONSORSHIP to see the bills that your legislators are sponsoring. You can also see the Representatives voting record by clicking on VOTING RECORD.

If you live in Gig Harbor, your 26th District legislators are:

Sen. Angel, Jan-Republican

Rep. Young, Jesse-Republican

Rep. Caldier, Michelle-Republican

AAUW Newsletter

Gig Harbor Branch

P.O. Box 2705

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Dated Material

AAUW DIVERSITY STATEMENT: In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class.

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Eat and drink at the head of the bay

