



# American Association of University Women



Gig Harbor Branch

MAY 2016

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## May GH Branch Meeting

### Do Clothes Make The Woman?

Saturday May 21, 2016

10am-Noon

Harbor History Museum

**How do you decide what to wear?** The weather? The event? Recreation? Work? Who you will meet? What you don't have to iron? Why does women's fashion have so much importance?

Our Harbor History Museum has an exhibit of women's clothing from 1890 to 1940. The exhibit runs through July 17 and includes biographies, as well as, clothing of influential Gig Harbor women.

To expand on the history of women's fashion, our president, Karen Anderson, will present images and information to supplement the display. The talk will discuss trends in fashion and dress for women from different social groups. After our meeting take a look at the exhibit for the first time or again, with a new perspective.

In addition we will have an update on TechTrek and a report on the AAUW State Convention.

## Upcoming Events-Mark your Calendar!

### Pizza Party for this year's TechTrek Class of 2016.

Thursday, May 12th - 5:30 p.m. at the Gig Harbor Library

Stop by the Library to meet the TechTrek Class of 2016 and join them and their parents for pizza. The Branch has raised \$9,000 to sponsor all ten campers this year, thanks to your generosity.

Ten girls have been selected: Two are from Key Peninsula Middle School, five are from Goodman Middle School and three are from Harbor Ridge Middle School. None were selected from Kopachuck. **Come thank Mary Williams and her TechTrek committee for the hard work they have done and meet the girls you have sponsored.**

## 2016/2017 BRANCH OFFICERS



Thank you for all who attended the April 16th Branch Meeting. We had a quorum and elected officers to manage Branch activities beginning in the fall. Officers plan and oversee activities of the Branch and attend monthly Board Meetings.

### 2016/2017 INCOMING BRANCH OFFICERS

Co-Presidents: Julie Buffington and Barb Schmitt

Secretary: Mary Williams

Treasurer: Nancy Williams

Membership: Kathleen Larson

Program: Pat Berger

Newsletter: Martha Shellenberger

**WE NEED YOUR HELP! Two volunteers are needed to head the scholarship committee.**

Responsibilities include attending monthly Board Meetings beginning in the fall, reviewing criteria, going to local high schools on three occasions, reading the dossiers of the girls, choosing a nominee to be a recipient of the scholarship and presenting the award. Liz Svigals has agreed to help these two volunteers.

**Please call or email Karen Anderson if you are interested.**



## In Case You Missed It-HARBOR WILDWATCH



**Rachel Easton, Harbor WildWatch**

*Photo by Martha Shellenberger 2016*

At the April 16, 2016 Gig Harbor Branch Meeting Rachel Easton, gave a presentation about **Harbor WildWatch**, an organization located in downtown Gig Harbor, that provides environmental education and inspires stewardship for Gig Harbor, Puget Sound and the fascinating creatures that live in our local waters. Rachel, the daughter of a naturalist, is a naturalist and marine biologist. She grew up in Gig Harbor and spent her summers on the beach. Puget Sound has 2500 miles of shoreline, similar to Alaska. Her presentation was about the BIG and the BEAUTIFUL creatures found in Puget Sound. Among the biggest are:

The *Sunflower Star*, the largest predator without a head has a voracious appetite. They can grow to a width of 3 1/2 feet in size, have eyes and smell sensors at the end of each arm and the pinchers on their skin attacks anything that lands on them. They live to be 20 to 30 years old, but their numbers have been decimated by the Denzo Virus, or wasting disease. She said scientists are now seeing juveniles who are resistant to the disease which gives them hope for a recovery.

The *Giant Pacific Octopus* has an ideal habitat under the Narrows Bridge. They can reach 20 feet in length and live about 4 years. To mate the male gives the female one of his tentacles containing sperm which she keeps until she is ready. They both die after mating.

The *Geoduck*, our largest mollusk, can reach 3 feet in length in 1 to 3 years. They like clean, sandy lagoons. Their shells are soft and they add rings to their shells for every year they live, like trees. They can live to be 200 years old. The oldest mollusk ever discovered, a Ming clam, was 580 years old.

The *Lions Mane Jelly* has tentacles that can reach 110 feet in length. They produce small harpoons with a small amount of venom. She recommends using a credit card to scap off the harpoons if you are ever stung by one. Jelly fish are technically in the plankton family.

Puget Sound also has the largest barnacles in the world. When born they swim for awhile until they land, head down and permanently attach to something. Their feet move in the water to gather food. To reproduce the male extends his appendage until he finds a female.

## In Case You Missed It-HARBOR WILDWATCH (continued)

Beautiful Creatures included:

Chitons-they are prehistoric, eat algae and have beautiful shells. Their tongues look like chainsaws.

Nudibranchs-have naked unprotected gills. Their eggs look like coiled doilies.

Shaggy Mouse Sea Slugs-eat anemones

Aggregating Anemones-they have a symbiotic relationship with algae that lives under its skin. To reproduce they split in two producing two clones. They fight by digesting each other.

Starry Flounders-are transparent when hatched and have eyes on both sides when born. As bottom dwellers they choose an upside and a downside. The eye on the downside migrates to the upside of the head. They can mimic the bottom of the area where they lay even in the dark.

Rachel spoke of the many fun and interesting programs offered by Harbor WildWatch for adults and youths. These include:

- **Get Your Feet Wet**-beach walks during low tides
- **Pier Into The Night**-a live dive and video feed that tracks night time creatures. She described this as National Geographic for the Eyes.
- **Citizen Science**-non-scientists collect beach data for scientists. This gives a snapshot of how beaches change over time.
- **Sea Stars and Beyond**-service projects for students and parents
- **School District In-Class Programs, Field Trips & Internships**-students learn and explore at local beaches and estuaries.

In 2015, Harbor WildWatch delivered over 600 programs to over 33,000 people. They have 4 staff members. To learn more go to [www.harborwildwatch.org](http://www.harborwildwatch.org) or call 253-514-0187. Training for many of the programs begins in May. Their office is located in the Skansie Education Center, the brick building next to Skansie Park.



Rachel Easton, Program Coordinator  
Harbor WildWatch  
*Photo by Martha Shellenberger 2016*

# AAUW GH Calendar

## May 2016

**Board Meeting-Wednesday, May 11th at 3pm. Peninsula Library.**

**Bon Appetit- Tuesday, May 17th at 6 pm.** Parsley hosts Rosemary at Joyce Myhre's house with co-host Sandy Overton. Thyme hosts Sage at Julie Buffington's with Liz Svigals co-hosting. For more information call Sue Engen at (253) 265-1677 or Diane Edison at (253) 851-1056.



**Evening Book Group—Monday, May 23rd at the Peninsula Library. 6:30 pm refreshments; 7:00 Meeting Time..** Our book for May is ***Ox-team Days on the Oregon Trail*** by **Ezra Meeker**. Joyce Myrhe will lead the discussion. Members may also choose to read other books on this subject and share their impressions with the group. Susan Engen and Phyllis Davis 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 May 10th.** The hostess is Marilyn Davis. We are reading **Agatha Christie**, presented by Lee Fisher/Patricia. 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 May birthdays.**

Lucinda Saunders	05-02
Sally Cassidy	05-05
Naomi Berkowitz	05-08
Karen Anderson	05-10
Christine Cockayne	05-28
Nancy Severtson	05-30





## Gig Harbor Branch-Announcements

**Newsletter Deadline: May 22nd for the June 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.

### Shop at Target, Support AAUW!



AAUW is pleased to announce a new member benefit with Target. Every time you make a [Target.com](http://Target.com) purchase, you can now donate to AAUW — and take advantage of weekly flash sales and promotions!

For every Target.com purchase you make, AAUW earns up to 5 percent commission. It's a win-win situation! Simply use AAUW's dedicated link, [bit.ly/AAUWtarget](http://bit.ly/AAUWtarget), to shop for your favorite items at Target. All sales made through our link will be eligible for supporting AAUW.

Even better, when you sign up for a wedding, baby, or college registry at Target.com via [AAUW's member link](#), AAUW will get a \$4-\$6 donation. We'll also get \$8 for every Target REDcard registration.

Don't want to forget the link? [Save it in your bookmarks now!](#)



**Karen Anderson** was acknowledged in the April 6th Gateway issue as one of the leaders who 'headed up' the CAPE legislative session and parent workshop for middle school girls exploring STEM interests and careers. CAPE is a day of STEM career exploration conducted for middle school girls.

The **Dearth's** now have a phone in their new home. It is the same number as is in the membership directory.

**Lois Hartwig** is moving to Arizona and is having an **ESTATE SALE** of many lovely items she and her husband have collected around the world. To see some of the pieces go to: [AffordableEstateServices.com](http://AffordableEstateServices.com). Look for the announcement under Retired Fighter Pilot's Lifetime Estate! May 6-8 Gig Harbor.

**Bev Storkman** had a flare up of COPD. After a hospital stay she is at Cottesmore and would enjoy visitors. Pass on the invitation.

Sincerest condolences to **Ann Worswick** and her family at the passing of Stan Worswick. Many members attended the memorial event in celebration of Stan at the Gig Harbor Yacht Club on April 16, 2016.

We recently learned that **Marjorie Garland** passed away.



## AAUW's ¡Adelante! Book Recommendations

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

AAUW's ¡Adelante! Book for May 2016, Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month  
¡Adelante! books help to open dialogues on women, diversity, and change.

### ***A Tale for the Time Being*** by Ruth Ozeki

In Tokyo, 16-year-old Nao has decided there's only one escape from her aching loneliness and her classmates' bullying. But before she ends it all, Nao first plans to document the life of her great-grandmother, a Buddhist nun who has lived for more than a century. A diary is Nao's only solace, and it will touch lives in ways she can scarcely imagine. Across the Pacific we meet Ruth, a novelist living on a remote island who discovers a collection of artifacts washed ashore in a Hello Kitty lunchbox — possibly debris from the devastating 2011 tsunami. As the mystery of the lunchbox's contents unfolds, Ruth is pulled into the past, into Nao's drama and her unknown fate, and forward into her own future. Full of Ozeki's signature humor and deeply engaged with the relationship between writer and reader, past and present, fact and fiction, quantum physics, history, and myth, *A Tale for the Time Being* is a brilliantly inventive, beguiling story of our shared humanity and the search for home.



## Gig Harbor Branch-Public Policy

Julie Buffington, Public Policy Chair

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### How We're Pushing for Equal Pay (from the AAUW website)

April 20, 2016

The gender pay gap is not a myth; it's math. On April 12, AAUW "celebrated" Equal Pay Day, the symbolic day when the earnings for women working full time, year-round finally catch up to men's earnings from the previous year. Women generally earn about 79% as men do. The numbers are mostly worse when you break the gender pay gap down by race. This year, we'll observe black women's equal pay day in August (63%) Native American women's equal pay day in September (59%), and Latina women's equal pay day (54%) in November.

While AAUW works to close the gender pay gap year-round, Equal Pay Day remains a powerful moment for national action. This Equal Pay Day, our members and supporters held more than 200 events across the country to educate our communities and send a message to our elected officials. Check out how AAUW members and supporters have taken action to help close the pay gap once and for all.

So far in 2016, 34 states (including Washington) have equal pay bills introduced or pending. This Equal Pay Day, we pushed to increase that number. In Pennsylvania, AAUW members rallied at the statehouse and delivered a petition urging lawmakers to take action on equal pay legislation. In Michigan, AAUW members spoke to state representatives about the gender pay gap and collected personal stories about how the pay gap affects women and families. AAUW of Massachusetts helped organize talks by Attorney General Maura Healey and Treasurer Deb Goldberg, and AAUW of Louisiana celebrated the state senate voting to move an instrumental equal pay bill forward to the House.

### Save the Date: Celebrate in Tacoma

May 19, 2016 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. Tacoma Public Library Moore Branch 215 S. 56th Ave.

Join the Washington Work and Family Coalition and Healthy Tacoma on May 19th, 1:00-2:30 to celebrate Tacoma's paid sick and safe leave law, and build local and national momentum for paid sick days! Come for cake and conversation with local elected leaders -- and learn how you can help pass Initiative 1433 to assure paid sick days and increase the minimum wage for all workers in Washington.

More than 30 cities and states have paid sick days, including Tacoma. It's time to celebrate – and keep the momentum going. Join us to enjoy cake, share success stories and learn about the statewide effort for paid sick days and minimum wage increase.

### PRESENTED BY

Teamsters 117 Washington State Labor Council Raise Up Washington UFCW 367

Pierce County Labor Council Washington Work and Family Coalition Economic Opportunity Institute

INVITED: Tacoma City Council members, Members of Congress, and State Legislators



## The Keeper of D.C.'s Forgotten River



Solomon and her students are trying to reverse the damage and restore the health of the Anacostia River.

### April 20, 2016

The Anacostia River flows through southern Maryland and our nation's capital before joining the Potomac River to drift past George Washington's historic home at Mount Vernon. Decades of abuse have left the tributary toxic with sewage and urban runoff. But one AAUW alumna and her students are trying to reverse the damage and restore the health of the Anacostia.

Caroline Solomon, a biologist and [professor at Gallaudet University](#), earned an AAUW 2005–06 [American Fellowship](#), which she used to study how well marine microbes such as algae and bacteria use urea, a form of nitrogen. The study was particularly important since urea must be maintained at a perfect balance in bodies of water for plant and animal life to get the nutrients they need. Solomon credits the AAUW fellowship with allowing her the opportunity to pursue this research and write her dissertation.

It was as a teenager that Solomon first became interested in the study of biological oceanography. "My parents rented a house on a creek near Annapolis, Maryland, when I was in high school, while my father was a visiting professor at the Naval Academy," Solomon, who is deaf, writes in an e-mail interview. "There was one summer where we were not allowed to swim in the creek [because it was heavily polluted], so I vowed that I would do something about it." Since then, Solomon has dedicated her career to repairing the environment, focusing primarily on Washington, D.C.'s "[forgotten river](#)," the Anacostia.

Solomon leads efforts to plan, implement, and plant [rain gardens](#) to reduce the amount of stormwater that spills into the Anacostia. The river's urban location makes it particularly susceptible to pollution. When a big storm occurs, large volumes of runoff flush waste into the river, threatening entire ecosystems. Solomon and her students plant rain gardens — vegetation that helps filter litter and toxins from the river. She also actively monitors the river's health by testing for oxygen, salinity, and chlorophyll.

For Solomon, the greatest issue affecting the Anacostia River is "understanding how land use [by humans] influences ... the health of the river." For those in and around the nation's capital who want to help rebuild the watershed, she suggests planting more rain gardens and helping with efforts like the [Earth Day Initiative](#) and [Anacostia River cleanup](#).

Solomon and her students have been helping rebuild their river for four years. As a group, they hope to help guide policy about land use around the Anacostia. However, what Solomon states is most important to her in terms of her work is ensuring that "deaf people (myself and my students) are contributing to society by gathering needed data that will help guide decisions that will affect a large population that live in D.C. and the Anacostia watershed."

Source: AAUW Website

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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**Morso**

**Eat and drink at the head of the bay**

