



American Association of University Women

Gig Harbor Branch

OCTOBER 2016



Gig Harbor Executive Board

Co-Presidents

Barbara Schmit
253-549-0814
Julie Buffington
253-267-1066

Past President

Karen Anderson
253-509-0781

Program VP

Pat Berger
253-851-2534

Membership VP

Kathleen Larson
720-352-0537

Finance VP

Nancy Williams
253-779-4666

Secretary

Mary Williams
714-509-0524

Scholarships

Liz Svigals
253-530-3456

Tech Trek/STEM

Claudia Thompson
253-514-6017

Public Policy

Karen Drum
253-983-9114

Newsletter Editor

Martha Shellenberger
253-851-7464
marthashellen
@comcast.net



AAUW Gig Harbor Branch Meeting

Issues With Issues?

Presentation by Ann Williams

Pierce County Leagues of Women Voters

Saturday, October 15, 2016 10:00-Noon

Harbor History Museum

Ballot titles don't tell all-Be an informed voter. By the time we get our ballots we usually know about the candidates we will vote for, but the issues often are not so clear. Sometimes we think we understand them. We know which is which, but when we take a look at the number of issues, the issue numbers and the, sometimes, vague titles on the actual ballot it can be daunting to keep them straight. We may wonder "vote yes, no, maybe (not an option)". The Pierce County League of Women Voters tirelessly works to get reliable information out to voters. PCLWV conducts thorough research on each issue, holds forums and speaks to groups, such as ours, to educate voters about the decisions we are asked to make.

At our October 15, meeting, PCLWV member, Ann Williams, will enlighten us about the initiatives and charter amendments we will be asked to vote on this November. There are a dozen on the ballot. That is a lot to know about. Bring your questions and another voter.

Other events about the issues: Oct. 8, Sat. 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. at Harbor Place at Cottessmore—Gig Harbor-Key Peninsula unit meeting

Oct. 19, Wed. 6:00p.m.-8:30 p.m., Tacoma Public Library

Main Branch, 1102 Tacoma Ave. South, co-sponsored by UW-T Politics, Philosophy & Public Affairs Division & PCLWV.

Important Dates to register to vote in the November 8th election:

October 10, 2016 Last day to register online

October 31, 2016 Last day to register in person

Upcoming AAUW Events-Mark your Calendar!

Saturday, November 19, 2016-Harbor History Museum-Tech Trek Recap

Saturday, December 10, 2016-Holiday Party

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT-ANNUAL TRI-BRANCH AAUW MEETING



Co-Presidents Barb Schmit & Julie Buffington with Program VP Pat Berger standing in front of the Gig Harbor Chapter display

The Gig Harbor, Tacoma and Puyallup AAUW Chapters came together at the Washington State History Museum in Tacoma on September 17, 2016 to meet one another, share what each chapter is doing within their community and hear an inspirational and informative presentation by Tracy Swartout, the Deputy Superintendent of Mount Rainier National Park.

Deputy Swartout talked about the National Park Service (NPS), a division with the Department of the Interior, which is comprised of 84 million acres and 400 units (parks, monuments, preserves, protected spaces and stories). National Parks are an American idea; all US Citizens own the National Parks, equally. Much of the

"Park"itecture within the NPS was built with the help of immigrants and today, in honor of that participation, naturalization ceremonies are held within many National Parks. The NPS employs 23,000 employees and relies on 3200 volunteers and 1/2 million Jr. Rangers to accomplish their mission as defined in the 1916 Organic Act. In 2015, the NPS saw 307 million visitors and conducted 1/2 million interpretive programs. The "Big Beasts" within the NPS are the "Y Parks", Yosemite and Yellowstone. Mount Rainier is referred to as the "Y Not Park".

Mount Rainier, established in 1889 before the NPS, is a big, old, iconic park that is deeply loved and threatened. It has 9,000 years of cultural history; 250,000 acres, 58% of which is forested and 23% is subalpine. Ninety-seven (97)% is federally designated wilderness with no permanent human habitation. Mount Rainier has hundreds of miles of hiking trails and 27 major glaciers that comprise 35 square miles. The park contains the most dangerous volcano in the Cascade Range that poses a risk of lehar and pyroclastic flows. Climate change is affecting the park resulting in decreasing glaciers, infrastructure damage and species distribution.

Thirty (30) % of visits to the park occur during eleven days in July and early August, when the subalpine meadows bloom. Visitors tend to be older, white and upper income; Few millennials (persons reaching young adulthood around the year 2000) visit the park as they tend to not own cars. Ten thousand people attempt to summit Mount Rainier each year. Over 100 emergency medical incidents occur each year and 10,000 to 20,000 hours are spent rescuing people.

Tracy shared how she came to Mount Rainier National Park. She grew up in South Carolina and loved the many car camping trips her family took which gave her a love for the outdoors. On one of those trips to Congaree National Park in South Carolina Tracy saw her first Park Ranger and was enthralled by his presentation. Tracy was the second person in her family to attend college. She majored in Environmental Biology, selecting coursework in geography and geology. During the summers' off she worked as a lab assistant in a cartography lab and as a Page in the South Carolina state legislature where she made a decision to choose public service as a career. She attended graduate school at the University of Waterloo in Ontario Canada obtaining a master's degree in Natural Resources. Her thesis was *Conservation of Shoreline in Ontario and the Great Lakes*. A major part of her thesis was conducting financial analyses and looking at funding sources. She pursued a second Masters in Environmental Geology from Duke University's School of the Environment and one summer, took a summer internship job with the National Park Service at Arches and Canyonlands National Parks. She was 21 years old and had never been west of the Mississippi. During that internship she knew she had found her vocation.



*Tracy Swartout, Deputy Superintendent-Mount Rainier National Park
Photo By: Martha Shellenberger 2016*

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT (continued)

After obtaining her Masters, Tracy served at the National Park Service headquarters in Washington DC for seven years as the head of the NPS Business Management Group, an internal NPS management consulting firm. During that time she traveled to 75 parks and learned about the challenges faced by the NPS. At age thirty-three (33) she became the youngest to serve as Superintendent in the NPS at Congaree National Park in South Carolina. The same Park Ranger she had met thirty years prior was there to greet her. The park contains the biggest trees east of the Mississippi River and during her six years at the park she oversaw adding 2000 acres to the park and improving water quality by battling polluters. She also worked to include the African American community in park activities, many of whom avoided the park due to historical references to slavery.

She accomplished this while juggling being a wife and a mother (including breast feeding). Her husband is an environment engineer and they have two children. She encountered ageism and misogyny often being overlooked when traveling with a male colleague when she was assumed to be subordinate because of her gender and age.

In 2012, she became the Deputy Superintendent and Chief Operating Officer of Mount Rainier and **broke the 113 year glass ceiling** of male leadership. Future plans for Mount Rainier National Park include a Wilderness Plan to work through a maintenance backlog to improve roads and restore meadows. The Paradise Inn, built in 1917, will undergo a \$30 million facelift along with preservation of historical structures built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Another challenge she faces is replacing the ageing workforce at the park and increasing racial diversity within the workforce. Twenty-five (25) % of the park's employees are due to retire. In fact, fifty (50) % of the NPS workforce is over the age of forty. She has been with the NPS for 16 years.

What can we do to help?

- **Share** National Parks with younger generations.
- **Look** into **Every Kid in A Park**, a program that provides passes to fourth graders and their teachers allowing them to travel to any of the National Parks.
- **Tell** businesses that the NPS is providing an opportunity to partner with them to provide transportation to the park for millennials.
- **Donate** to the National Park Foundation or to the Washington Park Foundation. One fourteenth of our tax dollars go to the NPS and it relies on philanthropy to supplement the budget.

WASHINGTON PARK FOUNDATION.

We also heard from Nicki Ducommon, Donor Stewardship Manager with the Washington Park Foundation a 501(c3) organization. It serves as a non-profit partner with Washington National Parks. One hundred (100) % of donated funds stay in Washington state. They have a small staff of 4 employees and rely on volunteers to help accomplish their mission.

They conduct fireside circles in a variety of locations, that she described as friend raisers, not fund raisers. They provide education about Washington National Parks and conduct research on glacier measurement, visitor experiences, and help with revegetation in the parks. Volunteers include diplomatic meadow rovers who help educate the public to protect fragile areas.

They provide bus transportation for schools, Boys and Girls Clubs and low-income families to go the parks. They get a list of projects from the park superintendent each year and hold an auction every spring in conjunction with corporate partners to raise between \$200,000 and \$250,000 for the parks. They also conduct climbs to Mount Rainier and Mount Shuksin in collaboration with REI.

As the official fundraising partner for Mount Rainier, North Cascades and Olympic National Parks, donations to the Washington Park Foundation help local National Parks directly. For more information go to: <http://wnpf.org/>



Gig Harbor Branch-Presidents' Message

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) is the nation's leading voice promoting equity and education for women and girls. Since our founding in 1881, AAUW members have examined and taken positions on the fundamental issues of the day — educational, social, economic, and political. Programs include:

Research - We analyze gender equity issues in education and the workplace.

Campus Leadership - We help shape the lives of the next generation of women leaders.

STEM Education - We are leveling the playing field for girls and women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Public Policy - We advocate for policies that advance equity for women and girls.

Case Support - We support challenges to sex discrimination in higher education and the workplace.

Salary Negotiation - Through AAUW Start Smart and AAUW Work Smart, we are fighting to close the pay gap, one workshop at a time.

Educational Funding - We provide educational and lifelong learning opportunities for women.

Global Connections - We respond to the global development needs of women, helping them contribute to the economic and social development of their countries.

Member Leadership - We provide leadership development opportunities to AAUW members.

Throughout the coming year, we plan to address these areas in this newsletter.



Barb Schmit & Julie Buffington, Co-Presidents

Photo By: Martha Shellenberger 2016

Research That Matters in the Lives of Women and Girls

AAUW conducts groundbreaking research on issues related to gender equity in education and the workplace. Our work influences the national discussion on topics like the pay gap between women and men, sexual harassment in schools and on college campuses, and the underrepresentation of women in science and engineering. Through new and traditional media, targeted outreach to policymakers, and member efforts, AAUW research serves as a catalyst for action.

Recent AAUW Research

Barriers and Bias: The Status of Women in Leadership

Why do men still vastly outnumber women in leadership positions? AAUW's newest research report explores this question, drawing from scholarly research and paying special attention to stereotypes and bias.

The Simple Truth about the Gender Pay Gap (Spring 2016)

This commonsense guide, updated twice each year, provides key facts about the current state of the gender pay gap in the United States, with explanations and links to additional resources that can help you effectively advocate for pay equity.

AAUW GH Calendar

October 2016

Board Meeting-2nd Wednesday of each month at 3:00 pm in the Gig Harbor Library.

Upcoming meetings: October 12, 2016 and November 9, 2016. Contact Julie Buffington (253) 267-1066; rjbuffington@comcast.net or Barb Schmit (253) 549-0814; bschmit@harbornet.com if you have questions.

Bon Appetit-October 18, 2016, 6:00 pm. THYME hosts SAGE at Karen Drum's home, with co-host Julie Buffington. ROSEMARY hosts PARSLEY at Georgia Hoghaug's home, with co-host Claudia. **November 15, 2016, 6:00 pm.** PARSLEY hosts THYME at Sandy Overton's home, with co-host Gwyneth. SAGE hosts ROSEMARY at Patricia Mattox's home, with co-host Sue.



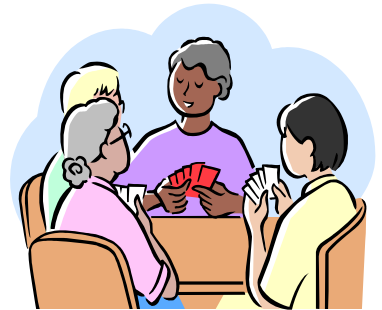
Evening Book Group-Monday, October 31, 2016 at the Peninsula Library. 6:30 Refreshments; 7:00 Meeting Time. THE DATE FOR THE OCTOBER MEETING HAS BEEN CHANGED TO THE 5th MONDAY. We will be reading ***Circling the Sun* by Paula McLain**. Phyllis Davis will lead the discussion. Diane Edison and Sue Hines will provide refreshments. **IN NOVEMBER**, we will be reading ***The Zookeepers Wife* by Diane Ackerman**. Susan Pettersson will lead the discussion. Joyce Myhre and Ellen Lowrie will provide refreshments. For further information phone Sue Hines (253) 761-5080 or Salli Montgomery (253) 857-8057.

Who Done It (Mystery Book Group)—Tuesday October 11, 2016.

We are reading **Mary Roberts Rinehart**, presented and hosted by Carol Robinson. For more information call Carol Robinson at (253) 265-6141. **Tuesday November 8, 2016.** We are reading **Lisa Gardner**, presented by Winnie Trippel.

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



Happy Birthday to members celebrating October birthdays.

Annette Wanwig	10-02
Paula Florence	10-12
Nancy Williams	10-12
Julie Woodward	10-13
Marilyn Davis	10-15
Patricia Berger	10-21
Oren Tovar	10-21
Amber Kliewer	10-24
Winifred Trippel	10-26





Gig Harbor Branch-Announcements

CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE



Gig Harbor (WA) Branch



[HOME](#) [ABOUT US](#) [INTEREST GROUPS](#) [EVENTS](#) [PROJECTS](#) [JOIN](#) [NEWSLETTERS](#) [GALLERY](#) [MEMBERS](#)

Welcome to the Gig Harbor, Washington, branch of AAUW

Many thanks to Mary Williams and her team who worked with AAUW National to create a beautiful and useful website for our branch. Go to : <http://gigharbor-wa.aauw.net/> to access Interest Group information, Upcoming events, Newsletters, Projects, Photos and more.

I SAW IT IN THE TNT

Peninsula School District students get immersed in STEM curriculum as part of Tech Trek

The September 1, 2016 issue of The Tacoma News Tribune featured our Tech Trek campers and the efforts of AAUW-GH to send middle school girls to Tech Trek. Also featured was Claudia Thompson who is a member of the Executive Board and TECH Trek/STEM Chair person and was instrumental in building awareness with the TNT about Tech Trek. To see the article go to:

<http://www.thenewstribune.com/news/local/community/gateway/g-living/article99271777.html>



Gig Harbor Branch-Announcements

Newsletter Deadline: October 20, 2016. The November and December newsletters will be combined this year. Please send your articles and pictures by the deadline to marthashellen@comcast.net. Remember to include last names, locations, dates and times for the information you send.



Please welcome our new member and add her information to your membership directory.

Theresa Cosgrove (Steve)
11706 16th Ave NW
Gig Harbor, WA 98332
(206) 890-8996
Theresa.m.cosgrove@gmail.com
University of Wisconsin—Eau Claire
BFA-Printmaking and Drawing
June 25

Sue Engen, AAUW-GH Member, would like everyone to know about a beginning Taiji/Qigong class opening in Gig Harbor. Several AAUW members who have taken these classes have noted the benefits of increased energy, flexibility and strength leading to better balance and fewer falls...plus it's fun.

Taiji Master Roger Cloutier is teaching an hour long beginner class on Tuesdays and Thursday at 11:15am. It will include Taiji Temple Exercises, Qigong warm-ups and beginning taiji principals of movement through learning the Yang Style Form (1st set). The price is \$10 per class.

To sign up or for more information contact:

Roger Cloutier

Phone: 360-649-9794

Email: templetaiji@wavecable.com

Web site: www.massagepostureandmovement.com

Or come to class at :

Warrior Life Martial Arts studio

5626 43rd Ave Ct. NW

Gig Harbor (near the Sample Sale shop at Hunt and Wollochet).





AAUW Analysis Indicates Equal Pay Gap Will Not Close for 136 Years

WASHINGTON — The American Association of University Women (AAUW) has analyzed the latest U.S. Census Bureau data to determine how long it will take for the gender pay gap to close. The results underscore the importance of AAUW's ongoing push for equal pay.

In 2015, the pay gap was 80 cents; that is, U.S. women working full time, year-round typically were paid 80 cents for every dollar paid to men. The latest pay gap number is not a statistically significant change from last year's 79 cent number, indicating that the gap is closing at a glacial pace. Based on the data trend since 2001, AAUW researchers have determined that it will take more than a century, until 2152, for the pay gap to close. Women made great gains in the 1980s and 1990s as they entered the workforce at record numbers, but in the last 15 years, progress on closing the pay gap has stalled.

"As disappointing as it is to see women's overall wages remain stuck behind men's year after year, it's even more startling when we look ahead," said AAUW Vice President of Research Catherine Hill of the predicted 2152 finding, which will appear in *The Simple Truth about the Gender Pay Gap*, AAUW's forthcoming research report. "A lot of attention today is understandably focused on the Census' poverty numbers, but it's also important to note the link between the pay gap and the number of women and children living in poverty and what that means for the future."

Submitted by Karen Drum, Public Policy Chair

AAUW's Simple Truth about the Gender Pay Gap report reveals new data

On Thursday, September 22, 2016, AAUW released the Fall 2016 edition of [The Simple Truth about the Gender Pay Gap](#) report. Based on the most recent U.S. Census data, women are paid just 80 cents for every dollar a white man is paid. The pay gap is even worse for women of color, as African American women only earn 63 cents and Hispanic women only earn 54 cents compared to their white male counterparts. The newly revised *Simple Truth* features earnings ratios by race/ethnicity, median weekly earnings by gender and age, and more. Plus, new for this edition, we discuss how the gender pay gap is connected to disability, sexual orientation, and gender identity. The report also includes strategies and solutions to close the pay gap designed for companies, individuals, and policy makers. Read the full report [here](#) – and post it on Facebook!

AAUW Cheer of the Week

The Seattle City Council [passed a "secure scheduling" law](#), which helps provide stability and clarity to retail and food-service employees' work schedules. The regulation requires employers to post work schedules two weeks in advance, provide at least 10 hours rest between opening and closing shifts, and give available hours to part-time employees before hiring new workers.

AAUW Jeer of the Week

Wyoming State Rep. Gerald Gay (R-Casper) [claimed](#) the gender pay gap is a "fact of life" because women have a "dependability issue." Rep. Gay cited maternity leave and sick days as reasons that women may not show up for [work](#).



State and National Resources

Annual State Conference – A Great Day!



Executive Board members Mary Williams, past president, and Claudia Thompson, TechTrek/STEM Chair, recently attended the summer AAUW conference, held in Ellensburg in April. Both enjoyed the conference and learned much from attendees from across the state.

Speakers from the AAUW National office in Washington, D.C. gave excellent presentations to the group and also shared resources available on the national website. Members from across the state shared resources and had a lot of opportunities to ask questions and to learn from each other.

Mary and Claudia have already shared resources with the Board that will help our Chapter in the areas of growing membership, fundraising and national issues that we can support here in Washington.



AAUW Empowers Women

AAUW has been empowering women as individuals and as a community since 1881. For more than 130 years, we have worked together as a national grassroots organization to improve the lives of millions of women and their families.

ONE AAUW, Watch The Video

AAUW National has created a You Tube video about everything we do: working to change the climate for women and girls through education, research, advocacy and philanthropy.

To watch the video go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=13xOI0LUyvw>



AAUW's ¡Adelante! Book Recommendations

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



October 2016

National Disability Employment Awareness Month

Finding Time: The Economics of Work-Life Conflict

By Heather Boushey, 1997–98 AAUW American Fellow ([@HBoushey](#))

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.

Show your thanks by supporting the following businesses that help support the newsletter and member directory:

Bella Kitchen and Home
Uptown & Downtown GH

Brais Construction

Fox & Vixen Salon

Kelly's Café and Espresso

Limelight Hair Studio

Emily Lester Hair Stylist

Morso

Eat and drink at the head of the bay

Nice Girl Jewelry

Northwest Capital

Financial Services

