



WEBSITE

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

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American Association of University Women



Gig Harbor Branch

NOVEMBER &
DECEMBER 2016

AAUW Gig Harbor Branch Meeting

Saturday, November 19, 2016 **9:45am-Noon (note earlier time)**

Harbor History Museum

Come and Meet our Summer 2016 Tech Trek Campers!



Gig Harbor Middle School girls who attended Tech Trek 2016. Photo: source

On Saturday, November 19 our Tech Trek girls will talk about their camp experiences. There will be a brief presentation and refreshments but it's really all about these amazing young women. It is guaranteed that you will leave feeling enthusiastic about the girls, their experiences, their future and our support of the Tech Trek Program. Please join us!

Upcoming AAUW Events-Mark your Calendar!

Saturday, December 10, 2016-Holiday Party, see next page for more details.

Saturday, January 21, 2016-Branch Meeting-Harbor History Museum

Monday, January 30, 2017-Lobby Day, Olympia



Please join your AAUW friends at the

AAUW-Holiday Party

Sunday, December 10, 2016

2:00 - 6:00 pm.

Barb Schmit's Home

227 3rd Court

Fox Island, WA 98333-9705

253.549.0814 (home)

253.691.5440 (cell)

Bring your family and friends, encourage other AAUW members to join us, and offer a ride to members who might not otherwise be able to attend.

Bring an appetizer or a dessert to share.

RSVP to Barb (253) 549-0814

bschmit@harbornet.com



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.

Campus Leadership Programs

Shaping the next generation of leaders. Each year, AAUW's campus leadership programs shape the lives of thousands of college women to be the next generation of leaders. Students who belong to the AAUW college/university partners members program will receive priority application preference.

AAUW Campus Action Projects

AAUW Campus Action Projects are annual, grant-funded, student-led projects that allow students to take action on women's issues on campus. Learn how students can fight gender bias and discrimination in engineering and technology at their schools this year.

National Conference for College Women Student Leaders

The National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) unites college women from across the country to address important leadership issues of the day. Attendees have transformative experiences that inspire them to improve their campuses and their communities.

AAUW National Student Advisory Council

The AAUW National Student Advisory Council (SAC) is a yearlong leadership program for 10 college women who serve as AAUW ambassadors on their campuses. These students build relationships with local AAUW branches, lead campus events that promote women's equity, and help plan and implement NCCWSL activities.

Elect Her

Elect Her encourages and trains college women to run for student government on their campuses in order to build the pipeline of women running for office.

AAUW Start Smart

AAUW Start Smart salary negotiation workshops provide college women who are approaching the job market the knowledge and skills to negotiate salaries and benefits.

AAUW Student Organizations

AAUW Student Organizations are composed of students enrolled in college who are interested in AAUW issues and programs. See <http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/campus-programs/> for additional information on AAUW Campus Leadership Programs



Barb Schmit & Julie Buffington, Co-Presidents

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT-Issues With Issues?



Ann Williams
League of Women Voters Pierce County
Photo by: Martha Shellenberger 2016

On October 15, 2016, we had the pleasure of hearing about issues on this fall's ballot from **Ann Williams** with the League of Women Voters, Pierce County, an organization that encourages participation in government and promotes a civil society. Ms. Williams gave a synopsis of each ballot issue and answered questions from the audience.

We are lucky that we can fill out our ballots in the comfort of our living rooms with mail-in voting, without having to stand in line. Don't forget to vote and mail-in or drop-off your ballot by November 8th. **If you are having trouble filling out or mailing in your ballot**, please call a fellow AAUW Member to assist you.



Nationally, AAUW has researched voting issues in the US.

Study after study shows widespread voter fraud does not exist. To be clear: more Americans are struck by lightning

than commit voter fraud each year. threatening the voting rights of millions of Americans.

Fourteen states will have new voting restrictions in place for the first time in the presidential election in 2016. The tactics of these new voter suppression laws vary. Some require voters to show photo identification at the polls. Others demand proof of citizenship when registering to vote, eliminate same-day registration, reduce early voting periods, limit mail-in ballots, set registration deadlines that are months before Election Day, curb voter registration drives, and more. The effects, though, are the same: across the country, it has become increasingly difficult for Americans to exercise their right to vote.

These attacks on voting rights have an immense effect on some populations more than others, including students, the elderly, people of color, and low income Americans, as well as those living in rural communities. In many cases, women are disproportionately affected – we've changed our names in marriage but not our IDs, or have childcare responsibilities that prevent us from being able to get to the polls.

While this election has seen its fair share of doom and gloom, the silver lining is that there are things one can do to help ensure their right to vote, and everyone else's is unabridged and uninterrupted. If something goes wrong, call 1.866.OUR.VOTE to report it. This hotline has been set up by the nonpartisan Election Protection coalition to ensure that all voters have an equal opportunity to participate in the political process.

You can also show your support for unrestricted voting rights by contacting your members of Congress and urging them to cosponsor the Voting Rights Advancement Act (VRA) to restore the protections of the VRA and ensure equal access to the ballot box. In 2013, the Supreme Court's decision in *Shelby County v. Holder* gutted section 5 of the VRA, removing the critical tool in combating racial discrimination in voting known as "preclearance". Since the Court's decision, states have only been emboldened to pass voting restrictions, like the ones mentioned above.

From the ratification of the 19th amendment to the passage of the Civil Rights Act, **generations before us have worked hard to ensure our right to vote**. We can't let that right be taken away with the swing of a gavel. Your vote is your voice. Educate yourself on the issues, and make your voice heard by casting your ballot. Your rights depend on it.



Gig Harbor Branch-Announcements

Newsletter Deadline: December 20, 2016 for the January 2017 newsletter. 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.

Michelle Burckhard

200 Taylor Street

Port Orchard, WA 98366

burckhardme@yahoo.com

(360) 204-0770

DOB 05/15/1969

Tellabration! A Night of Storytelling, Saturday, Nov. 5, 7:30pm, Antique Sandwich Company, 5102 N. Pearl St., Tacoma. Tickets are \$5 and available at the door. The evening will feature a concert of stories from members of the Mt. Tahoma Storytelling Guild that will appeal to storytelling fans ages 10 years and older. Information (253) 983-9114.

AAUW State Spotlight

The AAUW of Seattle (WA) branch organized five days of voter registration drives on three college campuses this month. In total, the branch registered over 100 voters! Some of the events were co-hosted with the League of Women Voters. Gay Armsden, the Branch Public Policy Chair for AAUW of Seattle, also participated in a training about best practices for voter registration drives. Due to the success of the events, she was interviewed by a student reporter at Shoreline Community College for an article that encouraged students to vote.

AAUW Cheer of the Week

For the first time in history, 200 million people are registered to vote in the United States. This landmark is a result of rigorous voter registration efforts, as more than 50 million new people have registered to vote over the last eight years.



THE GENDER PAY GAP COSTS A TYPICAL WOMAN AT LEAST \$500,000 OVER THE COURSE OF HER CAREER.

According to AAUW's latest research, *The Simple Truth about the Gender Gap* (Fall 2016), **women working full time, year-round are paid only 79 cents for every dollar men are paid. That's why, each year, AAUW recognizes Equal Pay Day**, the symbolic day when women's earnings catch up to men's earnings from the previous year. In 2016, Equal Pay Day is Tuesday, April 12.

With \$500,000, you could buy a house (or two) or earn a college degree from one of the nation's elite institutions. Half a million dollars could buy a private island in Nicaragua or your own private concert with Lorde or John Legend. Twice. But for most working families, luxuries are beside the point. Because of the gender pay gap, women are more likely to live in poverty, struggle with the burden of student debt, and experience economic insecurity in retirement.

April's Equal Pay Day and 79 cents don't tell the whole story. AAUW's research shows that **Asian American women make 90 percent** of what white men make. Think that 90 percent is better than 79 percent? Remember: It's still less! How would you like to give up 10 percent of your salary? The equal pay day for Asian American women was March 15. **African American women are typically paid 63 percent** of what white men are paid. Their 2016 equal pay day is August 23.

American Indian and Alaska Native women are paid 59 percent of what white men are paid. For **Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, that number is 62 percent.** To make up the difference, these women would have to work until September 14, 2016. **Latina women face the largest gap, making 54 percent** of white men's earnings. That means they'd have to work almost an entire extra year — all the way until November 1, 2016 — to make up the difference from 2015.

AAUW Bits and Pieces

- A **survey of 2,100 law firms** across the country found that female partners made on average \$290,000 less than male partners. This difference represents a 44 percent pay gap, as female partners reported an average of \$659,000 annually compared to male partners, who reported an average of \$949,000 annually.
- The average **student debt** at graduation for the Class of 2015 is up 4 percent from the previous year. Of students who attended public and nonprofit colleges, 68 percent had student loans and **their average debt was \$30,100.**



State and National Resources

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.

November 2016

Native American Heritage Month

The Beginning and End of Rape: Confronting Sexual Violence in Native America

By Sarah Deer

"Violence against Native American women is a historical and political problem bounded by oppression and colonial violence. This book engages with the problem head-on — and with ending it. Sarah Deer provides a clear historical overview of rape and sex trafficking in North America, paying particular attention to the gendered legacy of colonialism of tribal nations. In a damning critique of federal law that has accommodated rape by destroying tribal legal systems, Deer describes how tribal self-determination efforts of the 21st century can be leveraged to eradicate violence against women. Bridging the gap between Indian law and feminist thinking and grounded in historical, cultural, and legal realities — both Native and non-Native — these essays point to the possibility of actual and positive change in a world where Native women are systematically undervalued and unprotected."

Register for a December 1 online book discussion at

<http://www.aauw.org/event/2016/12/the-beginning-and-end-of-rape-book-discussion/>

December 2016

The Poisoned Table

By Diane Michael Cantor, AAUW national member

"*The Poisoned Table* portrays a passionate rivalry between fictional actress Isabel Graves and real-life Shakespearian sensation Frances Anne "Fanny" Kemble. A tale of ambition, romance, and betrayal, the novel traces their unconnected adventures and acting careers in the Old and New Worlds, as well as their introduction to the horrors of American slavery and to romance with Pierce Butler, one of the wealthiest men in the United States. Kemble, an ardent abolitionist, falls in love with and marries Butler before she discovers his wealth is solely from slave labor. Within the novel is a play by Graves' lover. Set on a slave plantation, it portrays a dinner at the master's table and the poisonous conditions that produce its bounty, resulting in an attempted murder. In the controversy following the play's opening night, Kemble and Graves are again at odds, their rivalry continuing as they change places on the stages of theater and of life."



AAUW GH Calendar

November 2016

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

Upcoming meeting: November 9, 2016. at the home of Claudia Thompson, 11620 Hunter Lane NW / Canterwood. Come through the Canterwood main gate, tell them that you are going to Claudia's home, and they will provide written directions for you. Call Claudia at (253) 514 6017 if you have questions. Beverages and snacks will be served.

Bon Appetit-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.

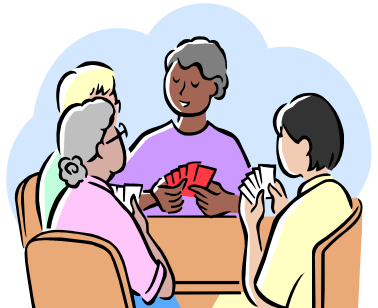


Evening Book Group-Monday, November Nov 28, 2016 at the Peninsula Library. 6:30 Refreshments; 7:00 Meeting Time. We will be reading ***The Zookeepers Wife* by Diane Ackerman.** Susan Pettersson will lead the discussion. Joyce Myhre and Ellen Lowrie will provide refreshments. For further information phone Sue Hines (253) 761-5080 or Salli Montgomery (253) 857-8057.

Who Done It (Mystery Book Group)—Tuesday November 8, 2016. We are reading **Lisa Gardner**, presented by Winnie Trippel. For information call Carol Robinson (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 Barb Schmit (253) 549-0814 for more information.

Bridge-Evening—The next evening bridge group will meet at 6:30pm on **Thursday December 1, 2016.** If you are interested in playing, please call Mary Williams (253) 509-0524 or Barb Schmit (253) 549-0814.



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.

Happy Birthday to members celebrating November birthdays.

Julie Buffington	11-03
Mary Lou Panks	11-06
Cynthia Mowry	11-07
Marlene Buffington	11-12
Josie Hansen	11-12
Phyllis Davis	11-14
Karen Drum	11-14



Patricia Gwin	11-17
Patty Nelson	11-17
Linda Schmitt Strand	11-17
Shirley Dearth	11-20
Wendy Cushner	11-23
Mary Lou Zimmer	11-25



AAUW GH Calendar

December 2016

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

AAUW-GH Board meeting will be held on **Wednesday, December 14, 2016 from 3-5 pm** at Barb Schmit's home, 227 3rd Court, Fox Island.

Bon Appetit-December 20, 2016, 6:00 pm. ROSEMARY and THYME host everyone at Barb Schmit's home.



Evening Book Group-Monday December 19, 2016 at 5:00pm.

Location to be announced in a separate email. Please bring a gently used, gift wrapped book that we have not discussed as a group for our gift exchange. For more information please phone Sue Hines (253) 761-5080 or Salli Montgomery (253) 857-8057.

Who Done It (Mystery Book Group)—Tuesday December 13, 2016.

We are reading **Xmas authors**, For information call Carol Robinson (253) 265-6141.

Bridge-Day— Our group meets on the third Tuesday of each month in a

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Carla Seaquist	12-01
Betty Matthias	12-04
Evelyn Evans	12-05
Gloria Steel	12-10
Maren K. Johnson	12-17
Kathleen Larson	12-19
Carol Stokes	12-27
Lois Hartwig	12-28

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

AAUW Newsletter

Gig Harbor Branch

P.O. Box 2705

Address Service Requested

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:

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Uptown & Downtown GH

Brais Construction

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Limelight Hair Studio

Emily Lester Hair Stylist

Morso

Eat and drink at the head of the bay

Nice Girl Jewelry

Northwest Capital

Financial Services

