



American Association of University Women

Gig Harbor Branch

MARCH 2017



WEBSITE

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

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AAUW Gig Harbor Branch Meeting Saturday, March 18, 2017-10:00am-Noon

ALERT! Note the New location

**Peninsula/Gig Harbor Library
Big Meeting Room**



Meet the Mayor of Gig Harbor, Jill Gernsey

We are very pleased to have Jill Gernsey, mayor of Gig Harbor, make a presentation. Although not all of us live in the city limits, almost everything that happens in the Harbor affects us. As AAUW members we are about empowering women and in finding out what it takes to be an elected official. What is the job of mayor of a small, growing city? Where is our civic center headed? Jill will take questions and comments.

Upcoming Events-Mark your Calendar!

March 8, 2017-International Women's Day. The theme this year is **#BeBoldForChange**. Call on the masses or call on yourself to help forge a better working world - a more gender inclusive world.

April 4, 2017-Equal Pay Day

April 22, 2017-AAUW Washington will hold its Annual Meeting at Cedar River Watershed Educational Center near North Bend. Go to <http://aauw-wa.aauw.net/> for more information.

May 13, 2017-AAUW GH Luncheon/Chico's Fashion Show. Inn at GH.

July 9-15, 2017 Tech Trek Pacific Lutheran University



Gig Harbor Branch-Presidents' Message

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

Julie Buffington and Barb Schmit (co-presidents)



Gig Harbor Branch-Public Policy

Since AAUW's founding our members and supporters have spoken out about policies important to women and girls. Without their voices, invaluable legislation would have never been passed. In recent years, such legislation included the Family and Medical Leave Act, the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, and the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act.

AAUW's policy work connects and rallies advocates at the local, state, national, and global levels to advance our work to empower women and girls. With the member-endorsed **Public Policy Program** as our guide, AAUW uses lobbying and grassroots efforts to push forward policies that break through educational and economic barriers for women.

National priorities inform state and local action. Biennial priorities for national action are chosen according to the criteria of viability, critical need, strong member support, and potential for distinctive AAUW contribution or leadership. No order of importance is implied.

To support a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity, and diversity, AAUW advocates:

Adequate and equitable funding for quality public education for all students

Opposition to the use of public funds for nonpublic elementary and secondary education and to charter schools that do not adhere to the same civil rights and accountability standards as required of other public schools

Protection of programs that meet the needs of girls and women in elementary, secondary, and postsecondary education, including strong promotion of STEM education and comprehensive sex education

Vigorous enforcement of Title IX and all other civil rights laws pertaining to education

Increased support for and access to affordable higher education for women and disadvantaged populations

Increased support for programs that break through barriers for women and girls in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields

To achieve economic self-sufficiency for all women, AAUW advocates:

Pay equity and fairness in compensation

Equitable access and advancement in employment, including vigorous enforcement of employment anti-discrimination statutes

Greater availability of and access to a high standard of benefits and policies that promote work-life balance

Programs that provide women with education, training, and support for success in the workforce, including nontraditional occupations and women's entrepreneurship

Strengthening programs, including welfare and career and technical education, to improve postsecondary education access, career development, and earning potential

Strengthening retirement benefits and programs, including pension improvements and protecting Social Security from privatization



Gig Harbor Branch-Public Policy

To guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse society, AAUW advocates:

Vigorous enforcement of and full access to civil and constitutional rights, including voting rights

Choice in the determination of one's reproductive life

Increased access to quality, affordable health care and family planning services, including expansion of patients' rights

Freedom from violence and fear of violence, including hate crimes, in homes, schools, workplaces, and communities

Support for U.N. programs that address human rights and women's and girls' concerns

Freedom in the definition of family and a guarantee of civil rights in all family structures

Passage and ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment

We have many public policy **resources** available, and the AAUW policy staff can be reached at 202.785.7793 or advocacy@aauw.org.

This is a critical time to keep up-to-date on important public policy issues!

Gig Harbor Branch Public Policy Chair: Karen Drum, karendrum@hotmail.com

AAUW of Washington Public Policy Chair: Karen Anderson, karena@email.arizona.edu

BECOME A TWO-MINUTE ACTIVIST!

You can join AAUW Action Network and receive urgent e-mail notices to contact your elected officials. You will also receive Action Network e-mails from AAUW and the AAUW Action Fund and will have the option of receiving the "Washington Update" newsletter, AAUW's members-only weekly e-bulletin with the latest policy news. The AAUW Two-Minute Activist sign-up form is at

http://salsa4.salsalabs.com/o/50796/p/salsa/web/common/public/signup?organization_KEY=50796&table=supporter&Email=&killorg=True

The League of Women Voters is holding an event that may be of interest to our members.

Civility, Incivility & Civil Disobedience: A Forum Series--Part II. Part II of this series, is a discussion with those who work with conflicts, including ways to address them whether one is directly experiencing incivility or whether one is observing it in others. A panel discussion among experts will be followed by an audience discussion.

Saturday, March 4, 2017 1:00-4:00 pm

First United Methodist Church
621 Tacoma Ave. S.
Tacoma, WA

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT-Lobby Day and the Womens' Marches



From Left to Right: Kathleen Larson, Pat Gwin, Julie Buffington, Sandy Overton, Karen Anderson, Karen Drum, and Pat Berger

Photo by: Martha Shellenberger 2017

At the February 18, 2017 Branch meeting we heard from members who participated in Lobby Day and from those who marched in the Women's March.

Five members, Karen Drum, Julie Buffington, Kathleen Larson, Karen Anderson and Pat Berger went to Olympia on January 30, 2017 to spend a day hearing about issues relevant to AAUW members and meeting with their elected representatives. The morning program prepared the nearly 60 AAUW members present to lobby their legislators on issues that support AAUW priorities. Three speakers, Calandra Sechrist, Equity and Civil Rights Director at the state Office of Public Instruction; Juli Salvi, a lobbyist for the Washington Education Association, who spoke on "Funding Public Education in Washington State: An Analysis of the Process"; and Pam Crone, lobbyist for AAUW-WA, informed members about hearings scheduled for the afternoon and issues to discuss with their legislators. The afternoon was devoted to meeting with legislators and attending hearings.

The AAUW GH Branch members met with Jan Angel's assistant and had a short conversation with Michelle Caldier. They were unable to meet with Jesse Young. The members told them who we are and issues supported by our branch in hopes of finding common ground. Check out the legislative website: <http://leg.wa.gov/> (or put "Washington state legislature" in your search engine). You can track the progress of specific bills and provide comments for hearings. Pick a bill or two and follow its progress through the legislature. **We all need to support AAUW priorities and become regular activists.**

Next we heard from members who participated in the Women's Marches on January 21, 2017.

Karen Anderson marched in Seattle along with 130,000 other marchers. She said she marched to honor the past efforts of women who worked to get women the vote. She also said that it was a "real upper", with a lot of sharing among the marchers. During the march, Karen received posts and texts from marchers in other locales who said they were marching for family and women's values, one of whom marched with her ten and thirteen year old daughters, who wore pink pussy hats. One of the daughters wrote a report for her class entitled "Civic Engagement". Sandy Overton also participated in the Seattle march and said it was inspiring. Kathleen Larson said her children marched in Washington DC and her husband marched in Seattle. Julie Buffington's daughter marched in Seattle wearing a pussy hat made by Carol Robinson.

Pat Gwin and Karen Drum participated in the Olympia March and also said it was inspirational.

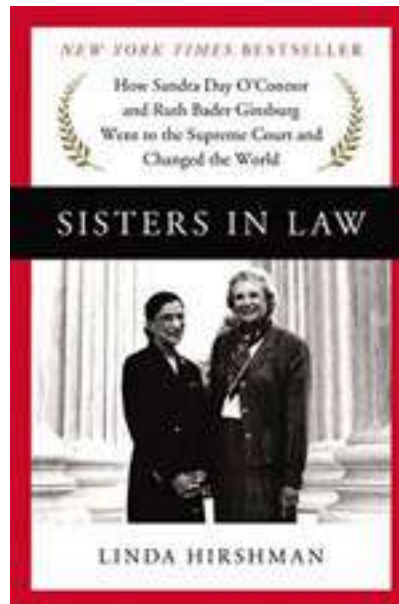


AAUW's ¡Adelante! Book Recommendations

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

March 2017 Women's History Month

***Sisters in Law: How Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg Went to the Supreme Court and Changed the World* By Linda Hirshman**



"The relationship between Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg — Republican and Democrat, Christian and Jew, western rancher's daughter and Brooklyn girl — transcends party, religion, region, and culture. Strengthened by each other's presence, these groundbreaking judges, the first and second to serve on the highest court in the land, have transformed the United States itself, making it a more equal place for all women. Linda Hirshman's dual biography combines legal detail with warm personal anecdotes that bring these very different women into focus as never before. Meticulously researched and compellingly told, it is an authoritative account of our changing law and culture and a moving story of a remarkable friendship."

You can also register for a free online discussion of this book with the author on March 28 at 8 pm, ET, at <http://www.aauw.org/event/2017/03/adelante-book-discussion-sisters-in-law/>



National Announcements and Resources

Have you ever wondered what goes on behind the scenes in AAUW's Public Policy and Government Relations department? While AAUW members like you are busy [advancing our mission in the field](#), we continue to make AAUW's presence known on Capitol Hill. Using our member-adopted [Public Policy Program](#) as a guide, our staff engages with the U.S. House and Senate each session of Congress by making countless lobby visits as well as sending letters, comments, and testimony about pending legislation.

When we see a bill that impacts our policy priorities, AAUW's voice takes many forms—collecting original cosponsors, sending formal statements of support or opposition, and signing on to coalition letters with like-minded groups. **Now, we've published all of those documents on our website for you to reference. Check out our this critical paper trail on [economic security](#), [education](#), [civil rights](#), and [Title IX](#) from the 114th and 115th Congresses!** These materials can help you in your own advocacy efforts, as well. Use them as handouts during in-district meetings with policy makers at all levels, crib from them to write letters to the editor about priority issues, and so on.

We've been able to form productive working relationships with elected officials from both the Democratic and Republican parties, which means that AAUW will continue to be uniquely positioned to build bipartisan support for issues that empower women and girls.

New Tool Explains How to Judge ACA Replacement Plans

Families USA, a health care consumer advocacy group, released a [checklist with eight criteria](#) for judging replacement plans for the Affordable Care Act (ACA), also known as Obamacare. The checklist includes a "yes" or "no" box for standards such as whether premiums will increase, protecting people with pre-existing conditions, preventing discrimination against women and seniors, along with other requirements. If the replacement plan offered by Congress does not meet the eight criteria, it doesn't meet the bar of being at least as good as ACA. Additionally, a new Economic Policy Institute report revealed that repealing the ACA would result in [1.2 million lost jobs](#) nationwide in 2019. The repeal would cost jobs in every state as a result of a decrease in healthcare spending.

AAUW Jeer of the Week

As Snap Inc., the parent company of Snapchat, [prepares for its initial public offering](#), documents show that the only woman on the company's board of directors is paid less than her male counterparts. She was paid \$110,866 in 2016, compared to the next-lowest paid male director, who received almost \$1.1 million in compensation the same year.

AAUW Cheer of the Week

Audi aired a Super Bowl commercial [promoting equal pay](#), which depicted a father lamenting about the gender pay gap that his daughter may face. The company later tweeted, "At Audi, we are committed to equal pay for equal work."

Former Acting U.S. Attorney General Sally Yates has been [nominated](#) for the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award by Representative Jackie Speier (D-CA). Yates refused to defend Trump's executive order barring entry into the United States by refugees and immigrants from seven majority-Muslim countries. President Trump fired Yates after she recommended Justice Department lawyers not defend the executive order.

A MESSAGE OF GRATITUDE

Mackenzie Mills
3510 N. Charles St.
AMR II, # 2218
Baltimore, MD 21218

American Association of University
Women,
As a previous recipient of your
generous scholarship, I would like
to reach out and once more express
my grateful thanks. I am currently
a freshman completing my second
semester at the Johns Hopkins
University. I am a double major in
Physics and Molecular and Cellular
Biology. I give you my heartfelt
thanks for your support! ~Mackenzie Mills



Gig Harbor Branch-Announcements

Newsletter Deadline: March 20, 2017 for the April 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.



Tech Trek applications are coming in. The deadline for submission was February 24, 2017. The Tech Trek committee will review the applications and will select the campers for 2017.

Carol Robinson will begin selling her knitwear at the GH Farmers Market on April 1, 2017. Stop by her booth and buy something to support the named scholarship fund.



Models are needed to wear Chico's outfits at the May Fashion Show. All ages and sizes are welcome. Call Mary Williams (253-509-0524 or 714-404-7203) if you are interested.



We lost two long-time members of AAUW GH Branch recently: **Jean Olson** and **Bev Storkman**. Jean was a regular participant of Bon Appetit. Bev was an avid bridge player. She had a wonderful sense of humor and the term, "joie de vivre", must have been coined with her in mind. The following are obituaries as they appeared in the Peninsula Gateway.

Jean McCrea Olson Age 88, died January 14, 2017 in Gig Harbor, Washington. She was born on May 22, 1928 in Spokane, WA to Frances Loveless McCrea and William S. McCrea. They moved to Tacoma that year and Jean attended Sherman Elementary school, Mason Middle School, and Stadium High School, graduating in 1946. She was a member of the Mason United Methodist Church, was active in sports, served as president of the Girls Club at Stadium, and played violin in the Tacoma Youth Symphony. Jean graduated from Stanford University in 1950, vice-president of her class with a degree in education. From 1950-52 she worked in Hawaii for United Airlines before returning to San Francisco where she married A. Walter Olson in 1957. They lived in northern California and the Midwest and in 1984 she moved to Gig Harbor where for many years she was an active volunteer for the Harbor History Museum, and member of AAUW, PEO, the AVON study group and United Methodist Church of Gig Harbor. Three loves filled her life: family, music, and the family cabin on Fox Island. She was especially happy sharing time with her parents, children, grandchildren, and her sister and family at the summer cabin and visiting with long-time neighbors on the beach. Music was a lifelong passion. Jean was a strong alto in choral groups throughout her life; locally she sang with the Peninsula United Music Association and the United Methodist Church in Gig Harbor. Her voice was beautiful from a children's lullaby to Christmas carols to classical music. Jean's children are grateful to the doctors and caregivers who provided outstanding care to their mother: Doctors Mark Craddock, Joshua Levin, Julius Szigetti; Jennifer Kummerfeldt ARNP, the Franciscan Hospice Care nurses and staff and the amazing care team at Kensington Gardens, Gig Harbor. Jean was preceded in death by her mother Frances McCrea (1997), William S. McCrea (1992), brother-in-law Raymond Chase (1994), and Ginger. She is survived by her sister, Anne Chase of Ann Arbor, MI and Sarasota, FL; nieces Mary Jane Chase of Salt Lake City and Kathy Koupal (Ken) of Northville, MI; daughter Karen Andrascik (Roger) of Eatonville, WA, son Marc Olson (Gina) of West Linn, OR, and daughter Linda Williams (Greg) of Tacoma, as well as grandchildren Sean and Hannah Andrascik and Neil, Bradley, and Leah Olson. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, February 4 at 10:30 a.m. at the Gig Harbor United Methodist Church, 7400 Pioneer Way, Gig Harbor, WA. Published in News Tribune (Tacoma) on Jan. 22, 2017 - See more at: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/tribnet/obituary.aspx?n=jean-olson&pid=183679091#sthash.ZpaQxS4k.dpuf>

Beverlee Burrows Storkman Born on July 7, 1922 in Tacoma. Passed away Feb 14, 2017. Bev grew up on Brown's Pt., graduated Stadium High School, and UPS. Lived and taught in Morton for nearly 20 years. Survived by 3 children, 4 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren. Celebration of Bev's life Sunday Feb 26, 1PM at Gig Harbor Yacht Club. Memorials suggested to AAUW, Franciscan Hospice House and Points Northeast Historical Society. Published in News Tribune (Tacoma) on Feb. 19, 2017 - See more at: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/tribnet/obituary.aspx?n=beverlee-storkman&pid=184183895#sthash.y9DiE0Lz.dpuf>



AAUW GH Calendar

March 2017

Board Meeting-2nd Wednesday of each month at 3:00-5:00pm at Cutters Point-Olympic Village (in the Fred Meyer shopping center). Upcoming meeting: Wednesday March 8, 2017

Bon Appetit-March 21, 2017, 6:00 pm. SAGE hosts ROSEMARY at Estelle's home, with co-host Cindy. THYME hosts PARSLEY at Julie's home, with co-host Barbara.



Evening Book Group-Monday, March 27, 2017 at the Peninsula Library

6:30 Refreshments; 7:00 Meeting Time. Our book for March is "Clementine, the life of Mrs. Winston Churchill by Sonia Purnell. Karen Anderson and Julie Buffington will lead the discussion. Sandy Overton and Marlene Buffington 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) meets the second Tuesday of each month at 10:30 a.m. March 14, 2017 we are reading Donis Casey. Carol Robinson is our hostess and presenter.

For further 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— 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 12:30pm every second Wednesday of the month. March 8th we will meet at the Harvester Restaurant, 5601 Soundview Dr., Gig Harbor 98335. Everyone is invited. No need to call ahead.



Happy Birthday to members celebrating March birthdays.

Gunda Meissner	03-02
Danielle O'Leary	03-04
Liv Svigals	03-05
Susan Pettersson	03-08
Eulalie (Lee) Fisher	03-16
Grace Hooper	03-20
Amy McMenimen	03-23
Joyce Myhre	03-24

Bobbie Busch	03-29
Arlene Brown	

★ **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:

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

