



AAUW advances equity for women and girls  
through advocacy, education, and research  
SEATTLE BRANCH AAUW NEWSLETTER - COME JOIN US

# The Catalyst

Volume 58, issue 7

March 1, 2010

[www.aauw-seattle.org](http://www.aauw-seattle.org)



## Seattle Expanding Your Horizons

**Saturday, March 13, 2010**  
**Seattle University**  
**901 12<sup>th</sup> Ave, Seattle, WA**

*Please join us this month by volunteering as we support Seattle's "Expanding Your Horizons," a half-day conference for middle school girls interested in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) curricula*

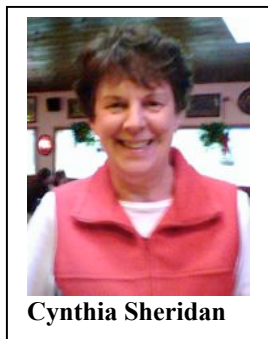
AAUW-Seattle is proud to have founded SEYH in 1988, and our branch continues its support of this wonderful event. As many as 400 middle school girls participate in a half-day conference of "hands-on" workshops in science, technology, engineering and math. Women biologists, botanists, engineers, veterinarians, and many other local professional women enthusiastically volunteer their time to host workshops that introduce girls to exciting careers involving math, science and computer technology. Further details are at <http://www.seattleu.edu/seyh>.

While Seattle University's College of Science & Engineering became the official sponsor of SEYH in 2007, AAUW-Seattle continues its support by volunteering at the conference, and sponsoring the Presenters Luncheon that follows the workshops. Last year about 20 Seattle Branch members and friends volunteered.

Volunteers assist with check-in, set up, support for presenters, lunch duties and more. ***The average volunteer day begins at 7:30 and ends at 2:00 pm***, with some volunteers arriving earlier or working for only part of the conference. There will be at least 125 volunteers joining us from throughout the community.

***Please join us!*** To volunteer please reply via email to [volunteer@seyh.org](mailto:volunteer@seyh.org) or call (206) 296-2117, and leave a message as soon as possible. Then mark your calendar and plan to join other Branch members in this wonderful opportunity to promote equity for women and girls. You will be contacted regarding information on parking and other details.

***Not available on March 13?*** On March 6, 2009, from 6-9 pm there will be pizza and packet stuffing at Seattle University. Contact Tonna Kutner, [president@aaauw-seattle.org](mailto:president@aaauw-seattle.org) if you are interested in this volunteer opportunity.



Cynthia Sheridan

## Leadership Corner

### What I Learned in My History Class

I did pretty well in high school, until it came to history. And I reluctantly admit that most of the boys had it covered. It was so easy for them; they appeared quite relaxed and comfortable, laughing and joking, almost like family.

By the time the first US History exam rolled around, the teacher and most of the guys were pretty much speaking another language. They were having lengthy class discussions, often centered on World War II, about which I knew nothing.

“How did *that* happen?” I wondered. “Me, the honor student, lover of math, biology whiz and past-president of the backyard astronomy club with three whole members, if you counted the dog.” In English Literature, you couldn’t shut me up - but in history, I was a mummy.

Flash forward a few decades to our fortieth class reunion. I listened as the guys recalled fond memories of “Coach” and how he regaled them with the same war stories year after year in the locker room, in both junior high and high school. Suddenly a light came on in my head. “Coach,” I mused. “That would be the US History teacher wouldn’t it?” I was beginning to see a connection here. “And the World History teacher, let’s see... wasn’t he the basketball coach?”

Yes, indeed. Even the biology teacher (my secret crush!) spent a good deal of time after school, hanging out with the team, talking sports and building a relationship with the boys. The other biology teacher was also a coach. According to my year-book, our high school science club in 1963 had eleven boys and two girls. Sports were boys’ baseball, basketball, football, and wrestling, with three to five years of male bonding, every day for hours after school. Hour and hour of character building, skill development and personal relationships were spent that clearly carried over into the classroom. No wonder these guys were so at ease in those US History discussions. I’d sure like to see a gender breakdown of grades in classes taught by ‘Coach’!

Another thing I sure like to see are the 400 exuberant young girls arriving at our EYH event scheduled for Saturday March 13 at Seattle University. This is a wonderful opportunity to help level the playing field for these potential STEM career candidates. I hope you will join us as a volunteer on this richly rewarding day.

EYH is one of the many great activities that have kept me engaged with AAUW since 1974, when I first joined Stockton (CA) Branch. Most cherished are the friendships I have developed over the years, while serving on boards, joining committees and participating in interest groups. A poll conducted by our Stockton Branch years ago revealed that even though equity for women, leadership development, and intellectual stimulation were high on the list, the number one reason our members participated was the opportunity for building community. I believe this is still true today. If you want to get the very best from AAUW, I encourage you to give it your best – through active participation and financial contribution.

Cynthia Sheridan, Vice-President of Programs  
[programs@aauw-seattle.org](mailto:programs@aauw-seattle.org)

*This newsletter is a publication of the  
Seattle Branch of the  
AAUW*

#### **Mission Statement**

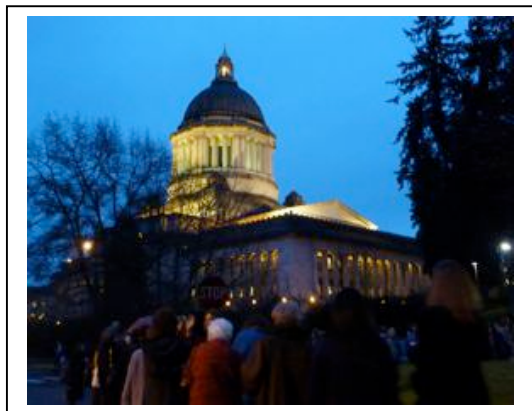
The Seattle Branch American Association of University Women advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

#### **Value Promise**

By joining AAUW, we belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

#### **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, or disability



## Women's Legislative Reception-

*By Judy Waring*

The Governor's Mansion was the site for the February 1st Women's Legislative Reception in Olympia. Last year's reception was under the Capital rotunda in the basement and I was one of two AAUW members to attend the event hosted by a group of organizations.

This year the mansion was a magnet attracting AAUW members-- 8 members, one daughter, and her friend from Seattle alone. There were AAUW members from Everett,

Spokane, Lake Washington, Redmond, SE King County, and Port Townsend in attendance.

Most of us attended a briefing in a Senate Hearing Room that preceded the reception. Because this was also the Planned Parenthood/NARAL Pro-Choice Washington Lobby Day, there was a special focus on reproductive rights including no longer allowing restraints on pregnant women in the 3rd trimester and labor, and on regulating crisis pregnancy clinics. Five lobbyists for women's organizations spoke on legislation of interest to us, particularly how budget cuts would affect family planning access. Pam Crone, our AAUW lobbyist/consultant was one the five speakers.

Other bills included related to bullying, domestic partnerships, domestic violence, interviewing of sexual assault victims, and TANIF (temporary assistance to needy families).

Then we joined a long security line where our driver's licenses were matched with the reception registration list. Finally we proceeded up the drive to the mansion. Inside there was food and wine, and we heard a few words from the Women's History Project leader on Women's Suffrage, and a brief talk by Governor Gregoire. Meanwhile our legislators were introduced as they arrived. Other sponsors in attendance, in addition to Planned Parenthood and NARAL - included ACLU, League of Women Voters, Legal Voice, NOW, Older Women's League (OWL), National Women's Political Caucus, Aurora Medical Services, Cedar River Clinics, and Jubilee Women's Center. The reception provided a good opportunity to visit and network with friends from other organizations.



**In line at the Governor's mansion, from left: friend of Andrea Twight, Andrea, Andrea's Mom Dana, Janice Milne (SE King County), Judy Waring, Penny Tetter, Ann Dennis, and Susan Moen. Seattle attendees not pictured were Tonna Kutner, Lisa Stuebing, Viivi Vanderslice, and Carolyn Havek**

The mansion is beautiful and has lovely antique furnishings. It was completed in 1909 in time for entertaining dignitaries visiting for the Alaska Yukon Pacific Exposition. It is the oldest building on the capital campus. The Governor's Mansion Foundation, a non-profit and non-political organization maintains the public areas of the Executive Mansion. Tours are possible - for reservations or information call 360-902-8880 or send e-mail to [tours@ga.wa.gov](mailto:tours@ga.wa.gov).



*From National...*

[Equal Pay Day](#) is quickly approaching on Tuesday, April 20, and AAUW members and supporters across the country are already planning events to mark this symbolic day when women's wages catch up to men's wages from the year before.

More than 46 years after passage of the Equal Pay Act, women continue to earn only 77 cents on the dollar to their male counterparts. Minority women face an even larger wage gap. Pay disparities affect women of all ages, races, and education levels-regardless of their family decisions.

We recently marked the anniversary of the enactment of the [Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act](#) and pushed for passage of the [Paycheck Fairness Act](#). In his [State of the Union](#) address, President Obama brought the issue to a national audience, asserting "We're going to crack down on violations of equal pay laws so that women get equal pay for an equal day's work." The White House also [announced](#) the establishment of a National Equal Pay Enforcement Task Force to improve compliance, public education, and enforcement of equal pay laws. And Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis wrote on the White House blog, reiterating that pay equity is "[Not Just a 'Women's Issue.'](#)"

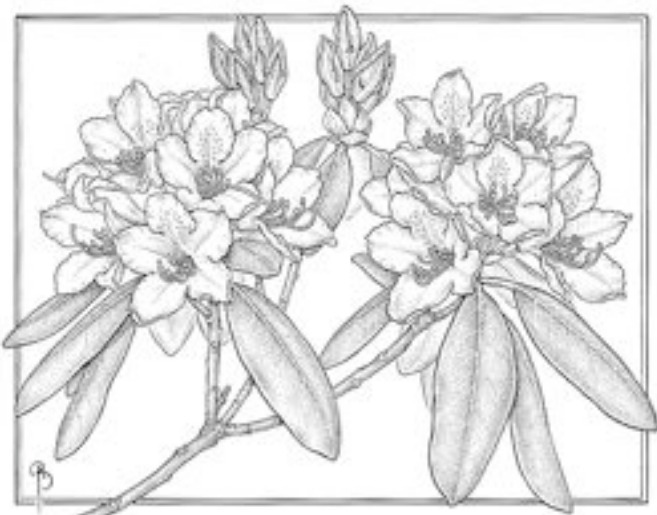
**Pay Gap = Women at a Discount**

<b>50%</b>	Women are now 50% of the U.S. workforce.
<b>40 yrs.</b>	It has taken 40 years to close the wage gap by just 12¢.
<b>77¢</b>	On average, women earn 77¢ for every dollar earned by men.
<b>1 yr.</b>	Just one year out of college, working women already earn less than their male colleagues earn, even when they work in the same field with the same degree.
<b>66+</b>	At ages 66 and older, women are twice as likely as men to be poor.

**100% unacceptable!**

AAUW [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)

The infographic features a teal header and footer. The background of the central section is a photograph of a pen resting on a piece of lined paper with handwritten numbers and mathematical symbols. The statistics are presented in large, bold, yellow and blue text, with horizontal lines separating each row.



## Spring Welcome Picnic

### Rhododendron Species Foundation & Botanical Garden

Located at 2525 Southwest 336th  
Street, Federal Way, WA 98063

**Saturday, April 24**  
**11:00 AM to 2:00 PM**

The Seattle Branch will be extending  
a warm networking welcome to

members of several sister organizations and AAUW branches from throughout the  
Puget Sound Region.

Wear warm clothes, a rain hat, and comfortable shoes, and bring your sack lunch on a  
docent-led tour through the Rhodies and other flora and fauna in this beautiful garden.  
The Garden is 22 acres of lush beauty filled with more than 10,000 rhododendrons as  
well as a variety of trees, shrubs, perennials, and ferns!

Sit a spell and enjoy nature by a lovely pool. You will also get the chance to buy plants  
for your yard and enjoy their beautifully stocked gift shop with wonderful things for  
your patio and gardens.

After the walk we will enjoy our picnic lunch in the Weyerhaeuser Tent adjacent to the  
gift shop. Those interested may also visit the beautiful world-class Bonsai's in  
another area of the garden.

*For information and reservations: Penny Tetter -- [progpt@aauw-seattle.org](mailto:progpt@aauw-seattle.org) or Lisa  
Stuebing -- [interestgroups@aauw-seattle.org](mailto:interestgroups@aauw-seattle.org)*

**Cost \$5.00 / Seniors \$3.00 (rates go down if more people sign up)**



## *Scholars Recognition Dessert Next Month*

*Please join us on Thursday evening, April 22, 2010, at the Best Western Executive  
Inn at 7:00PM as we recognize our young women from area high schools who have  
excelled in STEM (Science, Technology, and Mathematics) fields*

## ***Of Interest At The Library...***

The Seattle Public Library is hosting a series on modern-day slavery and human trafficking from **2 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sundays, Feb. 28, March 14 and March 28 at the Central Library, 1000 Fourth Ave., Microsoft Auditorium, Level 1.** The series is free and open to the public. Registration is not required. Parking is available in the Central Library garage at the regular rate.

**"The Cost of Capture" on March 14** will feature firsthand accounts from victims of forced bondage about how they obtained their freedom. The session features Seattle photographer Tim Matsui and Emma Catague, founder of the Asian Pacifica Islander Safety Center and community organizer against human trafficking amongst the Asian and Pacifica Island populations.

**"Stopping the Traffic" on March 28** will discuss how local organizations are addressing the illegal trade of human beings. Featured speakers include KUOW reporter/announcer Sara Lerner, Seattle police detective Harvey Sloan, Seattle criminal law attorney Ye-ting Woo, and Kathleen Morris, anti-trafficking program manager for the International Rescue Committee in Seattle.

***"The Price of a Life: Modern-Day Slavery and Human Trafficking" series is co-presented by the Library in partnership with KUOW Puget Sound Public Radio.***

## **UW Women's Center**

UW Women's Center is celebrating 100 years of service to women! Join our year-long commemoration during our "Opening Doors for Women & Girls" series with prominent speakers and other events.

### **Lunch with Lilly Ledbetter**

Join the Women's Center to hear Lilly Ledbetter's incredible story of struggle and triumph for equity in the workplace. Her path culminated in the development of Fair Pay Act -- the first piece of legislation passed by the Obama Administration.

**Thursday, March 4, 2010 - 11:30am - 1:30pm**

**The Westin Hotel**

**1900 Fifth Avenue | Seattle**

**Tickets: \$50 - Online: Brown Paper Tickets - By Phone:  
1.800.838.3006**

***UW Women's Center***

***Box 351380***

***206.685.1090 main - 206.685.4490 fax***

**[womens@u.washington.edu](mailto:womens@u.washington.edu)**

**<http://www.depts.washington.edu/womenctr>**

### **Seattle Branch**

#### **AAUW Officers 2009-2010**

**President** Tonna Kutner

[president@aauw-seattle.org](mailto:president@aauw-seattle.org)

**Co-President - Liason to State and National AAUW** Ann

Dennis

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**VP of Programs**

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**Co-Chair, Scholar Recognition**

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**Co-Chair, Scholar Recognition**

Pam Forsha

[scholars@aauw-seattle.org](mailto:scholars@aauw-seattle.org)

## Member News



**Pauline Barrett** and husband Dan recently returned from a 14 day Panama Canal cruise on Norwegian Cruise Line's *STAR*. Before the cruise, they explored the southern portion of the Everglades. They drove to the southern tip of mainland Florida, Cape Flamingo, where after eating lunch they watched the birds. On the return trip they stopped at several bird-sighting pull-outs where they saw egrets, wood storks, "rose" spoonbills, turkey vultures, and several species of herons. They ended the Everglades adventure by stopping at Royal Palm trail that was a raised boardwalk through the marshlands. Besides the same birds mentioned they saw

ALLIGATORS! Leaving Miami for the Canal, they first stopped at Cartagena, Columbia where they canoed through the city's mangrove forest where 5 separate genera grow near each other.. The trip through 3 locks, 2 lakes, and then 3 more locks took about 8 hours. From the Canal, which on the Pacific Ocean side actually is farther east and south than the Atlantic entrance, they participated in shore excursions in Costa Rica, Guatemala, and 3 Mexican towns. Another highlight was participating in a Turtle release at an environmental project whose goal is to help maintain the country's sea turtle populations.

**Lori Brakken**, our former Co-Programs VP (and daughter-in-law of our longtime member **Harriet Brakken**) has been busy. Lori finally said "yes" and accepted the presidency of the Seattle Tree Fruit Society. The organization had a booth at the Seattle Garden Show and Lori was pleased to report that they signed up 30 new members at the show. Next on the agenda is the Spring Fruit & Grafting Show, which offers custom grafting, seminars, scion wood, root-stocks, educational booths, supplies, and more. The show will be on March 14th from 10am to 3pm at the Center for Urban Horticulture. For more information see their website: <http://www.seattletreefruitsociety.com/>

On February 10th, **Dana Twight** joined her mother, **Janet Kavadas** on the ski slopes at Stevens Pass. They skied from 9:30-2:30 and enjoyed the comforts of the Eliza Spaulding Guild ski bus to and from the pass. Dana and her mom had not skied together since the 1970's! Janet takes time off from her water fitness instructor position at the Dale Turner YMCA in order to ski. On February 24th, **Dana**, who is board chair of the Center for Career Alternatives, presented Alan Sugiyama, Executive Director with an engraved vase to honor his 30 years of service to the agency. The Center for Career Alternatives annual dinner was held at the Seattle Sheraton. Dana spoke as part of the official welcome team, following Mayor Mike McGinn and King County Chief of Staff Fred Jarett.

## Seattle Branch Interest Groups

### About our Interest Groups...

*The Stitchery Group* will continue to meet this year, under the leadership of Helen Shannon. These women join together for needlework projects and enjoying each other's company.

*Twice Told Tales* normally meets on the second Tuesday of each month under the leadership of Pat Foss.

*AAUW Adelante! Book of the Month Club* is an individual book club with online discussion at <http://discuss.aauw.org/forum/indix.cfm?forumid=1> Book titles are available through AAUW (<http://aauw.org>) Look under Community Activities.

Contact Lisa Stuebing, [interestgroups@aauw-seattle.org](mailto:interestgroups@aauw-seattle.org), for details.

**Seattle Branch AAUW**  
**2020 E Lynn St**  
**Seattle, WA 98112-2620.**  
**Address Service Requested**

*Upcoming...*

**Thursday, March 4, 2010** - 11:30am - 1:30pm - The Westin Hotel - 1900 Fifth Avenue | Seattle -  
*University Women's Center Lunch with Lilly Ledbetter* - Tickets: \$50 - Online: Brown Paper Tickets -  
By Phone: 1.800.838.3006

**Saturday, March 6, 2010** – 6:00-9:00 PM – Seattle University - EYH Packet Stuffing and Pizza –Contact  
- Tonna Kutner [president@aauw-seattle.org](mailto:president@aauw-seattle.org)

**Sunday, March 7, 2010** – 4:00 PM-10PM - The Central Cinema ~ 1411 21st Avenue, Seattle 98122 –  
Reel Grrls Oscar™ Party - [karen@reelgrrls.org](mailto:karen@reelgrrls.org)

**Saturday, March 13, 2010** - 7:30 AM-2:00 PM - Seattle University - 901 12<sup>th</sup> Ave, Seattle, WA –  
SEYH Conference Volunteer opportunity

**Sunday, March 14, 2010** – 2:00-5:00 PM – Seattle Public Library – “The Cost of Capture”  
Modern Human Bondage Series

**Sunday, March 28, 2010** – 2:00-5:00 PM – Seattle Public Library – “Stopping the Traffic”  
Modern Human Bondage Series

**April 16-18, 2010** - State Convention – Walla Walla Community College, Walla Walla, Washington

**Tuesday April 20, 2010** – Equal Pay Day

**Thursday, April 22, 2010** - 7:00 p.m. Best Western Executive Inn - Scholar's Recognition Dessert Event –

**Saturday, April 24, 2010** - 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM - 2525 Southwest 336th Street, Federal Way, WA 98063 –  
AAUW-Seattle Rhododendron Species Foundation and Botanical Garden Picnic

**Saturday, May 22, 2010** - 9:30 a.m. Best Western Executive Inn – Annual Meeting - Election of Officers