



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

The Catalyst

Volume 58, issue 9

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www.aauw-seattle.org



Dixie Swenson

“Why So Few? Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics”

With Dixie Swenson
AAUW-WA State President

Saturday, May 22nd
9:30 a.m. – Noon

Best Western Executive Inn, 200 Taylor Ave North, Seattle

AAUW has just released a new research study that is getting wide review in the media. It asks the question –“Why are women still underrepresented in science and engineering despite the fact that women now make up about 50 percent of the American workforce and despite the increase of women in other ‘male’ fields?” It cites the fact that there is no longer a difference in math performance between girls and boys, but other factors seem to be at play. What are some practical ways that parents, educators, and employers can attract women and girls to these fields and keep them there?

Dixie Swenson, outgoing Washington state AAUW president, and newly elected (with Seattle branch member Ann Dennis) state co-president for 2010-2012, will present an overview of this fascinating study. She will also discuss some of the highlights from the recent state convention in Walla Walla as well as some of the other exciting things that are going on at the state level of AAUW.

LOCATION –Best Western Executive Inn, 200 Taylor Ave. North

Brunch menu - \$15 inclusive - Chilled Fruit Juice, Spinach, onion, and mushroom Quiche, Breakfast Potatoes, Assorted Breads,
Fresh Brewed Coffee, Decaf Coffee, and Tea

DEADLINE Reservations are required by noon Wednesday, May 19. Contact Maureen Kremers programs@aauw-seattle.org, or make reservations online at www.seattle-aauw.org using Pay Pal.
(Please note that AAUW must pay for all reservations made)

Parking close by: Free in hotel garage Members who park in the garage or BW lot can sign in at the front desk and give their name and license plate number the first time they park there. They will then be registered for parking every time we meet there -to be validated by license plate number, and will not need to get a pass or register again.
Also 2-hour curbside pay stations on Taylor; on Thomas, 10-hour on 6th Ave. N.; nearby lots \$5-10/day.
Bus: #8 on Denny. *Call Maureen if you need a ride.*

Leadership Corner

Dear Members,

I am honored to belong to such a powerful network of women. AAUW has been a safe and encouraging place for me to develop my leadership skills and I use these skills each day in my position as Business Manager in the University of Washington Athletic Department. The branch has many amazing women and I find it fascinating to hear stories

of their previous struggles and triumphs.

I decided to join AAUW after passing my CPA exam, as I was seeking to be around interesting and educated women who continue the fight for equality. I was familiar with AAUW since my Mother and Grandmother were members of their local branches. I even attended EYH (Expanding Your Horizons) as a child. AAUW is very important to my Mother as she enjoys promoting equality for women and girls as well as being in the book groups with cultured and educated women, and attending national and international conferences. I share that bond with her.

I continue my membership with AAUW as it provides me with opportunities to learn new things through the branch's programs, keeps me updated on legislative and equality issues important to me, and provides me with a wonderful network of friends.

The annual dues renewal process begins this month and I hope that you will continue your membership with the branch. Your continued membership helps AAUW to continue to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research. AAUW continues to strive to achieve passing the Paycheck Fairness Act and achieving overall equality for women. In addition, many women need our encouragement and financial assistance to continue their education in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. All of this would not be possible without your support through membership.

Branch dues will remain at \$75 for standard members for 2010-11. For 21 cents a day, you can continue to enjoy wonderful branch programs, and with a powerful network of educated women, you can support women and girls here in Seattle and around the world.

I hope that you find your AAUW membership is a rewarding and enriching part of your life.

Thank you for belonging to our branch and I look forward to seeing you at the annual meeting.

Julia Ramos

Finance Vice President and Treasurer

AAUW-Seattle Branch

scholars@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.

Scholars

Recognition 2010 Dessert Reception a Success

Seattle Branch hosted a delightful evening gathering of academic scholars from nine Seattle high schools,



along with parents, grandparents, siblings and friends, to celebrate their achievement in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) curriculum. This was our 10th year to participate in the program, and our group of scholars expands each year. The evening was well-attended, with 23 of 26 scholars attending with their families. Barbara Sando, our scheduled speaker, had a family emergency and was unable to attend, but Pamela Forsha, our Scholar Recognition chair, filled in beautifully for Barbara, encouraging the young scholars to seek and take advantage of opportunities as they arise. As each honoree shared her plans for the future, members and guests alike felt inspired by these bright and articulate young women.

Seattle Branch Members to Serve on State AAUW Leadership Team



At convention from left: Judy Waring, Barbara Sando, Penny Tetter, Susan Moen, Lisa Stuebing, Ann Dennis, Tonna Kutner, Pauline Barrett

At the recent AAUW-WA convention in Walla Walla, **Ann Dennis**, past president of the Seattle branch and current VP of Communications for the state, was elected to the office of state Co-president with **Dixie Swenson**, who is finishing her present term as state president. Ann and Dixie, who have complementary interests, are looking forward to sharing responsibilities. (Dixie will be the featured speaker at our May meeting where among other things she will talk about the new state leadership team and plans for the coming two-year term.)

Viivi Vanderslice, who is an attorney and the current public policy chair for the Seattle branch, was appointed to be the state public policy co-chair, along with **Judy Blair** from the Port Townsend branch. **Judy Turpin**, a long-time member of the public policy team, will continue to work on the AAUW-WA

blog and to be tuned in to the happenings in the state legislature as they apply to AAUW issues. Congratulations to Ann and Viivi.

AAUW Among the Rhodies

Fourteen people showed up to tour the Weyerhaeuser Rhododendron Species Garden on April 24. We dressed in weather-appropriate clothing and walked through the well-maintained paths without letting the rain interfere. Our docent and another volunteer familiar with the gardening aspects of the site eagerly shared their knowledge about the assorted species of rhododendrons whose homelands are far away in China, Tibet, Nepal, and Japan (to mention a few). After our hour-long walk we ate our packed lunches and socialized in a heated (and mostly dry) tent. -*Pauline Barrett*



SEATTLE BRANCH DUES-*Pauline Barrett*

Local Branch dues are now being accepted for the 2011 fiscal year (July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011). The Association has maintained its portion at \$49.00 per year. The State's portion of our dues has increased to \$10.00 a year.

The Seattle Branch board voted to keep the dues at the same \$75.00 level though the local dues money (which goes for membership program, communications via mail/email and the administration of the web site, and other program expenses) will be reduced to \$ 16.00 person. Here's the breakdown:

Association	\$49.00 (\$46 tax deductible)
State	\$10.00
Branch	\$16.00

Life members pay \$26.00; dual members (where their primary membership is with another branch) pay \$16.00; those who have been members for 50 years receive Honorary Life Membership and pay no further dues to Association, State, or Branch.

Look for a notice with envelope for paying dues coming soon. Members who renew by our May meeting, May 22, 2010, will be eligible for a drawing for a surprise gift.

If you have any question please phone Pauline Barrett, Membership VP, email at www.membership@aauw-seattle.org

Public Policy***AAUW Endorses Paid Sick Days for a Healthy Workforce***

A coalition, including Legal Voice and AAUW-WA, is taking on the issue of paid sick days for all employees at the local level. The Coalition has targeted Seattle and Tacoma as the test ground for getting an ordinance passed that would require employers to provide paid sick days for all employees, even part-time employees. Workers would earn sick days by accruing one hour of paid sick time for every 30 hours worked. Workers can accrue up to 40 hours in businesses with fewer than 10 employees and up to 72 hours in larger businesses.

It comes as no surprise that women and families are disproportionately impacted by the absence of paid time off. Employers rarely offer paid sick time to part-time employees and 78% of restaurant workers, 55% of retail workers and even 29% in health care do not have paid sick leave. In Seattle alone, 42% of the 190,000 workers have no paid sick leave. Workers are forced to work when they are sick because they either cannot afford to take unpaid time off or their job does not allow such absences. For 69% of school-age children in King County, both parents work. Parents without sick leave are less likely to stay home with an ill child, sometimes being forced to send the sick child to daycare or school, or keep an older child home from school. This is harmful to the family, worker and is also harmful to the business as productivity is reduced, chance of accidents increase and sick workers spread disease to co-workers. Through paid sick leave, workers and their children will be able to seek out early treatment, which lowers costs and allows for a quicker recovery. -*Viivi Vanderslice*

***AAUW Seattle Invites you to
Celebrate with Us***

Sunday, September 19, 2010

1:30 pm - 4 pm

***100 years of Women's Right to
Vote in Washington State***

Women's Votes,

Women's Voices

**Museum of History and Industry
2700 24th Avenue East
Seattle, WA 98112-2099**

**Lecture by MOHAI staff
Docent led tour through the
Women's Suffrage Exhibit
Light refreshments and
socializing**

***Mark Your Calendar and Watch for
Further Details!***



YOU ARE INVITED TO THE 10th ANNUAL AAUW FUNDS GARDEN PARTY & TOUR

Co-Hosted by the Highline and Seattle Branches

July 17, 2010 - 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

**Kruckeberg Botanic Gardens
20312 15th Ave. NW**

\$15.00 or a donation amount of your choice.
(Please designate your branch on your check.)

The Highline and Seattle Branches are again partnering for the 10th Annual Garden Party and Tour. This special event has been an important and successful fundraiser, supporting advanced education for women.

Join us for our first visit to the Kruckeberg Botanic Gardens. The Kruckeberg Botanic Garden at Richmond Beach, in Shoreline, Washington, is a public garden dedicated to community enjoyment and educational enrichment. Mareen and Arthur Kruckeberg assembled the Garden's four-acre plant collection over many years. It is rich in native plants of the Pacific Northwest and unusual species from other lands, set in a wooded, park-like atmosphere. The bird list identifies over 41 species that have visited the Garden.

In January 2008 the Garden became part of the City of Shoreline's park system. The Kruckeberg Botanic Garden Foundation (KBGF) is responsible for operation and maintenance of the Garden, in collaboration with the City of Shoreline. The Kruckeberg Botanic Garden Foundation (KBGF) also operates the on-site MsK Rare Plant Nursery.

Board members from each Branch will provide dishes for a pot-luck style lunch.

Join us and help to raise funds for our worthy AAUW Funds programs that support advanced education and equity for women!

For more information or RSVP instructions contact Lisa Stuebing interestgroups@aauw-seattle.org

AAUW Funds - A Major Change

At a recent AAUW national convention, delegates voted to form one inclusive fund, called "AAUW Funds". It replaces the Educational Foundation (EF) and Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF.)

AAUW Funds is the umbrella organization for American Fellowships, the Legal Advocacy Fund, Career Development Grants, the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund, the International Fellowships, and the Research and Project Grants, to name the most well known ones.

AAUW Seattle Volunteers at the EYH Conference

March 13th found 7 of our members up early to volunteer at Seattle University for the "Expanding Your Horizons" conference. **Marilyn Mears** assisted a presenter while **Judy Waring**, **Heather Dohan**, **Tonna Kutner**, and **Cynthia Sheridan** checked in girls as they arrived, giving them their nametags and assignment page with details on the three workshops they each were to attend. **Cynthia Sheridan** was pleased to find her niece attending from Olympia. **Penny Tetter** and **Barbara Sando** arrived in time to serve as guides with the other members, stationing themselves in corridors and outside between buildings to help the girls find their next workshops. Then they all helped serve pizza - 103 pizzas to feed 409 girls!

Our President **Tonna Kutner** went to the Presenters Luncheon to thank the presenters and say a few words about AAUW--since Seattle branch sponsored this luncheon.

The conference drew 61 girls from West Seattle's Madison Middle School. Other girls traveled from further--62 from Arlington, 27 from Renton, and 22 from Mt. Vernon.

Some members volunteered with preparation and post-clean-up duties. Before the conference **Judy Waring** helped unpack, wash, and rinse the 475 water bottles that the girls received, filled with water. **Maureen Kremers** helped to stuff packets that the girls received. **Judy Waring** also helped haul EYH supplies from a nearby storage company before the conference and then back afterwards.

We were delighted to see an article on EYH in the Seattle Times the next day--and then found out that Dana Twilight had helped with getting press coverage. -*Judy Waring*

The EYH Network Receives a Public Service Award

The EYH Network has won the 2010 National Science Board's (NSB) Public Service Award. They will accept the award at a formal ceremony on May 4, 2010 at the US Department of State in Washington, DC. The National Science Board is the 25-member policymaking body for the National Science Foundation and advisory body to the President and Congress on science and engineering issues. The EYH Network was recognized for our 34 years of service coordinating and implementing Expanding Your Horizons in science and mathematics conferences.

By way of background, in November 2009, a few long-time friends and supporters of the Expanding Your Horizons Network nominated EYH/N for this prestigious honor. In addition to nominating EYH for the impact conferences have on young girls, the Network also received the award for increasing public understanding of science and engineering.

Seattle Branch

AAUW Officers 2009-2010

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Co-President - Liason to State

and National AAUW Ann Dennis

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Co-Chair, Scholar Recognition

Barbara Sando

scholars@aauw-seattle.org

Co-Chair, Scholar Recognition

Pam Forsha

scholars@aauw-seattle.org

In Memorium – Audrey Gruger

We were saddened to learn of the unexpected death of Audrey Gruger on March 24th. Audrey had just reached 50 year membership in AAUW. She was a long-time member of Bothell-Shoreline Branch, a branch known for being politically active, and Audrey was part of that activism. She served in the State Legislature from 1976-81 and on King County Council 1982-1993. Audrey worked to benefit women, children, families, the underprivileged and the disabled, very much the goals of AAUW. After Bothell-Shoreline Branch closed, we were pleased when Audrey joined our branch. Audrey generously provided acid-free boxes for some Winifred Weter clothing items we're storing.

Our branch member Beth Bakke shared some memories of Audrey: The two had been members together of the UW chapter of Phrateres, a women's social organization for non-sorority members. They did not see each other after graduation until meeting in the elevator at Horizon House. Then they attended Phrateres' Alumnae meetings together as well as our Seattle AAUW meetings. Just a week before Audrey's fatal stroke, the two spent 6 hours together downtown eating lunch, seeing a movie, and shopping. We express our sympathy to Audrey's family and also to Beth on the loss of her close friend. *–Judy Waring*

Member News



Marion Talbot speaks at the state convention



Dutch-Jo and Grace Isaacs join Marion for a group picture

Marion Talbot speaks at the Walla Walla State convention!

Our own branch president **Tonna Kutner** impressed everyone at the convention by stepping into the character of Marion Talbot, AAUW founder, and addressing the conventioners on Friday night. Two other living history women -Dutch Jo - a very entrepreneurial madam from Walla Walla, and Grace Isaacs, who witnessed

Walla Walla's efforts to get the vote for women, represented a trip through local history.

Walla Walla was warm and beautiful – some members went on a wine tour and visited the Whitman Mission as well as the Kirkman House Museum. Hospitality from Walla Walla and the other branches in the area was very warm and first rate. Attendees enjoyed the community college setting for the conference and learned more about Walla Walla from the community members, including the mayor, who participated in workshops.

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, for details.

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

Upcoming...

**Saturday, May 22, 2010 - 9:30 a.m. Best Western Executive Inn – Annual Meeting – “Why So Few?”
with Dixie Swenson**

**Saturday, July 17, 2010 – 11:00 AM-1:00 PM – Kruckeberg Botanic Gardens - 20312 15th Ave. NW
Seattle/Highline EF Garden Tour -**

**Sunday, September 19, 2010 – 1:30 PM to 4PM – Seattle-AAUW Branch Meeting - Museum of History
and Industry – 2700 24th Avenue East, Seattle WA 98112-2099 – “100 years of Women’s Right to Vote
in Washington State- Women’s Votes, Women’s Voices”**