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91 YEARS
AAUW
Olympia Branch
American Association of University Women

The Reigning City News

American Association of University Women
Is a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy, and measurable change in critical areas having an impact on the lives of women.

1925 **2016**

March/ April 2016 **Volume 91 Numbers 3/4**

AAUW Washington 2016 Biennial Convention

April 22 - 24, 2016
Squamish Clearwater Resort and Conference Center
Address: 15347 Squamish Way NE
Squamish, WA 9839
Phone: (360) 598-8700
See Spring 2016
The Evergreen Leader for details.
The Evergreen Leader is available to view on the aauw-wa.net website.
Click on latest edition of Evergreen Leader for Registration Information

91st Anniversary May Dinner
Vineyard Room
Pellegrino's Italian Kitchen
Please Save the Date:
Tuesday, May 17, 2016
Time: 5:30 PM
Dinner Served at 6:00 PM
We will be able to have our special dinner celebration in the Vineyard Room or "House" adjacent to Pellegrino's Italian Kitchen Restaurant: 360-709-9020

The Dinner Includes:
House Salad
Your Choice of:
* **Lasagna**
* **Chicken Parmesan**
* **Mushroom Fettuccine**
Dessert:
Tiramisu
Cost: \$25
Includes Tax and Gratuity
Guests are Welcome



In February, AAUW released the **AAUW Congressional Voting Record** (CVR) for the first session of the **114th Congress**. This voting record provides information about elected federal legislators on the priorities that are critical to the Action Fund's mission. For the **114th Congress**, we scored congressional members on legislative priorities based on **AAUW's Public Policy** program adopted by AAUW members in areas such as equal pay, education, campus sexual assault, campaign finance, human trafficking, and reproductive rights.

The **Senate** members were scored on five key pieces of legislation including their co-sponsorship of the **Paycheck Fairness Act** which would strengthen federal outreach and enforcement efforts, the **Survivor Outreach and Support (SOS) Campus Act** which would develop steps to end sexual assault on college campuses, and the **Democracy for All** constitutional amendment to overturn **Citizens United**. A total of seven **Senate** members received a 100 percent rating from **AAUW Action Fund**.

The **House of Representatives** were scored on similar legislation including co-sponsoring the **Paycheck Fairness Act** and **Democracy for All** constitutional amendment. House members were scored on seven legislative actions including opposition to the **Student Succeeds Act** which fails to hold states accountable for closing achievement gaps, the **Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Reauthorization (SOAR) Act** which would expand school vouchers in **Washington D.C.** and give public funds to private institutions that do not have to follow **Title IX** requirements, and the **Defund Planned Parenthood Act** which would limit women's access to health care. 59 members of the **House of Representatives** received a 100 percent rating from **AAUW Action Fund**. AAUW encourages you to check out the **AAUW Congressional Voting Record** and see how your senators and representatives scored on issues impacting women and families at:

<https://www.aauwaction.org/voter-education/congressional-voting-record>

Top Stories Listed According to Frequency Mentioned in AAUW Public Policy Reports

Most frequently listed are Paid Sick Leave (3), Equal Pay (2), and Abortion (2). All others are listed once.

Paid Sick Leave (3)

The **Glassdoor Employment Confidence** survey found that four out of five employees prefer benefits over pay increases. Among the top benefits cited were sick days and paid maternity and paternity leave. The **U.S. Department of Labor (DOL)** recently released a proposed rule to implement **President Barack Obama's Executive Order** on paid sick days. The rule would require federal contractors to provide up to 56 hours of earned paid sick leave to employees annually. Contractors are required to either provide one hour of paid sick leave for every 30 hours worked or provide 56 hours of paid sick leave at the beginning of an accrual year. **DOL** estimates that the proposed rule would benefit 828,000 workers 50 percent of whom currently do not have any paid sick days. In state news, **Vermont** became the fifth state to require employers to provide paid sick days. Workers in **Vermont** will receive three earned paid sick days per year in 2017, increasing to five days in 2019. (Mentioned twice)

Equal Pay (2)

In October, California passed the strongest equal pay law in the nation. AAUW members advocated on behalf of the bill and were present at the bill's signing. Even more, AAUW helped to organize a blitz of equal pay bills in states for 2016, 33 to be exact, which have been introduced or are pending this session. On the negative side, women's pay decreases as they enter male-dominated fields. A study found that when women moved into occupations in large numbers, those jobs began paying less even after controlling for education, work experience, skills, race, and geography. Evidently, if a woman does it, the work has less value.

Abortion (2)

The **U.S. Supreme Court** put a hold on a **Louisiana** abortion restriction law. This type of law requires doctors to have medically unnecessary admitting privileges at a local hospital. This law would leave the state with only one clinic, down from five last year. This comes after an almost identical issue in a **Texas** case was heard in oral arguments by the **Supreme Court** in February.

SCOTUS- GOP Refusal to Consider Nominee to the U.S. Supreme Court

A new poll shows that a majority of **Americans** disapprove of the **Senate GOP's** refusal to consider a nominee to the **U.S. Supreme Court**. Fifty-five percent of registered voters are displeased by the decision not to hold confirmation hearings, and only 28 percent agree with the strategy. Despite all the attention on the primary season, **America's** voter turnout rate remains one of the lowest in the world. In 2012, a record low of 17 percent of the voting age population voted in the primary and only 55 percent cast a vote in the general election.



Co-Prez Report by Co-Presidents Mary Alice & Pat Happiness is Being Involved in AAUW



Tech Trek Inspires 7th Graders

As part of the Olympia Branch's new commitment to Tech Trek, **Jane O., Marziah** and I shadowed **Connie** of the Tacoma Branch, when she interviewed 7th grade girls who had been nominated for Tech Trek. These girls were from the cities of Marysville, Shoreline and Raymond. It was very inspiring to meet 12-year old girls, who had a passion for science and wanted to spend a week this summer at the Tech Trek camp at Pacific Lutheran University. Often girls, like the ones we interviewed, are made fun of because they still have this interest on how to make the world a better place by choosing STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) subjects. Going to Tech Trek they will be with girls who also think these classes are cool.

The immediate plan for the Olympia Branch regarding Tech Trek is to become familiar with the program, come up with ideas for fund raising, contact the STEM middle school in Olympia for nominations of girls and then send at least two girls to Tech Trek in 2017 and beyond. The cost for each girl is \$900. We will realize that we are taking small steps right now but as the saying goes. "Each journey starts with one small step."

Branch Convention Offers Many Opportunities

Seven members from the Branch are going to the State Convention at the Suquamish Clearwater Resort and Conference Center in Suquamish on April 22-24. The speakers include **Stephanie Coontz**, a distinguished Professor at The Evergreen State College; **Joanna Amberger**, AAUW Board of Directors; Community Action and Career Development Grantees; a panel on *Breaking the Mold: Challenging Society's Stereotypes about Women and Girls, Tech Trek and NCCWSL*; presentations and a screening on *The Hunting Ground*, a movie on campus assault. We will also be voting for a new state president and state directors.

Plan Ahead for Leadership Conference In August

Thinking ahead to August, there will be a one-day State Leadership Conference in Ellensburg on August 19th. Some of us are already planning to go over on the 18th (in order not to be getting up at o' dark thirty on Friday morning) and attending. This conference also has a less expensive registration and always has interesting topics to be discussed. One that Olympia will be particularly interested in is how Tech Trek went at Pacific Lutheran University and the east side camp at Eastern Washington University during July and August.

New Venue to Celebrate Oly Branch's 91 Years

I hope to see many of you at the May Banquet at Pellegrino's Italian Kitchen in Tumwater. This is a new meal venue for us. We will have our own "little house". *Mary Alice*

Annual Business Meeting Offers New Ideas

Our Annual Business Meeting changed venues rather quickly when we heard that our host for the evening ended up in the hospital for an unexpected surgery. **Hope**, who's always ready to host any event for AAUW, was suddenly admitted and the emergency demanded a Plan B. Thanks to all of you who were able to find my house so we could hold our Annual Business Meeting. Much was discussed and I'm happy to announce that **Joan** has offered to be our new Publicity Chair. She will contact *Thurston Talks* as well as the *Olympian Calendar* to get Branch info out. Thanks Joan for your generous offer of time and talent to do this for our Branch.

Birthdays Become More Special

Betty has graciously offered to send cards and notes to you, especially when it's your birthday, but also if you need some cheering up. This is such a valuable service to our membership. I know you will enjoy getting that extra encouragement as the calendar shows us that we have gained yet another year.

Scholarship Reading Tradition at Evergreen Continues

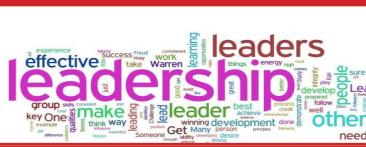
It is noteworthy to mention that **Rose**, **Jeanette** and **Mary Alice** helped read scholarship applications at The Evergreen State College this year. Each reader gets a chance to comment and rate what she thinks are the 10 best scholarship applications out of a stack. The Olympia Branch has participated in this process for over 20 years. It is quite a vetting process by the College to make sure their applicants receive careful scrutiny before receiving scholarship monies.

Movie Night in June Plus Travel Date in July

A couple of movies have been suggested for our Movie Night on Tuesday, June 21. After the Convention the Board will make the choice and we'll let you know. Remember that we begin the evening at 5:30 PM with a salad potluck and continue with the movie. It stays lighter out at night by then, so it shouldn't be an inconvenience to drive home several hours later. More details will be forthcoming in the next (May/June) edition of *The Reigning City News*. In July, we have a choice of traveling to Tacoma for a Museum Day or going to Portland by train and taking in Powell's Book Store and doing some other sight seeing. Let someone on the Board know if you have a preference. **Judy F.** is looking into details for both trips.

Many Thanks For Your Help

A special thanks to all of you for helping to make our Branch such a small but mighty association. We have so much going for us and I can't thank you enough for all your continued help, support and dedicated commitment. *Pat*



Board Leadership Team 2016



Co-President: **Mary Alice**

AAUW Funds: **Jeanette**

Co-President: **Pat**

Public Policy: **Rose G.**

Past President: **Judy F.**

Special Events: **Hope**

Secretary: **Patti**

Publicity/Res: **Joan**

Treasurer: **Judy W.**

Tech Trek: **Jane O.**

Membership: **Patti**

Tech Trek: **Marziah**

TRCN Editor: **Pat**

Webmaster: **Cheryl**

Email: olympiabranchnews@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

~ April 22-24 ~

AAUW-WA
State Convention
Suquamish Resort

~ May 17 ~

91st Oly Branch
Anniversary Celebration
Pellegriano's Vineyard
Room

~ June 14 ~

Movie Night
Salad Potluck
Host: **Pat**

~ July 19 ~

Tacoma Museum Day
Details to be
announced

~ August 16 ~

Annual Summer Picnic
Host: **Hope**

Play Reading Interest Group

The Play Reading Interest Group meets on the second Tuesday from October through May at **Reta's** home. The plays offer a chance for lively discussion afterwards as well as great entertainment while being read by members of the group.

The Play Reading Interest Group will meet again on May 9, 2016. New plays are selected during the summer by an AAUW Branch in California and a play is sent to Reta every month. Those participating in the play reading also have a chance to rate the play afterwards. This activity brings with it an enthusiastic vote.

Selected plays for 2016 are:

April ~ SPIDER'S WEB

May ~ SPEAKING OF MURDER



For more information contact Reta by phone or email

Books & Brunch

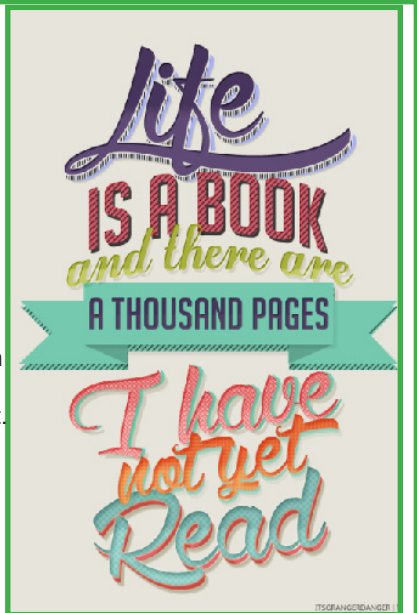
Except December, Books & Brunch meets the second Saturday of each month. A potluck luncheon is coordinated by the host for the month. For information call or email **Mary Alice**.

SATURDAY, April 9 ~ Book: *The Girl on the Train* ~ Author: **Paula Hawkins** ~ Host: **Helena** ~ Facilitator: **Ruth**

"Rachel takes the same commuter train every morning. Every day she rattles down the track, flashes past a stretch of cozy suburban homes, and stops at the signal that allows her to daily watch the same couple breakfasting on their deck. She's even started to feel like she knows them. "Jess and Jason," she calls them. Their life—as she sees it—is perfect. Not unlike the life she recently lost. And then she sees something shocking. It's only a minute until the train moves on, but it's enough. Now everything's changed. Unable to keep it to herself, Rachel offers what she knows to the police, and becomes inextricably entwined in what happens next, as well as in the lives of everyone involved. Has she done more harm than good?" from Amazon.com

SATURDAY, May 14 ~ Book: *The Nightingale* ~ Author: **Kristin Hannah** ~ Host: **Donna** ~ Facilitator: **Marziah**

"FRANCE, 1939: In the quiet village of Carriveau, **Vianne Mauriac** says goodbye to her husband, Antoine, as he heads for the Front. She doesn't believe that the Nazis will invade France ... but invade they do, in droves of marching soldiers, in caravans of trucks and tanks, in planes that fill the skies and drop bombs upon the innocent. When a German captain requisitions Vianne's home, she and her daughter must live with the enemy or lose everything. Without food or money or hope, as danger escalates all around them, she is forced to make one impossible choice after another to keep her family alive. Vianne's sister, Isabelle, is a rebellious eighteen-year-old girl, searching for purpose with all the reckless passion of youth. While thousands of Parisians march into the unknown terrors of war, she meets G etan, a partisan who believes the French can fight the Nazis from within France, and she falls in love as only the young can ... completely. But when he betrays her, Isabelle joins the Resistance and never looks back, risking her life time and again to save others. With courage, grace and powerful insight, bestselling author **Kristin Hannah** captures the epic panorama of WWII and illuminates an intimate part of history seldom seen: the women's war. The Nightingale tells the stories of two sisters, separated by years and experience, by ideals, passion and circumstance, each embarking on her own dangerous path toward survival, love, and freedom in German-occupied, war-torn France--a heartbreakingly beautiful novel that celebrates the resilience of the human spirit and the durability of women. It is a novel for everyone, a novel for a lifetime...from Amazon.com



Olympia Branch Board Meeting

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for

Tuesday, April 26, 2016
10:00 AM

We will meet at Panera's
on the West Side.

Please mark your calendars.



- ~ March 04 ~ **Juanita**
- ~ March 16 ~ **Jane F.**
- ~ March 17 ~ **Patti**
- ~ March 25 ~ **Valerie**
- ~ March 25 ~ **Joan**
- ~ April 15 ~ **Betty**
- ~ April 20 ~ **Barbara R.**
- ~ April 23 ~ **Donna**
- ~ April 23 ~ **Jane O.**
- ~ April 23 ~ **Cheryl**

So Happy You've Joined AAUW Olympia Branch

We are delighted to welcome our newest members **Barbara S.** and **Myrn S.** to the AAUW Olympia Branch. **Barbara** graduated from Pomona College with a degree in English Literature and received her degree in Education from Stanford University. **Myrn** graduated with a degree in English from Central Washington University and received her MSW from the University of Washington. We look forward to your participation in AAUW activities and invite your involvement in our Olympia Branch, where there's much work yet to be done to achieve equity in education for all women and girls.



American Association of University Women

Olympia Branch

Membership Form

PLEASE PRINT

Name _____
Last First Middle

Address _____
Street City Zip

Home ___ or Cell ___ Phone Number _____ Email: _____

Name of Undergraduate College or University _____

Degree(s) in _____ Year: _____

Name of Graduate College or University _____

Degree(s) in _____ Year: _____

Birthday Month: _____ Day: _____ Year(optional): _____

Dues for July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017 Mail Membership Dues to: Judith W.

National: \$49
State: \$10
Branch: \$21

Make Checks out to: Olympia Branch AAUW

Total: \$80

Half-Year Memberships: paid between January 1 - March 15 expire June 30 of that year
All Memberships must be renewed on June 30

Branch: \$10.50
National \$24.50
State: \$ 5.00

Total: \$40.00

Signed: _____ Date: _____

MISSION STATEMENT

AAUW-American Association of University Women
Is a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy,
and measurable change in critical areas having an impact on the lives of women.

Annual Business Meeting

Tuesday, March 15, 2016

Host: Hope

Desserts provided by the Board

Meet: 6:30 PM

Agenda Items Will Include:

- * Formation of new Tech Trek Committee
- * AAUW-WA Convention Information
 - * 91st Anniversary Dinner
 - * Movie Night
- * Summer Outing Possibilities

St. Paddy's Day Desserts

Please **RSVP** to Hope by
Sunday, March 13.

To add to the fun: Please bring some
Guests are Welcome



Hope to see you All

Please come and enjoy an array of
desserts & beverages provided by
your Olympia Branch Leadership
Team.

We welcome your input and
suggestions for the coming year..



Please RSVP to **Hope** by Sunday, March 15

Dear Members,

Attached is the newsletter for March/April 2016. We know that the Convention attendees have already sent in their registration fees and will be packed and ready to go this weekend. Those of us attending either one day or the entire weekend will have space in the next newsletter to report back to you. One of the main reasons I normally attend, is to remind me that the Olympia Branch is a small part of the entire state AAUW. It is interesting to see what other branches are doing and realize that this is a place to gather ideas and inspiration to lead us into the following year and beyond.

Keep May in mind as we gather just to celebrate 91 years as the Olympia Branch. The venue is really a great one for us in terms of size and accessibility. Please consider joining us for this occasion. See page 1 for more details. And, in the next newsletter we will have more information too. By the way, is there someone who would like to take the RSVPs for this occasion? It would be greatly appreciated. Please let Mary Alice or Pat know if you're up to keeping track of emails and phone calls for this event.

Please notice that there is a Dues Form on page 6. Dues are due to Judy W. by June 30. Please get them in to her earlier than that, since that makes it pretty tight for Judy to make the final report to send to the Association Office in Washington DC. In addition, if you'd like to contribute something to AAUW Funds, please write a separate check and include that in the same envelope as you send your dues.

Thanks so much for all you do to keep our Olympia Branch going and making it possible to continue to work on our mission of working for equity in education for all women and girls.

Happy spring. Hope you all are enjoying this nice bit of warmer weather.

Editor - Pat