

The Anacortes Agent

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We’re changing things up at our meetings. They will begin promptly at 7:00 P.M. with a brief report from selected committees and introduction of guests and new members. Your board wants you to be more informed and provide you with time for questions and input. Coffee and tea will be and our program speaker will begin at 7:30.



In October we will open our meeting by introducing our **Tech Trek students**. Due to their busy homework schedules, we have arranged for them to **speak at 7:00** so they can get home early.



Executive Director Nancy Gentry of Gentry House and Deanna McDougle the Marketing Director for Skagit Adult Day Program will be our guest speakers this month. Gentry House is located across from Causland Park and its home-like setting offers a special charm. Due to its smaller size, the program offers a unique client experience; staff cook fresh home-made meals daily and children from a nearby Montessori school visit weekly. Dementia is a brain disease that affects one out of five families in drastic and devastating ways. Left with few choices, the caregiver, often a spouse or adult child must take over the exhausting task of tending to the needs of someone whose brain is dying. Skagit Adult Day Program offers a unique combination of support for the caregiver and a supervised day program where special needs adults can participate in a supportive group setting amongst peers. Join us to learn more about this important resource in our community.

**Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall at 9th & M at 7:00 p.m.**

Parking is available behind the church. Enter through alley door with access by stairs or elevator.



**BOOK TALK** is an annual favorite with our branch. In preparation for our Writers’ Forum next February, Linda has decided to use the same theme for Book Talk next month. Each member is asked to select a book on the chosen subject and we ‘circle up’ and share about what we’ve read. Here’s a message from Linda about why she decided on ‘The Sea’ as our featured topic for the November meeting. “Anacortes is a sea town. We are surrounded by water, the sea is our town's history and many of us spend time near or on the water.  Books about the sea abound.  There are histories, scientific treatises, and exciting adventure stories.  The list provided is just a sampling of books in which the sea plays a significant part.  From Homer to Hemingway-Douglas there is a book you will find interesting, riveting or just plain fun.  For suggestions go to the Anacortes Public Library and search subject words 'sea' or go online and search 'books about the sea'.  I look forward to learning of new titles from you all.”  For suggestions on this subject, Linda has graciously included a list of books for your consideration on the last page of this newsletter.

Your commitment to AAUW makes membership more meaningful….

Our branch has over 50 members, but only 12 attended our September meeting. Each of you matter.

Let’s show support for our Tech Trek students and do better than that at the October meeting.



Nelle Jacobson (10/1)

Suzan Williams (10/1)

Jane Crannell (10/15)

Karen Maughan (10/23)

Diane Dempsey Marr (10/31)

**did you know?**

You can help support our STEM awards by donating books to our ‘STEM SALE TABLE’. Check it out! For a one dollar donation you can take home a treasure.

At our August barbeque over $500 was raised in support of the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund. Due to her long-time commitment to LAF and her many years of participation in our branch, Jane Crannell will be the honoree named for this donation. Here’s just one of the many ways our contributions are at work:

**LAF Campus Outreach Program Grant**

Few college students are prepared for the reality of unfair pay, sexual harassment and assault, pregnancy discrimination, or Title IX violations, yet these issues affect many young people on campus or later in the workplace. AAUW members can apply for up to $750 in funding to host or co-host an event to educate students about these topics.

**Next Board meeting will be held in classroom 3 of the Presbyterian Church at 9th and M on Monday, October 6, at 7 P.M. All are welcome to attend.**

**C:\Users\bonnie\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\UEH27L8Y\MC900013549[1].wmfWhy I Joined AAUW by Letty HaferC:\Users\bonnie\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\UEH27L8Y\MC900013549[1].wmf**

I am actually a heritage member of AAUW. I grew up during World War II, and remember my mother working on a report on John F. Kennan and Russia for her AAUW group. I also have a very early memory of building a horse out of an orange crate in first grade when all the other girls made

paper mache chickens. I was a shy little girl with strong ideas but not enough will to execute any of them! My family moved every two years until I went away to college. I graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1956 and the scenario of marriage and family ensued for the next 17 years until we moved to Bellevue in 1973.

I had not worked outside my home since receiving my degree in 1956. Life with my husband and seven children, (ranging in age from 7-16), was hectic. My brain came out of hibernation and said: “You can’t change all of them; how about changing you?”

Fast forward to the summer of 1974. I took a math class at Bellevue Community College and decided to take the prerequisites for the two year Registered Nurse program. By going to school part time I graduated from the Nursing Program in 1978. I met other motivated mature students and thanks to one of them was introduced to AAUW Lake Washington branch and became a member. (Sorry Mother, I was a little bit late.)

The Lake Washington branch was an early promoter of the national AAUW program entitled Expanding Your Horizons. This program consists of one day workshops for secondary school girls on careers they might consider. Many of the workshops are presented by women working in fields requiring science, technology engineering and math. I did not have a STEM degree, but I have always championed full opportunity for girls.

I continued my involvement in AAUW while working part time as a nurse until retirement brought us to Anacortes in 1996. In the spring of 1997 I attended the Scholarship Tea. I was impressed by the many interesting and outgoing women who were working to ensure education and equity for women and girls, and promptly joined our Anacortes branch. A few months later Karen Maughan arrived at my front door and “invited” me to become Program Chair for the next two years. This made me a Board member and really fast tracked my integration into the Anacortes community. I attended Lobby Day in Olympia and twice went to the State Convention. These experiences cemented my relationship with AAUW.

Since joining Anacortes Branch in 1997 I have served two terms as Program Chair, have chaired the Tea, and have been Membership Chair. I am active in STEM. My hard working AAUW cohorts have become life-long friends and I am no longer shy.

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**Suggested reading on “The Sea”**

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It’s not too early to select a book for our November Book Talk

Log from the Sea of Cortez by John Steinbeck

Sea Change by Sylvia Earle

Moby Dick by Herman Melville

Gift from the Sea by Anne Morrow Lindbergh

The Ocean World by Jacques Cousteau

The Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway

Master and Commander series by Patrick O’Brian

The Girl who came home: a novel of the Titanic by Hazel Gaynor

Jaws by Peter Benchley

The Life of Pi by Yann Martel

Longitude: The True Story of a Lone Genius Who Solved the Greatest Scientific Problem of his Time by Dava Sobel

Of Poseidon by Anna Banks (YA)

The Sea Wolf by Jack London

The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle by Avi (YA)

The Perfect Storm by Sebastian Junger

Raise the Titanic by Clive Cussler

The Odyssey by Homer

Captains Courageous by Rudyard Kipling

We, the Drowned by Carsten Jensen

Under the Black Flag: the Romance and Reality of Life among the Pirates by David Cordingly

Adrift: Seventy-six Days Lost at Sea by Steven Callahan

Sense & Sensibility and the Sea Monsters by Ben H. Winters

Two Years Before the Mast by Richard Henry Dana Jr.