



CHANGING THE WORLD ONE WOMAN AND GIRL AT A TIME

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Anacortes Branch

presented by



Have you ever wondered about the man behind the stunning photos of our scenic area? Please join us for a photographic journey by local photographer, Rakan Alduaij, on May 13 at 7:00 p.m. Rakan will give us a view of a day in the life of a professional photographer and what led to his interest in photography. If you share this information with friends, all guests must contact Nelle Jacobson at nelleadyj@gmail.com to register and get the Zoom link. Do not share your link with someone without letting Nelle know. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88042089145>



Don't miss our Annual Meeting which will follow Rakan's presentation.

This could be us... but

it's not too late to do something about it! Three branches within Washington state will most likely dissolve this year. Recently, the Whidbey Island branch voted to disband. What was it that caused a branch that at one time had over 100 members to let go of their mission? Here are some of the responses they offered:

"We have a core of about 15 members who participate in most things like our Tech Trek program and our Scholarships committees. Our branch meetings usually only have 20-25 participants, even before COVID19. So, realistically, we were heading towards dissolution eventually. No one wanted to work on anything that National was pushing, nor did they want to serve on any fundraising committees.

"As Kim Churches put it, ...younger women (and men) are either busy with jobs and families, and/or are not interested in joining a group of women who meet monthly to talk about things they don't particularly care about. This is a social media driven world and AAUW is trying to play catch-up...and it may be too late."





I am inviting all members to attend our meeting on Thursday, May 13. Not only do we have an exciting program speaker well known within our community for his amazing local photographs, but it is critical that we spend some time talking about branch issues and our upcoming fundraiser. **If you are not able to do Zoom and are fully vaccinated, please contact me and I will try to match you with someone with Zoom.** Each and every member is an important part of our branch and can make a real difference.

I recognize it has been difficult to stay connected over the last year, so watch for opportunities to gather socially this summer with other branch members in upcoming newsletters. We hope to bring back some of the interest groups in order to encourage stronger relationships within our membership. If you have any suggestions, I would like to hear about them...perhaps a hiking group, a book club, bridge group, or just a coffee date with a couple of others. Let's not be another branch statistic. We will not be having elections this year as we have been unable to find willing candidates. Currently the position of Vice President of Programs and Chair of the nominating committee are vacant, so we are no longer in compliance with our bylaws. With gratitude I commend our current board for their willingness to continue in their current positions, but this will not last another year. Please make our Thursday Annual Meeting a priority!

Sincerely,

bonnie

Good News about local Mermen!



Currently nine businesses are sponsoring a merman or team of mermen along with three individuals! **We now have enough entries for a calendar**, but the more entries or sponsors we have, the more money we can raise for scholarships. Although we are still waiting to hear about the status of the fourth of July parade, Terri Bawden is working on the calendar format. The Chamber of Commerce is supporting our fundraiser and has helped us to get the word out to local businesses. **You can help** by promoting this with friends, family and neighbors. Anyone can participate by either entering the contest or donating to the scholarship fund that is administered through the Anacortes Schools Foundation. All donations are tax-deductible. Since we are no longer selling tickets to the Spring Tea, this is a way you can help us support local women by raising scholarship funds. Think about

who you know that wants to support AAUW by purchasing a calendar.

Getting To Know You



Meet Judy Higgins,
AAUW Branch Secretary

I was raised in Seattle through the elementary grades and went to Spokane for High School. Then I graduated from Washington State College (now WSU) in

1957 majoring in Sociology. I was married shortly after graduation to my first husband (Peter) who was from Pullman. The “best man” in that wedding was Bob Higgins! Peter was going into the Army so we moved to Texas for his first assignment. We later spent four years in Germany and when we came back we lived on the East Coast. By this time we had two children, both girls. We lived in Ann Arbor Michigan for several

years after Pete got out of the Army and moved back to Bainbridge Island in late 1970's.

In 1980 we were divorced and I moved to Seattle. I worked in several jobs doing secretarial work and ended up as Administrative Secretary for the Director of the YWCA in Seattle. This was a great job for me and the first time I had worked in a social service agency. I retired from that position in 1997 after 13 years. My time then was spent enjoying my grandchildren and doing some travelling . I also volunteered at Woodland Park Zoo for 15 years and learned to play the recorder. In 2002 Bob lost his first wife to a heart problem and he and I renewed a friendship that we had first started in 1957. We have been married for 17 years at this point and have enjoyed living in Anacortes while also enjoying travelling around the world. Our blended family gets together frequently to celebrate our many interests and our lives.



STEM-Tech Trek Chair, Rosette Dawson was aided by Patricia Griffith, Linda Hendrick and Carolyn Colley as they interviewed girls on Zoom for our first virtual



Tech Trek camp this summer. Four girls from Anacortes Middle School, one from Edison Elementary, one from La Venture, one from La Conner and two that were planning to attend last year will all receive STEM boxes to guide them through their virtual camp experience. The kits each cost about \$500 and because we did not have camp last year, we had enough money with the addition of a \$1,500 Shell Oil grant to scholarship all nine girls. Fundraising must resume in order to fund camp for next year.

Not only do we receive support from our community, but there is a teacher at La Conner Middle School willing to spend the week at the school, July 11-16, with the La Conner girls. The camp director will provide her with the camp T-shirt and a Tool Kit. The school district is allowing this and paying that teacher for her time. Really wonderful.

At our April STEM presentations 3 senior girls received a STEM scholarship of \$1500 covered by funds in ASF-STEM fund. Additionally, four eighth graders were each awarded \$100 for excellence in Math and Science. These scholarships and awards have been funded by our Jingle Bell Dash which we plan to host again this year.

Rosette Dawson was our delegate at the AAUW-WA Annual Meeting and Convention earlier in April. She shared the speaker links with us. For those of us who were not able to attend, this is a great opportunity to learn more about the AAUW platform. Here are the speaker links.

[National Bylaws Vote for Inclusive Membership](#) | Kim Churches, AAUW CEO

[Education Post-Pandemic](#) | Dr. Michaela Miller, OSPI Deputy Superintendent

[Employment Outlook for Women Post-COVID, Getting Back What We've Lost](#) | Lisa Maatz, Keynote Presentation

[Discussion on Writing Historical Fiction](#) | Barbara Pope Virginia Scharff, Authors

AAUW April Board Meeting Minutes 3/30/2021

PRESIDING: Bonnie Underwood

PRESENT: Terri Bawden, Barbara Benson, Patricia Griffith, Linda Hendrick, Judy Higgins, Nelle Jacobson, Karen Maughan, Bonnie Underwood

Call to order: 3:01

Approval of Agenda: Bonnie suggested two additions to the Agenda. Agenda approved as amended.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes were approved as published.

Finance Report: Patricia Griffith

- There has been very little activity in the various AAUW Accounts. The checking account balance is \$4670.60 after payment of Natl/State Member Dues. Special Events Account balance is \$2128.91 and Savings Account balance is \$7731.04.
- Member renewal notices will be sent in mid-April.
- Finance Report approved.

Committee Reports:

- Program Committee: Discussion of people who might take over this position. Karen and Bonnie will follow up with those who were suggested. The Speaker for the May meeting will be Rakan Alderaij, who is a local photographer. Terri asked if he will receive an honorarium and yes, he will receive that.
- Membership: Linda Hendrick
We have a potential new member. Linda will try to confirm this but suggested that she not pay dues for the remaining meetings this year.

- Scholarship: Barbara Benson
We have received 5 completed applications and have recommendations for 3 other potential applicants. April 9 is the deadline for receipt of applications.
- Fundraising: Terri Bawden
Terri checked on the **Tote Bag** supply at The Market. There were only 14 left. She talked with the new Manager of the store and he agreed to take 20 more.

Mermen Project: We have one entry so far. Flyers are ready for distribution to local newspapers, businesses, web site, and facebook. A flatbed truck suitable for our parade float has been located although it is still not certain that a 4th of July parade will actually occur. A “hold harmless” disclaimer may not be necessary but might be advisable. A dedicated email address for all of our fundraising has been created: anacortes.aauw@gmail.com . This email will be used for information about all of our future fundraising projects.

- Lather Gift Basket Drawing: Patricia Griffith carried out the drawing for the Gift Basket which has raised \$90. She drew the number 4, which just happened to be her number!
Congratulations, Patricia!
- Social Media: Claudia Cimini
No report
- Tech Trek: Rosette Dawson
No report
- Newsletter: Bonnie Underwood
Bonnie asked for suggestions for articles to put in the member newsletter. Linda will write an article about new members. Terri will write about the Mermen Fundraiser and Bonnie will write about how Zoom works for us and may become our “new normal.”

Other Business:

- When will “in-person” meetings begin and will the Library still be available?
- National AAUW is proposing that the “Degree requirement for membership” be deleted so membership could be opened up to anyone who shows an interest in the mission of AAUW, which is to promote continued education among all girls and women. All AAUW Members will be asked to vote on this Amendment between April 7 and May 17. Our current Board members are available to discuss this issue with members who have questions.

Adjourned: 4:02

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Higgins, secretary