



# CHANGING THE WORLD ONE WOMAN AND GIRL AT A TIME

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Anacortes Branch

presented by



## PLUG IN TO WHAT INTERESTS YOU!



**Karen Maughan** is inviting members to join her to walk along the Tommy Thompson Trail on Wednesday, June 9, at 12:30 p.m. for an hour. Meet her at the parking area for the Ben Root Skateboard Park on R Avenue and 23<sup>rd</sup>.

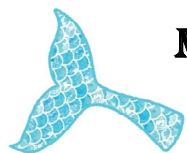


Interested in a live book talk? **Bonnie Underwood** will host a gathering at Causland Park on Thursday, June 24, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Meet at the picnic tables, enjoy a snack and share about some of the books you have enjoyed reading this year.



Have you come up with some new favorite recipes this last year? Bring a potluck salad dish to share along with your recipe. Date and host to be determined based on interest. Contact Bonnie Underwood.

Are you a ticket holder for the virtual production of **The Last Five Years**? If so, would you like to host an outdoor gathering to share your experience? Host and date to be determined. Contact Bonnie Underwood.



### MERMAN UPDATE:

At the June board meeting we learned that there is some serious competition among the merman contenders for a place on our calendar. Contributions continue to come in and the outcome for this fundraiser looks good. We are hopeful that the fourth of July parade will happen, which will further increase the profits. With a mid-June deadline for entries, the committee looks forward to deciding who will appear in the calendar. Watch for more details as things unfold. Three local retailers will sell the calendars and they will be available on-line for purchase.

*Many thanks* to our Scholarship Committee for their work this spring ~ Barbara Benson, Nelle Jacobson, Terri Bawden, Cordelia Hightower, Polly Myers, and Sandy Norris. They received 14 applications for scholarship and felt that all of the candidates were worthy of support. Unfortunately, we were bound by our \$5500 budget and the committee had to narrow the interviews to the top four women. Here are the candidates they selected.



**April Davis** is a 19-year-old from Anacortes, Washington. She is



currently attending Western Washington University, with plans to obtain a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology. Her ultimate goal is

to obtain a master's degree and become a certified Physician

Assistant. She enjoys running, hiking, reading, and playing guitar in her free time. (\$2000 scholarship)

**Elizabeth Braatz** is currently a student at Western Oregon University, majoring in criminal justice, with a minor in legal studies. She was adopted as an infant in San Diego, California and moved to Anacortes, Washington when she started Sixth Grade. She was diagnosed with a learning disability as a child, but with hard work and help from her family, tutors, teachers and counselors, she has been able to overcome her disability and succeed.



At Anacortes High School, Elizabeth was a four-year Varsity swimmer, an active member of Key Club and National Honor Society, received the Band Spirit Award for a graduating senior with the AHS Band, and was a founding member of the AHS Activist Student Union and the Volunteerism Club. In 2018, she earned her Varsity letter in Volunteerism and was a co-recipient of the Student Volunteer-of-the-Year Award for her community service activities.

After racist incidents at Western Oregon University, Elizabeth organized a March Against Hate from WOU to downtown Monmouth, Oregon. She has been very active in student government at WOU, serving as Vice President of her dorm, Vice President of the Residential Housing Association, and Vice President of the Black Student Union. She is currently a Senator with the Associated Students of WOU and was recently elected Senate President for the 2021-2022 school year. Elizabeth is an active member of WOU's Multicultural Student Union and LGBTQ+ and BIPOC affinity groups, she participated in Get-Out-the-Vote campaigns with Basic Rights Oregon, and has testified at the Oregon State Legislature on issues affecting college students. Her awards include Outstanding

RHA Member, Outstanding BSU Member, and Outstanding ASWOU Senator. In May 2021, Elizabeth became the first third-year student to receive WOU's prestigious Klush Tom Tom ("Individual Who Has a Heart for People") Award, which is usually awarded to a graduating senior.

After completing her degree in Criminal Justice, Elizabeth plans to go to law school, then become a civil rights attorney. She wants to work for a government agency that fights civil rights issues discrimination. After gaining experience as an attorney, Elizabeth may enter politics so she can continue to advocate for equitable systems and policies. (\$1000 scholarship)

**Erin Wolfswinkel** has spent most of her life in Anacortes, except for a small stint in Colorado where she and her husband started their small family. An avid gardener and plant lover, after graduating from Anacortes High School, Erin went on to complete her BA in Environmental Horticulture from the University of Washington. Erin has been a Paraprofessional at Island View Elementary for 5 years and began pursuing her Master's in Elementary Education through Western Governor's University in January. Erin is thankful for the support provided through the AAUW scholarship. (\$1000 scholarship)



Sophie Riley is a rising second-year student at the University of San Diego. She plans to accomplish a Bachelor's degree in biology with a minor in English. She plans to attend medical school and eventually work with children as a pediatrician. Sophie works at Fidalgo Animal Medical Center and volunteers with Children's House International Adoptions. For fun she spends time with her family and friends, participates at the Dancing Camel Yoga studio in Anacortes, and reads books, her favorite being *The Little Prince* by Antoine de St. Exupery. Sophie is the oldest of four adopted children, and some of her greatest mentors have been her mother, Cynthia Riley, and Spanish teacher, Amy Ubungen. Sophie is a graduate from Anacortes High School and hopes to make her family and community proud.

(\$1500 scholarship)

## AAUW Members and Friends,

We hope you will be able to take advantage of this upcoming event sponsored by AAUW - Washington State

### Health Matters: Advocating for Washington Women

Registration is now open!  
AAUW – WA’s Women’s Health Care Kickoff is coming soon!

Registration Link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/aauw-wa-womens-health-kickoff-tickets-154453016129>

**Event: AAUW’s Health Care Kickoff**

Date: June 12, 2021

Time: 9:00 – 12:30

**Keynote Speakers: Dr. Alyson McGregor; Dr. Dorothy Roberts**

**Dr. Alyson McGregor, Brown University**

Read Her Book: Sex Matters: How Male-Centric Medicine Endangers Women’s Health and What We Can Do About It (2020)

**Dr. Dorothy Roberts, University of Pennsylvania**

Topic: The problem with race-based medicine

Read Her Books: Fatal Invention: How Science, Politics, And Big Business Re-Crete Race In The Twenty-First Century (The New Press, 2011); Killing The Black Body: Race, Reproduction And The Meaning Of Liberty (Vintage 20th Anniversary Ed., 2017)

**10 Minute Topics** – An introduction to other aspects of Health Care Access for the Women of Washington, and a preview of our fall webinar series.

- Nancy Sapiro, AAUW Lobbyist
- Becky Reitzes, Health Educator
- Leslie Waters, MD
- Mary Selecky, former Washington State Secretary of Health
- Leah Griffin, Activist

AAUW empowers women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. AAUW-WA is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization with more than 3,000 members and supporters as well as 35 local branches across Washington State. Since AAUW’s founding in 1881, our members have examined and taken positions on the fundamental issues of the day — educational, social, economic, and political. Learn more and join us at <https://aauw-wa.aauw.net/>.



Volunteers are needed to assist the League of Women Voters at a Candidate Forum at the Anacortes City Hall on July 15, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Runners, time keepers and monitors are needed for the forum which will feature twenty-eight candidates. Contact Bonnie Underwood if you are interested.



Member and friend, Réanne Hemingway-Douglass, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, May 18, at the age of 88. Réanne joined the Anacortes branch of AAUW in 2007 and held a BA degree in French from Pomona College and attended Claremont Graduate University and the University of Grenoble, France. We enjoyed hearing of her experiences as a sailor, writer, cyclist, and language teacher. Her best-selling book, *Cape Horn: One Man's Dream, One Woman's Nightmare* has been published in French and Italian and is now being translated into Spanish. She also authored the award-winning *The Shelburne Escape Line - Secret Rescues of Allied Aviators by the French Underground*, the *British Royal Navy and London's MI-9*, and the *Tierra del Fuego cycling memoir, Two Women Against the Wind*. Her family will try to put together a virtual ceremony at a later date. If you would like to make a donation in her memory, her family suggests either The Friends of the Forest or the Alzheimer's Association.



## Greetings from your president ~

What a wonderful evening we had at our May meeting. Our social media presence is really working as we endeavor to get the word out about our speakers. Rakan Alduaij, has quite a fan base and provided us with insight into his passion for catching beautiful scenery in and around Anacortes. Forty people attended the speaker portion of the meeting, which was followed by our annual meeting. Although we have several openings on the board as we venture into the 2021-22 year, I am excited to share that we continue to add to our membership despite the pandemic. Reilly Winn found out about AAUW because of our Mermen event. Diane Marr, a former member, has moved back to Anacortes and renewed her membership. Karan Hannah joined and has signed up to help decorate our Merman float and Kathleen Holoroyd recently posted an inquiry on our branch website. If you know any of these women, I hope you will reach out to them. I cannot wait to meet our new members and hope that some of you will consider hosting one of our small groups this summer so we can meet socially.



Washington State AAUW is offering us an opportunity to get information about health care for women. Please consider taking advantage of your AAUW membership and register for this free event. This will kick-off a series of health-related webinars that will begin in the fall.

Once again, we have been asked to partner with the League of Women Voters in a candidate forum. Please contact me if you are interested in participating.

And last, but not least, be sure to check out the latest edition of Fidalgo Magazine. On page 16 there is a wonderful article featuring AAUW and our Mermen contest. Let's all commit to supporting this event to raise money for scholarships.

Enjoy the beauty around you this summer. We live in a special place. *Bonnie*

## AAUW General Meeting 5/13/2021

**PRESIDING:** Bonnie Underwood

**PRESENT:** Terri Bawden, Barbara Benson, Betsy Cave, Rosette Dawson, Patricia Griffith, Bunny Heiner, Linda Hendrick, Judy Higgins, Nelle Jacobson, Vivian Kolhoff, Karen Laws, Karen Maughan, Sandy Norris, Sally Pullen, Megan Taylor, Bonnie Underwood,

**GUESTS:** Rakan Alduaij, Speaker and many invited guests.

Call to order: 7:00 pm

Welcome: Bonnie Underwood

Bonnie welcomed our guest speaker and all the AAUW members, and the impressive number of interested guests from our community. She gave a brief history of AAUW in Anacortes and stated our Mission, which is to encourage continuing education of girls and women. AAUW gives annual scholarships to help women complete University degrees and also gives annual awards to 8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders who have been selected for merit in STEM fields. This year the Awards were given in April and the Scholarships will be announced in June. AAUW also sponsors a program for elementary age girls called Tech Trek which is a summer program exposing these young girls to STEM careers in a University setting. AAUW has many fundraising activities to raise money for these monetary gifts.

Fundraising: Terri Bawden

We still have Tote Bags, which are available at the Market Grocery Store, and help sponsor our Scholarship Fund. A new fundraising event this year will be a "Merman Contest" in which the contestants will be displayed on a float in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade and will also be pictured on Merman Calendars, which will be for sale and will commemorate this fun event. We hope to continue our Jingle Bell Dash in December, which also raises funds with entry fees.

Guest Speaker: Terri introduced Rakan Alduaij, a local photographer who has a large following of people who admire his beautiful pictures of our local scenery. Welcome, Rakan

Rakan began by stating that he was born in Kuwait and came to the United States when he was 21 years old. He moved to Anacortes in 2015 and was entranced with the beauty of this location with mountains, ocean, trees, and nice weather. Rakan shared some of his photos on the screen and he explained how he goes about capturing these images with his cameras. They were amazing pictures and the viewers had many questions for him at the end of his presentation.

AAUW Business Meeting: Bonnie Underwood

- Minutes from the Annual Meeting in May of 2020. Bonnie read the minutes. Linda Hendrick moved that the minutes be approved and Rosette Dawson seconded. The minutes were approved as read.
- Election of new Officers.  
Bonnie explained that no new officers have agreed to fill the open positions on our board so most of the current Board members have agreed to serve for the coming year. The Co-Program chairpersons have resigned their positions so that is an open chair, as well as the Nominating Committee. Bonnie thanked Nelle and Karen for their excellent efforts in finding Program Speakers for our meetings this past year and also thanked Bunnie Heiner for her many years of serving on the AAUW Board in many different capacities, including as President.

- AAUW Branches disbanding. Bonnie announced that the AAUW Branches on Whidbey Island, Lake Washington and Wenatchee are disbanding because of lack of participation by their members. We have 40 members as of this past year, but tonight, only 16 of our members are participating in this meeting. Are we facing the same fate as our sister branches?
- Publicity/Fundraising: Terri Bowden  
Terri was enthusiastic about the Merman Fundraising project. More than 10 Sponsors have been found and 6 others who have donated to our Fund. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade looks very promising as the Governor has declared that the Covid immunizations are going so well that we should be “fully open” by June 30. Linda Hendrick will contact the person who offered to donate a flatbed truck for our float.
- Scholarships: Barbara Benson  
Barbara reported that the interviews to determine the scholarship awards will be held on Saturday, May 15. Four finalists have been selected from 14 applications. One will receive a \$2000 award and the other 3 will each receive \$1000 awards.
- Finance: Patricia Griffith  
Patricia explained how the increase in dues by AAUW National will be handled and mentioned that the Vote for the By-Laws change will close on May 17.
- Other Items
  - AAUW signs are being donated by the Whidbey branch, if we are interested.
  - We might pick up some new members from that branch.

Adjourned: 8:20

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Respectfully submitted,  
Judy Higgins, Secretary