

December Agent Volume 40 Issue 6

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Representative Debra Lekanoff represents the 40th legislative district of Washington state, which includes parts of Whatcom, Skagit and San Juan counties. We look forward to hearing her share her “Report to Constituents” on Thursday, December 9th at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Access to the Zoom link may be obtained at aauw.meeting@gmail.com.for any friends or neighbors who would like to join us. Here is the link for members to use:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84765437686?pwd=MlRURE1SWjR6OTZCR1Fnak9QbGxhUT09>



to all the members who so generously donated to our gift baskets for the

**Digital Scavenger Hunt**



We received coffees, teas, lots of chocolates, games, and goodies. The cash donations will go toward completing the baskets and will allow us to award gifts cards, too. Patricia Griffith and Terri Bawden have worked many hours to find the best way to host this event. Terri and Sally Pullen have passed out flyers and distributed QR codes to participating stores. Linda Hendrick and Rosette Dawson volunteered to test-drive the hunt and had fun together locating answers.

Many thanks to all of them for their hard work and innovative fundraising ideas. The site opened on December 1 and is being publicized on Facebook and Anacortes Community pages. Tell your friends and neighbors to sign up and join the fun. Proceeds support STEM scholarships for Anacortes High School girls.

* We recently received a $3,000 grant for STEM awards from Windemere?
* Over 400 Merman calendars have been sold and on-line orders continue to bring in more money for scholarships.
* We currently have over $13,000 available for scholarships!
* A recent donation was to our branch in memory of a friend; consider making donations to AAUW in lieu of holiday gifts or to commemorate a special occasion.



Many of you helped to support the Jingle All the Way gift baskets with your donations. In addition to the Winter Warm Up, Chocolate Lovers, and Just For Fun gift baskets, were are able to award 3 gift cards for a total of six prizes. Thank you!



AAUW Book Talk – November 2021

**Bonnie** Underwood: People of the Book by Geraldine Brooks

In 1996, Hanna Heath, an Australian rare-book expert, is offered the job of a lifetime: analysis and conservation of the famed Sarajevo Haggadah, which has been rescued from Serb shelling during the Bosnian war. Priceless and beautiful, the book is one of the earliest Jewish volumes ever to be illuminated with images. When Hanna, a caustic loner with a passion for her work, discovers a series of tiny artifacts in its ancient binding—an insect wing fragment, wine stains, salt crystals, a white hair—she begins to unlock the book’s mysteries. The reader is ushered into an exquisitely detailed and atmospheric past, tracing the book’s journey from its salvation back to its creation.

**Rosette** Dawson: Kitchen Science [Kitchen Science: A Guide to Knowing the Hows and Whys for Fun and Success in the Kitchen](https://www.amazon.com/Kitchen-Science-Guide-Knowing-Success/dp/0395480728/ref%3Dsr_1_3?crid=21XDVC0F84E9Z&keywords=howard+hillman&qid=1638200938&s=books&sprefix=howard+hillman%2Cstripbooks%2C252&sr=1-3) by Howard Hillman

This book takes the mystery out of creative cooking by requiring love, imagination, art -- and science from the cook. Hillman's years of experience render cooking conundrums comprehensible and transform the way we approach food.

AND The Other Einstein by Marie Benedict

This novel resurrects Einstein's wife, a brilliant physicist in her own right, whose contribution to the special theory of relativity is hotly debated. Was she simply Einstein's sounding board, an assistant performing complex mathematical equations? Or did she contribute something more?

AND The Cuckoo’s Egg by Clifford Stoll

Cliff Stoll was an astronomer turned systems manager at Lawrence Berkeley Lab when a 75-cent accounting error alerted him to the presence of an unauthorized user on his system. The hacker's code name was "Hunter"—a mysterious invader who managed to break into U.S. computer systems and steal sensitive military and security information. Stoll began a one-man hunt of his own: spying on the spy. It was a dangerous game of deception, broken codes, satellites, and missile bases—a one-man sting operation that finally gained the attention of the CIA

**Betsy** Cave: Deja Dead by Kathy Reichs

In the year since Temperance Brennan left behind a shaky marriage in North Carolina, work has often preempted her weekend plans to explore Québec. When a female corpse is discovered meticulously dismembered and stashed in trash bags, Temperance detects an alarming pattern—and she plunges into a harrowing search for a killer. But her investigation is about to place those closest to her—her best friend and her own daughter—in mortal danger

AND Lab Girl by Hope Jahren

*Lab Girl* is a book about work, about love, and about the mountains that can be moved when those two things come together. It is told through Jahren's remarkable stories: about the things she's discovered in her lab as well as how she got there; about her childhood - hours of unfettered play in her father's laboratory; about how she found a sanctuary in science and learned to perform lab work "with both the heart and the hands"; about a brilliant and wounded man named Bill, who became her loyal colleague and best friend; about their adventurous, sometimes rogue research trips, which take them from the Midwest all across the United States and over the Atlantic, from the ever-light skies of the North Pole to tropical Hawaii; and about her constant striving to do and be the best she could, never allowing personal or professional obstacles to cloud her dedication to her work.

**Pamela** Truog: The Big Thirst: The Secret Life and Turbulent Future of Water by Charles Fishman

The water coming out of your tap is four billion years old and might have been slurped by a Tyrannosaurus Rex. We will always have exactly as much water on Earth as we have ever had. Water cannot be destroyed, and it can always be made clean enough for drinking again. In fact, water can be made so clean that it actually becomes toxic. As Charles Fishman brings vibrantly to life in this delightful narrative excursion, water runs our world in a host of awe-inspiring ways, which is both the promise and the peril of our unexplored connections to it.

#  Diane Marr: The Emperor of all Maladies: a biography of Cancer by Siddhartha Mukerjee

*The Emperor of All Maladies* reveals the many faces of an iconic, shape-shifting disease that is the defining plague of our generation. The story of cancer is a story of human ingenuity, resilience, and perseverance but also of hubris, arrogance, paternalism, and misperception, all leveraged against a disease that, just three decades ago, was thought to be easily vanquished in an all-out "war against cancer". Mukherjee recounts centuries of discoveries, setbacks, victories, and deaths, told through the eyes of his predecessors and peers, training their wits against an infinitely resourceful adversary.

**Judy** Higgins: Modern Perspectives on our Solar System (part of the Great Courses series – book, dvds) Linda: a description just wasn’t available but Judy says anyone who would like to borrow this DVD she really enjoyed need just ask.

**Vivian** Kohloff: Thrice the Brinded Cat Hath Mew'd: A Flavia de Luce by [Alan Bradley](https://www.amazon.com/Alan-Bradley/e/B001JRTK5O/ref%3Ddp_byline_cont_ebooks_1)

Precocious motherless 11-year old fascinated with chemistry and death bicycles around Bishop's Lacey from ancient country house Buckshaw in 1950s England. There is a set with her mysteries young people have enjoyed over the years.

**Patricia** Griffith: [The Invention of Nature: Alexander von Humboldt's New World](https://www.amazon.com/Invention-Nature-Alexander-Humboldts-World-ebook/dp/B00RKO0L3A/ref%3Dsr_1_1?crid=18BT74FFDZASD&keywords=the+invention+of+nature&qid=1638204335&s=books&sprefix=the+invention%2Cdigital-text%2C267&sr=1-1) by Andrea Wulf

In this illuminating biography, Andrea Wulf brings Humboldt’s extraordinary life back into focus: his prediction of human-induced climate change; his daring expeditions to the highest peaks of South America and to the anthrax-infected steppes of Siberia; his relationships with iconic figures, including Simón Bolívar and Thomas Jefferson; and the lasting influence of his writings on Darwin, Wordsworth, Goethe, Muir, Thoreau, and many others. Brilliantly researched and stunningly written, *The Invention of Nature* reveals the myriad ways in which Humboldt’s ideas form the foundation of modern environmentalism—and reminds us why they are as prescient and vital as ever.

**Sally** Pullen: Nautilus magazine

Nautilus is a different kind of science magazine. Each issue combines the sciences, culture and philosophy into a single story told by the world’s leading thinkers and writers. Nautilus leverages deep, undiluted, storytelling to bring science into the most important conversations we are having today.

**Sandy** Norris: Napoleon’s Buttons by Penny le Couteur and Jay Burreson

*Napoleon's Buttons* is the fascinating account of seventeen groups of molecules that have greatly influenced the course of history. These molecules provided the impetus for early exploration and made possible the voyages of discovery that ensued. The molecules resulted in grand feats of engineering and spurred advances in medicine and law; they determined what we now eat, drink, and wear. A change as small as the position of an atom can lead to enormous alterations in the properties of a substance-which, in turn, can result in great historical shifts.

Terry Bawden: The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks  by Rebecca Skloot

Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. She was a poor Southern tobacco farmer who worked the same land as her slave ancestors, yet her cells—taken without her knowledge—became one of the most important tools in medicine: The first “immortal” human cells grown in culture, which are still alive today, though she has been dead for more than sixty years. HeLa cells were vital for developing the polio vaccine; uncovered secrets of cancer, viruses, and the atom bomb’s effects; helped lead to important advances like in vitro fertilization, cloning, and gene mapping; and have been bought and sold by the billions.
Yet Henrietta Lacks remains virtually unknown, buried in an unmarked grave. Henrietta’s family did not learn of her “immortality” until more than twenty years after her death, when scientists investigating HeLa began using her husband and children in research without informed consent. And though the cells had launched a multimillion-dollar industry that sells human biological materials, her family never saw any of the profits.

Intimate in feeling, astonishing in scope, and impossible to put down, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* captures the beauty and drama of scientific discovery, as well as its human consequences.

# Sandy Huggins: StarTalk: Everything You Ever Need to Know About Space Travel, Sci-Fi, the Human Race, the Universe, and Beyond by Neil DeGrasse Tyson

This illustrated companion to the popular podcast and National Geographic Channel show is an eye-opening journey for anyone curious about our universe, space, astronomy and the complexities of the cosmos. This pioneering, provocative book brings together the best of *StarTalk*, his beloved podcast and television show devoted to solving the most confounding mysteries of Earth, space, and what it means to be human. Filled with brilliant sidebars, vivid photography, and unforgettable quotes from Tyson and his brilliant cohort of science and entertainment luminaries, *StarTalk* will help answer all of your most pressing questions about our world—from how the brain works to the physics of comic book superheroes.

**Linda** Hendrick:  Jurassic Park by Michael Crichton

An astonishing technique for recovering and cloning dinosaur DNA has been discovered. Now humankind’s most thrilling fantasies have come true. Creatures extinct for eons roam Jurassic Park with their awesome presence and profound mystery, and all the world can visit them—for a price.
Until something goes wrong. . . . In Jurassic Park, Michael Crichton taps all his mesmerizing talent and scientific brilliance to create his most electrifying technothriller.

AAUW General Meeting 11/11/2021

**PRESIDING**: Bonnie Underwood, President

**PRESENT**: Linda Hendrick, Bonnie Underwood, Vivian Kolhoff, Laura Jane Viverette, Judy Higgins, Patricia Griffith, Diane Marr, Pamela Truog, Terri Bawden, Betsy Cave, Rosette Dawson, Karen Maughan, Sally Pullen, Sandy Norris, Sandra Huggins,

Call to order: 7:03

Bonnie Underwood: Bonnie welcomed everyone to the 40th year of the “Book Talk” program. The 15 minutes just before the meeting began were filled with a slide show of AAUW activities from this year (and some from past years). Bonnie asked for volunteers to help with a new fundraising effort called ***Jingle All the Way*** which will be a community-wide scavenger hunt that will be launched very soon. We will also have a booth at the Holiday Fair at the depot to sell the remainder of our calendars and tote bags. Volunteers for that effort are also needed.

Linda Hendrick: Linda introduced Book Talk and explained how it will be structured on Zoom for newer members who have not participated before. She then talked about the book that she read. Linda then called on the participants, one at a time, to make their contributions to the program. Linda asked everyone to e-mail her with the particulars about their book(s) so she can compile a list that will be distributed to everyone.

Bonnie again asked for volunteers to help with the fundraising activities and then asked Patricia Griffith to explain how the ***Jingle All the Way*** scavenger hunt will work. She was encouraged to distribute some instructions for how to log on and participate in the game.

Linda asked for suggestions for the Book Talk for next year and one topic that was proposed is Religion, which has never been done before.

Adjourned: 8:11

Respectfully submitted,

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Judy Higgins