

Anacortes Branch

February 2023 Volume 41 Issue 8



Have you wondered about the development options for the MJB Property on the waterfront in Anacortes? Join us for an informative presentation by Jimmy Blais, the Director of Development for Merlino Properties, a Seattle based real-estate investing and development firm. During his 13-year tenure at the company he has directed environmental, legislative, and development divisions. As part of his role, he has been in charge of re-developing MJB's 78 acres of waterfront property in Anacortes. **Join us in person at the Anacortes Library or via zoom on Thursday, February 9. We are encouraging members to invite their friends and neighbors to hear about the development of this major Anacortes project. The library room and zoom links open at 6:45 for the 7:00 p.m. meeting.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85257828106?pwd=M0E0ZzRHh0ZjWHFkN09XN051MHM3dz09>



New Member: Kelsey Kittleson kelsmit@gmail.com

Thank you to Nelle Jacobson and Cordelia Hightower for their many years of service on the Scholarship committee and welcome to our newest members.



Catherine Carr and Kathleen Brueger have agreed to join the Scholarship Committee. The committee will begin to meet this month and advertising for our scholarships offered through the ASD program starts on March 1.

A great resource for following bills supported by AAUW is our Washington state AAUW website - aauw-wa.aauw.net



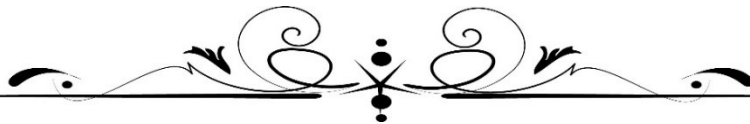
On Monday, January 30, the Washington On-line branch Public Policy Committee hosted a presentation featuring speakers who addressed several of the prominent bills supported by AAUW that are currently before our legislature.

Sex, Gender, and Engineering: Harassment at Work and at Home Professor Denise Wilson, *University of Washington, College of Engineering* & Professor Jennifer VanAntwerp, *Calvin University*

Apprenticeship Programs in Washington State Kelly Jenkins-Pultz, *Department of Labor, District 9, Women's Bureau*

Broadband access and digital literacy in Washington State | Digital Equity Sharonne Navas, *Equity in Education Coalition*

Broadband access and digital literacy in Washington State | Digital Divide Cathy MacCaul, *AARP Advocacy Director*



We support the AAUW mission which is to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research. AAUW and AAUW-WA believe that democratic participation in governance and equal rights, benefits, and opportunities in all institutions of society—economic, social, educational, health, and political—are fundamental to women's empowerment and public well-being. For that reason we:

- oppose all forms of discrimination,
- support policies that improve racial, ethnic, and gender diversity
- believe in the separation of church and state, and
- support a fair, balanced, and independent judiciary

The AAUW National 2021-2023 priorities include:

Support for a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity, diversity and inclusivity, and that addresses barriers and implicit biases that hinder the advancement of women and girls,

- The achievement of economic security for all women, and
- The guarantee of equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse and inclusive society.

1. A strong system of public K-12 and higher education that:
 1. Promotes a broadly based education that includes STEM education at all levels
 2. Ensures equal access to that education for girls and women and underrepresented populations
 3. Provides training for careers that provide a living wage
 4. Includes state apprenticeship programs that provide equal access to women and underrepresented populations
 5. Reduces the costs of higher education
 6. Promotes research and education on women's status, health, and social
2. Economic security and gender and racial equity in the workplace that includes:
 1. Access to ample paid sick and personal leave
 2. Pay equity and a minimum wage that supports economic independence for all workers
 3. Apprenticeship programs that provide education credits and Title IX protections
 4. Workplace equity and protection from discrimination
 5. Affordable child care so that women can enjoy rewarding work and look forward to a comfortable retirement
 6. Student loan debt
3. A healthcare system that:
 1. Provides affordable and accessible reproductive, prenatal and postpartum medical services
 2. Removes gender, racial and other disparities in health access, treatment, and
4. Adoption of a state budget that:
 1. Fully funds basic education
 2. Does not rely on local school levies
 3. Is based on an equitable tax system that will provide a stable source of funds for necessary state programs and services while creating systemic fairness in the distribution of tax burdens.
5. Protection of women and girls from sexual harassment, assault, and physical violence through legislation that:
 1. Establishes Title IX compliant campus-based strategies and programs that provide protection from violence and safeguard survivors' right to a safe educational environment.
 2. Provides increased transparency about reporting incidents of violence, securing victims' rights to respectful treatment and effective legal redress, and establishes fair standards for disciplinary actions in educational institutions.
 3. Provides medical examinations and victim support to survivors of domestic violence or sexual assault
 4. Restricts access to guns for perpetrators of domestic
 5. Provides resources and legal tools to enable women to leave abusers safely

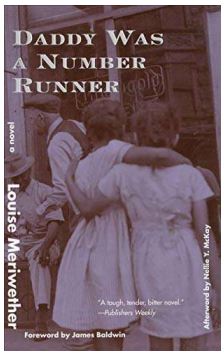
6. Access to a broadband infrastructure and services that are equitable, affordable, and reliable; and provide:
 1. Appropriate devices and digital security
 2. All public K-12 and postsecondary students access to high-speed internet services,
 3. Remote employment opportunities, job training, and workforce support services including applications for and filing of claims for paid family medical leave, unemployment, disability, Social Security, and other safety net services
 4. Access to vital support services including domestic violence support
 5. Training in digital and media literacy
 6. Access to tele-health services



February is Black History Month

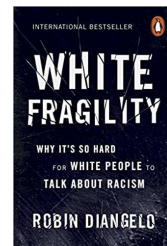
Let's read together.

Contact Bonnie Underwood if you are interested in meeting to discuss one of these books.



This modern classic is “a tough, tender, bitter novel of a black girl struggling towards womanhood” in 1930s Harlem. Depression-era Harlem is home for twelve-year-old Francie Coffin and her family, and it's both a place of refuge and the source of untold dangers for her and her poor, working class family. The beloved “daddy” of the title indeed becomes a number runner when he is unable to find legal work, and while one of Francie's brothers dreams of becoming a chemist, the other is already in a gang. Francie is a dreamer, too, but there are risks in everything from going to the movies to walking down the block, and her pragmatism eventually outweighs her hope; “We was all poor and black and apt to stay that way, and that was that.”

Robin DiAngelo coined the term 'White Fragility' in 2011. Using knowledge and insight gained over decades of running racial awareness workshops and working on this idea as a Professor of Whiteness Studies, she shows us how we can start having more honest conversations, listen to each other better and react to feedback with grace and humility. It is not enough to simply hold abstract progressive views and condemn the obvious racists on social media - change starts with us all at a practical, granular level, and it is time for all white people to take responsibility for relinquishing their own racial supremacy.



'With clarity and compassion, DiAngelo allows us to understand racism as a practice not restricted to "bad people." In doing so, she moves our national discussions forward.