

## In Touch

January 2012

Edited by Martha Huyler and Georgi Proulx



### Our Mission

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

### January 9th

**10:00 a.m.**

Board Meeting

Cathlin Starke's Home

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### January 12th

**1:00 p.m.**

January Meeting

Merrill Gardens  
7212 265th NW  
Stanwood

*Presentation by branch member, Bev Maxwell, on her experiences in India*

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### January 19

**9:00 a.m.**

Day Tripper Outing

Hibulb Cultural Center &  
Natural History Preserve

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### January 23

Lobby Day

For more information contact:

Susan Blake  
Vice President, Program

Jo English  
Program Assistant

### Message from the President

*Cathlin Starke*

2012 should be a good year for our branch. We are having great turnouts at our meetings due to excellent program content by Susan Blake and Jo English. Book group discussions are great, and Helen Smith has planned some interesting day trips.

Don't forget Lobby Day in Olympia on January 23! Helen will have registration forms at our January meeting; the cost is \$20. Please make your check payable to "AAUW-WA".

Thanks to each of you for the thoughtful discussions that took place during our December meeting. Below is the discovery from the preliminary probe into the potential of showing the movie "MISS REPRESENTATION":

1. Stanwood Cinemas does not have the equipment to project the DVD.
2. The Lincoln Theatre in Mount Vernon can accommodate the DVD, but their location takes us out of the Stanwood-Camano area we serve. The cost to show the DVD would be \$500 to get the DVD, approximately \$500 per day to rent the theatre, and approximately \$200 for a projectionist and house manager (approximately \$1200 per show). At \$10 per ticket, our break even point would be 120 tickets sold per showing to cover these costs alone.
3. The Performing Arts Center at Stanwood High School looks like a good opportunity. I am waiting to hear back from the school to confirm some details and will let you know as soon as possible.

We may be able to meet the desires of the "straw vote" at our December meeting while simultaneously working on the "Power of the Purse" for 2013!! Keep your fingers crossed!

Happy New Year!

### Lobby Day. January 23

Calling all members to attend Lobby Day in Olympia on January 23. It has been recommended that to be fresh for the 8:30 A.M. start of a full day at our state capitol the group drive down on Sunday and stay overnight at the Comfort Inn. Group will meet at the Stanwood United Methodist Church at 3:00 P.M. on January 22 and have dinner at the Oyster House after checking in at the hotel. The hotel has a continental breakfast and lunch is included with the registration for the Lobby Day. We typically arrive back home by dinner time.

Please contact Helen Smith with your interest in going. She will have registration forms at the January 12 meeting. Make your check for \$20 payable to "AAUW-WA". Registration is due to AAUW-WA by January 17.

Helen Smith

## Save These Dates

**February 6th**

**10:00 a.m.**

Board Meeting  
Cathlin Starke's Home

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**February 9th**

**1:00 p.m.**

February Meeting

Merrill Gardens  
7212 265th NW  
Stanwood



### Women Haven't Reached Parity Yet!

*compiled by Jackie DeFazio*

- Fifteen of Fortune 500 companies are run by women—3%.
- Women hold only 3% of top positions in mainstream media.

## Hello from Pullman!

*Heather Baxter*

*Heather is one of our 2011 scholarship winners currently attending Washington State University, Pullman.*

Hello from Pullman! I just wanted to write you (and the other amazing women in AAUW) for the amazing opportunity your scholarship gave me. I'm really enjoying my classes here, and I'm doing really well in them. I also wanted to tell you about some of the stuff I'm learning, and some about some of the clubs I've joined.

I can hardly believe it's over halfway through the semester here, in Pullman. I got lulled into the rhythm and it seems like only yesterday it was mid-September. Amazing! It's definitely starting to look like fall over here. The maple and oak leaves are changing color and coming down now, and when I walk to class in the early mornings it's getting close to freezing. The air is crisp and the leaves swirl around freely in the breeze. It's exactly the kind of weather that I love most. Even better, the cold weather allowed me to justify breaking out my Christmas lights and mini Christmas tree! Wonderful!

Classes are going well here. I still really love my Environmental Engineering class. We just finished the "air" section, which started out discussing global warming and greenhouse gas emissions (global warming is definitely true, I've learned) then finished with discussing pollutant concentrations down wind of smoke stacks as functions of distance downwind and atmospheric stability. It turns out some times it would be best to run towards the smokestack if there's a toxic gas spill, depending on your location and the atmosphere. However, I think I'd be too worried to do the calculations and play it safe by running perpendicular to the wind. Let's hope it never comes to that, though. We also talked about indoor air quality, and how "green" houses tend to have bad filtration and can get really stinky, not to mention the higher chances of gas poisoning. I got a real kick out of the question the instructor wrote on this for the exam: "There's 60 students sweating through a exam (in a classroom ventilated at N volume per time), each emitting X amount of ammonia per person per minute. If the threshold ammonia concentration is Y, will the classroom smell at the end of the period?" Or something along those lines. I would have laughed out loud if I wasn't one of the 60 students sweating through the exam! We're now talking about water quality in that class. They changed teachers at the end of the air section, and the new "water" teacher seems excellent as well. I got very lucky this year.

Another really interesting and fun class I'm in is microbiology. We got to make yogurt and sauerkraut in lab! It was delicious. We just finished talking about the ways organisms can become pathogenic and drug-resistant, and man are those microorganisms clever! It's phenomenal what they can do. It's also scary, though. I think they're smarter and more resourceful than we humans are, and we're running out of ways to control them. They have so many ways to beat the system, and as soon as one figures it out it can share the trick!

I'm also taking a circuits class and a statistics class this quarter. The teachers in these classes are just quirky enough to make these lectures something I really look forward to you. You're guaranteed to laugh at least once a lesson in these classes. I'm so glad I got to take them.

I joined a few clubs, and what we're doing in them is really exciting! I joined WSU's chapter of the Society for Women in Engineering. We're trying to plan an outreach program to the elementary and high school students in the Pullman area, hoping to increase interest in engineering as a major. Hopefully this will get off the ground soon; I'd really like to be a part of that.

I'm now a member of Engineers Without Borders, and I'm helping out with a water clean-up project in Spokane. We're cleaning a lake (I forget the name of it) that's had persistent, severe algae problems. The water tests suggest that phosphorous is the limiting nutrient for the algae here. If we can bring down the phosphorous concentration the problem will be solved. We're debating on the best approach on this; it's between a chemical treatment to bind and precipitate the phosphorous and a treatment involving microorganisms that digest phosphorous. They both sound great to me; the microorganisms would be more environmentally friendly with less side effects, but they're surprisingly expensive and temperamental, and funding is limited.

I've just decided to join WSU's steel bridge team, too. My first meeting will be Tuesday (tomorrow). The whole goal of the team is to build a highly efficient bridge and compete our way to nationals (hopefully... We made it last year, and I think we got 7th!).

I've also been talking to advisers about how to most efficiently double-major in Engineering and Math, and it turns out it would only be three more classes to double-major! That was definitely good news for me, and I will probably be able to graduate with a Bachelor's degree in both Engineering and Math within the next two years!

Anyway, just letting you know that things are going really well here in Pullman, and wanting to thank you so very much for your scholarship. I don't know what I would do without the help you gave me.

## Your 2011-2012 Board

### President

Cathlin Starke

### President-Elect

Teresa Garrison

### VP of Finance

Terry Benson

### VP of Finance-Elect

Barbara Shaffer

### VP-Membership

Mary O'Connor

### Membership Assistant

Ann Wilson

### Secretary

Mary Raymond

### VP-Program

Susan Blake

### Program Assistant

Jo English

### Public Policy

Go to:

AAUW Washington to keep up with happenings in the current legislative session and to learn about areas for action.

[www.aauw-wa.org](http://www.aauw-wa.org)

AAUW Action Network for Congressional items regarding the national issues for action.

<http://capwiz.com/aauw/home/>

## Public Policy

*Gay Campbell*

### Only two clicks to take action to support your beliefs

A couple of clicks of your computer mouse can connect you with AAUW websites and influence legislation that supports your beliefs.

The national AAUW site, [www.AAUW.org](http://www.AAUW.org) has complete information, including a video, about the national "Get Out of the Vote" movement as well as a simple way to become part of the Join the Action network. You can receive alerts about issues that are important to AAUW members and quickly contact your representatives to make your views known.

The Washington State AAUW site, [www.AAUW-WA.org](http://www.AAUW-WA.org) has similar links to Washington State Legislators and a way to get legislative updates. AAUW members across the state will be joining others in pushing agendas that are important to them by visiting legislators in Olympia for Lobby Day on January 23 and contacting them when important issues are on the floor.

Priority issues for Washington State AAUW include:

- Implementing Basic Education Reform
- Funding Basic Education
- Improving access to postsecondary education
- Protecting access to comprehensive reproductive health care.

Join me in communicating to our legislators our feelings on these important issues for women.

### Officers for 2012-13

Nominating committee will be contacting members to build the slate of officers for 2012-13.

Elected positions available are:

- President-Elect
- Vice President of Program
- Vice President of Finance-Elect
- Vice President of Membership

Please support our branch by considering a position of leadership.

Contact a member of the nominating committee for information or to express your interest in a position:

Jo English

Joan Pang



## Meet Our Members

*Sarah D. Haynes, Ph.D.*

"I grew up in the beautiful hill country of Austin Texas. Although supportive, my family had no financial resources for post-high school education, therefore, my sole chance for education and escaping a grinding poverty was to earn academic scholarships. Thankfully, the scholarships arrived! College was a life-changing event allowing me to see a world I never knew existed. I discovered a life overflowing with options and opportunities.



Always characterized as having 'too many brains even for a guy', it was frustrating that the inference was negative and prejudicial. In response, I joined the debate team to hone my rebuttal skills. Always a 'tomboy' I competed in most high school sports. After joining the rodeo club, I realized horses would always be a part of my life. In Texas, it was more acceptable to be a smart cowgirl than a smart girl. I also joined the Civil Air Patrol [CAP], an Air Force based search and rescue organization. I earned my pilot's license and was honored as the top CAP cadet in Texas when a junior in high school."

Receiving a Bachelors in Physics and Astronomy from the University of Denver Sarah continued with her Masters in Nuclear Physics from the Ohio State University, Dayton campus. She completed her Doctorate in Nuclear Physics in Medicine specializing in Radiation Oncology and Diagnostic Radiology from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, Dallas. Her occupations have been Diagnostic Radiological Physicist [Nuclear Physicist in Diagnostic Radiology] and Radiation Safety Officer for medical schools.

Sarah has been a dedicated natural resource conservationist for over 30 years currently serving on the Island County Marine Resource Committee and as a core team member of the Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area evaluating the urgent environmental threats to Port Susan. She also serves on several King County conservation boards and built an environmentally sustainable horse farm for American saddle bred horses in King County. There are many more fascinating interests of Sarah's to be discovered when you meet her at one of our meetings. She refers to herself as a "Technology 'nerd' who loves teaching science in a non-threatening manner". Ask her about her computer project at home or her travels. She has lectured internationally for over twenty years and has been on every continent with the exception of Antarctica.

### **What would surprise us about you?**

The stereotypical nuclear physicist is considered non-verbal, anti-social, and single-mindedly immersed in technology with difficulty communicating with non-scientists. A black sheep in my field, I'm a "people person", as well as a classic nerd. Not wanting to be bound to academia's "ivory tower", I realized that balancing science with a liberal arts education was an essential skill set I was bereft in. My personal philosophy is that physicists should willingly teach science to non-scientists, sans intimidation. Simultaneously, scientists should welcome a sustained exposure in the liberal arts. We would all become wiser, more balanced, and more capable in avoiding poor decisions, pitfalls that history is replete with.

Despite the above, as a society we continue making the same egregious decisions that lessons from past history should have obviated. Making the same types of decisions, while expecting a different outcome, is my definition of insanity. Education is the key in initiating fair and equitable behavioral changes, particularly for the poor and disenfranchised.

### **What advice do you have for AAUW members?**

Never give up on your goals. It's okay to change your goals if it's your choice. Whatever it takes, make it happen and enjoy life.

### **What advice do you have for girls today?**

Our choices must come from within. Famous professors in prestigious universities should not trample on their student's goals. Examine every option available in determining your goals. Exclude goals that others want for you if they don't resonate with your own.

Persevere. Compete. Prevail.

Lastly, if you find your goal[s] lacking the satisfaction you anticipated, don't harangue yourself. Accept an ill-fitting goal like an ill-fitting suit. Take it off and discover one that's a better fit. It's perfectly OK to say, "I was wrong."

After all, it's a wo[man]'s prerogative to change their mind.....

Dr. Sarah

## Leaders for Branch Activities

### AAUW Educational Foundation and AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund

Jackie DeFazio

### Fund Raising Committee

Kathy Cunningham

Nancy Roberts

### High School Scholars

Bev Maxwell

Betty McCadden

### Scholarship

Betty McCadden

Barbara Carroll

### Tutoring

Janice Hertz

### Webmaster

Georgi Proulx

### Public Relations

Mary Raymond

### Public Policy

Gay Campbell

Laura Lewis

### Candidate Forum

Laura Lewis

### Newsletter Team

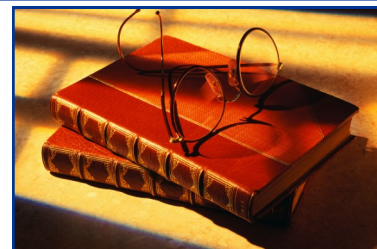
Send Your News to:

Georgi Proulx

Martha Huyler

## Book Group

The Book Group is open to all members. Books are available through Sno-Isle Libraries or can be purchased at the Snow Goose Bookstore at a 10% discount. Join us for lively conversation if you've read the book or if you just want to come join the discussion.



### January

WHAT: Confederates in the Attic, Dispatches from the Unfinished Civil War by Tony Horwitz

WHEN: Monday, January 9, 2012, 2:00 P.M.

WHERE: Sarah Hayne's Home

### February

WHAT: July's People by Nadine Gordimer

WHEN: Monday, February 6, 2012, 2:00 P.M.

WHERE: Terry Benson's Home

### March

WHAT: The Women: A Novel by T.C. (Coraghessan) Boyle

WHEN: Monday, March 5, 2012, 2:00 P.M.

WHERE: Kathy Cunningham's Home

For more information, contact Claire Winget



## Be a Day Tripper!

January outing is a tour of the Hibulb Cultural Center and Natural History Preserve, the new Tulalip tribal center, on Thursday, January 19. Cost is \$7 which includes entry and a guided tour.

Interactive displays introduce you to the legacy of the Tulalip people. There is a longhouse with recorded stories, a research

library and gift store. The fifty acre site has a preserve with mature trees, salmon bearing streams and estuary wetlands. Visit the website at: [www.hibulbculturalcenter.org](http://www.hibulbculturalcenter.org).

For those interested, off-site lunch will be at the Torch Grill (Quilceda Casino) or Cedars Café at the Grand Casino. Bring a friend!

We will carpool from the United Methodist Church (27128 102nd Drive NW, Stanwood) at 9:00 A.M. Tour begins at 10:00 A.M.

Please contact Helen if you plan to attend.

## Meeting Minutes: December 8, 2011

The meeting was called to order by President Cathlin Starke at 1:00 p.m. at Merrill Gardens.

**Community Outreach:** Cathlin Starke will begin making a PowerPoint presentation to local groups about AAUW.

**Treasurer's Report:** It was moved and seconded that we approve the 2012 Scholarship Budget as presented. Motion approved.

### *Proposed 2012 Scholarship Budget*

Local scholarships	5500.00
Educational Foundation Fund (EF)	1000.00
Legal Advocacy Fund (AF)	500.00
Search committee expenses	100.00
SCAF administration fee	<u>25.00</u>
Total	7125.00

### *Income to cover the budget:*

2011 Art Show net income	5737.55
SCAF money available	1215.00
Cookbook sales	80.00
Donations	<u>159.00</u>
Total	7191.55

It was proposed that we retain 100 cookbooks and donate the remaining books equally to the Stanwood Friends of the Library and the Camano Island Library Friends for their book sales. Motion was moved, seconded and approved.

**Day Trippers:** Helen Smith presented information about day trips:

1/23/12 is Lobby Day in Olympia. Helen recommended that attendees carpool and go the night before since activities start at 8:00AM. This is a good chance to meet with our legislators.

1/19/12 is the date for a tour of the new Tulalip Center. The cost is \$7/person.

**Roy Leshner's Newsletter:** Cathlin cleared up the information that was posted in Roy Leshner's newsletter indicating that we had lost our tax-free status. This was an error caused by the IRS using an old number from the Stanwood/Arlington AAUW branch. A letter confirming our 501(C)4 status from national will be forthcoming; members just need to be aware in case they receive any questions. A request will be sent to Mr. Leshner for a retraction.

**Fundraising 2012-2013:** Fundraising ballot was explained and members were instructed to vote for 1 of the 4 items. The board recommendation was that we do both the donor dinners and the designer lunch/purse auction. Discussion followed on this subject and Jackie D. stated that any fundraiser we do should reflect the nature of our organization and voiced concern that donor dinners would not be accessible to all but only a few big donors. Nancy Roberts stated that any purse auction also needed to be presented in a powerful, not frivolous manner. The possibility of renting a theater and showing the movie "Miss Representation" (an indie Sundance winner) was discussed. Kathy Cunningham voiced concern about pulling off these major events without sufficient planning and suggested we take a year off and do donations. Cathlin mentioned that we do have enough reserves in our funds to take a year off. It was proposed that we consider the movie screening as our main fundraiser for next year but this proposal was withdrawn in order to add "donations of \$100" and "movie" to our ballot. Barbara Shaffer suggested we do ballot as a "straw vote" with members voting for first 3 choices. Ballot results were as follows:

Donor dinners	1	Combo of dinners and lunch/auction	7
Designer luncheon/purse auction	13	Donations only	19
3-D art show	3	Movie	22

After the ballot results, Teresa Garrison said that we needed to make a final decision on fundraisers at the January general meeting and that we need to establish a planning committee in order to move forward.

**Wana Duma Program:** A very informative presentation was made by Becca Kay and Debi Holland about the Wana Duma Children's Project, a local effort to assist children in rural Kenya with educational opportunities. This project was started by Camano resident, Suzanne Garrison, who spends half the year in Kenya overseeing the project. Most children are raised by grandmothers since their parents have died from HIV/AIDS virus. All money raised goes directly to the project. Items brought back from the markets in Kenya were available for purchase as a Wana Duma fundraiser.

**"Stuck in the Mud":** Penny Buse discussed her book, Stuck in the Mud, about the history of Warm Beach. In 1977 she was awarded a grant from AAUW for help with photography costs. She feels that this book was actually a community project so she is donating all profits from the book to the Stanwood Area Historical Society and AAUW. Penny also suggested we ask SCAF for a grant for our proposed movie night.

**AAUW Insider:** Cathlin showed the new AAUW "Insider" brochure which profiled Jackie DeFazio and gave lots of good publicity to our branch. Laura Lewis reminded members to read the latest mailing from AAUW.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Raymond, Secretary

