

In Touch

October 2011

Edited by Martha Huyler and Georgi Proulx



Our Mission

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

October 3rd

10:30 a.m.

Board Meeting

Cathlin Starke's Home

October 13th

9:00 a.m. Art Show Setup

12:00 p.m. General Meeting

Stanwood-Camano Fairgrounds

October 14th

6:00—9:00 p.m.

Patron's Party &
30th Year Celebration

October 15-16th

30th Annual Art Show

October 19th

6:30 p.m.

Candidate Forum
Stanwood Middle School

For more information contact:

Susan Blake
Vice President, Program

Jo English
Program

Message from the President

Cathlin Starke

It was wonderful to be together again at our September anniversary celebration seeing the friendships and enthusiasm of our group bloom once more. We have much to be proud of in terms of our contributions to the Stanwood and Camano Island communities and much work to continue our efforts.

Please "spread the word" about our Art Show for Education to your friends, neighbors and churches encouraging people to attend on Saturday and Sunday, October 15-16. Patron's Party tickets are available (\$20pp) for the October 14 event.

Our schools desperately need tutors; schools are suffering from a lack of resources. This is one of our flagship community activities, and this year our branch participation is not meeting demand. Please email Janice Hertz at jhertz@exmsft.com regarding your availability and how you can help. Neighbors, friends, and family members are invited to tutor if they would like to participate.

Our branch-sponsored Candidate Forum is Wednesday, October 19, 6:30 p.m. at Stanwood Middle School. We are asking members to arrive at 6:00 p.m.

October is going to be a busy month, and all of these activities are so important to our communities! As a friend of mine recently said, "Give till it hurts, then....give some more." Thank you to each of you for all you do for AAUW and your community.

Art Show Update

Thank you to so many members stepping up to make our 30th birthday bash and Art for Education Show the unique and terrific experience it is. We have a major "ask" of you. We need Patron's Party RSVP's for spouses and friends you may have added to the invitation list this year. We have received a limited number of RSVP's and regrets with donations to the scholarship fund. There are simply too many non-replies to date.

Accurate numbers help us plan and budget wisely, so I am asking all of you to assist: **please call the folks you personally added to the invitation list and verify their intentions to attend. We also need to know which members and spouses will be attending as guests.** Tickets for spouses or personal guests can be reserved by sending your check to PO Box 2652, Stanwood 98292. Donation is \$20 per person. Committee Chairs and spouses working the show are comp'd. Those replies need to be given to Nancy Roberts or Kathy Cunningham before October 6 in order for supplies to be purchased and the cooking parties to begin.

This year's Silent Auction will feature single pieces from artists who were with us in the beginning and have moved into their own studios and tours. Each piece will have a minimum bid and all profits over those minimums will go directly into the scholarship fund. We will have works from James Davies' signed Trilogy books, Karla Matzke, Marguerite Goff, and Connie Hevly to Mark and Vicki Dodge and John Ebner. Come prepared to bid up!

Lots of helpers will be needed for the set-up beginning at 9:00 a.m. Thursday, then at 4:00 p.m. to help check in the artists' inventory. Friday, the kitchen crew goes into high gear. Sales volunteers are to report in by 5:30 p.m. Friday to review instructions for the sales procedure. It is really important that you make all best efforts to be on time for your commitment so others don't feel over-extended and stressed by trying to double-cover an assignment.

Let's have fun! Call Kathy Cunningham if you have questions or concerns.

Save These Dates

November 7th

10:30 a.m.

Board Meeting and
Art Show Recap
Cathlin Starke's Home

November 10th

7:00 p.m.

General Meeting
Snow Goose Bookstore

Fundraising Plan for 2012

The fundraising committee presented their report at the September meeting. A recap of that report is below. Think about these options and share your thoughts with a board member before the December 5 board meeting when the board will discuss all input and vote on a fundraising plan for 2012.

Idea 1—A designer luncheon and purse auction

Sample Title: THE POWER OF THE PURSE ... WOMEN HELPING WOMEN

Each member of our branch donates a "previously loved" or newly purchased purse. We hire a caterer to do a luncheon and procure local designers to each decorate a rented round table as a "perfect setting" with the centerpieces being auctioned off after lunch. Tickets are sold for the lunch, during which volunteer members walk through the room wearing fashions from Laurie's that show off some of the purses. A silent auction of the purses is then held after lunch, perhaps before dessert. If we could procure a special purse or one donated by a local celebrity that could be raffled off. Previous scholarship winners would be invited, and their stories could be a short program.

Features the committee like about this idea:

- The focus is on women
- Takes us out of the business of selling for artists and paying a commission
- Is new in this community – not ever done before
- Involves and showcases the local retail community and its services
- Involves all members of the branch and would be fun
- Would work well at the fairground building where we hold the art show, and the fair has said we can again have a special rental price
- Could be held in the spring instead of during the fall months where we are competing with the senior center and CASA auctions.

Idea 2—Holiday Homes Tour

We would approach people in the Camano Island-Stanwood area to open their homes for a one-day holiday tour. It was suggested that we could sell items at each person's home to increase profits for the day. Also we could have a designated place for people to have lunch at an additional cost to further augment our profits. This has been a success in other areas.

Idea 3—3D-A new look at the fine art of education

A dramatic change to our current format.

- Lets change focus; 3D art sells. It is suggested that we display and sell 3D art only eliminating the pegboards and a great deal of assembly (the pegboard displays' condition and assembly is a yearly complaint). Our best 2D artists could still be featured in a gallery-type situation perhaps in a silent auction venue. Artists could set a price that they require to receive for the painting and AAUW could keep anything over that.
- It was also suggested that we change the commission split at the same time. Most galleries charge 60/40; they keep 60 and the artist keeps 40. The original split was designed to attract artists; we have had a 30-year record of attracting artists. It's time for a change.
- We would rely on our 3D artists to provide more of their own display pedestals and materials providing tables where needed. Parameters would be established regarding display dimensions so one artist doesn't dominate the space. We would still have a floor manager to design the display space and indicate where the artists should set up their displays.
- This could be a more "gala", one night affair charging more for the tickets than the current patron's party. Historically, the sales on Saturday and Sunday don't justify it being open all weekend.

Think about these fresh, creative ideas and share your comments with a board member before the December 5 board meeting.

Matching Funds

Kathy Cunningham

One of my daughters who works for a major employer in San Francisco asked if we were registered as a 501c3 to qualify for matching donation funds. While our branch is not, I have verified that SCAF certainly is and does all the contact and paperwork required.

Why is this important since most of our members are retired? Many of us have adult children who are working for those companies who do match funds.

1. Ask your family to write a check to "SCAF" noting on its face that it is for "AAUW Scholarship" and include their employer's name.
2. Ask SCAF to notify their employers of the tax ID number.
3. Our scholarship fund would gain a second donation that equals the amount of the original check!

All information can be found on the SCAF website:

www.s-caf.org

Another opportunity to contribute to the scholarship fund.



Your 2011-2012 Board

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Cathlin Starke

President-Elect

Teresa Garrison

VP of Finance

Terry Benson

VP of Finance-Elect

Barbara Shaffer

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Mary Raymond

VP-Program

Susan Blake

Program

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

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

[http://capwiz.com/
aauw/home/](http://capwiz.com/aauw/home/)

Celebrating 75 Years

In celebration of our branch's 75th anniversary each month we will highlight a decade of history compiled by Helen Smith.

1935-1945

As you may know, the national AAUW organized in 1881, 130 years ago. The organization focused on voter education, legal advocacy and issues of sex discrimination. My favorite historical note, quoted often by Jackie DeFazio is that in 1885 a group debunked the popular theory that higher education was bad for women's health. This study established AAUW's commitment to cutting-edge research relevant to the struggle for gender equity in education and society.

Moving on to 1935, in Arlington, Washington, a group of women met to organize women of similar experiences and training to get together for study and discussion as well as for social reasons. This brought about the formation of our branch first in Arlington. In December of 1935, fourteen women were present to meet with three representatives from Seattle. The organization's aims and departments were explained, a constitution was adopted, and dues were sent to National in April of 1936. There were sixteen members. The first year was largely spent studying the history of education with emphasis on women's education.

75 years ago, AAUW nationally established a social studies committee to address a widespread interest in consumer problems and broader social and economic issues following the Great Depression. This committee worked to develop a well-rounded program that ranged from housing to individual liberties, consumer problems to mental health issues. By 1940 National established a refugee aid fund to assist women fleeing foreign dictatorships. Many branches contributed to this effort. After the war, it became the Reconstruction Aid Fund to assist people in recovery. Organizers sent over \$41,000 on the effort, and branches and individuals sent thousands of gift parcels and school supplies to European countries and Korea. By 1941 war involvement meant that AAUW recorded skills helpful in the war effort, and many members assisted this nation-wide effort. The Arlington branch studied consumer issues during 1940-41 years.

Nationally by 1943, member Florence Siebert won the first AAUW Achievement Award recognizing scholarly or professional achievement. She was recognized for the first reliable TB test, as well as safety improvements of IV injections.

In 1945, members were sponsoring women from war-liberated countries to come to the U.S. to study.



Celebratory Cake & Champagne at September 8 Meeting

Leaders for Branch Activities

AAUW Educational Foundation and AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund
Jackie DeFazio

2011 Art Show Co-Chairs

Kathy Cunningham
Nancy Roberts

High School Scholars

Bev Maxwell
Betty McCadden

Scholarship

Betty McCadden

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

Meet Our Members

Annabelle Birkestol

As we begin our celebration of our 75th branch anniversary it is fitting that we recognize one of our longest standing members.

Annabelle joined our branch in 1976 at the invitation of Grace Cornwell and Evelyn Eide. She was attracted to the branch goals and desire to help women and girls.

May, 1923: Annabelle was born at the Birch Meadow Farm in the Stillaguamish Valley five miles south of Stanwood. Her parents were Ole and Ingeborg Birkestol. Ole and his family filed timber claims in Clallam County between Lake Ozette and the Pacific Ocean before coming to Stanwood. The southern tip of Lake Ozette is named Birkestol Point in honor of her family. The worst shipping tragedy along the North Pacific Coast occurred on January 2, 1903 when the captain of the three-masted bark, Prince Arthur, mistook the light in the Birkestol cabin for the Tatoosh Island beacon. The captain and seventeen crew members lost their lives in the tragedy. They were buried near the Birkestol cabin overlooking the Pacific Ocean. The monument and grave sites remain there today.

Annabelle spent her childhood on the Stanwood farm graduating from high school in 1941 to continue her education at Pacific Lutheran University. Majoring in education and literature she graduated in 1945 with a BA degree. She later took graduate studies at the University of Washington.

She taught school for over thirty years. Her first two years at Woodinville then six years at Mukilteo and the remaining years at Conway School District.

Her special interests are historic preservation, the opera, museums and genealogy. "I am a charter member and past president of Stanwood Area Historical Society."

The most interesting trip she has taken was a trip to Israel a few years ago. "We were on a guided tour conducted by the vice president of Pacific Lutheran University. We spent two weeks visiting all the historic sites. On the return trip we stopped in Rome to visit places of interest. We have visited Norway, Canada, and many historic sites in the USA."

What would surprise us about you?

When I was in college, I turned out for the athletic program all four years of my stay there. I received letters in sports and I have my athletic sweater to show for it. We played soccer, volleyball, basketball, golf, hiking and baseball.

I have lived my entire life, 88 years, in Stanwood.



What advice do you have for AAUW members?

Keep up the good work!

What advice do you have for girls today?

Get the best education you can. Shoot for the top!

Special Branch Activities

Book Group

Claire Winget

Day Trippers

Helen Smith

Branch Information

Now you can easily access the following on our branch website-

www.aauwsc.org

- Current and past newsletters
- Branch By-laws
- Reimbursement Form
- Program Schedule
- Email webmaster for current membership roster

ALL ABOUT US !

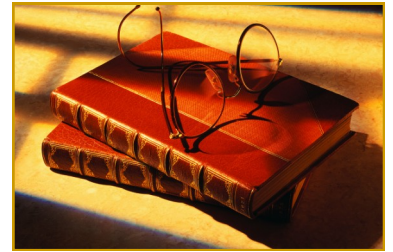
Take a look at the Fall 2011 *Evergreen Leader*. Page 14 is all about Stanwood-Camano.

Click the link below to download the Fall 2011 issue.

http://www.aauw-wa.org/uploads/docs/EL_Fall_2011_Final2.pdf

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.



October

WHAT: Mr. Rosenblum Dreams in English by Natasha Solomons

WHEN: Monday, October 3, 2011, 2:00 P.M.

WHERE: Fatima Young's Home

November

WHAT: Crooked Letter, Crooked Letter by Tom Franklin

WHEN: Monday, November 7, 2011, 2:00 P.M.

WHERE: Martha Huyler's Home

December

WHAT: Cleopatra: a Life by Stacy Schiff

WHEN: Monday, September 5, 2011, 2:00 P.M.

WHERE: Jackie DeFazio's Home

For more information, contact Claire Winget



Be a Day Tripper!

Please contact Helen Smith with your ideas for future group outings.

AAUW Funds Updates

Jackie DeFazio

AAUW Funds Update

AAUW has a long and distinguished history of advancing educational and professional opportunities for women in the United States and around the globe. One of the world's largest sources of funding for graduate women, AAUW is providing more than \$3.7 million in funding for more than 240 fellowships and grants to outstanding women and nonprofit organizations in the 2011-12 academic year. Since 1888, AAUW has provided more than \$90 million to 11,000 fellows and grantees—and that's just at the national level and doesn't include the many thousands more local scholarships and grants funded by branches like ours across the country.

AAUW Signs on to Two New LAF Cases

AAUW has signed onto a brief supporting the members of the Quinnipiac University volleyball team and their coach, who have brought suit against the university for its actions in cutting three sports teams and compensating for the lost opportunities for female athletes by counting competitive cheerleading as a varsity sport (*Biediger v. Quinnipiac University*). In 2010 the district court ruled that competitive cheerleading is not a sport under Title IX and that the university failed to provide equal athletic opportunities to its female students. Quinnipiac has appealed the decision, and the case is before the 2nd U.S. Court of Appeals.

AAUW has also filed an amicus brief in support of two female middle school students who were banned from wearing bracelets promoting breast cancer awareness in school. The plaintiffs in *B.H. and K.M. v. Easton Area School District*, represented by the ACLU Foundation of Pennsylvania, filed a lawsuit in November 2010, claiming violation of their First Amendment rights. In April 2011, the district court judge entered a preliminary court order prohibiting the school district from enforcing a ban on the bracelets. The school district has appealed to the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Public Policy: National Issues

Gay Campbell

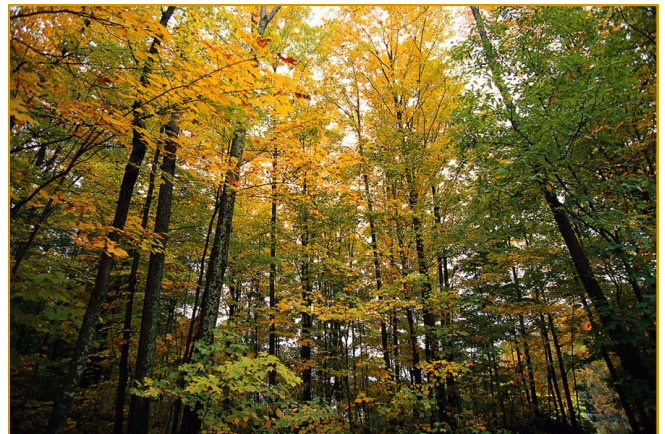
Social Security AAUW sees social security as a commitment we as Americans make to care for one another across generations and points out that social security is among our nation's best and most efficiently-run anti-poverty programs.

AAUW supports the Keeping Our Social Security Promises Act (S.1558) that would gradually lift the cap on Social Security contributions. Currently, 94% of Americans pay into Social Security on the basis of their whole salary, but the wealthiest six percent do not. This new bill would remedy that situation by lifting the cap so that by 2033 the wealthiest six percent of Americans would pay the same as everyone else. This would extend the solvency of Social Security for the next 75 years.

Strong Title IX Enforcement The efforts of Congress over the next few months to cut spending may cause the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) to lose the funding it needs to enforce Title IX in schools. AAUW is asking members to send a message to Congress telling them to make sure OCR has the resources it needs to enforce Title IX.

Focus on jobs Despite more than 14 million Americans who can't find a job, Congress has not enacted any serious job legislation but has reduced the Workforce Investment Act, career and technical education and other programs by more than \$1 billion in this fiscal year. More cuts are on the table for Fiscal Year 2012. AAUW members are asked to contact members of Congress with the message that Americans need jobs and job training now.

How you can act to make a difference A fast, easy way to send a message to the members of those who represent you in Washington, D.C. is to go to the AAUW web site, <http://www.aauw.org> then click on Act at the top of the page, select "two-minute activist," supply your zip code and you will be connected to a message to your delegation.



Meeting Minutes: September 8, 2011

75th anniversary celebration pot-luck luncheon meeting was called to order by President Cathlin Starke at 1:40 p.m.

June board minutes were approved.

Cathlin discussed trip to AAUW archives at WWU. Helen Smith gave brief history of branch which was started in Arlington with 14 members in 1935. She will present a decade of branch history at each monthly meeting and began with 1935-45.

Cathlin gave information on Candidate Forum for Laura Lewis. This event will be held on Wednesday, October 19, at 6:30 p.m. at Stanwood Middle School. Almost all races are for Snohomish County, including Snohomish County Executive. Also 5 seats are up for Stanwood City Council and there are 2 candidates for each seat.

Kathy Cunningham gave an update on the art show and stressed that members need to sign up for committees and that lots of help is needed for Thursday set-up. A large poster of the show will be displayed on an easel and later given to Dan Bergsma to frame. There will be a silent auction with some of our former artists having one piece entered. Checks are preferred for purchases since Bank of America now charges 5%; members are not allowed to put items away for purchase. Some artists will do work on commission and we have 11 new artists for the show. There will be a complimentary glass of champagne on entering and AAUW anniversary cake. Committee heads do not pay for patron party but spouses do and all others are expected to purchase a ticket.

Jackie DeFazio gave a report on national convention held in Washington, D.C. June 16-19 with 800 attendees. Sessions included "Women in the White House" with speakers from administration staffers. Lobby Day had 700 women meeting with 250 congressional offices with message to prevent reduction in Social Security. Land and funds have been approved for Women's History Museum but this project must have congressional approval. Jackie gave some troubling statistics including the fact that 1 in 5 women on college campuses will be assaulted and that the U.S. ranks 71 in the world in women's participation in government – behind Iraq and Iran. Next national convention will be in June, 2013 and will be held in New Orleans. Cathlin said we should all think about attending the state convention and stressed that this is not just for officers.

Teresa Garrison gave a report from the fund raising committee and 3 ideas were presented: 1) purse auction and luncheon, 2) holiday home tour, 3) re-vamped 3-D art auction. These ideas will be put in newsletter for all members to consider and decision on future fund raisers will probably be made in December.

Cookbooks are now \$2.00!

Meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Mary Raymond
Secretary

