



Stanwood-Camano Branch of AAUW

In Touch

June 2017

Edited by Martha Huyler and Georgi Proulx



www.aauwsc.org

**June 14th
Wednesday
2:00 p.m.**

June Board Meeting
Norma Mouton's Home

**June 25th
Sunday
2:00 p.m.**

Scholarship Awards Tea
Election of Officers
Joyce Leak's Home

Program information contact:
Kathy Cunningham
VP of Program



Message from the President

Norma Mouton

I have to say that writing these messages has been my favorite part of serving as your President. Through these messages I have hoped to encourage and inspire you. I would have hoped to encourage you to be the best you could be. As for inspiring you, my hope for each and every one of you is that your greatest joy would be to serve our community.

There are still several areas of service to our branch that need to be filled. One area for service is the position that Helen Smith has filled for several years, STEM Awards Night coordinator. If you would like to coordinate this program with the school district, Helen is looking for someone to shadow her for this coming year and then take over the program the following year.

The book club is also looking for a coordinator. India Nishi will be stepping into the position of Treasurer and with the Purses event coming up, she will have her hands full. I'm sure that between India and Martha Huyler, (who coordinated the program before India), whoever is willing to step up and serve in this area can get all the guidance needed from them.

Next year, I have agreed to step into the slot of Membership co-chair with Martha Huyler and will continue to serve on the board. During this past year I have felt very supported by all the board members who have guided me and helped me when I've had questions. I would hope to do the same for whoever steps in as President-elect. Serving on the Board of this organization is inspiring and fulfilling. You are the ship; the Board is the rudder.

On Monday, May 22, we had a great welcome tea for new members in my home. Please see the report submitted by Valerie Spagnolo (page 7). Our June meeting where we present our scholarship winners will be at Joyce Leak's lovely home on Sunday, June 25 at 2:00 p.m. I hope you will all make an effort to attend. We will also be electing our officers for next year. It's a great time to visit with our scholarship recipients and their family members as well as to say farewell to friends who may be involved with visitors or traveling during the summer. And don't forget to plan on attending our Annual Summer Picnic (significant others welcome) in August. It will be at the Camano Hills shelter on Thursday, August 10 at 4:00 p.m. Bring a beverage, meat to grill and a dish to share (side, salad or desert). And be prepared to renew friendships!

It has been my distinct pleasure and a complete honor to serve as your President this past year. I'm excited that we were able to obtain our 501(c)3 status this year and know that this will facilitate our fundraising efforts in the future. Our next fundraiser is the Purses with Purpose event on October 7. As of yesterday, it looks like we have enough purses for both the silent and live auctions. (Hooray!!) Please buy your tickets before they're all gone! Bring your friends and neighbors and support our efforts. I may be stepping down, but I'll still be involved. I urge you all to get involved! Your involvement will bring you a bounty of rewards in lasting friendships.

Future Events

August 10th

Thursday

4:00 p.m.

August BBQ

Camano Hills Shelter

Kick off the year of new President Mary Surdy Raymond at our August BBQ. Guests and spouses are invited.

Nancy Roberts will be the coordinator for this fun fest.

September 9th

Saturday

10:00 a.m.

General Meeting

Camano Island Library

Presenter:

Judge Laura Van Slyck

of the Everett Municipal Court

October 7th

Saturday

10:30 a.m.

Purses with Purpose

Luncheon & Purse Auction

Camano Center

Pay Branch Dues NOW!

Martha Huyler

AAUW's fiscal calendar runs from July 1st to June 30th. Dues for 2017-2018 are payable now.

Please send a check for \$83 made out to "AAUW Stanwood Camano" to PO Box 2652, Stanwood, WA 98292.

The \$83 includes \$49 for national, \$10 for state, and \$24 for our branch.

\$46 of this is tax-deductible.

By sending in your dues now, you will help us reach the goal of having ALL of our dues to national/state by mid-June.



Purse Procurement Update

Anne Milton

We have reached our goal of 275 purses for 'Purses with Purpose'. The Procurement Team and the entire membership of our AAUW Stanwood Camano Branch should be very proud. 100 'spanking' new purses have been collected and we are feeling extremely invigorated by the quality, creativity, color and style for our 'live and silent' auction inventory. We will continue to accept purses until June 25.

Special kudos to two members of the procurement team, Mary Pilkington and Joanne Drewson, for their outstanding achievements. Mary has procured fifty purses and presented her PWP donation message to four yoga classes, two Book Clubs and the entire Camano Arts Association. Go Mary. Joanne is pictured with a stunning floral leather bag from La Conner where she successfully accrued purses from the following establishments: Walking Mod, Expressions Art Gallery, Skagit River Boutique, the Stall and the Caravan Gallery. Thank you, Joanne.



Joanne Drewsen



The artists are working on their purse canvases and will be beautifully showcased at the October PWP luncheon/auction.

So, we are in final countdown mode for procurement and next steps will be preparing the inventory for marketing/pricing. Kindly mark your calendars now for the summer 'Purse Cleaning/Prep Party' at Georgi's house where the entire silent auction inventory is being housed.

- Tuesday, July 25 10:00 a.m.
- Wednesday, July 26 10:00 a.m.

We are still searching for creative experiences or destinations to add to our 'live auction' inventory like The Crab Feed Dinner with the Crab Tote and the Condo in Mexico with the colorful international tote.

Visit our branch website for forms, newsletters, and upcoming events.

www.aauwsc.org

Your 2016-2017 Board

President

Norma Mouton

President-Elect

Mary Raymond

VP of Finance

Martha Huyler

VP of Finance-Elect

India Nishi

VP-Membership

Valerie Spagnolo

Membership Assistant

Lynda Buehring

Secretary

Cathlin Starke

VP of Program

Kathy Cunningham

Program Assistant

Nancy Roberts

Newest Research Provides More Purpose to Our Search for Purses

Jackie DeFazio

On May 24, AAUW released its newest research report, *Deeper in Debt: Women and Student Loans*, revealing that women hold almost two-thirds (\$833 billion) of the country's \$1.3-trillion student debt. The research shows that those with the scarcest resources bear the brunt of student debt in the U.S.

"Because of factors like the gender pay gap, debt that could be manageable ends up becoming unmanageable, particularly for women," according to Kevin Miller, Ph.D., the senior researcher for AAUW. More than half of graduating U.S. college students have financed some or all of their education with student loans. Women now earn 57% of bachelor's degrees in the U.S., and AAUW estimates that they take an average of two years longer to pay off their student debt than men do. Black women take on more student debt than do members of any other group and struggle the most to pay it off.

Says Anne Hedgepath, senior government relations manager at AAUW, "The status quo is untenable for women with student debt. Imagine if there are cuts to Pell or to other financial aid programs. Women's \$833-billion problem could become even worse."

Research such as this underlines the importance of the financial aid that AAUW and branches like ours give to women seeking higher education. In light of it, our purses have even more purpose!

Day Tripper: Island County Museum Tour, May 17

Lynda Buehring

Day Trippers visited Coupeville for the Island County Museum tour learning about Island County history from the Ice Age to present.

Members and guests in attendance were: Lynda Buehring, Norma Mouton, Karen Van Lier, Joyce Leak, Joan Crespan, Mary Pilkington, LaVonne Ihde, Donna Lourdey, Guest, and Diane Blair, Guest.



Purses with Purpose



*Benefit Luncheon &
Live/Silent Purse Auctions*

October 7, 2017

**Only 73 tickets left for this
bi-annual event.**

**Buy your ticket now and
promote this event to your
friends while tickets last.**

**To purchase contact:
Elaine Richards 360-387-0432
or Joyce Leak 360-629-0524**



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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/)

Tech Trek

Leslie Gitomer

We are very proud to send our four campers, Greta Hendrickson, Grace Henken, Jolene Henrickson, and Carolina Tenorio, to Tech Trek camp this year in July of 2017. Time goes by pretty fast and it won't be long until this summer camp begins. All four have already submitted their registration paper work and are excited about the prospect of attending camp. They will shortly receive more paper work from the camp, telling them what to bring, what to expect and giving them choices about coursework they want to focus on. The campers were honored and introduced to AAUW membership at the May 14 evening meeting.



Greta Hendrickson, Grace Henken, Jolene Henrickson, and Carolina Tenorio will attend Tech Trek camp in July at Pacific Lutheran University



Betty McCadden Honoree Jolene Henrickson with her parents (center) surrounded by Betty McCadden's family

The science and math summer camp was designed to develop interest, excitement, and self-confidence in young women who are entering the eighth grade. The camp is hosted by AAUW-WA and is a program of the national American Association of University Women (AAUW). Tech Trek began in 1998 in California and is being expanded across the U.S. to 15 camps in 12 states in 2017. Our first campers from the Stanwood Camano Branch were selected in 2014.

Each camper is first nominated by their respective science or math teacher at Stanwood Middle School or Port Susan Middle School and the finalists are selected based on essays and interviews by a team of AAUW members. When the panel selects the winners, a very important question emerges: Will going to a STEM camp truly make a difference in the education trajectory and motivation to stay on course in high school and college?

As most of you know, last year was the first time we awarded the Betty McCadden Tech Trek award. We established this award after Betty passed in 2015 and knew we wanted to always remember her and her dedication to AAUW's Tech Trek and Scholarship Program. Betty was a stellar leader in both initiatives and her passion for education always stood out.

The camper this year is Jolene Henrickson. Jolene received two teachers' recommendations and her essays on saving the environment with creative approaches stood out amongst the interviewing team.

Scholarship Success

Anne Milton

Unbelievable. The deadline for the 2017 AAUW Stanwood Camano Scholarship was May 15. Eighteen application packets have been received and processed by the Scholarship team.

The reviewers include Joanne Drewson, Elaine Richards, Leslie Gitomer, Terry Benson and Anne Milton.

We should be very proud that our branch can offer such stellar financial scholarships (\$4,000 each) and this is the primary factor for the growing response. Frequent notices in the Stanwood Camano News and Crab Cracker and application placements in the local libraries and community resource centers have also added to the applicant response.

The Scholarship Tea will take place at Joyce Leak's home on Sunday, June 25 during our monthly meeting and the two recipients of the \$4,000 scholarships will be highlighted.

Leaders for Branch Activities

Purses with Purpose 2017

Jackie DeFazio

Gay Campbell

AAUW Education Funds and AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund

Jackie DeFazio

High School STEM Scholars

Helen Smith

Judy Trammell

Scholarship Chair

Anne Milton

Tech Trek Chair

Leslie Gitomer

Volunteer School Partners

Cathlin Starke

Media Coordinator

Kelsey Langille

Communications

Georgi Proulx

Newsletter Team

Send Your News to:

Georgi Proulx

Martha Huyler



Meet Our Members

Valerie Spagnolo

Born in Jersey City, New Jersey, Valerie spent her childhood in Bradley Gardens – a very small town in central New Jersey on “what used to be a farm and so our home was on five acres of land”.

Growing up “was very similar to what you would expect in the 50’s and 60’s. I came from a family where the sky was the limit. My parents were very supportive of me. My father was from Italy and I think that it was very important to him that the American Dream be available to all people. They always encouraged me to find ways to get things done rather than say that I couldn’t do something.”

Valerie graduated from the University of Nevada, Reno with a BA in Economics and has a teaching certificate with a math endorsement. She was a teacher from 1980 to 2002 and a leadership teacher from 2002 to 2012.

Valerie has a younger brother and younger sister. “We all lived in NJ when I was growing up, however, my father wanted to move to the west coast but could not get my mother to leave her immediate family. So he thought if he got his children to move he would eventually get his wife there as well. All the children made it out west to go to college but my father passed away in 1975 never fulfilling his dream. I went to Catholic school for the first eight years and think it was the Nun my eight grade year that made me want to become a teacher because she was not very nice and I decided that I would be a nice teacher.”

She enjoys hobbies of sewing, reading, quilting and hiking and has spent 3 months touring Italy (France, Spain Switzerland and Croatia) with her mother and sister. “I mostly travel with my sister because my husband is very much a homebody. We have been to Great Britain, Central America and Mexico. We did a Hawaiian Island Running Cruise and at each port we ran a race.”

What would surprise us about you?

I am very uncomfortable talking in front of people, I work very hard not to let it be a problem but I stress about it all the time.

How long in the Stanwood/Camano area?

“My husband and I built our house in 2008 and moved up from Bothell to live here full time. However I mainly stayed in Seattle during the week because I was the Activity Advisor at the school that I taught at and most of my activities were in the evening and on the weekends. After having experienced that life style for 4 years I came home one day and told my husband that I wanted to retire, and I did so in 2012.”

This is Valerie’s first full year in AAUW joining in December 2015. She joined at the request of Cheryl Gruger and jumped right in as Membership Assistant in 2016 then full VP Membership in 2017.

What advice do you have for AAUW members?

“I think that this organization has a great focus. I like that we work hard helping women and girls have opportunities that they might not have if it wasn’t for our organization. I think the thing that binds people around a common goal is when they forge relationships. I like that we now have the Day Trippers giving members a chance to meet others in a more recreational setting. I like that India Nishi has been trying to figure out how we can improve the way we function especially the idea that we have activities that will allow members to connect to other members outside the regular meeting day without losing focus of our goals.”

What advice do you have for girls today?

“Be kind...Be respectful...Be curious...Ask questions...Learn from others with differing opinions from you...Don’t just assume. Lastly, whenever you are angry – PAUSE & REFLECT – confront others with your concerns rather than gossip or talk behind other people’s backs.”



Special Branch Activities

Day Trippers

An informal gathering of members with time and interest to participate in a variety of outings.

Lynda Buehring

Movie Group

Join us for lunch and a movie.

Anne Milton

Georgi Proulx

June Day Tripper's Event June 22nd.

Friday Harbor Tour

RSVP before June 15

Private tour for AAUW members is scheduled with a tour director for a 5 hour tour of the entire island. The tour include transportation, activities and tour sites. The most popular would be the museum, art galleries, sculpture museum, lunch in town or in Roche Harbor and whale watching. The museum would cover the 5 hour tour for \$20.00 a person, but lunch would be on our own plus passenger ferry fare.

Outlook Going Digital

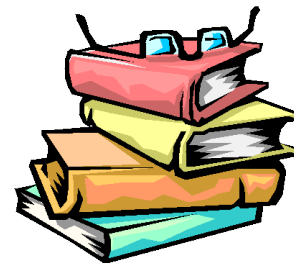
Spring 2017 issue of the Outlook Magazine is the last paper copy that will be sent to all members. It is possible to continue to receive a print Outlook by Opting In at this link

<http://www.aauw.org/who-we-are/outlookmag/>.

Book Group

India Nishi

The Book Group is open to all members. Books are available through Sno-Isle Libraries. Join us for lively conversation if you've read the book or if you just want to come join the discussion.



June

WHAT: The Japanese Lover by Isabel Allende

WHEN: Monday, June 5, 2017, 2:00 p.m.

WHERE: Helen Smith's Home

July

WHAT: A Man Called Ove by Fredrik Backman

WHEN: Monday, July 10, 2017, 2:00 p.m.

WHERE: LaVonna Ihde's Home

"He's a curmudgeon, the kind of man who points at people he dislikes as if they were burglars caught outside his bedroom window."

August

WHAT: The Girls of Atomic City/Rise of the Rocket Girls/Hidden Figures by Denise Kiernan/Nathalia Holt/Margot Lee Shetterly

WHEN: Monday, August 7, 2017, 2:00 p.m.

WHERE: Kathy Cunningham's Home

The Girls of Atomic City - The author traces the story of the unsung World War II workers in Oak Ridge, Tennessee through interviews with dozens of surviving women and other Oak Ridge residents

Rise of the Rocket Girls - During World War II, when the brand-new minted Jet Propulsion Laboratory needed quick-thinking mathematicians to calculate jet velocities and plot missile trajectories, they recruited an elite group of young women--known as "computers"--who, with only pencil, paper, and mathematical prowess, transformed rocket design and helped bring about America's first ballistic missiles

Hidden Figures - Before John Glenn orbited the earth or Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, a group of dedicated female mathematicians known as "human computers" used pencils, slide rules and adding machines to calculate the numbers that would launch rockets, and astronauts, into space

For more information, contact India Nishi.



Movie Group: Join us for lunch and a movie

Next Movie Group event is a viewing of "Hidden Figures" on Tuesday, June 13, 12:00 noon at the home of Georgi Proulx.

Bring a sandwich; Georgi will provide dessert and beverage. Email Georgi with your interest. Friends, neighbors and spouses are invited.

See you at the movies!

Anne Milton

Georgi Proulx

Membership Matters

Valerie Spagnolo



September 2016 seems like such a long time ago, but then again not so much. I was beginning in the position of Assistant Membership Co-Chair and President Norma Mouton offered a challenge to the organization to increase our membership.

If we want continued success we need to increase our membership to compensate for those who for health reasons can no longer do as much. It was mentioned that attracting younger members no matter the demographics of the branch is difficult because of the responsibilities of working mothers. Our community, while it does have many young graduates, is also blessed with many retirees who are not quite ready to throw in the towel. This group needs to be the focus of our recruitment efforts. We need to serve as role models for all those young graduates whose focus of necessity is work and family.

Some of the ways that we went about doing just that was to vary the time and place that we conducted meetings. We offered a broad variety of programs while continuing with some of the beloved programs like the Holiday Luncheon, our evening to meet the STEM recipients from the local High Schools and our "Scholarship Tea" on June 25th of this month.

Susan Blake (as Membership Chair) suggested that we have a New Member Tea and this year we were able to have two: one in the fall and another Tea in the spring. The fall Tea allowed five new members to get to know the board and also to find out ways that they could become involved with the activities that we have to offer. This spring we had nine new members share their reasons for joining AAUW while board members once again had the opportunity to tell about their experiences and their commitment to AAUW. President Norma Mouton also told the new members about different opportunities for leadership within AAUW this coming year. This enthusiastic group of women was willing to take on some of these positions. I hope each and every one of you will take the time to get to know these very diverse and interesting women.

Please welcome: Joan Cresap, Carol Anne Ebert-Sears, Kelsey Langille, Bonney Lemkin, Nancy Leuschel (she rejoined this year), Linda Lynn, Janie Morgan, Roxanne Robertson-Moore and Carolyn Spector.

Thank you to all the members that helped with this challenge. We have a great year ahead and some dynamic new members to help continue the wonderful traditions here in Stanwood / Camano.

New Member Tea Norma Mouton's Home, May 22, 2017



General Meeting Minutes- May 11, 2017

The Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by President Norma Mouton, who welcomed students, families, and members. Norma introduced Helen Smith. Helen introduced the guest speaker and AAUW member AnnMarie Hall, who spoke about careers in STEM, and the importance of collaboration, communication and listening skills development.

Helen introduced and honored the outstanding STEM students and presented each with a small AAUW memento.

Helen then turned the program over to Anne Milton, who stood in for Leslie Gitomer. Anne introduced the Tech Trek nominees for Summer 2017, followed by a ten-minute break.

Following the break, Norma called the general meeting to order at 8:05 p.m. First, she thanked Jackie DeFazio and Gay Campbell, for the submission and approval of our 501(c)3 status. The April general meeting minutes were approved.

Jackie updated the group on PWP, and told us the new tax status is retroactive to the filing date of January 23, 2017. Purses purchased for the auction on or after this date, and auction items purchased at the auction qualify as tax deductions based on IRS requirements. Jackie asked that all purse donations be submitted by June 25.

It was announced that a new member, Nancy Voelker, joined our branch today. Welcome Nancy!

Martha Huyler asked that any member who hasn't paid their 2017/18 dues do so now.

Elaine Richardson gave an update on PWP ticket sales.

The officer nominating committee (Joyce Leak, Helen Smith, and Terry Benson) indicated that they are still pursuing candidates for President-elect and Secretary.

Anne Milton provided an update on our 2017 scholarships; applicant submissions are due on May 15.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathlin Starke
Secretary

