

In Touch

December 2017

Edited by Martha Huyler and Georgi Proulx



www.aauwsc.org

December 7th

Thursday

1:00 p.m.

December Board Meeting
Camano Island Library

December 14th

Thursday

11:30 a.m.

Holiday Luncheon
Cama Beach Café
Cama Beach State Park
Camano Island

*Carpooling recommended.
State parking pass required or
pay \$10 to park.*

Program information contact:
Lynda Buehring



Message from the President

Mary Raymond

I'm writing this article before Thanksgiving, but by the time it appears in the newsletter the Thanksgiving leftovers will be long gone, and we will all be gearing up for the busy holiday season. Before that all happens I'd like to reflect on AAUW these past months and the importance of this special association to us all.

It has been an eventful Fall beginning with our September meeting focusing on national AAUW and discussion of the strategic plan so capably developed by India Nishi. Now our goal moving forward will be to start implementation of this plan to better serve our branch. October brought with it the culmination of "Purses with Purpose", an event long in the planning but what an amazing payoff in terms of scholarships for both college students and middle-schoolers! The scholarship budget which will be voted on in January will reflect the success of this auction and the hard work by so many of our members. At our October meeting we were able to hear from the Tech Trek campers about their experiences and also listen to our high school STEM honorees and student school board members. I know I left that meeting feeling optimistic about future leaders. Lynda Buehring and Valerie Spagnolo, our program gurus, planned a very fitting meeting for November with veteran Air Force Colonel Tracy Meck who spoke both professionally about the service academies and personally about her two hikes on the Camino de Santiago.

November also brought with it our inaugural appearance in Stanwood/Camano Give. This is the local component of a national day of online giving held Tuesday, November 28. Our new 501(c)(3) status allowed us to apply this year (thanks Jackie DeFazio and Gay Campbell!). Coming so soon after PWP, our focus was simply to participate and get a feel for this opportunity; we already have recommendations for next year. Our team consisted of Georgi Proulx (our online master!), Cindy Smith, Cheryl Gruger, Leslie Gitomer, Lynda Buehring, Valerie Spagnolo and me. Below is a picture of four of us decked out in sombreros at the Fiesta of Giving. The results? We received \$560 for scholarship fund and \$1390 for Tech Trek; all in all, a very satisfying amount of donations and a great way to get our name and mission out in the community.

And now for December, a busy month for sure, and I hope you've made plans to attend the festive holiday luncheon at Cama Beach Cafe. It's important to take time to catch up with old friends in AAUW and, more importantly, to socialize and get acquainted with our many new members. This holiday event is always memorable for both members and guests. On a personal note, I will miss the holiday luncheon this year, and I do hate to miss a party! I will be in Montana welcoming a new granddaughter. So let me take time in this newsletter to wish each of you a happy and fulfilling holiday season. I also celebrate the friendships and stimulation I receive from being a member of this branch of AAUW. Happy Holidays!



Mary Raymond, Cheryl Gruger, Cindy Smith, Valerie Spagnolo

Future Events

January 4th

Thursday

1:00 p.m.

January Board Meeting
Camano Island Library

January 11th

Thursday

12:30 p.m.

Social Half Hour

1:00 p.m.

General Meeting
Camano Island Library

*Program: Dementia - Education,
Resources, and Experiences*

February 1st

Thursday

1:00 p.m.

February Board Meeting
Camano Island Library

February 15th

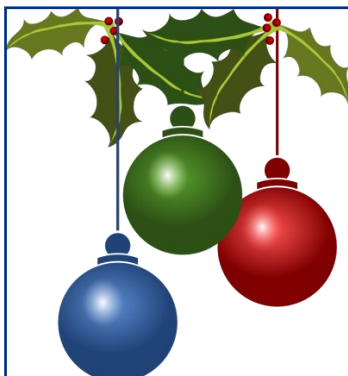
Thursday

1:00 p.m.

Galentine Gala
Camano Country Club
Camano Island

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

www.aauwsc.org



AAUW Funds in Action

Jackie DeFazio

Did you know that AAUW is one of the world's largest sources of funding for graduate women? During this 2017-2018 academic year, AAUW will be providing more than \$3.7 million in funding for fellowships and grants to 250 outstanding women and nonprofit organizations. Four of these women will be studying right here in Washington at the University of Washington.



- Logan O'Laughlin is a recipient of an American Fellowship with a Ph.D. in Feminist Studies. Her research will examine environmental protection discourses that emerge in response to hazardous waste and pesticide spills.
- Kristina van Niel has received a Career Development Grant in the discipline of health and medical sciences. She is pursuing training as a physician assistant in order to encourage the people in her community to make healthy lifestyle choices that are compatible with their personal goals and priorities.
- Stacey Wenzel, also the recipient of a Career Development Grant, is preparing for a career serving adults with acquired neurologically based language and cognitive disorders resulting from brain damage. Her goal is to advocate for her clients and teach medical staff how to appropriately communicate with patients in order to reduce miscommunications and medical errors and improve care.
- Betty Nalungwe is an International Fellow from Zambia who is pursuing a Master of Arts in Applied International Studies with Peace and Security. Having spent nearly 10 years with UNICEF in Zambia, she hopes her experience will help her strategize for emergency duty stations within UNICEF while providing a voice for vulnerable communities, especially women and children.

On a personal note, my dual membership branch, Wheaton-Glen Ellyn, IL, will be hearing from Rosemary Guzman, who is this year's recipient of the American Fellowship. She is pursuing a postdoctoral degree in mathematics at the University of Chicago, focusing on low-dimensional topology in hyperbolic 3-manifolds. Her work focuses on improving known volume bounds on a class of these mathematical objects and investigating further their geometric-topological interplay, especially on the level of geometric group theory. She also advocates for mentoring and more opportunities for underrepresented groups in STEM. She hopes to obtain a tenure-track position.

What an amazing breadth and depth of scholarship our contributions to AAUW Funds enable—something to keep in mind as you make your end-of-year contribution plans!

Public Policy

Cathlin Starke

AAUW's member-voted Public Policy Program guides its lobbying and grassroots issues. This ensures that your voice is heard on a state and national level.

Of the four priorities, the first is Civil Rights, and the second is Education. Focus in education is on the following: career and technical education, charter schools, common core standards, disabilities, assistance to needy families, school vouchers, STEM education, and sexual harassment and violence in schools.

To learn more, go to www.aauw.org and click on "What We Do."

Your 2017-2018 Board

President

Mary Raymond

President-Elect

Leslie Gitomer

VP of Finance

Lilija Tushinski

VP of Finance-Elect

Nancy Voelckers

VP-Membership

Norma Mouton

Membership Assistant

Martha Huyler

Secretary

Open position

VP of Program

Lynda Buehring

Program Assistant

Valerie Spagnolo

Activity Leaders

High School STEM Scholars

Helen Smith, Joan Cresup

Scholarship Chair

Anne Milton

Tech Trek Co-Chairs

Leslie Gitomer

Volunteer School Partners

Helen Smith

AAUW Funds Coordinator

OPEN POSITION

Public Policy

Cathlin Starke

Candidate Forum

Laura Lewis, Elaine Richards

Media Coordinator

Linda Lynn

Historian

Carolyn Spector

Diversity

Linda Lynn

501(c)(3) Compliance

Jackie DeFazio

Stanwood-Camano Give

Cheryl Gruger, Cindy Smith

Purses with Purpose 2019

Lynda Buehring

Norma Mouton

Title IX Liaison

Connie Carr

Communications

Georgi Proulx

Newsletter Team

Georgi Proulx, Martha Huyler

December Holiday Luncheon

Valerie Spagnolo

Holiday luncheon is December 14 at Cama Beach Café, 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Caterer, Donna King, will be labeling the items so that you will know if they are dairy, nut and gluten free. Everyone in attendance will receive a raffle ticket for a chance to win some wonderful gifts. Hope to see you there for a spirited afternoon.



MENU
Asian Flavored Salmon
Rice
Salad & Rolls w/ Butter
Dessert Tray

Pork Loin
Winter Vegetable
Glass of Prosecco
Coffee & Tea

Wine can be purchased for \$5.00 a glass the day of the event from the catering staff. They will have a station for wine and a separate station for complimentary coffee and tea.

Day Trippers: Crow Island Farms

Lynda Buehring

AAUW members and spouses/guests will have an opportunity to enjoy a 5-course dinner prepared by Chef Dennis Newman on December 17. Crow Island Farms is a farm to table dining extravaganza at 27008 102nd Ave. NW, Stanwood. The reviews have been phenomenal in that everything is locally provided and cooked to perfection.

Only 24 spaces were available and all are reserved. We look forward to the reviews and photos by the guests fortunate to attend.

Diversity- "Unveiled"

Linda Lynn

On Tuesday, November 7, about 17 AAUW members and their guests carpooled to Skagit Valley College in Mount Vernon to attend "Unveiled", a one woman play written by and starring Rohina Malik. We stopped along the way at the delightful Calico Cupboard restaurant and had wonderful brunch-time meals which contributed to the specialness of the day.



Rohina Malik

At the college, we sat in the well-equipped and comfortable Phillip Tarro theater. The play exceeded the expectations of most of us, with Rohina providing an expert performance that caused many of us to get tears in our eyes. Wearing a hijab, she portrayed five different fictionalized but believable (and based on Rohina Malik's personal experiences or knowledge) Westernized Muslim women in a post 9-11 world, each of whom experiences hatred and bigotry brought on by ignorance and prejudice. The hijab and tea were central themes; each character talked about a different tea variety that she was drinking or serving. As the characters transitioned, her accent and demeanor matched. Each character illustrated a different facet of discrimination, and ranged from being a London rapper to a Moroccan attorney.

She has performed this play many places since she wrote it in 2008, including U.S. theaters, Ivy League schools, high schools, and venues in several other countries on at least three different continents. The list of awards she has won is very long. A review of her play in the Huffington Post states, "Using education to battle ignorance has become Malik's personal mission with 'Unveiled'." When some of us spoke with her after the play, she told us that she presents this play in as many public places and schools as possible in an attempt to educate against ignorance. There are many websites that mention her and her play - I found this one to be interesting:

<https://www.thenational.ae/arts-culture/rohina-malik-s-play-unveiled-addresses-negative-stereotypes-about-muslims-1.315958>

We will continue to seek out other diversity events and partner with Day Trippers.

Meet Our Members: Mary Chesney

Born in Detroit, Mary grew up in Duluth, MN. She reports, "The area is best described as the land of eternal ice and snow with mosquitoes large enough to haul off a small child but not to be confused with Alaska. When I was about 15 my sister had a boyfriend who was in the Navy ROTC at Marquette University in Milwaukee. She brought him home to meet all of us and I was totally smitten with him because he planned to be a pilot. I LOVED anything to do with flying and had decided I too would fly, for the Air Force. The problem was my parents didn't tell me girls had limits on what they could do. The boyfriend had the sad duty of informing me that girls couldn't fly for the military or any business. I was crushed but the Navy fighter jet posters remained on my walls for at least another year."

Mary has quite a few diplomas for that den wall: a Bachelor's degree in what is now called Family and Consumer Sciences (Home Ec.), a Bachelor's of Science in Nursing, a Master's in Public Health in Nutrition-Maternal/child and adolescent health focus, a Masters of Science in Nursing Education, and the last ("and I had to solemnly promise this to my husband") is a PhD in Public Health with a program planning and evaluation focus.

She has three adult sons and one grandson all living in Duluth, MN where she lived until she took a position with Washington State University Cooperative Extension Service in Snohomish County. "My husband and I joyfully moved west and have been living in Arlington for over 27 years-not nearly long enough."

Mary enjoys bread baking, hosting ("and of course eating") dinners, reading, hiking, bicycling and traveling to faraway places with strange sounding names. She has been to Mexico, England, Scotland, Norway, Netherlands, Germany, France (along the Rhine), and of course Canada. And ("drum roll please") Chile, Argentina, the Falkland Islands, Antarctica, Peru, and Ecuador in January and February-yippee!!!!!! Whew!

Mary has been a past member of AAUW for about three year just rejoining our branch this fall. She rejoined due to "the philosophy of the organization is to promote education for women and girls. Considering my story about what is was like to be a girl years ago, I want to help make sure no young girl ever again is told something she would love to do is not available because she is a girl." Her activities in AAUW are book group, Day Trippers and movie group.

What would surprise us about you?

That I successfully, and without any damage to myself or my bike, completed a 30 km fund raising bike ride this past fall on Vancouver Island.

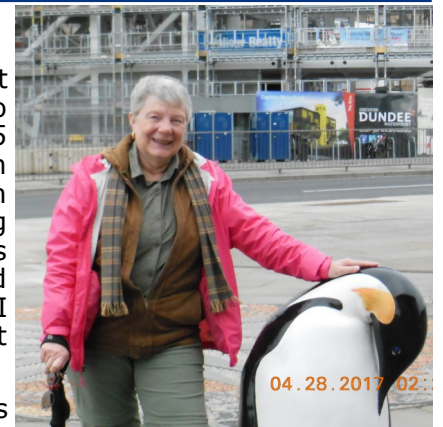
What advice do you have for AAUW members?

Mentor any young woman you know. Keep encouraging them to realize their goals. Let them know that you are there to help them along the way and are available to listen to their dreams, hopes and fears.

What advice do you have for girls today?

Follow your interests and never let anyone tell you your dreams are not possible. Stick up for yourself because often no one else will. And remember to stick up for others, boys or girls, who are being belittled or demeaned.

Photo Above was taken this past May in Dundee, Scotland. The site is the location of the Royal Research Ship (RRS) Discovery, the ship used by Captain Scott's Antarctic expedition.



Getting Ready for Antarctica



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

Book Group

Open to all members. Join us for lively conversation if you've read the book or if you just want to come join the discussion.

Katie Farrey



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the community.

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

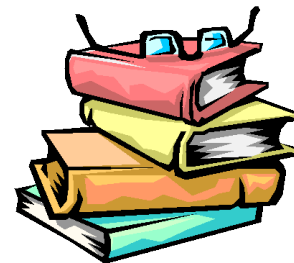
AAUW Action Network
for Congressional items
regarding the national
issues for action.

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

Book Group

Katie Farrey

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.



December

WHAT: The Bishop's Wife by Mette Ivie Harrison

WHEN: Monday, December 4, 2017, 2:00 p.m.

WHERE: Martha Huyler's Home

"In the predominantly Mormon city of Draper, Utah, some seemingly perfect families have deadly secrets...Linda Wallheim is the mother of five grown boys and the wife of a Mormon bishop. As bishop, Kurt Wallheim is the ward's designated spiritual father, and that makes Linda the ward's unofficial mother, and her days are filled with comfort visits, community service, and informal counseling. But Linda is increasingly troubled by the church's patriarchal structure and secrecy, especially as a disturbing situation takes shape in the ward."-- Provided by publisher.

January

WHAT: Euphoria by Lily King

WHEN: Monday, January 8, 2018, 2:00 p.m.

WHERE: Mary Pilkington's Home

"English anthropologist Andrew Bankson has been alone in the field for several years, studying the Kiona river tribe in the Territory of New Guinea. Haunted by the memory of his brothers' deaths and increasingly frustrated and isolated by his research, Bankson is on the verge of suicide when a chance encounter with colleagues pulls him back from the brink." -- from publisher's web site.

February

WHAT: The Visitors by Sally Beauman

WHEN: Monday, February 5, 2018, 2:00 p.m.

WHERE: Lilija Tushinski's Home

In 1922, when Lucy is sent to Egypt to recuperate from typhoid, she meets Frances, the daughter of an American archaeologist. The friendship draws the impressionable young girl into the thrilling world of Lord Carnarvon and Howard Carter, who are searching for the tomb of boy pharaoh Tutankhamun in the Valley of the Kings. As events unfold, Lucy will discover the lengths some people will go to fulfill their deepest desires-- and the lies that become the foundation of their lives. "Built around Lord Carnarvon and Howard Carter's discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb in the Valley of the Kings, this evocative novel from New York Times-bestselling author Sally Beauman blends fact and fiction to recreate a lost world that's still fiercely enthralling and relevant today."-- Provided by publisher.

For more information, contact Katie Farrey.

General Meeting Minutes- November 9, 2017

The meeting was called to order by Stanwood-Camano AAUW president Mary Raymond at 1:00 P.M. on November 9, 2017 at the Camano Island Library conference room.

The guests present were Jim and Gael Birkenbuel and Jeannie Garrioch.

The presenter was Tracey Meck retired colonel from the US Air Force. She gave two presentations. One was about assisting young adults in applying for military college academies, and alternates to educational opportunities to pursue a military career. The second presentation was about her personal experiences while hiking the Camino de Santiago trail.

Holiday Luncheon: Encouraging members to sign up and make payment (\$26) for the Holiday Luncheon to be held on December 14, 2017 from 11:30 till 2:00 at the Cama Beach Café.

Snack Signup sheets were also available for volunteers to bring snacks to the January and February AAUW membership meetings.

SC Give: For the first year, since we are now 501(c)(3), we can and will be participating in Stanwood-Camano Give, the local Giving Tuesday initiative sponsored by SCAF, on November 28th. We will be posting on our Facebook page and also the official Facebook page of Stanwood-Camano Give. Posting will occur at least once a week from now and leading up to the event. Please forward posting from Facebook to friends, family, and others.

Leadership position updates include the following: India Nishi is moving to Bellingham she will no longer be the VP of Finance. Lilija Tushinski who was VP of Finance-elect will now be VP of Finance. Nancy Voelckers will take Lilija's position as VP of Finance-elect.

Linda Lynn will be Media coordinator and Janet Hill will join in during January. We are still looking for an EF-LAF coordinator.

Approval of Minutes: Laura Lewis made a motion to approve October membership meeting minutes and Ann Milton seconded it. It was agreed to by all present.

Finance: Lilija Tushinski gave the Finance Report.

PWP was a successful event. Thanks to all the members that made it possible. The net amount we earned from the event was \$40,294. The PWP event in 2019 will be chaired by Norma Mouton and Lynda Buehring.

Donations: Martha Huyler reminded us that if we make additional donations to check to see if a company that we are employed with gives matching funds.

Programs: Valerie Spagnolo gave a brief synopsis of upcoming programs. December program is a holiday lunch at Cama Beach Café. Deadline for tickets is end of November as they need two weeks to coordinate with the caterer. January program is on dementia and local resources and February program will be announced by evites.

Volunteer Partners: Helen Smith talked about volunteer opportunities at Utsalady Elementary School. Schedules can be flexible and include tutoring sessions on reading and math. Also help in the library is needed. Contact Helen if you are interested as you will need to fill out an application and a short orientation is required.

Anacortes: Mary Raymond announced that the Anacortes Branch is having its annual Jingle Bell Dash. The event will be on December 16 and requires an entry fee that goes towards scholarships etc.

Emergency Preparedness: Lilija announced an evening event on November 9 on Camano preparedness in the event of a catastrophic event. This event is put on by the Camano Fire Department. Jim Heinrich will also be addressing medical emergencies and talk about how the community can help. The event is at 7:00 P.M. at the Madrona Vista Fire Station.

Candidate Forum: Laura Lewis thanked everyone who participated in Candidate Forum night in October. It was very successful and was attended by 56 individuals.

Wine: Georgi Proulx announced that there were bottles of wine from the PWP event for \$5 a bottle.

Day Trippers: Lynda Buehring spoke briefly about the Day Tripper outings. The October trip to the diversity one act play in Mount Vernon was a success. The December trip is a special dinner at the new farm-to-table restaurant in Stanwood. This is a private event and the cost is \$55 per person for a 5 course meal. Only two spots are left so let Lynda know if you are interested. The date is December 17 from 5:15 - 9:15 P.M.

Adjournment: Laura Lewis made a motion for the meeting to adjourn and Norma Mouton seconded it. It was agreed to by those present.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Gitomer for Lesley Bentley, Secretary



Day Trippers Photo Gallery: November

Lynda Buehring



Brunch before the performance of "Unveiled" at Skagit Valley College. In attendance: Mary Chesney, Katie Farrey, Martha Huyler, Linda Lynn, Terry Benson, Lynda Buehring, Bonney Lemkin, Anne Milton, Patti Pontikis and guests.



If you are your authentic self you have no competition.

~Scott Stratten

Merry Christmas!

Your Editors, Martha & Georgi