



Stanwood-Camano Branch of AAUW

In Touch

February 2019

Edited by Martha Huyler and Georgi Proulx



www.aauwsc.org

February 7th

Thursday

1:00 p.m.

February Board Meeting
Camano Library

February 14th

Thursday

12:30 p.m.

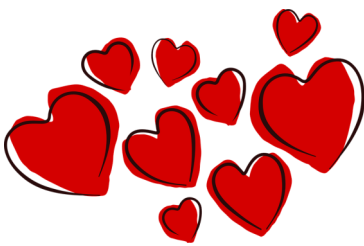
Social Half Hour

1:00 p.m.

General Meeting
Camano Library

*Speaker: Dawn Mettler
Damsel in Defense*

*Program: Personal Safety &
Self-Defense*



Program information contact:

Carol Kayler
VP of Program

Message from the President

Leslie Gitomer

Monday I attended the Washington State AAUW Lobby Day in Olympia. Every time I attend this event I find it informative and am reminded how much State laws can sometimes mitigate effects of federal government rule changes.

Earlier this year we had the Title IX supervisor, Dr. Sue Guenter-Schlesinger for Western Washington University speak to us about implementing many aspects of Title IX at her university and some of the challenges that she was facing and one specifically due to recent changes in government policy. During the Obama administration, guidance was given to schools to help them implement Title IX policies that concern sexual abuse on school campuses. The guidance was put in place to provide more aggressive enforcement of Title IX and clarify the obligations of educational institutions in responding to campus sexual assault.

The current federal administration has discounted this guidance and in addition is in the process of adding new rules under Title IX that would put in place requirements that highly favor the accused offender and make things more difficult for the victims. To combat this outcome, Monday's speaker, Fajer Saeed Ebrahim, explained how Legal Voice and others are working on proposed legislation to preserve and expand the rights of campus sexual assault survivors in Washington State. The proposed bill, which is still being drafted, will ensure that survivors of campus sexual assault have access to a complaint process that adheres to best practices and procedures for handling sexual assault.

Legal Voice is also instrumental in other proposed legislation. Fajer Saeed spoke about Ensuring Reproductive Health Care Access for All, an act that aims to fill gaps in existing law to ensure reproductive health access for all people in Washington. The bill specifically addresses the needs of Washington's immigrant and transgender communities. SB5602 and HB1612 expand on The Reproductive Parity Act (RPA) that passed last year. You can read more about legal voice at this link: <https://www.legalvoice.org/legislative-priorities> .

Pam Crone, our AAUW lobbyist, also outlined other legislation that support our mission such as SB5090 and HB1533 addressing pay equity, HB1123 tuition assistance, HB1166 the handling of rape kits, SB5238 sexual harassment policy for certain service occupations, and SJR8201 school bond vote requirements from 60% to 50%. To learn more about the bills and their progress through legislation you can visit <http://leg.wa.gov/>. We can stay involved by using AAUW's Two-Minute Activist <https://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/two-minute-activist/> and writing letters to editor of local papers and contacting our legislatures.



Welcome new members joining our branch:

*Deborah Solatka, Carol Sterling,
Bonnie Cavell, and Linda Demetre*

Welcome ladies!

We look forward to getting to know you.

Future Events

March 7th

Thursday

1:00 p.m.

March Board Meeting
Camano Library

March 14th

Thursday

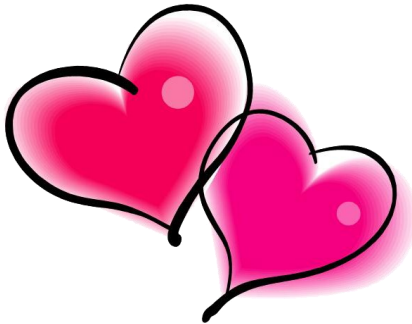
12:30 p.m.

Social Half Hour

1:00 p.m.

General Meeting
Camano Library

Program: Focus on AAUW



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

www.aauwsc.org

Purses with Purpose Challenge

Lynda Buehring

Purses with Purpose encourages all members to bring a new (tags on, please) and gently-used purses to our next meeting. In honor of Valentine's Day, February 14, there will be *sweet* door prize drawing at the meeting's conclusion. Tickets will be given to everyone plus an extra ticket for those who bring a purse; come ready to win a box of chocolate.

250 purses are needed for the silent auction, and we are off to a great start with 110 fantastic purses. We also need 35 new purses and scarves for our live auction packages. *Purses with Purpose* and our mission to fund scholarships provides opportunities to support youth enrichment in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Our future PWP Steering Committee meetings will be at the Camano Library on February 25 and March 28 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Thank you again for your generous donations and support. Donations may be tax deductible; request a receipt upon making your donation.



Scholarship Season Is Upon Us

Anne Milton

The scholarship application process for our branch opens on Monday, February 4 for 2019. For the first time in our branch history, we will be awarding four \$4,000 scholarships to qualified candidates. In late 2018, both the Stillaguamish and Tulalip organizations donated funds for college scholarships and our branch is extremely grateful. We also have funds from the 2017 *Purses with Purpose* event which we set up in the budget every two years.

The 2019 application and qualifications will be found on our own www.aauwsc.org/scholarship. This site will be linked to the state scholarship umbrella at www.washboard.org. What differentiates our branch from other organizations is our focus on students entering at least their junior year of college or a master's level program where the greatest need for financial/support assistance peaks.

Public announcements about our Stanwood-Camano AAUW scholarship process will be seen in local newspapers and applications will be placed at local libraries, schools and resource centers. The application deadline is Wednesday, May 15, 2019. Applications will be distributed at the February AAUW members meeting so they can be shared with family, friends and colleagues.

We are hoping for and do anticipate an expanded pool of candidates this year. Elaine Richards and Joanne Drewsen are on the scholarship committee with me, and we are looking for three members to join us. Duties will include application distributions, applicant reviews, candidate selections, communications, (letters, articles), etc.

It is an exciting adventure being part of this scholarship team and experiencing the incredible academic talents that our candidates present.

Tech Trek, Full Steam Ahead

Terry Benson



Teacher nominations for students to apply for Tech Trek 2019 have been received from Stanwood, Port Susan, and Haller Middle Schools.

After the students complete their applications with essay we will begin our interviews. Applications are due February 15, and I hope to start the interviews the last week of February completing them by mid-March.

We need volunteers to interview, evaluate, and select the students that will be invited to participate. You need to be available from the last week of February through March 15.

It really is a great opportunity to meet the girls. I will be asking for volunteers in our General Meeting on February 14.

Your 2018-2019 Board

President

Leslie Gitomer

President-Elect

Mary Chesney

VP of Finance

Nancy Voelckers

VP of Finance-Elect

(open position)

VP-Membership

Martha Huyler

Membership Assistant *

Georgi Proulx

Secretary

Linda Lynn

VP of Program

Carol Kayler

Program Assistant *

Helen Smith

Public Policy

Cathlin Starke

Communications

Georgi Proulx

* Appointed position, shares vote with VP

Activity Leaders

Purses with Purpose 2019

Lynda Buehring

Norma Mouton

High School STEM Scholars

(open position)

Scholarship Chair

Anne Milton

Tech Trek Chair

Terry Benson

Volunteer School Partners

(open position)

AAUW Funds Coordinator

Mary Raymond

Candidate & Issues Forum

Elaine Richards

Historian

Carolyn Spector

Diversity

Linda Lynn

501(c)(3) Compliance

Jackie DeFazio

Stanwood-Camano Give

Mary Raymond

Title IX Liaison

Connie Carr

Newsletter Team

Georgi Proulx, Martha Huyler

Public Policy: Paycheck Fairness Act

Cathlin Starke

You've heard the statistics — women working full time in the United States are typically paid just 80% of what men are paid, and the gap is even wider for many women of color. Despite federal and state equal pay laws, the gender pay gap persists, but Congressional action can help change this.



The Paycheck Fairness Act would take meaningful steps to update and strengthen the Equal Pay Act of 1963 to help close the gender pay gap, including:

- closing loopholes that have weakened the law over time to allow employers to justify paying workers unfairly,
- creating more robust remedies for those who have suffered discrimination,
- preventing employers from retaliating against workers who discuss or disclose their wages,
- prohibiting employers from relying on salary history to set wages, and
- providing much needed training and technical assistance, as well as data collection and research.

The gender pay gap is persistent and can only be addressed if women have the tools they need to challenge discrimination and employers have the incentives they need to comply with the law. It's time for Congress to make real change for all families by passing Paycheck Fairness Act.

AAUW Funds

Mary Raymond

AAUW has a long and distinguished history of advancing educational and professional opportunities for women in the United States and around the globe. In the 2018-19 academic year, AAUW is providing 3.9 million in funding for fellowships and grants to 250 outstanding women and nonprofits. The money donated by our branch contributes to this funding and I thought it would be valuable to look at the seven types of grants available.



American Fellowships are for women pursuing full-time study to complete dissertations, conducting postdoctoral research full-time, or preparing research for publication for eight consecutive weeks. *Community Action Grants* are for individuals, AAUW branches and states, and nonprofit organizations to fund innovative programs or non-degree research projects that promote education and equity for women and girls. *International Project Grants* are for alumnae of AAUW's international fellowships who are living in their home countries and pursuing community-based projects to improve the social advancement and economic empowerment of women and girls. *Selected Professions Grants* are for women pursuing full-time study in a master's or professional degree program, including STEM, law, business and medicine. Women pursuing a certificate or degree to advance their careers, change their careers, or reenter the workforce and whose bachelor's degree was received at least five years before the award period may apply for a *Career Development Grant*. *International Fellowships* are for women pursuing full-time graduate or post-doctoral study in the United States who are not U.S. citizens or permanent residents. Finally, there is a *Research Publication Grant* in engineering, medicine and science. Women may apply who are conducting research in engineering, medicine or the physical or biological sciences and who have a doctorate degree in one of these fields. The grantee is required to publish her research in a scholarly scientific publication and be listed as a primary author.

Our branch contributions put money where it matters for education.

Special Branch Activities

Day Trippers

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

Lynda Buehring
Mary Pilkington
Patti Pontikis

Movie Group

Join us for lunch and a movie. Suggestions welcome.

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



[www.facebook.com/
stanwoodcamanoaauw](http://www.facebook.com/stanwoodcamanoaauw)

LIKE our page to
follow us then

SHARE to increase
our visibility in
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.



February

WHAT: A Tale for the Time Being by Ruth Ozeki

WHEN: Monday, February 4, 2019, 2:00 p.m.

WHERE: Terry Benson's Home

"A time being is someone who lives in time, and that means you, and me, and every one of us who is, or was, or ever will be." In Tokyo, sixteen-year-old Nao has decided there's only one escape from her aching loneliness and her classmates' bullying. But before she ends it all, Nao first plans to document the life of her great grandmother, a Buddhist nun who's lived more than a century. A diary is Nao's only solace--and will touch lives in ways she can scarcely imagine."— Provided by publisher.

March

WHAT: Lilac Girls by Martha Hall Kelly

WHEN: Monday, March 4, 2019, 2:00 p.m.

WHERE: Georgi Proulx's Home

"Inspired by the life of a real World War II heroine, this novel reveals an incredible story of love, redemption, and terrible secrets that were hidden for decades." - Provided by publisher.

April

WHAT: Educated by Tara Westover

WHEN: Monday, April 2, 2019, 2:00 p.m.

WHERE: Helen Smith's Home

"Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, Tara Westover prepared for the end of the world by stockpiling home-canned peaches and sleeping with her head-for-the-hills bag. The family was so isolated from mainstream society that there was no one to ensure the children received an education, and no one to intervene when one of Tara's older brothers became violent. As a way out, Tara began to educate herself, learning enough mathematics and grammar to be admitted to Brigham Young University. Tara has crafted a universal coming-of-age story that gets to the heart of what an education offers: the perspective to see one's life through new eyes, and the will to change it"-- Provided by publisher.

For more information, contact Katie Farrey.

Day Trippers: February 12, Tri-Dee Arts

Mary Pilkington

February Day Tripper outing will be to Tri-Dee Arts in Mt. Vernon including lunch at Calico Cupboard. At Tri-Dee Arts you will create your own ceramic fun and walk out with a work of art. Great place to create, laugh and paint cool things for a cost of \$5-\$60.



Tri-Dee Arts is the Skagit Valley's premier art supply and gift store with the largest selection of art supplies north of Seattle. Explore all the nooks and crannies to find unusual gifts and just have plain fun creating your signature piece. There will also be time to explore the other shops in Historic Downtown Mt. Vernon and finish with lunch at Calico Cupboard or a walk on the Skagit River boardwalk.

Please contact Mary Pilkington if you are interested in attending by February 5, 2019.

Meet Our Members

Janet St. Clair



Janet's earliest memory is in Pennsylvania, "I remember my mother accidentally running over our pet tortoise and how upset my brother was. I was about 3." Her father was an engineer and was transferred often early in her childhood. "I was born in Idaho, moved to Newport News, Virginia where my father was a civil engineer on the USS Enterprise, moved to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and then back to Idaho. I started school in Idaho and remember going to school after a blizzard and huge drifts along the side walk. We moved to California when I was in second grade. I grew up in San Jose and while we had another big snow storm when I was in high school, there were no more blizzards. I loved growing up in California where we often went 'over the hill' to go to the beach as children."

As a girl, she remembers discussing the roles and opportunities for women. "My mother grew up in traditional roles and talked about both the confusion and excitement as feminism rose in American conversation. She was a 'stay-at-home' mother until we were teenagers. My father was traditional and one of the biggest fights my folks ever had was when I was in 8th grade and they weren't sure they had enough to send all three kids to college. My father said, 'Well, we can certainly send the boys.' He commented on how I would likely 'just get married' so it wasn't as important. My mother hit the roof and said anything my brothers received would be there for me as well. The glass ceiling in our family was smashed."

Janet attended UC Berkeley receiving a degree in psychology and a masters in social work. "In full disclosure, I have to admit that a part of why I chose CAL is that it was near my boyfriend at the time. I became a teacher, receiving my credential from San Francisco State University and later returning to Berkeley for my MSW. I also attended University of Washington and got a certificate in nonprofit management. Later I attended Fuller Seminary and was pursuing a Masters in Christian Leadership which I was unable to complete due to a change in family circumstances."

Janet writes, "I was a bilingual teacher for four years, then a social worker for 27 years. I moved from direct services as a child mental health specialist into administration and nonprofit management. I retired a few years ago. Now I'm a County Commissioner. I failed retirement but love the path before me."

Regarding her family, "I have eleven children-his, mine, ours and other people's. I have five stepchildren and was a foster parent for many years. Of the six kids I fostered, three remained part of our family and have continued to be a wonderful part of my life. I also have three wonderful adult children who carry my DNA and stories of their mother. My children grew up in Washington and California. We also lived for a little over a year in Brazil where I did some volunteer work for a child welfare organization. My husband, John, and I married almost 10 years ago. We bought our home on Camano in 2013 and moved up full time when we retired 3+ years ago."

Janet's interests include sailing, skiing, outdoors, cooking, reading and friends. They love to travel "and have been lucky to have visited many places. Our favorite place to be is at anchor on our Ranger 33 sailboat or sitting by a campfire with our teardrop trailer."

What would surprise us about you?

Probably not much...except maybe that I have a quiet, introspective side few people see. And maybe that I jumped out of a perfectly good airplane for my son's 20th birthday. My father was a smokejumper and we thought it would be fun way to honor him after his passing.

Janet has lived full time in the Stanwood-Camano area for about three years joining AAUW about two years ago because of the 2016 Candidates and Issues Forum. I was so impressed and because of the philanthropic work and support to local students."

Her activities in our branch are Day Trippers and Purses with Purpose and recently "the forum....in a new role."

What advice do you have for AAUW members?

Get involved, make a difference in a way that works for you. Great members.

What advice do you have for girls today?

Be who you are, let nothing constrain your vision for your life and reach for what matters to you.

New Member Tea, January 22, 2019

New members, Board and Activity Leaders gathered at Norma Mouton's home for the New Members' Tea on January 22. The new members explained why they joined this AAUW Branch and provided information about their background. After that, the leaders provided the same information, but they also talked about their role as a leader and the many ways individuals can contribute. They urged the new members to take part in one or more of the activities and often stressed how quickly they became involved after joining.

It was amazing and impressive to hear how many ways our branch reaches out to fulfill the AAUW mission while at the same time enjoying the fellowship and friendships that develop. To make the most of their membership all members are invited to become involved in the activities that are offered.

Attendees are pictured below; new members denoted by *italics*.



Jill Johnstone, Lynda Buehring, Martha Huyler, Linda Lynn



Susan Bradford, Jackie DeFazio, *Mary Ann Schradi*



Trish Coan, Mary Raymond, Anne Milton



Terry Benson, Mary Pilkington, *Marianne McGarry-Bloom*, Cathlin Starke



Helen Smith, Georgi Proulx, Leslie Moore, Alice Jackson

General Meeting Minutes - January 10, 2019

Program at Camano Library: Suicide prevention: speaker, Angie Drake, from ASIST, Suicide Prevention

Call to Order: President, Leslie Gitomer, called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m.

Nominating Committee: Leslie announced that we need a chair to form a nominating committee with the goal of nominating members for the June election. Open positions are President elect and Treasurer elect. Members are welcome to self-nominate for those positions. Members are also always welcome to attend board meetings which are the first Thursday of the month at 1:00 p.m. at the Camano Library.

Treasurer's Report: Nancy Voelckers, VP Finance, presented the 12/31/18 Financials, and the proposed scholarship budget for 2019. The 12/31/18 financial reports have been updated to include income from SCAF and grants from the Tulalip and Stillaguamish tribes. The December holiday luncheon is also included.

The scholarship budget handout included the 2018 approved budget numbers, the 2018 actual numbers, and the 2019 proposed budget amounts. At the January board meeting, the board had voted to approve the 2019 proposed budget with three \$4000 scholarships for a total of \$12,000. At this membership meeting, Gay Campbell made motion to increase the number of scholarships from three to four for a total of \$16,000, and Jackie DeFazio seconded; the motion was carried and the budget was approved with that change.

Purses with Purpose: Norma Mouton reported that they still need volunteers for committees: Auction, Facilities, Tickets, Procurement, Food, and Wine. If interested in any of these committees, please contact Lynda Buehring or Norma Mouton. Tickets will go on sale May 1. Mary Raymond is heading up the Procurement committee, and they will meet at 10:30 a.m. on January 17 at the Coffee Roasters. All are welcome. Mary asks every member to donate a new or lightly used purse.

Community Volunteer Day: Lynda and Norma are talking with the Stanwood Chamber of Commerce about starting a Volunteer Fair for non-profits similar to those that participate on Stanwood Giving Tuesday. At the fair non-profits could dispense information about their services to the public, prospective volunteers and new members.

Programs: Helen Smith announced the topic of February's program will be self-defense, March's program will be about the AAUW organization and feature a fellowship grant recipient, and April's meeting will be about car maintenance. The May meeting is our annual High School STEM Scholar Recognition and will feature a guest speaker on their STEM career.

Membership: Georgi Proulx reported that we had four guests today, including one new member. We have nearly ninety members! The new membership tea will be held at Norma Mouton's home on January 22, 2019.

Tech Trek Program: Terry Benson has contacted all four participating Stanwood and Arlington middle schools. The next step is the teacher nominations due on January 17.

Scholarship: Applications will be posted at www.aauwsc.org/scholarship and www.washboard.org website February 1: Applications are due in May.

Public Policy: Cathlin Starke reminded members to register for Lobby day, January 28, in Olympia, sponsored by AAUW Washington state. The morning session includes speakers and lunch. In the afternoon we hope to meet with our local legislators.

Stanwood-Camano Give: Met our goal to fund two Tech Trek scholarships.

Adjourn: Cathlin Starke moved to adjourn at 2:50 p.m., and Norma Mouton seconded. The motion was carried.

Respectively submitted,

Linda Lynn
Secretary

