

Stanwood-Camano Branch of AAUW

In Touch



April 2020

Edited by Martha Huyler and Georgi Proulx



www.aauwsc.org

**April 2nd
Thursday
1:00 p.m.**

April Board Meeting
Online Via Skype

*To attend please create your
Skype account on your device,
laptop or computer per the link
below the President's Message*

April 9th Meeting is Cancelled

**State Convention and
Women's Expo are cancelled**

Program contact:
Carol Kayler
VP of Program



Message from the President

Mary Chesney

It's April which in normal times means going outside for walks or drives, riding your bicycle (more), and meeting with friends to tour the spring gardens in the Skagit Valley. But these times are so far from normal it is difficult to remember what that was. Many of us are on heightened alert about our health, worried with every sneeze or cough, wondering if we were exposed to COVID-19. When I returned from Hawaii, little did I think the situation would deteriorate so fast. I know we each trying to cope with the pandemic in our own way, seeking anything we can do to find some sense of normalcy. Given the focus on personal and family health, I decided to look at the health of our Branch.

National AAUW recently posted the current health status (membership numbers) for each Branch as of February 2020. I can happily report that although the health of many people in this state is not good, the health of our Branch is excellent. We are in the top five for membership among Branches in the state, a pretty good representation of how well we are doing. Below are the top five:

Walla Walla at 214 is number 1, Seattle at 97 is number 2, Lake Washington is number 3 at 92, Whidbey Island is number 4 at 84, and Stanwood-Camano is number 5 at 81.

As someone with a public health background, I prefer to see numbers represented as per 1,000 population since it gives a better idea of actual representation. I decided to calculate the membership ranking based on this concept. Suddenly things changed and there is some context.

Walla Walla remains at number 1 (how could they not with over 200 members!) at 6.48/1000. Number 2 is Stanwood-Camano at 3.52/1,000, Whidbey Island is number 3 at 1.25/1,000, Lake Washington which consists of many communities on the East side, is number 4 at 0.28/1,000 and 5th is Seattle at 0.13/1,000.

Context is everything. I find myself wondering why the rate of cases and deaths of COVID-19 is not reported as done above but soon realized why. Look again at how the ranking changed when I changed how I presented the data on membership. If the rates of disease and deaths were presented at per 1,000, we might not take this pandemic seriously. Membership is important but life and health are far more serious. One case and one death is one too many.

I know some of you have grandchildren who live nearby. This is not the time to visit your AAUW friend who lives next door. Skype or Zoom are options to help you keep in contact, seeing one another's faces and hearing their voices. If you have misplaced the instructions on how to set up a Skype account, see below. If you can order your groceries for delivery, do it. Ask a younger neighbor to pick up food and prescriptions. Some of the cable companies are offering movies services for free, a great chance to see a movie you missed at the theater. Somehow, we will get through this. We will keep you posted on programming and meetings once this crisis is over. Be safe and be well.

Skype setup - <https://1drv.ms/w/s!AugFPuCW5Sjtq4MoB4sHvsfRiOOjvA?e=8Ipjwo>

Future Events

Please watch for email updates regarding the status of these future events.

May 7th

Thursday

1:00 p.m.

May Board Meeting

Via Skype

May 14th

Thursday

General meeting has been cancelled.

June 4th

Thursday

1:00 p.m.

June Board Meeting

Watch for Update

June 14th

Sunday

2:00 p.m.

Scholarship Tea



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/>

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

www.aauwsc.org

Flu, War, Pandemic—Using the Past to Shape the Future

Jackie DeFazio



Since it's a relatively quiet time in the world of AAUW funds, let me switch to another hat I'm wearing as a member of the branch Archives Committee. As the committee works to preserve branch history, I have spent more time on AAUW's national website, reading about the rich history of our national organization. There I stumbled upon an article on one of the many ways in which the Association for Collegiate Alumnae (ACA)—AAUW's original name—reacted to the influenza epidemic sweeping the world in 1918, an epidemic which claimed more lives (50 million) than the war itself.

Three days before the United States entered the war, the ACA was holding its biennial convention in Washington, DC. The first action of the convention was to unanimously pass a motion that placed "all the forces of the Association at the disposal of the President of the United States." A War Service Committee was also created to determine future actions that the Association could undertake. It quickly became apparent that because of the war and the flu epidemic, there was a severe shortage of nurses, and so the ACA harnessed the power of its educated membership to fill this desperate need.

The March 1918 *Journal of the Association of Collegiate Alumnae* featured an article by Jane Delano, director of nursing for the American Red Cross, calling upon the recent women college graduates of the ACA to join the ranks of the nursing profession. She described the many benefits of the profession and detailed the great need for nurses due to World War I. "The capable, trained nurse," Delano wrote, "is one who has learned to think in terms of humanity; the work of her hands and brain is the foundation of a healthier and happier future for the human race."

As a result, during the summer of 1918, many young ACA members spent their summer vacation on the campus of Vassar College, which had offered its use for the Vassar Training Camp for Nurses. Informally called the "college woman's Plattsburgh," it was modeled after a similar training camp in northern New York that recruited male college graduates for intensive military training. Funded by the American Red Cross, classes taught included elementary nursing, anatomy, physiology, applied chemistry, bacteriology, hospital economics, nutrition, and "subjects beyond the care of the sick and wounded."

AAUW members today stand upon the shoulders of generations of earlier members who have seen a need in our society and jumped in to fill it—something to inspire us as we search for ways in which we can contribute to meeting the challenges of the pandemic facing us all.

Tech Trek Report

Judy Prince

Eleven 2020 Tech Trek campers and their parents have been notified of their selection, and school counselors have also been notified.

It's a good thing that we were over enthusiastic about getting on with the selection process. The notification went out days before all schools in Washington were closed, a good thing for the students and their families.

Other branches are busy finding alternatives to face-to-face interviews. I was able to share with them that Mary Chesney was included in the interview and selection processes via Skype and hope it will help.

We keep our fingers crossed that there will be Tech Trek camps this summer. AAUW of Washington and Pacific Lutheran University do not want to cancel this event.

We continue to hope COVID-19 will decrease to the point that we can get 80 girls and adult staff together in the second half of July.



Your 2019-2020 Board

President

Mary Chesney

President-Elect

Judy Prince

VP of Finance

Nancy Voelckers

VP of Finance-Elect

Jackie-Lyn Olson

VP-Membership

Martha Huyler

Membership Assistant *

Georgi Proulx

Secretary

Linda Lynn

VP of Program

Carol Kayler

Program Assistant *

Helen Smith

Public Policy

(open position)

Communications

Georgi Proulx

* Appointed position, shares vote with VP

Activity Leaders

Purses with Purpose 2021

Gay Campbell

Jackie DeFazio

High School STEM Scholars

Leslie Moore

Scholarship Chair

Marianne McGarry-Bloom

Tech Trek Chair

Judy Prince

Art Education

Marianne McGarry-Bloom

Grant Committee

Norma Mouton

AAUW Funds Coordinator

Jackie DeFazio

Candidate & Issues Forum

Elaine Richards

Historian

Carolyn Spector

Diversity

Linda Lynn

501(c)(3) Compliance

Jackie DeFazio

Stanwood-Camano Give

Terry Benson

Title IX Liaison

Jackie-Lyn Olson

Newsletter Team

Georgi Proulx, Martha Huyler

Branch Beginnings: Four from Montana, Part 3

Carolyn Spector

Our branch of AAUW was formed in Arlington in 1936 by a group of 16 women. This is one of a series of articles profiling the women who founded our chapter.

Ilene M. Snyder was born in Hedgesville, Montana on May 14, 1913, where her father worked as a barber. A photograph taken in 2006 of the crumbling Snyder Barber Shop, with the name "W.P. Snyder" can be found in the Wheatland County Album at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/outlawpete/albums/72157622074597804>.

Now a ghost town, Hedgesville was located in Wheatland County, north and west of Billings. Hedgesville began its decline in the 1920's as a result of drought conditions. This may have prompted the family's move; the 1920 US Federal Census finds the family in Pondera County (probably a corruption of Pend O'Rielle and pronounced "ponder ray"). Her father owned a hardware store, most likely in the small town of Brady, located north and a little west of Great Falls.

Ilene's birth certificate was originally completed reporting her full name as "Mary Rose Snyder," with "Ilene" in red ink inserted after "Rose." All her life, she went by Ilene, although her name is listed in various documents as Ilene M., Ilene M.R., and M. Ilene.

By 1930, the family was living on French Avenue in Arlington, where Mr. Snyder owned a retail hardware store. Ilene graduated from Arlington High School in 1931, after transferring from St. Dominic's Academy in Everett in 1929. At Arlington, she pursued a "Scientific Course" and participated in Glee Club and Torch Society. The motto given to her by other students read:

"When she will, she will, and

You may depend on it.

When she won't, she won't,

And that's the end of it."

Among those teaching at Arlington High School at the same time were Ilene's future AAUW founders Lorraine Coy, Estella Dyer, Georgia Harris, and Alice Myers.

Ilene graduated from the University of Washington in 1935, with a degree in Science and membership in Spurs. She started teaching at Arlington High School immediately after college. In 1940, she was still living and teaching in Arlington. That August, she married Thomas J. Jones, a dentist from Cut Bank, Montana (who, as it happens, was born in Rudyard, another very small Montana town in north central Montana). The couple married in Snohomish County.

Little more is known of her life, although it appears that the couple remained in Snohomish County. She died on May 27, 1998, 6 years after her husband. The couple are buried at Evergreen Cemetery in Everett.

High School STEM Scholars

Leslie Moore

At this point the status of the High School STEM scholars recognition is "pending." The deadline for the schools to provide their recommendations was March 30. Now that schools are closed I don't anticipate hearing from them. As far as I am aware no students have been selected by the teaching staff for recognition.

I will check with the schools when they open and am confident the Board will create a solution to honoring these girls some time in the future.



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

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/stanwoodcamanoaaauw

LIKE our page to
follow us then

SHARE to increase
our visibility in
the community.



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.



At this time Book Group is cancelled but below are the books for your reading enjoyment. Watch for emails with updates of restarting this branch activity.

April

WHAT: The Library Book by Susan Orlean

Susan Orlean reopens the unsolved mystery of the most catastrophic library fire in American history and delivers a dazzling love letter to a beloved institution--our libraries.-- Provided by publisher.

May

WHAT: Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens

Abandoned at age ten, she has survived on her own in the marsh that she calls home. A born naturalist with just one day of school, she takes life lessons from the land, learning from the false signals of fireflies the real way of this world.-- Provided by publisher.

June

WHAT: Eleanor and Hicks: The Love Affair that Shaped a First Lady and White Houses by Susan Quinn and Amy Bloom

A warm, intimate account of the love between Eleanor Roosevelt and reporter Lorena Hickok a relationship that, over more than three decades, transformed both women's lives and empowered them to play significant roles in one of the most tumultuous periods in American history

As future planning is difficult, we are providing the titles of books for the summer so you can get a head start. Happy reading!

July Fly Girls by Keith O'Brien

The untold story of five women who fought to compete against men in the high-stakes national air races of the 1920s and 1930s -- and won.

August Us Against You by Fredrik Backman

A small community tucked deep in the forest, Beartown is home to tough, hardworking people who don't expect life to be easy or fair. No matter how difficult times get, they've always been able to take pride in their local ice hockey team. So it's a cruel blow when they hear that Beartown ice hockey might soon be disbanded.

September Safe Houses by Dan Fesperman

The germ of the story begins in West Berlin in 1979. Helen Abell oversees the CIA's network of safe houses, rare havens for field agents and case officers amidst the dangerous milieu of a city in the grips of the Cold War. But during her routine inspection of an agency property, she overhears a meeting between two people speaking a coded language that hints at shadowy realities.

For more information, contact Katie Farrey.

How Are YOU Enduring the Big Q?

Georgi Proulx

Here are a few ideas for surviving the current stay-at-home status from our members:

Bonney Lemkin reports:

Good: The weather! It's been great for walking. That's terrific because...

Bad: Jeff had a heart attack. We're not sure when....

Ugly: The uncertainty. Fortunately we have friends and family who stay close- but not too close.

Jackie Lyn Olson discloses:

Only eight days after back surgery, I began volunteering to the school I retired from in 2018. I am volunteering on a part time basis to help teachers transition from face to face classrooms to virtual classrooms.

My first day back I supported a staff of amazing men and women who never missed a beat, never complained and were utterly fearless. Within 24 hours each student left the building, for an indefinite period of time, with log on information, passwords and their successful first experience in a "crash" course on Zoom. The following day we prepared lesson plans, materials and student support for the remainder of the school year-just in case. This is an example of what every school and every teacher is doing all over the world. I feel fortunate that I could be part of a solution, my spirits were lifted!

I found a fun watercolor tutorial site on You Tube and have tried to get some painting in each day. I am not very good, but I enjoy it. I really appreciate AAUW and the connection to a community of fun, energetic and thoughtful women. I look forward to reading what others are doing.

Greg Proulx comments: This corona virus paranoia is really reaching absurd stages. Georgi sneezed in front of her laptop and her anti virus software started a scan on its own.

Cathlin Starke relates:

I have a daily schedule, meditate first and last thing each day. Give thanks every minute that we live in such a beautiful place with a kind and generous community - practice gratitude.

Kaye Sodt reveals:

I should be cleaning out my closets and/or my messy studio but, instead, I'm reading through the backlog on my Kindle and emptying my freezer (one meal at a time)!

Georgi Proulx asks: How long is this social distancing supposed to last? Greg keeps trying to come into the house.

Helen Smith shares:

Today I'm going to go down the beach toward Driftwood Shores to see the beached sailboat that's supposed to be on the secluded point between here and Barnum Point. I have walked with neighbors, using our "social distance" through *Barnum Preserve. There have been lots of others there, but the size of the park means that you don't pass many people. Early morning is less busy. When not outside, I've been doing crosswords, reading, and cleaning out closets. Thankfully, I have had several friends call to check on me, as well as my daughters' calls. I've also enjoyed a break in the social schedule, although I didn't like missing my mom's 101st birthday. Josephine staff have been busy attending to residents with delivered meals to the residents' rooms, as all are sequestered. They check temperatures 5 times a day among their many chores. Through it all, they made Mother's birthday fun by even bringing her pizza from Jimmy's. I may even get brave and explore my new sewing machine gifted by daughter Robin, since my Kenmore from the 70's refused to go into gear several months ago. I give thanks every day for all those people who go to work to keep things working for us all: medical personnel, first responders, PUD workers, TV stations and grocery employees to name but a few. We are blessed!

*Barnum Point is closed until further notice at printing.

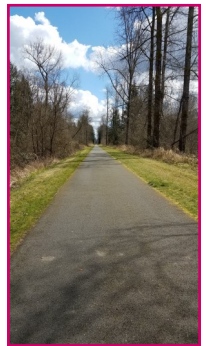


How Are YOU Enduring the Big Q? - continued

Martha Huyler describes:



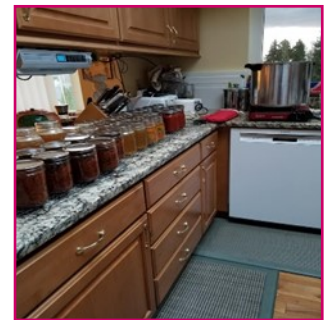
Walking, walking, walking. My husband, Rich, and I have been walking each afternoon. We walk between 2.5 miles and 3 miles, which isn't a lot, but it's a more than I usually do. We've been walking the *Centennial Trail, the 30 mile trail that runs between north of Arlington to Snohomish. It means we have to drive a distance, but there are hardly any people on the trail. Other than that, I've been doing my usual CASA volunteer work at home. Instead of preparing for meetings, writing minutes, etc. we have a lot of discussions about how to assure the funds still come in without our usual fundraisers. But, I'm so thankful that we have a place to be and that we can keep in touch. Oh yes, our sons and grandchildren have been calling to make sure we are okay. That's a joy.



*Centennial Trail is closed until further notice at printing.

Mary Chesney recounts:

How am I keeping myself occupied? Well, how about some photos?



I am grateful for Netflix and Brit Box and Amazon Prime and that Comcast is offering lots of movies I've wanted to see but missed. I am grateful for my e-bike which makes long rides even longer and a neighborhood that is walkable. The walks are made even nicer listening to books on Audible.

Judy Prince shares:

For the most part, thank good for the internet and e-books from the library. The Everett Library is providing book pick-up curbside. I guess people use it. I keep thinking, who last read that book? Were they healthy? I've read a few e-books since the beginning of March. I can recommend Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine. The first part is hard work because you lose patience with someone who behaves so foolishly. Everything is explained and Eleanor finds peace.

Although we keep in touch via social media, I've been talking to family members more often. Everyone is healthy and taking precautions. Dry skin is preferable to a terrible disease.

Finally, I've been enjoying the simple things of life. Sunshine, bird song, people walking their dogs (or vice versa). I allow myself more lattes. I'm also pleased that I got two rolls of paper towels at the supermarket yesterday. I have enough paper products to get me through any eventuality.

Georgi Proulx's Favorite Quarantine Meme:

Credit: Daniel Wilson, Camano Island

