



## THE AAUW ISLANDER MAY 2013

The Whidbey Island Branch of the American Association of University Women's Monthly News



### **BRANCH MEETING:**

**DATE:** Saturday, June 11th

**TIME:** 9:30am coffee 10:00am program

**PROGRAM:** There will be two speakers at this month's meeting. Kelvie Comer, co-president of the Washington AAUW will speak on state wide issues. Claire Creighton from WAIF will also give a presentation. Our slate of officers for next year will be voted on.

**LOCATION:** Trinity Luthern Church in Freeland

### **\*\*\*\*\*NOMINEES for 2013-2014\*\*\*\*\***

**Finance Vice President**

**Marie Miller**

**Membership Vice President**

**Diane Peters**

**Program Vice President**

**Marilee Petersen**



### **THE WHIDBEY BRANCH SHOWCASE OF THE ARTS**

The Showcase Committee is hard at work painting the peg boards to display this year's art from the high schools on the island. The dates of the Showcase are Friday, May 3rd, and Saturday, May 4th, at the Coupeville Library.

We hope our membership comes to the Showcase as it is always special to share the art of young students.

\*\*\*We are in need of Docents for the following hours:

Friday - 10:00 to 12:00, 12:00 to 3:00, 3:00 to 5:00

Saturday - 10:00 to 12:00, 12:00 to 2:00, 2:00 to 4:00

A sign-up will be available at the Scholars Recognition Night April 9th.

Please contact Pat Lokanis or Jessica Koeberle to sign-up if you cannot attend that night meeting.



## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:**

Our April Branch meeting was the STEM Scholars Night Event. It was such a success with students, parents and even a counselor attending. I was so pleased to see so many AAUW members present. Thank you to all of you that brought food. I especially want to thank Shirley Bennett and Carol Rice for all their efforts as co-chairs of the STEM Scholars committee. I also want to thank Linda Riffe and Lynn Reis and their committees for the work and time involved in choosing the Scholarship recipients. There were a number of "behind the scenes" members that helped set up and clean up afterwards and that is always appreciated. Thanks to Mary Ellen Loy for printing the programs and name tags. Everything looked lovely with fresh flowers and tablecloths on each table.

Our May meeting will include our annual meeting to elect officers. The nominating committee of Jessica Koeberle, Diane Peters and Blair McDaniel has put in a lot of work to fill the three offices coming up for election. Nominations will also be welcomed from the floor. Thank you to the committee and the members that agreed to accept the nomination.

We had a group of four women from our branch that traveled to Pasco for the State Annual Meeting, April 19th & 20th. Jessica Koeberle, Julie Williams, Milli Stanton and Marilyn Cowger represented our Whidbey Island Branch. I appreciate their taking time out of their busy schedules to keep us informed about the decisions and initiatives at the State level.

Final numbers are in for the Fashion Show fundraiser. After expenses, we made close to \$2600.00 for our Scholarship Fund. Once again, thanks to everyone involved for all the hard work.

I hope to see as many members as possible at our May 11th Annual Meeting. It is a chance to vote for next year's slate of Officers. We will have a presentation from WAIF and Kelvie Comer, co-President of AAUW Washington State will be updating us on what is happening at the State and National level. ----Sue Norman, president



## **GUNDA VESQUE**

**New York University, New York, N.Y. – B.S. in Marketing 1979, MBA 1981**

**Occupation: Retired after a career in Marketing and Sales**

**AAUW: National member since 2012**

Gunda E. Vesque was born and raised in Hamburg, Germany. In 1962 she immigrated to New York where she lived in Manhattan for close to twenty years. In 1974 she enrolled in the NYU undergraduate school and studied toward a B.S. in Marketing. She made the Dean's honor role a couple of times while working full time. After graduating, Gunda enrolled in the NYU graduate program and received an MBA in 1981. She was invited to join Beta Gamma Sigma.

In 1983 she moved to Whidbey Island from Teaneck, N.J. Gunda is fluent in German, English and speaks some French and Spanish. She says her command of Swedish has become rather rusty. Her passion was marketing and sales, and it served her well in her career. Gunda enjoys helping people solve problems, fundraising, business and market analysis.

**\*\*\*\*\* AAUW SCHOLAR RECOGNITION NIGHT\*\*\*\*\***

The annual AAUW Scholars Recognition Reception was held at the Coupeville Methodist Church on April 9, 2013 at 7:00 pm. This was an evening to recognize outstanding female high school students, attended by family and friends and many AAUW members.

The guest speaker was Kelsi Franzen , native of Coupeville, with B.A. and Masters degrees from Western Washington University. She presently holds two positions-- Project Associate at Triangle Associates, Inc. in Seattle, an environmental education organization, and Program Coordinator for Girls on Ice, University of Alaska, Fairbanks. Her talk was entitled "Ascertain the Uncertain and Embrace the Small Moments: One woman's words on leading a life of passion, purpose, and a bit of unpredictability".

The AAUW STEM Scholars Recognition Program identifies outstanding female high school students in Washington State. Junior students who exhibit excellence in mathematics, science or technology are selected by the schools and then honored throughout Washington State AAUW branches. Students from each of the three Whidbey Island High Schools were honored at this event.

**\*\*\*\*\*STEM SCHOLARS FOR 2013 ARE:**

***Coupeville High School***

Heni Barnes-----Mathematics  
Briess Potter-----Science  
Faith Richards-----Technology

***Oak Harbor High School***

Rachel Margraf-----Mathematics  
Pristinavae "Nina" Manning-----Science  
Claire Hovde-----Technology

***South Whidbey High School***

Tess Radisch-----Mathematics  
Sydney Ackerman-----Science  
Taylor Jensen-----Technology

**\*\*\*\*\*SENIOR FEMALE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS:**

(The AAUW Scholarships were awarded to a student in each of the high schools.)

Oak Harbor High School-----Ciera Wiser  
Coupeville High School-----Amanda d'Ameida  
South Whidby HS-----Lennox Bishop

**\*\*\*\*\*TWO MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS WERE AWARDED FOR ART PROGRAMS:**

***Susan Blank Memorial Art Scholarship:***

Micaiah C.R. Davis-----Oak Harbor High School

***Dale M Fischer Memorial Art Scholarship and AAUW Art Scholarship:***

Jolene George-----Oak Harbor High School



Shirley Bennett and Carol Rice would like to thank all the AAUW members who contributed to this event !!



## **BRANCH NEWS:**

- **Book Group I:** This group meets the first Monday of the month at Cathie Estes' home.
- **Book Group II:** "Joie des Livres" will meet for lunch at 1pm on May15th at Pat Hamilton's home. The book to be discussed is: Sweet Tooth by Ian McEwan.
- **Book Group III:** "Cheryl's Readers" meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month at 10am in the Coupeville Library.
- **Book Group IV:** "Romeos" (Retired Old Men Eating Out) meets at 1pm on the first and third Thursdays at the Oak Harbor China City.
- **Garden Group:** On Thursday, May 30<sup>th</sup> the garden group will have a guided tour of the Elizabeth C. Miller Botanical Garden in Seattle. As of now the tour is full, but we are taking names for a waiting list, in case someone cancels before May 30th. The cost is \$20.00 per person. ---Contact Pat Howell.
- **Gourmet #1 :** Rose's Gourmet will meet at Jessica Koeberle's house on May 23rd. The theme will be Mexican food. There will be no meetings in June and July. On August 23rd, Christina Moats will be the hostess for a BBQ meal at Julie Williams' house, husbands welcome.
- **Gourmet # 2:** Peggy Tyson is the next hostess for the Baker's Dozen. Please note that due to the "Showcase of the Arts" on May 3rd and 4th , we need to move our gourmet date ahead one week to May 10<sup>th</sup>. Several of our group will be working on the show. Peggy has chosen the theme "Spring Harvest" with the hope that the weather will allow some harvesting! ☺ We will meet at the usual time of 11:30am
- **Gourmet # 3:** "Global Gourmet" meets the 4th Friday of the month. --Marti Thomson, chair
- **International Affairs:** Our Members will meet Friday, June 21st at the Coupeville Library at 10:00AM. The topic is "Future of the Euro". The discussion will be led by Shirley Bennett & Clare Christiansen. The International Affairs members do not meet in July or August.
- **Lunch Bunch:** The Mukilteo Coffee Cafe was a real hit in April, especially the tour of the Roasting Company! Our last gathering until fall of 2013 will be at Cameron's in Oak Harbor on May 22nd, the fourth Wed. Then we will be taking a break for summer.
- **The Thursday Night Supper Group:** meets the 2nd Thursday of each month.

## **AAUW STATE MEETING IN PASCO**

AAUW - WA met in Pasco at the Columbia Basin College on April 20th. Those attending were Marilyn Cowger, Julie Williams, Milli Stanton and Jessica Koeberle. Julie was inspired and renewed her pride in AAUW since her first Convention with Kathleen Shaw in 1998 as President Elect.

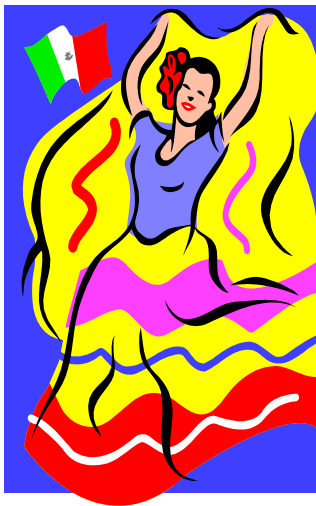
Learning about things other branches are achieving was interesting and inspiring. The State's grant from National to start a Tech Trek program in WA was in the news. Tech Treks are overnight camps held at a college. Middle school science and math teachers identify and nominate campers. Applications are required and the branch selects a candidate based on need. The campers attend classes and perform hands on activities. This enhances learning for STEM classes later on and used strong role model women teachers. The cost for each camper is \$1000 to be funded by the branch. Parents contribute to the project.

The Director of Public Policy and Government Relations spoke about her experiences "on the Hill" and was appreciated by all. Lisa Maatz was a very knowledgeable and dynamic speaker. In addition a graduate of UW's School of Social Research made a good case for using Facebook. She was convinced that AAUW will lose the younger generation if it does not use the social media to reach them. 50 top nonprofits today use Facebook and other social media to reach out and raise funds. One of the top 5 users is PBS and it gets most of its comments this way. Of our state's 36 branches only 7 employ Facebook. 92% of today's students use Facebook for an average of 106 minutes a day. Her message was that this will help a branch grow, to teach the younger generation and should be fun! Millie has her email address and a summary of her pointers. Looking around at the conference, it seems that there is a desperate need for this younger contact to keep up our good influence nationally and with Congress.

Our branch's membership number ranked in the top 7 out of 36 branches. Port Townsend maintains it's first with 206! Sharing the round trip ride to Pasco with friends was, as always, a pleasant adventure adding to already strong bonds.

-----Jessica Koeberle reporting

# MAY/JUNE BIRTHDAYS



Bonnie Abney	05/14
Kathleen Shaw	05/17
Eileen Clark	05/28
Mary Pattison	06/02
Sue Dufek	06/04
Virginia Teker	06/04
Marilyn Cowger	06/07
Celia Lamson	06/07
Betsy Cave	06/10
Judi Moore	06/18
Karen Sayers	06/20
Betty Nichols	06/23
Cathie Estes	06/30



The purpose of AAUW is to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

-----Pat Hamilton, editor