

# American Association of University Women Whidbey Island Newsletter



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## AAUW WEBSITE UPDATE

This "Islander" and all newsletter editions can now be found on the main menu of our branch website <http://aauw-whidbeyisland.org> (see green arrow). Editions prior to 2012 remain in an archive file in the Member Center of the site as they contain members' personal contact information.

Also, you will find a new page dedicated to Tech Trek (blue arrow). Check it out! As we move forward the page will be expanded to include the names of local colleges and universities with which we are partnering and the names/photos of the eighth grade girls who receive our scholarships for these one-week long science and math summer camps.

If you find accessing the Member Center to be a bit cumbersome give Bonnie Abney, our Website Director, a call. She will create a simplified access code with you.

## New Member Welcome

Please welcome our newest member, Camille Brighten, who hails from Milwaukee, Wisconsin and Arizona. Camille went back to school after raising her children and graduated from Alverno College in Milwaukee with a degree in Art Education and a minor in Art Therapy. She taught Art Ed in alternative and inner city middle schools in Milwaukee and Tucson,

Arizona. She was part of a panel called "Gangs: What Are They About", which helped educate teachers about gangs. She also worked with "The Very Special Arts" program. Camille is an accomplished artist and has had gallery shows in Tucson and Bisbee, AZ featuring her photographs, acrylics and pottery. She also enjoys walking, road trips and reading, and is interested in many of our interest groups.

## FEBRUARY PROGRAM

Sharon Erickson went to Kampala, Uganda in 2008 to help build a nurses housing facility. She returned in 2010 and helped to build a clinic in a small town to the north. These trips are organized through the Watoto Childcare ministries. Local churches have had successful fundraisers for this organization and several members of the Oak Harbor Lutheran Church have made this trip.

**February 8th, 9:30 am**  
**Trinity Lutheran Church**  
 18341 SR 525, Freeland  
 ~ Pat Lokanis, Program VP

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our **January Branch meeting** with the League of Women Voters was a great opportunity to hear from our Legislators. We were introduced to our State Representatives, Norma Smith and Dave Hayes, and State Senator, Barbara Bailey.

After a delicious brunch provided by the Whidbey Golf Club, we heard from each of our Legislators. There followed a brief question and answer period. They are certainly facing a challenging legislative session in Olympia.

I want to thank our Program Vice Presidents, Pat Lokanis and Marilee Petersen, for their efforts in replacing our **February 8th program**. The original presenter had to cancel due to ill health and the new program sounds so interesting. Please plan on attending this one.

Helen Bates will have the **Fashion Show** tickets available at our February 8th branch meeting and we will resume our

book sale table. So bring a book, pick up your Fashion Show tickets, and enjoy the program.

Julie Williams has had to step down as chair of **AAUW Funds** and co-chair of **Tech Trek**. Jessica Koeberle is continuing with Tech Trek and would really appreciate some help. If you are interested in either of Julie's positions, please let me know.

Christina Moats is collecting "**terrific treasures**" for our next sale. It is scheduled for next October, but donations are welcome anytime. We are also looking for storage space for the donated items. If you have a corner of your garage or an outbuilding that has room, please contact Christina. She tells me that it doesn't have to be very large... 10' x 10' would be adequate.

Mary Ellen Loy is organizing the **Women in History** group for their **March performances**. They will present to the 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes on Whidbey Island and

the Oak Harbor Friends of the Library. There will also be a performance at our March Branch meeting. The League of Women Voters Whidbey Island has expressed an interest in attending our March meeting for this presentation.

Bonnie Abney has been working on updating our **website** <http://aauw-whidbeyisland.org>. Please take time to look it over. We are posting our Scholarship Applications online for students to print out and take to their high school counselors. Angie Homola and Christina Moats are working with the high schools to ensure that word gets out about this scholarship opportunity.

Your AAUW elected Officers, appointed Chairs and Committee Chairs would be unable to accomplish our goals in Outreach, Fund Raising and Interest Groups without the active participation of all the members. Thank you so much.

~ Sue Norman, President

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### Legislative Report - Update from Olympia

The "**Dream Act**" received a bipartisan vote. This act allows any graduate who is eligible for state sponsored college aid to receive it regardless of whether the student is a legal resident.

The governor called upon the legislature to raise the **minimum wage** somewhere between \$1.5 to

\$2.50 per hour in order to help thousands of Washington families to bring Washington wages to \$10.82 to \$11.82.

There was a public hearing, on the 3rd year, regarding the **Reproductive Parity Act**. It was the 41st anniversary of Roe vs. Wade and there was a Legislative Reception Jan. 22nd.

~ Jessica Koeberle

COMMITTEE PROJECTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

**New Member Coffee March 6th**



Our New Member Coffee is held annually to introduce potential members to AAUW Whidbey Island. All members are welcome but remember that the price of admission is bringing a potential new member. We want our membership to continue to grow and this annual gathering provides a special opportunity to share about our organization and our mission.

This annual Coffee will be hosted by

**Joan Chochon at her home**

**Thursday, March 6th at 10:00 am.**

The AAUW board will provide refreshments and we hope many of you will join us.

Please consult your directory or the Member Center of the website for Joan's contact information and

**RSVP to her by March 2nd.**

Who do you know who might need a new mission or new friends in their life? Invite them today!

**LAF and You have a Friend in Lilly Ledbetter**

If you get some of the national mailings of current concerns from national, you may know that Lilly Ledbetter is urging branch members to contact our congressional representatives in support of the Fair Pay legislation. Reading her autobiography, *Grace and Grit*, is an eyeopener into what women all over the U.S. have experienced with unequal pay treatment. In her case, it was the Goodyear company who kept her

at a lower pay scale for many years. Read more about this need to get important pay legislation passed for women.

I failed to thank so many of you for your generous response to the outstanding documentary, *Invisible War*, which was our branch program in Nov. It revealed in gripping detail the extent of sexual assault, and rape with devastating effects on our women in military. We collected \$341.00 to send our support and many of you took home envelopes. If you have forgotten

about those envelopes please send what you would like to our Whidbey box made out to

**AAUW for LAF**

and it will be forwarded to national. These



women not only put their lives on the line for us, but they suffer the emotional and physical indignities of a terrible wrong. We can help them financially in their courageous wish to bring justice to anyone abused in our military.

~ Milli Stanton, LAF

**Spring Fashion Show March 20th**

*Update:* Fashion show tickets will be available for purchase at the **February 8th** meeting. Tables of eight may be reserved, but tickets will be distributed only when table is paid in full. Men are welcomed to attend, but there will be no separate men's table this year.

Place: **Whidbey Golf Club**

Date: **Thursday, March 20**

Time: **11:30 am - 1:30 pm**

Price: **\$30 Per Person**

(13 tables of 8 will be available.)

*Raffle Prizes and Silent Auction:*

AAUW Members are encouraged to donate raffle prizes or silent auction items to enhance our fundraising efforts. To ease set-up at the event, **please plan to bring your gift item to the March 8th branch meeting.**

To reserve tables or if you have questions about any of the above, please contact me by email or phone at numbers listed in directory.

~ Helen Bates, Fashion Show Chair

## BRANCH PROJECTS AND MEMBER OPPORTUNITIES

**Tech Trek Camp**

This one-week science and math camp for girls about to enter the eighth grade got its start when member Marie Wolbach received an AAUW Grant to open a science camp for girls on the Stanford University campus. The program has since expanded to 10 camps in California and is now nationwide.

Girls attend Tech Trek camps on scholarships provided by AAUW branches. They are housed in local university dorms for the week and engage in hands-on math and science projects. Tech Trek has been shown to significantly increase girls' self-confidence and



their interest in and excitement about the STEM fields.

Our Whidbey Island Branch will be working with local schools in the selection of girls for the Tech Trek camp each summer.

~ Jessica Koeberle, Tech Trek Coordinator

Tech Trek promises to be a project that will nourish and fulfill those who assist in this effort. Can you imagine if *you* had been given the opportunity to attend such a prestigious camp as an eighth grader? It may have changed the pathway to your future. Are you willing to help on this committee? Call Jessica.

**Special Interest Groups**

Please refer to the AAUW directory as well as our website [www.aauw-whidbeyisland.org](http://www.aauw-whidbeyisland.org) for Interest Group information. We do not to publish personal information such as phone numbers in the newsletter.

**☒ Book Group I:**

“The Original Book Group”  
Group Leader Nancy Hodges or  
Contact Cathie Estes.  
Feb 3  
*Boys in the Boat*  
by Daniel James Brown

**☒ Book Group II:**

“Joie des Livres”  
Group Leader, Marti Thomson  
Feb 19  
*The Alibi Club*  
by Mathews

**☒ Book Group III:**

“Cheryl’s Readers”  
Feb 28  
*Flight Behavior*  
by Barbara Kingsolver

**☒ Book Group IV:**

“Romeos” (Retired Old Men  
Eating Out) meets the 1st Thurs.  
at 1:00 pm at China City in Oak  
Harbor.  
Contact Ron Teker.

**☒ Cultural Events:**

Contact Carole LaFond or Betsy  
Cave.

**☒ Gourmet #1:**

“Rose’s Gourmet” will meet at  
Carole LaFond’s house Feb 27.  
Theme to be determined. People  
interested in joining this group  
please contact Julie Williams.

**☒ Gourmet # 2:**

“Baker’s Dozen”  
Feb. 7th, 11:30 am at the home of  
Pat Lokanis.  
Theme: *Food=Love*. Everyone  
has a dish that is someone’s  
favorite! It can be a child’s,  
parent’s, lover’s, grandpa’s,  
husband’s, friend’s, dog’s. Or,  
bring a dish that one of your  
loved ones makes for YOU!  
Contact Pat Lokanis.

**☒ Gourmet #3:**

“Global Gourmet”  
Feb 28  
*Soup Swap*  
Contact Marti Thomson.

**☒ Garden Group:**

4th Tues. Mar. thru Sept.  
Contact Pat Howell or Peggy  
Tyson.

**☒ International Affairs:**

Feb 21  
*Energy Independence*  
by Jonathon Chanis Ch 5  
Discussion Leaders are  
Edith Bryan & Rita Peterson  
Contact Mary Pattison.

**☒ Second Thursday Supper**

**Group:** Meets the 2nd Thurs.  
Contact Virginia Teker.

**☒ Lunch Bunch:**

New Meeting Day is a Thurs. of  
each month (except summer),  
but it is unclear at time of this  
writing which week.  
Feb. Christopher’s Coupeville.  
Contact Jessica Koeberle.



### Birthdays Announcements February and March

Bates, Helen	02/01
Thomson, Marti	02/05
Safford, Mary Ann	02/08
Koeberle, Jessica	02/12
Sato, Sheryl	02/15
Sullivan, Cathleen	02/20
Rice, Carol	02/21
Merrill, Sally	02/24
Secketa, Vonnice	02/24
Prater, Joan	03/03
Lokanis, Pat	03/04
Loy, Mary Ellen	03/05
Ries, Lynn	03/07
Bennett, Shirley	03/11
Yeakel, Judy	03/14
Asher, Jean	03/21
Tyson, Peggy	03/26
Bryan, Edith	03/31

Diane Peters  
Newsletter Editor  
The Islander



### Branch Meetings & Programs Calendar

**February 8, 2014 Sat. 9:30 am**

Watoto Childcare Ministries, Trinity Lutheran Church, Freeland

**March 8, 2014 Sat, 9:30 am**

Women in History, Coupeville Methodist Church

**April 15, 2014 Tues. 7:00 pm Evening Meeting**

Scholars Recognition Night, Coupeville Methodist Church

**May 10, 2014 Sat. 9:30 am**

Immigration laws and Service Dogs, Trinity Lutheran Church

**June 14, 2014 Sat. 9:30 am**

Installation of Officers Brunch, Whidbey Golf & Country Club

### Chocolate Fondue

*Ingredients:*

- 12 ounces dark chocolate chips
- 8 oz of heavy cream
- Pinch of salt
- Dipping items: pretzels, cut up strawberries, bananas, apricots, marshmallows, etc.

*Directions:*

Heat the heavy cream in a pan over medium heat until tiny bubbles start to appear and it slowly starts to boil. Add in the dark chocolate chips and whisk until smooth. Immediately pour the mixture into a fondue pot at low heat. Then, arrange items to dip into the chocolate such as pretzels, marshmallows, strawberries, and bananas. If the fondue starts to feel a little stiff while you are eating it, just add in a tablespoon of heavy cream and stir.



Happy Valentine's Day!

And above all...Think Chocolate! 'Betty Crocker'