

American Association of University Women Whidbey Island Newsletter



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It was great to see so many members of AAUW in attendance at the League of Women Voters Brunch in January. Our branch had a great representation at the event. We look forward to seeing you at our February Branch Meeting featuring Laura Lopez, a Guatemalan weaver, demonstrating on her backstrap loom. Laura will be bringing some of her completed work which may be available to purchase.

Angie Homola has been working very hard to get the Scholarship applications finalized and sent in to the three High School Counselors. We will be receiving the completed applications back from the female students in March. Angie would appreciate a few more members to join her current team in judging and awarding the scholarships. These meetings will take place during the last two weeks in March.

Clare Christensen has been working to round up auction items for this year's Fashion Show. We did so well last year, and we are excited to continue this tradition. Please let her know if you would like to donate either a raffle item or a silent auction item. Helen Bates will be selling Fashion

Show tickets at the February Branch Meeting. We all know how quickly these tickets sell out, so contact Helen for your tickets if you are unable to attend the meeting. We hope to see many of you on Valentine's Day for our February Branch Meeting.

~ Christy Pedersen &
Sue Norman, Co-Presidents

FASHION SHOW AND LUNCHEON FUNDRAISER

Your committee is hard at work to make sure our March 19th event is the best one ever. Tickets are \$30 and Helen Bates will have them available at the February meeting. Tables seat 8 and if you'd like to get a group together, be sure to let Helen know so she can reserve a table. The luncheon begins at 11:30 and the fashions this year will be from Casual House in Oak Harbor. The fashion show always sells out, so be sure to get your tickets early so you won't be disappointed.

I have commitments from the following interest groups to provide baskets for our silent auction: Baker's Dozen, Great Decisions Discussion Group,

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FEBRUARY PROGRAM

Laura Lopez, Guatemalan weaver

Laura Lopez will demonstrate her weaving magic at our February meeting on Valentine's Day. Having been taught by her mother at a very young age, Laura has been weaving for over 20 years.

Many pieces reflect her native villages' unique designs, while other patterns are from her own imagination. She also does beading which she uses in bracelets, hair pieces and key fobs as well as incorporating them in her clothing designs.

Items may be available for purchase. The range in cost is a few dollars to over \$100 for large and intricate weavings.

Trinity Lutheran Church 18341 SR 525, Freeland

Sat. Feb. 14th, 9:30 a.m.

**9:30 a.m. Coffee/Social
10:00 a.m. Meeting**

Note: This program will draw community guests. Members are requested to bring food treats. Please contact Alice O'Grady to coordinate contributions. Thank you.

~ Pat Lokanis, Program VP

Joie de Livres book group and Rose's Gourmet. I would appreciate other interest groups letting me know as soon as possible if we can expect baskets.

Raffle prizes are urgently needed! All members are asked to help by requesting raffle prizes from their favorite hairdresser or nail salon; gift certificates from their favorite restaurants; or items from their favorite stores. Don't be afraid to ask, our local merchants are wonderfully generous. Their names will be in our program and they will receive a personal letter of thanks from our president. Please call or email me as soon as you have a raffle item in hand so I can include it in our program. Thank you so much!

~ Clare Christiansen

AAUW REVIEW OF THE WASHINGTON LEGISLATURE 2015 SESSION

The House has a Democratic majority (51-47). The Senate is controlled by a Republican majority (25-24) which is aided by the alignment of one Democrat to the Republican party, giving them a 26-23 voting edge.

With a significant budgetary shortfall, state Supreme Court mandates regarding expenditures, including basic education, the mental health system, and a recently passed

and unfunded initiative to reduce class sizes statewide, will create considerable challenges.

At a well-attended joint meeting and brunch at Whidbey Golf Club on Jan. 17, members of the League of Women Voters and the AAUW and others got a chance to ask questions and hear remarks from our local legislators. The speakers were Republicans Sen. Barbara Bailey, and representatives Norma Smith and David Hayes.

Bailey focused her remarks on higher education -- she is the chairman of the state Senate committee on Higher Education -- including the College Bound program, free and reduced lunch for students in need, long term care and mental health.

Smith, who recently made the Republican response to Gov. Jay Inslee's State of the State speech, spoke on clean energy and cyber security.

Hayes spoke on the make-up of the Legislature, about new money going to education and about transportation bills coming up.

Asked many questions about taxes by the audience, the legislators emphasized that the Senate and Congress still hold to the rule of a 2/3 majority vote needed to raise taxes.

The legislators, friends, allies from Legal Voice, ACLU-WA, NARAL, Pro-Choice WA,

NOW, AAUW-WA met to celebrate all that was accomplished over the past 42 years and to get energized for all the work that remains to be done. ~ Jessica Koeberle

NEW MEMBER WELCOME

Candice Rohr

After having been an AAUW member in South Lake Tahoe, CA for ten years, Candice Rohr started 2015 by joining our Whidbey chapter. She had served her previous chapter as president, vice-president, and projects chairman.

A native of San Diego, Candi graduated from Pomona College in Claremont, CA. After college she worked for a real estate developer in San Diego and a large real estate developer in Tahoe. When the latter employer left the region, she moved into local government service, working for twenty-six years as General Manager of General Improvement districts in Nevada, providing water, collecting sewage, and maintaining roads.

Candi's special interests include gardening, exploring the Northwest, current affairs, reading, listening to music. She sounds like a perfect fit for several of our Special Interest Groups.

WOMEN IN HISTORY

Would You Like to Portray a Famous Woman?

As chair of the Women in History project, I'm looking for women who would like to portray notable women in history to the Fifth Graders of Whidbey Island. Are you one of them?

March is Women in History Month. Each year our Branch goes to the Elementary Schools in Oak Harbor, Coupeville and South Whidbey to introduce young folks to some women they may never have heard of. In years past, we've portrayed Abigail Adams, Tugboat Annie, Susan B. Anthony, Dr. Elizabeth Black, Margaret Burke-White, Nellie Bly, Julia Child, Madam Currie, Emily Dickinson, Amelia Earhart, Jane Goodall, Helen Keller, Sandra Day O'Connor, Sally Ride, and Aung San Suu Kyi.... among many others.

Would you like to introduce a woman you admire to island boys and girls? The woman may be living or dead, American or Swahili. Your call. What does this entail?

1. Selecting the woman you wish to represent, researching her history and creating a 5-8 minute "speech" in which you present yourself as if you were her
2. Creating a "costume" that is somewhat representative of the woman you are portraying

3. Attending a practice meeting with other Women in History team members
4. Presenting your character in 2-3 school sessions during a week in March, 2015, likely to be the week of March 9th.

Three of the team will present to the Branch at our March 14th meeting. This is one of my favorite meetings of the year. Please contact me if you'd like to be part of this fun event. Come join me!

~ Sarah Mackaman

Academic Scholarship Committee

- Update and request for additional committee volunteers

Thanks to all the hard work done by dedicated AAUW members, the association is again, for the year 2015, able to fund its focus of "enabling young women and girls to reach their potential as thoughtful, educated, caring contributors to society." The Academic Scholarship will be awarded in the amount of \$2000 to three graduating senior high school women, one to each of Whidbey's public high schools.

Revisions were made to this year's application. In response to membership approval, scholarships are being extended to those seeking junior college as a first step toward an advanced degree. This just makes good fiscal sense. Having spoken to and receiving feedback from the

three high school scholarship counselors and AAUW Board members, the application has been updated to emphasize academic vs. financial need. Revisions were also made to reflect current testing and GPA reporting.

All school counselors have agreed to meet with me to work on perfecting our vetting criteria based on current college guidelines. I hope to have all the completed applications scanned so that I can send them via email to committee members in advance of vetting meetings.

Knowing the association works hard all year to provide the funds needed to assist these young women in reaching their education goals, I want to be sure this committee does its due diligence in selecting recipients.

Completed applications are due to AAUW on March 16th. If we complete our reviewing process by March 31st, the recipients will have two weeks notice prior to our April 14th awards ceremony.

I plan to schedule two application review periods with committee members between March 16-31, and will be in touch with committee members to set meeting dates, times, and locations.

If you are willing to assist in the 2015 review process, please contact me.

~ Angie Homola

Fundraising Update

After much discussion and research with the membership, it has been determined that we will focus our energies on the two events that we have planned for this year: the Fashion Show, chaired by Clare Christianson and the Terrific Treasures Sale to be held September 5th this year. (Mark your calendars, please!) These events are our only way to raise scholarship money which includes funds for sending middle school girls to the transformative Tech Trek program. The committee hopes members will come out and support these two fun events. Christina Moats is always happy to pick up sale donations from members at your convenience. The accessories section did very well last year so, purses, scarves and jewelry are always welcome!

Thanks to the membership for your past support of the Fashion Show and Terrific Treasures Sale. And a big thanks to Carole LaFond for letting us store sale items in her garage! Let's make this year even better!

~ Christina Moats

To all members of special interest groups. Please send any photos of your activities to Nancy Hodges, Branch Historian.

Special Interest Groups

☒ Gourmet #1 Rose's Gourmet

Meets the 4th Thursday of most months excluding July, August and December. Welcoming new members. Agreed on theme each month.

Group Leader: Julie Williams

☒ Gourmet # 2 "Baker's Dozen"

Fri, February 6th, 11:30 a.m. at the home of Mary Ellen Loy. *Theme: "Favorite Italian Dish"*

Group Leader: Pat Lokanis

☒ Garden Group

There will be an organizational meeting in late February or early March. The leader needs to have a head count of members who are interested in participating this year.

Contact: Babette Thompson

☒ International Affairs

February 20th, 10:00 a.m. Coupeville Library Great Decisions book, Chap. 2 "Privacy in the Digital Age"

Discussion Leader:

Alice O'Grady

Chair: Mary Pattison

Please note that we do not publish personal contact information for our members in public viewing sections of the website due to privacy issues. Please refer to your paper version of the directory or the Member Center of the website for address, phone and email information.

Additional Interest Groups listed on our website include:

Book Group #1 - Original Book Group 1st Monday

Book Group #2 - Joie des Livres 3rd Wednesday

Book Group #3 - Cheryl's Readers 4th Wednesday (3rd Wednesday in November)

Book Group #4 - Romeos 1st and 3rd Thursday at a local restaurant (Men's Group)

Cultural Events Schedule varies with each event

Gourmet Group #3 - Global Gourmet 4th Friday

The Second Thursday Supper Group 2nd Thursday

Discontinued Groups: The Lunch Bunch and Quilting Group

Refer to the AAUW website www.aauw-whidbeyisland.org or your directory for additional interest group information.

If you are interested in joining a group please contact the chair person. You may want to consider starting a new SIG that piques a special area of interest for you.



**Happy Birthday Ladies!
February & March**

Bates, Helen	02/01
Burrill, Gina	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, Vonnie	02/24
Prater, Joan	03/03
Lokanis, Pat	03/04
Loy, Mary Ellen	03/05
Bennett, Shirley	03/11
Ascher, Jean	03/21
Tyson, Peggy	03/26
Bryan, Edith	03/31



Calendar of Meetings & Events

***January 17th, 3rd Sat. 9:00 a.m.**

League of Women Voters Brunch
Whidbey Golf Club
No formal meeting for AAUW
Send check to LWVWI (See Pg 1 Program)

***January 19th, Mon. 10:00 a.m.**

AAUW Board Meeting
Coupeville Library

February 14th, Sat. 9:30 a.m.

Laura Lopez, Guatemalan weaver
Trinity Lutheran Church, Freeland

March 14th, Sat. 9:30 a.m.

Women in History
Coupeville United Methodist

March 19th, Thurs. 11:30 a.m.

Fashion Show and Luncheon
Whidbey Golf Club

April 14th, Tues. 7:00 p.m.

Scholars Recognition Night
Coupeville United Methodist

May 9th, Sat. 9:30 a.m.

Mary Jo Strain, Toastmasters Club
Trinity Lutheran Church, Freeland

June 13th, Sat. 9:30 a.m.

Installation of Officers Brunch
Whidbey Golf Club

***Change in usual meeting schedule.**