

American Association of University Women
Whidbey Island Newsletter

CO-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Sue Norman & Christy Pedersen

Our Holiday Luncheon in December was such a nice event. We had a good turn out, especially considering the weather. Thank you to the Program V.P.s, Camille Brighten and Milli Stanton for an outstanding job in securing the venue, handling the money and decorating the tables. We all especially enjoyed the reading of "The Night Before Christmas" and singing Christmas carols. Ann Zimmerman managed the background music and also provided goodie bags, which included chocolates, cookies and candy canes. Thank you all for your hard work. The food was delicious and the service



Holiday Luncheon in December ~ Photo by Sarah Mackaman

outstanding. We also collected an impressive number of items to donate to CADA. Thank you all for your generosity.

Our next meeting is with the League of Women Voters, Whidbey Island on January 16th. There are details, to the right, about sending in your check to secure a reservation. Deadline is January 8th. Please note that this is not the second Saturday, our usual meeting time, but the third Saturday. Our Washington State Representatives and Senator will be there to inform us on the upcoming legislative session and to take our questions. I hope to see many of you at the League of Women Voters meeting in January.

Have a great Holiday Season!



JANUARY PROGRAM

**League of Women
Voters-Whidbey Island
Legislative Brunch**

**Sat., January 16, 2016
9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

Whidbey Golf & CC

*2430 Fairway Lane
Oak Harbor, WA 98277*

Our branch is again invited to join the League of Women Voters for their January 16th Legislative Brunch.

There will be a review of the Washington State 2016 legislative session and a chance to learn more about our legislators.

Please send your check for **\$20.00 by January 8th** to secure your reservation:

**LWVWI
P.O. Box 1933
Oak Harbor, WA 98277**

**Camille Brighten
& Milli Stanton,
Program V.P.s**



Fashion Show Slated for March 24th

*by Meg Eisenbraun and Ann Zimmerman,
Fashion Show Co-chairs*

It's time to start thinking about gift baskets and raffle prizes for our annual fashion show fundraiser on Thursday, March 24th.

Each interest group is asked to create a basket of gifts and/or goodies for the silent auction. We also request that all of our members begin to round up gift certificates and items from local shops, restaurants, hair salons, galleries, florists and so on for the raffle. We have 501©3 status and can provide a thank you letter for their taxes.

Last year we brought in more scholarship funds than ever, thanks to the silent auction and raffle, so we would really appreciate everyone's support. Thank you!

Now Accepting Donations for this Year's Terrific Treasures Sale

by Christina Moats, Chair

Please call Christina Moats for pick-up. In the survey of our membership last fall, the sale was one of the fundraising events that the membership supports and enjoys participating in, so we plan to continue this annual event. The more years we have the sale, the more customers we will get in the future and the more scholarship money we can raise. We will be including furniture to sell online so please keep that in mind for donations.

The accessories section is one of our best for income. Scarves, purses, gloves, jewelry and finely styled clothing all sell very well. We can continue to sell purses through the Coupeville consignment shop throughout the year. Another great thing about these items is that they are easy to store as I collect them throughout the year. So, we can take donations for those items and for decor and housewares now in preparation for next year.

As chair of the Terrific Treasures Sale I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the entire membership! All of our members contribute to the success of the sale in some way.

In Memory of Dorothy Barth

by Sue Norman, co-president

You may have received a notice sent out by Bonnie Abney about losing one of our former members, Dorothy Barth. Dorothy was a member from 1998-2010. She divided her time between Whidbey Island and Illinois. Dorothy's daughter, Betsy Arand, is the Managing Librarian at the Sno-Isle Library in Freeland. Our branch presented Dorothy the Honorary Life Membership Award for 50 years of membership in AAUW.

A Memorial Service for Dorothy was held at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Freeland on Sunday, December 27th at 3:00pm. Her family requested that any memorial contributions be designated for AAUW, Whidbey Island Branch. We appreciate the thought and will miss Dorothy.

Would You Like to Make a Donation?

You may make a donation at any time by simply writing a check to "AAUW Funds" and sending it to AAUW, PO Box 1332, Coupeville, Washington 98239. You may designate that your donation be applied towards Tech Trek, a weeklong STEM camp on a college campus for Whidbey Island eighth graders. You may choose to donate to the Scholars' Fund supporting one or more of the following: Showcase of students art, STEM stipends that are given in science, technology, engineering and math. Your donation could also be applied to an academic scholarship for young women who will be attending college this coming fall. You will receive a receipt confirming the tax exempt status of your donation by mail.

Tech Trek Camp West

Reprinted in part from The Evergreen Leader, AAUW Washington State, Fall 2015 issue

The Tech Trek camp held in Tacoma at Pacific Lutheran University in July was a roaring success with 96 campers and approximately 27 staff members, often wearing two hats. Our weather was fine for the most part, but shade tree free time activities and pool time were well received after 5 to 6 hours in labs and workshops earlier in the day. The PLU camp offered six core classes (12 hours of instruction for the week) including marine environmental biology, clean chemistry (soapmaking), robotics, physics of hot air ballooning, forensics/CSI, and app inventor (computer coding).

Afternoons were spent among a cadre of workshops and labs of 60 or 90 minutes of “speed learning”. Girls chose from topics including optics, DNA extraction, medical skills, sonar detection, vacuum robotics, exercise physiology, genetics, fermentation (making root beer) and the ever-popular dry ice ice cream session. The campers enjoy an all-girls setting and female master level teachers and professionals from the area. Girls get the opportunity to work in small groups to carry out the scientific process, solve equations, and perform chains of detailed and step-ordered problems in hands-on fashion.

The setting of a college campus offers the opportunity to see college level experiments and work displayed on a daily basis, be responsible for their room keys and meal cards, and follow a semi-rigorous schedule with multiple tasks and locations to master. We let the campers know up front that the week is exhausting regarding learning opportunities, but that we provide all the tools, rest and soft serve ice cream needed to get their studies completed! The teaching staff is top rate with many, many years of experience and happy to have groups of learners that are hungry for STEM activities.

For many, the backbones of camp are free time and the dorm life. Staff included student counselors, many of them recruited from the AAUW-WA High School STEM Scholars programs around the state. These girls assisted in the classrooms and are the eyes and ears for trouble shooting potential arising issues. Six of the ten PLU student counselors have become college students this fall, four planning to major in the engineering field.

The vigilant group of dorm monitors composed of AAUW members from around the state bring years of expertise in crowd management, parenting and the “let’s have fun while we get it done” attitude to all they do! Each camp is held together by a nurse and a director with the college campus staff assisting. We cannot forget about the local professional women who share their time on Thursday night at Professional Women’s Night, opening themselves completely to these rising 8th grade girls. The questions range from salary, to family/boyfriends, to “how did you get from wanting to be a vet to being a mechanical engineer?” The all-day field trip to cool places like Museum of Flight, Northwest Trek Wildlife Park or Mt. Rainier National Park provided additional opportunities for the girls to explore additional STEM field opportunities. The camp is a rich environment for learning science, technology, engineering and mathematics, but it is made of so many things not included here.

You should count yourself lucky to hear one of the 2015 campers at a branch meeting. If your branch doesn’t have returning campers, find a neighboring branch to hear campers tell about their experiences, favorite and not so favorite activities that turned out to be cool, because some other girl showed them how cool it was!

These are some of the nuts and bolts of this 95% sponsorship camp offered to a limited number of girls who would not otherwise have this opportunity. There are many small jobs that are done once or year around which make up this weeklong STEM camp under the AAUW-WA umbrella. We hear that girls make friendships across the state based on class interests, girls use each other for support to get through a patch of homesickness and girls are allowed to learn in an all-female environment with bundles of encouragement to try and try again for the same results!

The 2016 planning season has opened and all offers to help are welcome. Visit our website techtrekwa.aauw.net or e-mail us at techtrek@aauw-wa.org with any questions or your willingness to support 2016 camps. Dorm moms are in great demand!

Our local Whidbey Island Tech Trek committee is gearing up to begin interfacing with the middle schools on the island. If you would like to be part of the Tech Trek committee, contact Jessica Koeberle.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Camille Brighten

by Helen Bates



Camille at our Holiday Luncheon

Photo by Sarah Mackaman

Photos below of two of Camille’s acrylic paintings on display at Oak Harbor Library
by Diane Peters



AAUW acquired a multi-talented member when Camille Brighten joined our branch in 2013!

Now a retired teacher, Camille moved from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where she raised her children, to Tucson, Arizona. While there she taught and continued her love of art. Her photographs, paintings and wood sculptures were shown in several local galleries. She has also won several awards for her photography and had her sculptures featured in "Wisconsin Sculpture Magazine." Camille moved to Whidbey to be close to a married daughter and her family. On the island, Camille continued her interest in art and joined Whidbey Allied Artists. Her wooden sculptures, colorful

paintings and photographs have been displayed in several local art shows and venues. Since September Camille's colorful art work has been on display at Oak Harbor Library.

Since joining AAUW, Camille has modeled in our most recent fashion show, taken part in our Women in History Program, and helped on the Academic Scholarship and Showcase of the Arts committees. Currently she serves as Vice-President of Programs with Milli Stanton. In her spare time, Camille devotes time to CADA and IDEPEC, local groups against domestic and sexual abuse and drunken driving.

Thank you, Camille. We appreciate all your time and talents!

Special Interest Groups

☒ Gourmet # 2

“Baker’s Dozen”

Fri, January 8th, 11:30 a.m. at the home of Vonnie Secketa.

Theme: Chinese New Years

Group Leader: Pat Lokanis

☒ Book Group #1

Book Group #1, the original book group, continues to meet on the first Monday of each month, 10:00 a.m. at Cathie Estes’ home. All visitors are welcome to join.

☒ International Affairs

Fri, January 15th, 10:00 a.m.

Coupeville Library

“Great Decisions, 2016” book will be distributed. We will review chapter subjects and decide the leaders for each of the chapters.

Chair: Mary Pattison

☒ Two Milers Walking Group

Thurs, January 7th, 10:00 a.m.

Greenbank Farms; meet in far parking lot past the galleries.

Thurs, January 21st, 10:00 a.m.

Washington Park, Anacortes: meet

in the parking lot near the boat ramp. Chair: Camille Brighten

☒ South End Supper Club

Thurs, January 21st

Prima Bistro in Langley

All members welcome, come single or bring a guest!

Chair: Wanda Grone

Please refer to our website aauw-whidbeyisland.org for additional Special Interest Groups, advance scheduling and other information.

Happy Birthday to our January & February Birthday Members!!



Pretz, Malinda	01/03
Johnson, Connie	01/04
Luce, Dotty	01/10
Howell, Pat	01/14
Chatfield-Weeks, Helen	01/15
Sanders, Dottie	01/19
Gilbert, JoAnn	01/24
McNamara, Linda	01/24
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

Articles are due to Diane Peters, Editor, by the 20th of each month.

**Calendar of Meetings & Events
2015-2016 Calendar Year**

January 11th, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Board Meeting
Coupeville Library

January 16th, 9:30 a.m.

Third Saturday of the month

League of Women Voters Annual Meeting
& Brunch with our Legislators
Whidbey Golf Club

February 13th, 9:30 a.m.

Alzheimer's Disease
Trinity Lutheran Church, Freeland

March 12th, Sat., 9:30 a.m.

Women in History Month
State of Officers for 2016-2017 presented
Coupeville United Methodist Church

March 24th, 9:30 a.m.

Fashion Show Fundraiser
Whidbey Golf Club

April 19th, 7:00 p.m.

Scholars Recognition Night
Coupeville United Methodist Church

May 6th & 7th

Showcase of Students Art
Coupeville Library

Useful Links:

AAUW National

<http://www.aauw.org>

AAUW National

<http://www.aauw.org/author/aauwnational/>

AAUW of WA State

<http://aauw-wa.aauw.net>

AAUW Whidbey Island

<http://aauw-whidbeyisland.org>