



American Association of University Women

Gig Harbor Branch Board

President

Karen Anderson
253-509-0781

Program Co-VPs

Pat Berger
253-851-2534
Catherine Luria
253-225-2068

Membership Co-VPs

Kathleen Larson
720-352-0537
Liz Svigals
253-530-3456
Patty Nelson
253-857-7900

Finance VP

Nancy Williams
253-779-4666

Secretary

Barbara Schmit
253-549-0814

Scholarships

Phyllis Davis
253-853-4616

Newsletter Editor

Martha Shellenberger
253-851-7464
marthashellen
@comcast.net



Gig Harbor Branch

NOVEMBER 2015

HATS OFF TO TECH TREK

Join us for an old fashioned tea
party and luncheon featuring
the Golden Oldies Vintage Hat
Show put on by Goodwill



INN AT GIG HARBOR

3211 56TH ST. NW

GIG HARBOR, WA 98335

Saturday, November 14, 2015

11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Wear a hat, if you have one!

Silent Auction of donated artwork and baskets

No Host Bar, Music & Fun

**If you haven't sent in your response form and plan to
attend, please call Mary Williams (253-509-0524)**

\$35.00 per person

**Proceeds fund Tech Trek Scholarships & Branch
Activities**

Upcoming Events-Mark your Calendar!

Sunday Dec. 6th

Holiday Party 2:00-5:00pm
Barb Schmits' Home

Saturday Jan. 16th

GH Branch Meeting 10am-Noon
Harbor History Museum

Monday Jan. 25th

AAUW Lobby Day
Olympia

In Case You Missed It

WHAT I DID ON MY SUMMER VACATION as told by the TECH TREK Girls

The AAUW Gig Harbor Chapter sponsored nine (9) seventh grade girls for this year's TECH TREK



Photo by Martha Shellenberger 2015

camp in July at Pacific Lutheran University. The classes focused on the STEM program (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) and included activities with hands-on learning. The girls selected a Core Focus for the week and a Field Trip. They also swam and went on a scavenger hunt. They met girls from other schools in Western Washington with

whom they remain in contact. Six (6) of the girls joined us on October 17th to tell us about their week at TECH Trek. Several girls said they want to come back as High School Counselors. The girls were articulate and very impressive in their descriptions of their experiences.

Tiffany Rose, who attends Key Peninsula Middle School, said the week was a **"wonderful experience"**. She selected Physics as her Core subject which included making a hot air balloon from tissue paper and glue which she flew to an altitude of nearly 100 feet. She also made shampoo, extracted DNA from a banana, made robots and explored endo and exoderms that live in sea water. She went on a field trip to Mount Rainier where she met with a Park Ranger and saw a black bear. She aspires to work for NASA in the future.



Tiffany Rose with her parents Angela Ostrom & Jeff Rose

Photo by Martha Shellenberger 2015



Grace Rosing with her father Rick Rosing

Photo by Martha Shellenberger 2015

Grace Rosing attends Kopachuck Middle School. Her Core focus was App Inventor a computer programming class where she learned how blocks of code fit together like a puzzle. She said she usually doesn't enjoy week long summer camps but at the end of Tech Trek she didn't want to leave. The highlight of her week was the professional women's night. She loved hearing the experiences of professional women in different STEM fields. *"Talking to them helped me realize that engineering may be what I want to do with my life."* She also said, **"I hope you continue to send girls like me to Tech Trek to help them find their dreams"**.

In Case You Missed It (continued)

WHAT I DID ON MY SUMMER VACATION as told by the TECH TREK Girls



Emma Toy with her mother Kelly Toy
Photo by Martha Shellenberger 2015

Emma Toy, attends Kopachuck Middle School. She said TECH TREK was **“unexplainably perfect”**. She selected Biology as her Core focus. During the week she made water toys and dissected a squid which she cooked and ate. She investigated how various liquids (oil, Kool-Aid, water) filter through dirt and made a map with roads and houses into which she poured water to demonstrate how a watershed works. Then she went to Northwest Trek and met a woman who works in watershed management. Emma said she met many other girls with whom she became friends. Her class joined the Robotics class and she said they became “kind of a family”. Emma’s Mom Kelly said, “she was so excited after TECH Trek. This was a great opportunity.”

Hailey Roncevich who attends Key Peninsula Middle School said **“Tech Trek changed me so much”**. Her Core focus was Chemistry where she made soap which she said was not her thing. She went to Mount Rainier where she saw a bear and talked to professional women and learned about their lives. She also made some amazing friends.



Hailey Roncevich with her father Richard Roncevich
Photo by Martha Shellenberger 2015



Sydney Hoover with her parents Brian & Marilyn Hoover
Photo by Martha Shellenberger 2015

Sydney Hoover, who attends Goodman Middle School selected Physics as her Core focus for the week. She made and launched a hot-air balloon after filling it with hot gas. She saw a bear on her field trip to Mount Rainier and met with nurses on the Professional Women’s Night. She aspires to be a Physical Therapist.

In Case You Missed It (continued)

WHAT I DID ON MY SUMMER VACATION as told by the TECH TREK Girls



Katie Sevilla with her father JC Moreno and sister Makayla
Photo by Martha Shellenberger 2015

Katie Sevilla who attends Goodman Middle School said TECH Trek was **“one of the best things I’ve ever been to”**. Her Core focus was Computer Coding where she made friendships with girls with common goals. She aspires to be an aeronautical engineer and is applying to Aviation High School in Federal Way, the only college preparatory aviation-themed high school in the Northwest. It is not a surprise that she selected to go to the Museum of Flight on her field trip where she operated the flight simulator. She said, **“TECH Trek was a life changing experience and I wish I had more time there.”**

Many thanks to Patricia Gwin and Marlene Buffington for volunteering as Dorm monitors this year.



Patricia Gwin and Marlene Buffington, TECH Trek 2015 Dorm monitors
Photo by Martha Shellenberger 2015

AAUW is planning two TECH Trek camps for 2016 and NEEDS DORM MONITORS. Please consider volunteering to be a dorm monitor next year. You are provided a private dorm room and meals on campus. Each monitor has a senior high school student counselor who is your partner in shepherding the girls to and from classes, to meals, and monitoring after class fun activities. Contact Patricia Gwin (503-560-4946) if interested.

We need financial donors to help support sending deserving girls to two (2) TECH Trek camps next year. If you know of any group or company that would be interested in helping us, please contact Mary Williams (253-509-0524) or (714-404-7203) or a board member.



Each month we feature a member or two, highlighting their accomplishments and interests. This month we are featuring our Public Policy Chair, **Julie Buffington**, and one of our newest members, **Sandra (Sandy) Overton**.

Julie Buffington



Julie grew up in the Midwest near Chicago and after completing her undergraduate education she joined the Peace Corp where she taught English in Western Africa. She met and married her husband Ross, of 46 years, who was also a Peace Corp volunteer. *"I got more out of being a Peace Corp volunteer than I gave. It was so interesting to get to know the people there and see the world from a different perspective. We were very isolated, not like today with the internet."*

After their stint in the Peace Corp they returned to the US and moved around the country, and while living on the East Coast, Julie pursued a Masters degree in Student Development. Her husband Ross was from Washington state and they eventually moved back to the Northwest. Julie recently retired from UW Tacoma after a long career in College Administration.

Julie and Ross have two sons and two grandsons, a 4 year old and an 18 month old. One of her sons lives in Tacoma with his family and Julie and Ross babysit every Thursday and Friday which they enjoy. They also like to travel. Their last trip was to Greece where they had a wonderful time and are planning trips to Austria, Germany and New Zealand in the future.

Julie has a long history with AAUW GH. She was recruited by Ann Worswick in the late 1980s when Julie worked at Pacific Lutheran University. Ann knew that Julie loved to read and kept asking her to join. Julie had a busy life but said the Evening Book Group sounded interesting and she has enjoyed the women she has befriended within the GH Chapter over the years. She was President for a couple of years and is the current Public Policy Chair for the Chapter. She said, *"I have seen shifts and changes within the GH Chapter but the issues are still the same, which is equity for women and girls."* She believes in the goals of AAUW and said she feels great about that.



Sandra (Sandy) Overton



Sandy was born in Seattle and grew up in the San Francisco Bay area. She became a member of AAUW when she lived on Whidbey Island in the 1990s. First she joined a Gourmet Interest Group which was very fun. However, Sandy was extremely busy breeding and showing Portuguese Water dogs. She now lives on Wye Lake in Port Orchard, with her husband Jim of 29 years, where she breeds and trains dogs for competition in the lake. She also hosts an annual Puppy Family Reunion. She said it is a lot of work and she is ready for a break.

She has traveled all over the world. She went throughout Europe, including East Germany, when she was in college. When Sandy was a Navy wife, and lived on Guam in 1968, she began traveling extensively in Asia. She has traveled to Argentina and Peru in South America, as well as, Kenya and South Africa. Some of her more recent travels included a series of cooking tours in Northern Italy, Sicily, Provence, Oaxaca and Capetown, South Africa.

An avid reader, Sandy has joined the Evening Book Group. She also said she likes to play bridge and will be looking into that interest group as well.

Welcome to the Gig Harbor Chapter Sandy.

AAUW GH Calendar

November 2015

Board Meeting-Monday, November 11th, 3:00 pm at Liz Svigal's house. 2225 87th Street Court NW, GH 98332. Call Liz if you need directions (253-530-3456).

Bon Appetit- Tuesday, November 17th at 6 pm. Parsley group hosts Thyme at Karen Anderson's home with co-host Joyce Myhre. Sage group hosts Rosemary group at Patricia Mattox's home with co-host Kathleen Larson. For more information call Sue Engen at 253-265-1677 or Diane Edison at 253-851-1056.

Hats Off to Tech Trek Luncheon and Vintage Hat Show-Saturday November 14th, 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Inn at Gig Harbor, 3211 56th St. NW, Gig Harbor WA 98335. There will be a silent auction of donated artwork and baskets filled with goodies to fund Tech Trek Scholarships. Wear a hat if you have one. Invitations were mailed in October. The cost for the luncheon is \$35.00. Call Mary Williams (253-509-0524), Pat Berger (253-851-2534) or Catherine Luria (253-225-2068) if you did not receive an invitation and wish to come.



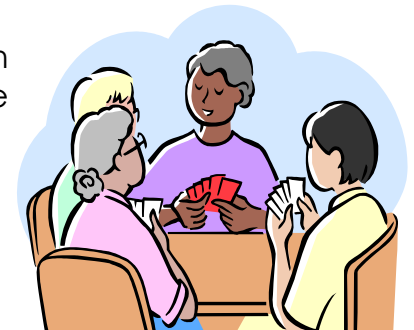
Evening Book Group—Monday, November 23rd at the home of Diane Edison 109 Pt Fosdick Circle NW, Gig Harbor WA 98335-**6:30pm Refreshments; 7:00pm Meeting Time.** We will be reading **"I am Malala" by Malala Yousafzai**, the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. Julie Buffington and Sue Hines will co-lead the discussion. Phyllis Davis and Karen Anderson will provide refreshments. Those wishing to carpool will meet at the Gig Harbor library at 6:15pm. For more information please phone Sue Hines (253) 761-5080 or Salli Montgomery (253) 857-8057.

Who Done It (Mystery Book Group)—Tuesday November 10th, 10:30am. We will read **Cara Black**. The hostess is Wini Trippel and the presenter is Mary Lou Zimmer. For more information

please call Carol Robinson 253-265-6141.

Bridge-Day— Our group meets on the third Tuesday of each month in a member's home for an afternoon of bridge. Please call June Lane (253-851-4059) for more information.

Bridge-Evening—The evening bridge group meets on the 4th Thursday of the month. Please call Mary Williams (253-509-0524) or Bev Storkman (253-851-2402) to confirm a date and time and reserve a seat at the table.



Lunch Bunch—The Lunch Bunch meets at 12:30 pm every second Wednesday of the month at the Inn of Gig Harbor. Everyone is invited. No need to call ahead.

Palette to Palate is on hiatus for a few months due to waning interest. If an exhibit looks intriguing, contact Ellen Lowrie at 253-884-2610 and we'll see if there is any interest in attending.



Gig Harbor Branch-Announcements

Newsletter Deadline: November 21st for the December/January newsletter. Send your articles and pictures to marthashellen@comcast.net. Remember to include last names, locations, dates and times for the information you send.

Happy Birthday to members celebrating November birthdays.



| | |
|----------------------|-------|
| Julie Buffington | 11-03 |
| Mary Lou Panks | 11-06 |
| Marlene Buffington | 11-12 |
| Phyllis Davis | 11-14 |
| Karen Drum | 11-14 |
| Patricia Gwin | 11-17 |
| Patty Nelson | 11-17 |
| Linda Schmitt Strand | 11-17 |
| Shirley Dearth | 11-20 |
| Wendy Cushner | 11-23 |
| Mary Lou Zimmer | 11-25 |

We have several new members. Please add them to your directory and welcome them when you meet them at an interest group meeting or at the Tech Trek Luncheon or at the Holiday Party.

Browning, Jennifer J.

404 North D Street, Unit 5E
Tacoma, WA 98403
253-651-7822
Email: jenni_browning@yahoo.com

Gregory, Nancy

412 Benson St.
Gig Harbor, WA 98332-1071
253-858-9056
College: Cal State Sacramento, BA
Email: ngreg@harbornet.com

An announcement from longtime GH AAUW member, Karen Drum:

Tellabration! A Night of Storytelling, Saturday, Nov. 21, 7:30pm, Antique Sandwich Company, 51st and Pearl St., Tacoma. Tickets are \$5 and available at the door. The evening will feature a concert of varied stories from local tellers that will appeal to storytelling fans ages 10 years and older. Information (253) 983-9114.



Gig Harbor Branch-Public Policy

Julie Buffington, Public Policy Chair

Mark your calendar now for AAUW-WA Lobby Day – Monday, January 25, 2016!

AAUW-WA Public Policy Priorities – Approved for 2014-2016

AAUW (The American Association of University Women) advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, research and philanthropy. AAUW of Washington State is a champion of equal rights for women and girls and for quality education in Washington State.

We support State legislation and budgets that:

- Provide ample funding of Basic Education as required by the McCleary Decision
- Improve access to postsecondary education
- Protect access to comprehensive reproductive health care
- Provide access to paid sick and safe leave
- Promote pay equity
- Support programs and activities which work to eradicate human trafficking

We support public budgets that balance individual rights and responsibility to community, and a tax system that will provide a stable source of public funds and produce over-all equity in the distribution of tax burdens.



AAUW's ¡Adelante! Book Recommendations

¡Adelante! books help to open dialogues on women, diversity, and

November 2015 Native American Heritage Month

The Cherokee Rose By Tiya Miles, 2012–13 AAUW Community Action Grantee

This luminous and highly accessible work examines a little-known aspect of America's past — slaveholding by Southern Creeks and Cherokees — and its legacy in the lives of three young women who are drawn to the Georgia plantation where scenes of extreme cruelty and extraordinary compassion once played out. The novel is based on historical sources about the Chief Vann House in Chatsworth, Georgia, and the Moravian mission sponsored there in the early 1800s. Author Tiya Miles uncovered this history while researching her book *The House on Diamond Hill*. In *The Cherokee Rose*, she has retold the story in fiction. The characters in *The Cherokee Rose* include Jinx, the free-spirited historian exploring her tribe's complicated racial history; Ruth, whose mother sought refuge from a troubled marriage in her beloved garden and the cosmetic empire she built from its bounty; Cheyenne, the Southern black debutante seeking to connect with a meaningful personal history; and, hovering above them all, the spirit of long-gone Mary Ann Battis, a young woman suspected of burning a mission to the ground who then disappearing from tribal records. As they discover the secrets of a Cherokee plantation, these women attempt to connect with the strong spirits of the past and reconcile the conflicts in their own lives.

AAUW Newsletter

Gig Harbor Branch

P.O. Box 2705

Address Service Requested

Dated Material

AAUW DIVERSITY STATEMENT: In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class.

Show your thanks by supporting the following businesses that help support the newsletter:

Bella's Kitchen and Home
Uptown and Downtown GH

Mostly Books
Books for all Ages

Kelly's Café and Espresso

Sea Hags Gift Shop

Morso

Eat and drink at the head of the bay

