



CHANGING THE WORLD ONE WOMAN AND GIRL AT A TIME

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Anacortes Branch

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Did you know that the Skagit Valley produces 95% of table beet seed in the US and 50% of the world's total supply? Not only that, the valley supplies 25% of the world's cabbage seeds. Lindsey J. du Toit, Ph.D. will talk about **“The Impact of the Skagit Valley on Global Vegetable Seed Production”** on **January 14 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.**



Dr. du Toit is currently the Alfred Christianson Distinguished Professor in Vegetable Seed Science in the WSU Department of Plant Pathology. She has conducted extensive research in crop and soil sciences. Originally from South Africa, she earned her Master's and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Join us on this zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83942770687>

Need Zoom assistance? Contact Linda Hendrick

MEMBER NEWS ~ CONGRATULATIONS are in order...



In December **Claudia Cimini** was elected to be the incoming vice president of the Marine Engineers Beneficial Association, a four-year, full-time position with her union. She is a graduate of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kingspoint, New York, where she earned a B.S. in marine engineering. Claudia also has received the Coast Guard's certification which qualifies her to be the chief engineer on any size ship, any horsepower, steam or diesel. She has been an active member of our

AAUW branch since 2002 and currently chairs the public policy committee as well as posting to our FaceBook page. Claudia will be going down to California in January for a month of work to get started on her new job.

Rosemary Hawkins Kaholokula was recently awarded the Woman of Distinction Award by Soroptimist International of Anacortes for her work to improve the lives of women and girls through her professional and volunteer activities.

An AAUW member since 2017, Rosemary served as Secretary on our board for two years and organized a successful program last year featuring various women in law. She has served as chief criminal deputy prosecutor in the Skagit County Prosecuting Attorney's office since 2007. It was noted by her Soroptimist club that she has seen how poverty, prejudice, and lack of education can be significant barriers to justice. She has worked outside the courtroom to



make sure that victims get help to overcome these barriers and is involved in her community in several organizations. She helped create and is on the steering committee for the Skagit County Child Advocacy Center and is in a leadership role with the Soroptimist “Dress You For Success” program.



Betsy Cave was the recipient of the Italian Basket at our December meeting. Almost \$300 was raised for scholarships through donations for this drawing. Betsy became an associate member of our branch after joining the Whidbey Island branch when it was formed. She picked up her basket and took it to friend and long-time member, Pat Bell.

Betsy shared this with us: “Pat and her family were absolutely thrilled to receive the wonderful Italian gift basket! I had a nice chat with her and met her daughter-in-law at long last! Timmie Staum, her caregiver, was there, as well as son, Garth. Pat seems much happier now that Tish and Garth are living there. Tish said that she would make Christmas dinner from the basket’s goodies! She loved the Italian cookbook and said that she’d have Pat pick a recipe for her to make! It was a real hit and I’m so, so glad that I passed it on to them!”



Although we had to cancel our Spring event, we continue to make progress toward our fundraising goals. According to the most recent ASF report, the total amount currently available for scholarships is **\$5,465.73**.



Thanks go to Terri Bawden for thinking outside the box to collaborate with

Papa Murphy to raise money for scholarships. We hope to try this event again with more participation from members. We raised a total of \$1533, with \$910 of that being direct donations to the scholarship fund. Almost all of the donations were raised by board members; so thankful for the board’s support! Fun was had by all the members who joined us via zoom for pizza at our holiday party.



A second holiday fundraising opportunity, bringing in close to \$100, was organized by Polly Myers and the scholarship committee. They paired with Fidalgo Fudge to offer gift boxes. Yummy fudge was delivered in AAUW shopping bags to all who participated.

Lobby Day change: This year, Lobby Day will be held the first week in February instead of the last week in January. The date is Monday, February 1, 2021. This virtual event will give you the opportunity to meet our new lobbyist-check out her great credentials, hear other engaging speakers, and learn about important bills of this legislative session. No early morning. No traffic. Take this opportunity to attend!



WHAT ARE YOU WATCHING?

At the February meeting we will be asking this question. Similar to Book Talk in format, we want to know what entertained you on TV in 2020!



Tech Trek growth in Washington has been phenomenal! since 2013, Twenty-two of AAUW-WA's 34 branches selected 188 campers to attend in 2019. Combined with numbers from 2013 through 2018, a total of almost 1,000

girls in Washington have been served by this program in its first seven years of existence. Over \$1,000,000 has been raised within AAUW Washington to support this program.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the 2020 camps were canceled nationwide. AAUW Washington will have three weeks of camps at two sites in 2021 — two weeks at Pacific Lutheran University and one week at Eastern Washington University.

Branches will be contacting local 7th grade STEM teachers this fall, seeking recommendations for potential campers.

All campers must have a recommendation from a STEM teacher (preferably both math and science), complete the Tech Trek application form (including writing an essay) and be interviewed by local AAUW branch members. Families are expected to provide transportation for their daughter to/from camp and are asked to pay a \$50 family fee. The remaining cost — estimated at \$1,000 per camper for 202 — is covered by AAUW-WA fundraising efforts at both the branch and state level.

The AAUW-WA Tech Trek team is continuing to plan Tech Trek camps in 2021. Our preference is to hold in-person camps, including a make-up session for the 2020 chosen campers.

At this early date, we feel it prudent with our current resources and level of uncertainty with the pandemic, to **think** about a face-to-face camp but **plan** a **virtual** camp for at least the 2020 campers.

Soon after the new year, we will provide further guidance to the state-wide Tech Trek community regarding more detailed 2021 summer plans and IF 2021 camp recruitment should be considered.

Tech Trek WA 2021

Pacific Lutheran University at Tacoma, Dunbar Camp, July 11-17, 2021
Pacific Lutheran University at Tacoma, McClintock Camp, July 18-24, 2021
Eastern Washington University at Cheney, July 25-31, 2021

Tech Trek is a premier camp offering STEM education to girls. Residential campers not only enjoy college dorm life and cafeteria dining but also delve into a wide range of core STEM subjects. These core studies involve 12 hours of hands-on learning supported by 12 additional self-selected mini, rotating labs for exploring individual specialties. Class subjects can include astronomy, chemistry, cyber security, marine biology, and robotics, while mini-labs may dive into activities relating to marine bivalves, diagnosing computer hackers, using a stethoscope, and calculating the trajectory of foot pump rockets. All camps include a Professional Women's night in which girls meet and interact with local women working in STEM careers. Additionally, camps provide a field trip experience with STEM learning, an inspiring movie night, and many chances to team build with their fellow campers and high school student counselors.