OFFICERS 2017-2018

President .................................. Kerry Serl
Program Vice-Presidents ................. .................................. Kristi Nelson and Jan Snider
Membership Vice-Presidents ............. .................................. Norma Green and Kristi Nelson
Secretary ........................... Nancy Leventon
Treasurer .............................. Donna Loucks
EYH Chair .............................. Jan Leth
Book Sale .............................. Donna Loucks
Directory Editor .............. Jeanne Nygard
Early Morning Discussion ................. .................................. Norma Green
EF Program Chair ................ not filled
Art Group ........................ Bonnie Blake
Book Group ......................... Nancy Leventon
Travel Group ..................... Donna Loucks
Historian ........................... Priscilla Tiller
Hostess Coordinator .......... Marja Lentz
Legal Advocacy Fund .............. not filled
Newsletter Editor ................ Peggy Barth
Profiles ................................. Kristi Nelson
Scholarship Committee Chair ............. .................................. Priscilla Tiller
Sunshine Chair .................. Jeanne Gordon

BRANCH MEETING
Thursday, September 7, 2017
6:45 p.m.

“GeoGirls: Exploring Geology & Technology at Mount St. Helens”

Speaker: Sonja Melander, Science Education Coordinator at the Mount St. Helens Institute

The Gathering Place (Community Room) at Stillwaters Estates
Hostesses: Nancy Leventon (chair), Cathy Cavness and Kathie West

MEETING ACCESS: The gate to Stillwaters Estates from the Scammon Creek Road (near the Colonial Residence) is open until 7:00 p.m. Remember that the front gate on Cooks Hill Road still closes at 6:00 p.m.
PRESIDENT’S CORNER
Kerry Serl

Welcome back!

I anticipate a wonderful year working and visiting with each of you. I look forward to seeing everyone who can make the September 7 meeting.

We would not have an AAUW branch without ladies stepping forward to run or help at meetings, interest groups, fundraising, and community activities. I appreciate everyone who helps out; you make this organization possible.

Did we all find it exciting to watch Jan and Sharon take the LUNAFEST from idea proposal to full implementation of a community-wide event? Their enthusiasm and energy is amazing. This type of willingness to put forth an idea and see it through to completion makes this organization what it is. Thank you to everyone who helped out. LUNAFEST could not have happened without a lot of help from a lot of members.

Thank you to Jan Snider and Kristi Nelson for being our Program Chairs this year. They worked hard since spring to find us a slate of speakers for our branch meetings. Check out our year of presenters in the directory or on our web page.

Jan Leth stepped up to coordinate the volunteer efforts of AAUW at Expanding Your Horizons when Judy Bell, our coordinator for the last few years, was injured. Thank you, Jan! Thank you to the ladies who found us female scientists, engineers, and professionals to conduct the workshops at EYH. If you are not already, please consider helping out on October 21.

Jeanne Nygard has been working hard to update the information in our directories. Come pick up your directory at the September meeting. Take another one for a member who is unable to be at the first meeting.

For those who have never been on the board, consider taking a position. We are still looking for a secretary or co-secretary. Nancy Leventon stepped up but has already put in many years on the board.

Kerry

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

GeoGirls: Exploring Geology & Technology at Mount St. Helens

Sonja Melander, Science Education Coordinator at the Mount St. Helens Institute, will discuss GeoGirls, an immersive geology and technology camp for middle and high school girls at Mount St. Helens. Also presenting are two recent GeoGirls participants, Amber Engel and Delaney Spencer, who will give a slide show about their research projects and tell about their favorite experiences at the camp.

Sonja Melander is the author of Montserrat Our Home: Life with a Lava Dome, a children’s book that received excellent reviews on Amazon.com.

EYH Coming Soon
Saturday, October 21
EXPANDING YOUR HORIZONS
Jan Leth

EYH – 2017 IS COMING!!

ATTENTION!!!! Expanding Your Horizons, our STEM-centered presentation for young women in Lewis County, will be happening on Saturday morning, October 21, on the Centralia College campus.

Can you believe that we have proudly sponsored EYH with the college for twenty-four years? When our brave and dedicated group of women decided to premiere this event (which mirrors our mission statement) back in 1993, how could any of us have imagined what an effect it would have on the community of young girls throughout Lewis County? Today, we have dedicated women presenters who are products of that first EYH! Through our efforts with Expanding Your Horizons, we have touched many young lives.

Of course, my AAUW sisters, this has not and does not happen without all of you volunteering your time and talents to make each year a superior event. You have all been the engine that has driven the success of EYH, and has increased our enrollment of young women throughout the county each year.

Again, this year, we are asking all of you to set aside that one morning in October to help your AAUW create, yet again, a very successful event! We NEED YOUR HELP! You can volunteer to be on one of the committees for EYH-2017.

The experienced committee chairs for this year are:

Facilitators: Sharon Lyons, Ann Tuning
Hospitality: Jeannie Nygard, Sharon Winningham
Decorations: Kristi Nelson
Luncheon: Karen McInturff, Kristi Nelson
PR: Kerry Serl, Cindy Mund
Registration: Peggy Barth
Snacks: JoAnne Watson, Ceci Hauer

The above-listed chairs will be at our September 7 meeting and will be asking each and every one of you to sign up for at least one committee. Please donate your October morning to our 24th EYH!

Remember, EYH is one of our opportunities to reach out to the community to have a “face” and to fulfill our AAUW Mission Statement: “Promoting education and equity for women and girls.”

EYH PRESENTERS
Sharon Lyons

While most of us are just beginning to gear up for EYH on Oct. 21, several members started their work in May. A special thanks is in order to those five women who contacted and secured presenters for this year's conference. Their emails and phone calls have given us a record twenty-one wonderful professional women to interest the girls in STEM careers. Kathy Halsan, Drusilla Heidar, Suzy Johns, Jan Leth and Sharon Winningham deserve special recognition for finding speakers that vary from volcanologist to dentist to farmer. It should be another fun and interesting Expanding Your Horizons conference due in large part to their work. A big THANK YOU goes to each of them.

ENDOWMENT FUND
Priscilla Tiller

Donations to the Lewis County Branch Endowment Fund are applied to academic scholarships for women from the area. All donations are tax exempt. Donations can be sent to Donna Loucks, 150 Jones Rd., Centralia, WA 98531.
ART GROUP  
Bonnie Blake

Art Group will not meet in September. We encourage everyone to participate in the 15th Annual ARTrails Studio Tour. Several AAUW members are part of ARTrails. Studios are open from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on September 16 - 17 and 23 - 24. The Exhibition Gallery Gala Opening Reception is Friday, September 15, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Historic Centralia Train Depot. The Exhibition Gallery is open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., September 16 - 24.

For more information, visit: www.ARTrailsofSWW.org or pick up a studio guide at many local businesses including Book n Brush, HUBBUB, Rectangle Gallery, and 505 Gallery (Toledo).

EARLY MORNING DISCUSSION  
Norma Green

On Thursday, September 14, at 7:30 a.m., at the Kit Carson Restaurant in Chehalis, the Early Morning Discussion Group will have our first discussion of the topic we selected for our 2017-18 year: **ART: its many forms, creators, uses, and values.**

A dictionary definition of art is “human creativity.” Some of the topics we plan to explore are Belatedly Recognized Women Artists; Graffiti, Street Art, and Wall Art; and Lost, Stolen, and Forged Art. Additional topics may be specific artists, art unique to an area or culture, sculptures, pottery, jewelry, fabric art, cartoons, photography.

Peggy Barth will start our year with an overview, which may include: What is Art, Forms of Art, Fact/Fiction, Art Value, and Art vs. Crafts.

All AAUW members are welcome to join us on Thursday, September 14, to help begin another year of interesting discussions. Along with the breakfast of your choice, you will enjoy our warm, friendly, informative, and sometimes humorous conversations.

If you are not on our e-mail list and would like to be, please contact Norma.

Ravenous Readers Book Group  
Nancy Leventon

The first meeting of the membership year for the Ravenous Readers will be on Tuesday, September 19, at 7:00 p.m. We will be meeting at The Gathering Place with Cindy Mund being the hostess for the evening. Nancy Leventon will lead the discussion of *The Whole Town’s Talking* by Fannie Flagg. **Please let Cindy know that you will be attending.** Be sure to come in the gate off the Scammon Creek Road before 7:00, as the gate closes then. Come early.

Planning Ahead: The October book will be *Wonder* by R. J. Palacio.

Sunshine Report  
Jeanne Gordon

Please call or email Jeanne to let her know of any members and their families whom we want to keep in our thoughts.
“Happy September Birthday” to:

Marilyn Barnowe-Meyer (12)
Judy Bell (12)
Kathy Langhoff (14)
Mary Metzger (26)

TRAVEL GROUP
Donna Loucks

Travel Group will not meet in September because too many members will be traveling! We’ll meet in October and then not again until 2018. If you’ve traveled someplace interesting and would like to do a presentation for the group, please contact Donna Loucks. Presentations are not limited to the regular attendees of the group or even to branch members. We’re a small, friendly audience, so it isn’t intimidating to do a presentation.

MEMBERSHIP
Norma Green and Kristi Nelson

Welcome everyone! Our newest member is Chehalis resident Linda Prosser, and our newer members, having joined last year, are Cathy Cavness, Kathy Halsan, Kathy Langhoff, Amy White and Sarah White. Joy Carter, who now lives in Hillsboro, Oregon, has renewed her membership. We will miss MaryAnn Goree, LaDonna Martin-Frost, and Margo Richert. Margo has become a resident of Beaverton, Oregon. Currently our membership total is 53.

LUNAFEST THANK YOU

Thank you from David Eatwell, sent Tuesday, May 30, to Kerry Serl and AAUW Lewis County Branch

Subject: Gratitude and Admiration

Good day, Kerry,

We want to express our gratitude and admiration to you and your members who took on the task of hosting LUNAFEST for the benefit of the Human Response Network. Yes, the funds are crucial to our ability to continue to provide services to the survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, but more important is the example that AAUW sets for all women in our community. Events, such as LUNAFEST, are challenging to do well, yet you and your members made it look so easy and fun the very first time. AAUW demonstrated that women can work together, be strong, self-directed, and successful in their efforts. That message is so important to us and the women who come to us for assistance. Your example inspires our staff and clients.

Again, thank you for thinking of the Human Response Network. We look forward to working with you again.

Sincerely,

David R. Eatwell
Executive Director
Human Response Network
125 NW Chehalis Ave
Chehalis, WA 98532
360-748-6601
**BITS ‘n PIECES**

**ARTrails of Southwest Washington 2017 Studio Tour:** Several AAUW members will be sharing their creative talent! The tour kicks off with a gala reception at the Historic Centralia Train Depot on Friday, September 15, from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. The tour runs two weekends -- September 16-17 and 23-24 -- and studios are open 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Lots more information at [www.artrailsofsww.org](http://www.artrailsofsww.org)

**Thank you from Judy Bell:** “I want to thank you all, wonderful ladies, for sending your love and healing thoughts to make me well. It helped me along my path. I want to thank two dear friends (Peggy Barth and Kathy Tennyson) for devoting so much of their time and friendship to keeping me on my path to healing my brain, which hasn’t been easy.”

**Early Education Recommendation from Kristi Nelson:** Here is a good program for parents and grandparents to know about. “Blippi” is an educational program, free on YouTube, aimed at preschool and early elementary school children but entertaining for everyone! Recommended by Brittany Voie, *The Chronicle* media developer, and Kristi Nelson.

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**PHOTO-SCAVENGER HUNT**

**Kerry Serl**

On July 24, eight ladies enjoyed an evening tracking down historical sites associated with George Washington, Founder of Centralia. Photos captured AAUW ladies at many George Washington sites including locations where he lived; by the George Washington mural and by honor stone at the library; by property donated to Centralia by George and Mary Jane Washington; and by sites important to the history of Centralia.

Although none of George’s original houses appears to exist any longer, we did make a possible forgotten discovery during our scavenger hunt. Laurel Tiller led us to the house at 611 Silver Street. Although rumored to be George Washington’s home, it appears to have belonged to stepson Stacey Coonness. We discovered it probably is the original home as the column on the back porch matches the porch columns in a photo of Stacey Coonness and family. Laurel remembers that there was a porch in the 1960s that was lost in an addition.

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**BRANCH WEB PAGE and FACEBOOK**

Donna Loucks and Kerry Serl

Please check out our branch web page at [http://lewiscounty-wa.aauw.net/](http://lewiscounty-wa.aauw.net/)

Send contributions to these pages and ideas for other pages to Donna Loucks, loucksd@localaccess.com.

To go directly to the MEMBERS ONLY page, click on this link.

[http://lewiscounty-wa.aauw.net/members-only-2](http://lewiscounty-wa.aauw.net/members-only-2)

and enter the password (all lowercase). Then you will be able to enter the Sunshine and Sharing pages under the Members Only tab.

Facebook page: [https://www.facebook.com/American-Association-of-University-Women-Lewis-County-1594584720774399/timeline/](https://www.facebook.com/American-Association-of-University-Women-Lewis-County-1594584720774399/timeline/)
AAUW NEW MEMBER PROFILE
by Kristi Nelson

Kathy Halsan was born and raised in Seattle. She earned a Master’s Degree in Special Education from Western Washington University, moved to Centralia with her husband, Stuart Halsan, and spent the next 39 years as a preschool special education teacher. Kathy said she enjoyed every day as a teacher. She enjoyed the problem solving the job demanded and the kids themselves: their innocence, their freshness, the funny things they would say.

In the meantime, she raised two children: a son, Nathan, who works as a youth services librarian in Sacramento, CA, and a daughter, Kirsten, who is an occupational therapist in Portland. To her delight, Nathan is getting married September 9. Kirsten and her husband have two boys, ages 3 years and 10 months.

Kathy was born with only one arm and, as a consequence, spent time in clinics and hospitals where she noticed there were numerous children with very serious problems, far worse than hers. Her heart was touched by them and, even as a child, she determined that she wanted to reach out and help them. Thus, her decision to become a special education teacher.

Having a prosthetic arm wasn’t much of a problem for Kathy, but occasionally it seemed to cause consternation for her teachers. Because of her disability, she was refused admittance to the high school typing class. Her parents responded by enrolling her in a business school typing class in downtown Seattle and she did just fine. The P.E. teacher was going to flunk her because she couldn’t do push-ups, but after talking to her parents, decided to give her a “C.” She got “A’s” in all the other subjects. The experience of being rejected and having doors close because of her disability also contributed to her desire to help kids in need.

Kathy is a reader, a volunteer and an avid NPR listener. She enjoys her family very much and says a new puppy has taken over her life. She is a member of Soroptomists, the “Our George Washington” committee, and now AAUW.

Kathy is outgoing and genuinely likes people. Be nice, be friendly, “do unto others. . .” is her creed.

Welcome to Lewis County AAUW, Kathy!
CALENDAR
Thursday, September 7...........................Branch Meeting
Thursday, September 14.........................Early Morning Discussion
September 16-17 & 23-24.......................ARTrails 2017 Studio Tour
Tuesday, September 19..........................Ravenous Readers Book Group
Friday, September 22............................October Newsletter Deadline
Saturday, October 21.........................Expanding Your Horizons