

FAME AND FORTINS

*Famous for their
contributions to Outdoor
Learning and Student
Leadership, Marty and
Susan Fortin Retire after
28 years with AWSP*



We at AWSP have been more than fortunate to have Marty and Susan Fortin on staff for the past 28 years — a husband/wife duo who have taken Outdoor Learning and Student Leadership to new heights for principals and students. Together and individually, Marty and Susan have left a leadership legacy across multiple generations, not just in Washington state but across the U.S. They are truly quite “famous” in the education world.

To say that we’ll miss them is a major understatement. In this issue, we look back at their contributions and reflect on how lucky we’ve been to have them in our state, with our association, and on our team for three decades.

Here is what some of our members, education partners, colleagues, and staff had to say about Susan and Marty:



Marty and Susan and one year old Kate heading to the National Association of Student Councils Conference in 1993.



Brain Trust. Susan Fortin and Brian Barker on a National Association of Student Councils Conference trip in the early 1990s pondering the great possibilities of student leadership.

What a wonderful couple - working together, always supportive, greatly respected and the best leaders in the field! Their programs reaffirm the image of principals and AWSP in the greater purpose of nurturing students (past and present) as future leaders of our great nation!

Brian Barker, *former AWSP Executive Director*

No couple has impacted as many lives as Marty and Susan Fortin have. Looking back on their body of work takes my breath away. They transformed student leadership training, which was primarily developing elected student leaders, into an all-inclusive resort. Now, the focus of AWSL is to develop the leadership capacity of all students of all backgrounds and skill levels. They don’t wait for the students to come to them, they go to the students. Marty and Susan open their home, their kitchen and their hearts to the adult disciples who allow them to take their passion to scale.

Some leaders who are as impactful as Marty and Susan leave behind a big hole when they step away. Marty and Susan chose to dedicate this last

year to filling that hole, so their work will be sustained. A beautiful couple doing beautiful work now deserve a beautiful retirement, and knowing them, I am sure they will see to it that it is.

Gary Kipp, *former AWSP Executive Director*

Favorite memory: The delicious gourmet home cooked meal served at their home. They are the most gracious hosts. You can’t go wrong with good food and good company!

Randi Peterson, *Camp Staff Member from 1999-2012*

I hired them both to be on the Mt. Baker Leadership Staff. Marty and Susan both became close “life-long” friends as a result of hiring them as staff members. Favorite memory: Ancient history - Susan hanging out with Marty by the garbage bin on their first year at Baker. He smoked; she didn’t.

Sandy Stonebreaker, *former staff, Mt. Baker*

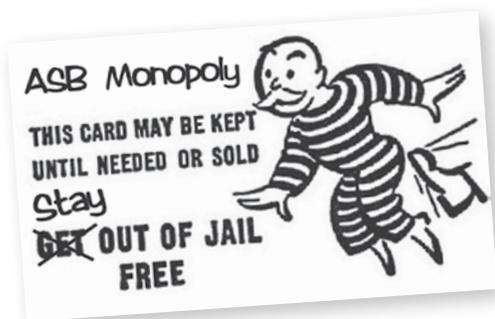
Both Susan and Marty are totally committed to serving the mission of AWSP in their words and actions. They are two of the hardest-working and kindest people I have known.

Colleen Nelson, *former AWMLP and AWSP Board Member*

People say there is only one Michael Jordan. I disagree... because I had the honor of working with two Michael Jordans, Marty and Susan, for more than 20 years at the Cispus Learning Center. From being my bosses to being my friends to being my mentors, all was done with grace, humility, excellence, laughter, work, and unflinching integrity. To live among the trees and the Fortins has truly been a blessing.

Joe Fenbert, *Cispus Staff*

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This card is a momento from Marty's years of ASB trainings. I am not sure who to credit for the creation of the card, but it captures the value and importance of his work with those of us responsible for the legal and administrative aspects of student leadership. Marty and Susan are appreciated more than they will ever know and leave a legacy that will last a very long time.

Shelley Lyons, *White River SD*

Marty and Susan, I continue to be awestruck by the legacy and impact you have created in Washington and across the country. AWSP/AWSL have been blessed by your leadership, vision and passion for all kids. We are truly a unique organization in this country and that is because of you two. Your collective



Susan as the Good Witch of the North in 1996 when AWSL hosted the National Association of Workshop Directors' conference in Seattle, Leadership in the Emerald City.

and tireless pursuit to support our number one priority, kids, is truly outstanding. Now to get spiritual, God puts us on earth to serve a very clear purpose. Susan and Marty, you can smile knowing you've hit that purpose out of the park your entire career. And, that purpose and impact will carry on forever, thanks to you.

Dr. Scott Seaman, *Executive Director, AWSP*

Marty and Susan are an amazing team. They have poured their hearts and souls into the students of Washington state. It is evident when they speak about their programs how much they love what they do. The Fortin team will be greatly missed. Can't thank them enough for giving so much of themselves. They will definitely be missed.

Kim Marquette, *AWSP*

I learned about Pride in my School and Community from Marty. I learned to build relationships and enduring spirit. I also won the Straw Tower Challenge in 8th grade with my best friend Sue Aschenbrenner. I learned from Susan to help teachers find TC spots on Camp Staff. I also learned to emphasize quality relationships and empathy towards others.

Lana Yenne, *Camp Columbia Staff*

Generations of students in the state of Washington are better people because of the work that both Susan and Marty have accomplished. Their reach is incredible and for those of us left behind to carry on the work we have a momentous duty to keep it moving forward.

Randy Heath, *AWSP Board, Summer Leadership Camp Programs*

Marty always had quiet confidence in me even when I was struggling! He kept me in the leadership loop even though



Marty at a campfire on Yellow Jacket Creek and Cispus River confluence in early 90s.

Clarkston is a world away from Cispus and all that was happening for those living closer to the Seattle area. He asked me to present at WACA (I was thrilled), he asked me to be a leadership counselor (and I sure wish I could have worked it in more!) He nominated me for the WACA HALL OF FAME — I treasure this as one of my career all time accomplishments!! Susan was always smiling and inspired me to continue with what CHS could do. I never had a leadership class but was able to teach leadership with class which is Susan and Marty both exemplified!

Kay Andersen, *WACA*

I worked closely with Susan as the executive director from North Dakota. We served on the NASSCED Board together for a number of years. The thing I remember most is her willingness to share her expertise with everyone. Marty and Susan both will never know the difference they have made for so many students and adults from across the country. They have touched so many people in a positive way.

Les Andersen, *Former NASCED Board Member*

Everything I know about ASB financing I know as a result of Marty's teaching and mentorship. He is a skilled educator and expert in ASB finance. He helped me understand the ins and outs of expenses, fundraising and creative ways to include student voice in our schools.

Steve Leifsen, *Director of Equity and Achievement, White River SD*

Amazing couple... I had a medical emergency at camp and after surgery I woke up to Marty whispering to me... Susan was on her way to take my place at camp bringing their baby daughter with her and I wasn't to worry about my campers. This amazing couple hasn't changed in the last 25 years... kind and caring!

Dorn Barr, *Camp and Cispus*

I know Susan from Rainier High School. She was my Home Ec Teacher, Activities Advisor, H.S. Track coach & my Sound Club Advisor. She helped me on the road to my successful DJ career! Favorite memory: Daily affirmations at track practice! Attitude determines Altitude! Reach for the Peak!

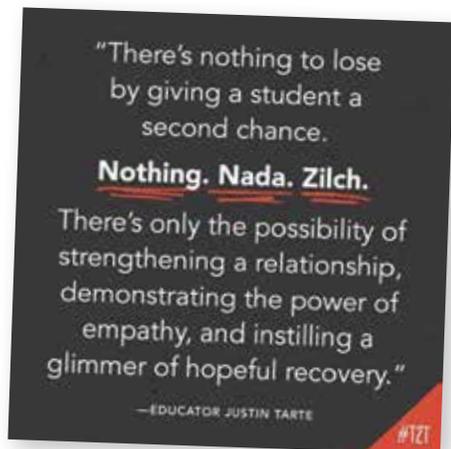
Chad Dowling, *Rainier High School*

As the Superintendent of the Moses Lake School District I have long used, and continue to use, the lessons taught to me by my friends and mentors — the Fortins. I consider them a foundational element of my professional growth and opportunity for impact. Thank you for touching my life!

Dr. Joshua Meek, *Superintendent, Moses Lake SD*

The quote below reminds me of Marty. I have passed along this idea to my teachers for years. Marty is the KING of second chances and third chances and 27th chances!"

Jayme Evans, *High School Principal, Washington Virtual Academies*



Marty at the Yelm High School homecoming dance in 1988.



Kindness, forgiveness, hospitality, and looking for the best in people — these are all qualities I associate with Susan and Marty!

Caroline Brumfield, *AWSP Staff*

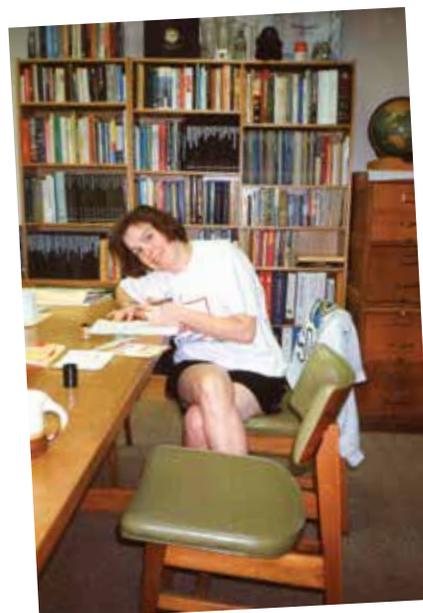
Both Susan and Marty are forward thinking. They always look to see who else they can serve and how else they can help.

David Morrill, *AWSP Staff*

My favorite memory of Susan and Marty is a recurring memory: I get to speak at events all over the country and meet the Fortins' peers in different states. My favorite memory is, every time I tell these folks I am from Washington and that I grew up in the program that Marty and Susan lovingly built, you see a deep jealousy in their eyes and an inevitable, "Those two are incredible" type commentary. They elicit respect everywhere I go!

Houston Kraft *CharacterStrong (Knows Marty and Susan through Cispus)*

I have worked with Marty and Susan for many years. I first met them as a principal and a member of the ESPAW and AWSP boards. Later I was fortunate to get to work with them as a staff member at AWSP. My favorite memory of Marty is when my husband Mark was one of the



Susan in Marty's Cispus office in 1993 planning, planning, planning.

"teachers" at Chewelah Peak High School Camp. Marty assigned me the duties of camp nurse. We had a marvelous time. Susan worked hard on a leadership curriculum for elementary students. Working with her was a lot of fun.

Paula Quinn, *Former AWSP Staff*

Marty and Susan have always been so kind. Anytime I have taken a workshop from either of them they make you feel like you can take on any challenge.

Emily Severs (*Workshops*)

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Marty has always been very approachable and down to earth in each of my interactions with him as well as his workshops and presentations. Susan has been an amazing champion for kids as well a huge supporter of my work at KM over the years. She has motivated me and inspired me to continue to put student leadership and more specifically student voice at the forefront of our work. Marty has taught me the ins and out of ASB. Susan has taught me how critical a strong student leadership program can be to the climate and culture of a school.

Dr. Wade R Barringer, *Camps and Student Leadership Committee*

My favorite thing about Susan is her patience and how hard she works to help kids get to camp. We have talked a number of times, especially when we were starting our ASB and she was always patient with my flood of questions. Susan has also gone above and beyond, especially with our camp issues. There have been a number of years when the camp bus was not available to our kids and she ALWAYS found a way to help get them to camp.

I have many memories of Marty! I will miss your fun brain teasers at the beginning of your ASB law workshops. You always answered any questions I had with grace — even if I asked 20 clarifying questions afterwards. The workshops will not be the same without you!

Mindi Rew, *Leadership Camps, Trainings, and ASB*



First year in the "new" job, Susan promotes student leadership at an information booth at Cispus.



Jill of All Trades: Susan working with a CheerLeadership Staff in 1993.

Dinner following a week of summer leadership camp at the Fortin's is a gift that lasts until the next summer gathering. I want to BE Susan Fortin, the "hostess with the mostess" when I grow up.

Beth Marriott, *Student Leadership*

Favorite memory: The willingness and gung ho attitude to do whatever it takes for however long it takes to create and sustain great programs and opportunities for students. Something learned: To be willing to help, to be available when needed, to be dedicated, and to maintain your sense of humor!!

Cindy Adsit, *WIAA*

From Susan I learned to stay calm and not worry too much... on the outside. Making people believe that you have things under control keeps them calm and good things happen. From Marty I learned to never stop asking questions and learning. Things can change when we keep asking tough questions.

Craig Lacy, *WASC, AWSL, WASBO and ASB*



This is why we can't find photos of Marty! He is always taking pictures, like this at Mt. Baker Leadership Camp setting up a photo shoot of Jim Ayers as Tinman (back left of photo) in the Cispus garbage dumpster for a video skit.

My favorite memory of Marty and Susan are from AWSL CheerLeadership Camp. Susan would always make an appearance each summer and it was always so nice to see her and her enjoyment of the student leaders at cheer camp. My favorite memory of Marty is all the ASB Law meetings I have sat through over the years. I could not have won all the battles at my school without his expertise of ASB law. Thank you for passing on the knowledge to me.

Jackie Graf, *CheerLeadership Camp, ASB Workshops*

They have some of the best cooking ever! Thanks for hosting our post-camp meeting! :)

Mike Kreiger, *NASC and Mt. Triumph*

Cispus Learning Center will not be the same without their smiling faces there to greet staff as we gear up for another Leadership Camp. They have been the constant, their compassion, humor and love will give us great memories as we move forward.

Mary Taylor, *ASB Law Workshops and Middle Level Leadership Camp Staff*

What I learned: That a couple can successfully work together for many years and accomplish great things.

Xenia Doualle, *AWSP Staff*

I always learned a lot from Marty's workshops at WASBO and ASB meetings and have greatly appreciated his help with ASB questions. He was always kind and considerate and prompt with his answers, with a sense of humor and great understanding of the whys and wherefores, which makes learning easier. Leaders like him are few and far between and he will be greatly missed.

Kristi Candler (Head Secretary at Orting High School)



Mt. Baker Camp, 2017 (Courtesy of Jayme Evans)

I just want to say THANK YOU to Marty for his patience and kindness over the years as I peppered him with tough (to me) ASB questions. No question ever made him roll his eyes (at least he didn't show it). His wealth of knowledge, and willingness to share it, have been such a lifesaver to me over the 15 years that I've been an ASB Secretary. Marty, you will be greatly missed, fondly remembered, and so hard to replace. I wish you the very BEST retirement. Happy Trails!

Patti Erickson (ASB Conferences and Workshops)

Favorite memory: As an AWSP director, it was great to see up close the solid plans and facilities that benefited students each year. The addition of La Chispa and La Cima were inspiring! I could always speak with confidence to school leaders about the terrific resources available to them through student leadership programs — from elementary through high school.

Vicki Bates, Former AWSP Staff

I was a student leader and Junior Counselor in their state leadership programs before becoming a Senior Counselor and now Camp Director for one of the High School Student Leadership Camps run out of the Cispus Learning Center. My favorite memories of Marty and Susan are every year when they would open up their home to have 20+ leadership camp staffers over for dinner and then sleep in every nook and cranny of their house and yard. The conversations and memories shared during those times were priceless and will always be held close by so many.

John Norlin, CharacterStrong

Susan and Marty, purveyors of growth, their dedication I remember the most.

Leadership lessons uniquely inspired, students learning, students empowered.

A significant feature of AWSP, Learning Centers and Student Learning stand out distinctively.

Jim Rudsit, ESPAW, AWSP Boards

Though I spent most of my time in reverence of her, Susan always made me feel welcomed. She has the nicest and warmest smile. I remember being in her home and enjoying her home cooking. She is decorated in so much education/leadership, but I will forever remember her home and heart. Marty, where to begin... he is one of the wisest men I know. His actions and words are few because he listens more and his words are strong. When he listens, his eyes are so attuned to you that you feel truly cared for. I don't have one favorite memory for Marty because I loved every moment I am with him. Thank you for all your years of service. "Servantship" is one of the hardest things to teach and they did it with all their heart and love.

Lanny Yoon, Mt. Baker JC 1999, SC 2000-2009



Susan... always the happiest face at a meeting, 1997.

Favorite memory: Sitting on the porch after Leadership camp, relaxing, debriefing and listening to Marty's wisdom. Also — Susan's Julia Child sign in the kitchen: "If you are afraid of butter, use cream." That says it all about life, I think.

Sue Metzler, WASC, Mt. Triumph staff, and WACA

They do the best at putting themselves in other people's shoes and seeing things from their perspectives. Thank you for everything you have taught me and for believing in me.

Erika Ambrocio-Vasquez, Americorps at Cispus, AWSP Team

Favorite memory: Marty's drive to create a leadership camp on the eastside and my work with the Legislature to get the funding. The opening of Chewelah Peak was great! Susan will always be remembered for her dedication to all students and belief in their innate leadership skills.

Rainer Houser, Former AWSP Director of Government Relations (1996-2004)

I could write a book on the things I have learned from Susan and Marty. More than once they have challenged me to look at something in a different way — most recently that would be with respect to student opportunity and the true availability of leadership to all students.

Sandy Ginger, NAWD/NCSA, Western Leaders

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Martin Emerson Fortin, Jr.

Awards and Recognitions

Yelm Community Schools

Teacher of the Year 1979, Certificated Staff of the Year - 1990

Washington Association of Student Councils

Adviser of the Year - 1990

Environmental Education Association of Washington

President's Award - 1998, 2007; Award for Excellence 2011

Washington Activity Coordinators' Association

Hall of Fame 2003, Certified Activity Adviser 2017, Marty and Susan Fortin perpetual Scholarship - 2019

National Association of Workshop Directors

Earl Reum Award (teacher of Teachers) - Regional 2011, National 2018

Washington Interscholastic Activities Association

Wrestling Coaches Association *Joe Babbitt Contributor's Award*, 2003 *Curt and Che Che Brusklund Service Award*, 2017

Washington Association of School Business Officials

Award of Merit - 2013

Association of Washington Business

Awards for *Community Service* - 2001, '03, '06; & *Environmental Education* - 2000 & '03

Washington Secondary Schools Athletic Administrators Association

Service Honor Award - 2014

Washington FFA Association

Honorary State Degree 2016

Association of Washington School Principals

Presidential Recognition Award - 2003

Susan Fortin

Awards and Recognitions

Washington Activity Coordinators' Association

Hall of Fame - 2003
Marty and Susan Fortin perpetual scholarship sponsored by Jostens - 2019

National Association of Workshop Directors

Earl Reum Award (Teacher of Teachers) - 1996
Workshop Director of the Year - 2003

Association of Washington School Principals

Presidential Recognition Award - 1998

Washington State Cheer Coaches Association

2007 Hall of Fame - Contributor Inductee

National Association of State Student Council Executive Directors

President - 1999, Board member 1996-2000

Proud of...

- Being the leader in the creation and revision of three leadership resources that have sold nationally (and internationally) and are great resources for leadership education.
- Building Leaders for Life, A High School Leadership Class Curriculum," 2nd edition, 2016
- Starting in the Middle, Leadership Lessons for Middle Level Students," 2nd edition, 2018
- Inspiring Students to Lead, A Resource Guide for Elementary School, 1st edition, 2017

Other ways I spend my time...

- Chair of the White Pass Scholarship Committee
- Sunday School Teacher
- Volunteer for various community groups when they need help with newsletters, fliers and brochure



HAPPY TRAILS, MARTY & SUSAN!