

# Stanwood-Camano Branch of AAUW

## In Touch



October 2024

Founded in April, 1936 - Celebrating 88 Years

Edited by Martha Huyler and Georgi Proulx



[www.aauwsc.org](http://www.aauwsc.org)

### October 3rd

**Thursday, 1:00 p.m.**

October Board Meeting  
Camano Library Meeting Room

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### October 9th

**Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.**

Candidate & Issues Forum  
Stanwood High School  
Performing Arts Center  
lower parking lot entrance

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### October 10th

**Thursday, 1:00 p.m.**

General Meeting  
Camano Library Meeting Room

*Freedom to Read*

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### October 15th

**Tuesday, 10:00 a.m.**

**JAVA BREAK**

Cookie Mill  
*For Coffee and Conversation*  
*Bring a Prospective Member*

### President's Message

Jackie-Lyn Olson

What a great series of events we enjoyed as we resumed our regular meetings! It was extremely rewarding to hear about our Tech Trek recipients experience at camp over the summer. I was deeply touched by the young ladies' appreciation of their Tech Trek experience and their enthusiasm for a future in the field of science! Something that stood out for me was their experience in community building with other young women from all over Washington and Idaho. The experience broadened their knowledge academically and socially.

Preparing for the Candidate Forum we realized the importance of our connections in the community as we planned our event. I was surprised to learn some folks did not know we are a non-partisan, non-profit organization. I am incredibly grateful for the wisdom of our members who suggested that at the Forum we read the descriptions of the initiatives on the ballot as they appear in the voters' pamphlet and encourage our attendees to read on their own the pros and cons. This will project the image of AAUW as a non-partisan organization.

Thank you, everyone, for your commitment to the mission of AAUW: "AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy, and measurable change in areas impacting the lives of women and girls." We are empowering young women in our community!

### October Program: Sno-Isle Library - Freedom to Read

Mary Raymond

Please join us on Thursday, October 10, at 1:00 p.m. in the Camano Island Library meeting room to hear Jessica Russell, Assistant Director, Collection Services, for Sno-Isle Libraries speak about Freedom to Read and how our local library system develops its collection of materials and handles complaints/challenges. Jessica has plenty of information to share and will answer our questions.

This should be an interesting and informative presentation and, as always, snacks are most welcome! See you on 10/10!



### Projected Program Schedule for 2024-25



November 14	Deborah Rumbaugh, Superintendent of SCSO
December 12	Holiday Lunch at Il Granaio
January 9	Poet Laureate
February 13	Joan Pang, Japanese Internment Camp Experience
March 13	Debbie Dimitre, Utsalady Ladies Aid
April 10	Learn about Neurodiversity
May 8	High School STEM Scholar Recognition & Introduction of Tech Trek Campers 2025

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## Future Events

**November 7th**

**Thursday, 1:00 p.m.**

November Board Meeting  
Camano Library Meeting Room

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**November 14th**

**Thursday, 1:00 p.m.**

General Meeting  
Camano Library Meeting Room

*Deborah Rumbaugh,  
Superintendent of SCSD*



Visit our branch website:  
[www.aauwsc.org](http://www.aauwsc.org)

### Public Policy

Go to:  
AAUW Washington to keep  
up with happenings in the  
current legislative session  
and to learn about areas  
for action.

[www.aauw-wa.org](http://www.aauw-wa.org)

AAUW Action Network  
for Congressional items  
regarding the national  
issues for action.

[http://capwiz.com/  
aauw/home/](http://capwiz.com/aauw/home/)

## 2024 Tech Trek Campers Present *Mary Chesney*

I hope you were able to join us at the September 12 evening general meeting to hear from five campers at our 2024 Tech Trek camp. These five girls reported a wonderful time exploring STEM fields for which they were both familiar and unfamiliar. Bottom line, it was a positive experience, and they look forward to volunteering as counselors later in high school.



This project has been a mainstay for our branch since 2013 with extremely effective results. Many of these girls return as STEM honorees in their junior year and later apply for our university scholarships.

If you would like to share a piece of this success please consider helping with the camper selection process in the spring. I am looking for members interested in becoming involved in the process of Tech Trek camper selection. This is an opportunity for you to help the Branch make one of the most important decisions that takes place every year, selecting campers who we sponsor and send to camp. You will make a difference and help ensure the best possible candidates are chosen. All the nominee and parent/guardian interviews are done virtually as well as any meetings the team needs to hold prior to the interviews. Because of this, you need to have some level of comfort using a computer.

We work together to develop a calendar that fits into everyone's schedule for the planning stage of the selection process as well as the interviews. There will be two weeks in April when you will need to have availability for nominee interviews late afternoon to early evening (approximately 4:00 p.m. to no later than 7:30 p.m.) nearly every day but Sunday.

If this sounds interesting to you, let me know and I will send you the description of expectations for the Tech Trek committee.



## Public Policy: Vote in November

*Judith Prince*

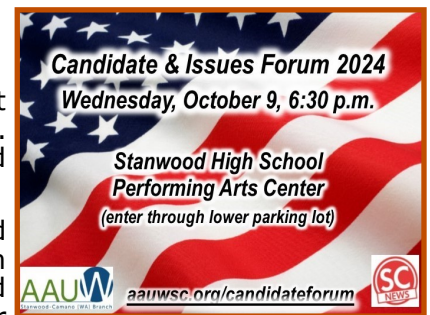
As far as public policy is concerned, the most important thing you can do this fall is **vote**. Ballots must be in a drop box or post marked by November 5.

Co-sponsors, AAUW Stanwood-Camano and the SCNews, present the Candidates Forum on October 9, 6:30 p.m. at the Stanwood Camano High School Performing Arts Center to hear from the candidates for local, state, and federal positions.

Another source of information available to all is the voters pamphlet provided to every household prior to ballot delivery.

In addition, most political campaigns host a website. You may want to consult websites when you are still uncertain about a candidate. Candidates also send information to registered voters via US Mail.

Please let your friends and family know about the Candidate Forum and the necessary follow up of voting on November 5.



## Your 2024-2025 Board

### President

Jackie-Lyn Olson

### President-Elect

(open position)

### VP of Finance

Robin Hanks

### VP of Finance-Elect

(open position)

### Co-VP of Membership

Joyce Leak

Lael Williams

### Secretary

Linda Lynn

### VP of Program

Mary Pilkington

Assistants: Linda Demetre,

Mary Raymond\*

### Public Policy

Judith Prince

### Communications

Georgi Proulx, Martha Huyler

\* Appointed position, shares vote with VP

## Activity Leaders

### High School STEM Scholars

Linda Demetre, Lael Williams

### Scholarship Chair

Marianne McGarry-Bloom

### Tech Trek Chair

Mary Chesney

### Purses with Purpose 2026

(open position)

### AAUW Funds Coordinator

Jackie DeFazio

### Candidate & Issues Forum

Kathy Cunningham

### Historian

Helen Smith

### Diversity

Katie Farrey

### Stanwood-Camano Give

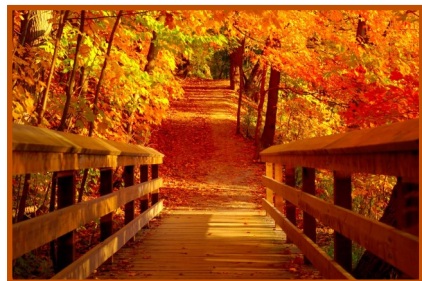
Mary Raymond, Georgi Proulx

### Sunshine

Mary Ann Schradi

### Newsletter Team

Georgi Proulx, Martha Huyler



## AAUW Funds: Advancing the Mission & Sharing the Pride

Jackie DeFazio

Busy as we all are with AAUW here in the Stanwood-Camano area, we may lose sight of the larger national organization of which we are a part and which we support with the dues we pay to "National" and the contributions our branch makes to AAUW Funds each year. The beginning of a new program year seems a good time to review AAUW's long and impressive story which began 143 years ago in November 1881.



At that time, states the AAUW national website, women faced significant barriers in accessing higher education and in pursuing jobs outside a limited number of fields. AAUW's founding marked one of the first organized efforts to advance opportunities for women to pursue higher education and careers and to seek equal treatment with men.

A part of those efforts was launching one of the most enduring fellowship programs for women in the world in 1888. That program continues today under the auspices of AAUW Funds. As of 2024, AAUW has given more than \$146 million to over 14,000 women and nonprofit organizations around the world. Our recipients include some of the most influential voices of the past two centuries — women who have helped shape history like scientist Marie Curie, the first woman to win a Nobel Prize, and astronaut Judith Resnick the second woman to travel in space.

Today such funding continues to have a tremendous impact. It helps to ease the burden of student debt, which disproportionately affects women, so that promising women can excel in their fields and become leaders in business, government, academia, community activism, the arts and sciences.

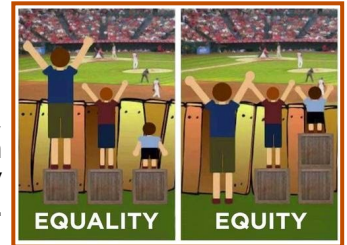
From its inception, AAUW has commissioned groundbreaking research that documents women's abilities and equal value. We've published hundreds of research reports, from an 1885 paper disproving a prevailing myth that college impairs a woman's fertility to, most recently, a study documenting the economic impact of workplace sexual harassment.

As members of the Stanwood-Camano Branch, we contribute to AAUW's proud tradition of seeking education and equity for all women and girls through our work to support the women and girls of our local communities and through our branch contributions to AAUW Funds nationally. To find out more about AAUW's "tenacious and trailblazing" history, check out the national website. Go to [aauw.org](http://aauw.org) and click on About AAUW.

## DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) Spotlight

Katie Farrey

**Autism** is a complex neurological disability that affects sensory processing and communication. Autistic people are as diverse as any other group of humans, with individual strengths and weaknesses, but we all experience this world in distinctly autistic ways. Lots of people think they know what autism is, but the only real experts are autistic people! *Ed Wiley Acceptance Lending Library*. [neurodiversitylibrary.org](https://neurodiversitylibrary.org)



### Upcoming Opportunities:

LGBTQ history month

Hate crimes Awareness Month (Southern Poverty Law Center)

Oct. 11th National Coming Out Day

Oct. 14th Indigenous Peoples Day

Oct. 26th Intersex Awareness Day

Oct. 28th National Immigrants Day

October 18, 7:30 p.m. Mount Baker Theatre

"The Land Has Spoken - Tales of Indigenous Horror"

<https://www.mountbakertheatre.com/events-tickets/the-land-has-spoken/>

October 19 Telling Our Stories - viewing of "Arise Firebird-Documentary"

Contact: Jodi Forsell [programs@aauw-wa.org](mailto:programs@aauw-wa.org)

In person at Renton Technical College from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; check in 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. Cost \$40 per person, includes a box lunch, coffee, tea and snacks. Keynote Speaker: April Sims, President of The Washington State Labor Council. "Arise Firebird" is a documentary film celebrating the resilience and empowerment of women and BIPOC professionals in the workplace. Q&A with the director (who tells her story in the film) to follow.

<https://aauw-wa.aauw.net/2024/07/30/2024-in-person-meeting/>

### Meet Our Members

Lael Williams is fairly new to the branch and has served two years as High School STEM Scholar Coordinator with Linda Demetre. Continuing in that role she is also sharing the VP Membership position with Joyce Leak this year and currently working on the New Member Gathering in October.

She is a Seattle native sharing, "Seattle was a small city when I was growing up. My friends and I would play in downtown Seattle riding the elevators in Smith Tower and running to Fredrick and Nelson. I knew my place as a young woman! It was very limiting in every way. Sometimes I felt like I was treated like an object; not a person".

Lael attended Central Washington University earning a BA in Art and a secondary education degree at University of Washington. This education led to her time as a middle and high school art teacher in the Edmonds School District then the Program Manager for the Visual and Performing Arts for the Edmonds and Seattle school districts. She was also the northwest Lead and Coach for different ways of knowing of the Galef Institute, a comprehensive staff development initiative.

Her hobbies as a watercolor, pastel, acrylic, pen and ink artist fill her time. She loves to walk - "four miles most days. I love nature and gardening". Her travels have taken her extensively through Europe, and she's interested in "discovering more of America". Her love of volunteering is very noticeable.

It would surprise you to know "I went to Husky football games for 34 years straight! I loved the hot dogs - always had two".

Her reasons for joining AAUW: "I care deeply about young women and want to support them".



## Special Branch Activities

### Day Trippers

*An informal gathering of members with time and interest to participate in a variety of outings.*

Lynda Buehring

### JAVA Break

*Meet for coffee/tea and great conversation getting to know your fellow members. Bring a prospective member too if you would like.*

Nancy Voelckers

### Movie Group

*Meet for a movie at our local Stanwood Cinema. Watch for an email invitation. Suggestions are encouraged.*

Anne Milton  
Georgi Proulx

### Book Group

*Open to all members. Join us for lively conversation if you've read the book or if you just want to come join the discussion.*

Katie Farrey  
Marianne McGarry-Bloom

**LIKE** our page to  
follow us then

**SHARE** to increase  
our visibility in  
the community.



[www.facebook.com/  
stanwoodcamanoaauw](http://www.facebook.com/stanwoodcamanoaauw)

### Book Group

Katie Farrey, Marianne McGarry-Bloom

All members are invited to join the Book Group whether you have read the book or just want to join the conversation. Please contact Katie Farrey if you want to be added to the email list.



#### October 7, 2:00 p.m. at the Home of Georgi Proulx

The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell by Robert Dugoni

*"Born with ocular albinism, small-town eye doctor Sam Hell must finally face a past tragedy that caused him to turn his back on his friends, his hometown, and the life he'd always known--a journey that makes him realize what truly matters."*

#### October 19, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., (Saturday) at Camano Center

**Author Talk** - "An Afternoon with NYT Bestselling author Robert Dugoni" who penned "The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell". Seaport Books from La Conner will be on hand to sell books. Robert's next release in October is "Beyond Reasonable Doubt". Copies will be available for sale. Dugoni will be available for autographs. Sponsored by Camano Island Library Friends. No admission charge. Refreshments will be served.

#### November 4, 2:00 p.m. at the Home of Mary Chesney

*Please RSVP directly to Mary via email by October 15 if you wish to attend the luncheon she is serving before the discussion*

Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver

*"Winner of the 2022 Pulitzer Prize for fiction "Set in the mountains of southern Appalachia, Demon Copperhead is the story of a boy born to a teenaged single mother in a single-wide trailer, with no assets beyond his dead father's good looks and copper-colored hair, a caustic wit, and a fierce talent for survival. Relayed in his own unsparing voice, Demon braves the modern perils of foster care, child labor, derelict schools, athletic success, addiction, disastrous loves, and crushing losses. Through all of it, he reckons with his own invisibility in a popular culture where even the superheroes have abandoned rural people in favor of cities."*

#### December 2, 2:00 p.m. at the home of Mary Pilkington

The Maid by Nita Prose

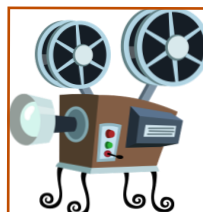
*"A charmingly eccentric hotel maid discovers a guest murdered in his bed, turning her once orderly world upside down--and inspiring a motley crew of unexpected allies to band together to solve the mystery--in this utterly original debut. Molly Dunn is not like everyone else. She struggles with social skills and interprets people literally. Her gran used to interpret the world for her, codifying it into simple rules that Molly could live by. Since Gran died a few months ago, twenty-five-year-old Molly has had to navigate life's complexities all by herself. No matter--she throws herself with gusto into her work as a hotel maid. She finds herself in a web of subtext and nuance she has no idea how to untangle."*

For more information, contact Katie Farrey or Marianne McGarry-Bloom.



Next **JAVA Break** will be Tuesday, October 15, at the Cookie Mill 10:00 a.m. Please save the date, bring a friend! Our gatherings are a special time with friends to share memories and thoughts we usually don't have time for during general meetings.

Let's share a mug and great conversation...you never know where it's going to take us...!



### See You At the Movies!

Anne Milton, Georgi Proulx

We had a great group to enjoy lunch then view "Reagan" on September 17. Both lunch and the movie stimulated varied conversations; we had a great afternoon. Join us next time!

Email Georgi with your movie interest and we will schedule a time for the group to meet.

**Day Tripper: Raku Clinic at Karla Matzke Gallery**  
*Photos courtesy of Mary Pilkington, Kathy Cunningham*

Day Trippers enjoyed a Raku Clinic at Karla Matzke's gallery on September 22. Below are photos of their experience with the artist, Adrian, leading the class. Their surprise is he called on them to rake dry leaves-in the wheelbarrow to throw in the three containers. There needed to be a fire within for the bowls coming out to have a final fire, stoked by these leaves.

~*SoulCeramics.com* - Raku firing is an ancient Japanese ceramics technique that has been used for many centuries to create a very unique finish to wares. The Raku technique dates back to the 16th century, traditionally crafted by hand and not thrown on a potter's wheel.

The Raku technique is essentially when glazed ceramics are taken from the kiln while they are still glowing red hot and are then placed in a material that would be able to catch fire, such as sawdust, newspaper or, in our case, leaves. This technique is used to starve the piece of oxygen, which creates a myriad of colors within the glaze. Raku firing without glaze on them means that the oxygen is taken from the clay itself rather than a glaze, which results in some areas having a matte black coloring.

Raku firing creates completely unique pieces as there is never a certainty as to how the final piece will turn out. Raku essentially creates a unique design every time, so there is less control on the outcome.



## General Meeting Minutes - September 12, 2024

**Program:** Tech Trek and General Membership Meeting, Stanwood-Camano Area Foundation Building

**Call to Order:** President Jackie Olson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed members and guests including five 2024 Tech Trek girls. After reciting the land acknowledgement, she turned the meeting over to Judy Prince, who introduced and asked questions of the Tech Trek girls who were in attendance.

**Secretary:** Linda Lynn referenced the June 2024 minutes for approval as printed in the September newsletter. Motion to approve was made by Martha Huyler and seconded by Mary Raymond; motion approved.

**Treasurer:** Robin Hanks reviewed the financial reports for August. We began August 2024 with \$92,834.85 in total assets. During August we received dues income of \$8.00, interest of \$15.40, and sale of surplus wineglasses for \$30.00. We paid \$257.50 for our accountant to file our 990-N, \$867.35 for the annual fee for Greater Giving, and we sent \$30,000 and all of the appropriate paperwork to three universities for our scholarships. We ended the month with \$61,803.40 in total assets.

**Candidate Forum:** Kathy Cunningham reported that the event will be held at the Stanwood High School Performing Arts Center and will start at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 9. So far there has been a good response from local and state invitees. The plan is for Kathy to moderate, and Anne Milton will ask the questions. Questions are needed from members, and other questions will come directly from the floor. A timekeeper is needed, and more volunteers may be needed. It is not known at this time whether the usual cookies will be allowed.

**SC Give:** The event will be on December 3, and our goal is \$3600, enough to fund two Tech Trek girls. Mary Raymond reported that everything is on track; we have been approved and all of the paperwork is submitted.

**Sunshine Report:** Text or email Mary Ann Schradi with any member news.

**Programs:** Mary Pilkington reported programs have been planned for the entire year.

**STEM Scholars:** Lael Williams announced that the annual gifts for the girls will be power pads.

**Communications:** Georgi Proulx thanked those who submit articles for the monthly newsletter.

**Membership:** We are all happy that Carolyn Spector has rejoined after moving back to this area.

**Scholarships:** Marianne McGarry-Bloom is chairing again this year. She could use some volunteers.

**Public Policy:** Judy Prince urged us all to attend the Candidate Forum, to read the voter's pamphlet and to vote.

**Tech Trek:** This is a quiet time of year, but correspondence will go out to teachers before the end of the year.

**Old Business:** Georgi still has 5 boxes of wine glasses to sell at \$10 a box. Proceeds go to the Scholarship fund.

**New Business:** Mary Pilkington will speak at the Camano Center at the "Travel Talks" feature on September 13 at 10:00 a.m. Mary is working on the project, Wreaths Across America, to place wreaths on veteran's graves in three local cemeteries. There are 765 veterans, and wreaths cost \$17 each. To fund this effort, we can donate online with the American Legion or in October, when the monthly "round-up" at Ace Hardware on Camano will support this effort. In December, volunteers will be needed to place wreaths on graves. Her husband, Fred, is being honored by placement of a wreath on his grave at the Arlington Cemetery.

### Activity Groups:

Book Club: The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell at Georgi's on October 7

Day Trippers: Raku at Karl Matzke's, September 22

Java Break: September 18 at 10:00 at the Cookie Mill

Movie Group: "Reagan" is a possibility

**AAUW Funds:** Jackie DeFazio reported \$46,000,000 in AAUW history towards education

**Adjourn:** Jackie Olson adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Respectively submitted,  
Linda Lynn  
Secretary

