



Stanwood-Camano Branch of AAUW

In Touch

January 2025

Founded in April, 1936 - Celebrating 88 Years

Edited by Martha Huyler and Georgi Proulx



www.aauwsc.org

January 2nd

Thursday, 1:00 p.m.

January Board Meeting

SCAF Meeting Room

January 9th

Thursday

Social Half Hour 12:30 p.m.

Program 1:00 p.m.

General Meeting

SCAF Meeting Room

Helion Energy, Building the World's First Fusion Power Plant

January 15th

Wednesday, 10:00 a.m.

JAVA BREAK

Cookie Mill

For Coffee and Conversation

Bring a Prospective Member

January 27th

Monday

Lobby Day

Virtual Meeting with AAUW

Washington in Olympia

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President's Message

Jackie-Lyn Olson

The holiday luncheon at Il Granaio was a huge success. The company was wonderful and the food was fabulous. I want to thank Mary Pilkington, Joyce Leak and Lael Williams for organizing our holiday luncheon at Il Granaio. Thank you also to Martha Huyler for the photos and to Georgi Proulx for the handmade prizes and snowmen favors.

At the state level we have been learning about the advantages of hybrid meetings. Our hope is to open our board and membership meetings to a wider group of women, recruiting a membership that is working during the day and would like to attend evening meetings or lunch time meetings. We know many of our current members would appreciate a hybrid option as some of us travel or for various other reasons would like to attend from the comfort of home. Book Group has found success using a hybrid format.

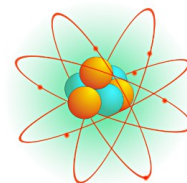
The Successful Hybrid Meeting material list includes not only the hardware technology but also Zoom membership. The only component we do not have access to is the Zoom membership. At our last board meeting we agreed to research costs for a branch membership. As it turns out the fees, even at non-profit rates, are closer to \$150.00 a year. We will ask for approval for specific fees at our January membership meeting

I wish all my AAUW sisters a joyful holiday and a peaceful beginning to a new year!

January 9—Helion Energy, the Future of Power

Mary Pilkington

Please join us on Thursday, January 9, for a fascinating presentation by Helion Energy, Everett, and their technology in the pursuit of building the world's first fusion power plant, enabling a future with unlimited clean energy. Electrical engineers, machinists, technicians, material handlers and more work together on the future of clean energy production. Join us to learn something new and have your questions answered. [helionenergy.com/news]



Social Half Hour begins at 12:30 p.m. at the SCAF Meeting Room located at 26911 98th Dr. NW, Unit A, Stanwood. Our program begins at 1:00 p.m.

If you can contribute to the refreshments for this open-to-the-public meeting please contact Mary Pilkington.

Successful Holiday Giving

Joyce Leak, Lael Williams



Thank you for your help with our holiday project collecting school art supplies for the students of the Stanwood-Camano School District. We collected: 175 Crayola markers, 720 colored pencils, 42 individual pencil sharpeners, one box of 20 colored chalks, 5 boxes of 16 color paints, 2 wide ruled notebooks, and 2 college ruled notebooks.

The estimated value came to \$327 dollars. Our donation will be acknowledged at the next Stanwood-Camano School Board meeting.

Future Events

February 6th

Thursday, 1:00 p.m.
February Board Meeting
SCAF Meeting Room

February 13th

Thursday, 1:00 p.m.
General Meeting
SCAF Meeting Room
Joan Pang, Japanese Internment
Camp Experience

February 18th

Tuesday, 10:00 a.m.
JAVA BREAK
Cookie Mill
For Coffee and Conversation
Bring a Prospective Member



Visit our branch website:
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

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

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

AAUW Funds—Restricted and Unrestricted

Jackie DeFazio



At our January 9 branch meeting we will vote to approve the Scholarship Budget for 2025. The board proposes we support three \$7,000 university scholarships, six Tech Trek camperships, and \$2,000 for the AAUW Funds at the national level.

This \$2000 will be donated to two funds, the Economic Security Fund and the American Fellowship Fund. The Economic Security Fund promotes women's livelihoods through advocacy for fair pay. Funds are used to research the pay gap, train women to negotiate for the salaries they deserve, advise employers on fostering fair cultures, and promote fair-pay legislation. The American Fellowship program is AAUW's largest fellowship program and the oldest non-institutional source of graduate funding for women in the United States. AAUW American Fellowships support women scholars who are pursuing full-time study to complete dissertations, conducting postdoctoral research full time, or preparing research for publication for eight consecutive weeks.

Donations to restricted funds like these may only be used for the purposes stated in the fund description. Not surprisingly, organizations sometimes have needs that fall outside the parameters of restricted funds. To enable quick response to unexpected opportunities and challenges, AAUW has an unrestricted fund, the Greatest Need Fund, that allows the organization to respond quickly and effectively to emerging challenges and opportunities. According to AAUW's leadership, contributions to this fund are crucial for AAUW's agility and long-term sustainability, empowering the organization to drive meaningful change. These funds, the Board attests, are carefully managed to maximize impact, ensuring every dollar serves AAUW's mission.

Donations to unrestricted funds depend upon the donor's trust in the integrity of the organization and its leadership. As this year progresses, this column will focus on providing information that will help us all to decide whether our branch should consider contributing to the unrestricted Greatest Need Fund in 2026 and beyond.

Public Policy—Lobby Day/Week

Judy Prince

The next exciting event for Public Policy is Lobby Week. The meeting will take place (virtually) on January 27. Registration is open at the link provided in the December Evergreen Leader. Already deleted your copy or don't receive, please request Judy Prince to send you the link. Registration was so easy. One of the lessons learned from Covid restrictions was that more people were able to attend a virtual Lobby Day.

Judy will be scheduling meetings with the 10th District Legislators and will share the information with all members. These will be 15 minutes long as that is the preference of legislators. You can discuss a lot of issues in 15 minutes. Meetings will be scheduled into the first week of February to ensure we can find a time that works.

Because our state has budget restrictions the next fiscal period, we will try to focus on policy issues with little financial impact.

I hope to see a lot of your faces at Lobby Day and at meetings during Lobby Week.



Your 2024-2025 Board

President

Jackie-Lyn Olson

President-Elect

(open position)

VP of Finance

Robin Hanks

VP of Finance-Elect

Susan Jarvis

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

Gail Merrick

Tech Trek Chair

Mary Chesney

Purses with Purpose 2026

Georgi Proulx, Mary Raymond

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



Giving Tuesday Success

Mary Raymond, Georgi Proulx

Thank you members, family and friends for the generous support of our Stanwood-Camano Give project on Giving Tuesday, December 3, to raise \$3000 for two Tech Trek camperships.

The day started with a midnight prize match winning donor and after 43 individuals and 6 matching prizes we surpassed our goal earning \$3340 plus a member's pre-event donation of \$250 for a whopping \$3590...wowza!

The prize matches we received were the Early Bird by Get Simple Box, Snooze Button by Cedarhome Coffee, Morning Motivator by RE/MAX and MQ Gadgets Gifts Goodies, Lunchtime Lift by Coastal Bank and Small Donor/Big Impact by Greenwoods of Washington. Please patronize these business when you can to thank them.

Let's do it again next Giving Tuesday on December 2, 2025.



Strange Holiday Facts—Which is Your Favorite?

Part of this content may be AI generated and FunFactsCo.com

Spiderweb Decorations—In Ukraine, families adorn their Christmas trees with spider webs instead of traditional decorations. This custom comes from a folktale about a poor widow who couldn't afford decorations, and on Christmas morning, her children found their tree covered in beautiful webs spun by sympathetic spiders. This is believed to bring good luck for the coming year



The Yule Cat—In Iceland, the Yule cat is a frightening figure that lurks in the snow and eats anyone who doesn't get new clothes for Christmas encouraging people to buy new clothes before the holiday.

Radish Festival—In Oaxaca, Mexico, thousands of people line up to see radish carvings on December 23.

Yule Goat—In Sweden, the Yule goat is a giant goat that Santa rides instead of his sleigh to deliver presents. The tradition involving a large straw goat, known as the Yule Goat, dates back to the 11th century. In modern times, towns erect giant versions of this goat.

Yule Lads—In Iceland, the Yule Lads are 13 troll-like tricksters who cause mischief in the 13 days before Christmas.

Czech Shoe Toss—On Christmas Eve in the Czech Republic, unmarried women toss a shoe over their shoulder. If the toe faces the door, they'll be married within the year.

Fried Caterpillars—In South Africa, children look forward to eating fried caterpillars during Christmas celebrations. These caterpillars, often the Sundried Emperor Moth caterpillar, are deep-fried to perfection and considered a festive delicacy. They are believed to bring good luck in the coming year.

Cookies for Santa—In the U.S., children leave out cookies for Santa. But in Spain, kids leave food and drink for the Three Kings. Different strokes for different folks, but either way, mythical gift-givers are clearly getting well-fed during their rounds.

General Meeting Minutes - There was no business meeting in December

At the January 9 meeting we will be voting on our Scholarship Budget for 2025. A copy of the proposed budget is below for your review in preparation for the vote to approve during the meeting. Comments, questions and discussion are welcome at the meeting, but if you have questions prior to then please contact Robin Hanks, VP-Finance.

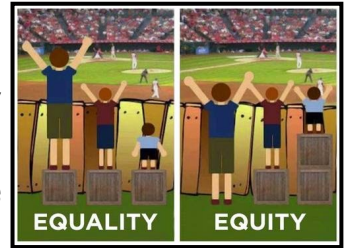
**AAUW - STANWOOD CAMANO
2025 Scholarship Budget**

	2024 Budget (approved)	2024 Actual 11/30/2024	2025 Budget (proposed)	
<u>Income</u>				
Donations-non-designated	0.00	130.00	0.00	
Donations-Tech Trek	3,475.00	3,334.00	3,000.00	A
Interest income	50.00	126.39	125.00	
Total Income	3,525.00	3,590.39	3,125.00	
<u>Expenses</u>				
Tech Trek	-13,600.00	-9,600.00	-10,800.00	B
STEM Gifts	-300.00	-288.42	-300.00	
College scholarships	-30,000.00	-30,000.00	-21,000.00	C
Webhosting (\$330/3)	-110.00		-110.00	
Auction Software Subscription	-868.00	-867.35	-868.00	
AAUW Economic Security Fund	-1,500.00	-1,500.00	-1,000.00	
AAUW American Fellowships Fund	-1,500.00	-1,500.00	-1,000.00	
Total expenses	-48,028.00	-43,755.77	-35,078.00	
Net before PWP	-44,503.00	-40,165.38	-31,953.00	
<u>PWP</u>				
PWP income		62,669.00		
PWP expenses		-11,802.75		
Net PWP		50,866.25		
Net after PWP				
Total Scholarship Budget	-44,503.00	10,700.87	-31,953.00	
A = 2024 SC Give projected proceeds				
B = Six Students @ \$1,800 each				
C = Three Scholarships @ \$7,000 each				

DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) Spotlight

Katie Farrey

Dysgraphia (5%-20% of the population): Those with Dysgraphia are challenged by writing or even typing by hand. Spelling, grammar, and handwriting are tough, along with fine motor skills such as buttoning a shirt or picking up small items. People with dysgraphia are often good at speaking and communicating clearly and many are creative problem solvers with an eye for detail.



Dyspraxia (up to 20% of the population) is the term used when communication between the brain and body is tricky, making smooth movements difficult. Spatial awareness can be out of sync and speaking can be tough when the brain isn't sending the right signals to the muscles. People with dyspraxia can be really creative, innovative, empathetic, and determined.

Dysgraphia and dyspraxia have no effect on intelligence.

Upcoming Opportunities:

National Poverty in America Awareness Month

Table Talk: Tips for Creative Communications

The AAUW webinar I mentioned last month did not happen but is supposed to be on track to be held in January. Watch for an email from AAUW National with a link and info.

Jan. 16th National Day of Racial Healing

Jan. 18th, 10:00 a.m. online, sponsored by Seattle AAUW

"Ubuntu: How an Ancient African Concept Can Help Humans Flourish"

Featuring Humanities Washington Speaker Itohan Idumwonyi

Registration:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEIcuuugDwrGt29xqzoXrq3xjVoG2Y8j3Ho#/registration>

We all increasingly struggle with multilayered modern wounds — loneliness, alienation, depression, anxiety, and more. How can we address these concerns? Gonzaga professor Itohan M. Idumwonyi invites us to explore Ubuntu. Ubuntu emphasizes community building, a way to re-approach our relationships so we can break the artificial borders that separate us and look out for one another. Directing one's own humanity to others helps us navigate beyond superficial solutions to rethink, adapt, and foster human interconnectedness.

More Information <https://aauw-seattle.org/calendar/filter-by/event/208/2025/01/18>

Jan 18th, 6:00 p.m., Skagit Drag Live Vocals Show, Lincoln Theatre

<https://lincolnthatre.org/skagit-drag-live-vocals-show-gina-touche-friends>

Jan. 20th Martin Luther King Jr. Day - The YMCA is sponsoring a day of service at the Stanwood-Camano Food Bank. <https://snoco.reliquerecore.com/mlk/>

Projected Program Schedule for 2025

February 13 Joan Pang, Japanese Internment Camp Experience
SCAF Meeting Room

March 13 Debbie Dimitre presents Harriet Tubman and Harriet Beecher Stowe
Utsalady Ladies Aid

April 10 Neurodiversity 101 presented by Lei Wiley-Mydske from the Autistic Women and Nonbinary
Network and Coordinator of the Ed Wiley Autism Acceptance Library
SCAF Meeting Room

May 8 High School STEM Scholar Recognition & Introduction of Tech Trek Campers 2025

June Scholarship Tea



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



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SHARE to increase
our visibility in



[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.

January 6, 2:00 p.m. at the home of Judy Trammell

Flower Net: A Red Princess Mystery by Lisa See

"During the waning days of Deng Xiaoping's reign, the U.S. ambassador's son is found dead--his body entombed in a frozen lake. Around the same time, aboard a ship adrift off the coast of Southern California, Assistant U.S. Attorney David Stark discovers the corpse of a Red Prince, a scion of China's political elite. The Chinese and American governments suspect that the deaths are connected and, in an unprecedented move, they join forces to see justice done."

February 3, 2:00 p.m. at the home of Martha Huyler

A Woman of No Importance: The Untold Story of the American Spy Who Helped Win WWII by Sonia Pernel

"The never-before-told story of one woman's heroism that changed the course of the Second World War. In 1942, the Gestapo sent out an urgent transmission: 'She is the most dangerous of all Allied spies. We must find and destroy her.' This spy was Virginia Hall, a young American woman--rejected from the foreign service because of her gender and her prosthetic leg--who talked her way into the spy organization dubbed Churchill's "ministry of ungentlemanly warfare," and, before the United States had even entered the war, became the first woman to deploy to occupied France."

March 3, 2:00 p.m. Location TBD

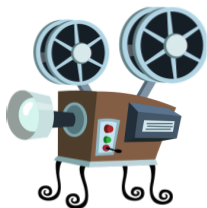
The English Understand Wool by Helen DeWitt

"Raised in Marrakech by a French mother and English father, a 17-year-old girl has learned above all to avoid *mauvais ton*. One should not ask servants to wait on one during Ramadan: they must have paid leave while one spends the holy month abroad. One must play the piano; if staying at Claridge's, one must regrettably install a Clavinova in the suite. One should cultivate weavers of tweed in the Outer Hebrides but have the cloth made up in London; one should buy linen in Ireland. All this and much more she has learned, governed by a parent of ferociously lofty standards. But at 17, during the annual Ramadan travels, she finds all assumptions overturned. Will she be able to fend for herself? Will the dictates of good taste suffice when she must deal, singlehanded, with the sharks of New York?"

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



Next **JAVA Break** will be Wednesday, January 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 to share at 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

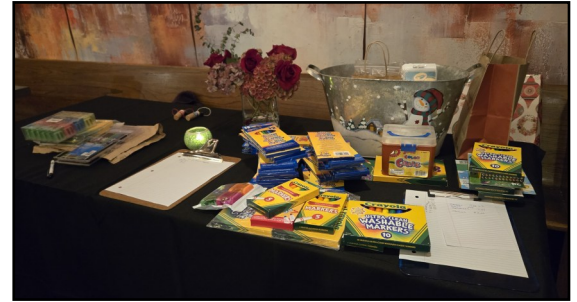
We check the Stanwood Cinema schedule weekly hoping for a good movie and welcome your suggestions. Email Georgi with your movie interest, and we will schedule a time for the group to meet.



2024 Holiday Luncheon at Il Granaio

Photography by Martha Huyler

Our branch celebrated the holidays and the success of our branch this year with a wonderful luncheon at Il Granaio in Mount Vernon. Our last community service for the year was the successful collection of art supplies for the Stanwood-Camano School District. Thank you Mary Pilkington, Joyce Leak, and Lael Williams for organizing a wonderful event and collecting the art supplies. Thank you Linda Demetre for the lovely flowers.



Menu

~Starter Choice~

Salad with Balsamic Vinaigrette or Gorgonzola Dressing

Romaine lettuce drizzled with choice of dressing, then topped with shredded carrots, tomato, and cucumber

Caesar Salad

Romaine lettuce, parmesan & croutons tossed in our homemade caesar dressing and topped with lemon wedge

Soup of the Day

Ask your server for today's selection

~Entree Choice~

Spaghetti & Meatballs

Homemade meatballs tossed in traditional tomato sauce and served on a bed of spaghetti

Rigatoni Primavera

Fresh sauteed vegetables & pasta served in your choice of cream sauce or tomato sauce

Pollo Piccata

Breast of chicken sauteed with capers & garlic, in a lemon butter white wine sauce

~Dessert~

Panna Cotta

2024 Holiday Luncheon at Il Granaio—continued



Linda Demetre, Lael Williams, Deb Narcisso



Room View



Lynda Buehring, Kathy Cunningham, Helen Smith



Thea Wellington, Robin Hanks, Wanda Hill



Jackie DeFazio, Gay Campbell, Joanne Drewsen



Cheryl Allen, Anne Milton, Elaine Richards

2024 Holiday Luncheon at Il Granaio—continued



Martha Huyler, Linda Lynn, Karen Walden, Kaye Sodt



Playing Snowflake Bingo



Mary Pilkington, Nancy Roberts, Georgi Proulx, Mary Raymond



Joanne Drewsen, Nancy Voelckers



Mary Pilkington, Cheryl Allen, Nancy Roberts



Nancy Voelckers, Jackie-Lyn Olson, Michele Simms, Joyce Leak

General Meeting Minutes - There was no business meeting in December

Welcome change, embrace adventure and make this new year one you'll never forget! Happy New Year 2025