



Stanwood-Camano Branch of AAUW

In Touch

February 2025

Founded in April, 1936 ~ Celebrating 88 Years

Edited by Martha Huyler and Georgi Proulx



www.aauwsc.org

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

26911 98th Dr. NW, Unit A,
Stanwood

*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



President's Message

Jackie-Lyn Olson

The January Presidents' meeting focused on public policy and the importance of advocacy. Please pay close attention to the Public Policy articles provided monthly by Judy Prince (page 2). This year we may see more emphasis on policy than on budgets.

Our state president, Emily Hitchens, proposed the idea of a state program to increase conversations regarding current world events. One suggestion she made was a book group for state members. An example of a book we might consider is The Shortest History of Israel and Palestine by Michael Scott-Baumann. This idea was met with enthusiasm, and more information will follow.

I want to thank Mary Pilkington, Linda Demetre and Mary Raymond for arranging the speaker from Helion Energy in Everett. The presentation was exhilarating and filled me with hope for a future which includes clean energy solutions.

I hope you are all staying warm and well. Spring is just around the corner; bulbs will be blooming, and our days will be warmer and longer.

"Hope springs eternal in the human breast!" Alexander Pope (1733)

February 13—Joan Pang's Internment Camp Story

Mary Pilkington

Stanwood-Camano branch of AAUW invites you to learn from Camano Islander, Joan Pang, what precipitated the Japanese Internment camps in WWII, what it was like to live in an internment camp, and what life was like after the internment camp.

Hear also about the recent dedication of the new Amache National Historic Site in rural southeastern Colorado where Japanese Americans were incarcerated during WWII, including Joan and her family.



Amache National Historic Site

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 bring treats either savory or sweet please email Mary Pilkington.

What's Inside?	Page
President's Message	1
February 13—Joan Pang's Story	1
Helion Energy	1
AAUW Funds—Working Together	2
Public Policy - Lobby Day/Week	2
Stanwood Camano Volunteer Fair	3
Tech Trek Report	4
Scholarship Season Opens	4
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion	5
Doris Taylor Memorial	5
Projected Program 2025	5
Book Group Plus	6
Purses with Purpose 2026	7
Minutes—January 9, 2025	8-9



Learning About Helion Energy in January

Our program for the January 9 meeting was well received and attended by members and the community. Kyra Jorgensen of Helion Energy, Everett, gave an engaging presentation on their developing capability to create deuterium oxide in a fusion generator and the energy released in its production that is an environmentally safer source of electricity.

The audience was surprised the 1 gram bottle of Deuterium Oxide pictured to the left is equivalent to the energy of 10 tons of coal. Kyra answered all the science questions with ease and left all of us enlightened by the changing future of energy. Helion Energy is working on a generator for Microsoft to be fully up and running in 2028.

We look forward to seeing how this new technology changes our world.

Future Events

March 6th

Thursday, 1:00 p.m.

March Board Meeting

SCAF Meeting Room

March 13th

Thursday, 1:00 p.m.

General Meeting

Utsalady Ladies Aid Building

Debbie Dimitre presents Harriet

Tubman and Harriet Beecher

Stowe

March 19th

Wednesday, 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

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

<http://capwiz.com/aauw/home/>

AAUW Funds—Working Together with Purpose

Jackie DeFazio



As a national nonprofit organization, AAUW—the American Association of University Women—fits the IRS definition of an *association*: “a group of persons banded together for a specific purpose.” According to its Articles of Incorporation, AAUW’s specific purpose is “to advance equity for women and girls,” under the auspices of which AAUW may “promote equity, education, and development of opportunities for women and girls that enable them to reach their full potential” and “provide fellowships and grants to women and girls.” For 143 years AAUW members have worked together to accomplish these purposes.

In 1881, at a meeting of 17 young women, all of them recent college graduates, the mother of Marion Talbot, who had inspired the meeting, asked, “Why should not you who have similar training and congenial tastes get together, and instead of struggling in isolation, cooperate and organize so that the stakes may be set ahead in educational methods, young girls be encouraged in more definite aims for their lives, and plans formed for the investigation of problems which seem at the moment incapable of solution, and through such investigation have the way pointed to their answers?”

These young women were entering a world unfriendly to educated women. In 1873, alarmed by the increasing number of women in high schools and colleges, Dr. Edward Clarke, Harvard Medical School professor, had authored *Sex in Education*, in which he had argued that “identical education [of the sexes] is a crime before God and humanity that physiology protests against and experience weeps over.”

From that 1881 meeting emerged a new organization, the Association of Collegiate Alumnae, which would become the American Association of University Women. Determined to prove that women were fit for the rigors of academic life, in 1885 the fledgling organization commissioned a study to prove that educated women did indeed produce “sufficient numbers” of healthy children. “We can feel confident,” reported Annie G. Howes, chair of the project, “that higher education for women is in harmony with the vast law of survival of the fittest.”

And thus began AAUW’s legacy of leadership. The activists who founded this organization were dedicated to becoming catalysts for change. They were women who had faith in the concept that individuals working together could wield infinitely more influence than individuals working alone.

Today AAUW is the oldest and largest national organization working for the advancement of women and education.

Public Policy—Lobby Day/Week

Judy Prince

Lobby Day virtual meeting was held Monday, January 27. One hundred people registered this year; the most ever in attendance was 75 so this was a substantial increase. She recalls 70 people attended in 2017 and that was a lot for in-person. Presentations were made by: Washington Budget and Policy (an NGO that works on ways to pay for proposed legislation and revenue enhancement ideas), NW Health Law Advocates, LGBTQ Commission, Nancy Sapiro (AAUW advocate), and a panel review of our bills of interest and priorities. The link for the recorded program is available on our state website at

<https://aauw-wa.aauw.net/2024/12/16/lobby-day-2025/>.

A virtual meeting with Senator Ron Muzzall has been scheduled for February 11, 9:00 a.m. To log in use the link below:

<https://leg-wa-gov.zoom.us/j/98621354989?pwd=EoC0Y6bCZ8I04at7DP4IrOMbaWLApg.1>

On January 30, Georgi Proulx joined me in a virtual Microsoft Teams conversation with Representative Clyde Shavers discussing AAUW-WA interests and a local issues for Stanwood-Camano. He shared he will be developing face-to-face meetings soon and will answer all your emails. Please use the link below to visit his website to contact him or to sign up to receive his newsletter:

www.https://housedemocrats.wa.gov/shavers/

This year, AAUW-WA is focusing on legislation in four areas: Education, Economic Security, Health Care, ensuring Equity and Safety for all women. Be assured, the AAUW-WA Public Policy Team is aware of and responding accordingly to the budget shortfall for 2025-26. We are not going to lobby for legislation that would cost the State of Washington a great deal of money.



STANWOOD-CAMANO VOLUNTEER FAIR



WE WANT YOU

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2025 • 10 AM - 12 PM
UTSALADY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GYM

**Interact with local organizations and discover
volunteering/membership opportunities. Refreshments provided.**

AAUW • Cama Beach & Camano Island State Park • Camano Arts Assoc. • Camano Center
Camano Is. Democrats • Camano Is. Library Friends • Camano Schoolhouse • Circlewood
Community Resource Center • Days for Girls • Freedom Park • Homage • Hooves & Heroes
Hope Unlimited • Hospice of the Northwest • Housing Hope • Kiwanis • Lion's Club • NOAH
Pet Partners • Project Positive Change • Puget Sound Public Farms • Rotary
Safe Harbor Free Clinic • SCAAC • Sound Water Stewards • Stanwood-Camano Food Bank
Twin City Sportsmen's Club • Warm Beach Camp • WSU Extension Master Gardeners
WSU Island County Extension • YMCA



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



Tech Trek 2025 Update

Mary Chesney

The last week of January nomination instructions and forms were delivered to the STEM faculty at the Stanwood-Camano, Arlington, and Lakewood middle schools. We have funding for six campers and will begin the camp selection process of girls who will enter grade 8 in the fall in a series of steps.

First a nomination from a Science, Technology, Engineering or Math (STEM) teacher is submitted to me and shared with the Tech Trek review team. Upon completion of the team's review and collective decision, applications are sent to the schools to give to the selected girls. If the students and family believe camp would be a good opportunity, the student completes the application form which includes both questions and a 500-word essay about their ideas related to STEM.

The applications are reviewed and those applicants who appear to be good candidates for camp are asked to select a virtual interview date with their family. Following the interviews the selection team determines which interviewees will receive a campership.

We make it clear to the schools and applicants that not all potential campers will be chosen for camp. It is always difficult to tell any potential camper that they have not been chosen but sometimes, during the interview, comments are made which indicate that camp would not be a successful experience for them.

If you are interested in participating in the review team and selection of campers, please reach out to me immediately. You do not have to leave your home to be involved as all work is done via the internet



2025 Scholarship Season February 1–April 30

Marianne McGarry-Bloom

AAUW Stanwood-Camano 2025 Scholarship Season opens today, February 1, and closes April 30. The Stanwood Camano AAUW branch is proud to continue its annual presentation of three scholarships to highly qualified candidates who are current residents OR graduates from Stanwood/ Camano, Arlington, La Conner or Lakewood High Schools. Applicants must be entering their junior or senior year of college OR are enrolled in a Master's Degree program.

Money for these \$7,000 scholarships is raised by the vibrant and popular AAUW-SC Purses with Purpose Benefit Luncheon and Purse Auction.

Applications can be found on our website, www.aauwsc.org/scholarship or at the Washington State scholarship website, www.washboard.org. Please encourage scholars to apply.

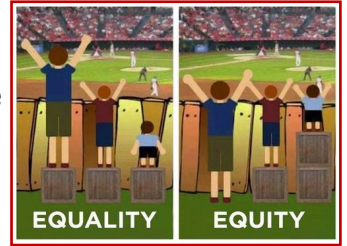
Chairperson, Marianne McGarry-Bloom, is building her committee. If you wish to help with the many tasks involved in this wonderful endeavor please call or email her with your interest.



DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) Spotlight

Katie Farrey

Tourette's may have both physical and vocal tics (sudden, brief, repetitive movements or sounds your body does unexpectedly). These unexpected tics can be subtle or much more obvious and are a result of how the brain is communicating with the body. It is rare for the unexpected sounds to be swear words, that is just a common myth. Social interactions can be challenging, but are much easier when others offer support. Those with Tourette's are often strong and understanding, shaped by what they've been through. Their view of the world can lead to very creative ideas



Upcoming Opportunities:

Black History Month

February 4, 7:00 p.m. Lincoln Theatre

Treaty Day Film Festival presented by Children of the Setting Sun, honoring matriarchs in Indigenous media

<https://lincoltheatre.org/film-treaty-day-film-festival-presented-children-setting-sun>

February 11, 4:00 p.m., Sno-Isle Online

Dystopian Tropes from an Indigenous Perspective with Waubgeshig Rice, Online Author Talk

<https://sno-isle.bibliocommons.com/events/6761ff5f0415b1cee3bc88ba>

February 13, 6:00 p.m., Stanwood Library

Access is Love "Patrice" Watch Party. Patrice is a documentary about the next phase of marriage equality-disability. Presented by Autistic Women and Nonbinary Network and www.Neurodiversitylibrary.org

<https://www.patricethemovie.com/the-movie>

February 16, 7:30 p.m., Lincoln Theatre

Live in Concert: Diyet and the Love Soldiers

<https://lincoltheatre.org/live-concert-diyet-love-soldiers>

February 18, 11:00 a.m., Sno-Isle Library Online

I am Nobody's Slave with Lee Hawkins, Online Author Talk

<https://sno-isle.bibliocommons.com/events/6761ffaf0415b1cee3bc88bf>



Doris Taylor Memorial

Please use the link below to view the invitation to Doris Taylor's memorial service on March 16 at noon. Link also serves as an RSVP tool.

[Floral Memorial Invitation](#)

To RSVP quickly you can use the link below:

[Remembering Doris](#)

Projected Program Schedule for 2025

March 13	Debbie Dimitre presents Harriet Tubman and Harriet Beecher Stowe <i>Utsalady Ladies Aid</i>
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 <i>SCAF Meeting Room</i>
May 8	High School STEM Scholar Recognition & Introduction of Tech Trek Campers 2025 <i>Stanwood United Methodist Church</i>
June 29	Scholarship Tea <i>Camano City School House</i>



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



[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.

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. at the home of Georgi Proulx

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 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 the dictates of good taste suffice when she must deal, singlehanded, with the sharks of New York?"

April 7, 2:00 p.m. at the home of Marianne McGarry-Bloom

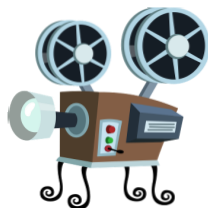
The Covenant of Water by Abraham Verghese

"From the New York Times--bestselling author of Cutting for Stone comes a stunning and magisterial epic of love, faith, and medicine, set in Kerala, South India, following three generations of a family seeking the answers to a strange secret. The Covenant of Water is set in Kerala, on India's Malabar Coast, and follows three generations of a family that suffers a peculiar affliction in every generation, at least one person dies by drowning--and in Kerala, water is everywhere. Imbued with humor, deep emotion, and the essence of life, it is one of the most masterful literary novels published in recent years."

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



Next **JAVA Break** will be Tuesday, February 18, 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.

Our last movie was a wonderful "A Complete Unknown" (Oscar nominated for Best Picture) and was well received. Join us for our next adventure in cinema.



Purses with Purpose 2026 is a GO!

Mary Raymond, Georgi Proulx

We are very excited to announce our 7th Biennial Purses with Purpose has been scheduled for April 25, 2026 at Camano Center. Save the date and start thinking about how you can assist to make this event our best ever. Our branch holds the desire to provide great scholarships, but we need to raise the funds for this dream at this event.

Great news—Kevin van Hollebeke returns as auctioneer and PB&J returns to process our sales. They help make this event a fantastic experience for everyone.

In order to produce the most successful FUNdraiser we need a strong steering committee. Here is how you can help.

Karen Walden and Jackie DeFazio will lead the Purse Procurement Team. Start planning how you can support the team with new and very gently used purses. They also need a review team to evaluate the purses and process them for the auctions.

Mary Pilkington has generously volunteered to lead our business procurement team for certificates, tickets, and community gifts.

Other valuable positions are:

Catering Coordinator will work with Aiden at the Center to select a terrific menu.

Table Set Up and Centerpiece Coordinator will organize volunteers to set the tables and develop a plan for simple centerpieces that will be available for bidding.

Live Auction Coordinator will evaluate the purses for live auction, write up the descriptions for the auctioneer and the program, and stage the purses on the racks before the auction. The team will select 35 superb purses to be offered at the live auction that will also include the certificates and tickets procured by Mary P's team.

Silent Auction Coordinator will manage the set up of the silent auction tables on Friday, April 24.

Bagging Coordinator will organize the purchase pickup for our lucky guests that win the purses.

Volunteer Coordination Team will solicit volunteers from our members, the schools, and other organizations to help us set up on Friday afternoon, serve the meal, manage silent auction sold purses, and help us return the space to original condition after the event.

Raffle Team will solicit raffle item(s) and sell tickets during the event.

Grants Coordinator will apply for grants.

Business Sponsorships is a team that personally approaches businesses in the community for cash donations. This team can be extremely effective and has been very successful the past two events.

Any of these positions can be a team effort...you do not need to do it by yourself.

Contact Mary Raymond or Georgi Proulx if you can help with any of these positions.



General Meeting Minutes - January 9, 2025

Program: Presentation by Helion Energy at the SCAF Meeting Room

Call to Order: Following the Helion Energy presentation, Jackie Olson welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 1:50 p.m.

Secretary: Linda Lynn presented November 2024 minutes for approval as printed in the December newsletter. Martha Huyler moved to approve, Cathlin Starke seconded; the motion passed.

Treasurer: Robin Hanks reported income for December was a \$250 donation for SC Give and \$15.48 interest for the Money Market. Current operating balance is \$4432.68. Total assets are \$58,915.76.

The revised 2025 budget includes for \$1600 for six Tech Trek students rather than \$1800 each as was included in the budget sent via the newsletter.

There was discussion about whether we should charge the families the customary \$50 because that may prohibit some girls from applying if they can't afford it. It was determined that the \$50 is a sign of commitment and ensures attendance. It was brought up that the budget this year will leave a deficit for next year, but Robin said that there is additional money coming in.

Vote on 2025 Scholarship Budget: Jackie DeFazio motioned to approve the budget as presented and Cathlin Starke seconded; the motion was carried.

Zoom Membership/Hybrid Meeting: Susan Jarvis contacted Zoom and asked about programs. Zoom Pro will give us 100 hours per month. If we use the branch email as a user, we believe we can get a discount. Linda Demetre moved to approve up to \$150 per year for Zoom, and Kathy Cunningham seconded; the motion was carried.

Scholarships: Marianne McGarry-Bloom said that we will provide three scholarships this year at \$7,000 each, the amount in this year's budget. Marianne wants volunteers for the scholarship committee. Advertising will begin on February 1. Georgi Proulx will update the application, and the application period will close on April 30. A meeting to choose applicants will happen later, and the Scholarship Tea will be held at the Camano City Schoolhouse on June 29.

Greatest Need Fund/AAUW National: Jackie DeFazio will write about the Greatest Need Fund in the newsletter. AAUW National has a lot of overhead, paying the executive director, staff, rent, and office expenses in Washington DC, which is an expensive place to do business. There are five different funds to which we can donate. AAUW is the oldest and largest organization that is working for women's causes and has been around since 1881.

The National dues for each member is currently \$72. National is proposing a \$5 increase each year for the next five years. We all received an email where we can respond and share our thoughts. We are encouraged to express our opinions about the dues increase and other policy changes.

Communications: Georgi Proulx joined the AAUW-WA Communications Committee and attended a workshop for Canva. The branch now has a Canva account, which can be used for pamphlets and other purposes. There will be a Fireside Chat on February 19 about fundraisers.

There will be a Volunteer Fair put on by SCAF on Saturday, February 15, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Utsalady Elementary School gym and our branch will participate.

SC Give: Mary Raymond reported that we raised \$3590 this year from 44 donors, 15 of whom are members.

PWP-Venue Update: Georgi and Mary Raymond will meet with the Camano Center next week to inquire about costs and room availability for PWP.

Nominating Committee: A Nominating Committee is needed to find board members for the upcoming year. Martha reported that she is on the committee but that a chair for the committee is needed. Lael Williams has volunteered to be our branch President next year, but we will need a President Elect as well as several other officers. Volunteers for the committee are needed.

Public Policy: The legislature convenes January 13 and Lobby Day is January 27.

Programs: Mary Pilkington reported that the February meeting will feature Joan Pang, and her experiences in a Japanese Internment camp.

Sunshine Report: Jackie Olson asked us to alert Mary Ann Schrady with names of anyone needing attention. Mary Pilkington reported that May Palmer, while homebound with help, has improved greatly and is able to participate in some activities like her book group via Zoom.

Membership: Joyce Leak thanked everyone for the donation of school supplies. Lael spoke about ways to encourage membership including bookmarks that will be available next month that will list the programs for the year. The bookmarks might be distributed at the Volunteer Fair. Linda Demetre congratulated Georgi for having recommended the speaker at today's meeting.

(continued on page 9)

DEI: Katie Farrey read the diversity statement at the beginning of the program. For 2025, she will be focusing on Neurodiversity, and asked for suggestions.

High School STEM Scholars: Linda Demetre and Lael Williams are meeting next week to begin planning.

Activity Groups:

Book Club: A Woman of No Importance, the Untold Story of the American Spy Who Helped Win WWII by Sonia Purnell will be discussed Feb 3rd.

Day Trippers: Lynda Buehring is planning a June Garden Tour and possibly a joint event with the Bellingham AAUW group.

Java Break: January 15 at 10:00 a.m. at the Cookie Mill in Stanwood.

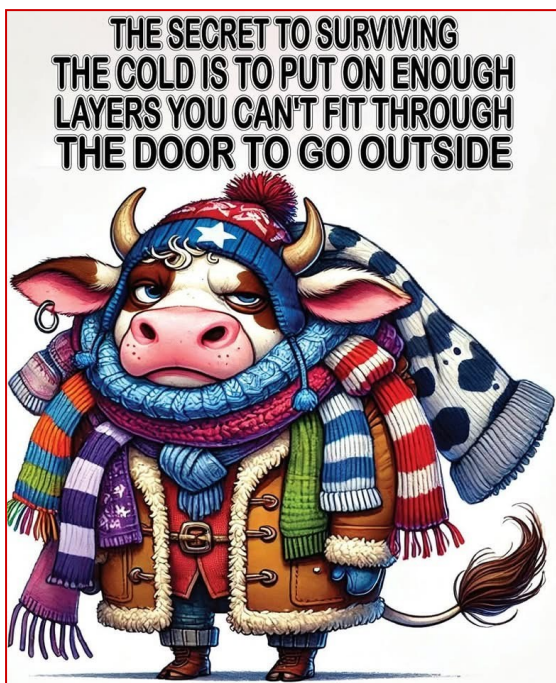
Movie Group: January 14 for the 12:30 show in Stanwood to watch "A Complete Unknown" about Bob Dylan.

New Business: Martha announced the tenth anniversary of the Camano Island Sno-Isle library branch. There will be a celebrations throughout the year. The first one is a Tea at the Camano Center on February 18 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Attendees will need to reserve a seat.

Adjourn: Jackie Olson adjourned the meeting at 2:53 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Linda Lynn
Secretary
AAUW Stanwood/Camano Branch



Without Valentine's Day,
February would be.....
well January.
Happy Valentine's Day !