



Stanwood-Camano Branch of AAUW

In Touch

March 2025

Founded in April, 1936 ~ Celebrating 88 Years

Edited by Martha Huyler and Georgi Proulx



www.aauwsc.org

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
78 Utsalady Rd, Camano Island
*Debbie Dimitre presents Harriet
Tubman and Harriet Beecher
Stowe*

March 19th

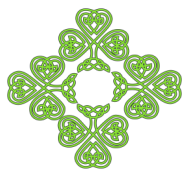
Wednesday, 10:00 a.m.

JAVA BREAK

Cookie Mill

For Coffee and Conversation

Bring a Prospective Member



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President's Message

Jackie-Lyn Olson

I want to thank Mary Pilkington, Linda Demetre and Mary Raymond for their work developing the amazing programs we have enjoyed over the last six months. It is wonderful to see the turnout from our community at large!

It was wonderful to see so many AAUW friends at the Stanwood-Camano Volunteer Fair and at the Camano Island Library 10th Anniversary Tea. Many of our members were present as representatives of other organizations. I was overwhelmed with gratitude by the thought of this unpaid workforce, folks who joyfully contribute their time and treasures to the wealth of our community. You all make a huge difference in our quality of life.

I want to thank Martha Huyler and the nominating committee for working to fill vacancies on our board. In addition, thank you to all who have committed to serving. We would not be here without you.

At the State's Branch President's Meeting on Monday morning, we were asked to share with our membership that there are open positions available at the state level. They include communications, secretary co-president, development and membership. Having our members participate at the State level provides insight into the role that State plays in the AAUW organization. Branch involvement is critical to the workings of the State organization.

Finally, May 28-30 will be the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) at College Park, MD. AAUW was home to the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) for 39 years. Starting in 2025, NCCWSL will move to AAUW's trusted friends at NASPA, the professional home for student affairs administrators in higher education. It is exciting to know this opportunity exists for young women interested in leadership. This opportunity is offered through local colleges and universities .

March 13—Debbie Dimitre and the Harriets

Mary Pilkington

Northwest storyteller and actress, Debbie Dimitre, who has been entertaining, inspiring, and educating audiences with her historical and dramatic presentations since 1987 will be introducing us to Harriet Tubman and Harriet Beecher Stowe. [from debbiedimitre.com]



Built in 1923, the historic Utsalady Ladies Aid Building (78 Utsalady Rd, Camano Island) is the perfect venue for our general meeting. At publication there is no Zoom planned for this meeting. Please watch your email for any changes.

Social Half Hour begins at 12:30 p.m. followed by the program at 1:00 p.m.

Please email Mary Pilkington if you can bring savory or sweet treats to share during the Social Half hour.

Debbie Dimitre has visited us several times and never fails to entertain and inform. You'll not want to miss this!



Future Events

April 3rd

Thursday, 1:00 p.m.

April Board Meeting
SCAF Meeting Room

April 10th

Thursday, 1:00 p.m.

General Meeting
SCAF Meeting Room

*Lei Wiley Mydske, Coordinator of
the Ed Wiley Autism Acceptance
Library presents
Neurodiversity 101*

April 15th

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

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

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

AAUW Funds—Results of Working Together

Jackie DeFazio

As promised in January, the information below is provided as additional evidence of what has been achieved through contributions to AAUW Funds by members across the country working together to support the work of our national organization. These contributions, says AAUW's Chief Executive Officer Gloria Blackwell, "are powering our unwavering commitment to equity for women and girls, making a meaningful difference across the country and the world."

In 2024, AAUW accomplished the following:

- Invested \$6.2 million in fellowships and grants, directly supporting 285 brilliant women pursuing their educational and career aspirations and breaking barriers in fields where they are underrepresented. Since 1888, AAUW has provided \$146 million to nearly 15,000 recipients from 152 countries.
- Equipped women with the tools to achieve economic empowerment through AAUW's Work Smart and Start Smart programs which empower women to negotiate better salaries, leading to a 44–62% increase in confidence for participants.
- Provided nonpartisan voter education resources in English and Spanish through AAUW's It's My Vote! campaign on issues including Title IX, reproductive rights, and paid leave and pay equity.
- Supported strengthened Title IX rules to provide better survivor-focused protections for people experiencing sexual assault or harassment and intended to make explicit Title IX's protections for pregnant, parenting, and LGBTQ+ students. (This rule was vacated by a district court in Jan. 2025.)
- Awarded 18 Community Action Grants to support U.S. organizations advancing gender equity for girls and women locally. Combined, grantees reported impacting over 5,620 women and girls.
- Sent 47,000 messages to elected officials via AAUW's Two Minute Activist.

To find out more about AAUW's collective impact over the past year, visit www.aauw.org/FY24AnnualReport. As the sub-title of the report says, "Together, we can achieve equity for women & girls."

Your contributions are just a few of the achievements YOU helped make possible in 2024: We invested \$6.2 million in fellowships. AAUW's Capitol Hill Lobby Corps visited more than 300 congressional offices. AAUW rebranded our *It's My Vote!* Campaign, fought for equal rights, and saw victories at the ballot box. Thanks to your support, AAUW members helped champion successful ballot initiatives that keep public money with public schools, support paid leave, and protect and expand access to reproductive care including abortion. Your impact is forging a stronger pathway for women and girls ensuring that AAUW's vital work continues for generations to come. To learn more about AAUW's commitment to financial health and transparency and to learn about our impact and our supporters, check out our FY24 Annual Report on our website: www.aauw.org/FY24AnnualReport

Public Policy—Lobby Week Results

Judy Prince

Lobby Week, held each year in January, is the week that includes Lobby Day and scheduled calls to our state legislators. The Lobby Day virtual meeting held on January 27th, was well attended. Presentations were made by: Washington Budget and Policy, NW Health Law Advocates, LGBTQ Commission, Nancy Sapiro (AAUW advocate), and a panel review of our bills of interest and priorities.



Following Lobby Day, Judy scheduled meetings with the 10th District Legislators: Senator Ron Muzzall, Representative Shavers and Representative Paul. These 15-minute-long calls were attended by branch members. Prior to meeting with the legislators a list of Talking Points was compiled to make the most of the time provided.

Both Representative Shavers and Representative Paul are supportive of the bills that AAUW Washington favors. Representative Shavers was thanked for sponsoring the expanded Sexual Assault Nurse Providers bill. Representative Paul expressed the tiring nature of this session with such emphasis on the budget shortfall.

At the national level, AAUW is making our positions on public education clear to our new Secretary of Education. They are working to maintain Title IX.

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

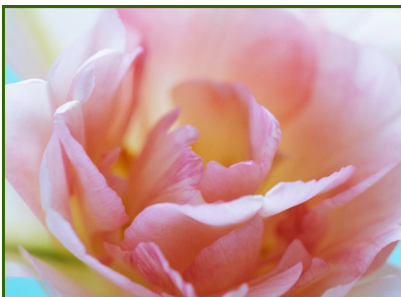
Mary Raymond, Georgi Proulx

Sunshine

Mary Ann Schradi

Newsletter Team

Georgi Proulx, Martha Huyler



Day Trippers: Daniel James Brown on March 8

Lynda Buehring

Please join the Day Trippers on March 8 at the Lincoln Theatre to hear Daniel James Brown, author of The Boys In the Boat talk about this book and Facing the Mountain: A True Story of Japanese American Heroes in World War II, how they are related and how he came to write about them.

Visit www.LincolnTheatre.org for Advance Reserved Seating Tickets: \$100 VIP section; \$45 second section; \$35 third section plus applicable fees. Students receive \$10 off all prices. Members must purchase their own tickets.

The event on March 8 will begin with dinner at Max Dale's Steak and Chop House, 2030 Riverside Dr., Mount Vernon at 5:00 p.m. followed by the show at the Lincoln Theatre at 7:30 p.m.

Email or call Lynda Buehring to let her know you're attending and to arrange carpools for those who wish to drive together.



Tech Trek 2025 Update

Mary Chesney

Nominations from the middle schools were closed Friday, February 21. I am happy to report there are 10 students nominated by the Stanwood-Camano middle schools. The nominations are being reviewed at the time this post is being written.

Once we determine if the individual nominees appear to be good prospects for camp, the school counselors will be asked to provide them with the application form. I will be able to report how many nominees who were invited to apply followed through in the April newsletter. There are many reasons why a nominee might not apply. One of the most common is camp dates conflicting with family vacation plans. Fingers crossed all who are asked to apply do so.



2025 Scholarship Season Closes April 30

Marianne McGarry-Bloom

Please share with family and friends about our branch AAUW Stanwood-Camano 2025 scholarship. Completed applications and letters of recommendation are due before 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 three \$7,000 scholarships is raised by the vibrant and popular AAUW-SC Purses with Purpose Benefit Luncheon and Purse Auction; our next auction being held April 25, 2026.

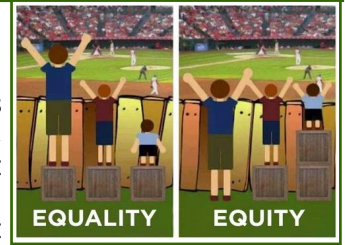
Chairperson, Marianne McGarry-Bloom, is building her scholarship committee. If you wish to help with the many tasks involved in this wonderful endeavor please call or email her with your interest.



DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) Spotlight

Katie Farrey

OCD stands for obsessive-compulsive disorder, an intense condition that involves thoughts (obsessions) and actions (compulsions). 1.2%-2.3% of the population, regardless of age, gender, or cultural background, will experience OCD at some point in their lives. Intense, recurring thoughts (obsessions) cause a lot of anxiety even though they don't make logical sense. Compulsions (actions) are more than just double checking something and become a ritual that feels impossible to control. The brain gets stuck in a loop of doubt and fear. People with OCD often excel in detail, precision, and a drive to finish tasks.



Upcoming Opportunities:

Women's History Month

National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

March 12, 6:00 P.M., Community Resource Center, Stanwood-Camano

The Science of Gender, Presented by Linden Jordan

I highly recommend this presentation. I found it very informative.

<https://www.crc-sc.org/event-details/pflag-event-the-science-of-gender>

March 14, 7:00 P.M., Camano Island Library

Discover Manzanar National Historic Site

<https://sno-isle.bibliocommons.com/events/6764b02fea8663456a240371>

March 20, 11:00 A.M. Sno-Isle Online

How Women's Liberation Transformed America with Clara Bingham

Online Author Talk

<https://sno-isle.bibliocommons.com/events/6764c2745ca5ec68c1bddca9>

March 21, 7:30 P.M., Whidbey Island Center For the Arts

Shane and Hannah Burkaw, Interabled: True Stories About Love and Disability

<https://sno-islefoundation.org/trudy-sundberg/>

March 31st International Transgender Day of Visibility



Projected Program Schedule for 2025

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



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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.

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. ...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."

May 5, 2:00 p.m. Location to be determined

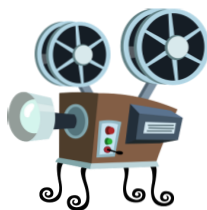
The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store by James McBride

"In 1972, when workers in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, were digging the foundations for a new development, the last thing they expected to find was a skeleton at the bottom of a well. Who the skeleton was and how it got there were two of the long-held secrets kept by the residents of Chicken Hill, the dilapidated neighborhood where immigrant Jews and African Americans lived side by side and shared ambitions and sorrows. Chicken Hill was where Moshe and Chona Ludlow lived when Moshe integrated his theater and where Chona ran the Heaven & Earth Grocery Store. When the state came looking for a deaf boy to institutionalize him, it was Chona and Nate Timblin, the Black janitor at Moshe's theater and the unofficial leader of the Black community on Chicken Hill, who worked together to keep the boy safe. As these characters' stories overlap and deepen, it becomes clear how much the people who live on the margins of white, Christian America struggle and what they must do to survive."

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



Next **JAVA Break** will be Wednesday, March 19, 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.

Join us for our next adventure in cinema.



Purses with Purpose April 25, 2026

Mary Raymond, Georgi Proulx

Donations of purses has begun. The Procurement Team, Jackie DeFazio, Karen Walden, and Joanne Drewsen, has begun evaluating auction viability and storing of those that qualify.

The Steering Committee at this point is comprised of:

Procurement Team: Jackie DeFazio, Karen Walden, Joanne Drewsen

Auxiliary Procurement Coordinator: Mary Pilkington

Fulfillment/Bagging Team: Jill Johnstone, Linda Lynn

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

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 Pilkington's team.

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

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. We do not have a condo donation at this time so put your feelers out for a generous donor.

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.

We traditionally put the FUN in FUNdraiser and what makes our event so successful and fun is the TEAM WORK demonstrated every day by our membership.

You do not need to do it by yourself nor will you have to.

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



What's Happenin' with Book Group?

Monday, February 3

Your book group traditionally meets on the first Monday of the month. Leaders, Katie Farrey and Marianne McGarry-Bloom, do a marvelous job keeping us organized and managing the Zoom option. Below are photos taken by Martha Huyler at our February 3 meeting to discuss A Woman of No Importance: The Untold Story of the American Spy who Helped Win WWII. Meetings are held in members' homes and very tasty savory and sweet snacks are served by the hostess or another member for the group to enjoy.

Our book group was invited and participated in the Camano Island Library 10th Anniversary Tea at Camano Center on February 18 where the book groups of Camano Island and Stanwood were invited to celebrate the library's tenth anniversary and learn the history of the Camano Island Library. It was a wonderful afternoon and below are photos taken by Martha Huyler.

Please take a look at the book group upcoming books and dates on page 5 and consider joining us.

Book Group February 3



Pictured left to right: Gail Merrick, Darlene Hofbauer, Kathy Cunningham, Georgi Proulx, Joyce Leak, Karen Walden, Martha Huyler, Katie Farrey, Thea Wellington, Marianne McGarry-Bloom, Christa Baltsch, Jackie DeFazio, Helen Smith, Nancy Roberts

Camano Island Library 10th Anniversary February 18



Georgi Proulx, Carolyn Spector, Kathy Cunningham



Rose Olson, Lin Fogg (President CILF), Martha Huyler



Jackie DeFazio



Becky Weitzke (VP Membership CILF), Kaye Sodt

Members: Jackie DeFazio, Rose Olson, Martha Huyler, Kaye Sodt, and Mary Raymond are members of the Camano Island Library Friends (CILF).

In attendance and helping were members, Gay Campbell and Jill Johnstone.

Members in attendance as guests and not pictured were Jackie Olson, Marianne McGarry-Bloom and Joyce Leak.

SCAF Volunteer Fair
Saturday, February 15

Four members of the board, Joyce Leak, Lael Williams, Jackie Olson, and Georgi Proulx staffed the AAUW booth at the SCAF Volunteer Fair on Saturday, February 15, at Utsalady Elementary School Gym. We welcomed an interested and energetic crowd eager to learn about over 20 community organizations. Over 30 participants visited our booth perusing our materials about AAUW, our info bookmark, and PWP 2024 program to entice interest in our next FUNdraiser in April 2026. We want to warmly welcome Clarene Ricarte, a friend of the branch and our newest member, who joined that day. Enjoy the photos below taken by Georgi Proulx and Martha Huyler.



Volunteer Fair Team
(left to right)
Lael Williams
Jackie Olson
Joyce Leak
Georgi Proulx



General Meeting Minutes - February 13, 2025

Program: Joan Pang speaks on the Japanese Internment experience

Call to Order: Jackie Olson welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m.

Secretary: Linda Lynn presented the January 9, 2025 minutes for approval as printed in the February newsletter. Jackie DeFazio moved to approve, Kathy Cunningham seconded; the motion passed.

Treasurer: Robin Hanks reported income for January was \$3,340.00 from SCAF for money raised from SC Give, \$10.00 for wine glasses, a \$100.00 donation and a \$500.00 donation in memory of Doris Taylor, branch dues of \$24.00 for Wanda Hill and interest of \$16.34 for the Money Market Account. Expenses were \$37.23 for stamps and \$20 to file our annual report with the State of Washington and a \$1,275.00 deposit for the rental of Camano Center for PWP 2026. Current operating balance is \$4,399.45. Total assets are \$61,573.87.

Membership: Joyce Leak reported that there will be a Volunteer Fair at the gymnasium at the Utsalady Elementary School on February 15 from 10:00 a.m. to noon.

Bylaws Update: The Bylaws committee consists of Jackie DeFazio, Georgi Proulx and Martha Huyler. They have begun reviewing the bylaws at the direction of National. They will meet in the near future and submit their findings and questions to the Board for consideration.

PWP Venue Update: Georgi reported that Our 2026 Purses With Purpose event will be held at the Camano Center on April 25, 2026. Volunteers are needed to head various committees. Jill Johnstone has volunteered to head up the Bagging and Fulfillment committee.

Programs: Mary Pilkington reported that the next general meeting will be at the Utsalady Ladies Aid building on Thursday, March 13, at 1:00 p.m. Debbie Dimitre will present Harriet Tubman and Harriet Beecher Stowe. Mary said refreshments will be needed; please coordinate with her about bringing them.

Nominating Committee: Martha Huyler has been heading up the committee. Jackie Olson reported that Lael Williams will accept the nomination of President, Carolyn Spector for President-Elect, Susan Jarvis for Vice President Finance, Karen Walden for Secretary, and Deb Narcisso for Co-VP Membership.

Tech Trek: Mary Chesney has confirmed the dates of July 13 – July 18 at Pacific Lutheran University for six campers.

DEI: Katie Farrey read the Land Acknowledgement statement at the beginning of the program.

STEM Scholars: Lael reported that letters have been sent out to the STEM teachers.

Activity Groups:

JAVA Break: February 18, Tuesday, at the Cookie Mill in Stanwood at 10:00 a.m.

Book Group: March 3, 2:00 p.m. at Georgi Proulx's The English Understand Wool by Helen DeWitt

Adjourn: Jackie Olson adjourned the meeting at 2:40 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Linda Lynn
Secretary
AAUW Stanwood/Camano Branch



A good friend is like a
four-leaf clover; hard
to find, lucky to have.