

Stanwood-Camano Branch of AAUW



April 2025

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www.aauwsc.org

April 3rd Thursday, 1:00 p.m. April Board Meeting SCAF Meeting Room ******

April 10th Thursday, 1:00 p.m. Social Half Hour 12:30 p.m.

General Meeting

United Methodist Church

27128 102nd Drive NW

Stanwood

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

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Founded in April 16, 1936 ~ Celebrating 89 Years Edited by Martha Huyler and Georgi Proulx

President's Message

Jackie-Lyn Olson

As I am writing this for our April newsletter, I am reminded of how the next few months fly by! We are soon going to meet our high school STEM Scholar, Tech Trek and College Scholarship recipients. The fruition of our fundraising efforts will yield life changing opportunities for young women in our communities. This is a major part of who we are and what we do! Which brings me to how we do what we do, it is all clear in our Branch Bylaws.

Our Bylaws committee members, Martha Huyler, Georgie Proulx, and Jackie DeFazio, have worked hard to revise and refine our Branch Bylaws and will present the proposed document at the April Board meeting. Once the revised bylaws are reviewed by the Board they will be mailed to the membership. Please review the document when you receive the email, and plan to attend our May meeting.

The document is about ten pages and is easy to read. Since we belong to a national organization, AAUW provides each branch with predefined articles that must be incorporated into our bylaws. Articles VIII through Article XV pertain specifically to our branch. In the past, I admit I have not paid close attention to this crucial tool. After attending a Bylaws meeting, I found an interest in the way things work and a deep respect for the women who made things work!

I look forward to the events to come and to seeing you at our next meeting!

April 10—Neurodiversity 101 Mary Pilkington

Please join us on Thursday, April 10, to learn about Neurodiversity and what it means from Lei Wiley-Mydske from the Autistic Women and Nonbinary Network and Coordinator of the Ed Wiley Autism Acceptance Library.



Neurodiversity describes the idea that people experience and interact with the world around them in many different ways;

there is no one "right" way of thinking, learning, and behaving, and differences are not viewed as deficits. *Harvard Health Publishing*

Social Half Hour begins at 12:30 p.m. at the Stanwood United Methodist Church, 27128 102nd Dr NW, Stanwood. Our program begins at 1:00 p.m.

If you wish to attend this free hybrid meeting via Zoom, register in advance at:

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/ozydOwrbR-y2WKeDwkn0A

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

This is an open to the public event and new memberships that day qualify for Shape the Future with a discounted national membership amount.

We also need savory and sweet treats. Please email Mary Pilkington if you can assist.

Future Events

May 1st Thursday, 1:00 p.m. May Board Meeting SCAF Meeting Room ******

May 8th

Thursday, 7:00 p.m. Evening General Meeting United Methodist Church 27128 102nd Dr NW, Stanwood

High School STEM Scholar Recognition and Introduction of 2025 Tech Trek Campers

May 21st Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. JAVA BREAK Cookie Mill For Coffee and Conversation Bring a Prospective Member



What's going on at AAUW-WA?

https://aauw-wa.aauw.net/ activities-information/calendar/

Visit our branch website: <u>www.aauwsc.org</u>

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 to Achieve Equality Jackie DeFazio



Having just celebrated Women's History month, it seems appropriate to consider the impact that AAUW as a national organization has had on the progress of women in the United States.

Supported by branch members across the country, AAUW has 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 (*Limiting Our Livelihoods: The Cumulative Impact of Sexual Harassment on Women's Careers*).

During WWII, AAUW supported the establishment of women's units of the armed services, advocated for equal pay and rank for women, and actively worked for the creation of the United Nations. President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed AAUW board member, Virginia Gildersleeve, one-time Barnard College president, as the sole female U.S. delegate to the San Francisco Conference to discuss the creation of the United Nations in 1945. AAUW was granted permanent U.N. observer status in 1946.

From our beginnings to the present, we have continued to lead the fight for equality in education. AAUW published the groundbreaking *Campus 1970: Where Do Women Stand?* report, which documented widespread sexual discrimination against women at all levels of education. In 1972, AAUW was instrumental in the creation and passage of Title IX, which was introduced by AAUW Member Rep. Edith Green (D-OR) and was co-sponsored by AAUW Member Rep. Patsy Mink (D-HI).

In 1992, AAUW's landmark research *How Schools Shortchange Girls* report sparked national debate and led to greater investments in closing the gaps. Our 2006 report, *Drawing the Line: Sexual Harassment on Campus*, and 2011 report, *Crossing the Line: Sexual Harassment on Campus*, helped to set standards for new policies and practices.

AAUW's Why So Few? Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics and Solving the Equation: The Variables for Women's Success in Engineering and Computing became sentinel publications in identifying the gaps keeping women from the STEM fields and igniting efforts for change.

Cataloging AAUW's national impact could well fill a book. In fact, it has. *Degrees of Equality: The American Association of University Women and the Challenge of Twentieth Century Feminism* (by Susan Levine, published by Temple University in 1995) examines AAUW's impact as "one of the nation's oldest and most influential voices for equality in education, the professions, and public life." Now that's something to be proud of!

Public Policy – Education

Judy Prince

Although National AAUW is described as a non-partisan, the organization does take a stand on various issues affecting women. Most recently National AAUW issued a press release condemning the Executive Order to Dismantle the U.S. Department of Education. To learn more about AAUW's stance go to the National Website and read the press release. Use the link below:



https://www.aauw.org/resources/news/media/press-releases/aauw -condemns-executive-order-to-dismantle-the-u-s-department-ofeducation/

As legislative activity continues at record pace both here in Washington and at the national level, you may want to read about the framework AAUW uses to develop its public policy priorities. See the link below:

https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/aauw-public-policypriorities/

Closer to home, the preliminary state budget was released on March 24. I will provide important details in May's newsletter. I can say that there will be amendments before anything is passed through both houses of the legislature and goes to the Governor.

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–We Have Applicants Mary Chesney

The window for nominated middle schoolers to apply for Tech Trek camp closed on Friday, March 21. Out of 10 nominated middle school students, I am delighted to report that seven applied. By Friday, March 28, decisions will have been made regarding who moves on to interviews along and families will be notified to sign up for these virtual meetings.



Decisions about who will receive a campership will be made no later than mid -April and families will promptly be notified of their applicant student's status. The next newsletter will bring you the good news about the applicants who will be attending the summer 2025 Tech Trek camp.

Join us at our May 8 evening general meeting to introduce the 2025 campers and recognize the High School STEM Scholars as well.

2025 Scholarship Season Closes April 30

Marianne McGarry-Bloom

One more month of scholarship application availability. Please share with family and friends about our branch AAUW Stanwood-Camano 2025 scholarship. Applications can be found at: <u>www.aauwsc.org/scholarship</u>.



Completed applications and letters of recommendation are due 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.

Projected Program Schedule for 2025



May 8High School STEM Scholar Recognition &
Introduction of Tech Trek Campers 2025
Stanwood United Methodist ChurchJune 29Scholarship Tea
Camano City School HouseAugust 14Branch BBQ Kickoff
Camano Hills Pavilion

September 11 First General Meeting of 2025-26

DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) Spotlight Katie Farrey

Bipolar is a health condition that affects mood, which can swing from really high energy (mania) to very low, sad periods (depression). Low periods often result in a loss of interest in things. Periods of high energy can result in bursts of productivity and creativity. The shifts can be very intense but are manageable with the right support and treatment. Social situations are a balancing game. Individuals are often unaware of their condition, thinking that everyone shares their mood fluctuations.

Upcoming Opportunities:

National Arab American Heritage Month

April 13th, 3:00 p.m., Mount Baker Theatre, Seattle Men's Chorus Salutes Dolly Parton

https://www.mountbakertheatre.com/events-tickets/seattle-mens-chorus-dolly/

April 16th, 11:00 a.m., Camano Island Library, Dementia Friends Information Services https://sno-isle.bibliocommons.com/events/67d1d5eba41c773600259062

April 17th, 7:30 p.m., Mount Baker Theatre, Edna Vazquez https://www.mountbakertheatre.com/events-tickets/edna-vazquez/

April 19th, 6:00 p.m., Lincoln Theatre, Skagit Drag Spring Show - A Spirit Renewed https://lincolntheatre.org/live-skagit-drag-spirit-renewed

April 24th US Holocaust Remembrance Day

Meet Our Member

Karen Walden

Karen Walden joined our branch in June 2024 and is currently one of the Purse Procurement Chairs for PWP 2026. Enjoy her bio below:

I am a California girl, raised in the coastal small town of Lompoc in the 1960's.

I graduated college in 1976 with a BA in music, liberal arts and education from the University of Redlands. My teaching career lasted for twelve years in California, before we made the big move to Washington. I taught elementary school in Lake Stevens for another twenty-one years, before retiring in 2010.

I am blessed to be married to the same man for 47 years. We have two wonderful children and two adorable granddaughters.

I have a classical music background and play the piano. I love sports, especially baseball. My husband and I have a love affair with the beagle breed of dogs and have owned eight over the years. We took up sailing in the 1990's and spent many

summers exploring Puget Sound in our 30' Catalina sailboat. We no longer own a boat but still enjoy getting outdoors. My husband and I enjoy traveling and have visited most countries, many more than once.

Sewing is a lifelong hobby of mine. Twelve years ago I decided to nurture and develop my sewing skills into making a variety of bags. The processes involved in creating a unique bag became a sort of obsession and with it the desire to sell my creations. I now have a business, ten years in existence. My bags are sold at an artists' co-op in La Conner called *That's Knot All*.

I was lucky growing up to have parents who gave me the confidence to pursue my dreams. I graduated from high school in 1972, the year Title IX became law. As a lover of sports, I remember this important legislation, now looking back, as a turning point in history in opening doors for women in sports.

Great strides have been made in the pursuit of equality for women since 1972, but there is still a long way to go, especially these days. My background and experience has taught me that excellence and educational opportunity are the key drivers for success. I am excited to become actively involved in AAUW. I admire the work members have done in the past and look forward to support its important goals in educational equity.



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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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.



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."

June 2, 2:00 p.m. at the home of Joyce Leak

How to Say Babylon by Safiya Sinclair

"This stunning story of the author's struggle to break free of her strict Rastafarian upbringing ruled by a father whose rigid beliefs, rage and paranoia led to violence shows how she found her own power and provides a unique glimpse into a rarefied world we know little about. "

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



Next **JAVA Break** will be Tuesday, April 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...!



meet.

See You At the Movies!

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

Join us for our next adventure in cinema.

Purses with Purpose April 25, 2026 Mary Raymond, Georgi Proulx

The Procurement Team, Jackie DeFazio, Karen Walden, and Joanne Drewsen, has begun evaluating auction viability, processing, and storing of those purses that qualify. Please continue to donate purses. Watch for sales...the purses on sale this time of year will be perfect timing for our April event next year.

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

Catering Coordinator: Linda Demetre

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

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

Live Auction Team 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 Team 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. The generous condo donation we have had in the past will not be available for April 2026 so we are looking for a donation of an AirBnB or equivalent for use in a "Staycation" raffle prize; although, an out-of-state condo always works if you have connections. Perhaps you have family or friends that can accommodate our need and donate; we would be eternally grateful. Traditionally, the condo raffle package raises \$4500-\$5000 for our scholarship program; we don't want to miss the enthusiasm and generosity a great raffle provides.

Grants Coordinator will apply for grants.

Business Sponsorships Team 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.

benefit luncheon and live/silent auctions have been an incredible source of scholarship funds for Tech

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.



Stanwood-Camano Branch Celebrates 89 Years Helen Smith

April 16 is the 89th anniversary of this AAUW branch's founding day! Established in 1936, in Arlington, Washington, just 10 years past the creation of AAUW in Washington State, our branch started with sixteen charter members. Dues in 1936 were \$2.50. Nine women graduated from University of Washington, four from Washington State College (WSC) (now Washington State University), one from Colorado University, and one from Vassar. Their first year together they studied the history and purpose of AAUW. Later, the branch became known as the Arlington-Stanwood branch, and eventually what is now known as the Stanwood-Camano

2013 Logo

In the 70's the branch began to raise money for college scholarships sponsoring a local yearly art show. AAUW For at the next 35 years, art shows were the major fundraiser activity until there were so many art shows in the area that our profits declined. Purses with Purpose began in 2013. Our Purses with Purpose

2013 Logo

Watch for articles throughout 2025 sharing our branch history.

Island branch.

Trek and college scholarships.



Day Trippers: Daniel James Brown on March 8 Lynda Buehring

Five members joined together to enjoy the Day Trippers outing on March 8. Dining first at Max Dale's Steak and Chop House they followed up at the Lincoln Theatre performance by Daniel James Brown, author of <u>The</u> <u>Boys In the Boat</u> listening to his talk about this book and <u>Facing the Mountain: A True Story of Japanese</u> <u>American Heroes in World War II</u>, how they are related and how he came to write about them.



Lael Williams, Lynda Buehring, Mary Pilkington



Mary Pilkington, Lynda Buehring, Lael Williams, Kaye Sodt, Linda Lynn

Meet the Harriets, Debbie Dimitre March 13

Our March 13 meeting at the Utsalady Ladies Aid building was another adventure with Debbie Dimitre, storyteller. She took us on a journey learning about Harriet Tubman and Harriet Beecher Stowe, women of the south in the early to mid-1800s. We were joined by the Utsalady Ladies Aid of Camano and had a marvelous afternoon of fellowship and learning. Enjoy the photos below taken by Martha Huyler.



Program: Debbie Dimitre performed Harriet Beecher Stowe and Harriet Tubman at Utsalady Ladies Aid Building.

Call to Order: Lael Williams called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. and introduced guests.

Secretary: Linda Lynn presented February 13 minutes for approval as printed in the March newsletter. Martha Huyler moved to approve, and Katie Farrey seconded; the motion was approved.

Treasurer: Robin Hanks reported that income for February included a \$10,000.00 donation from Mike Taylor which was deposited directly into the Money Market Tech Trek Account, branch dues of \$24.00 for Susan Jarvis and interest of \$16.66. Expenses were \$174.77 for Zoom for one year. Two new members joined under "Shape the Future," each paid \$70 (\$24 branch, \$10 state, \$36 (one half of National). Current operating balance is \$3989.63. Total assets are \$71,051.71. Susan Jarvis and Robin Hanks have been invited to a Branch Treasurer's Zoom Meeting on March 26th by the State AAUW leaders.

Zoom Membership/Hybrid Meeting: Georgi Proulx reported that with our new Zoom membership, we can use a cellphone as a hot spot. She and Katie Farrey have tried this, and it will be used at the April Neurodiversity program.

Scholarships: Marianne McGarry-Bloom told us that she has received applications which she is saving until April 30 when she will start screening them. Georgi sent us all a sample application, and we are encouraged to distribute it to anyone who may be eligible. Georgi is also tracking previous Tech Trek participants in order to announce availability to them.

Bylaws Update: Martha Huyler, Jackie DeFazio, and Jackie Olson are on the Bylaws committee. The National AAUW organization has requested some changes. Martha said they have made those changes, and are looking at our local bylaws as well. They have met twice and will meet again and then show their recommendations to the board and then to membership.

Communications: Georgi Proulx said that the Women's Expo is being brought back at the Camano Center. This was a good venue for us in the past, but was discontinued during Covid. The cost is \$150 and we do not know if the setup and program will be the same as it was in past years. Georgi and Martha volunteered to look at the information about it and make a recommendation of whether or not to participate. Kaye Sodt moved to participate for \$150 if the program is feasible for us, and Mary Raymond seconded; the motion was carried.

PWP 2026-Venue Update: Georgi Proulx told us that everything is going smoothly with many very nice purses already donated. Linda Demetre volunteered to coordinate the menu with the Camano Center. Prices are not known yet. We will need centerpieces. Jill Johnstone and Linda Lynn will be in charge of bagging.

Recruitment Committee: Martha Huyler announced that almost all roles have been filled. We still need a Treasurer Elect.

Programs: Topics have been chosen for the remainder of the year. April is Diversity 101, May is High School STEM Scholars, and June is the Scholarship Tea.

Tech Trek: Doris Taylor's husband donated \$10,000 for Tech Trek. It has been decided to fund one camper per year until the fund is exhausted.

Membership: Lael Williams told us that the number of members is increasing.

DEI: Katie Farrey attended an AAUW state meeting where she exchanged information with other attendees. If anyone wants to submit an idea for a focus for next year, contact Katie.

STEM Scholars: Lael Williams has names from two high schools, and is waiting for names from the third. High School STEM scholars will be honored at the May general meeting.

Interest Groups:

JAVA Break: Wednesday, March 19, at 10:00 a.m. at the Cookie Mill in Stanwood.

Adjourn: Lael Williams adjourned the meeting at 2:47 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Linda Lynn Secretary

