

# Stanwood-Camano Branch of AAUW

## In Touch



September 2017

Edited by Martha Huyler and Georgi Proulx



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

### September 7th

**Thursday**

**1:00 p.m.**

September Board Meeting

Camano Island Library  
848 N. Sunrise Blvd.  
Camano Island

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### September 14th

**Thursday**

*Time & location updated*

**1:00 p.m.**

General Meeting

**12:30 p.m.**

Food Social before Meeting

Brookdale Senior Living  
7212 265th St NW  
Stanwood

*Program:*

*Strategic Branch Planning  
AAUW National Focus  
New Leadership*

Program information contact:

Lynda Buehring

### Message from the President

*Mary Raymond*

Welcome to members tenured and new as we begin another year at AAUW Stanwood-Camano Branch! I'm looking forward to serving as President especially with such a capable and supportive Board and members who are filling our various appointed positions. To invert T.S. Eliot and "The Hollow Men," this year will begin not with a whimper but with a bang as we gear up for our Purses with Purpose event on October 7. This two-year project is in its final weeks. Members have been consistently involved by contributing purses and working on committees. With so many of us participating in the event itself, I'm confident of a successful outcome; our scholarship program and Tech Trek funding depend on it!

On August 19 Leslie Gitomer and I attended the AAUW Summer Leadership Meeting in Ellensburg. We divided the sessions: I attended the president and program workshops and Leslie attended membership and finance. It was good to interact with members from other branches and get some timely information to bring back to our Board. On that note, there is still one appointed position to be filled - AAUW Education Funds (EF) and AAUW Legal Advocacy Funds (LAF) representative. Jackie DeFazio, who previously held this position, reports that the job mostly involves keeping current on these issues through the national AAUW website and making occasional reports in our monthly newsletter or at general meetings. This is a great opportunity for newer members to get involved with our organization.

Our branch has had some very good news in the past several months due primarily to the efforts of Jackie DeFazio and Gay Campbell. First, our application for a change in tax status to 501(c)(3) was approved meaning donors to our scholarship funds and purchasers at our PWP auction will be able to take a charitable deduction on taxes in accordance with IRS guidelines. Also due to their grant application efforts, we have received \$1800 from the Stillaguamish Tribe to fund two Tech Trek scholarships. Finally, with our new 501(c)(3) tax status, our branch was able to apply to be part of Stanwood-Camano Give, a national day of local giving, which will occur on November 28. This opportunity came up quickly. Jackie and Gay were able to pull collected information together and submit the application in time for us to receive approval to participate. Kudos, ladies! Cheryl Gruger and Cindy Smith will be coordinating work on the Stanwood-Camano Give project, so thanks to them as well.

I am not much of a non-fiction reader, however, I did look at a book recently I found interesting as it relates to AAUW, Terms of Engagement by Richard M. Axelrod. It talks about how we come together (labeled "engagement" in this book) is everybody's task every time we meet. My take away from this work is there are several ways to achieve engagement within a group. The first is to widen the circle of involvement - all of our voices must be heard. Secondly, we must connect people to each other. Lastly, we must create communities for action -all of us need to apply our talents and insights. While Axelrod's book is a manual for businesses, these ideas seem totally applicable to our AAUW branch. As we look ahead to our September meeting, we will be "engaging" both locally with feedback from the strategic planning survey by India Nishi, and nationally with Jackie DeFazio detailing the workings of AAUW in Washington, D.C. My hope is that this year will be fulfilling, inspiring and most of all engaging on several levels to all members. Here's to 2017-18!



## Future Events

**October 5th**

**Thursday**

**1:00 p.m.**

October Board Meeting  
Camano Island Library  
848 N. Sunrise Blvd.  
Camano Island

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**October 6th**

**Friday**

**4:00 p.m.**

Purses with Purpose Set Up  
Camano Center

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**October 7th**

**Saturday**

**10:30 a.m.**

Purses with Purpose  
Luncheon & Purse Auction  
Camano Center

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**October 12th**

**Thursday**

**1:00 p.m.**

General Meeting  
Brookdale Senior Living  
7212 265th St NW  
Stanwood

*Program: Student Involvement  
& Enrichment & Community:  
Tech Trek, STEM, Student  
Liaison Board*



**Visit our branch  
website for forms,  
newsletters, and  
upcoming events.**

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

## Purses with Purpose Update

*Anne Milton*

Fall is now here and so is the "Purses with Purpose" auction and fundraiser. The Purses stand alert and ready, all photographed, numbered and described for enthusiastic buyers at the Saturday, October 7 luncheon (Camano Center) with doors opening at 10:30 a.m.



Words of thanks can hardly describe the multitude of appreciation for the women that are making this auction happen, YOU. AAUW members throughout our branch have been busily buying and donating new and used purses. The quality of the purses in the live auction is tremendous and many are including fun adventures like a Condo in Mazatlán for nine days, Seahawks tickets, crab feeds, massages and more.

Gay Campbell and Jackie DeFazio have been fantastic leaders all year from the very first page of the 501(c)(3) paperwork to the last day of purse preparation and showcasing. Wow.

The next steps needed to make this auction not only a tremendous success in revenues but an enjoyable time for all:



- "All Hands on Deck": Please arrive at the Camano Center on Friday, October 6 at 4:00 p.m. for set up and final preparations.

- Kindly contact your guests; "get them excited" for an incredible luncheon and remind them that this is a fundraiser for scholarships that are so needed in our community.

We look forward to seeing you at our September 14 general meeting where the final updates and sign-ups will be confirmed.

## September: Strategic Branch Planning, AAUW National Focus, New Leadership

*Lynda Buehring*

The board kicked off a strategic planning activity earlier this year to look at where our local chapter is headed over the next three to five years. That activity included surveying the membership about membership make up, what we accomplish internally through meetings and activities, and how we reach out to the broader community through fundraising and what we choose to support. We conducted break-out sessions looking at these topics over a three-meeting time period. The results were summarized and presented to the Board this spring. Several themes and ideas came out of the surveys that we would like to pursue further. These will be presented at the September general meeting; we will solicit input from membership on how we should move forward to implement them.

In addition Jackie DeFazio will present the AAUW National Focus and our new president, Mary Raymond, will introduce the new officers and talk about the different committees and groups within the AAUW Stanwood-Camano.

We look forward to seeing you Thursday, September 14, 12:30 p.m. for Food Social followed by General Meeting at 1:00 p.m. at Brookdale Senior Living, Stanwood. Guests are always welcome.

## Your 2017-2018 Board

### President

Mary Raymond

### President-Elect

Leslie Gitomer

### VP of Finance

India Nishi

### VP of Finance-Elect

Lilija Tushinski

### VP-Membership

Norma Mouton

### Membership Assistant

Martha Huyler

### Secretary

Lesley Bentley

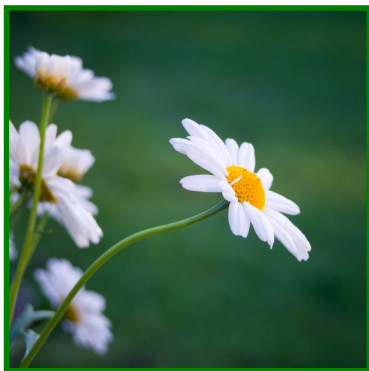
### VP of Program

Kathy Cunningham

Lynda Buehring

### Program Assistant

Valerie Spagnolo



## Winners: Claire and Morgan

Anne Milton

We awarded our 2017 scholarships on June 25 at the Scholarship Tea at the home of Joyce Leak. Claire Mason and Morgan Shimkus were each awarded \$4,000 to continue their undergraduate studies following a competitive application process where their scholastic achievements, rigorous studies, community involvements and volunteer contributions were highly noted.

**Claire Mason** started her college career at Everett Community College in Running Start and is now at the University of Washington. She is pursuing a degree in international studies with a special emphasis on Middle Eastern Studies. Her goal is to achieve a law degree within this specialization and was recently accepted into the Jackson School of International Studies. At the University of Washington, Claire's academic courses demonstrate focus, rigor and an above 3.5 grade point average. She continues to volunteer with Stanwood High School's leadership program and was Head Counselor at the Mt. Olympus Leadership Camp in Randle, WA. Additionally, her high school teacher at Stanwood, wrote: "Claire plans to study international relations; she will not only be an excellent student but an exemplary ambassador for world relations with the US. As a strong intelligent kind young woman, I can only imagine the young girls she may someday inspire."



Claire Mason, Morgan Shimkus



Claire & Morgan pictured with Anne Milton, Scholarship Chair

**Morgan Shimkus** is a graduate of Lakewood High School, and was a community college attendee at Everett Community College's Running Start program. Morgan is now enrolled at Carroll College in Helena, Montana where she will attain her BS degree in physics. She plans to continue her post graduate education and earn a doctorate degree in physics with her ultimate goal to be a NASA physicist. Morgan's rigorous studies, academic grades and volunteer contributions are remarkable. Her college professor said: "Morgan is a fearless young woman who is not

afraid to speak her mind but is also considerate of the sensibilities of others. I fully expect that she will continue to perform near the top of her class at Carroll and am happy to have her enrolled as one of our relatively few female physics majors." Morgan is a member of Track, the Honors Program and the Engineers without Borders Program where she recently helped build a school in Guatemala.

## Public Policy

Cathlin Starke

AAUW has a member-voted Public Policy Program that guides its lobbying and grassroots efforts. As a member, this ensures your voice is heard. Priorities are Civil Rights, Education, Economic Security and Title IX.

Focus is on the following: Civil Rights-Affirmative Action; Equal Rights Amendment; Federal Judicial Nominations; Hate Crimes Prevention; Human Trafficking; Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender issues, and reproductive rights.

Education issues include career and technical education, charter schools, common core standards, disabilities, assistance to needy families, school vouchers, STEM education and sexual harassment and violence in schools.

Economic security is focused on health care, pay equity, retirement security, Social Security privatization and paid Leave,

Title IX issues are Title IX, equity in school athletics, sexual harassment, and violence in school, and single-sex education.

To learn more, go to [AAUW.org](http://AAUW.org), and click on "What We Do."



## Purses with Purpose



*Benefit Luncheon &  
Live/Silent Purse Auctions*

**October 7, 2017**

**Ticket Committee is requesting that you contact them with the names of the guests at your table as soon as possible. Guest names are linked to their ticket number which is their bid number. Paddles must be prepared before the event. Thank you.**



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

### Public Policy

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

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

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

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

## Tech Trek

*Leslie Gitomer*

Our Tech Trek campers, Greta, Carolina, Grace, and Jolene, attended camp in July. They will be attending our October 12 meeting to tell us all about their camp experience. I attended the camp as a guest on Thursday, July 13, attending the afternoon session where electives were offered and also the evening session of professional night. There were two 1.5 hour elective sessions offered in the afternoon. The classes offered a variety from nursing procedures to shellfish in the Salish Sea, to mapping, optics and more. The classes were about a 45 minute introduction and then 45 minutes hands on.

I was very impressed by the variety and the safety of the girls in the campus environment. Our nominee for the Betty McCadden Scholarship, Jolene Henrikson, was in quite a few of the sessions I attended including the evening session and she was a star. She was always engaged and asking questions.

The professional night was very interesting and had many people from different fields rotate at tables of campers talking about their careers. The girls were given handouts about the speakers before hand so they could come prepared with questions.

I am so glad to see first hand what the camp experience is about and am proud that I could be apart of the process. This year Elaine Richards will be leading Tech Trek with me, and we will be looking for additional members for our committee which includes Tech Trek and Scholarship headed by Anne Milton.



Left to right: Greta Hendrickson, Carolina Tenorio, Grace Henken, Jolene Henrikson

## Membership Committee

*Norma Mouton*

The membership committee is currently seeking other members to help with our duties should both Martha and I need to be absent from a general meeting. Anyone interested would only need to help out occasionally. Your help would consist of bringing the box with the name tags for members to the general meetings collecting the name tags at the end of the meeting and collecting any sign-up sheets that were prepared and filled out at a general meeting. Anyone interested please let either Martha Huyler or Norma Mouton know of your interest. We thank you ahead of time for offering to help.

At the board meeting in June the idea of mentors for new members was discussed. It was agreed that having mentors would help new members to settle in more quickly. What does it mean to be a mentor? A mentor would make sure to call a new member so that she knows about the general meeting. Mentors should offer the new member assigned to her to pick her up for the general meeting if needed. Mentors should find out the interests of their new member and answer any questions about the branch. At the general meeting, the mentor should introduce the new member to at least three people plus the book group chair and the day-tripper chair, if they are present at the general meeting.

This summer we have signed on six new members. Please welcome them into our branch: Naomi Wark, Dana Anderson, Connie Carr, Julia Parker, Elizabeth Rutherford, and Marilyn Grosjean. In order to keep up our recruitment momentum we would like to make applications available to all members. Please pick up an application for someone you know when you collect your name tag.

## Leaders for Branch Activities

### Purses with Purpose 2017

Jackie DeFazio

Gay Campbell

### AAUW Education Funds and AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund OPEN POSITION

### Public Policy

Cathlin Starke

### High School STEM Scholars

Helen Smith

Joan Cresup

### Scholarship Chair

Anne Milton

### Tech Trek Co-Chairs

Leslie Gitomer

Elaine Richards

### Volunteer School Partners

Helen Smith

### Media Coordinator

Doris Taylor

### Historian

Carolyn Spector

### Diversity

Linda Lynn

### 501(c)(3) Compliance

Jackie DeFazio

### Title IX Liaison

Connie Carr

### Communications

Georgi Proulx

### Newsletter Team

Send Your News to:

Georgi Proulx

Martha Huyler

## Meet Our Members

Linda Lynn

Meet Linda Lynn, our recent addition to the board as Diversity Leader. This is a new position and Linda will be introducing us to this fresh outlook into multicultural and ethnic opportunities. "It is a topic about which I am passionate. I believe that inclusion for everyone creates healthy relationships and communities, and benefits everyone."



Born in Palo Alto, CA, Linda grew up in California and Guam. "I still remember the street where we lived in Palo Alto, which was not as populated as it is now. My grandfather had a chicken farm there, and I recall a rural atmosphere. We moved to Seattle when I was 5, and I lived there through most of my school years."

"We didn't have many organized girls sports or many gym classes, and there were different expectations for me than for my brothers. This was magnified because I was the oldest, so was responsible for many household chores. I was encouraged to go to college, because 'that is where girls meet husbands who can support them'. I was also discouraged from studying ballet because 'it would make my legs too muscular'. In junior high and high school, we took sewing and cooking classes, while the boys took wood shop or auto mechanics courses. Due to societal expectations and our conditioning, this was all okay with me at the time, except that I noticed that men got to make all the decisions while women deferred to them. As a child, my opinion was that women were smarter than men, so this was very unfair. Of course, it is possible that I picked up that opinion from my mother and aunts who I suspect held this belief themselves."

Linda took a few data processing classes at Seattle Community College, and some general classes at Edmonds Community College while working at Boeing immediately out of high school. Later she attended Boise State University receiving a bachelor's degree in Business Management with HR emphasis. She also has a certificate from Cal Tech in Systems Engineering.

After leaving Seattle, Linda moved to Boise going to work for Boise Cascade Corporation as a computer operator. "Eventually I worked my way up to being an Applications Developer for HR and Financial systems. After I left Boise to move back to this area, I went to work for Boeing as a Systems Engineer, and wrote certification plans for 777 airplanes. I retired in November, 2016."

Linda has been married to Gary for 28 years and has no children. "We met in Boise, ID, and lived there until 2006 when we decided to move here. We had previously bought five acres on Camano Island with the idea of building a retirement home, but decided that we didn't want to wait. We bought a fifth wheel trailer and lived in it while we built a house. That took 709 days."

She loves the outdoors, boating, hiking, gardening, animals, and reading and has done a lot of volunteer work in the past, currently an active volunteer for CASA. Most of her travel is local PNW but occasionally visits Florida, California, Ohio, Alaska and Mexico. "We visit Washington coastal cities with our boat, however, I am open to going more places such as Europe, Australia, and Thailand for starters."

Linda joined our branch about five months ago noting she knew "it is a progressive organization that has the same values that I do. I have a lot of Boise friends who belong to their local group, and they all enjoy it. I didn't know very many people and wanted to get involved in my community; I thought that the AAUW afforded a great opportunity to do that."

### **What advice do you have for AAUW members?**

Keep doing what you're doing – you all seem so bright and accomplished!

### **What advice do you have for girls today?**

Be assertive and take advantage of your opportunities.

## Special Branch Activities

### Day Trippers

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

Lynda Buehring

### Movie Group

*Join us for lunch and a movie.*

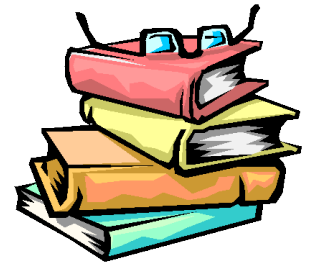
Anne Milton

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



## Book Group

Katie Farrey

The Book Group is open to all members. Books are available through Sno-Isle Libraries. Join us for lively conversation if you've read the book or if you just want to come join the discussion.

### September

WHAT: Hillbilly Elegy by J. D. Vance

WHEN: Monday, September 11, 2017, 2:00 p.m.

WHERE: Lilija Tushinski's Home

*From a former marine and Yale Law School graduate, a powerful account of growing up in a poor Rust Belt town that offers a broader, probing look at the struggles of America's white working class Hillbilly Elegy is a passionate and personal analysis of a culture in crisis—that of white working-class Americans.*

### October

WHAT: Banned Books, read one or more

WHEN: Monday, October 2, 2017, 2:00 p.m.

WHERE: Norma Mouton's Home

*Brave New World, Aldous Huxley, 1931 (challenged for alleged anti-religion and anti-family themes, sexual content)*

*1984 by George Orwell, 1949 (challenged for being both pro-communist and anti-communist, sexual content, political content)*

*The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian, Sherman Alexie, 2007 (challenged for content regarding alcohol, bullying, violence, sexual references, profanity, slurs)*

*Nasreen's Secret School: A True Story from Afghanistan, Jeanette Winter, 2009 (challenged for religious viewpoint (Muslim), violence, unsuited to age group)*

### November

WHAT: The Green Road by Anne Enright

WHEN: Monday, November 6, 2017, 2:00 p.m.

WHERE: Terry Benson's Home

*Spanning thirty years, The Green Road tells the story of Rosaleen, matriarch of the Madigans, a family on the cusp of either coming together or falling irreparably apart.--Dust jacket flap.*

For more information, contact Katie .

### Outlook Going Digital

Spring 2017 issue of the Outlook Magazine was the last paper copy that will be sent to all members. It is possible to continue to receive a print Outlook by Opting In at this link

<http://www.aauw.org/who-we-are/outlookmag/>.



## General Meeting Minutes- June 25, 2017

The meeting was called to order by president Norma Mouton at 3:15 p.m. There was a motion to approve the minutes of the May meeting as published in the June newsletter. Motion seconded, and with no additions or corrections, passed.

**Election of officers** - Three names were added to the slate that had previously been published:

President elect, Leslie Gitomer; Treasurer elect, Lilija Tushinski; Secretary, Lesley Bentley.

The entire slate was read and, there being no additional nominations from the floor, a motion to accept the slate was seconded and passed unanimously.

Norma then presented to Mary Raymond the president's pin Norma had received at the national convention the previous year, explaining that pins had not been given this year and she wanted Mary to have hers. Mary then gave Norma a Past President's pin, from the group, and Norma was thanked for the great job she has done as president this year.

**PWP Report:** Gay Campbell thanked everyone who had worked so hard so far to make our fundraising event come together smoothly, commenting that the group support had been phenomenal. The committee has reached their goal of purses collected, and the quality of purses is excellent. Gay announced two meetings at Georgi's house to clean purses, July 25 and 26 at 10:00 a.m., and encouraged everyone to come who could; also to bring cleaning supplies if they had them, especially leather cleaner and baby wipes. Joyce Leak gave us the ticket count: only 36 tickets left to sell.

**For the Good of the Order,** Norma gave the names of two more board positions that have been filled:

Patti Pontikis and Linda Lynn, Diversity; Title IX, soon-to-be-member Connie Carr.

Joan Cresap has volunteered to be the person to shadow Helen Smith this 2017-2018 year and then take over Helen's job in 2018 of overseeing the STEM awards and organizing the May meeting when STEM awards are presented.

The following four people were then awarded certificates for outstanding service to the branch:

Mary Pilkington for her exceptional achievement of collecting over 80 purses for the auction;

Gay Campbell for her work getting our 501(c)(3) designation;

India Nishi for her work on strategic planning; and

Lynda Buehring for Day Trippers and her energetic help in general.

Following that there was a motion passed to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Roberts, Secretary Pro-Tem

7/04/2017



# Day Trippers Photo Gallery

Lynda Buehring



Pilkington Studios and Lunch at the Crow's Nest, August 17



Jetty Island, August 16



*A simple hello could lead to a million things.*