

Stanwood-Camano Branch of AAUW

In Touch

April 2019

Edited by Martha Huyler and Georgi Proulx



www.aauwsc.org

April 4th

Thursday

1:00 p.m.

April Board Meeting
Stanwood Library

Note Location Change

April 11th

Thursday

Note Evening Time

5:00 p.m.

Social Half Hour

5:30 p.m.

General Meeting
Camano Library

*Program: Dawn Mettler
"Cruising with Confidence"*

April 12-13th

Friday-Saturday

AAUW-WA Annual Meeting

Holiday Inn

Bellingham International Airport

April 27th

Saturday

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Women's Expo 2019
Camano Center

Program information contact:



Carol Kayler
VP of Program

Message from the President

Leslie Gitomer

As many of you know Tech Trek and STEM are programs and issues that I am very passionate about. I worked as an engineer for Boeing for 25 years and for about 15 prior to that was employed in civil engineering technical/construction jobs. I have seen the evolution of women employed in these fields since my early 20's starting with construction surveying, design/drafting and then on to engineering.

While reviewing the AAUW national site press releases last week I was pleased to come across proposed legislation in both in the House and Senate being introduced to support women and STEM; **the Building Blocks of STEM Act**. "The bill instructs the National Science Foundation (NSF) to more equitably allocate funding for research with a focus on early childhood. The bill also directs NSF to support research on the factors that discourage or encourage girls to engage in STEM activities, including computer science. **The Building Blocks of STEM Act** is a bipartisan, bicameral bill, introduced jointly by Congresswoman Haley Stevens (D-MI) and Congressman Jim Baird (R-IN) in the House of Representatives, alongside U.S. Senators Jacky Rosen (D-NV) and Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) in the Senate."

Both the Congresswoman and Senators introducing the bill had a background working in STEM fields and definitely coming from a point of experience. Congresswoman Haley Stevens said, "This bill helps ensure that our children are prepared to fill the jobs of tomorrow by directing public resources to study opportunities for early childhood STEM education and strategies to encourage girls to engage in STEM and computer science." Kimberly Churches, Chief Executive Officer of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) echoed that sentiment. "The bipartisan **Building Blocks of STEM Act** will strengthen early childhood STEM education and lead to more effective policies and practices to increase the number of women in our STEM workforce." (You can find additional information on the links under <https://www.aauw.org/press/> dated March 12.)

Another article on the AAUW.org website: "Helping Girls find their STEM passion" highlighted a woman, Kea Jolicoeur, who graduated in 2015 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering from California Polytechnic State University. She reported; "Tech Trek was my first hands-on experience in STEM. It was an incredibly unique experience that introduced me to the field of engineering. Before Tech Trek, I didn't even realize that engineering was a degree option in college." The article goes on to describe how Jolicoeur has returned to Tech Trek each summer to help other girls get inspired. She teaches robotics and engineering basics at the same AAUW camp in California she attended.

As a dorm monitor last year I was able to see firsthand the difference this is making in the girls' lives and had a student counselor to work with from Stanwood High School who had received a scholarship from our group as a 7th grader. She relayed to me how much she valued her experience as a camper and I could see how she additionally benefitted from attending as a counselor and meeting the other like-minded student counselors all following educational STEM pathways in high school and college.

You can read more about Tech Trek at <https://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/stem-education/tech-trek/>.

Future Events

May 2nd
Thursday
1:00 p.m.

May Board Meeting
Camano Library

May 9th
Thursday

Note Evening Time

7:00 p.m.

General Meeting
Stanwood United Methodist
Church

27128 102nd Dr NW
Stanwood

High School STEM Scholar
Recognition and Introduction of
2019 Tech Trek Campers

PURSES PURSES PURSES!

Thank you to all members who have donated purses and/or cash to purchase purses. We applaud your efforts and are soooo close to our goal but...

we need 90 more to meet our goal. Gently used or new are welcome. Bring your donations to the next 3 meetings (April, May, June) or contact Mary Raymond to arrange pickup.

Everyone's help is needed. Our scholarship and Tech Trek programs depend on Purses with Purpose!

Clean out your closets, ask your family and friends.

If each member could find one more purse we would have all we need!

Thank you for your support.

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

www.aauwsc.org

April Program: "Cruising with Confidence"

Carol Kayler

Join us on Thursday, April 11, for an engaging *must know* car care presentation by Dawn Mettler, "Shop Talk, Cruising with Confidence."

Learn valuable knowledge when facing anything from a flat tire to dashboard warning signs:

- How to avoid high cost repairs
- What do the lights on my dash mean?
- Tips for buying cars
- Maintenance and tires
- On the road safety

This program is open to the public at the Camano Island Library and is an evening meeting. Social Half Hour begins at 5:00 p.m.; program begins at 5:30 p.m.



Scholarship Season in Bloom

Anne Milton

Our Stanwood Camano AAUW scholarship process has been underway now since mid-February and the deadline for the 2019 application submittal is Wednesday, May 15. The applications with an outline of the criteria, requirements, essay components, reference letter, etc. have been posted at our libraries, Stanwood Camano Resource Center, YMCA, and the Stillaguamish Administration Building. Newspaper articles continue to be published by the Stanwood-Camano News and the Crab Cracker. We are certainly thankful to these organizations for their support in publicizing our AAUW scholarship process.

It has truly been a great source of pride to share with the community how our branch, for the first time in history, is able to grant **four** \$4,000 scholarships. The 2019 application and qualifications will be found on our own www.aauwsc.org/scholarship. This site will be linked to the state scholarship umbrella at www.washboard.org. What differentiates our branch from other organizations is our focus on students entering at least their junior year of college or a master's level program where the greatest need for financial/support assistance peaks.

The Scholarship Committee is certainly looking forward to assessing the applications and learning about the many scholastic achievements and contributions from students throughout the Arlington, Stanwood and Camano communities. Stay tuned for the details regarding the annual Scholarship Awards Tea in late June where the four 2019 Scholarship winners will meet with our members.

The Betty McCadden Tech Trek Scholarship

Cathlin Starke

Just this past week we learned that Betty McCadden's family will be donating \$950 for the Betty McCadden Tech Trek Scholarship for 2019. Betty was an active and dedicated member of Stanwood-Camano AAUW; education was always her priority. She was totally committed to our Branch scholarships and the efforts to raise funds each year. When State AAUW introduced Teck Trek to Washington in 2015, Betty jumped on the opportunity helping manage our Branch's very first experience with Teck Trek including interviews and working with the schools. In her honor, her family established the Betty McCadden Tech Trek scholarship.

As a cancer survivor, Betty wanted to help make the journey easier for others. She wrote and self published a lovely book, filled with lots of humor. It was illustrated by Camano artist Bev Paulson, and was titled, "110 Benefits of Being Bald, What to do when your doctor says 'Chemo'." Betty was a creative and enthusiastic gardener. She, with her partner Len, turned their huge Camano property from a hillside of blackberries into a stunning gallery of beautiful plantings, paths and artful arrangements. Betty left our world a better place, and she is missed.



Your 2018-2019 Board

President

Leslie Gitomer

President-Elect

Mary Chesney

VP of Finance

Nancy Voelckers

VP of Finance-Elect

(open position)

VP-Membership

Martha Huyler

Membership Assistant *

Georgi Proulx

Secretary

Linda Lynn

VP of Program

Carol Kayler

Program Assistant *

Helen Smith

Public Policy

Cathlin Starke

Communications

Georgi Proulx

* Appointed position, shares vote with VP

Activity Leaders

Purses with Purpose 2019

Lynda Buehring

Norma Mouton

High School STEM Scholars

Leslie Moore

Scholarship Chair

Anne Milton

Tech Trek Chair

Terry Benson

Volunteer School Partners

Marianne McGarry-Bloom

AAUW Funds Coordinator

Mary Raymond

Candidate & Issues Forum

Elaine Richards

Historian

Carolyn Spector

Diversity

Linda Lynn

501(c)(3) Compliance

Jackie DeFazio

Stanwood-Camano Give

Mary Raymond

Title IX Liaison

Connie Carr

Newsletter Team

Georgi Proulx, Martha Huyler

Partisan vs Political: Guide to AAUW Advocacy

Cathlin Starke



For more than a century, AAUW has influenced legislative debate on critical issues affecting women and girls such as education, Social Security, sex discrimination, civil rights, reproductive health, affirmative action, pay equity, and family and medical leave. AAUW has a long-standing policy of nonpartisanship and does not endorse or oppose candidates for partisan elective office. AAUW does endorse legislation; thus we are non-partisan, but we are not non-political.

AAUW has always taken political stands on the critical issues of the day, as dictated by the member-adopted Public Policy Priorities. (Source AAUW Public Policy Manual.)

Purses with Purpose Auction Items Needed

Lynda Buehring



The Stanwood-Camano American Association University Women (AAUW), will sponsor a Purses with Purpose Benefit Auction on October 5, 2019.

All proceeds from this fundraising event will support the branch's Scholarship Fund, which provides scholarships to two or more university students each school year and supports eight or more middle-school girls' attendance at a one-week summer Tech Trek camp focused on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math). In 2019 the branch will be funding four \$4,000 scholarships at the university level and ten \$950 middle-school Tech Trek scholarships. We need to make the 2019 PWP the most successful to keep this scholarship trend alive.

We Need: All kinds of purses/items for the live and silent auction at the Purses with Purpose event.

- New purses
- Designer purses
- Purses with a story
- Gently used purses
- Purses from high-profile women locally and nationally
- Cash donations
- Items to accompany live auction purses

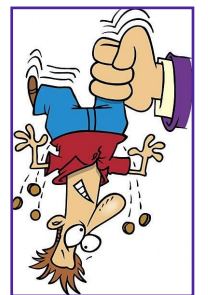
Branch Dues are Payable Now

Martha Huyler

Attention all members! Membership dues for the 2019-2020 year are payable. The amount is \$93 (\$59 for national, \$10 for state, \$24 for branch). Our branch payment must be submitted to National by July 1 so please consider paying early so our treasurer has time to process your checks and send in our payment on time.

According to the National AAUW website, \$56 of your 2018 \$59 dues is tax deductible as a charitable contribution. The remaining \$3 is not tax deductible because it supports the AAUW Action Fund's section 501 (c)(4) Capitol Hill Lobby Corps and get-out-the-vote activities.

Please mail check made out to "Stanwood-Camano AAUW" to Stanwood-Camano AAUW, PO Box 2652, Stanwood, WA 98292, or pay at the April 11 meeting via check OR pay via credit card (small fee will added to cover credit card charges).



Special Branch Activities

Day Trippers

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

Lynda Buehring
Mary Pilkington
Patti Pontikis

Movie Group

Join us for lunch and a movie. Suggestions welcome.

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



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

LIKE our page to
follow us then

SHARE to increase
our visibility in
the community.

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

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.



April

WHAT: Educated by Tara Westover

WHEN: Monday, April 2, 2019, 2:00 p.m.

WHERE: Helen Smith's Home

"Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, Tara Westover prepared for the end of the world by stockpiling home-canned peaches and sleeping with her head-for-the-hills bag. The family was so isolated from mainstream society that there was no one to ensure the children received an education, and no one to intervene when one of Tara's older brothers became violent. As a way out, Tara began to educate herself, learning enough mathematics and grammar to be admitted to Brigham Young University. Tara has crafted a universal coming-of-age story that gets to the heart of what an education offers: the perspective to see one's life through new eyes, and the will to change it"-- Provided by publisher.

May

WHAT: Beartown by Fredrik Backman

WHEN: Monday, May 6, 2019, 2:00 p.m.

WHERE: Joyce Leak's Home

A "poignant, charming novel about a forgotten town fractured by scandal, and the amateur hockey team that might just change everything. Fredrik Backman knows that we are forever shaped by the places we call home, and explores what can happen when we carry the heavy weight of other people's dreams on our shoulders."-- Provided by publisher.

June

WHAT: A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towels

WHEN: Monday, June 3, 2019, 2:00 p.m.

WHERE: Mary Pilkington's Home

"In 1922 deemed an unrepentant aristocrat by a Bolshevik tribunal, Count Alexander Rostov is sentenced to house arrest in the Metropol, a grand hotel across the street from the Kremlin. Rostov has never worked a day in his life, and must now live in an attic room while some of the most tumultuous decades in Russian history are unfolding outside the hotel's doors. Unexpectedly, his reduced circumstances provide him a doorway into a much larger world of emotional discovery" - Provided by publisher.

For more information, contact Katie Farrey.

Day Trippers: April, Matzke Fine Art & Sculpture Park

Mary Pilkington

Friday, April 12, please join Day Trippers on a trip to Matzke Fine Art and Sculpture Park. Meet to carpool at Terry's Corner at 1:30 p.m.

Hear Karla Matzke's presentation at her Fine Art Gallery, see her current exhibit, and follow her through the acres of her Sculpture Park as she explains about her ever-changing collection of large outdoor sculptures and the sculptors who created them.

If you have not seen this gallery and sculpture park at the south end of Camano you are in for a treat! If you are a return visitor you will enjoy a newly opened fabulous exhibit in the gallery. There are always new outdoor sculptures in her park.

Please email Mary Pilkington by Wednesday, April 3 if you are interested in attending. If you can drive, how many you can take in your car?



Meet Our Members

Marianne McGarry-Bloom

April's spotlight is on Marianne McGarry-Bloom. Born in Corona, California, Marianne grew up in Shoreline, Washington. She shares, "We wore saddle shoes and skirts, played jump rope and hop scotch, and competed mightily with each other in academics."



Marianne attended Seattle University earning a Bachelor's degree in Education. She then earned a Master's in Education from Leslie College becoming a teacher in the Stanwood-Camano School District for thirty years.

She and her husband, Greg Bloom, married twenty-two years ago; Camano Island has been her home for forty-one years. Marianne reports, "I truly believe it is an island paradise." She has been blessed with four sons, two of whom have passed away.

Marianne enjoys yoga, reading gardening, traveling and hiking. She has traveled to India, Thailand, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Europe and Mexico. "My parents sent me to Europe at the age of fifteen to tour with the high school concert band. My lust for travel was ignited."

Marianne is a new member to our branch and joined "to help raise funds for local scholarships and meet new friends." She is active in the Book Group and recently became our new branch leader for Volunteer School Partners in our local schools.

What would surprise us about you?

I am a yoga teacher.

What advice do you have for AAUW members?

Keep walking, reading, learning, praying, associating with younger women...and don't forget to drink plenty of water.

What advice do you have for girls today?

Hang out with older women.

AAUW Washington Annual Meeting

Judy Prince



AAUW Washington Annual Meeting is April 12-13 at Holiday Inn Bellingham International Airport. Call the hotel at 877-386-8490 for a room reservation for Friday. The current tentative agenda and information is available at www.aauw-wa.org.

The meeting will start with dinner on Friday and continue through a day of speakers and workshops on Saturday. Kim Churches, CEO of AAUW, will be our dinner speaker. This is your chance to hear how AAUW will continue to be relevant in the 21st Century. Another confirmed speaker for Saturday is Amy Klosterman, Title IX attorney. Amy will speak about her experience in the US Office of Civil Rights.

Fees for our event are \$145.00. Friday only and Saturday only registrations are available.

We will be electing a Secretary and two board members at the meeting. If you are interested in joining the state board, contact Judy Prince, president@aauw-wa.org.

Registration closes April 4 so that we can give accurate meal information to the hotel catering office.



AAUW Mission and Vision
[from AAUW.org]

AAUW is the nation's leading voice promoting equity and education for women and girls. Since its founding in 1881, AAUW members have examined and taken positions on the fundamental issues of the day—educational, social, economic and political.

Mission: To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy.

Vision: Equity for all.

Values: Non-partisan. Fact-based. Integrity. Inclusion and Intersectionality.

General Meeting Minutes - March 14, 2019

President Leslie Gitomer called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Carol Kayler introduced Leyla Savloff, AAUW American Fellowship Recipient, studying at UW. She presented her research which centers on incarcerated women in her native country of Argentina. Her research underscores the importance of interdependence between women as one way to counteract oppression and abuse.

Jackie DeFazio spoke about national AAUW which now has 170,000 members and 1,000 local branches. She reminded us that AAUW is non-partisan, non-profit and values-based. Our organization will take positions on issues, not candidates. Jackie also shared AAUW's revised mission statement: "To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy."

Judy Prince, new branch member and President of AAUW Washington, discussed the resources available through the state website and the upcoming April meeting in Bellingham where Kim Churches, national AAUW CEO, will speak.

Business Meeting: Leslie Gitomer called the business meeting to order at 2:25 p.m. She reported that since a nominating committee has not yet been appointed, the officers of positions to be filled will discuss their duties during this meeting.

Minutes Approval: Cathlin Starke made a motion to approve the minutes from the February general meeting as they appeared in the March newsletter. The motion was seconded by Jackie DeFazio and approved by all.

Finance Report: Nancy Voelckers presented the monthly financial report. Our current assets from both operating and scholarship accounts is \$57,935.87. She also reported that \$9,500 has been sent to state for the 10 Tech Trek campers; this transaction will be reflected in next month's report. Nancy clearly outlined the duties of the VP-Finance with a handout. She said the VP-Finance-elect would shadow her next year and assume the position of VP-Finance in July 2020.

AAUW Funds: Mary Raymond discussed the AAUW funds options and referred to the chart printed in the March newsletter. The only question concerned our contribution to legal advocacy (currently \$1,000). The options were to donate solely to legal advocacy or to donate to the Economic Security Fund, which includes legal advocacy. Nancy Voelckers made the motion for our 2019 contribution to be \$2,000 to the Education and Training Fund and \$1,000 to the Legal Advocacy Fund. Mary Raymond seconded this motion and a hand vote showed the majority in favor so the motion passed.

President-Elect: Mary Chesney, President-Elect, spoke next about the need to have a job description for this office. She also stressed her desire to find a way to increase membership among younger, working women. She provided handouts from national about the responsibilities of the branch vice-president.

PWP Procurement: Mary Raymond gave an update from PWP procurement reminding members to bring in purses -- new and gently used. She also reminded members of two opportunities to get involved: 1) March 21 shopping/lunch trip to the outlet mall and 2) March 25 purse-cleaning party at Rose Olson's home.

Volunteer School Partners/Public Policy: Cathlin Starke reported that Marianne McGarry-Bloom has volunteered to be the School Partner's coordinator. She then described her position as Public Policy liaison. This is a voting board position and a good one to start with, requiring only about two hours each month. This officer will coordinate Lobby Day, write a brief newsletter article, and share applicable national website for information.

April Meeting: Carol Kayler announced that the next meeting will be April 12 at 5:30 p.m. and will involve a presentation on car care and maintenance.

Membership: Martha Huyler reported on membership and stressed the need to maintain members (currently 91). Dues (\$93) are payable now but not due until June. One volunteer is needed for the 1-4:00 p.m. shift at the Women's Expo on April 27.

Scholarships: Leslie Gitomer reported that the scholarship review team is in place, call for applicants is currently posted, and that scholarship applications are already coming in. She also reported that five days of Tech Trek interviews have been completed and ten girls have been selected. Camp volunteers are needed as dorm monitors and or nurses.

New Business: Leslie discussed voting at the April AAUW State Meeting in Bellingham. We are entitled to five votes; voting will be on Saturday. Norma Mouton announced that Norma Smith and Dave Paul will hold a Town Meeting on Saturday, March 23, at 2:00 p.m. at Stanwood High School. On May 6 Opal Smith, USC faculty member, will present "Keeping Kids Safe," a program on human trafficking. This will be held at 7:00 p.m. at Stanwood High School. Cathlin Starke distributed copies of an article concerning ways to prevent robot calls.

Cathlin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:10 p.m. The motion was seconded by Kaye Sodt and approved by all.

Respectively submitted by Mary Raymond for Lynda Lynn, Secretary

Day Trippers "Ladies of Laughter", March 16, 2019

Lynda Buehring

The March Day Tripper event on March 16 was to the Ladies of Laughter at the Mt. Baker Theatre featuring Erin Jackson, Patty Rosborough and Leighann Lord. The group also enjoyed an early dinner at Keenan's at the Pier in Bellingham.

The following members were present and pictured left to right: Patti Pontikis, Mary Raymond, Nancy Leuschel, Lynda Buehring, Linda Demetre, Valerie Nelson, and Mary Chesney. Taking the picture is Norma Mouton.



PWP: Purse Shopping At the Seattle Outlets, March 21, 2019

Lynda Buehring



This day was about fun and fellowship and great shopping coordination for wonderful live auction purses. I hope we can do another purse shopping trip and lunch again. Great teamwork ladies!

We purchased five purses then broke for lunch at the Ram. Pictured on the left are our purchases and the shoppers: Linda Lynn, Lynda Buehring, Mary Chesney and Georgi Proulx.

It was all about fun, lunch and shopping...which exemplifies the spirit of our purse auction.

Thank you again ladies for a wonderful day!



Day Trippers: May 30, Friday Harbor

Lynda Buehring

Our May 30 Day Trippers outing will be to Friday Harbor. Many of the points of interests do not open until after Memorial Day thus the end of the month.

Carpools will be arranged from Terry's Corner and Stanwood at 7:45 a.m. to Anacortes to catch the 9:30 a.m. ferry arriving in Friday Harbor at 10:35 a.m. The private bus tour will be 2-1/2 to 3 hrs.

We will board the bus upon arrival visiting English Camp, South Beach and then the San Juan Vineyards returning to town for lunch at the Downrigger Restaurant in the harbor. After lunch we will walk up to the Friday Harbor Chocolates for a tasting of port and chocolate. After that you are on your own to shop, visit the Whale Museum, Art Museum, Co-op Artist shop and many more unique shops. Be back at the ferry landing no later than 4:00 p.m. to catch the 4:15 p.m. ferry back to Anacortes.

There will be costs involved in this outing that will be announced at a future date. If you are interested in attending, save the date and email Lynda Buehring with your intentions.



Spring makes its own statement, so loud and clear that the gardener seems to be only one of the instruments, not the composer.

Geoffrey B. Charlesworth