



Stanwood-Camano Branch of AAUW

In Touch

October 2019

Edited by Martha Huyler and Georgi Proulx


 Find us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/stanwoodcamanoaaauw
www.aauwsc.org

October 3rd

Thursday

1:00 p.m.

October Board Meeting
Camano Library

October 5th

Saturday

10:30 a.m.

Purses with Purpose
Camano Center

October 10th

Thursday

1:00 p.m.

(NO social 1/2 hour)
General Meeting
Camano Island Library

Carolyn Spector, Branch Historian, will present a history of the founding of our branch.

Jean Shumate and Steve Lidgard will present a school district update.

October 16th

Wednesday

6:30 p.m.

Candidates & Issues Forum
Stanwood Middle School
Sign Up to Bring Cookies

Program information contact:
Carol Kayler
VP of Program

Message from the President

Mary Chesney

This past month we heard about Tech Trek from the young women we sponsored. Even two months later, they were still excited about what they experienced. On October 5, we will be holding our biennial fundraiser, Purses with Purpose (PWP). The money raised from this event not only funds the girls to Tech Trek camp but also enables our Branch to provide scholarships to local women and men and to support the American Association of University Women (AAUW) Education Foundation. The more money we raise, the more women and girls we can help. Please be generous with your donations. There is an opportunity for everyone to give, even if you are not a purse person. And if you know someone or an organization that might qualify for a grant or fellowship at the national level, please pass on this link.

<https://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/educational-funding-and-awards/>

The deadline for applications is coming up quickly, the first of November.

This month our general meeting will include a presentation by Carolyn Spector, our Branch Historian, on the founding of our branch and a presentation by representatives of the Stanwood-Camano School District of issues important to the school district in the upcoming election. I encourage you to make it a point to attend and if you need a ride, use the member roster to find a member who lives near you and might be able to give you a ride.

Last month I shared my goals for this year with you. We are moving forward with them beginning this month with the first of two surveys. The first survey will be distributed via email following the October general meeting asking about why you come or do not come to meetings and what would make the meetings of greater interest to you. If you do not use the computer and would like to respond to the survey, please contact me to have a copy of the survey mailed to you. I will include a stamped self-addressed envelope to aid in the return. After these surveys have been collected and the data reviewed, another survey will be sent out to address the time of day for meetings. We have several members who work outside the home and are unable to attend meetings. Some of our members are unable to attend because of work. We not only want to make it possible for them to attend but also grow our membership to include working women and men (AAUW has had men as members for over 15 years) by making it possible for them to participate in the meetings. As with the first survey, the data will be reviewed by the Board. The earliest for any changes will be September of 2020.

A quick note that beginning in November, our general meetings will be broadcast over the internet via Skype. Included below is a link to instructions for setting up a Skype account. If you are not able to physically attend meetings, the information will guide you on how to use your Skype account to virtually attend. We can have up to 24 Skype accounts attend using this software.

https://1drv.ms/w/s!AugFPuCW5Sjtq4Mo_DgqBFW-AyM28g

Future Events

November 7th

Thursday

1:00 p.m.

November Board Meeting
Camano Library

November 14th

Thursday

1:00 p.m.

General Meeting
Camano Island Library



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/)



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

www.aauwsc.org

October Program: History of our Founders

Carolyn Spector

Sixteen women formed our AAUW branch in 1936.

- *Who were these women?*
- *What did they have in common?*
- *Why did they form this branch when they did?*

Please join us on October 10, 1:00 p.m., at the Camano Library for a presentation by branch historian, Carolyn Spector. Carolyn has been busy for many months collecting and compiling documents and photos of our branch history. She will answer the questions above and provide additional intriguing facts about our branch founders.

Also at the meeting will be Jean Shumate, Superintendent, and Steve Lidgard, Executive Director of Business Services, to present information regarding the state of our Stanwood-Camano School District. Topics will be upcoming 2020 Educational Programs and Operations Replacement Levy and Capital Projects Update.



Candidate & Issues Forum: October 16

Elaine Richards

The Stanwood/Camano branch of AAUW, in partnership with the Stanwood/Camano News, has sponsored a Candidate & Issues Forum every year since 1998. The Forum provides a community platform for candidates from North Snohomish County and Camano Island and representatives for legislative, congressional and statewide initiatives and issues.



This year over 20 candidates have responded they will attend. There are a variety of races on this year's ballot including School Board, Stanwood City Council, Snohomish County Sheriff and Judges, and other races.

The Forum is scheduled for Wednesday, October 16, 6:30 p.m. in the Stanwood Middle School Cafeteria. Our members are encouraged to attend and are asked to help with set-up and to bring a variety of cookies. If you can help with set-up please arrive at 6:00 p.m. It is an opportunity to greet members of the community and to describe and recruit new members to our branch. If you can help or have questions, please contact Elaine Richards.

Purses with Purpose: Ready, Set, Go

Excitement is building for our big biennial event this Saturday, October 5. The event team had its last meeting, and it's a go for launch.

If you would like to help set up please show up at the Camano Center on Friday, October 4, from 4-6:00 p.m., and you will be put to work plus you'll get a sneak peek at what the event offers.

According to Cathlin Starke, a few seats remain so it's not too late to get a ticket. Contact Cathlin if you are interested.

If you are a day-of-the-event volunteer please arrive at 10:00 a.m. and park in the Utsalady Elementary School parking lot. Greg Proulx will be your "chauffeur" in a white Sequoia marked "volunteer shuttle" to take you to the Camano Center.

One last thing.....pray for sunshine.....

**A girl can
never have
too many
purses**

Your 2019-2020 Board

President

Mary Chesney

President-Elect

Judy Prince

VP of Finance

Nancy Voelckers

VP of Finance-Elect

Jackie-Lyn Olson

VP-Membership

Martha Huyler

Membership Assistant *

Georgi Proulx

Secretary

Linda Lynn

VP of Program

Carol Kayler

Program Assistant *

Helen Smith

Public Policy

(open position)

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

(open position)

Tech Trek Chair

Judy Prince

Volunteer School Partners

Marianne McGarry-Bloom

Grant Committee

Norma Mouton

AAUW Funds Coordinator

Jackie DeFazio

Candidate & Issues Forum

Elaine Richards

Historian

Carolyn Spector

Diversity

Linda Lynn

501(c)(3) Compliance

Jackie DeFazio

Stanwood-Camano Give

Terry Benson

Title IX Liaison

Jackie-Lyn Olson

Newsletter Team

Georgi Proulx, Martha Huyler

Meet Our Members

Donna Conner

Born in Bayonne, New Jersey, Donna spent her childhood in a small town across from New York City. "When I was 13, we moved out west to Denver, Colorado. I grew up in a home raised by two strong women who were amazing role models. I was raised by my mother and my grandmother, and was the only child in our area that didn't have a dad. That made things very tough for me as an only child who was often the targeting of a lot of bullying."

"My mother and grandmother scarified a lot for me so my approach was to 'be the best' in all things—both scholastic and in the arts. Since single parents were not a 'thing' in the early 60s, my mother had to be very creative so she and her mother could go to work. So I had after school activities for every day of the week that I would get myself to which included Ballet Lessons, Painting, Tap Dance, Majorette, and a lot of time at the library doing homework as these 'programs' were my after-school care."

Donna attended college in Denver. "Denver had a very progressive approach to education and had a blended campus called the Auraria Campus which was a dynamic academic environment shared by three separate and distinct institutions of higher learning: The Community College of Denver, Metropolitan State University of Denver, and the University of Colorado Denver. I attended classes at all three schools and graduated with a degree in Mass Communications with a focus on Radio & Television."

Her career in communications began in her college years continuing into broadcasting, corporate communications, and commercial and documentary TV. She created programming for the emerging BBS communities of CompuServe, Delphi and America Online and realized the potential for online communities was going to transform the world. She transitioned into the bleeding edge of technology and after working with a team as part of a startup, she was involved in AOL and recruited by Microsoft covering a number of areas and products. Donna retired from Microsoft after 20 years and is now an Adult Swim Coach teaching adults how to swim at the Snohomish Aquatic Center and the Stanwood Swim & Fit facility.

"Over 20 years ago realized I was blessed to fall in love with someone who was one of my best friends. Married to hubby, Ron Graham, we've been together 21 years. I have a son, Tony Conner, and a stepson, Erik Graham and am a Nana to 6-year-old Gino Conner Nelson."

Donna's hobbies include: "greatest gift my mother gave me was the love of books," dogs "are my best friends and must admit I like them more than people," "in the early days of KBDI I was a disc jockey and to this day my love of all types of music is a huge influencer in my life," gardening, mentoring and swimming.

Travels- "I have truly been blessed to have had the opportunity to travel all over the world. I've been to London, Paris, Rome, Milan, Venice, Nice, Marseille, Barcelona, Lisbon, Munich, Frankfurt, Turkey, Greece, Istanbul, China, Brazil, Indonesia, Mexico, Tokyo, and Moscow. I am sure I am forgetting something, but I've been so lucky."

What would surprise us about you?

I'm an introvert playing an extrovert to get through life. It works. I'm still a Hippie! I found out very late in life that I am multi-racial: Italian, American Indian, African American with a sprinkling of Middle Eastern in my blood. God Bless Ancestry.com.

What advice do you have for girls today?

My favorite quote on my wall: "Nothing in the world can take the place of Persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and Determination alone are omnipotent." (-Calvin Coolidge) Press On and Don't Doubt Yourself. You got THIS."



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

LIKE our page to follow us then

SHARE to increase our visibility in the community.

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.



October

WHAT: Pachinko by Min Jim Lee

WHEN: Monday, October 7, 2019, 2:00 p.m.

WHERE: Nancy Voelcker's Home

A new tour de force from the bestselling author of Free Food for Millionaires, for readers of A Fine Balance and Cutting for Stone. Profoundly moving and gracefully told, Pachinko follows one Korean family through the generations, beginning in early 1900s Korea with Sunja, the prized daughter of a poor yet proud family, whose unplanned pregnancy threatens to shame them. Betrayed by her wealthy lover, Sunja finds unexpected salvation when a young tubercular minister offers to marry her and bring her to Japan to start a new life. So begins a sweeping saga of exceptional people in exile from a homeland they never knew and caught in the indifferent arc of history. In Japan, Sunja's family members endure harsh discrimination, catastrophes, and poverty, yet they also encounter great joy as they pursue their passions and rise to meet the challenges this new home presents. Through desperate struggles and hard-won triumphs, they are bound together by deep roots as their family faces enduring questions of faith, family, and identity.

November

WHAT: Lincoln in the Bardo by George Saunders

WHEN: Monday, November 4, 2019, 2:00 p.m.

WHERE: Thea Wellington's Home

Set over the course of that one night and populated by ghosts of the recently passed and the long dead, Lincoln in the Bardo is a thrilling exploration of death, grief, the powers of good and evil, a novel - in its form and voice - completely unlike anything you have read before. It is also, in the end, an exploration of the deeper meaning and possibilities of life, written as only George Saunders can: with humor, pathos, and grace. On February 22, 1862, two days after his death, Willie Lincoln was laid to rest in a marble crypt in a Georgetown cemetery. That very night, shattered by grief, Abraham Lincoln arrives at the cemetery under cover of darkness and visits the crypt, alone, to spend time with his son's body. Willie finds himself in a strange purgatory-- the bardo-- where ghosts commiserate quarrel, and enact bizarre acts of penance and where a struggle erupts over his soul.

December

WHAT: The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald

Rebecca by Daphne du Maurier

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

WHERE: Martha Huyler's Home

The Great Gatsby: This quintessential novel of the Jazz Age has been acclaimed by generations of readers. The story of the mysteriously wealthy Jay Gatsby and his love for the beautiful Daisy Buchanan, of lavish parties on Long Island at a time when The New York Times noted "gin was the national drink and sex the national obsession," it is an exquisitely crafted tale of America in the 1920s.-- Provided by publisher.

Rebecca: The second Mrs. Maxim de Winter recalls the chilling events that transpired as she began her new life as the young bride of a husband she barely knew. For in every corner of every room were phantoms of a time dead but not forgotten--a past devotedly preserved by the sinister housekeeper, Mrs. Danvers. With an eerie presentiment of evil tightening her heart, the second Mrs. de Winter walked in the shadow of her mysterious predecessor, determined to uncover the darkest secrets and shattering truths about Maxim's first wife--the late and hauntingly beautiful Rebecca.--Provided by publisher

For more information, contact Katie Farrey.

General Meeting Minutes - September 12, 2019

Program: 2019 Tech Trek Campers presented their camp experiences from last July.

Call to Order: President, Mary Chesney, called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m. Guests were introduced. Elaine Richards introduced Rebecca Shepherd. Martha Huyler introduced Mary Sue Carl and Jean Milnor. Mary introduced the leadership that was present at the meeting and remarked on open positions: Public Policy and Scholarships.

Minutes for June 23, 2019 Meeting. Carol Kayler moved to approve June 23 minutes as published in September newsletter; Nancy Voelckers seconded; motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Nancy Voelckers presented the financials for July and August. As of August 31, 2019 the balance in Operating and Scholarship accounts was \$37,492.15. Membership dues received totaled \$624, but most of that was in fiscal year 2018-19. She also reported that our 490-N form was filed by the accountant. In Scholarship Account, \$1000 donation was received as part of Purses with Purpose donations. In July/August \$16000 was dispersed in scholarship funds for the four recipients. Included in Nancy's report was a comparison report showing budget amounts to actual expenses. Carol Kayler moved to accept the financial report; Judy Prince seconded; motion approved.

Purses with Purpose: Lynda Buehring reported that things are moving right along. She explained "Purses with Purpose" for the guests. A few tickets are still available.

- Volunteer meeting on Thursday, September 19, 2-4pm at the Camano Library. Volunteers can buy lunch and/or register for a bid number. Deadline for lunch orders is Sept 25.
- Event set up on Friday, October 4, 4-6 p.m. at Camano Center
- Saturday, October 5, staff begins arriving at 9 a.m. for the event.

Candidate Forum: Elaine Richards explained the Candidate Forum for our guests. It is scheduled for Wednesday, October 16, 6:30 p.m. at Stanwood Middle School. To date she has received positive responses from 21 candidates. Jackie DeFazio will act as facilitator. Please sign up to bring 2-3 dozen cookies to the Candidate Forum. Email Elaine Richards or Georgi Proulx.

Program: Carol Kayler announced the October 10 and November 14 meetings will be at Camano Library at 1:00 p.m. There will be NO Social ½ Hour for these two meetings due to the library's unavailability. December 12 is our Holiday Luncheon at the Cama Café; please sign up for the planning committee for this event.

Giving Tuesday is Tuesday, December 3. Terry Benson is Chair and will be sharing more information later.

Education Outreach/Volunteer School Partners: Marianne McGarry-Bloom is developing an Art Docent program to be administered at the elementary schools for first graders and looking for volunteers. Program is designed to provide a biography of an artist and an entry level of art appreciation. Marianne needs eight volunteers, this is a scripted program, one hour per month commitment, and teachers remain in the classroom. Elementary schools participating: Stanwood, Twin City, Cedarhome, and Elger Bay. Utsalady already has an art program.

New Business: Mary discussed the current meeting/program attendance and her desire that the meeting time allow for a diverse membership. A majority of our members are retired and she would like to explore expanding our membership. To that end she is developing an opportunity for members to Skype the meetings; broadcasts will begin at the November 14 meeting. She would like to attract men and women and make it possible for working members to attend or Skype the meetings.

There will be two surveys going out via email after the October 10 meeting. The first to establish the why/why not members are attending. The second to explore changes in the meeting times. The results of these surveys will be presented to the Board. If there are changes, they will begin September 2020.

Martha mentioned that currently we have 84 members on the roster but the actual count of current dues paid was still changing.

Tech Trek: Mary shared her excitement about Tech Trek after volunteering last summer as a Dorm Mom and encouraged interested members to help next summer – "very rewarding." Judy Prince shared as well. It was suggested that we adjourn the meeting and share these comments with the Tech Trek girls and their families waiting outside to make their presentations.

Adjournment: Martha Huyler moved to adjourn the meeting; Elaine Richards seconded; motion carried; meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Georgi Proulx
For Linda Lynn, Secretary

Dear Stanwood-Camano AAUW Branch,

Thank you so much for letting me come to Tech Trek! This week was absolutely incredible, and it was the best week of my life. I never would have gotten the exposure to STEM that I have if it wasn't for Tech Trek.

Thank you so, so, so much for allowing me to come here.

sincerely,
Alyssa Acosta ♡

Dear AAUW Stanwood/Camano branch,

Thank you so much for sending me to Tech Trek this year. It was an amazing experience that I will never forget. I have learned so much from this camp that will carry me to pursue a job in the STEM field and that is all because of you. I not only gained factual knowledge but also emotional & social knowledge. I gained confidence in myself that I can achieve anything I put my mind to. Once again, thank you for setting my life on the right path for greatness.

- Cassandra Mueggeston

Dear Stanwood-Camano AAUW Branch

Thank you so much for taking the time out of your lives to interview me and eventually allow me to go to this amazing camp to meet all my new friends and learn so many new things. Thank you so, so much!

- Brooklyn Helle

Dear the Stanwood Camano Branch
Thank you for sponsoring me to go to Tech Trek! This is a week I'll never forget! ~~With~~ out you sponsoring me I wouldn't have met people who now are really good friends. I am so much more comfortable with STEM! All of this happened in 1 week and just 1 sponsor. Thank you so much

Sincerely,

Emmy Monty

Dear donators of the Stanwood-Camano

branch, thank you for donating and being able to send me this year!

-Katana (kiki) Karasti

Dear Stanwood-camano branch,

Thank you so, so, so much! I'm so lucky, and I'm so grateful to be here! I have learned so much. After doing this camp I almost definitely pursue something in the STEM field. (Specifically Medical)

Thank you again, I'm very, very great

From, Safaiah Donnelson

-Stanwood camano branch.

Dear Stanwood-Camano Branch,
 Thank you so much for selecting me to attend this amazing camp. This week has been absolutely life changing. I have learned so many new things. I will be sure to never forget. I have always loved math & science, but never really knew what I wanted to do. I am now quite unsure what to do, because I have been exposed to so many career paths that fascinate me. Astronomy, physics, biology, all of it. I can't wait to learn more. So again thank you.

I would not be here if it wasn't for you.

Sincerely,

Brennigh Guico



Thank you so much!



Dear AAUW, Stanwood-Camano branch,
 Thank you so much for your sponsorship that allowed me to be able to have this experience. I greatly appreciate it! I have learned so much from this camp, and I have gained some many experiences that I wouldn't have been able to get if I wasn't able to be here. I feel so honored to be chosen for this camp. I hope that I can soon be a counselor for this camp. I am now much more interested in STEM than I was before. Thank you for helping me become closer to my goals and to let me know it is possible. *Kylan*

Thank you!

Sincerely, Lexi Berry

Dear Stanwood-Camano branch,
 Thank you guys so much for reading my essay, and interviewing me, and deciding to send me. This has been a life changing experience and I will be thankful throughout my whole life. I have met so many amazing people and experienced so many things here. I am so inspired by all the people who came and showed us what it takes to be a scientist. Thank you so much!

Dear Stanwood Camano branch
 I had lots of fun this week I wish I would be able to come back as a ~~student~~ student counselor and become a dorm mom. I just want to say thanks for taking the time to get me to TechTrek. Sincerely, *Maddy Hostetter*

Branch
 Stanwood-Camano

Visit with Timothy Egan

Joyce Leak

Joyce Leak and Jackie DeFazio attended a library presentation given by Timothy Egan, Seattle author and contributor for the New York Times. Our Book Group has read and discussed four of Tim's books. Joyce and Jackie won copies of his new book, and Tim signed them.



Joyce Leak and Timothy Egan



Timothy Egan and Jackie DeFazio



Have a Spooktacular
Fangtastic Halloween !

