



# Stanwood-Camano Branch of AAUW

## In Touch

December 2020

Edited by Martha Huyler and Georgi Proulx


 Find us on Facebook  
[www.facebook.com/stanwoodcamanoaaauw](http://www.facebook.com/stanwoodcamanoaaauw)  
[www.aauwsc.org](http://www.aauwsc.org)

### December 1st

#### Stanwood-Camano Give Giving Tuesday

Donate to our Project: *Inspiring Young Women in Science and Tech Careers*

\*\*\*\*\*

### December 3rd

#### Thursday

1:00 p.m.

December Board Meeting

Virtual via Zoom

\*\*\*\*\*

### December 10th

#### Thursday

In-person Holiday Luncheon is cancelled.

Watch for Email regarding Virtual Business Meeting

### Message from the President

Judy Prince

2020 is almost over. We will be spending some of 2021 recovering from COVID-19 and when enough of the general population is vaccinated, we may get to the new normal.

As recently announced, because of concern on the part of the branch board, there will not be an in person holiday lunch. There is hope that we can have some kind of virtual meeting; more information to come. It is proposed by the board that members contribute the \$25 you would have paid for the holiday lunch to the Stanwood-Camano Food Bank.

Virtual meetings are planned through the end of the 2020-2021 AAUW year transitioning to in-person when that option becomes possible.

Norma Mouton announced at our last meeting that AAUW national dues will be increasing each year for the next three years. The dues increases are necessary because the national organization is not meeting expenses through dues alone. Will this cause a problem for membership renewal? The branch board is considering a program to assist members who will have problems paying the increased dues. Details to follow.

I hope more people will be able to attend the January branch meeting. Kathy Cunningham is doing a fantastic job planning planned programs that are interesting and informative. Of course, the social aspects of in-person meetings are lacking and we have to provide our own beverage.

I hope to "see" plenty of you in January if we cannot get together on-line in December.

### December: Holiday In-Person Luncheon Cancelled

Kathy Cunningham

Due to the pandemic, it is most unfortunate that we will be unable to gather to celebrate the holiday spirit in person this year. Donna King, owner of the wonderful Cama Beach Cafe, has agreed to be the guest speaker for our February meeting, discussing her career as one of our local women entrepreneurs. Stay tuned for further details in the February newsletter.

Take a look at the Cama Beach website and order a to go meal, particularly during this holiday closure. We want to our local restaurants to survive!

All best personal wishes for a Blessed Christmas and Hanukkah season.

### Giving Tuesday is December 1

Lois Ruskell

Tuesday, December 1, is Giving Tuesday; our branch project is the "Inspiring Young Women in Science and Tech Careers."

To participate visit [www.scgive.org](http://www.scgive.org) and select "Inspiring Young Women in Science and Tech Careers" project from the list. Follow the prompts to select your donation amount, "add to shopping cart" and then "checkout" to complete your donation.

Hope to see you, your friends and your family, local and around the world, helping out.



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## Future Events

**January 7th**

**Thursday**

**1:00 p.m.**

January Board Meeting

Virtual via Zoom

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**January 14th**

**Thursday**

**1:00 p.m.**

General Meeting

Virtual Via Zoom

*Program: Karen Anderson,  
Public Policy Chair for AAUW-  
WA presenting Public Policy for  
our state*

\*\*\*\*\*

**February 1st**

**Monday**

Virtual Lobby Day

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

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

### Public Policy

Go to:

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

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

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

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



## Tech Trek 2021 Goes Virtual

Mary Chesney

If you missed the article in the most recent Evergreen Leader (EL) I want to let you know that the decision was made to hold Tech Trek as a virtual camp for 2021.

Campers who would have attended the camp in 2020 and those selected for summer 2021, will be invited to participate in the "camp in a box" virtual format. There is also the possibility of an option for the 2021 campers to attend camp in person in 2022. All the details for the camp have yet to be worked out. No additional funds will need to be raised for the girls from this year although we have no idea of the cost of implementing a virtual camp.

I am watching for the materials to be developed and have contacted the middle school counselors regarding the plan for selection. I contacted the 2020 campers to give the parents an update on the plan for the virtual camp. It is anticipated that some of the 2020 campers might not be interested in attending for a variety of reasons. If some or all of the 2020 campers decline the camp and we learn that if we are unable to recruit campers for the 2021 cohort, the funds that have previously been submitted for Tech Trek camp will remain in the state Tech Trek account, available for use by us in the future.

Stanwood-Camano Give on Giving Tuesday is December 1! If you haven't already given, you can still visit [www.scgive.org](http://www.scgive.org) and GIVE BIG!!!! Another avenue is to send donations for Tech Trek camp to AAUW Stanwood Camano, P.O. Box 2652, Stanwood, WA 98292.

Some of you have already offered to help interview potential campers. Please let me know if you remain interested in helping recruit under these unique circumstances. I anticipate we will begin recruiting sometime in February 2021.



## Yes! There will be PWP in 2021, With Your Help!

Jackie DeFazio and Gay Campbell

During these uncertain times, one thing **is** certain—we in Stanwood-Camano will not abandon our goal of supporting women and girls through providing scholarships and Tech Trek experiences. Whether it is virtual or live, we **will** have a *Purses with Purpose* event in October of next year to raise the funds necessary for this support!



To make that happen, we need every member of our branch working on this project in one way or another. We especially need every member to contribute a **new** purse in whatever price range suits your purse. It does not need to be a designer purse. If you find a purse you love so much you would buy it for yourself, then one of our bidders will also love it.

Now is the perfect time of year to shop for that purse, but if you do not like to shop and want someone else to shop for you, you can mail your check to the branch PO box clearly indicating that it is to be used to purchase a purse. The committee will have someone do your shopping for you. In return, you will receive a donor receipt for your records.

If you already have a purse to contribute, please send or arrange to deliver it to Rose Olson, noting that it is a purse for AAUW. Her contact information can be found on the member list emailed to you by Georgi Proulx. Please include the price of the purse if there is no price tag on the item since we need to list the fair market value when the purse is prepared for the auction.

In these challenging times, our scholarship recipients need our support more than ever. Thanks for helping!

## Your 2020-2021 Board

### President

Judy Prince

### President-Elect

India Nishi

### VP of Finance

Jackie-Lyn Olson

### VP of Finance-Elect

Jeanie Garrioch

### VP-Membership

Norma Mouton

### Membership Assistant \*

Lynda Buehring

### Secretary

Georgi Proulx

### VP of Program

Kathy Cunningham

### Program Assistant \*

India Nishi

### Public Policy

Cathlin Starke

### Communications

Georgi Proulx, Martha Huyler

\* Appointed position, shares vote with VP

## Activity Leaders

### Purses with Purpose 2021

Gay Campbell

Jackie DeFazio

### High School STEM Scholars

Lois Ruskell

### Scholarship Chair

Marianne McGarry-Bloom

### Tech Trek Chair

Mary Chesney

### Art Education

Marianne McGarry-Bloom

### Grant Committee

Lois Ruskell

### AAUW Funds Coordinator

Jackie DeFazio

### Candidate & Issues Forum

Elaine Richards

### Historian

(open position)

### Diversity

Linda Lynn

### 501(c)(3) Compliance

Jackie DeFazio

### Stanwood-Camano Give

Lois Ruskell

### Title IX Liaison

Jackie-Lyn Olson

### Newsletter Team

Georgi Proulx, Martha Huyler

## AAUW Funds: End-of-Year Giving

Jackie DeFazio



In a year when so much appears to have changed, constants do remain. This is the season of giving and opportunities for making a difference by giving of our time and money abound both in our local communities and beyond those borders—as does the reach of AAUW. Locally Stanwood-Camano AAUW concentrates its efforts on funding Tech Trek opportunities and scholarships for young women and girls. National AAUW expands the ability of each of us to impact the lives of women and girls everywhere.

Since its founding in 1881, AAUW members collectively have given more than \$115 million to over 13,000 women and nonprofit organizations around the world. But the beginnings of that philanthropy were humble. In the absence of dues, AAUW founder Marion Talbot asked members to support a fund for women's graduate education by contributing \$1 per year "to enable gifted women to use their intellectual powers for the good of humanity."

In 1888, the very first fellowship went to Ida Street, a pioneer in the field of early American Indian history, in the amount of \$350. Fast forward to 2020 when AAUW members collectively funded \$3.5 million in the 2020-21 awards cycle. As you consider your end-of-year giving opportunities, add AAUW to your list. From now through December 31, your donation will be matched by members of AAUW's national Board of Directors. Visit [aauw.org](http://aauw.org) for donation information.

## Public Policy: Lobby Day - February 1

Cathlin Starke

Lobby Day is always terrific! An opportunity to meet with our elected officials and make our AAUW priorities known. February 1, 2021, Lobby Day will be "virtual"- so no overnight in Olympia, but still a great chance to dialogue with those who represent us. We are fortunate to have Karen Anderson, AAUW-WA Public Policy director, as speaker at our January meeting.

Karen Anderson, our State Public Policy director, and Nancy Sapiro, our new AAUW lobbyist are developing plans for the meeting and a list of bills for us to support.

Our advocacy efforts last year had mixed results as some measures passed and others did not. One was vetoed by Governor Inslee for budget reasons.

Our new AAUW lobbyist, Nancy Sapiro brings years of experience and expertise to her work on our behalf. As a lawyer and contract lobbyist Nancy has represented clients in Olympia since 2012. Her lobbying portfolio includes health care, including reproductive health, civil rights, economic and social justice issues, domestic violence, and civic engagement. Prior to this, she worked as a staff attorney for a women's legal rights.

*Source: AAUW Evergreen Leader. Fall 2020 Issue*

Please email Cathlin Starke if you want to participate! I really encourage our newest members to join us!



## Branch Beginnings: Jeannette Ruth "Nettie" Johnson

Carolyn Spector

*Our branch of AAUW was formed in Arlington in 1936 by a group of 16 women. This is one of a series of articles profiling the women who founded our branch.*



Jeannette, who went by Nettie all of her life, was born on June 17, 1910 in Washington, the daughter of immigrants from Sweden. Nettie attended Garfield High School in Seattle, where she was a member of the honor society in years 2,3,4; played on the basketball team in years 2 and 3; and played baseball and tennis in her senior year. Her senior album description was: "Air and manners are more expressive than words."

Nettie attended the University of Washington, where she became a member of Phi Beta Kappa in 1932. She joined Sigma Epsilon in 1933, and was a member of the "Women's honorary allied medical fraternity," a society of students majoring in bacteriology, pre-medicine and nursing. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and General Science.

Nettie began teaching at Arlington High School in 1935. The 1940 U. S. Federal Census shows her living in Arlington and teaching science.

Nettie married Howard Satra at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Silvana on December 11, 1942. The couple divorced at some point before 1950. No record of a subsequent marriage can be found for Nettie. She died on November 4, 1996.

## In Memoriam: Leslie Gitomer

Mary Raymond

Leslie Gitomer, Stanwood-Camano AAUW Past-President 2018-2019, passed away early on November 1. Her adventuresome life ended peacefully on her own terms; she was at home with her daughter (Erin), son (Joe), daughter-in-law (Regina) and grandson (Lincoln, age 2) caring for her. Leslie fought a determined battle against metastatic breast cancer for over 20 years, never letting this disease stop her from living an extremely full life.



Leslie Gitomer, Mary Raymond

Before her move to the Puget Sound area, Leslie's life in Alaska included a career as a geologist and surveyor and obtaining an engineering degree from the University of Alaska. She worked to construct her own cabin, had a dogsled team and participated in several long races. Her move to Washington to work at Boeing as an engineer did not lessen her love for adventure or the outdoors. Hiking, camping, sailing, kayaking were all passions she shared with Joe and Erin as they were growing up. As a single working mom, she made sure her children had every opportunity to develop their interests --aviation, dance, instrumental music-- at a very high level. Their developing lives continued to bring Leslie her greatest pleasures.

Leslie's trips since retirement have taken her kayaking in Alaska, to the Galapagos Islands and Machu Picchu. Just this past winter, she spent weeks hiking locally to build up her endurance for a challenging REI trip to Patagonia which she completed in February. She was truly a determined fighter.

In AAUW, Leslie was a huge supporter of Tech Trek, fully committing herself to that leadership role. She worked tirelessly during the selection process (only wishing more girls could be offered a camping slot), served as a dorm monitor at Tech Trek camps in both eastern and western Washington, and planned and facilitated the branch meetings with returning campers. Tech Trek and science-related careers for girls were her passions at AAUW. At one STEM Scholar Recognition event Leslie gave a talk about her experiences achieving success in a male-dominated profession.

She was a reluctant President, agreeing to follow me in that role when no other member stepped up, but she was a committed leader, attending leadership meetings and the state convention before her term of office in 2018 - 2019. Leslie's life, cut short though it was, embodied so many of the values of AAUW, but to me she was a very dear friend. I will miss her greatly.

*Tech Trek Scholarship in Leslie's Honor: Helen Smith shares, "At the November 12 general meeting it was suggested and agreed that we honor Leslie with a Tech Trek scholarship in her name from donations of our members that wish to contribute. Personally, I admired her courage and fortitude during her illness. While a relatively new member, Leslie was the Tech Trek chair and for several years encouraged our branch to support more and more candidates for the Tech Trek honor. As a former (female) engineer at Boeing, I think much of her passion for that project was personal having been part of the STEM trade herself. She even volunteered, like some of our other members, to attend camp herself at PLU as a counselor."*

*It is to this purpose that we privately fund a 2021 or 2022 Tech Trek scholarship in Leslie's name. This is a voluntary opportunity to add another scholarship this year. Please mail checks, great or small, to Stanwood-Camano AAUW, P.O. Box 2652, Stanwood 98292.*

## Special Branch Activities

### Day Trippers

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

Tammie Goodwin  
Michele Simms

### Movie Group

*Movie Group is suspended during the social distancing period, but we hope you will join us for lunch and a movie when we once again can "see you at the movies."*

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



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**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.



*Online book group will meet Monday, December 7 at 2:00 p.m. using Zoom. If you have not done so already, be sure to let Katie know if you want to join in. It works by invitation only, so we have to add your email address to the list beforehand. You will receive an email with a link to join the discussion. A little before 2:00 p.m., click the link and wait for us to acknowledge you. Be patient.*

### December 7

Unsheltered by Barbara Kingsolver

*Unsheltered is the compulsively readable story of two families, in two centuries, who live at the corner of Sixth and Plum in Vineland, New Jersey, navigating what seems to be the end of the world as they know it. With history as their tantalizing canvas, these characters paint a startlingly relevant portrait of life in precarious times when the foundations of the past have failed to prepare us for the future.-- Publisher's description.*

### January 4

The Bone and Sinew of the Land by Anna-Lisa Cox

*The American frontier is one of our most cherished and enduring national images. We think of the early settlers who tamed the wilderness and built the bones of our great country as courageous, independent--and white. In this groundbreaking work of deep historical research, Anna-Lisa Cox shows that this history simply isn't accurate. In fact, she has found a stunning number of black settlements on the frontier--in the thousands. Though forgotten today, these homesteads were a matter of national importance at the time; their mere existence challenged rationalizations for slavery and pushed the question toward a crisis--one that was not resolved until the eruption of the Civil War.--Provided by publisher.*

### February 1

The Only Woman in the Room by Marie Benedict

*Marie Benedict has once again brought a deserving woman out of the shadows into the spotlight. Hedy Lamarr, although well-known for her triumphs on the silver screen, should be featured in history classes for her contributions to science. Compelling, fascinating, and impossible to put down, this is another triumph for Benedict." -- from the Indie Next List.*

For more information, contact Katie Farrey.



### Needed: Branch Historian

Historical Documents Committee needs leadership. As individuals, the current committee has other commitments in the branch that prohibit them from taking on the leadership. If this position interests you please let Judy Prince know of your availability.

## General Meeting Minutes – November 12, 2020

*Program via Zoom: Diane Martindale (Board President of San Juan Islands Museum of Arts and Chair of Washington State Arts Commission) presented Intersection of Art and Women's Rights.*

**Attendance:** (24) Judy Prince, Jackie Olson, Jeanie Garrioch, Norma Mouton, Kathy Cunningham, Georgi Proulx, Martha Huyler, Cathlin Starke, Gay Campbell, Jackie DeFazio, Nancy Voelckers, India Nishi, Doris Taylor, Lynda Buehring, Helen Smith, Christa Baltsch, Joyce Leak, Katie Farrey, Lois Ruskell, Mary Pilkington, Elaine Richards, Judy Trammell, Diane Martindale (presenter), Lynn Schmidt (guest of Doris Taylor)

**Remembering Leslie Gitomer:** Doris Taylor shared Leslie's gentle supportive manner with the students during the Tech Trek selection process; Joyce Leak remembered her Sound Stewards participation; Jackie DeFazio referred to Leslie as a "trooper" in regards to her interest, participation and drive even while ill and as a very valued member of our branch and community; Martha Huyler recalled her courage; Cathlin Starke mentioned her courage and dedication sharing a piece of Leslie's history with her illness. Mary Pilkington related Leslie's hiking adventures around the world. Helen Smith recommended the branch fund a Tech Trek scholarship for 2021 from member's donations made in Leslie's name. The group consensus was for members to mail checks to the PO Box for the scholarship fund denoting the intention of the donation; this memorial fund information will be included in the newsletter.

**Call to Order:** Judy Prince called meeting to order at 2:08 p.m.

**Guest:** Doris Taylor introduced her guest, Lynn Schmidt.

**Secretary:** Motion to approve minutes from October 8 as posted in November newsletter: Cathlin Starke moved, Kathy Cunningham seconded; motion approved.

**Treasurer:** Jackie-Lyn Olson reviewed the financial report for October. Major transaction was the move of CD to Coastal; all branch funds are now with Coastal. Dues income was \$72 from 3 members. Expenses were scholarship expense for Zoom for PWP and reimbursement to Membership for brochures.

Jackie reported the preliminary scholarship budget for 2021 was presented to the board resulting in the following changes: \$12,000 for scholarships 2021 and \$8000 to Tech Teck budget downsizing the scholarship amounts in anticipation of reduced fund raising.

**Membership:** Norma Mouton shared an increase in National dues effective next year. National dues will be increasing \$3 in 2021-22 (FY2022), \$5 in 2022-23 (FY2023) and \$5 in 2023-24 (FY2024). Total dues, including branch and state, will be \$96 in 2021-22 (FY2022), \$101 in 2022-23 (FY2023) and \$106 in 2023-24 (FY2024) rather than the current \$93. Norma also shared Jackie DeFazio's suggestion to begin a voluntary branch fund to support members with full or partial dues. More to come on this.

**Programs:** Kathy Cunningham announced the cancellation of the in-person luncheon at Cama Beach Café; she's looking for substitute ideas for this meeting or move on without a December meeting. Suggestion: send a check to the food bank in lieu of the cost of your lunch. Consensus was we'll pass on getting together and mail the check to the food bank instead. Virtual meeting is not off the table; Kathy needs ideas. Katie Farrey mentioned the Thanksgiving serve at the food bank is this weekend and volunteers are needed. Stanwood-Camano Food Bank address: P.O. Box 1285, Stanwood, WA 98292.

**PWP:** Jackie DeFazio reported it is looking more like we will be having a virtual event in October 2021; the decision will be made early in 2021. Steering Committee is scheduled to meet in January. Current efforts are gathering new purses. Asking each member to donate a new purse (all price ranges); Rose Olson and Mary Raymond are willing to make the purchases for you, just donate the funds by mailing a check noting the purpose of the funds to P.O. Box 2652 Stanwood, WA 98292. When you purchase from a community business please share with them the reason for the purchase. Only very lightly-used purses are accepted as used purses do not sell well in a virtual auction. Also accepting experience packages.

### **Old Business:**

**Historian:** Martha Huyler has the boxes from Carolyn Spector. It was suggested that the boxes go to the historical society, but Martha shared it was Carolyn's recommendation to have the committee review first. Georgi Proulx volunteered to hold the boxes until the end of the social distancing then the committee will review; committee still needs a chairman.

**SC Give:** Georgi Proulx reported that Facebook posts are scheduled on the SCGive and branch Facebook pages publicizing the December 1 Giving Tuesday event. She requested all members join Facebook and share our project encouraging great membership participation.

**Public Policy:** Cathlin Starke shared the voter turnout for Island County and commented on the improved participation of our voters. She also shared a message regarding public health. R Factor reflects your level of infection rate; goal is to be a 1 (infecting only 1 other person).

**(continued on page 7)**

**General Meeting Minutes – November 12, 2020 (continued from page 6)**

**Candidate Forum:** Elaine Richards recommended a gift for Christine Hansen at the school district for her assistance with our virtual Candidate Forum. Jackie Olson suggested we donate in her name to the Stanwood-Camano Food Bank and she will receive acknowledgement from the food bank. Jackie DeFazio suggested we give her a membership in AAUW. Elaine will message Jean Shumate inquiring if Chris has a qualifying degree. Katie Farrey mentioned there are kid-based programs through the food bank: backpack program and Christmas House that may be a perfect program to donate to in Chris's name. Stanwood-Camano Food Bank, P.O. Box 1285, Stanwood, WA 98292.

**Adjourn:** Norma Mouton moved to adjourn the meeting; Mary Pilkington seconded; motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 2:54 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Georgi Proulx

Secretary



**Three phrases that sum up the Holidays:**

**Peace on Earth,  
Goodwill to Men and  
Batteries not Included.**

**Enjoy Your Holidays**