

Stanwood-Camano Branch of AAUW

In Touch



February 2021

Edited by Martha Huyler and Georgi Proulx



www.aauwsc.org

February 1st

Monday

Virtual Lobby Day

February 4th

Thursday

1:00 p.m.

February Board Meeting

Virtual via Zoom

February 11th

Thursday

1:00 p.m.

General Meeting

Virtual Via Zoom

*Program: Local Women
Entrepreneurs Share their Stories*

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Message from the President

Judy Prince

Let us have no more power outages this winter. It was so disappointing that some of you could not attend our January meeting due to electrical, internet issues.

The next big item on the calendar (even before our February Meeting) is AAUW Washington State Lobby Day. This year's event will be totally virtual. Contact Cathlin Starke to participate. There is a scheduled training and then the actual lobbying of the legislators. You may want to participate and observe the conversations with legislators. There will only be time to talk about the bills that the state organization is supporting. Other interests will need to be discussed as another time.

Please note our program for February 11 focusing on three local women entrepreneurs (page 2) and important updates for PWP (page 3). This issue also stresses the importance of the AAUW Action Fund and the ultimate prize....India Nishi's announcement of our 5 Star progress - a definite winner.

I anticipate virtual meetings through June. It's had to see that we will reach herd immunity to COVID before then. We may still be meeting virtually in September. Schedule your vaccination and continue masking and social distancing.

I'm looking forward to eventually going into the library again. Getting library materials at curbside solves one problem, but its nice to walk into a familiar space.

I hope to see everyone at the February meeting. It is a chance to hear from woman entrepreneurs within our community; see page two for Kathy Cunningham's program preview. Let's have a good turnout.

Public Policy: Please Act Now!

Cathlin Starke

The following was sent to AAUW members on January 13th. If you haven't already responded. please do so. Your vote matters.

This spring, the AAUW membership will vote on an important proposal to amend the AAUW bylaws to open membership and eliminate the degree requirement to join AAUW. The national AAUW Board of Directors strongly supports the proposal, along with dozens of member leaders across the country. We believe this is an essential step toward making AAUW a more diverse and inclusive organization, better aligned with our mission, values and the needs of women today.

Now through February 5, 2021, you can provide thoughts and comments on the proposed changes to the AAUW bylaws as well as proposed changes to the Public Policy Priorities. To learn more about the proposed changes and submit your feedback, please visit the election page on the AAUW website at:

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/2021-comment-bylaws/>

Future Events

March 4th

Thursday

1:00 p.m.

March Board Meeting

Virtual via Zoom

March 11th

Thursday

1:00 p.m.

General Meeting

Virtual Via Zoom

*Program: Amy Klosterman,
attorney and consultant to
schools and workplaces*

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

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

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

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

February: Local Women Entrepreneurs

Kathy Cunningham



In celebration of our centennial celebration of the suffragettes' efforts to secure our right to vote, there was a publicized list of about nine societal-freedom changes that most of us can remember from our early adulthood. These included: the ability to have a credit line, card and equal limit in one's own name from 1974, not so long ago! It took passage of the Equal Credit Opportunity Act to secure these provisions. It wasn't until 1978 that the Pregnancy Discrimination Act provided protections against firings due to impending delivery which would have been welcomed when I gave birth in 1973 to my second daughter. There are others from Military Service to Ivy League Admissions to Workplace Harassment barriers that only saw daylight from mid to late 1970's to the 2000 years. For all these societal movements, we are grateful that our daughters, friends, and women with career trajectories in academia to business to management of different levels of municipalities can move confidently forward to provide for themselves and their families, in efforts that reward their determination, hard work, and passions.

Our local newspaper, the *Stanwood-Camano News*, recently showcased local women who are engaged in public and community service positions including: our Island County Commissioner, City Manager, Mayor and School Superintendent. It is worth noting that some of these women have been or are, branch members. We welcome their efforts on behalf of all of us in their various capacities.

In keeping with acknowledging local area women, our February program features a panel of local women entrepreneurs from different retail offerings to restauranteurs. Several have been with us for many years adapting their business plans to changing environments whether that's place, scope, or response to the pandemic. The featured retail businesswomen: **Brandy Timmer** of Purple Sunset Boutique and **Traci Smith** of The Picnic Pantry, both in Stanwood, are both dual employed and self-termed serial entrepreneurs with long community histories and niche market businesses. Restaurateur **Donna King** is known to many as she operated The Cookie Mill, and now The Cama Cafe, with catering and fabulous takeout at our local state park. (I promise to do everything possible to put all of us with her at the Cama Lodge for the 2021 holiday celebration!!)

It is truly amazing how many women-owned businesses we have in our area, from coffee shops to ethnic restaurants, to financial planners, social workers, bankers and attorneys as well as dentists, appraisers and real estate appraisers, agents and brokers. With no large manufacturing plants in or nearby, their ability to self support and care for their families requires the communities surrounding their businesses to recommit to locally supporting their efforts. Join us for this lively program and be amazed at the array of products and services they offer.

Please join us on February 11 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom for this engaging meeting.

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 2022

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

Purses with Purpose 2022 - No, Its' Not a Typo!

Jackie DeFazio and Gay Campbell

You've got to know when to hold 'em
Know when to fold 'em
Know when to walk away
And know when to run
You never count your money
When you're sittin' at the table
There'll be time enough for countin'
When the dealin's done

-- "The Gambler" by Kenny Rogers

AAUW is far from a gambling organization, but these words from the well-loved Kenny Rogers' song seem to fit the current situation facing the PWP Steering Committee as it tries to determine the best way to ensure a successful Purses with Purpose event.

The enormous challenges of achieving "herd immunity" between now and October 9 and the likelihood of being able to bring together 176 women in a safe, COVID-free environment by that date have convinced the committee of the need to postpone the date of the next PWP to 2022.

We know that much of the success of the event comes from the opportunity it provides the women in our communities to get together with friends, neighbors, and guests to support local young women and girls and to celebrate what it means to be women supporting other women/girls. That opportunity would be diminished, if not lost entirely, in a virtual event.

Further, local businesses and granting entities are faced with daunting challenges because of COVID, making it unlikely that we would receive the kind of donations and grants needed to ensure a successful event. And, as one member of the Steering Committee pointed out, "Who needs a new purse now?"

But come Spring 2022, the picture should be brighter, so current thinking favors a Spring 2022 PWP. There are still many details to be worked out before an actual date is determined. While we work out those details, though, we know that we will still need purses, purses, purses! With that in mind, see the article below from the Procurement Committee for a way to support both PWP and local businesses.

And know that when it comes to PWP, we're "holding," not "folding."

Purses, Purses, Purses....

Mary Raymond

This will be a constant plea from your Procurement Committee for the foreseeable future. As we have said before, each member should contribute one new purse at whatever level is a comfortable purchase amount and also be on the lookout for "gently-carried" bags from closets or friends.

However, after the recent meeting of the PWP steering committee, another idea surfaced to help our cause and also to help local merchants as they struggle during this pandemic. Several members have made generous donations to a fund for us to purchase purses and we have decided to use that money to specifically help those local merchants who have been supportive of PWP in the past. Retailers in both Stanwood/Camano and La Conner have traditionally donated bags and add-ons for our auction, so we plan to do our shopping with these businesses to let them know how much we have appreciated their help in the past and to help them with some income stream in the present. If members would like to make a donation in any amount to help with these purchases, mail a check payable to "AAUW-SC" P.O. Box 2652, Stanwood 98292 noting it is for purse procurement.

Remember that even though our auction date is moved to 2022, we need purses to make it happen! If you currently have bags to donate, just contact Rose Olson or Mary Raymond, and we will pick them up for storage. Thank you and please keep in mind the young women who will benefit from this PWP fundraiser!



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



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.



Online book group will meet Monday, February 1 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.

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.

March 1

Pilgrimage to Eternity by Timothy Egan

"At a time when Britain, America, and much of Europe have never been so secular--and when his mother's death and his Irish Catholic family's complicated history with the church prompted a reckoning with his own beliefs -- Timothy Egan decided to follow in the footsteps of centuries of seekers. He embarked on a thousand-mile pilgrimage through the theological cradle of Christianity, to explore one of the biggest stories of our time: the collapse of religion in the world that it created. Egan sets out along the Via Francigena, once the major medieval trail leading the devout to Rome, and makes his way overland via the alpine peaks and small mountain towns of France, Switzerland and Italy. The goal: walking to St. Peter's Square, in hopes of meeting the galvanizing pope who is struggling to hold together the church through the worst crisis in half a millennium. Making his way through a landscape laced with some of the most important shrines to the faith, Egan finds a modern Canterbury Tale in the chapel where Queen Bertha introduced Christianity to pagan Britain; parses the supernatural in a French town built on miracles; and journeys to the oldest abbey in the Western world, founded in 515 and home to continuous prayer over the 1,500 years that have followed. He is accompanied by a quirky cast of fellow pilgrims and by some of the towering figures of the faith--Joan of Arc, Henry VIII, Martin Luther."

April 5

Once Upon a River by Diane Setterfield

"The Swan, an ancient inn on the Thames River in the town of Radcott, stands at the center of this magical tale full of riveting, complex characters and storylines. The drowned body of a very young girl is brought to the Swan late one night, and she is mysteriously revived. Who is she? Why was she found in the river? How did she come back to life? The marvelous cast of characters who frequent the Swan and live near Radcott speculate and become drawn irresistibly into her story." -- from the Indie Next List. (Setterfield is the author of The Thirteenth Tale, which the book group read several years ago.)

For more information, contact Katie Farrey.

Branch Beginnings: Doris V. March

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.

Doris was born between 1885 and 1887 in Washington State. There is little information to be found on genealogy sites. The Semi-Weekly Spokesman Review mentioned her in an article on December 21, 1923, where she is named as President of the "girls' reserves" of Arlington High School. The girls' reserves engaged in community work both at Arlington High School and in the broader community.

A 1940 U.S. Federal Census shows Doris V. Marsh, born about 1886, living in Seattle but with an inferred 1935 residence in Snohomish County. This Doris V. Marsh was then 54 years old, and working as a maid.

A June 1951 article in the Daily Chronical in Centralia, Washington lists a Doris Marsh who was a member of the teaching staff at Toutle Lake school and a former missionary in West China. This article mentioned that she was visiting from Arlington. The conflicting residences are a puzzle; perhaps she maintained permanent residency in Arlington while teaching in a different school district. There are a number of newspaper articles from late 1951 through August 1970 which mention Doris Marsh who taught at Mossyrock Schools. A 1961 newspaper article also mentioned Doris living in Arlington. Several of the articles mentioned the same friends, which suggests the various articles are all referring to the same Doris Marsh. The latest article, in August 1970, mentions that Doris Marsh retired from teaching earlier that spring. If this were indeed the same Doris Marsh who helped found our branch, she would have been in her early 80's at the time – not impossible, but certainly unusual if it were true.

Perhaps a future branch historian will be able to find more information about our elusive Doris Marsh, and untangle the confusing public records.



Membership Spotlight: Elaine Richards

Norma Mouton

Elaine Richards has been the Coordinator for the Stanwood-Camano AAUW Candidate and Issues Forum since 2018 assuming the duties from Laura Lewis, who organized the Forum for many years prior.

"Laura asked me to assist with the Forum when she was preparing a move to California. I agreed to help because I have always been interested in following politics and elections, particularly local ones. The Candidate Forum has been held in October during every major election year since 1998. We have been fortunate that the Stanwood/Camano News has been a co-sponsor of the event and provides much of the advertising, along with other local media outlets and publications. This is a volunteer position within our branch. Most years the Forum was held at the Stanwood Middle School and attracted most of the candidates from local elections. However in 2020, because of the COVID pandemic, we conducted our first virtual Forum via a Zoom Webinar.

While this proved to be a technical challenge, almost all of the local candidates on the ballots for North Snohomish County and Island County participated. We were fortunate that the Stanwood Camano School District allowed us to use their webinar license and they provided much of the technical support. Going forward, if we decide to continue with the virtual Forum, we may reach a larger audience because of the convenience. However, there is a real community feeling for the in-person forums. They have been an opportunity for Branch members to assist by bringing refreshments and assisting with set-up and organization before and during the meetings. Fellow AAUW member Jackie DeFazio has been the Forum Moderator and provides an impartial, non-partisan and balanced approach, following a format similar to the League of Women Voters.

Time will tell whether we will return to the community in-person meetings. Both candidates and voters have expressed their appreciation for the Forum and it is a valuable and necessary source of voter education for the public."



When is YOUR Birthday?

Join our birthday recognitions by sharing your birthday month with Norma Mouton for publication during your birthday month.

Please email Norma to participate, and we can celebrate with you.

AAUW's Action Fund

Jackie DeFazio



In the life of nonprofits, much revolves around tax status and what can and cannot be done within a certain status. Organizations with 501(c)3 status receive charitable contributions for which donors can, in turn, receive tax credit; however, such organizations cannot "engage in substantial legislative activity" (i.e. lobbying). For this reason, in addition to its philanthropic funds, which are collected and distributed through AAUW, a 501(c)3 organization, AAUW also operates the AAUW Action Fund, a separate 501(c)4 entity. Its mission is to advance equity for women and girls through member activism and voter mobilization.

Unlike donations to AAUW's philanthropic funds, donations to the AAUW Action Fund are not tax deductible, but they are important to achieving AAUW's mission of advancing gender equity for all women and girls. When we pay our dues, we all note that a certain percentage is tax-deductible while the rest is not. Those non-deductible funds provide financial support for the work of the AAUW Action Fund as it advocates for the enactment of legislation, policies, and procedures related to women's equity and education. Private donations are necessary to keep the "machine" going. Please consider contributing.

For more information, check out the AAUW Action Fund at www.aauw.org.

Wow! 3 Stars!

India Nishi

This month, we were notified that our branch earned the first three stars in AAUW National's Five Star recognition program. The first star received was for the category called Programs. To earn this star, our branch had to demonstrate that two to four of our programs since July 2019 were open to the public and supportive of National's strategic goals. Because of all the great work done by our Programs chairs this year and last, this was an easy star to earn. Thank you past and present Programs chairs!



The second star we earned was for the Communications/External Relations category. The requirement was for us to make sure our websites and other social media presences had a focus on economic security, and that our website's home page had a reference to AAUW's Work Smart Online program. Thanks go to Georgi Proulx for making sure that she posted new information about economic security for women every month. As our webmistress, she also ensured that Work Smart was on the home page and easy to locate. Thank you, Georgi for helping everyone who visits our website and Facebook learn about the issues that are important to AAUW.

Our third star was received for Public Policy/Research. To earn this star, we accomplished three tasks. First, we met with a state representative earlier this year at Lobby Day in Olympia, to talk about AAUW's strategic priorities. Thanks go to Lynda Buehring and Norma Mouton for making the trip to Olympia and conducting that meeting. Next we had to demonstrate that we have a Public Policy chair. That role is very ably filled by Cathlin Starke, who has been doing an amazing job (thank you!!!) Finally, we needed to add a link to AAUW National's Action Network (where you can sign up for the 2-Minute Activist) on our website. Thanks go again to Georgi for her taking care of that task.

Our branch should be very proud of our achievements to date. Only a handful of the 30+ branches in Washington state have earned any Five Star recognition from National, let alone three stars. We are continuing to work toward earning as many of the remaining two stars as possible by June 30. These last two are for Governance/Sustainability, and Advancement (which focuses on contributions to National's Greatest Needs fund, and retaining our membership.) We believe we have completed and submitted criteria for one of these and are working on the other.

If you'd like to know more about the Five Star Program, you can visit National's website at:

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/initiatives/5-star-program/>

or contact President-Elect India Nishi. Congratulations on a job well done everyone!

General Meeting Minutes – January 14, 2021

Program via Zoom: Karen Anderson, AAUW-WA Public Policy Director, to discuss Lobby Day

Attendance: (19) Judy Prince, India Nishi, Jeanie Garrioch, Kathy Cunningham, Helen Smith, Georgi Proulx, Martha Huyler, Cathlin Starke, Gay Campbell, Jackie DeFazio, Marianne McGarry-Bloom, Mary Raymond, Nancy Voelckers, Lynda Buehring, Joyce Leak, Katie Farrey, Nancy Roberts, Elaine Richards, Michele Simms.

Call to Order: Judy Prince called meeting to order at 2:07 p.m.

Guests: (7) AAUW branches: Judy Waring (Seattle), Jackie McGregor (Colville), Jane Conn (Colville), Katherine Kleland (Seattle), Ann Dennis (on line), Mary Williams (State President) and presenter, Karen Anderson.

Secretary: Motion to approve minutes from November 12, 2020 as posted in December newsletter: Cathlin Starke moved, Jackie DeFazio seconded; motion approved.

Treasurer: In Jackie-Lyn Olson's absence there was no financial report given.

Judy Prince welcomed discussion regarding the scholarship budget for 2021 as printed in the January newsletter. Changes reflected in the newsletter were: \$12,000 for scholarships 2021 and \$8000 to Tech Teck budget downsizing the scholarship amounts in anticipation of reduced fund raising. Jackie DeFazio discussed the results of the meeting with the PWP auctioneer and the possibility of postponing the event until early spring 2022; we will have a better idea after the steering committee meeting January 22. After discussion, Martha Huyler moved to approve the scholarship budget with the understanding we may have to amend pending revenues; Cathlin Starke seconded. Motion approved.

Lobby Day: Cathlin Starke discussed Lobby Day and how to sign up. Event is February 1 from 8:30 -12:30. Email Cathlin Starke before January 20 to sign up. Training for those speaking with the legislators will be a Zoom call the morning of Tuesday, February 2, followed up with the actual Lobby Day lobbying on Tuesday, February 2 afternoon and the morning of Wednesday, February 3.

Membership: Lynda Buehring shared the Membership Team is working on incentives for the members to keep them interested, birthday months will be celebrated, and other appreciations of the members' hard work.

Programs: India Nishi reported the February meeting is local women entrepreneurs and March program is Amy Klosterman, a Title IX attorney.

Open Positions: Judy Prince is still looking for a Historian Chair.

Scholarships: Marianne McGarry-Bloom approached the probability of another virtual scholarship tea in June. She has begun planning publicizing the scholarship season. Another evaluator is necessary on the selection committee. Elaine Richards and Nancy Roberts would like to be on the committee. Scholarship season begins February 1. This year there will be 2-\$4000 scholarships offered allowing for a third if there are three exceptional candidates.

Adjourn: Marianne McGarry-Bloom moved to adjourn the meeting; Michele Simms seconded; motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 2:41 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Georgi Proulx
Secretary



You'll never catch a runnin' chicken, but if you throw seed around the back door you'll have a skillet full by supper.

Happy Valentine's Day !

