



# Stanwood-Camano Branch of AAUW

## In Touch

September 2021

Edited by Martha Huyler and Georgi Proulx



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

### September 2nd

**Thursday**

**1:00 p.m.**

September Board Meeting

*Zoom Meeting*

\*\*\*\*\*

### September 9th

**Thursday**

**12:30 p.m. - Social**

**1:00 p.m. - Program**

September General Meeting

In person: Camano County Administration Building

121 N. East Camano Drive

See article page 2 for instructions to listen instead of attending.

Zoom will be available for participating in the business portion of our meeting.

*Three Island County Commissioners will present the state of Island County and take questions.*

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### Message from the President

*India Nishi*

Fall is almost upon us and it's time to begin our new AAUW year. This is a special year because it is our 85th anniversary! One way we will celebrate is by sharing an interesting story from our branch history each month in the newsletter. I can't wait to learn more about all the amazing things this organization has accomplished!

Speaking of accomplishments, this week I attended a virtual National AAUW celebration for all of the branches and states that completed the National Five Star recognition challenge. Our branch was one of only a few in Washington that earned all five stars in this challenge. We did this by focusing on providing mission-based programs, using social media to promote equity for women and girls, helping to fund AAUW's greatest needs, working on internal governance, and supporting the annual AAUW WA Lobby Day. Special thanks go to Georgi Proulx for her great work with social media and communication, Cathlin Starke as last year's Public Policy chair, Kathy Cunningham for organizing informative and interesting programs, and Judy Prince for leading our branch during very trying times.

One of the benefits of winning the Five Star challenge is that we will have the opportunity to participate in our own branch briefing from AAUW leadership, including (hopefully) Kim Churches. It's our chance to hear their message, and more importantly, to ask them questions about where AAUW is headed in the future. You should all have received an email asking you to help select the date for the event. I encourage you to attend if possible.

Thanks to all of you who attended our resurrected annual August picnic, as well as Kathy Cunningham and the team who helped plan the event. The picnic was a great chance to meet in person in a socially-distanced setting, to catch up with some past members, and especially to honor those spouses and partners who were lost to us over the last year or two.

Finally, I want to encourage all of you to stay safe and not let your guard down when it comes to Covid. While driving from Bellingham to the picnic, I received a text from my daughter that her fully vaccinated partner had been diagnosed with Covid. We had all just returned from a vacation at Cannon Beach. We were vaccinated, wore masks, socially distanced and ate outdoors most of the time. Luckily she and my daughter, who also tested positive, have recovered, but it was a good lesson for my family. Our board will be monitoring things closely and will do our best to find ways we can meet safely together in person, or conduct our meetings virtually if we need to. Thank you all for your flexibility and patience.

## Future Events

**October 7th**

**Thursday**

**1:00 p.m.**

October Board Meeting  
Zoom/In person TBA

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**October 13th**

**Wednesday**

**6:00 p.m. (to be confirmed)**

Candidate and Issues Forum  
Watch for updated information

\*\*\*\*\*

**October 14th**

**Thursday**

**12:30 p.m. - Social**

**1:00 p.m. - Program**

October General Meeting  
Zoom/In person TBA

*New SC School District  
Superintendent, Deborah  
Rumbaugh, will present her  
vision for our school district*

\*\*\*\*

**Save the Date!**

**December 16th**

**Thursday**

Holiday Lunch at Cama Cafe



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/>

## September: Island County Commissioners

*Kathy Cunningham*

Our first meeting will feature ALL three of our Island County Commissioners: Melanie Bacon, Jill Johnson, and Janet St. Clair will discuss current county events at this special session. There are few opportunities for Island County citizens to meet with and listen to the full panel of Commissioners, so we are very proud that they will be presenting this information to us. All of our members are strongly encouraged to join us. We are inviting former Whidbey AAUW branch members who might appreciate the opportunity to hear from their representatives. Because more than one Commissioner will be present, this is a publicized meeting and telephonic information will be provided to news sources.

We will begin our program promptly at 1:00 p.m. preceded by an in person social half hour at 12:30 p.m. The in-person meeting will be in the new Island County Camano Administration Building. If you choose to listen to the presentation, in your home, just before 1:00 please go to

<http://meet.starleaf.com/4568208259/app>

or call 1-669-800-5335, meeting ID 456 820 8259.

To participate in the business portion of our meeting, you will receive a Zoom invitation from Judy Prince. After listening to the program via the link provided by the county administration staff above, use the Zoom link from Judy to join the business meeting.

If you have any specific issues or questions, for the Commissioners, please email or call/text Kathy Cunningham by Monday, September 6, and she will forward them to the administrative staff for the commissioners.

Looking forward to seeing you all again.

## PWP Plans Under Way

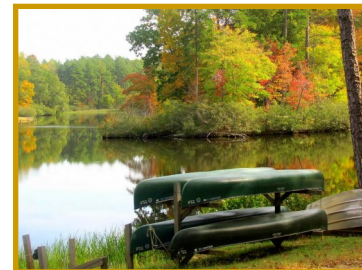
*Jackie DeFazio, Gay Campbell*

Mark your calendar and plan on it. **We will have a Purses with Purpose event on April 30, 2022!** Given the ever-changing status of Covid 19 requirements, PWP 2022 may not be exactly like our past PWP auctions and luncheons. PWP 2022 may be our usual sold-out in-person luncheon/auction, or we may have to have a hybrid event with some online bidding. In these uncertain times, contingency planning is the key. Our committee chairs are thinking about alternative plans, and we will adapt to situations as they arise.

Some things are certain: the date is set, PWP 2022 will be fun, and it will raise money to fund our mission of helping women and girls through scholarships and Tech Trek experiences. The basis of a successful PWP 2022 is a good selection of new and gently-used purses to entice and entertain our guests. We have a good start with the great purses that members brought to the August picnic or donated over the past several months. Many thanks to those members, BUT we still need at least 100 more purses, so all of us need to continue to search out those perfect purses to contribute.

If you have a purse to contribute, contact our procurement chairs, Mary Raymond and Rose Olson. Or if you would like someone to shop for such a purse, send a check for the amount you would like to spend, and the Procurement Committee shop for you. Make checks out to AAUW Stanwood-Camano with a note stating the purpose and send to branch treasurer Jeanie Garrioch at AAUW-SC, P.O. Box 2652, Stanwood, WA 98292.

If you have questions or concerns about PWP and plans thus far, or if you would like to volunteer to serve on a committee for the event, please contact either Jackie DeFazio or Gay Campbell.



## Your 2021-2022 Board

### President

India Nishi

### President-Elect

Nancy Voelckers

### VP of Finance

Jeanie Garrioch

### VP of Finance-Elect

Open position

### VP-Membership

Norma Mouton

Assistant: Lynda Buehring\*

### Secretary

Georgi Proulx

### VP of Program

Kathy Cunningham

Assistant: Judy Prince\*

### Public Policy

Judy Prince

### 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

Open position

### Scholarship Chair

Marianne McGarry-Bloom

### Tech Trek Chair

Mary Chesney

### Art Education

Marianne McGarry-Bloom

### Grant Writing

(open position)

### AAUW Funds Coordinator

Jackie DeFazio

### Candidate & Issues Forum

Elaine Richards

### Historian

Open position

### Diversity

Katie Farrey

### 501(c)(3) Compliance

Jackie DeFazio

### Stanwood-Camano Give

Mary Raymond

### Title IX Liaison

Jackie-Lyn Olson

### Sunshine

Jackie-Lyn Olson

### Newsletter Team

Georgi Proulx, Martha Huyler

## Happy 85th Anniversary AAUW Stanwood-Camano *India Nishi*

As we celebrate 85 years as a branch, we thought you'd like to know a little more about what our branch has done during those 85 years. Welcome to the first of a series of articles about how our branch has evolved and grown over that time. We will start by sharing a brief history of how we began, thanks to an article written ten years ago by Helen Smith.



"In Arlington, Washington, a group of women met to organize women of similar experiences and training to get together for study and discussion as well as for social reasons. This brought about the formation of our branch first in Arlington. In December of 1935, fourteen women were present to meet with three representatives from Seattle. The organization's aims and departments were explained, a constitution was adopted, and dues were sent to National in April of 1936. There were sixteen members. The first year was largely spent studying the history of education with emphasis on women's education."

While we have grown over threefold since 1935, and times and events have reshaped our world, it is interesting to see that in essence we are still in many ways the same organization. We meet for study and discussion. We are still highly committed to women's education. And, we still love to meet socially and have fun! Congratulations and happy anniversary, AAUW Stanwood-Camano!

## AAUW Announces 2021-2022 Fellowships & Grants Awards

*Jackie DeFazio*

In July, AAUW announced the awarding of nearly \$5 million in funding to more than 260 awardees in the 2021-22 academic year. These exceptional recipients will pursue academic work and lead innovative projects to empower women and girls. Four of these awardees will pursue their work/projects right here in western Washington.

Sarah Breitenfeld is the recipient of an American Fellowship and will pursue her work at the University of Washington. A dedicated teacher and the recipient of the 2020-21 Excellence in Teaching Award from the University of Washington, Breitenfeld's project is entitled "Someone Get a Whip!" Enslaved Women and Violence in Athenian Oratory, Comedy and Curses and focuses on violence against enslaved women in classical Athens by reexamining personal narratives that have been overlooked in ancient sources and modern scholarship.

Savannah Olroyd is the recipient of an American Fellowship and will pursue her Ph.D in Paleontology at the University of Washington. Olroyd uses the fossil record and comparative anatomy to study how mammals evolved their unique traits. Her doctoral dissertation focuses on the origin of the mammalian ear. She is heavily involved in scientific outreach through the Burke Museum and uses her artwork to disseminate concepts in anatomy and paleontology to a wide audience.

Krista Clouser is the recipient of a Career Development Grant at the University of Washington, Bothell. Her aim is to make higher education more accessible to students from underrepresented backgrounds. She is pursuing a Master of Education degree to continue her work in developing more support for international students, first-generation, LGBTQ and students of color. She enjoys coaching prospective PhD students through the admissions process and riding her electric bike through the hills of Seattle.

Washington State University Everett has received a Community Action Grant for a project entitled Girls Discover STEM. Led by Project Director Holly Longman, Girls Discover STEM will provide a unique educational opportunity for girls in middle and high school. Participants will attend a one-day program focusing on hands-on STEM programming while being mentored by college-age students. The ultimate goal is to increase the interest of participants in pursuing STEM electives, subjects, majors, and careers.

## 2021 Scholarship Recipients

*Marianne McGarry-Bloom*

On Sunday afternoon, June 13, we held a virtual "tea" honoring our 2021 scholarship winners: Saylor Anderson, Samantha Hall and Olivia Murray pictured below.

These exceptional young women each received a \$4,000 scholarship intended to help fill the financial gap towards the completion of their degrees.

In addition to celebrating our scholarship recipients, the seventh grade girls attending the virtual Tech Trek camp in July were invited as well to share a bit about themselves. Please join us at our November 18 meeting to hear them report on their experiences. The 2021 Tech Trek campers were:

Mattea Black, Port Susan MS  
Willa Cross, Port Susan MS  
Grace Ross, Port Susan MS  
Briana Cutaran, Stanwood MS

Isla Hollingsworth, Stanwood MS  
Maleah Jones, Stanwood MS  
Lucy Sansom, Saratoga School



Saylor Anderson  
2021 Scholarship Winner



Samantha Hall  
2021 Scholarship Winner



Olivia Murray  
2021 Scholarship Winner

Stanwood-Camano AAUW Picnic – August 12, 2021

Martha Huyler, Photographer



Rich H. and Joe C.



Georgi, Anne, Kathy



Marianne



Jeanie and Mary



Martha and Mary



Norma and Janet



Kaye



Don and Joyce



Vicki and Mark



John the Grillmaster



Joan and Jackie



Frank D.



Katie and Helen



Mary and Lynda



Jo and Helen



Greg and Georgi



Georgi and Kathy



Judy



Making new friends  
and greeting old friends.  
A good time  
was had by all!



Thanks to Kathy for  
organizing the picnic!



## Special Branch Activities

### Day Trippers

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

Open position

### 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  
Marianne McGarry-Bloom



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**LIKE** our page to  
follow us then

**SHARE** to increase  
our visibility in  
the community.



### Book Group

Katie Farrey, Marianne McGarry-Bloom

All members are invited to join the Book Group whether you have read the book or just want to join the conversation. Please contact Katie Farrey if you want to be added to the email list. We are currently operating on a month-to-month basis with a Zoom link and possible in person discussion.

### September 13th

(please note this is the 2nd Monday due to Labor Day)

A Most Beautiful Thing by Arshay Cooper

*The moving true story of a group of young men growing up on Chicago's West side who form the first all-black high school rowing team in the nation, and in doing so not only transform a sport, but their lives"-- Provided by publisher.*

### October 4th

Anxious People by Fredrik Backman

*Taken hostage by a failed bank robber while attending an open house, eight anxiety-prone strangers--including a redemption-seeking bank director, two couples who would fix their marriages, and a plucky octogenarian--discover their unexpected common traits.*

### November 1st

The Overstory by Richard Powers

*A monumental novel about reimagining our place in the living world, by one of our most "prodigiously talented" novelists ( New York Times Book Review ). The Overstory unfolds in concentric rings of interlocking fable that range from antebellum New York to the late twentieth-century Timber Wars of the Pacific Northwest and beyond. This is the story of a handful of people who learn how to see that world and who are drawn up into its unfolding catastrophe. Pulitzer Prize winner.*

For more information, contact Marianne McGarry-Bloom or Katie Farrey.

### 2021 Program Schedule - Note Date Changes \*

Kathy Cunningham

We begin our new year together with as much hope and positivity as possible in continuing uncertain times. We will meet in person, with hybrid (Zoom, or telephonic listening) opportunities offered whenever our meeting spaces provide Wi-Fi connections. All members attending in person meetings will absolutely be masked and chairs set up for distancing. Masks and hand sanitizer will be provided in case anyone forgets.

October 14 - New Superintendent of Stanwood-Camano School District, Deborah Rumbaugh, shares her vision for the district.

November 18\* - Tech Trek Campers (Meeting date changed to honor Veterans Day, November 11th), Evening Meeting

December 16\* - Holiday luncheon at Cama Beach Café (Meeting date changed to avoid conflict with Garden Club festivities.)



## Annual Meeting Minutes— June 13, 2021

*Virtual Meeting via Zoom to celebrate our three scholarship winners: Saylor Anderson, Samantha Hall, and Olivia Murray, introduce the 2021 Tech Trek campers, and to conduct our annual meeting.*

**Attendance:** (19) Judy Prince, India Nishi, Norma Mouton, Georgi Proulx, Cathlin Starke, Gay Campbell, Jeanie Garrioch, Nancy Voelckers, Marianne McGarry-Bloom, Katie Farrey, Lynda Buehring, Kathy Cunningham, Jackie DeFazio, Martha Huyler, Joyce Leak, Elaine Richards, Nancy Roberts, Helen Smith, and Doris Taylor. Guests: (3) Saylor Anderson, Samantha Hall, and Olivia Murray.

**Call to Order:** Judy Prince called meeting to order at 2:29 p.m.

**Secretary:** Presentation for approval of May 13 minutes as published in the June newsletter (program description and attendance only). Motion to approve minutes: India Nishi moved to approve, Cathlin Starke seconded; motion approved.

**Treasurer:** Georgi Proulx read the report from the June 1 board minutes: Jeanie Garrioch reviewed the financial reports emailed to the board June 1. Operating account had very few transactions: dues, donations, and insurance. Online payment of dues is a big help. Total assets are \$57,375.15. End of the year financial review will be held after the financial year ends on June 30. Marianne McGarry-Bloom moved to approve the financials and Kathy Cunningham seconded. Motion approved.

**Slate of Officers for 2021-2022:** Judy Prince presented the slate of officers for 2021-2022 for membership vote as published in the June newsletter. Slate of officers accepted by voice vote of the 19 members in attendance. India Nishi noted that filling the VP Finance-elect is essential to the well-being of the branch.

Slate of Officers presented for vote of approval by the membership is:

President: India Nishi                      President-elect: Nancy Voelckers                      VP Finance: Jeanie Garrioch  
VP Finance-elect: *vacant*                      VP Membership: Norma Mouton (finishing her second year)  
VP Program: Kathy Cunningham (finishing her second year)                      Secretary: Georgi Proulx (2 years)  
Appointed positions: Public Policy: Judy Prince and Communications: Georgi Proulx.

India Nishi moved to accept the slate of officers as presented; Gay Campbell seconded. Slate of officers was accepted. Cathlin Starke moved to approve the slate of officers; Martha Huyler seconded; motion approved.

Minutes and the names of new officers will be presented to Coastal Bank for updated signature cards. Authorized signers are the President, President-elect, VP Finance and VP Finance-elect.

**Operating Budget:** Judy Prince presented the proposed 2021-2022 operating budget that appeared in the June newsletter.

Kathy Cunningham moved to amend the budget to include \$150 for membership expenses. Cathlin Starke seconded. Motion approved.

Cathlin Starke moved to approve the budget as amended; India Nishi seconded. Motion approved.

**Membership:** India Nishi announced that membership is down; 30 out of 65 have renewed. Please renew as soon as possible. Google "AAUW MSD" to be taken to the member data base on the National website. Log in to check your renewal.

**Programs:** Kathy Cunningham opened discussion regarding in person programs beginning in the fall; consensus was to plan on meeting in person in alignment with the health department guidelines at the time. Elaine Richards requested ideas regarding the Candidate Forum in October. Katie Farrey shared that Zoom can be our back up as she is doing with the Book Group in July. India Nishi reported that prior to disbanding, Whidbey Branch AAUW branch offered their AV equipment. She got a hold of it for our use and should facilitate hybrid meeting situations.

Summer picnic is August 12 at the Camano Hills Pavilion; past members and families that have been a part of our AAUW branch over the years will be honored. Kathy asked Georgi to email past members from 3 years ago with an invitation. Past and current members as well as potential members together with guests are invited to attend.

**Named Honorees:** Judy Prince announced the branch honorees for 2021:

- \* Kathy Cunningham for her work on programs appropriate for the virtual setting.
- \* Marianne McGarry-Bloom for her excellent managing of scholarships.
- \* Elaine Richards for coordinating our first Candidate Forum webinar.
- \* Lois Ruskell for her excellent organization of SC Give and the HS STEM Scholar Recognition as a first year member.

**Adjourn:** Kathy Cunningham moved to adjourn the meeting; Cathlin Starke seconded; motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 3:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Georgi Proulx  
Secretary



Crying does not indicate that you are weak.  
Since birth, it has always been a sign that you are alive.

~Charlotte Bronte