

## In Touch



October 2021

Edited by Martha Huyler and Georgi Proulx



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

**October 12th**

**Tuesday**

**1:00 p.m.**

**(Note Date Change)**

October Board Meeting

Virtual via Zoom

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**October 13th**

**Wednesday**

**6:30 p.m.**

Candidate and Issues Forum

Zoom Webinar

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**October 14th**

**Thursday**

**1:00 p.m.**

October General Meeting

Virtual via Zoom

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

What's Inside?

Page

President's Message	1
Candidate Forum	1
October Program	2
Calling for Purses	2
Happy 85th	3
Stanwood Camano Give	3
Book Group	4
5 Star Leadership Briefing	4
Minutes - September 9, 2021	5



**Message from the President**

*India Nishi*

This month, my message comes to you from Dublin, Ireland. It is both exciting and strange to be travelling again. I have been so impressed with the resilience and ingenuity of the tourist industry here to allow us to travel, and keep us as safe as possible. To use an overused phrase, "it's a new normal", but one that is optimistic and hopeful.

Speaking of a new normal, a huge thank you goes out to Kathy Cunningham, Judy Prince and to Island County administrators for our first truly "hybrid" general meeting. Using the county's meeting room and collaboration technology, we either attended in person or virtually. We heard from all three county commissioners about a host of topics, ranging from progress on expanding internet access for the entire county, to how being a woman in government is changing, to the ever-present impacts of Covid. We're so grateful to them for taking the time to meet with us and address our questions. After that portion of the meeting finished, we (somewhat) seamlessly switched to Zoom and held our business meeting.

During our business meeting, we announced the three priorities that the board will be focusing on this year. They are: Membership Recruitment and Retention, Successful Programs, and Generating Participation and Leadership. We are off to a great start already with these priorities. The Membership committee has provided a set of ideas for us to start working on, and our first program of the year was a great success. We'll keep you posted on progress as we go through the year. As always, if you have an interest in one of these areas, please feel free to reach out to any board member. We'd love your input!

Tomorrow, armed with Covid vaccine card, negative test results, passenger locator forms, contact tracing information, passport, etc., I am off to Scotland. Just like moving forward with our branch year, it's a little clunky, but we will get there! Thanks to all of you for your patience and understanding as we do our best to continue with programs, and our mission.

**Candidate and Issues Forum - October 13 Webinar**

*Elaine Richards*

The webinar was such a success for 2020 - we're going to do it again!



## Future Events

**November 4th**

**Thursday**

**1:00 p.m.**

November Board Meeting  
Zoom/In person TBA

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**November 18th**

**Thursday**

**7:00 p.m.**

November General Meeting  
Hybrid Meeting/Zoom available  
Stanwood United Methodist  
Church

*Presentation by our 2021 Tech  
Trek Campers*

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

## October! It's Back to School for Stanwood-Camano School District

*Kathy Cunningham*

With the new high school now open; sports and theater events beginning their program developments, in person learning experiences after a long year away, we welcome the new SCSD Superintendent, Deborah Rumbaugh, to guide everyone through these challenges.



President, India Nishi, and I had an early summer opportunity to meet the Superintendent in person, on your behalf, welcoming her to our community. We previewed our branch activities which absolutely depend on a strong and positive relationship with the faculty and administration and were very pleased that she immediately agreed to be our speaker for the October 14 program. Superintendent Rumbaugh will also have her administration staff attend to overview the upcoming levy details. I did ask, per suggestions from several of our members, if it is possible to schedule a guided tour of the new high school, but at this time, due to Covid restrictions, there are no public tours being set-up. Something to look forward to.

The October 14 meeting begins at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom. Judy Prince will extend the invite a few days before. We hope many of you will be able to join us. There are several issues before the school board which are being hotly debated in our communities. The Superintendent can take questions on those issues of concern and answer according to her role and that of the Board in determining policy. She and her staff will have the first hour of our regular meeting for sharing their information and answering questions.

Please note November's meeting will be Thursday, November 18 at 7:00 p.m. This is a week later than the regular schedule as members may wish to observe Veteran's Day celebrations. There will be an in-person reception featuring our Tech Trek campership winners so the girls, their families and our members can join us for their remarks. Zoom connectivity will also be available.



### Calling for New and Like-new Purses !

Counting down to April 30, 2022, and we need purses!

We're half way to our goal and need everyone's help to get us there.

If you aren't a shopper, please send a check with your tax-deductible\* donation to the branch PO Box and your money will be spent wisely by the Procurement Committee on new purses.

Payable to: "AAUW - SC", P.O. Box 2652, Stanwood WA 98292

Please write "for purses" in the notation space on your check.

Mary Raymond, Rose Olson, and their team are on the lookout for good buys on wonderful purses of all styles, sizes, and prices; they are accepting your purses now.

Donate a purse or send a check TODAY!

\* Married couples filing jointly for 2021 can deduct as much as \$600 of charitable donations if they don't itemize, while the limit is \$300 for singles." *The Wall Street Journal, September 20, 2021*

## Your 2021-2022 Board

### President

India Nishi

### President-Elect

Nancy Voelckers

### VP of Finance

Jeanie Garrioch

### VP of Finance-Elect

Open position

### Acting VP of Membership

India Nishi

Assistant: Martha Huyler\*

### 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

Helen Smith

### Diversity

Katie Farrey

### Stanwood-Camano Give

Mary Raymond

### Sunshine

Jackie-Lyn Olson

### Newsletter Team

Georgi Proulx, Martha Huyler

## Happy 85th Anniversary AAUW Stanwood-Camano

Helen Smith

*In celebrating our branch's 85th year, we reprint one of a series of articles authored by Helen Smith and published in our October 2011 when our branch turned 75 revealing a bit of history of AAUW's contribution during the years 1935-1945.*



As you may know, the national AAUW organized in 1881, 130 [140] years ago. The organization focused on voter education, legal advocacy and issues of sex discrimination. My favorite historical note, quoted often by Jackie DeFazio is that in 1885 a group debunked the popular theory that higher education was bad for women's health. This study established AAUW's commitment to cutting-edge research relevant to the struggle for gender equity in education and society.

Moving on to 1935, 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.

75 [85] years ago, AAUW nationally established a social studies committee to address a widespread interest in consumer problems and broader social and economic issues following the Great Depression. This committee worked to develop a well-rounded program that ranged from housing to individual liberties, consumer problems to mental health issues.

By 1940 National established a refugee aid fund to assist women fleeing foreign dictatorships. Many branches contributed to this effort. After the war, it became the Reconstruction Aid Fund to assist people in recovery. Organizers sent over \$41,000 on the effort, and branches and individuals sent thousands of gift parcels and school supplies to European countries and Korea. By 1941 war involvement meant that AAUW recorded skills helpful in the war effort, and many members assisted this nation-wide effort. The Arlington branch studied consumer issues during 1940-41 years.

Nationally by 1943, member Florence Siebert won the first AAUW Achievement Award recognizing scholarly or professional achievement. She was recognized for the first reliable TB test, as well as safety improvements of IV injections. In 1945, members were sponsoring women from war-liberated countries to come to the US to study.



### Science & Technology Camp for Girls

Mary Raymond

Once again our branch is joining this successful community online giving campaign with the Science and Technology Camp for Girls project.

Are YOU on Facebook? If you are, please "like" our "Stanwood Camano AAUW" branch page to follow us then "share" so your friends can learn about our project too. If you are not a "friend" of our page please use the link below to visit and begin:

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

There will be promotions throughout November publicizing our project. We are asking all members to support this effort by sharing our Facebook post promotions beginning November 1 through November 30. More information about the prizes offered that day for online giving will be coming.

Friends from around the world can participate so please share, share, share...



## 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



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

**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.



### 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.*

### December 6th

Prairie Fires: The American Dreams of Laura Ingalls Wilder  
by Caroline Fraser

*A biography of American author Laura Ingalls Wilder, best known for her Little House on the Prairie series. Published in 2017, explores the life and times of the beloved author.*

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

### 5 Star Leadership Briefing

As a result of our branch completing the criteria to earn the AAUW Five-Star Award, we were invited to the Five-Star Leadership Briefing on September 15. Our group was joined by leaders of three other branches around the country and were able to draft questions for the AAUW leaders that presented: Katrina Sun Breese, Senior Director of Institutional Advancement and Gloria Blackwell, Executive Vice President and Chief Program Officer.



Our branch was represented by Jackie DeFazio, Judy Prince, Robin Hanks, Nancy Voelckers and Georgi Proulx. They were joined by AAUW members from California, Pennsylvania and South Carolina to learn about the overall state of AAUW and its efforts to address the three pillars: education, leadership, and workplace and economic equity.

The new Five-Star steps for the 2021-2022 award are posted at [aauw.org/resources/member/initiatives/5-star-program/](http://aauw.org/resources/member/initiatives/5-star-program/) if you are interested in learning how our branch can strive to earn this award in 2021-2022.

## General Meeting Minutes— September 9, 2021

*Program via Spotlight/Zoom: ALL three Island County Commissioners: Melanie Bacon, Jill Johnson, and Janet St. Clair discussed current county events. 17 community viewers joined us on line including five AAUW members; 11 members were in person. Our group was the first to hold a meeting in the new Island County Administration building.*

**Attendance:** (21) India Nishi, Nancy Voelckers, Kathy Cunningham, Georgi Proulx, Martha Huyler, Judy Prince, Gay Campbell, Jackie DeFazio, Joyce Leak, Linda Lynn, Anne Milton, Mary Pilkington, Mary Raymond, Elaine Richards, Nancy Roberts, Helen Smith, Janet St. Clair, Jill Johnson, Cathlin Starke, Judy Trammell and Nancy Voelckers. The count of 21 includes members that only joined for the business or program portions of the meeting; overall 21 members participated.

**Call to Order:** India Nishi called meeting to order at 2:18 p.m.

**Member Recognition:** India Nishi recognized Cathlin Starke for helping with the summer board meeting including lunch and facilitating the exercises.

**Secretary:** Georgi Proulx presented two sets of minutes for approval: Motion to approve the April 8 general meeting minutes and the June 13 annual meeting minutes as printed in the May and September newsletters, respectively was made, Nancy Voelckers seconded; motion approved.

**Treasurer:** India Nishi related the report Jeanie Garrioch gave at the board meeting for July and August. Scholarship funds were paid. Operating account had income from membership; outstanding \$35 check for the farmer's market fee that will be voided since we didn't participate. Total assets are \$45,598.65.

**Branch Priorities:** India Nishi shared the results of the priorities established by the summer board meeting in July. First is Membership Recruitment and Retention. Ideas from membership team will be initiated during the year. Second: Successful Programs, and we agree that so far we're doing great. Thank you Kathy Cunningham, well done. Third: Generating Participation and Leadership.

**Communications:** Georgi Proulx announced that branch wide emails (newsletters, reminders, rosters) will be sent via the board Gmail account: [aauwscboard@gmail.com](mailto:aauwscboard@gmail.com) instead of her personal email. Georgi also discussed the effort this time of year to increase branch visibility on Facebook and social media in preparation for Stanwood Camano Give in November, a community on-line giving campaign.

**Purses:** Jackie DeFazio reported that we have 7.5 months to go until Purses with Purpose, and we need at least another 100 purses, new and gently used. Gay Campbell shared that Cathlin Starke, sponsorship chairman, needs names of businesses that can be approached for sponsorships. Also, committees need volunteers to fill out the work force for pre-event tasks and on April 30, 2022.

**Candidate Forum:** India Nishi shared Elaine Richard's report that this year's Candidate and Issues Forum will again be in webinar format and held on October 13.

**Five Star Award Briefing:** India Nishi announced that, as a result of our award, we will meet with a couple of senior leaders of AAUW National: Gloria Blackwell and Katrina Sun Breese. On-line meeting is September 15 at 11:00 a.m. You must register from the email you received and please prepare questions to ask. Georgi Proulx will re-email the invitation to the membership.

**Announcements:** On Cathlin Starke's behalf, Kathy Cunningham shared that today is Helen Smith's birthday and the saying "nice people make nice partners" to announce the 64<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Joyce and Don Leak.

Thank you to the people that were able to be in person at today's program; "thank you" to Kathy Cunningham for doing such a great job. October 14 will be a zoom meeting. November's meeting will be moved to the third Thursday (Nov. 18) to honor Veteran's Day the previous week.

The program will be the Tech Trek campers sharing their experiences, and the hopes are that it is an in person meeting. December 16 is at the Cama Beach Café and still in person at this time.

**Adjourn:** Mary Pilkington moved to adjourn the meeting; Martha Huyler seconded; motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 2:44 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Georgi Proulx  
Secretary



*Believe nothing you hear and only half that you see.*

*~Edgar Allan Poe*

*During the day, I don't believe in ghosts.*

*At night, I'm a little more open-minded.*

**Enjoy This Halloween**