

In Touch



December 2021

Edited by Martha Huyler and Georgi Proulx



www.aauwsc.org

December 2nd
Thursday
1:00 p.m.

December Board Meeting
Zoom and In person
Saratoga Room
SC Community Resource Center
9612 271st Street NW
Stanwood

December 16th
Thursday
11:30 p.m.

Holiday Luncheon at
Cama Beach Café
Cama State Beach
RSVP before December 2
Payment due December 10

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Message from the President

India Nishi

Happy holidays to everyone! I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving, and were able to get together with family and friends. What a difference a year makes...

Thanks to those of you who were able to join us, either in person or virtually, for our November general meeting. It was so nice to see several of you in person at the event. Thank you to Helen Smith and Kathy Cunningham for getting us the venue, and for the delicious refreshments, as well as to those of you who brought laptops, iPads, etc. to the meeting to assist with the hybrid approach! We are grateful to all the attendees for your patience as we continue to experiment with these hybrid meetings. We had some technical issues this time, but we continue to learn as we go.

At the meeting, we heard from several of the 2021 Tech Trek campers who attended camp virtually. It was great to hear from them. We also had a long-time adult volunteer from the camp tell us about her experiences over the last few years, and what was different this last summer.

Our next big event will be the annual Holiday Luncheon at the Cama Beach Café on December 16. You'll find more details about the event in this newsletter. I'm really looking forward to seeing even more of you at the luncheon, which is always one of the highlights of our branch year. As a reminder, please bring a purse for Purses with Purpose; if you do, you'll be entered into a drawing for a prize! RSVPs are due to Kathy Cunningham or Judy Prince by December 2, and payment by December 10.

Speaking of Purses with Purpose, if you haven't already volunteered to help with the planning and/or conduct of the event, please consider contacting Gay Campbell or Jackie DeFazio to find out what you can do. This event is a major undertaking, and we will need assistance from as many of you as possible!

Finally, I want to thank you for the overwhelmingly positive response we received to our new monthly Membership Outreach Phone Call program. Board members and committee chairs reached out hopefully to all of you over the last month to connect, say hi, and let you know about what's going on in the branch. Thanks also to the callers who volunteered to contact members. In talking with them, they enjoyed making the calls and hearing about what members are up to as much as those who received the calls. While it's not an in-person visit, it's the next best thing until we can all meet together any time. If there is anything you'd like the board to know or something we can do for you, please let your caller know when she reaches out over the next week or so.

Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season.



Future Events

January 6th

Thursday

1:00 p.m.

January Board Meeting
Zoom/In person TBD

January 13

Thursday

1:00 p.m.

General Meeting via Zoom

Program: Sandra Distelhorst,
AAUW-WA Public Policy
Director, will discuss Lobby Day
2022 and public policy issues
that are of importance today.

January 24

Monday

Lobby Day, Virtually



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/)

December - Holiday Luncheon

Kathy Cunningham

It's time to break out our festive holiday wear, and anticipate our in person Holiday Lunch on THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16 beginning with a social from 11:30 with a spectacular multi-course meal served around noon. Please note this date is a week later than our regular meeting time, so that our members can also enjoy their Garden Club festivities.

The new Chef-Owners at Cama Beach Cafe at Cama Beach State Park, where we will gather, are receiving rave reviews for their cuisine, and they are eager to once again welcome our members to enjoy this lovely tradition. Cama Beach Cafe has been open to the public for several months offering seated meals and take out, so they are fully versed in safety protocols with small, distanced tables, and masks requested.

Cost is \$35. which covers the luncheon service, tax and tip. Members are welcome to invite friends, particularly those former members whose company we always enjoy. We have over 20 now confirmed. The Board decided to put out an envelope for anyone's checks payable to either the "Stanwood Camano Food Bank" or "His Pantry" at Camano Chapel. We were also able to confirm attendance by a local representative for Wana Duma, a charity organized by local resident Suzanne Garrison, that offers beautiful hand woven bags, totes, and small crafted gifts perfect for the season; many possibilities for holiday gifts. Sales of these products directly fund the African tribal women artisans and the families they support.

Please think about carpooling. There is plenty of parking but a state park permit or \$10 daily fee is required.

Georgi Proulx is organizing a table decorating contest. If you would like to decorate a table and enter the contest, please contact her directly to sign up. She needs ten people to participate. Enter to win a terrific prize!

A final head count is needed by THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, in order for the Chefs to order and prepare. RSVP to either Kathy Cunningham or Judith Prince. Payment is due December 10; make checks payable to "AAUW Stanwood Camano", note "Holiday Luncheon", and mail to "AAUW Stanwood Camano, PO Box 2652, Stanwood, 98292." We must have a final headcount by December 2 and your check by December 10.

Looking forward to seeing you at the celebration.

How Can You Win THIS? Read Below

Mary Raymond

Our Holiday Luncheon is fast approaching on December 16, but also fast approaching is our Purses with Purpose benefit luncheon and purse auction on April 30.

The only way this fundraiser will be successful is the amount and quality of purses to be offered. The Holiday Luncheon would be a perfect time to bring in your new purse (tags on please!) or very gently carried contributions.

To make this idea even more enticing, anyone bringing a donation will get a ticket for a chance to win the "fabulous prize" (see picture). If shopping for a purse is not your thing, you can also make a cash/check contribution (we will shop for you) and you receive a ticket too. Either way you will have a chance to win, enjoy a wonderful luncheon with fellow members and help support our mission of scholarships for girls and women.

See you on the 16th!



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

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



Public Policy Report

Judy Prince

November 2021's state Public Policy Webinar focused on medical care available to individuals living in the more rural parts of our state. The speakers were Mary Selecky and Leslie Waters, MD, of the Colville branch of AAUW. Mary is a former Washington State Secretary of Health, Leslie is retired from a clinic in Colville. It was an eye opener for me and probably many other members who live in the urban part of Washington and have access to many specialist physicians.

Leslie told a story about a patient who presented the clinic with behavioral changes. After a CT scan it was determined that she had suffered a brain bleed. A terrible snow storm prevented the patient's transport by helicopter or ambulance to Spokane where she could receive proper care. A specialist from Spokane talked Leslie through a procedure to relieve pressure and the patient was transported when weather allowed.

As reported in the November state newsletter, there are two bills the state will be supporting in the 2022 session.

HB 1571, protections and services for indigenous people who are missing, murdered, or survivors of human trafficking.

SB 5480, use and disclosure of toxic chemicals in cosmetic products.

A new version of SB5335 will be introduced in the next session. This bill concerns acquisition of health care facilities.

Watch for information about Lobby Day January 2022. This year's event will be virtual, and there will be a registration fee to cover the expenses of this event.

AAUW Celebrates 140 Years of Advocacy

Jackie DeFazio

AAUW marked its 140th birthday in November with an online celebration featuring a special award ceremony honoring Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala with the 2021 AAUW Alumnae Recognition Award. The award honors a past recipient of an AAUW fellowship or grant who has attained outstanding success and distinction in their chosen profession. Dr. Okonjo-Iweala is now the Director-General of the World Trade Organization and one of Time magazine's 100 most influential people of 2021.

In 1977 she was a recent college graduate in need of financial support to continue her education. Enter AAUW who awarded Okonjo-Iweala an International Fellowship to continue her studies at MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology). Visit <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/initiatives/140-anniversary/> for more.

And in 1977, I was an AAUW member in Illinois working on my branch's annual book sale, to raise funds for the branch's donation to the AAUW Educational Foundation, which at that time administered AAUW's fellowships and grants. As I viewed the online birthday celebration on November 17 (along with 1500 other AAUW members/supporters), it struck me that money I had helped raised played a role in enabling Dr. Okonjo-Iweala to pursue her amazing career in development economics.

"I never set out to climb the ladder," said Dr. Okonjo-Iweala during her conversation with new AAUW CEO Gloria Blackwell following the award ceremony. "I wanted a career that would allow me to make a difference." And make a difference she has—and so have all of us in AAUW who work on purse auctions or book sales or home tours or the hundreds of other projects we undertake to raise funds for scholarships here in our local communities and for fellowships and grants at the national level.

We never know when the funds we raise will pave the way for another Dr. Okonjo-Iweala or Marie Curie (recipient of \$156,413 raised by AAUW members toward the purchase of one gram of radium in 1920). But we do know that we do this work to make a difference!



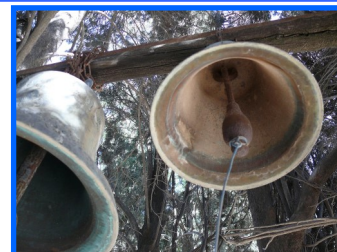
Celebrating 85 Years

Originally Published in December 2011 In Touch in celebration of our 75th year

In celebration of our branch's 75th (now 85th) anniversary we highlight a decade of history compiled by Helen Smith.

1946-1956

Arlington Branch



Information in 1949 revealed that nationally there was an emphasis on the arts. Branches held art displays, supported dramatic presentations. Money was raised by barn dances, ballroom dances, art bazaars, flower and antique shows, community sings, Christmas craft and rummage sales, theater and opera parties. Funds raised went to fellowships, record-lending libraries were established with public libraries, and contributions were made to nursery schools. It was estimated that one half million people attended these functions.

At the national convention in 1949, one headline speaker was Margaret Mead. Her topic was: *Radio: the Molder of Listeners*.

Locally, in 1953, one of the programs at the branch was on the Interpretation of Exhibitions on Indians of the NW Coast which was at the Washington State Museum at the UW. Other programs included primitive and folk music. In 1954 the branch held its first art exhibit at the VFW Hall. It was the first exhibit from the Stillaguamish Valley pioneers and others who had added to the cultural background of the region. It covered the years from 1884-1954. Artists ranged from 8-70 years old. There were 200 visitors. The hall cost \$8 and miscellaneous items added another \$7 to the bill!

Other programs in the 1950's included ethnic music from China, India, Arabia, Africa, North and South American Indians, United Nations, consumer protection, travel to Alaska, and trends in religious thinking.

State-wide AAUW had been in existence since 1927. State conventions encouraged local branches to support women by funding scholarships.

Nationally, funding was provided to —mature women who have already demonstrated their quality of scholarship, leadership and service by offering scholarships to graduate students. Other scholarship entities such as the National Science Foundation gave 93% of their funds to men. The association felt its greatest contribution could be made in helping outstanding and gifted scholars for it is they who can have the greatest influence on others, therefore, by having the greatest influence by training the outstanding few, we can help the many.

Tech Trek Update

Mary Chesney

We were delighted to have four of our Tech Trek campers virtually attend our November meeting. Listening to their comments about camp was inspiring, especially since they were not able to attend residential camp.

One of the campers was the second person in her family to attend. She said initially she was disappointed that she would not get the same experience as her sister, but to her amazement and delight, she had a great time. Indeed, the eight girls we sent were excellent candidates.

Soon we will begin the nomination process again and expect to be able to send out the forms at the beginning of December. The plan is to hold an in-person camp with virtual as an option if the pandemic does not sufficiently subside. Per the national organization, all campers and staff will be required to be fully vaccinated. We will be sure to inform the schools of this expectation and reiterate it with any campers chosen for interviews.

Just a friendly reminder, we will need at least one person and if more than eight girls are identified, a second person needs to help at camp. It can be a member or a junior in high school who was a camper. Please think about your ability to help in some way or if you know a former camper, contact her, and encourage her to apply in the spring.



Branch Policies Handbook 2021

Georgi Proulx

On November 5, I emailed you a copy of the Branch Policies Handbook 2021 as approved by the Board on November 4. This handbook was developed as a resource for all members relating to all things AAUW Stanwood Camano. It is updated yearly with new policies voted on and approved by our board throughout the year.

Please take a moment to check it out. It's a wonderful resource to understand the workings of our branch. If after reading, you have a suggestion for other information you would find valuable to be included please let me know. Happy reading!

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)

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.



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.

January 3rd

Hamnet: A Novel of the Plague by Maggie O'Farrell

A short, piercing, deeply moving novel about the death of Shakespeare's 11 year old son Hamnet--a name interchangeable with Hamlet in 15th century Britain--and the years leading up to the production of his great play. England, 1580.

February 7th

Caste: The Origin of Our Discontents by Isabel Wilkerson

"Caste is the wordless usher in a darkened theater, flashlight cast down in the aisles, guiding us to our assigned seats for a performance. The hierarchy of caste is not about feelings or morality. It is about power--which groups have it and which do not. In this book, Isabel Wilkerson gives us a portrait of an unseen phenomenon in America as she explores, through an immersive, deeply researched narrative and stories about real people, how America today and throughout its history has been shaped by a hidden caste system, a rigid hierarchy of human rankings. Using riveting stories about people--including Martin Luther King, Jr., baseball's Satchel Paige, a single father and his toddler son, Wilkerson herself, and many others--she shows the ways that the insidious undertow of caste is experienced every day."

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

Take a Tour of Our Branch Website

Georgi Proulx

Introducing you to our biggest branch resource: our web site. In the spring it is the most powerful scholarship information tool, year round new member inquiries are forwarded there from National, and YOU can access it for so many things whenever you want:

<https://www.aauwsc.org>

This is our Home page where you can quickly find a link to download the current newsletter, view the general meeting information, and scroll through past and present President's Messages and other posts.

<https://www.aauwsc.org/scholarship>

This is our Outreach page announcing the scholarship winners and reflecting the various ways our branch contributes to our community.

<https://www.aauwsc.org/forms-archive>

Forms and Archives Page (also available via the Our Branch drop down menu on the Home page)

Forms: New Member Registration, Reimbursement Request and Bylaws

Newsletters: Current and archived branch newsletters going back though 2019. This is a good way to reminisce and also see all the branch has done.

Links to National AAUW: Learn how you are part of a national organization.

Links to Washington State AAUW: Look at the Evergreen News to see the Evergreen News archive. Read the newsletters highlighting activities of AUW branches in Washington.

General Meeting Minutes— November 18, 2021

In person at Stanwood United Methodist Church & Virtual via Zoom

Program: Panel discussion of Tech Trek campers' experiences at virtual camp in July 2021 and presentation by Kyle McElight, a teaching advisor at Tech Trek.

Attendance (21): In person (9): India Nishi, Nancy Voelckers, Jeanie Garrioch, Kathy Cunningham, Georgi Proulx, Lynda Buehring, Jackie DeFazio, Helen Smith, Elaine Wilson

Virtually (8): Gay Campbell, Mary Chesney, Marianne McGarry-Bloom, Carol Panek-Clark, Mary Raymond, Nancy Roberts, Judy Prince, Martha Huyler

Guests (4): Campers: Olivia Flickner, Briana Cutaran, Mattea Black (Lucy Sansom contributed written comments); Speaker: Kyle McElight

Call to Order: India Nishi called meeting to order at 7:57 p.m. India introduced Elaine Wilson, a new member from Bellingham. India recognized Mary Raymond for her work as SCGive chair and Georgi Proulx for her SCG posts on Facebook.

Secretary: Georgi Proulx asked for corrections to the October 14 minutes as published in the November newsletter. Jackie DeFazio moved to approve minutes; Helen Smith seconded; motion approved.

Treasurer: Georgi Proulx read Jeanie Garrioch's financial reports for October. \$200 was received for purse purchases. Total assets are \$45,860.52.

Announcements

Holiday Luncheon, Purses and Tables: Jackie DeFazio reminded members to bring purses to the Holiday Luncheon on December 16. Each purse is worth a raffle ticket for the fabulous prize provided by the Procurement Committee.

Contact Georgi Proulx if you would like to decorate a table at the Holiday Luncheon and be entered in a decorating contest.

Phone Tree: India Nishi shared the success of our Membership Outreach Phone Call Program of board and committee leaders. All members have been called and graciously accepted the extra contact.

AAUW Celebrates 140 Years: Jackie DeFazio reported on the virtual 140th birthday celebration AAUW held on November 17. Spotlight for the event was the presentation of the distinguished 2021 AAUW Alumnae Recognition Awardee Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Director-General of the World Trade Organization. Video will be available on the national website the week of November 22.

Adjourn: Kathy Cunningham moved to adjourn the meeting; Jeanie Garrioch seconded; motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Georgi Proulx

Secretary



It's all fun and games
'til Santa checks the
Naughty List.
~Happy Holidays