



Stanwood-Camano Branch of AAUW

In Touch

February 2022

Edited by Martha Huyler and Georgi Proulx



www.aauwsc.org

February 3rd
Thursday
1:00 p.m.

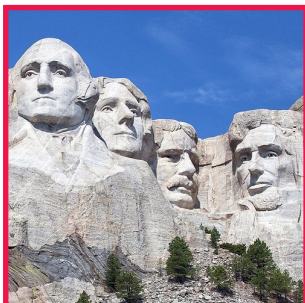
February Board Meeting
Zoom and In person
Saratoga Room
SC Community Resource Center
9612 271st Street NW
Stanwood

February 10th
Thursday
1:00 p.m.

General Meeting via Zoom
Program: Joan Schrammeck of Sound Water Stewards will talk about Sound Water Stewards' education, science and stewardship programs and projects and the annual training program for new members

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Message from the President

India Nishi

Greetings everyone! As I write this, it is an absolutely beautiful day outside. It's sunny, a bit warmer than it has been, and the snow is gone! On a day like this, it's hard to imagine we still have a couple more months of winter ahead of us. Let's hope the worst is behind us though. Dare we also believe that this could be true for the pandemic? Fingers crossed, the worst is behind us there as well, and we can continue to inch forward toward whatever our new normal becomes.

Our January general meeting featured Sandra Distelhorst, who leads the AAUW Washington Public Policy committee. She spoke about Lobby Day, including information about upcoming legislation that AAUW is especially interested in. She has made great strides in her role, with her energy, knowledge of how things work in Olympia, and her passion for women's issues. It was wonderful to see how engaged our members were during her presentation as well.

Hearing Sandra's presentation, and seeing the interaction with the attendees reminded me that there are so many ways to be involved as AAUW members. Those who enjoy advocacy can reach out to state and national representatives to encourage their support of legislation that furthers AAUW's mission as identified via Lobby Day. If you are interested in philanthropy, there are many opportunities to help out, especially with our upcoming PWP auction. Those who like to socialize can join our book and/or movie groups, plus attend the fun summer picnic and holiday luncheons. We really have something for almost everyone.

On that note, I hope all of you are looking forward to the next couple of meetings. February will feature a speaker who will tell us about the local Sound Water Stewards program. That meeting will be on Zoom. We are planning to come together in person again for our March meeting. This will be at the Utsalady Ladies Aid Building, and will feature Debbie Dimitre. She is well-known for her performances, where she assumes the role of historical women of note. In our case, she will portray Alice Paul, one of the key members of the suffragist movement, who helped gain the right to vote for women. You are encouraged to dress in your best vintage attire, or wear all white, or don your favorite fancy tea hat (or all three). This should be both a fun and educational event; I can't wait! This is the perfect meeting to bring a guest or prospective member.

In closing, if you aren't doing so already, please consider taking on a volunteer role in our branch if you are able. We have need for many hands over the next few months. PWP still needs people for several committees. We also really need a chair for the May High School STEM Scholar Recognition event. In addition, it is time to form a Nominating Committee for next year's board officer elections. Please feel free to contact me or any other board member if you are willing to help out in any of these areas.

Future Events

March 3rd

Thursday

1:00 p.m.

March Board Meeting
Zoom/In Person TBD

March 10th

Thursday

1:00 p.m.

General Meeting

Program: PNW storyteller and actress, Debbie Dimitre, who has been entertaining, inspiring, and educating audiences with her historical and dramatic presentations since 1987 will be introducing us to Alice Stokes Paul.



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/>

February - Sound Water Stewards

Kathy Cunningham

Please join us on February 10 at 1:00 p.m. for Zoom presentation by Joan Schrammeck of Sound Water Stewards (pictured to the right). Joan coordinates Stewards for education, citizen science and stewardship activities based on Camano or nearby communities. Joan is an experienced volunteer coordinator and organizer bringing a background in environmental activism with CARE (Camano Action for a Rural Environment), public health, women's health, clean energy and transportation, and a lifetime working in non-profits.



Joan will talk about Sound Water Stewards' education, science and stewardship programs and projects and the annual training program for new members which is now accepting applications. SWS encourages AAUW to inform Camano friends and neighbors about the training opportunity with Zoom classes presented live by college-level experts in their fields. Topics include intertidal marine life, coastal geology, forests, native plants, estuaries, sea level rise, tribal treaty rights, and much more from microscopic plankton to large marine mammals. Training is only offered once each year. Trainees gain a greater sense of place in Island County, learn ways to preserve the environment, and make lifelong friends. You are invited to explore the new website to learn more about marine ecosystems in Island County and the SWS training program at:

SoundWaterStewards.org.

Public Policy: Lobby Day 2022

Judy Prince

The first of the Washington State AAUW regular meetings was Monday, January 24, presented virtually as in 2021. Fifteen minute virtual meetings were scheduled with each of the Washington District 10 legislators.

Lobby Day featured presentations on two pieces of legislation: (1) Keep Our Care Act, SB5688/HB1809 addressing loss of service due to hospital and clinic mergers; (2) HB1571, Concerning Protections and Services for Indigenous Persons who are Missing, Murdered, or Survivors of Human Trafficking.

The presenter for Keep Our Care Act shared how medical expenses have increased and services have decreased in Kitsap County who have virtually one health care provider.

The presenters for missing and murdered indigenous people shared personal experiences about escaping from potential traffickers.

We also heard from Alissa Muller on behalf of the Washington State Board of Education about the optional Mastery based education plan as an alternative to traditional education where a student demonstrates mastery of the subjects required to graduate high school.

Nancy Sapiro, our lobbyist, talked to us about what is happening in the legislature and shared deadlines for bills to exit committees.

Finally, a panel of the Public Policy Committee spoke briefly about seven other bills that AAUW Supports. They are:

1. Creating teaching endorsement in computer science, SB5389
2. Creating programs to encourage sexual assault nurse training programs, HB1621
3. Increase availability of sexual assault nurses in rural and underserved areas, HB1622
4. Improvements to Paid Family Leave, SB5649
5. Pay Gap Legislation, SB5761
6. Higher Education Affordability, HB1655
7. Preserving Abortion Access, HB1851, SB5766



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



PWP 2022 - LET'S PLAY TO WIN!

Gay Campbell, Jackie DeFazio

The approach of Super Bowl LVI reminds us that it's only 12 weeks until our own super event—our PWP 2022 Purse Auction/Luncheon on April 30! After more than 1½ years of planning, we are, you might say, just entering the fourth quarter of a critical "game." As co-chairs, we are excited, but frankly, we are anxious, too. The success of this one event will determine the amount of money we have for scholarships and the number of girls and women who will receive our help over the next two years.

Time for what Todd Blackledge, former Kansas City Chiefs player, called fourth-quarter mentality, a phrase he coined after witnessing the players on the Alabama team, tied at the end of the third quarter, hold up four fingers, their message that "this is the fourth quarter. This is it. Time to kick in." And kick in they did as they went on to win the game.

So with four fingers held high, it's now time for all of us to kick in. This is it! With thanks for all that many have already done, we now need everyone's help to ensure the success of PWP 2022. Here are ways you can help:

Buy a ticket. Ticket sales for members and their guests are on sale now. Go online and buy a ticket or fill a table with friends who will give generously to our cause at <https://aauwsc.ejoinme.org/tickets>.

Buy a purse. We still need new purses. They don't have to be expensive. If you have not already donated a purse, go shopping for something that will appeal to one of our supporters. If you don't want to shop, someone else will shop for you. Contact Procurement Committee Chairs, Rose Olson and Mary Raymond to deliver a purse or to contribute to shopping.

Find a sponsor. Because of Covid protocols, we will have fewer guests this year, so we are looking for sponsors to support our cause. If you know of a business or individual who might sponsor our event, contact Cathlin Starke, Sponsorship Chair.

Procure auxiliary items. Our live auction purses sell best when they are accompanied with other items such as tickets to cultural or sporting events, special dinners, restaurant gift certificates, or other special items like an overnight stay at an airbnb or hotel. Such items greatly increase the money we get for a purse. To donate such items, contact Rose Olson, Mary Raymond, or Mary Pilkington.

Secure a contribution for our raffle basket. We need additional items for a "Staycation/Local Treasures" raffle basket—items like hotel or resort packages, certificates for special meals, tickets for events or other nearby adventures. If you have a contact with a potential source for this type of item, please contact Raffle Co-chairs Joanne Drewsen or Marianne McGarry-Bloom.

Locate a vase. We need glass vases shaped like purses for our table decorations. The best sources for these are thrift shops or PWP guests who bought such a vase in the past and are willing to donate them back. Contact Centerpiece Chair Thea Wellington to contribute to this effort.

Mark your calendar. We need all hands on deck for set up, so please plan to be at the Camano Center on Friday, April 29 at 4:00 p.m. to help set up for the event. We promise a good time, some snacks, maybe even a glass of wine!

Four fingers up! Fourth-quarter mentality! Working together, we can raise the money we need to fund the academic hopes and prospects of local Tech Trekkers and continuing college students!



2022 Scholarship Season Opens February 1

Marianne McGarry-Bloom

The AAUW Stanwood-Camano scholarship process opens February 1 and runs through April 30, 2022 for the 2022 season offering three \$6,000 scholarship awards. What differentiates our branch from other organizations is our focus on students entering their junior, senior or Master's level at college or university.



Due to our 501(c)3 status mandates, direct family members of our AAUW-SC membership are not eligible to apply. The 2022 application and qualifications are posted today (February 1) on www.aauwsc.org/scholarship or you can find it on the state scholarship website www.washboard.org. The application and supporting documents must be postmarked by Saturday, April 30, 2022.

Eligibility Requirements - All students, female and male, who meet the following requirements are encouraged to apply.

- You must be a current resident of the Arlington, Stanwood, or Camano Island area OR be a graduate of Lakewood, Arlington, Stanwood, or Lincoln Hill High Schools.
- You must have completed at least 2 years of study at an accredited college or university by June 2022 and have verifiable plans to continue upper-division or master's level post-graduate work at an accredited 4-year college or university in the fall of 2022.

We will award our recipients at a Scholarship Tea on Sunday June 26, 2022.



Funds for these \$6,000 scholarships are raised by the vibrant and popular Purses with Purpose benefit luncheon and auction that will be held this Spring on April 30. Olivia Murray, a 2021 recipient, will be a guest speaker and is pictured to the left.

Tech Trek Search Begins!

Mary Chesney



We have heard back from two schools, Stanwood Middle and Port Susan. Each school submitted five nominations for Tech Trek camp sponsorships for 2022. All of the nominees looked wonderful, and all were invited to apply. The applications are due by February 28. The Tech Trek committee will review the applications at that time and decide if all or some will move to the interview phase. Keep watching the newsletter for updates.

Get Ready for March!

Kathy Cunningham

Our March 10 in person meeting at the Utsalady Ladies Aid Building will be a special treat. Northwest storyteller and actress, Debbie Dimitre, who has been entertaining, inspiring, and educating audiences with her historical and dramatic presentations since 1987 will be introducing us to Alice Stokes Paul. [from debbiedimitre.com]



Debbie Dimitre
As Alice Stokes Paul



Alice Paul was an American Quaker, suffragist, feminist, and women's rights activist, and one of the main leaders and strategists of the campaign for the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which prohibits sex discrimination in the right to vote. Paul initiated, and along with Lucy Burns and others, strategized events such as the Woman Suffrage Procession and the Silent Sentinels, which were part of the successful campaign that resulted in the amendment's passage in 1920. [from Wikipedia]

The historic (built in 1923) Utsalady Ladies Aid Building (78 Utsalady Rd, C.I.) is the perfect venue for our general meeting. No Zoom will be available due to the building's lack of Wi-Fi.

Social Half Hour begins at 12:30 p.m. Members are encouraged to bring a guest and have some fun with this program. Bring out your white dresses, long black skirts and frilly white blouses, pearls and hats and roll into a period piece time. Carpooling for Warm Beach/Stanwood members from Terry's Corner to Utsalady is encouraged due to lack of parking spaces.

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

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.



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."

March 7th

Braiding Sweetgrass; Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants by Robin Wall Kimmerer

"An inspired weaving of indigenous knowledge, plant science, and personal narrative from a distinguished professor of science and a Native American whose previous book, *Gathering Moss*, was awarded the John Burroughs Medal for outstanding nature writing. As a botanist and professor of plant ecology, Robin Wall Kimmerer has spent a career learning how to ask questions of nature using the tools of science. As a Potawatomi woman, she learned from elders, family, and history that the Potawatomi, as well as a majority of other cultures indigenous to this land, consider plants and animals to be our oldest teachers. In *Braiding Sweetgrass*, Kimmerer brings these two lenses of knowing together to reveal what it means to see humans as "the younger brothers of creation." As she explores these themes she circles toward a central argument: the awakening of a wider ecological consciousness requires the acknowledgement and celebration of our reciprocal relationship with the world. Once we begin to listen for the languages of other beings, we can begin to understand the innumerable life-giving gifts the world provides us and learn to offer our thanks, our care, and our own gifts in return"

April 4th

Lady Clementine by Marie Benedict and/or The Splendid and the Vile by Erik Larson

Lady Clementine: "Lady Clementine is the ferocious story of the brilliant and ambitious woman beside Winston Churchill, the story of a partner who did not flinch through the sweeping darkness of war, and who would not surrender either to expectations or to enemies."

The Splendid and the Vile: "A fresh and compelling portrait of Winston Churchill and London during the Blitz. *The Splendid and the Vile* takes readers out of today's political dysfunction and back to a time of true leadership, when, in the face of unrelenting horror, Churchill's eloquence, courage, and perseverance bound a country, and a family, together."

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

General Meeting Minutes - January 13, 2022

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

Attendance: (17) India Nishi, Nancy Voelckers, Jeanie Garrioch, Kathy Cunningham, Georgi Proulx, Judy Prince, Gay Campbell, Mary Chesney, Jackie DeFazio, Katie Farrey, Joyce Leak, Marianne McGarry-Bloom, Mary Pilkington, Elaine Richards, Doris Taylor, Mary Dicker, Carol Panek-Clark. Guests (1): Speaker, Sandra Distelhorst

Call to Order: India Nishi called business meeting to order at 1:59 p.m.

Secretary: Georgi Proulx presented November 18, 2021 minutes for approval: Motion to approve the minutes as printed in the December newsletter: Jeanie Garrioch moved, Jackie DeFazio seconded; motion approved.

Treasurer: Jeanie Garrioch reviewed the financial reports for December as approved by the board January 6. Fee to Stanwood UMC for November meeting and AAUW Funds were paid. Operating account had \$4594.62. Total assets are \$53,751.34.

Scholarship budget for 2022 was presented for discussion and approval. Judy Prince moved to approve the scholarship budget as published in the January newsletter. Marianne McGarry-Bloom seconded.

Kathy Cunningham moved to amend university scholarships to three at \$6000 for \$18,000 total due to the generous donations we have received and the amount in the savings account. Jeanie Garrioch seconded. Kathy presented her rationale. Upon approval of this budget revision, Kathy recommended that we be sure to convey our gratitude to the community in any of our messaging, i.e., thanks to the generosity of the community we are able to increase the amount of our scholarships and number of TT campers. Marianne presented the data of costs of the universities of our state and the impact on our students; \$27,000 is the yearly average based on her calculations. \$6000 would be nearly 25% of the student's costs for the year or 6% for the entire four years. Motion approved.

Nancy Voelckers moved to increase the number of Tech Trek campers for 2022 to twelve due to the success of Stanwood Camano Give. Kathy Cunningham seconded. Motion approved.

Vote to approve the scholarship budget as amended was held; motion approved.

Membership Recognition: India Nishi thanked Kathy Cunningham, Georgi Proulx, and Mary Raymond for their contributions to the successful Holiday Luncheon. Consensus was it was an inkling of things to come, and we collected many purses.

Announcements: Marianne McGarry-Bloom announced the Scholarship Tea on June 26; time to be determined. Also to be decided is virtual or in person.

Program: Kathy Cunningham announced we are all good for Zoom meeting in February and Debbie Dimitre in March in person at the Utsalady Ladies Aid building. She also shared the need for a High School STEM Scholar Recognition chair to start the process to find honorees through the schools; we need someone NOW since this is a May program tradition.

Nominating Committee: India Nishi spoke to the need for Nominating Chair and committee for 2022-2023 officers. Marianne McGarry-Bloom opened discussion regarding the terms for each officer. This topic will be examined by the Board.

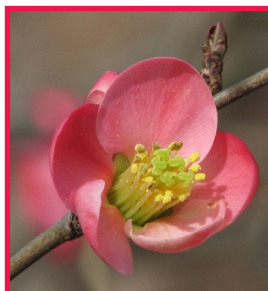
PWP: Jackie DeFazio reported members will be able to begin purchasing tickets on January 24 through February 12; February 14 tickets open to previous attendees. The decision to open to the public will be made by March 10. 125 tickets @\$40 are proposed in tables of four (\$160) and six (\$240). January 20 is next steering committee meeting.

Adjourn: Gay Campbell moved to adjourn the meeting; Joyce Leak seconded; motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 2:39 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Georgi Proulx

Secretary



***Love is a lot like a backache.
It doesn't show up on x-rays,
but you know it's there.***

George Burns

Happy Valentine's Day