

Stanwood-Camano Branch of AAUW

In Touch



March 2022

Edited by Martha Huyler and Georgi Proulx



www.aauwsc.org

**March 3rd
Thursday
1:00 p.m.**

March Board Meeting
Zoom/In Person
Saratoga Room
SC Community Resource Center
9612 271st Street NW, Stanwood

**March 10th
Thursday**

**Social Half Hour 12:30 p.m.
1:00 p.m.**

General Meeting
Utsalady Ladies Aid Building
78 Utsalady Road
Camano Island

Program: PNW storyteller and actress, Debbie Dimitre will be introducing us to Alice Stokes Paul. Let's have fun and dress in vintage attire.

What's Inside?

	Page
President's Message	1
March: Debbie Dimitre	2
Public Policy	2
PWP Reports	3
Scholarships 2022	3
Tech Trek 2022	3
AAUW Funds	3
Tributes to Nancy and Liliya	4
Book Group	5
Minutes: February 10, 2022	6



Message from the President

India Nishi

Hello All! After a brief respite, winter has returned to us once again. Maybe Punxsutawney Phil's forecast of six more weeks of winter back on Groundhog Day was correct after all...dang!

February has been a month bustling with activity in our branch. Our general meeting featured speakers from Sound Water Stewards, trained volunteers whose mission is to work in and around Island County for a healthy, sustainable marine environment through education, science, and stewardship. Their classes sound really interesting, and make me wish I still lived in Island County. What a treat it was to hear from them.

This month also included planning meetings by the various **Purses with Purpose** planning committees. I was so excited to see the purses that I crashed the Procurement Committee meeting a week ago hosted at Rose Olson's lovely home. While sipping delicious made-to-order espresso drinks, purses were sorted and evaluated for our live or silent auction inventories. It was really inspiring to see the wonderful array of bags, ranging from small cosmetic bags, to stunning bags by well-known designers. I am so grateful to all of you for your generous donations.

Ticket sales are also well under way for the April 30th PWP event. As I write this in late February, we have sold over half our tickets, and have three sponsors: Janicki Industries, Silver Reef Casino Resort, and Leslie Tripp of State Farm Insurance. Thank you ticket purchasers and sponsors! Donations have also begun to flow in. It's exciting to see that this event is finally going to happen, and with Jackie DeFazio and Gay Campbell at the helm, it's going to be a great event.

Another February event was the formation of our Nominating Committee for next year's elected board positions. The chair is Nancy Roberts, and she will be assisted by Joyce Leak and Mary Raymond. Thank you, ladies for stepping up to this important work! Open positions are President-Elect, VP of Finance, VP of Finance-Elect, Programs VP and Membership VP. If you are interested in any of these positions, please reach out to Nancy, Joyce, Mary or any of the current board members. Serving on the board this year has been a privilege, and I recommend it to anyone who has a passion for our organization and wants to help steer it into the future.

March's general meeting will be worth your while. Debbie Dimitre will share a program featuring her interpretation of the famous suffragist, Alice Stokes Paul. Come dressed in whatever way you feel inspired...in vintage wear, in your pearls, and lace, all in white, or even all three. We'll have refreshments, and best of all, we'll be able to gather in person for a general meeting, after a long, long time.

In closing, and on a sadder note, I want to remember two ladies from our branch who passed away recently. The first was Nancy Leuschel, who moved to the area in 1987. Nancy was an active member of our Stanwood/Camano community. Due to Covid, I never got to meet Nancy in person, but heard many kind things about her. The next passing was Liliya Tushinski, who died after a long illness. I was lucky enough to know Liliya, and worked with her while I was Finance VP and she was the Finance VP-Elect. Liliya was a strong woman and a strong supporter of AAUW. Both ladies will be sorely missed.

Future Events

April 7th
Thursday
1:00 p.m.

April Board Meeting
Zoom/In Person TBD

April 14th
Thursday
1:00 p.m.

General Meeting
Watch for Notice

April 29th
Friday
4:00 p.m.

Set Up for Purses with Purpose
Camano Center

April 30th
Saturday
11:00 a.m.

Purses with Purpose
Camano Center

April 30th

Scholarship Applications Due



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/>

March - A Look to Our Past

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]



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, Camano Island) 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.



Debbie Dimitre
as Alice Stokes Paul

Public Policy: At the Halfway Mark

Judy Prince

This year's legislative session is past the half way mark. There is activity to report on bills that AAUW-WA supported. Status on the two bills that we stressed are below.

SB5688 concerning material changes to the operations and governance structure of participants in the health care marketplace did not pass out of the Senate Law and Justice committee. This bill sought to ensure that communities would not lose service or have a significant increase in costs if the local health care entities merged with a larger health care system. There was much opposition from the health care community.

HB1571 concerning protections and services for indigenous persons who are missing, murdered, or survivors of human trafficking passed out of the house 98 to 0! The bill is now in Senate Law and Justice Committee. It may have passed out of this committee by the time you read this report.

Status on other bills we supported is as follows:

HB1622 increasing the availability of sexual assault nurse examiner education in rural and underserved areas also passed the house unanimously. This bill established training at WSU Medical School. Now the only place to receive training is Harborview Hospital. It is currently scheduled for a vote in the Senate Higher Education and Workforce committee before the end of February.

HB1621 creating programs to encourage sexual assault nurse examiner training, a companion bill to HB1622, did not come to the house floor before the cutoff date of February 15 and is dead for this session.

You can track the status of bills in the Washington State Legislature via [Bill Info Detailed Legislative Reports \(wa.gov\)](http://BillInfoDetailedLegislativeReports(wa.gov))



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

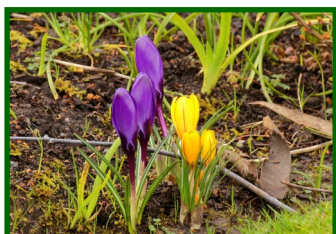
Mary Raymond

Sunshine

Jackie-Lyn Olson

Newsletter Team

Georgi Proulx, Martha Huyler



60 Days and Counting...
Have YOU Gotten Involved?

PWP 2022 - Deadline for Purses is March 10

Rose Olson, Mary Raymond

Well, ladies, this may be the last article you get to read about purse procurement for the April 30, 2022 PWP auction! And this will be a brief one just to let you know the status of our donations.

Your procurement committee has met several times to inventory, catalog and price purses. We have 25 excellent candidates for the live auction and Georgi Proulx has entered 122 purses (including live) into the database with some more to go. It is gratifying to see the number and quality of these purses. Even with these promising numbers, we still are accepting (gratefully) any new purses with tags or gently-used high-quality bags hopefully with a FMV (fair market value) of about \$100.

Please check your closets for those hidden gems you may be willing to part with because our scholarships depend on the success of this auction. We can accept bags to March 10. Bring your donations to the in person March 10 meeting at the Utsalady Ladies Aid building or contact the Procurement Team for delivery arrangements.

Now is the time to act if you have purses or know someone who might contribute one. Please contact Mary Raymond or Rose Olson if you have any donations or questions.

Countdown to PWP 2022

Jackie DeFazio, Gay Campbell

Remember how you felt when you were a child counting down the days to a special birthday or holiday? That's how we're feeling as we realize we are now only 60 days away from this Branch's big event—Purses with Purpose 2022! Two and a half years in the planning, this year's event promises to be a success, thanks to the efforts of you, our dedicated members, and to the support of the Stanwood-Camano and La Conner community businesses who have stepped up to contribute purses, items to put in the purses, and sponsorships.

We appreciate that support—and continue to need even more. Check out the message above from the Procurement Committee then take a look at the timeline below, and let us know what you can do to help with the final preparations:

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| March 1-10 | Purchase your tickets for the event before they sell out! |
| March 1-April 1 | Contact Helen Smith to help serve at the luncheon or Georgi Proulx to help process the silent auction purses. |
| March 10 | Deadline for purse/auxiliary donations. Bring donations to the Branch meeting that day at the Utsalady Ladies Aid Building. |
| March 10 | Ticket sales will open to the general public (if any remain to be sold). |
| March 15 | Deadline for items for the event program. |
| April 1 | Deadline for procuring purse-shaped vases for centerpieces. |
| April 29 | All hands on deck at 4:00 p.m. to help set up for the auction. More details in next month's newsletter. |
| April 30 | PURSES WITH PURPOSE 2022!! |

2022 Scholarship Season is Now Open

Marianne McGarry-Bloom

What do university students of sports psychology, chemical engineering and mental health counseling have in common? They are recipients of the AAUWSC 2021 Scholarships. The American Association of University Women Stanwood Camano Branch president, India Nishi, announced, "We are very pleased to increase our three (3) scholarship amounts to \$6,000 each, beginning this Spring in recognition of the increased tuition cost for higher education. Our scholarships are unique in that they reach university students of our community who are juniors, seniors or in a Master's degree program at a certified university. Sometimes the money just runs out after the first two years, and hopefully, this can help make a difference in their success stories."



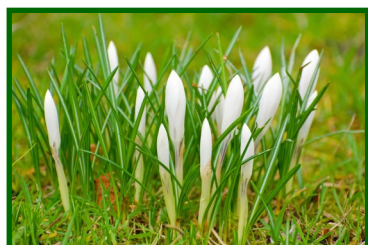
AAUW's mission is to support and advance gender equality through research, education and advocacy. The Stanwood Camano Branch is also currently working with local schools to select ten (10) girls entering 8th grade for scholarships to its Tech Trek Summer Camp in July at Pacific Lutheran University. Generous donations to Stanwood Gives and the biennial fundraiser, **Purses With Purpose**, have made these scholarships possible. AAUW-SC applications for university students in their junior or senior year or Master's Degree program will be accepted until April 30, 2022. Scholarships of \$6,000 will be awarded to students who are current residents of Stanwood, Arlington or Camano Island area OR are graduates of Arlington, Lakewood, Stanwood, or Lincoln Hill High School. Scholarships will be awarded at our June Annual Meeting and Scholarship Tea at the historic Camano City Schoolhouse on June 26.

Scholarship applications can be found at our website, www.aauwsc.org/scholarship or the Washington State Scholarship website, theWashBoard.org.

Tech Trek Selection Begins!

Mary Chesney

We have received applications from five of the 10 nominees for Tech Trek camp. All the applications indicate the students are excellent candidates and we eagerly look forward to reading the nominees' essays. Please keep in mind, we must send at least one person, either a Dorm mother, camp instructor or former Tech Trek camper who is now a junior or Senior in high school as our contribution to the camp staff. Both Judy Prince and I have helped, and it is far from work. If you know someone who was a camper or are interested in helping, let me know as soon as possible. There is a stipend for helping of approximately \$500 plus reimbursement for travel.



AAUW Funds: Where Are the Women College Presidents?

Jackie DeFazio

That is the question asked by a new report from AAUW and the Eos Foundation, called *The Women's Power Gap at Elite Universities: Scaling the Ivory Tower*. The answer: just 22% of presidents at the nation's elite research universities are women—and only 5% are women of color. This is particularly disturbing given that women have outnumbered men in colleges since the late 1970s, and women of color represent the fastest growing segment of the college population in the

United States. The report explores the barriers and biases that are keeping women from reaching the highest ranks of academic leadership.

Key findings of the report include:

- At elite universities, "the glass ceiling is a concrete ceiling." Women are underrepresented among all leadership positions, both internally and on university boards.
- Women of color are nearly absent, comprising only 5% of all presidents.
- Women's paths to the presidency are far more limited and traditional than those of men. While 93% of women presidents most frequently rise through the traditional academic route, more than a quarter of male presidents rose from nontraditional positions like congressmen or military or business positions.
- Over the past 18 months, in the wake of the racial justice movement, the number of Black presidents more than doubled from four to nine while only one university hired any woman of color.
- Only 23% of these elite universities were rated as being "Gender Balanced" or "Almost There" across all leadership positions, leaving a full 77% in the "Needs Urgent Action" or "Work to Do" categories. (The University of Washington placed in the "Almost There" category.)

To read the whole report together with its recommendations/solutions, go to AAUW's newly configured website. You will be asked to sign in and create a new password the first time you access www.aauw.org. Research like this is funded in part by contributions to AAUW Funds from branches like ours.

You Will Be Missed: Nancy Leuschel and Lilija Tushinski

In the month of February our branch lost two cherished members: Nancy Leuschel and Lilija Tushinski. Both women were strong contributors to their community and the organizations they loved. Below are tributes from those who knew them well.



Nancy Leuschel

Bev Maxwell: When Nancy moved to Camano in 1987 she immersed herself into the Stanwood/Camano community. She touched many lives through her civic and social connections. She made it her mission to be loving, kind, loyal and supportive. Nancy was always willing to contribute without reservation. Nancy gave us a new meaning to "aging gracefully." She was someone who could teach 20 year olds how to be younger. Nancy inspired us to enjoy life and live it to the fullest. At age 91, Nancy was not old, not young. She defied description because Nancy Leuschel was one of a kind, a time tested classic. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her and loved her.

Doris Taylor: I remember Nancy as a friendly, gracious woman who always seemed to be smiling. When in her 80's, she continued to expand her knowledge by taking the Spanish class at Camano Center.

Marianne McGarry-Bloom: Nancy's love of learning and community involvement was an ever present constant during her life on Camano Island.

Jeanie Garrioch: Nancy was an outstanding member of our study club for 33 years. She made it her mission to be loving, kind, loyal, supportive and willing to contribute without reservation. A life so beautifully lived deserves to be beautifully remembered. Nancy's memory will live forever in our hearts. I will always remember the good times, as in, every time we got together. She could truly light up the room.



Lilija Tushinski

Tracy Gilroy: Lilija provided supportive friendship and guidance for life. Her talents were shared and enjoyed by many. Her family and friends loved her. She loved those to whom she gave her time and her last days. Thank you Lilija for being here with us always.

Doris Taylor: Lilija was a strong and brave woman dedicated to health, social justice, and community safety issues and was an active member of our book group. She will be greatly missed.

Helen Smith: I appreciated Lilija because she was an immigrant from one of the Balkan countries. She had experiences in refugee camps. I had it much easier as an immigrant from Australia. She has always been clever and insightful in book group.

Janet St. Clair: So sad. Glad she is at peace but a loss for our community.

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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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.



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."

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."

May 2nd

It All Comes Back to You by Beth Duke

"Veronica "Ronni" Johnson, licensed practical nurse and aspiring writer, meets the captivating Violet in the assisted living facility where Violet requires no assistance, just lots of male attention. When she dies, she leaves Ronni a very generous bequest ... only if Ronni completes a book about her life within one year. As she's drawn into the world of young Violet, Ronni is mesmerized by life in a simpler time. It's an irresistible journey filled with revelations, some of them about men Ronni knew as octogenarians at Fairfield Springs. Struggling, insecure, flailing at the keyboard, Ronni juggles her patients, a new boyfriend, and a Samsonite factory of emotional baggage as she tries to craft a manuscript before her deadline. But when the secrets start to emerge, some of them in person, and they don't stop, everything changes. Alternating chapters between Homecoming Queen Violet in 1947 and can't-quite-find-her-crown Ronni in the present, IT ALL COMES BACK TO YOU is Southern Fiction at its hilarious, warm, sad, outrageous, uplifting, and stunning best."

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

General Meeting Minutes - February 10, 2022

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

Attendance: (15) India Nishi, Nancy Voelckers, Georgi Proulx, Martha Huyler, Judy Prince, Christa Baltzsch, Gay Campbell, Jackie DeFazio, Joyce Leak, Marianne McGarry-Bloom, Elaine Richards, Nancy Roberts, Doris Taylor. Guest speakers: Joan Schrammeck, Allie Hudec (Education Coordinator)

Call to Order: India Nishi called meeting to order at 1:47 p.m.

Secretary: Georgi Proulx requested a vote to approve the January 13 general meeting minutes as printed in the February newsletter: Martha Huyler moved, Joyce Leak seconded; motion approved.

Treasurer: In Jeanie Garrioch's absence, Nancy Voelckers reviewed the financial reports for January emailed to the board February 2. Operating account had \$4519.62. The board decided to move the CD into the money market. Light activity: program fee, PWP fees, paid contribution to Greatest Need fund at National. Received \$485 additional funds from employee matching funds from SCGive for Tech Trek category. Janicki Industries has submitted their \$500 sponsorship via PWP. Total assets are \$49,993.25.

Member Recognition: India Nishi recognized Kathy Cunningham for her exceptional work on the programs and incredible stepping up to manage High School STEM Scholars Recognitions. Mary Pilkington and Marianne McGarry-Bloom were exceptional in their procurement of certificates from the local and La Conner area, especially La Conner. Thank you to Lynda Buehring for her PWP efforts as well. Nancy Roberts has accepted the chair position of the Nominating Committee looking for the following candidates: President-elect, VP Finance, Finance-elect, VP Membership, and VP Program. India is exploring how to handle filling positions for only one year this time. If this policy becomes permanent then the by-laws need to be changed. Georgi Proulx was acknowledged for her efforts in learning the software for PWP and training others.

PWP: Jackie DeFazio shared their gratitude for the team of ladies helping with PWP. Gay Campbell reported how overwhelming it is to see how well members are stepping up and the event is coming together. Email is going out to previous supporters to buy tickets February 12. Requested help to set up on Friday, April 29 at 4:00 p.m.

Scholarships: Marianne McGarry-Bloom announced the season opened February 1 and all documents and publicity is complete. Applications for 3-\$6000 scholarships are available at www.aauwsc.org/scholarship and www.thewashboard.org. Olivia Murray, 2021 scholarship winner, will be a guest speaker at our PWP Fund-a-Scholar campaign.

Tech Trek: In Mary Chesney's absence, Doris Taylor reported we have received ten nominees. Arlington and Lakewood middle schools have chosen not to participate.

Community Announcement: Mary Pilkington announced the President's Day celebration on February 21 at Noon at the American Legion hall in Stanwood. Program is Richard Hanks' presentation on Lincoln.

March Program: India Nishi reported for Kathy Cunningham the March 10 will be in person at the Utsalady Ladies Aid Building. Finger foods will be offered at the Social Half Hour beginning at 12:30 p.m. Participants are encouraged to dress in vintage attire for Debbie Dimitre's presentation. Good recruitment event; please bring friends.

Adjourn: Marianne McGarry-Bloom moved to adjourn the meeting; Mary Pilkington seconded; motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 2:18 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Georgi Proulx

Secretary



Celebrate endings - for they precede new beginnings.
~Jonathan Lockwood Huie