

In Touch

March 2023

Edited by Martha Huyler and Georgi Proulx



www.aauwsc.org

**March 2nd
Thursday
1:00 p.m.**

March Board Meeting
Community Resource Center

**March 9th
Thursday
1:00 p.m.**

General Meeting
Social Half Hour at 12:30
Utsalady Ladies Aid Building
78 Utsalady Road
*Debbie Dimitre presenting
Rachel Carson, American marine
biologist, conservationist, and
author of Silent Spring
An Open-to-the-Public Event*

**March 15th
Wednesday
10:00 a.m.**

Cookie Mill
JAVA Break
*For Coffee and Conversation
Bring a Prospective Member*

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The State of our Branch is Splendid

A Note from the Editors

We are nearly at the two thirds point of our year and look what we have accomplished with the admirable leadership of our president, Nancy Voelckers. As we transition back to in person our programs have been creative and fantastic: meeting our Tech Trek campers, touring the new Stanwood High School, celebrating the holidays, hearing from Rena Priest our State Poet Laureate, and Mary Kathryn Nagle's information-filled presentation on Murdered and Indigenous Women. We look forward to the remainder of the programs planned: Debbie Dimitre performing Rachel Carson, Tracy Gilroy, honoring our high school STEM scholars, and culminating with our Scholarship Tea the end of June to celebrate a major motivation for working so hard.

In addition to the monthly programs, we offer ways for members to get to spend time together getting to know each other via: the book group, movies, day trippers and our new Java break. This month's newsletter is loaded with opportunities within our organization and illustrates how, as a team, we are committed to excellence and work together in service to our community.

Please read the newsletter and then continue to accept volunteer opportunities for branch committees and Purses with Purpose. How will you avail yourself of these initiatives and make new friends?

March: Debbie Dimitre presenting Rachel Carson

Rose Olson

Please join us on March 9 for our general meeting at the Utsalady Ladies Aid Building (78 Utsalady Road). Our program speaker Debbie Dimitre presents Rachel Carson, American scientist, marine biologist and author of *Silent Spring*, the book many believe started the environmental movement.

Since 1987 northwest storyteller/actress, Debbie Dimitre, has been entertaining, inspiring, and educating audiences of all ages with her historical and dramatic storytelling presentations. Debbie brings to life women and young girls in American history through story and first person portrayals in a style that is uniquely her own. Our branch was delighted by her presentation of Alice Stokes Paul in March 2022.

Social Half Hour begins at 12:30 p.m.; program begins at 1:00 p.m. This meeting is open to the public so please bring a friend or neighbor, especially one that may be interested in joining our organization.

Please see Caroline Pickens' story on page two to learn of AAUW's connection to Rachel Carson.



Debbie Dimitre as Rachel Carson

Future Events

April 6th
Thursday
1:00 p.m.

April Board Meeting
Community Resource Center

April 12th
Thursday
1:00 p.m.

General Meeting
Social Half Hour at 12:30
Location to be announced
Tracy Gilroy, Attorney

April 19th
Wednesday

Day Tripper Outing
Trip to Bellingham thru Edison

April 26th
Wednesday
JAVA Break
10:00 a.m.

Cookie Mill
For Coffee and Conversation
Bring a Prospective Member



Visit our branch website:
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/)

AAUW and Rachel Carson

Caroline Pickens, AAUW Funds Chair

Your members might like to know that AAUW had a role in Rachel Carson writing *Silent Spring*.

In the mid-50's Rachel Carson was AAUW's Achievement Awardee, which was the highest honor AAUW gave then. It came with a stipend. There was always the story among the AAUW staff and others that AAUW had a hand in the successful printing of that book, but no definite proof. About six or so years ago I was at AAUW working through a box that was a mess of archival documents and materials from the office of the retired public relations officer, Mary Boyette. Mary kept *everything*, including bits of paper with phone numbers on them or notes like "Meet Sharon at 3:00." And if one copy was good, six or seven must be great. There were seven boxes from her office that had been sent to the archives like that, and it took two of us two years to get those seven boxes into archival shape.

Anyway--that is setting the scene. I groaned when I opened that box and saw what a jumble it was. I decided I would take everything out and try to put similar subjects together. I picked up a five-page long, beautifully handwritten letter--and at the end I saw it was from Rachel Carson. She was thanking AAUW for the honor and telling us she was using the money for the research she was doing for her next book which was *Silent Spring*. Here was the proof, and we would have missed it if we hadn't decided those boxes had to be cleaned up and organized. I think it was one of the most exciting days in all my AAUW years.

Hope this finds you and the branch in good health and spirits.

Thank you Jackie DeFazio for your connection to Caroline Pickens and acquiring this wonderful story.

Public Policy: National Legislative Priorities

Anne Milton

The Washington legislative session is now in its sixth week. This year, members of the House introduced a whopping 846 bills and members of the Senate introduced 767! For those members who would like to dig into the details, I am forwarding a bi-monthly update via email.

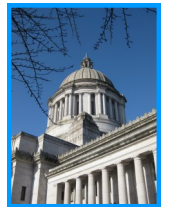
This month, I am highlighting AAUW's National legislative priorities. A key bill from Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley and Senator Lisa Murkowski is entitled: *Resolution to Affirm the Ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment*. That's right. It's 2023 and the US Constitution does not guarantee women the same legal rights as men.

The Equal Rights amendment was first introduced 100 years ago to codify gender equality in the United States Constitution. The constitutional amendment finally passed in 1972 by the House and Senate. However, Congress then passed an arbitrary seven-year deadline on the state ratification process contending that thirty-eight states are needed for certification of the ERA to become the 28th amendment to the Constitution. Unfortunately, only thirty-five states ratified the ERA before the arbitrary deadline. Illinois, Nevada and Virginia recently passed ratifications and with actions by Congress now, the ERA may officially become part of our Constitution. The supporters are calling for the removal of arbitrary deadlines in this bill.

The Equal Rights Amendment simply states: "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State on account of sex." It would affirm women's equality and an explicit prohibition against sex discrimination in the nation's foundational document. Furthermore, it would apply the most rigorous judicial review to laws and government policies that discriminate against women and it would ensure that laws or policies that are inconsistent with equality for women be struck down. This resolution has strong bipartisan support and we can all be hopeful. Stay tuned.



Rachel Carson



Tech Trek Update for March

Mary Chesney

We were fortunate this year to have sixteen nominations from the Stanwood-Camano school district for Tech Trek camp. We have not had this many nominations since the beginning of the pandemic. Although personal contact was made with the Lakewood and Arlington middle schools, no nominations were received. Of the sixteen nominees, twelve applied. We now begin the task of reviewing the applications and then move on to the final step in the process, interviews.

The next update on Tech Trek will be in the May newsletter when we announce how many of the applicants will be attending camp.

I would like to acknowledge Karla Jacks, a new member, as our camp staff volunteer. She has agreed to be a Dorm Mo(m)nitor making it possible for us to send more than seven girls to camp. If you meet Karla, please thank her for her offer of help.



AAUW SC 2023 Scholarship Season is Open

Marianne McGarry-Bloom

Our 2023 Scholarship Committee convened this last month and divvied up the tasks which need to be completed. The tasks are many and varied including: advertising through the mail, Facebook, local newspapers and good old fashioned word of mouth; reviewing applications, selecting finalists, and planning the Scholarship Tea.

The cooperative collaboration and enthusiastic energy is probably the finest qualities of AAUW-SC, I believe. Each branch of our national organization is pointing towards the same direction, building up the next generation of strong women. and together, we have so much more strength than alone.

Important dates:

Friday, May 19 1:00 p.m. Applications review at Marianne's home

Sunday, June 25 1:00 p.m. Scholarship Tea at the Camano City Schoolhouse



Day Trippers: Bellingham by Way of Edison

Lynda Buehring

Spring is in the air and a great way to start enjoying the improving weather is on April 19 for the April Day Trippers, a lovely trip to Bellingham by way of Edison.

This trip will include a tour at *Samish Bay Cheese* and *Bow Hill Blueberry Farm* with tastings, then proceeding along Chuckanut ending up at *Keenan's At The Pier* for lunch. The trip home includes a visit to *Village Bookstore*, coffee and shopping on our own returning home at 3:00 p.m.

We hope you can make it....save the date....April 19.



April 27, 2024 Purses with Purpose Event Committee: Lead Positions Open

Georgi Proulx

It was so exciting to present my steering committee list at the February meeting and receive such support in filling the chair positions. Our committee is nearly complete. Only two lead positions remain and I'm requesting you think on it, call me with questions, and volunteer. I'm so looking forward to April 27, 2024 and the funds we will raise with your help.

Presenting your PWP 2024 Steering Committee:

Chair: Georgi Proulx

Auction Data: Georgi Proulx

Live Auction Staging: Anne Milton

Menu/Wine/License: Helen Smith

Purse Photos: Martha Huyler

Tickets/Table Assignments: Mary Chesney

Purse Procurement: Jackie DeFazio, Gay Campbell
Robin Hanks

Silent Auction Staging: Lynda Buehring, Linda Lynn

Tables/Centerpieces/Set up: *needs a lead*

Purse Descriptions: Anne Milton

Auxiliary Item Procurement: Robin Hanks
Mary Pilkington

Staffing/Volunteers and Bagging: *Kathy Cunningham will fulfill ONE of these positions; need a second lead*

Leads needed for the following optional tasks or they will not be fulfilled: Sponsorships, Grants, Raffle, Fund A Scholar Video

April isn't just for rain showers.....but **PURSES** !

Purses with



Purpose

Announcing our next Purses with Purpose

April 27, 2024

...we are collecting our inventory now!

PWP 2024 kickoff is at our April 13, 2023 general meeting.

This is a great opportunity to take advantage of the spring sales.

Friends have demonstrated strong support for this event. Please share the new date and our call for purses with yours.

For every new or very gently used purse you bring you will receive a drawing ticket for a prize to be awarded during the meeting.

We need designer purses, purses from your around-the-world adventures, purses you've purchased and rarely use, all styles, colors and functions. Please leave the tags on all new purses.

Why we sponsor PWP:

Yearly we now award three \$10,000 university scholarships and send ten campers to Tech Trek at \$1400 each. To continue these programs we must raise \$44,000 each year. PWP is a biennial event and our biggest.....we'd like to continue that plan.

We can do this again with YOUR support.

Bring purses on April 13 and receive a ticket for each one to be in the drawing for a prize.

Questions: contact Georgi Proulx, PWP 2024 Chair

Your 2022-2023 Board

President

Nancy Voelckers

President-Elect

Jackie-Lyn Olson

VP of Finance

Judy Trammell

VP of Finance-Elect

Judy Prince

VP of Membership

Joanne Drewsen

Assistant: India Nishi*

Secretary

Georgi Proulx

VP of Program

Rose Olson

Assistant: Doris Taylor*

Mary Raymond*

Public Policy

Anne Milton

Communications

Georgi Proulx, Martha Huyler

* Appointed position, shares vote with VP

Activity Leaders

Purses with Purpose 2024

Georgi Proulx

High School STEM Scholars

Linda Demetre, Lael Williams

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

(open position)

Diversity

Katie Farrey

Stanwood-Camano Give

Mary Raymond

Sunshine

India Nishi

Newsletter Team

Georgi Proulx, Martha Huyler



DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) Spotlight

Katie Farrey

Definition: Microaggression: The verbal, nonverbal, and environmental slights, snubs, insults or actions, whether intentional or unintentional, which communicate negative, derogatory or hostile messages to target historically marginalized groups.

Upcoming Events:

March 8th: Holi, an ancient Hindu tradition celebrating the eternal and divine love of god Radha Krishna.

March 15th, 6:00-7:00 p.m., Sno-Isle Online

Running While Black: An Author Talk With Alison Mariella Desir

<https://sno-isle.bibliocommons.com/events/63e2b1c425d02830004ac627>

March 22nd-April 20th: Ramadan, a month of fasting, prayer, reflection, and community observed by Muslims worldwide.

The following websites were shared by Mary Kathryn Nagle during her presentation at our general meeting in February:

National Indigenous Women's Resource Center: www.niwrc.org

Urban Indian Health Institute: www.uihi.org

www.Justiceforkaysera.org

Several books to share with grandchildren:

An American Story by Kwame Alexander

All Because You Matter by Tami Charles

We Are Here by Tami Charles

AAUW Funds: Celebrations of Achievement and Potential

Jackie DeFazio

As presented on page two of this issue, AAUW had an important role in the publication of Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*. In 1956, Carson was awarded the AAUW Achievement Award and later acknowledged that the funds from that award contributed significantly to the publication in 1962 of her signature work documenting the effects of DDT on the environment and started the contemporary battle between environmentalists and industry.

Initiated in 1943, the AAUW Achievement Award was presented, usually biennially, to an individual whose record of achievement in any scholarly or professional field spanned twenty or more years. Through the award, AAUW recognized "the highest standards of service in the public and private sectors" and "underscored the significant accomplishments of those who advance the goals of AAUW."

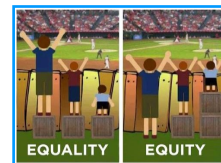
According to the AAUW website, the award is currently "on hiatus," but from 1946-2017 was used to recognize and celebrate the achievements of a remarkable and diverse group of women, some of whom were well known at the time they received the award and would go on to even greater achievements after the award, as was the case with Rachel Carson.

The first Achievement Award went to Florence B. Seibert in 1943. Though not a name we recognize today, Siebert was the inventor of the first reliable tuberculosis test, still in use today.

In 1947, Barbara McClintock received the award for her work in genetics. In 1983, thirty-six years after this recognition from AAUW, McClintock received the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for her work in genetic transposition or "jumping genes."

Other recipients had already achieved significant recognition prior to the AAUW award, but in accepting it, acknowledged the important role that AAUW has played throughout its history in advancing the standard of equity in education and the professional status of women. They include, among a host of others, three Supreme Court Justices—Sandra Day O'Connor in 1988, Ruth Bader Ginsburg in 1999, and Sonia Sotomayor in 2017.

Ours, as members of AAUW, is a proud legacy—one we contribute to each time we support a young scholar or help introduce a young camper to the world beyond Stanwood-Camano.



Special Branch Activities

Day Trippers

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

Lynda Buehring
Jill Johnstone
Jodie Brand

JAVA Break

Meet for coffee/tea and great conversation getting to know your fellow members. Bring a prospective member too if you would like.

Nancy Voelckers

Movie Group

Meet for a movie at our local Stanwood Cinema. Watch for an email invitation. Suggestions are encouraged.

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



LIKE our page to
follow us then

SHARE to increase
our visibility in
the community.



[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.

March 6th, 2:00 p.m. at the Home of Gail Merrick

Crossings by Alex Landragin

"Crossings is an unforgettable and explosive genre-bending debut—a novel in three parts, designed to be read in two different directions, spanning a hundred and fifty years and seven lifetimes."

April 3rd, 2:00 p.m. via Zoom

Daughters of Yalta by Catherine Grace Katz

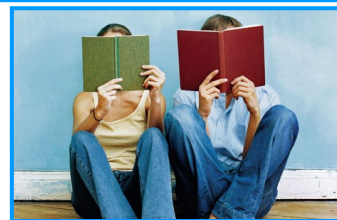
The story of the fascinating and fateful daughter diplomacy of Anna Roosevelt, Sarah Churchill, and Kathleen Harriman, three glamorous young women who accompanied their famous fathers to the Yalta Conference with Stalin in the waning days of World War II.

May 1st, 2:00 p.m. at the Home of Mary Pilkington

French Braid by Anne Tyler

"A freshly observed, funny, joyful, brilliantly perceptive journey deep into one family's foibles, from the 1950s up to our pandemic present. The Garretts take their first and last family vacation in the summer of 1959. As these lives advance across decades, the Garretts' influences on one another ripple ineffably but unmistakably through each generation. French Braid is classic Anne Tyler: a stirring, uncannily insightful novel of tremendous warmth and humor that illuminates the kindnesses and cruelties of our daily lives, the impossibility of breaking free from those who love us, and how close--yet how unknowable--every family is to itself."

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



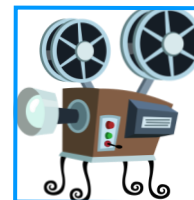
See You At the Movies!

Georgi Proulx

Thank you Joyce Leak for being the point person for the February 13 viewing of *80 for Brady*. Seven members and guests shared the movie and bit of conversation afterwards. Joyce reported that it was worth it even with the drive home in the wind and rain.

Anne and I are keeping our eyes out for *The Whale* with Brendan Fraser; a reclusive English teacher tries to restore his relationship with his teenage daughter.

Hope to "see you at the movies."



Four of us met for coffee at the Cookie Mill on February 15: Joyce Leak, Nancy Voelckers, Helen Smith and Georgi Proulx (pictured right). We shared great coffee and conversation getting to know each other a little bit better. We'd love to get to know you better as well.



Next **JAVA Break** will be on March 15 (3rd Wednesday) at the Cookie Mill in Stanwood at 10:00 a.m. April's meet up will be the fourth Wednesday so we can go to the Day Trippers Outing.

Let's share a mug and create muffin crumbs together...join us!

General Meeting Minutes - February 9, 2023

Program: Mary Kathryn Nagle, counsel for the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center, representing families of murdered and missing indigenous women and girls; virtual program from Washington, D.C. held at Camano Library and via Zoom

Attendance: (25) Cheryl Allen, Lynda Buehring, Gay Campbell, Mary Chesney (Z), Kathy Cunningham, Jackie DeFazio, Katie Farrey, Robin Hanks, Martha Huyler (Z), Joyce Leak, Linda Lynn, Rose Olson, Mary Pilkington, Patti Pontikis, Judy Prince, Georgi Proulx, Mary Raymond, Elaine Richards, Nancy Roberts (Z), Helen Smith, Kaye Sodt, Doris Taylor (Z), Judy Trammell, Nancy Voelckers, Linda Demetre (program only). Guests/speaker on Zoom (16)

Call to Order: Nancy Voelckers called meeting to order at 2:04 p.m. and announced the state meeting in Walla Walla in April. Nancy requested members respond to the email sharing their intention to participate in person or virtually by February 12.

Secretary: Georgi Proulx presented January 12, 2023 minutes for approval as printed in the February newsletter. Motion to approve: Judy Prince moved, Mary Raymond seconded; motion approved.

Treasurer: Judy Trammell reviewed the financial reports for January. Operating account had \$3764.25. Total assets are \$83,445.25. Expense activity was program and office supplies. \$2940 received in December from SCAF/SCGive for Tech Trek was reflected in January's report.

Membership: Nancy reported for India Nishi: we have 54 members. Please attend the second JAVA Break on February 15 at the Cookie Mill 10:00 a.m. JAVA Break will be the third Wednesday of each month.

Programs: Rose Olson thanked Doris Taylor for today's excellent program. March 9 program is at Utsalady Ladies Aid Building featuring Debbie Dimitre presenting Rachel Carson; Rose will send Georgi Proulx the information for the Crab Cracker. April 13 program will be Tracy Gilroy sharing financial information for women. Watch for location.

Public Policy: Nancy reported for Anne Milton that she has forwarded the Public Policy updates and links to the branch via email and the newsletter.

Tech Trek: Mary Chesney reported sixteen nominees have been reviewed and sent applications which are due February 23. Interviews will follow. She shared that response from the candidates has improved. Cost for camp has increased to \$1400 plus a \$50 copay from the families. Karla Jacks has volunteered to be a dorm mom so we can now send more than seven campers. More volunteers are always needed; you get a stipend and a private room.

Scholarships: Nancy reported for Marianne McGarry-Bloom the scholarship season opened February 1. Applications are available on our branch website and theWashBoard.org. Applications are due April 29.

STEM Scholars: Nancy shared for Linda Demetre and Lael Williams the letters have gone out to three high schools: Lakewood, Stanwood, and Arlington. Awaiting response.

DEI: Katie Farrey reported the branch DEI committee has met and is continuing preparation of our branch DEI document. She also shared a children's book about slavery which provides an opportunity for conversation. Title: An American Story by Kwame Alexander

PWP 2024: Georgi Proulx shared her intent to chair PWP 2024 with the help of a full steering committee. She presented the sub-committees required for her to accept the position and several volunteers stepped up to chair these committees.

Open Positions: Nancy Voelckers reported we have three positions available that need leadership for 2023-24: President-elect, VP Finance-elect and Secretary. Joyce Leak and Nancy Roberts will be on the nominating committee.

(Continued on page 8)

Activity Groups:

Book Group: February 6 *Dance Hall of the Dead* with Doris Taylor and her husband was wonderful. Next on March 6 is *Crossings* at Gail Merrick's.

Day Trippers: Nancy shared for Lynda Buehring the April Day Trippers is April 19, a lovely trip through Edison enroute to Bellingham. A tour at *Samish Bay Cheese* and *Bow Hill Blueberry Farm* with tastings, then proceed along Chuckanut and end up at *Keenan's At The Pier* for lunch. On the way home a visit to *Village Bookstore* and coffee and shopping on our own and return home at 3:00 p.m.

Movie Group: Georgi Proulx shared Joyce Leak will be point person for a February 13 3:30 p.m. viewing of *80 for Brady* at Stanwood Cinema.

JAVA Break: Nancy Voelckers announced our next meeting will be Wednesday, February 15, 10:00 a.m. at Cookie Mill.

Candidate Forum: Elaine Richards announced that she will not be available in the fall to coordinate the Candidate Forum. Work begins in August after the primary. She is willing to help with the pre-event planning but is not available in October due to travel plans. We need a volunteer to lead this very popular community event.

Adjourn: Nancy Voelckers adjourned the meeting at 2:50 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Georgi Proulx

Secretary



Don't ever save anything for a special occasion.

Being alive is a special occasion.