

In Touch

April 2023

Edited by Martha Huyler and Georgi Proulx



www.aauwsc.org

April 6th
Thursday
1:00 p.m.

April Board Meeting
Community Resource Center

April 13th
Thursday
1:00 p.m.

General Meeting
Social Half Hour at 12:30
Camano Library
Tracy Gilroy, Attorney

Estate Planning

April 19th
Wednesday

Day Tripper Outing
Trip to Bellingham thru Edison

April 26th
Wednesday
JAVA Break

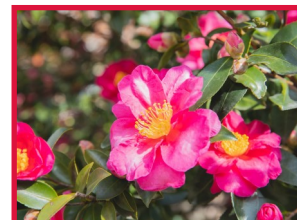
10:00 a.m.

Cookie Mill
For Coffee and Conversation

President's Message

Nancy Voelckersx

I am happy to say that spring has arrived! I see it in the flowers popping, I hear it in the birds chirping and I feel it in the warmth of the sun on my face. It brightens my day and I hope it brightens yours as well.



As a branch we look forward to our spring meetings that include not only an informative meeting on women and finances but our annual High School STEM Scholar Recognition Meeting in May and Scholarship Tea in June. What a wonderful way to end our year.

This time of year is also the time to think and prepare for our next AAUW fiscal year. Our branch fiscal year aligns with national and runs July 1 to June 30. Our nominating committee has been working hard to find members to fill key elected positions for next year. Please consider the call to action and how you can help out as an officer, committee chair and/or serve on a committee. We need everyone's participation to make the 2023/2024 year and PWP 2024 huge successes.

As an AAUW member you are not only a branch member but a member of WA State AAUW. One way to learn more about this is to attend the 2023 Annual State Meeting. It will be held virtually on Saturday, April 15. The day is split into two parts, a morning program and an afternoon business meeting. There is a registration fee for the morning session. Please join me and other women from around the state on April 15 for part or all of the day as we celebrate our part in this organization.

April: Tracy Gilroy, Planning Your Estate: Truth or Myth?

Mary Raymond

We welcome branch member, Tracy Gilroy, as the presenter for our general meeting on April 13.

Tracy has 38 years of legal service to over 1700 clients in Washington, Missouri and Illinois and is president of The Gilroy Law Firm which is now exclusively located in Snohomish County.



Tracy has represented clients in complex property rights matters, real estate and contractual business matters, as well as estate planning and estate administration issues. Her presentation to our group will focus on estate planning and her experiences with the American Bar Association's Probate and Trust Section, Washington's Estate Planning Council, Northwest Estate Planning Council and the Washington State Bar Association.

Mark your calendars to be there on April 13. Program begins at 1:00 p.m. at the Camano Library. Join us for the Social Half Hour at 12:30 p.m. This meeting will be available via Zoom. Expect an email from Judy Prince with the link a few days before the meeting.

Hope to see you there.

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Future Events

May 4th

Thursday

1:00 p.m.

May Board Meeting
Community Resource Center

May 11th

Thursday

7:00 p.m.

General Meeting
Stanwood United
Methodist Church

*High School STEM Scholar
Recognition and Introduction of
2023 Tech Trek Campers*

May 17th

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/)



It's Time for Purses, Purses, Purses...

Gay Campbell, Jackie DeFazio, Robin Hanks

The April 13 general meeting kicks off our purse procurement campaign for Purses with Purpose 2024 to be held on April 27, 2024 at Camano Center. With restrictions lifted and people getting out more, we anticipate increasing the number of guests so we need even more fabulous purses than in 2022.

NOW is the perfect time to start shopping with lots of designer sales happening in the Spring. Some have terrific online sales; even the outlet malls have online deals. We ask every member to donate towards making this the best FUNdraiser ever!

Ask friends, family and neighbors to support our event with their donation of a new or gently-used purse. If you're just not a shopper, cash donations are welcome too, and the procurement committee will shop for you. Make checks payable to *AAUW Stanwood-Camano* and note "purse procurement" on the memo line.

As incentive to participate, you will receive a ticket for a prize drawing for every purse you bring to the meeting; drawing will commence at the end of the meeting. The more purses you bring the more tickets you get.

In 2023 we are awarding three \$10,000 scholarships, and the middle school girls are responding positively to our Tech Trek program. We need YOU to help us raise funds to support our increased efforts.

So go out there ladies and make some great purchases of purses! Be a winner, winner, winner in more ways than one!

State AAUW Meeting - The Many Faces of AAUW



Please make note of our AAUW-WA virtual annual meeting on April 15.

Program meeting in the morning features Elyse Shaw, a Study Director at the Institute for Women's Policy Research and a policy analyst at the Women's Bureau in the Department of Labor. She directs IWPR's projects on the Status of Women in the

United States and she works extensively on workforce development and job training initiatives for women. She also contributes to IWPR's research on global women's issues, including providing technical assistance to the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the establishment of a gender policy institute in Palestine.

Business meeting follows at 1:00 p.m. Afternoon business meeting is at no cost.

Saturday, April 15

8:30 a.m.-12:00 noon - Program: Elyse Shaw

1:00 p.m. - Business Meeting

Cost: \$35- AAUW member, \$20- student member and \$20- 1st time attendee

To register please visit:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2023-aauw-wa-annual-meeting-registration-546644607737>

Public Policy: AAUW-WA Priorities in Our State Legislature

Anne Milton



April 23 is the final day of the 2023 legislative session. This article will highlight those WA-AAUW priority bills that are still alive as of March 20 and will hopefully pass through the final committees.

State-Sponsored Apprenticeship Program - 2SHB 1013 establishes regional apprenticeship programs for Washington state students. These programs would allow students to participate in a state-run apprenticeship program in high school that would offer students experience in different fields that may not require a college education.

2SHB 1013 link to view Bill Status at a Glance:

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=1013&Initiative=false&Year=2023>

Working Connection Child Care – 2SHB 1525 (WCCC) helps eligible families pay for childcare. When a family qualifies for child care subsidy benefits and chooses an eligible provider, the state pays a portion of the cost of childcare. This bill would provide qualifying applicants and consumers of state registered apprenticeship programs eligibility for the Child Care subsidy. Unemployment Insurance Qualification - ESH 1106 This bill relates to the qualifications for unemployment insurance when an individual voluntarily leaves work. Currently, if a worker is forced to quit their job due to inability or inaccessibility to childcare, the employee is ineligible for unemployment insurance. This bill allows for workers to qualify for unemployment insurance benefits while searching for new jobs.

2SHB 1525 link to view Bill Status at a Glance:

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=1525&Initiative=false&Year=2023>

My Health My Data – ESHB 1155 would block websites and apps from collecting and sharing health data. It would prohibit the sale of health data, the use of geofences (location-based software that identifies when a person is in a certain area) to send unsolicited messages to persons at health facilities. It requires companies that collect personal data to create, maintain and publish a privacy policy for consumer health data.

2SHB 1155 link to view Bill Status at a Glance:

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=1155&Initiative=false&Year=2023>

Preventing and Responding to Harassment – SHB 1207 The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) must develop model student handbook language that includes information about policies and complaint procedures related to discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying. All schools would be required to designate one person in the school district as the primary contact regarding compliance with state laws prohibiting discrimination in public schools.

2SHB 1207 link to view Bill Status at a Glance:

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=1207&Initiative=false&Year=2023>

Supporting Crime Victims – 2SHB1028 (passed) HB 1028 has several important provisions that support crime victims by promoting a victim-centered, trauma informed response by the legal system. Law enforcement agencies must investigate a reported sexual assault within 90 days. Hospitals and emergency medical facilities located in WA cannot charge for the examination of a victim of sexual assault.

2SHB 1028 link to view Bill Status at a Glance:

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=1028&Initiative=false&Year=2023>

Tech Trek Update for April

Mary Chesney



Applications are coming in for 2023 Tech Trek; the committee will be reviewing and making their selections the end of April to be announced at the May 11 general meeting.

Additional Tech Trek news! It will be official April 15 and published in the next state newsletter that Mary Chesney will be accepting the state Tech Trek Fundraising Coordinator role. Dorothy McBride is changing positions from the fundraiser position to that of treasurer for Tech Trek.

I'm sure some think I transform into a cheerleader when I talk about camp but actually experiencing its effect on the girls is contagious. Having others like Judy Prince attend and see how great it is helps keep up the enthusiasm and get donations from the community. I soooooo hope somehow the state will give us the funds to send one more girl or someone in the community decides to donate before we make the final cut. Fingers crossed.



AAUW SC 2023 Scholarship Applications Due April 29th

Marianne McGarry-Bloom

Our branch announced the opening of the 2023 Scholarship Season on February 1. Applications for university students in their junior or senior year or Master's Degree program will be accepted until April 29, 2023. Scholarships of \$10,000 will be awarded to three applicants who are current residents of Stanwood, Camano Island, La Conner, Arlington, or Lakewood area OR are high school graduates of Arlington, Weston (Arlington) Lakewood, Stanwood, Lincoln Hill or La Conner. Applications can be found at our website, www.aauwsc.org/scholarship. Applications are also available at the Washington State Scholarship website, www.theWashBoard.org.

Friday, May 19 1:00 p.m. Committee meets to review applications 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.

Please join us for our Spring Fling Day Trippers Trip to Edison/Bellingham on Wednesday, April 19. After we load up for carpooling, our first stop is Bow Hill Blueberries, 15628 Bow Hill Road, Bow, at 10:00 a.m. for a guided tour of the grounds followed by tastings and shopping in their store. The cost per person is \$10.00.

Our next stop will be the Samish Bay Cheese Farm, 15115 Bow Hill Road, Bow for a self-guided tour of the farm and tastings of wonderful cheese, dips and whey more. This place is a delightful surprise as they raise their own animals and process their products at the farm. All Samish Cheese products are distributed to specialty stores throughout Washington.

After the tour, the group will continue along Chuckanut Drive to the Historic Fairhaven District stopping at 1:00 p.m. at Keenan's at the Pier, 804 10th St, Bellingham for lunch. After lunch there will be time for shopping at local consignment stores and specialty shops as well as the Village Bookstore.

Carpools will leave Terry's Corner Camano no later than 9:00 a.m. and 9:15 a.m. at the Stanwood Park n Ride, Marine View Drive, Stanwood.

Please RSVP no later than April 12 to Lynda Buehring.



Candidate Forum: October 2023

Elaine Richards announced she will be unavailable this October to lead the Candidate Forum. The forum is a valuable community event and is greatly supported by our local candidates and neighbors.

Organizing and contacting candidates begins in August after the primary. Elaine is available to help with this portion of the planning but needs someone to step up and take her October event duties.

Please contact Nancy Voelckers or Elaine Richards if you have questions or want to volunteer.

Meet Our Members

Gail Merrick

Editor's Note: It's been a few years since we featured personal interviews with members; we wanted to bring it back. Hope you share the benefit of knowing other members.

I grew up in Normandy Park, WA, with my parents, my two younger brothers, and a variety of dogs and cats. Normandy Park was a quintessential 1950's community of mid-century modern and ranch homes, where doors were open to the neighborhood kids, where kids walked or rode their bikes to school and spent the summer at the beach and community pool. There was a horse boarding farm across the road, so my parents finally gave in and I got my first horse at age 9.



In the 1960's Boeing transferred our family to Huntsville, AL for the NASA Apollo Space Program. The windows of our schools and homes would shake and rattle when the rockets were tested! It was exciting times, culminating with the Apollo 11 moon landing.

I found the boarding stable, made new friends, and got my next horse. We could ride for miles across the hills under the TVA lines. I never did really get use to the humid heat. During the summer, we'd go riding early in the morning and again late in the evening. Our family spent weekends waterskiing at Lake Guntersville.

This was during the Civil Rights movement and racial unrest in Alabama. My high school was not integrated until my senior year. I'm certain my parents felt the culture shock more than I did. Waiting for our house to be ready, we lived in a motel and took our clothes to a laundromat. The sign on the laundromat read "Whites Only". In all seriousness, my mother asked where she could wash our colored clothes.

I loved our family's years in Huntsville. I have wonderful memories and life-long friends. But, when it was time to go to college, I was ready to move somewhere new. I graduated from Rocky Mountain College of Art, Denver, Colorado. I received my Vocational Education Certificate from Central Washington University and earned National Board Professional Certified Teacher.

I entered my career at a time when a woman working in an advertising agency was also expected to type and make coffee. I didn't do either of those tasks well, so I worked in retail advertising as an ad designer and fashion illustrator for the May Company, Denver and Nordstrom, Seattle. With what I thought was enough experience, I began my 27-year freelance graphic design/illustration career in San Francisco and Seattle.

During those freelance years, I also taught weekly retail advertising and fashion drawing classes at The Burnley School of Professional Art and the Art Institute of Seattle. I taught occasional semesters at Highline Community College, Sno-Isle Skills Center, and Western Washington School for Apparel Design and Fashion Marketing.

While I was raising my two young sons, I offered private children's art classes in my home, and I was invited by PTA groups to do classroom art sessions. I designed brochures in trade for preschool tuition and private swim lessons. I discovered a community of entrepreneurial moms working from home for whom I could help with their advertising and still be home with my sons.

When my husband and I moved our family to Stanwood in 1992, I produced a newsletter for the Stanwood-Camano School District and designed informational brochures for the Maintenance and Operation Levies. In response to this project, I was offered the opportunity to develop a Graphic Arts Program through Career & Technical Education (CTE) at Stanwood High School. Working with high school students was different from working with college students, but these teenagers made teaching so much fun. I was able to start an AP Studio Art Program that helped them win Scholastic Art Awards, be accepted to summer art programs, and earn college scholarships. The next twenty years was an exciting and rewarding second career.

My grandchildren are my most fun, fascinating hobby! They are sunshine to my soul. I love making board books for them and drawing their portraits. Even though my career has been about art, I still like to create for myself or for others. In retirement, my studio is my sanctuary where I have the time to explore other mediums. I still have fun doing messy art projects at my kitchen table with my grandchildren and neighbor children. I enjoy creating peaceful indoor and outdoor spaces at my home, for myself and for entertaining friends and family. I have help with my gardening and lawn maintenance, now, but I'm always on the lookout for interesting garden art. I've spent way too many hours researching and building family ancestral trees on Ancestry. I like to keep learning new things. I enjoy reading about artists, historical fiction, and watching Great Courses.

Before I was married, I traveled up the East Coast and spent a summer on Cape Cod. My best friend and I traveled from NYC to Stockbridge, Mass to visit all things Norman Rockwell. My husband and I made two trips to England. We traveled a lot in the Northwest. Of course, we took our children to Disneyland.

What would surprise us about you? With my three best friends, I screamed at the Beatles from the fourth row at the 1966 Memphis concert. I was honored to be chosen by my peers as the Washington State Secondary Art Teacher of the Year 2009

Reasons for joining AAUW: I was aware of AAUW because, in the past, I volunteered my art students to help with AAUW events. They loved modeling purses and wrapping artworks. Then, I was asked to come to a meeting where my friend and colleague, Marianne McGarry Bloom, was giving a presentation. I was interested in finding a good book club and it seemed this might be it. I have so enjoyed the books and the intelligent, insightful discussions.

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

Helen Smith

Diversity

Katie Farrey

Stanwood-Camano Give

Mary Raymond

Sunshine

India Nishi

Newsletter Team

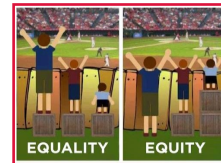
Georgi Proulx, Martha Huyler



DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) Spotlight

Katie Farrey

Definition: Ally: Someone who supports a group other than their own. An ally acknowledges oppression and works to reduce their own complicity and strengthen their own knowledge and awareness of oppression



Upcoming Opportunities, April is Diversity Month:

Tuesday, April 4, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Community Conversations and "My Otherland" Film Screening. Join PFLAG Stanwood-Camano, The Community Resource Center and Ed Wiley Autism Acceptance Library for a screening of the film "My Otherland". Filmed in Skagit County by John Bowey. This film documents the life and story of Linden Jordan and the courage of becoming your authentic self. We'll be joined by Linden, his wife Cindy and the filmmaker for a Q&A after the film!

<https://www.crc-sc.org/event-details/community-conversations-my-otherland-film-screening>

Thursday, April 24, 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. ET. Please join AAUW National Inclusion & Equity Committee's virtual webinar. The webinar is designed to aid local branches and states as they prepare to celebrate Diversity Month in April and the World Day for Cultural Diversity on May 21. The webinar is designed to be interactive, with ample opportunities for participants to make suggestions and ask questions. Please use the registration link below to join us on April 6:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_AwboUK_gQXuTYhJ_67v2Rg

Tuesday, April 11, 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Sno-Isle Libraries Online: Framed: How Film and TV Shape Our Perception of Arabs and Arab Culture

<https://sno-isle.bibliocommons.com/events/640685362e149ac1243812d4>

Celebrating 87 Years!

Helen Smith

April is the anniversary of the Stanwood-Camano Branch of AAUW. Many of you know that the branch was founded in Arlington, Washington, in 1936. There were sixteen charter members. Most of those members had graduated from the University of Washington, several from WSC which is WSU, one from Vassar and one from Colorado University. This association morphed into the Arlington-Stanwood Branch as more members were from Stanwood and Camano Island. Eventually, the majority won out and we became the Stanwood-Camano Branch. We have persisted for 87 years! As carriers of the torch, we have influenced, encouraged and financed many individuals to be better educated by providing funds in scholarships and camperships.

Here's to our centennial in 2036!



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.

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

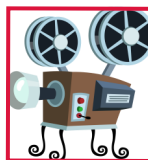
"A freshly observed, funny, joyful, brilliantly perceptive journey deep into one family's foibles, from the 1950s up to our pandemic present. French Braid is classic Anne Tyler: a stirring, uncannily insightful novel of tremendous warmth and humor that illuminates the kindnesses and cruelties of our daily lives, the impossibility of breaking free from those who love us, and how close--yet how unknowable--every family is to itself."

June 5th, 2:00 p.m. at the Home of Joyce Leak

Every Day is a Gift by Tammy Duckworth

"The Iraq War veteran traces her impoverished childhood, her decision to join the Army, the months spent recovering from the RPG attack that shot down her helicopter and nearly took her life, and her subsequent mission of serving in elected office. Daughter of an American father and a Thai-Chinese mother, Duckworth faced discrimination, poverty, and the horrors of war, all before the age of 16 developing a fierce resilience that would prove invaluable in the years to come. After thirteen months recovering at Walter Reed and learning to walk again on prosthetic legs, she found a new mission after meeting her state's senators, Barack Obama and Dick Durbin. This is her story as one of America's most dedicated public servants."

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



See You At the Movies!

Georgi Proulx

At our March meeting Steven Spielberg's *The Fabelmans*, was suggested. It is no longer in the theater but can be rented on Amazon Prime for \$5.99.

Anne and I are always on the lookout for new movies and welcome suggestions.

Hope to "see you at the movies."



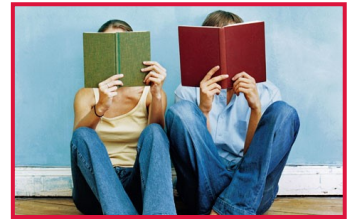
JAVA Break

Georgi Proulx

We had a great turnout on March 15 for JAVA Break at the Cookie Mill. Eight members shared stories from when they were kids growing up in a very different time.

Next **JAVA Break** will be on April 26, 4th Wednesday this month so we can participate in the Day Tripper outing. We hope to see you at the Cookie Mill in Stanwood at 10:00 a.m.

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



Our Afternoon with Rachel Carson at Utsalady

Guest Speaker: Debbie Dimitre

Our March 9 general meeting was perfect. The setting at Utsalady Ladies Aid Building and the guest, Debbie Dimitre, transported us through history to meet Rachel Carson in the 1960s. Twenty-eight members and twenty guests were in attendance including five "zoomies".

N.W. Storyteller/Actress Debbie Dimitre has been entertaining, inspiring, and educating audiences of all ages with her historical and dramatic storytelling presentations since 1987. To listen to some of Debbie's other performances please visit www.debbiedimitre.com.

Below are some photos of the day courtesy of Martha Huyler.



Pictured left to right, top to bottom: Debbie Dimitre as Rachel Carson, Joanne Drewsen, Lael Williams, Helen Smith, Joyce Leak, Georgi Proulx, Nancy Voelckers, Linda Demetre, Mary Raymond, Lynda Buehring, Rose Olson, Mary Ann Schradi, Jill Johnstone, Martha Huyler, Robin Hanks, Marianne McGarry-Bloom, Mary O'Connor, Judy Prince, Gay Campbell, and Debbie Dimitre.

General Meeting Minutes - March 9, 2023

Program: Debbie Dimitre presenting Rachel Carson at Utsalady Ladies Aid Building.

Attendance: (28) Gay Campbell, Mary Chesney (Z), Linda Demetre, Joanne Drewsen, Tracy Gilroy (Z), Robin Hanks, Martha Huyler, Jill Johnstone, Joyce Leak, Linda Lynn, Marianne McGarry-Bloom, Anne Milton, Mary O'Connor, Rose Olson, May Palmer, Judy Prince, Georgi Proulx, Mary Raymond, Elaine Richards (Z), Nancy Roberts (Z), Mary Ann Schradi, Helen Smith, Kaye Sodt, Doris Taylor (Z), Judy Trammell, Nancy Voelckers, Thea Wellington, Lael Williams. Guests (20)

Call to Order: Nancy Voelckers called meeting to order at 2:09 p.m., introduced guests and thanked the program team for a fabulous program. Nancy announced the state AAUW meeting on April 15 will now be only Zoom with speakers in the morning and the business meeting in the afternoon.

Secretary: Georgi Proulx presented February 9, 2023 minutes for approval as printed in the March newsletter. Motion to approve: Martha Huyler moved, Kaye Sodt seconded; motion approved.

Treasurer: Judy Trammell reviewed the financial reports for February. Operating account had \$3779.25. Total assets are \$83,505.88. Activity on the accounts was dues, SCAF receipts and February program.

Membership: Joanne Drewsen shared we now have 54 members and most of them are volunteering to engage in activities within the branch. She requested membership continue talking about our organization to encourage friends to join us.

Programs: Rose Olson announced April 13 is Tracy Gilroy at the Camano Library discussing women and finances. May 11 is the High School STEM Scholar Recognition and introduction of our 2023 Tech Trek campers at the Stanwood United Methodist Church 7:00 p.m.

Public Policy: Anne Milton has researched the Equal Rights Amendment reporting 38 states are required to ratify; this has recently occurred. The US Senate is developing a resolution to codify and discontinue the arbitrary deadline. She reported our state's health act was shut down in the House, but the ban on assault firearms passed in the state House and Senate.

Tech Trek: Mary Chesney reported sixteen nominations resulting in twelve applications having been received. All the applicants will be interviewed. The candidates seem to have investigated Tech Trek and are familiar with the program. Due to the cost of camp rising \$300 to \$1400, the Board discussed and decided to increase the budgeted number of campers to eight. Mary mentioned that donations for additional campers can be made by donating required minimum distributions which has the benefit of reducing taxes on this income. Final determination of our campers will be made the end of April. Mary also announced that she has accepted the state Fundraiser Coordinator for Tech Trek.

There was discussion regarding how we can increase the number of campers to twelve and use the expected funds from 2024 to pay for them. Nancy Voelckers explained the discussion and rationale of the board decision; PWP 2024 is after we spend and plan for 2024 therefore not feasible to use its proceeds. We are hoping for a big return at SC Give for 2024 camperships, and India Nishi will continue looking into AAUW state funding to add additional campers in 2023.

Scholarships: Marianne McGarry-Bloom shared that she has scholarship flyers and applications for the membership to take for friends that might have an interest. She also made it clear that males may apply; PhD candidates should apply for grants through national. Marianne and Mary Pilkington will be distributing flyers in La Conner. The committee will meet in May to select the recipients and award them at the Camano City Schoolhouse tea on June 25. There has been publicity in the Crab Cracker, Stanwood Camano News and the state scholarship site, theWashBoard.org.

STEM Scholars: Lael Williams reported she and Linda Demetre were very impressed with the three counselors they have been working with at the high schools. The honorees will be announced April 1 and honored at our May 11 meeting at Stanwood United Methodist Church at 7:00 p.m.

DEI: Nancy reported for Katie Farrey the DEI document has been completed and a presentation is being developed to be distributed.

PWP 2024: Georgi Proulx presented the committee chart for PWP thanking those who had stepped up so far. Still needed are table set up, bagging, and staffing coordinator plus leads for grants, sponsorships, Fund A Scholar video, raffle, and auxiliary item procurement. Our event kick off will be at our April 13 meeting by collecting purses. Every purse brought in will be exchanged for a raffle ticket for prizes to be awarded at the end of the meeting.

Nominating Committee: Nancy Roberts announced Linda Lynn is the candidate for Secretary and Robin Hanks for VP Finance-elect. President-elect remains unfilled.

Nancy Voelckers shared that Elaine Richards will not be able to lead the Candidate Forum in October. The board is looking for a leader for this important community event.

Activity Groups:

Book Group: Next book is *Daughters of Yalta* by Catherine Grace Katz for April 3.

Movie Group: It was suggested that we watch for Steven Spielberg's coming-of-age drama *The Fabelmans*, a movie loosely based on the filmmaker's childhood.

Day Trippers: Lynda Buehring reminded us the next outing is April 19 to Bellingham. Please RSVP by April 12 so carpools can be arranged. She also teased of an early June outing to be announced.

JAVA Break: Next gathering is March 15 at the Cookie Mill.

Publicity: Discussion was begun on the need for the coordination of the publicity for the branch and its various activities. We are finding that a managed publicity plan would increase our visibility in the community and people would learn what AAUW actually means and accomplishes. Discussion and further action is forthcoming.

Adjourn: Anne Milton moved to adjourn the meeting; Mary Raymond seconded; motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 3:09 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Georgi Proulx

Secretary



Earth Day was founded on Wednesday, April 22, 1970, when a United States senator from Wisconsin organized a national demonstration to raise awareness about environmental issues. Rallies took place across the country and, by the end of the year, the U.S. government had created the Environmental Protection Agency.

What were you doing that day?