

Stanwood-Camano Branch of AAUW

In Touch

June 2023

Edited by Martha Huyler and Georgi Proulx



www.aauwsc.org

June 1st
Thursday
1:00 p.m.

June Board Meeting
Community Resource Center

June 21st
Wednesday
JAVA Break
10:00 a.m.

Cookie Mill

For Coffee and Conversation
Bring a Prospective Member

June 22nd
Thursday
10:00 a.m.

Carpool: 8:45 a.m. & 9:00 a.m.

Day Tripper to Arlington & Oso

Outback Kangaroo Farm
Lunch at Rhodes River Ranch
Oso Mudslide Memorial

Please RSVP to
Lynda Buehring

June 25th
Sunday
1:00 p.m.

Annual Meeting and
Scholarship Tea

Camano City Schoolhouse
993 Orchid Road
Camano Island

Please enter at the Chapman
Road entrance

Please RSVP to
Marianne McGarry-Bloom

President's Message

Nancy Voelckers

It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve as president of the AAUW Stanwood Camano Branch this past year. We have had a wonderful and successful year!

We enjoyed coming together via in person and Zoom as our branch resumed normal activities. Thanks to our program committee we enjoyed informative and enlightening programs and were able to invite other branches to join us via hybrid meetings. Meanwhile our membership committee reached out to our members providing pertinent information and just keeping in touch. Thanks to our last PWP fundraiser we are sending nine students to Tech Trek camp, recently recognized eleven STEM Scholars and will award three college scholarships in June. Meanwhile we met socially through book group, JAVA break, movie group and Day Trippers. Thanks to all who made this happen.

As you can see via our newsletters there are many women working behind the scenes to bring interesting information to you. Many will be working through the summer to plan our next PWP which will allow us to continue to support girls and women. Please be sure to renew your membership so that you can continue to be a part of our vibrant branch.

Please plan to attend the Scholarship Tea and Annual Meeting on June 25, our last general meeting of this fiscal year and mark your calendar for our August picnic.

To all of you, I say Thank You!!

In Service,
Nancy Voelckers

June: Scholarship Tea and Annual Meeting

Marianne McGarry-Bloom

Our 2023 Scholarship Tea & Annual Meeting will be held at the historic Camano City Schoolhouse on Sunday, June 25, 1:00-3:00 p.m. Meet our three recipients and share an afternoon of encouragement and motivation. You will once again be impressed by the up and coming leaders of the next generation.

Those of you who wish to participate in our Tea by supplying tea sandwiches, flowers, punch, etc. please contact Marianne McGarry-Bloom via email or phone. Please RSVP via email or phone so she can establish the guest count for refreshments.

Camano City Schoolhouse, 993 Orchid Rd, Camano Island (via Chapman Rd)

After the scholarship celebration, we will hold our annual meeting to approve the Operating Budget (pg 3) and slate of officers for 2023-2024:

President: Helen Smith

Advisory President: Nancy Voelckers

President-elect Jackie-Lyn Olson

Secretary: Linda Lynn

VP Finance: Judy Prince

VP Finance-elect: Robin Hanks

VP Program*: Rose Olson

VP Membership*: Joanne Drewsen

*2 year position - finishing second year of a two year position

Appointed Positions for 1 year:

Communications: Georgi Proulx

Public Policy: Anne Milton

Program Assistant: Mary Raymond

Membership Assistant: Jackie DeFazio

Communications Assistant: Martha Huyler

Future Events

Please watch for email updates of this event:

August 10th

Thursday

4:00 p.m.

Camano Hills Pavilion

Kick off the new year with new President, Helen Smith, at our August BBQ. Guests are welcome

Bring a purse for PWP 2024



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/>

Time to Renew Your Membership

Joanne Drewsen

AAUW membership consists of National, State and Branch dues and is active for one year. Dues for current members are due by June 30, 2023. Dues this year will have a slight increase at \$106. National dues are \$72, State dues are \$10 and Branch are \$24. You can renew your membership in one of two ways, online or via mail. Please pay as soon as possible.



There is a change this year if you joined our branch March, 2023 or after, your dues will be due the month you joined. So if you joined in March, 2023, you would renew by March, 2024. National AAUW should be sending you a reminder.

A special thank you to all members who have already renewed and want to continue to make a difference in the lives of girls and women through our fellowship and work in Stanwood/Camano AAUW.

Online: To pay online, log into www.aauw.org. You will see your Profile and can renew by following the instructions. When you are asked to select membership type, select National. You will be prompted to find our branch and then the state. From there just enter your payment information. Once paid you will receive confirmation via email.

If you have not established an account, enter the email address AAUW used to send you the renew message and click Reset. You will receive a confirming email. Please do not create a new account.

Mail: To renew via mail, send a check for \$106 to AAUW Stanwood-Camano, P.O. Box 2652, Stanwood, WA, 98292.

Thank you so much for making our 2022-23 year such a successful one, and we look forward to seeing you again this upcoming year!

AAUW SC 2023 Scholarship

Marianne McGarry-Bloom

The Scholarship Committee met and chose three outstanding scholars to receive \$10,000 towards their educational pursuits. They are Kate Hovda, Caroline Rawls and Stella Seth to be feted at our Scholarship Tea June 25, 1:00pm at the Camano City Schoolhouse.



Kate Hovda is a returning recipient of our scholarship in 2022. A Master's in Library and Information Research from the University of Washington is her 2024 goal. Kate has been a volunteer archivist this past year at the Camano City Schoolhouse. In this role she is setting up small historic archives to learn about the processes needed for digitizing photos and documents. Her volunteering in this role has been invaluable to our community and her Master's Degree.

Caroline Rawls comes to us from Stanwood High School and the University of Washington where she is obtaining her Bachelor of Science in Biology. This fall, she will begin her Master of Science and Global Health at Boston University. Her goals are to help create a safer, healthier and more equitable world for women and girls.

Stella Seth continues her education at Western Washington University, Fairhaven College where she is pursuing a Law, Diversity and Justice major. In pursuing this major, Stella is studying the foundational theories of law, foreign policy and political economy. She wishes to use this knowledge and apply it to the social and economic development of marginalized countries. Her future goals are to obtain a Master's Degree in international affairs and public policy.

Congratulations Kate, Caroline and Stella. See you at the Scholarship Tea.

Public Policy: National AAUW Priorities UPDATE

Anne Milton

Last month I summarized the WA-AAUW priority legislative bills that would hopefully pass. This month we will focus on public policy updates at the National AAUW level. Megan Kissell is the new Senior Director of Policy and Member Advocacy Act. She contends that "the last few months have been eventful demonstrating why AAUW continues to fight for strong policies to advance women's equity and education." She highlighted how there have been ongoing attacks on access to reproductive health, transgender youth and even a failed U.S. Senate vote on the Equal Rights Amendment.



For more than 50 years, Title IX has prohibited sex discrimination in education, covering both staff and students in any educational institution or program that receives federal funds. The Biden-Harris Administration has worked on two sets of proposed rule changes to Title IX. In June 2022, the U.S. Department of Education proposed rules to restore students' protections against sexual harassment, affirm protections for LGBTQ+ students, and strengthen supports for pregnant and parenting students.

In April 2023, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill intended to ban transgender women and girls in school sports. While the bill is unlikely to pass the Senate, President Biden stated he would veto any such bill if it should pass Congress.

The U.S. Department of Education subsequently proposed a separate Title IX rule, affirming the rights of all students, including transgender, non-binary, and intersex students, to participate fully and equally in school sports without discriminatory rules. The rule would prohibit schools from categorically banning transgender students from participating in sports consistent with their gender identity. If properly implemented, it would mean that the 21 states with blanket bans prohibiting transgender students from playing on sports consistent with their gender identity would be in violation of Title IX. (The comment process is underway at the time of this writing.)

Access to a full range of reproductive health services enhances an individual's reproductive choices which leads to improvements in women's health care and economic security. The FDA was sued over its approval of mifepristone, a safe, effective medication commonly used in medication abortions. In late April, the Supreme Court granted a stay allowing mifepristone to remain on the market as the case continues to move through the Fifth Circuit and Supreme Court.

AAUW's advocacy for working mothers and families resulted in positive steps for child care and paid family/medical leave. President Biden recently signed an executive order directing federal agencies to make child care more affordable and accessible for early care workers and educators through federal grant programs.

Lastly, the US Senate voted to remove the arbitrary deadline for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment as the 28th Amendment to the US Constitution. Due to the nature of this vote, it would have required a two thirds majority to pass. The vote failed. Senator Schumer entered another vote so the issue could be voted on again. We urge every AAUW member to contact their Senator for a vote to ratify the ERA.



These Purses Have Real Purpose - 2024

Gay Campbell, Jackie DeFazio

As Spring 2023 approaches its end, we in Stanwood-Camano AAUW are preparing for Spring 2024 - April 27, 2024, to be specific, and PURSES WITH PURPOSE 2024. Now is a great time to shop end-of-season sales for that perfect spring purse—perhaps one that reflects April when plants and trees are bursting with buds and the promise of summer flowers. (Pictured are a few of purses already contributed.)

Every purse we sell at PWP will "bloom" into Tech Trek experiences and scholarships for women and girls. For that to happen, though, we must first collect those purses. We need new and gently used purses in all styles and price ranges from you, our members, and from your family, friends, and neighbors. Our goal is at least 200 purses for the silent auction and 35 purses for the live auction.

If you've already found a purse (or more), bring it to the Scholarship Tea on June 25 at the old Camano Schoolhouse or to the AAUW picnic on August 10 at the Camano Hills Pavilion. And if shopping is not your thing, we will do that for you.

Just send a check noted "For Purse Purchase" to Stanwood-Camano AAUW, P.O. Box 2652, Stanwood, WA 98292.

Working together, we can ensure that the purses we donate/collect will find purpose by helping local young women and girls achieve their full potential.

High School STEM Scholar Recognition and Tech Trek Introductions

Photos Courtesy of Martha Huyler

May 11 STEM Scholar Recognition was a packed event. Eleven scholars from Arlington, Lakewood, and Stanwood high schools and nine seventh grade girls from Stanwood and Port Susan middle schools were recognized for their achievements. Photos with names are below.



Stanwood HS: Gwenyth Guico, Cassandra Mugleston, Selma Kramer, Madilynne Heuett



Lakewood HS: Julie Chrisman, Kylie Sahatdjian, Nyla Murray



Arlington HS: Shelby Jeglum, Lily Thompson, Aylssa Acosta, Brooklyn Helle



Port Susan Middle School: Lillian Jacobson, Maya Gause, Acacia Nagel, Jovee Holmes, Emily Evans



Stanwood Middle School: Emelia Duran, Amber Zhong, Giavanna Logalbo, Cassandra Haymaker



Family, counselors and members to support our scholars.



Speaker: Divya Ventkataramu



Tech Trek Thank You's Mary Chesney

A huge thank you to the program committee and all the Branch members for making the annual Tech Trek campers' presentation so lovely. None of this would have happened without the help of the group and individual donors funding camperships and the team who screened all the nominees from start to finish. I can't wait to hear all their stories in the fall. I had the pleasure of talking to one of the former campers at the May meeting as she was selected as a STEM scholar (not surprised). The gleam in her eye said it all. She was still excited about how the camp changed her life.

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: A Land Acknowledgement is a statement that recognizes the Indigenous peoples who have been dispossessed from the land where a public event or institution operate. It is often given at the beginning of an event or activity. It aims to respect and affirm the ongoing relationship between Indigenous people and their traditional homelands, and create awareness of the cultural erasure and colonization that have harmed them.

We sit on the indigenous lands of the ancestors of the Stillaguamish, Tulalip, and Swinomish Tribes. The following links were used to research land acknowledgements:

<https://www.stillaguamish.com/about-us/>

<https://www.tulaliptribes-nsn.gov/WhoWeAre/LandAcknowledgement>

<https://swinomish-nsn.gov/who-we-are.aspx>

<https://kikiallus.is/>

At the May board meeting the following land acknowledgement was adopted, to be read at the beginning of each of our general meetings:

We acknowledge the original inhabitants of this area, the Coast Salish people. The Stanwood-Camano area sits on the traditional territory of the People of the River, Stoluck-wa-mish River Tribe, and their successors the Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians, the Kikiallus Tribe and their successors the Swinomish, and Tulalip Tribes. Since time immemorial, they have hunted, fished, gathered, and taken care of these lands. We respect their sovereignty, their right to self-determination, and honor their sacred spiritual connection with the land and water. We will strive to be honest about past injustices and bring about a future that includes their people, stories, and voices to form a more just and equitable society.

Our branch DEI goals and areas of opportunity are included as a PDF attached to this newsletter.

Upcoming Opportunities:

June 3rd, noon-4p.m., Stanwood-Camano Pride Parade and Party in the Park at Freedom Park on Camano Island

June 14th, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Sno-Isle online, *Quilt Codes of the Underground Railroad*

<https://sno-isle.bibliocommons.com/events/640675142e149ac12438114c>

June 19th, *Juneteenth*, a federal holiday commemorating the emancipation of enslaved African Americans



Enjoy the warm, sunny days of summer and save Thursday, August 10th, for our branch picnic.

4:00 p.m.

Camano Hills Pavilion

Watch for more information in July.

AND be on the lookout for spring sale opportunities for purses that will be just right for our April 27th purse auction.

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/
stanwoodcamanoaaauw](http://www.facebook.com/stanwoodcamanoaaauw)

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.

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. This is her story as one of America's most dedicated public servants."

July 10, 2:00 p.m. at the Home of Nancy Roberts

The Henna Artist by Alka Joshi

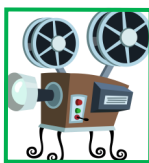
"Escaping from an abusive marriage, seventeen-year-old Lakshmi makes her way alone to the vibrant 1950s pink city of Jaipur. There she becomes the most highly requested henna artist - and confidante - to the wealthy women of the upper class. But trusted with the secrets of the wealthy, she can never reveal her own. As she pursues her dream of an independent life, she is startled one day when she is confronted by her husband, who has tracked her down these many years later with a high-spirited young girl in tow - a sister Lakshmi never knew she had. Suddenly the caution that she has carefully cultivated as protection is threatened. Still she perseveres, applying her talents and lifting up those that surround her as she does."

August 7th, 2:00 p.m. at Camano Hills Pavilion

The Feminine Mystique by Betty Friedan

2023 is the 60th anniversary of the publication of the book that can be said to have launched the modern women's rights movement—a good time to revisit (or read for the first time) this classic. "Landmark, groundbreaking, classic—these adjectives barely do justice to the pioneering vision and lasting impact of The Feminine Mystique. Published in 1963, it gave a pitch-perfect description of "the problem that has no name": the insidious beliefs and institutions that undermined women's confidence in their intellectual capabilities and kept them in the home.

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



See You At the Movies!

Georgi Proulx

Our next movie will be "The Book Club" sometime mid-June. Watch for the email announcement. Anne reported the group enjoyed viewing "Are You There, God? This is Margaret" on May 9 based on the Judy Blume book; and smiled at the memories the film brought to mind. She and I are always on the lookout for new movies and welcome suggestions.

Hope to see you at the movies.



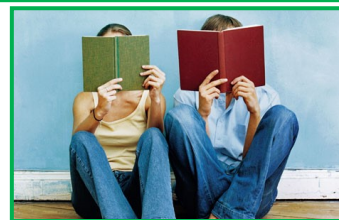
JAVA Break

Georgi Proulx

The turnout for May 17's JAVA Break was a bit smaller, but I learned it gave the participants time to get to know members with whom they didn't know. Small or large it's a great opportunity to get to know each other.

Next **JAVA Break** will be on June 21. We hope to see you at the Cookie Mill in Stanwood at 10:00 a.m. If you would like to try a different day of the week over the summer, let me know.

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



General Meeting Minutes - May 11, 2023

Program: High School STEM Scholar Recognition, Stanwood United Methodist Church

Attendance: (21) Mary Chesney, Jackie DeFazio, Linda Demetre, Joanne Drewsen, Katie Farrey, Martha Huyler, Joyce Leak, Linda Lynn, Anne Milton, Jackie-Lyn Olson, Rose Olson, Mary Pilkington, Judy Price, Georgi Proulx, Mary Raymond, Nancy Roberts, Helen Smith, Doris Taylor, Judy Trammell, Nancy Voelckers, Lael Williams. Guests (1) Susan Britain.

Call to Order: Nancy Voelckers called meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. and introduced Jackie DeFazio's guest, Susan Britain.

Secretary: Georgi Proulx presented April 13 minutes for approval as printed in the May newsletter. Nancy Roberts moved to approve, Judy Prince seconded; motion approved.

Treasurer: Judy Trammell reviewed the financial reports for April. Operating account had \$3479.25. Total assets are \$72,547.51. Activity in April was Tech Trek receipts and payments. Operations budget for 2023-24 has been reviewed by the board and will be published in the June newsletter for vote of approval at our annual meeting June 25.

Membership: Joanne Drewsen reminded us our \$106 renewal dues should be paid before June 30. New members' dues is linked to their sign up day and renews 12 months from that. Renewing online or by check are forms of renewal. Online is reported as very easy.

Programs: Rose Olson thanked Mary Raymond and Doris Taylor for their assistance in setting up the High School STEM Scholar Recognition refreshments and the membership for providing the treats.

She also reported June 25 is our Scholarship Tea and Annual Meeting at the Camano City Schoolhouse.

August 10 is the annual BBQ at the Camano Hills Shelter; the shelter has been reserved.

Public Policy: Anne Milton reported her May article was inclusive regarding status of six AAUW priorities at the state level. June article will update the national level priorities. Major focus is the Equal Rights Amendment. Nancy Shapiro is our national lobbyist. Anne will be returning as Public Policy for 2023-24.

Scholarships: Nancy Voelckers shared for Marianne McGarry-Bloom that eight diverse applications have been submitted. The committee meets May 19 to assess and select.

DEI: Katie Farrey presented the Land Acknowledgement for use at our meetings and events. There is also a DEI document that will be attached to the June newsletter email.

PWP 2024: Georgi Proulx related the first steering committee meeting will be held at the Camano Library on May 25 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Jackie DeFazio announced 26 purses have been received.

Tech Trek: Mary Chesney has agreed to chair our branch Tech Trek for 2023-24.

STEM Scholars: Nancy Voelckers thanked Lael Williams and Linda Demetre for a terrific job organizing the high school STEM scholars.

Slate of Officers 2023-24: Nancy Voelckers reported the slate of officers for 2023-24 has been developed. While we have a VP Program and an assistant, it is preferred to have a third member of the team. Contact Nancy if you are interested in helping.

Activity Groups:

Book Group: Katie Farrey shared the group is looking forward to the June 5 discussion of Tammy Duckworth's Every Day is a Gift.

Movie Group: Anne Milton shared the viewing of "Is that You God?" on May 9 was wonderful. Hoping for "The Book Group" in a couple of weeks. In the fall the recommendation is Helen Mirren in "White Bird."

Day Trippers: Awaiting information for a June outing.

Java Break – Next meeting is May 17, 10 a.m.; Cookie Mill

Adjourn: Nancy Voelckers adjourned the meeting at 8:20p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Georgi Proulx

Secretary



I would rather walk with
a friend in the dark than
alone in the light.

~Helen Keller