

Stanwood-Camano Branch of AAUW

In Touch



October 2023

Founded in 1936 - Celebrating 87 Years

Edited by Martha Huyler and Georgi Proulx



www.aauwsc.org

October 5th
Thursday
1:00 p.m.

October Board Meeting
Stanwood United Methodist
Church

October 9th
Monday
6:00 p.m.

Candidate Forum 2023

*Live-stream event on the League
of Women Voters of Snohomish
County YouTube Channel*

October 12th
Thursday
1:00 p.m.

General Meeting
Stanwood Library Meeting Room
*Cat Olson presents Stanwood
Camano Arts Advocacy
Commission*

October 17th
Tuesday
JAVA Break
10:00 a.m.

Cookie Mill

*For Coffee and Conversation
Bring a Prospective Member*

What's Inside?	Page
President's Message	1
October: SC Arts Advocacy Comm.	1
Wanted: Purses!	2
Candidate & Issues Forum 2023	2
Public Policy: Work Smart	3
Tech Trek: Another Way to Give	3
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion	4
Branch Calendar	4
Books, Movies, JAVA	5
Minutes - September 14, 2023	6

President's Message

Helen Smith

Hello and welcome to Fall one and all!

We're definitely noticing the red and gold of fall in the community, and welcoming the rain to replenish our water supply. September saw us welcoming the students who participated in Tech Trek. While some were reticent to speak, others were very eager to share their experiences of lab classes and field trips.

This month we'll be keeping tabs on election campaigns and getting to know the candidates. We have two opportunities to observe candidates in person. Edmonds-Shoreline (Sno-King) AAUW has a candidates' "Meet and Greet" on October 5 from 1-3 . Information can be found at <https://esk-wa.aauw.net/> for location and which candidates plan to attend. The other option is through the League of Women Voters, virtual program. It's essential to get to know our school board candidates, in particular. See Elaine Richards' article on page for more information.

Finally, other virtual webinars available this month from Washington State AAUW include:

Legislators and Leaders led by Karen Keiser, Washington Legislator, and the author of "Getting Elected is the Easy Part" on October 3.

A second option is October 10, "Literacy Empowers Women", with Cat Howell and Katherine Freimund whose organizations help women gain skills to help their families through literacy training. Connect through the address below to register:

[https://aauw-wa.aauw.net/2023/08/15/webinars-fall-2023/.](https://aauw-wa.aauw.net/2023/08/15/webinars-fall-2023/)

Let's keep learning!

October: SC Arts Advocacy Commission

Rose Olson

This month, Cat Olson, Executive Director of the nonprofit Stanwood Camano Arts Advocacy Commission (SCAAC) will share about this organization's history and plans for the future. Started in 2017 by representatives from civic, cultural, and arts groups in the Stanwood Camano Area, SCAAC has been growing rapidly over the past couple of years and making a noteworthy impact in our community (have you seen the new Mobile Art Center parked in the lot of the old furniture store?). Hear about SCAAC's mission, projects and partnerships, and learn how you can find out more about plans for a permanent Art Center proposed for West Stanwood.

Join us Thursday, October 12, at the Stanwood Library meeting room. We will gather at 12:30 p.m. for social half-hour, the program begins at 1:00 p.m. and will be followed by our October branch meeting.

Looking ahead, in November we will learn about the work of Days for Girls International from the DFG founder, Celeste Mergens. Days for Girls provides washable, reusable menstrual products internationally and in the United States.

Celeste's new book, The Power of Days: A Story of Resilience, Dignity, and the Fight for Women's Equity, will be released on October 3. If you plan to purchase a copy of her book, Celeste asks that you pre-order it from Amazon (or your favorite bookseller) on or before October 3 to help Amazon's algorithm boost the book's visibility. She says, "It would make such a big difference in helping to build momentum." Bring your copy to the November 9 meeting and she will sign books following her talk.

Future Events

November 2nd

Thursday

1:00 p.m.

November Board Meeting

Camano Library

November 9th

Thursday

1:00 p.m.

General Meeting

Location to be announced

*Celeste Mergens discusses her
founding of Days for Girls and
autographs her books*

November 15th

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/)

WANTED: PURSES - ALL SIZES, ALL TYPES - NEW OR GENTLY USED!

Jackie DeFazio, Gay Campbell

With a January deadline for procuring the purses needed for PWP 2024, we are a little over halfway to our goal of having 250 purses with purpose to offer patrons at our biennial benefit luncheon and purse auction scheduled for April 27, 2024.

Which means that we still need purses—new purses and purses in good-as-new condition. You know—the ones you bought, carried a few times, and then for whatever reason, stopped using. For you they have no further purpose, so help us rescue them from what Kurt Vonnegut called “the worst thing that could possibly happen . . . not to be used for anything by anybody.”

Help give those purses—your own or those of your friends or relatives—renewed purpose. Donate them to PWP and restore them to usefulness as they help us raise the funds we need to continue providing scholarships to local students entering their third year of college or higher and Tech Trek camperships to local seventh-grade girls during the summer before they enter eighth grade.

Or donate a new purse or the funds to purchase one, providing a purpose for that purse before it even has a new home. Just make out a check for the amount you wish to spend, to AAUW-SC, with “for purse purchase” in the memo line, and send it to branch treasurer, Robin Hanks, at AAUW SC, P.O. Box 2652, Stanwood WA 98292.

Or, better yet, do both! Here in the Stanwood-Camano AAUW Branch, purses have purpose far beyond making fashion statements.



Candidate & Issues Forum 2023

Elaine Richards, Lael Williams

The Candidate & Issues Forum 2023 will be a bit different this year. We are partnering with the League of Women Voters of Snohomish County (LWV) to offer a live stream forum on the League YouTube Channel. There are only two positions for our communities' vote. The Stanwood Camano School Board and Stanwood City Council candidates are scheduled for Monday, October 9, at 6:00 p.m. and 6:45 p.m.

To read the League's press release describing the events and the schedule for their entire month of 24 online forums please visit

[Press Release Candidate Forums-General 9-1-2023.](#)

Please note all candidates are being contacted, and dates are tentative until the LWV receives confirmation of participation. The schedule can also be accessed on our branch website.

<https://aauwsc.org/candidateforum2023> and on our Facebook page.



Your 2023-2024 Board

President

Helen Smith

Advisory President

Nancy Voelckers

President-Elect

Jackie-Lyn Olson

VP of Finance

Robin Hanks

VP of Finance-Elect

(open position)

VP of Membership

Joanne Drewsen

Assistant: Jackie DeFazio*

Thea Wellington*

Secretary

Linda Lynn

VP of Program

Rose Olson

Assistant: Karla Jacks*

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

AAUW Funds Coordinator

Jackie DeFazio

Candidate & Issues Forum

Elaine Richards, Lael Williams

Historian

Helen Smith

Diversity

Katie Farrey

Stanwood-Camano Give

Mary Raymond, Georgi Proulx

Sunshine

Mary Ann Schradi

Newsletter Team

Georgi Proulx, Martha Huyler



Public Policy: Work Smart and Start Smart

Anne Milton

Pay discrimination became illegal in the United States 60 years ago. Unfortunately, "today's data from the U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reveals the gender pay gap between men and women remains persistent," said Gloria L. Blackwell, CEO of the American Association of University Women (AAUW). "We don't accept this."

AAUW's comprehensive calculation compared all women with earnings in 2022 (including part-time and seasonal workers) and found women were paid a mere 78% of men's wages. We have been discussing this topic in our own branch for years now and it remains the same. For some women, the gap has widened further.

AAUW found these startling inequities, compared to the pay of white, non-Hispanic men:

- Latina women workers are paid 52 cents for every dollar
- Black women workers are paid 66 cents for every dollar
- White women workers are paid 74 cents for every dollar
- Asian American women workers are paid 89 cents for every dollar

Native women are paid 57 cents for every dollar [2021 data]. "Legislators and employers must do better", said Blackwell. "AAUW won't stop fighting until are women are paid fairly and have the same opportunities to build secure economic futures for themselves and their families."

As AAUW branch members, what can we do right now? AAUW has a tremendous resource to help build skills in negotiating for better pay and benefits. The program is called "Work Smart and Start Smart". Click on the link below to learn details. There is also a link on the sidebar of our branch website.

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/salary/>

It entails both a facilitator-guided virtual workshop and online e-learning tools. We can inform all working women (colleagues/families/friends) of this resource. In fact, 70% of Work Smart participants report the workshop had a positive impact on their ability to negotiate for a fair salary. The skill sets focus on researching your target salary, highlighting your accomplishments and finding the right words and confidence for successful negotiations. To date, over 190,000 women have been trained in this program.

The fall legislative sessions are now convening and it is hopeful that the **ERA** bills and policies will be voted on soon. I will keep you all posted via the newsletter and emails.

Tech Trek - Another Way to Give

Mary Chesney

As I prepared to write this newsletter article, I looked back at what I wrote this time last year. In 2022, everyone was concerned that we were facing the end of Tech Trek in this state because many of the original volunteers who managed the program were retiring, and new volunteers had yet to be identified. I am delighted to report that all the positions have been filled, and we can look forward to many more years of this incredible camp.

Karla Jacks was the Dorm Monitor from our branch this summer. She graciously has already agreed to return next year. I am now the state Fundraising Coordinator for camp. And thanks to the generosity of members, we even have carryover funds for camp, amounting to camperships for two girls. Half of that money is already in the state Special Funds account (the bank account at the state level used for Tech Trek) and the rest in our bank account, but we will need to find more funding if we want to send more than two girls next year.

Please keep in mind, especially as the end of the year draws near, that if you have an IRA and are required to withdraw a specific amount of money, donations to a 501(c)(3) are tax deductible. If you can use some of the withdrawal for non-essential needs, please consider donating to the campership funds via Stanwood Camano AAUW.



DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) Spotlight

Katie Farrey

Founded in 1973, PFLAG is the first and largest organization dedicated to supporting, educating, and advocating for LGBTQ+ people and their families.

Definition from PFLAG Skagit:

Cisgender (pronounced sis-gender): A term used to refer to an individual whose gender identity aligns with the sex assigned to them at birth. The prefix cis- comes from the Latin word for "on the same side as". People who are both cisgender and heterosexual are sometimes referred to as cishet (pronounced sis-het) individuals. The term cisgender is not a slur. People who are not trans should avoid calling themselves "normal" and instead refer to themselves as cisgender or cis.

Upcoming Opportunities:

October 9: Indigenous Peoples' Day

<https://americanindian.si.edu/nk360/informational/columbus-day-myths>

October 11: International Day of the Girl Child

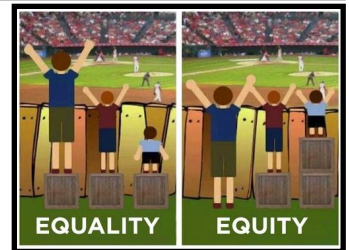
<https://www.holidayinsights.com/moreholidays/october/international-day-girl-child.htm>

October 18: 6:00 p.m., Sno-Isle Online, One Second of Hate: A Story of Forgiveness

<https://sno-isle.bibliocommons.com/events/64e7e2e0fa7afd2900276ad6>

October 21: 6:00 p.m., Lincoln Theatre, Skagit Drag Show - Fall Edition

<https://lincolnthatre.org/live-event-skagit-drag-oct23>



Looking Ahead: Event Calendar for 2023-24

Below are the important dates for the coming year noting the program topic as available. Please make note and watch for updates.

November 9, Thursday - 1:00 p.m. - *Days for Girls International, Celeste Mergens, discusses her new book, The Power of Days: A Story of Resilience, Dignity, and the Fight for Women's Equity.*

Location to be announced.

December 7, Thursday - 12:00 p.m. - *Holiday Luncheon* - Location to be announced

January 11, Thursday - 1:00 p.m. - Dr. Deborah Rumbaugh, Superintendent of SC School District, will discuss the upcoming levy vote in February. Location to be announced.

February 8, Thursday - 1:00 p.m. - Topic and Location to be announced

March 14, Thursday - 1:00 p.m. - *Debbie Dimitre Live*
Utsalady Ladies Aid Building, Camano Island

April 11, Thursday - 1:00 p.m. - Topic and Location to be announced

April 27, Saturday - ***Purses with Purpose 2024*** - Camano Center

May 9, Thursday - 7:00 p.m. - *High School STEM Scholar Recognition and Introduction of 2024 Tech Trek Campers* - Location to be announced.

June, Sunday - 1:00 p.m. - *Scholarship Tea and Annual Meeting* - Date and Location to be announced



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.

October 2, 2:00 p.m. at the Home of Martha Huyler

Interiors of Chinatown by Charles Yu

"From the infinitely inventive author of *How to Live Safely in a Science Fictional Universe* comes a deeply personal novel about race, pop culture, assimilation, and escaping the roles we are forced to play "

November 6, 2:00 p.m. at the Home of Mary Pilkington

The Many Daughters of Alfong Moy by Jamie Ford

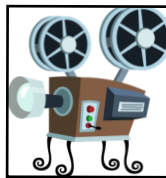
From the New York Times bestselling author of *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* comes a powerful novel about the love that binds one family of women across generations. Dorothy Moy breaks her own heart for a living. As Seattle's former poet laureate, that's how she describes channeling her dissociative episodes and mental breakdowns into her art. But when her five-year-old daughter, Annabel, exhibits the same behavior and begins remembering things and events she has never experienced, Dorothy believes the past has truly come to haunt the present. If she doesn't take radical steps, her daughter will be doomed to face the same debilitating depression that has marked her life.

December 4, 2:00 p.m. at the Home of Mary Chesney

The Marriage Portrait by Maggie O'Farrell

"A novel set in Renaissance Italy, and centering on the captivating young duchess Lucrezia de' Medici": Florence, the 1550s. Lucrezia, third daughter of the grand duke, is comfortable with her obscure place in the palazzo: free to wonder at its treasures, observe its clandestine workings, and to devote herself to her own artistic pursuits. But when her older sister dies on the eve of her wedding to the ruler of Ferrara, Modena and Reggio, Lucrezia is thrust unwittingly into the limelight: the duke is quick to request her hand in marriage, and her father just as quick to accept on her behalf. Is he the playful sophisticate he appeared to be before their wedding, the aesthete happiest in the company of artists and musicians, or the ruthless politician before whom even his formidable sisters seem to tremble?"

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



See You At the Movies!

Georgi Proulx

Your movie team hopes the writers' strike resolves soon so movies will be released on time. Watch for our email updates. Hope you can join us at our next cinematic adventure.



JAVA Break

Georgi Proulx

The group alternates between the third Tuesday and third Wednesday so more members can join us throughout the year.

Next **JAVA Break** will be on Tuesday, October 17 at the Cookie Mill 10:00 a.m. Please save the date and bring a friend!

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



General Meeting Minutes - September 14, 2023

Program: Tech Trek campers share their experiences at camp; SCAF meeting room.

Attendance: (20) Lynda Buehring, Jackie DeFazio, Linda Demetre, Katie Farrey (Z), Robin Hanks, Martha Huyler, Joyce Leak, Anne Milton, Rose Olson, Mary Pilkington, Judy Prince (Z), Georgi Proulx, Mary Raymond, Helen Smith, Kaye Sodt, Doris Taylor (Z), Judy Trammell, Nancy Voelckers, Thea Wellington, and Lael Williams. Guest (13) Seven campers and their families plus two counselors from Port Susan and Stanwood Middle Schools.

Call to Order: Helen Smith called business meeting to order at 7:48 p.m. and began with the reading of the Land Acknowledgement.

Secretary: Georgi Proulx presented June 25 general meeting minutes for approval as printed in the September newsletter. Motion to approve the June 25 general meeting minutes: Martha Huyler moved, Jackie DeFazio seconded; motion approved.

Treasurer: Robin Hanks presented the financial report as of August 31, 2023. Current balance in the operating account is \$4045.68; scholarship account is \$43,177.43. Receipts were membership renewals and funds to purchase purses. Expenses were the payout of scholarships and the Greater Giving auction software subscription.

Public Policy: Anne Milton reported her spotlight on the Equal Rights Amendment in the September newsletter. She is watching for updates and hoping for a resolution to pass the ERA. AAUW National's emphasis is equal pay which she will share in her October newsletter article.

Tech Trek: General comments: The girls felt that having an opportunity to meet some the past year campers meet with the new campers to ask questions about camp would alleviate some of the apprehension. Counselors present from the middle schools were receptive of that idea and thought they could do this at each school. Other suggestions were to plan more STEM activities for girls in the schools to increase STEM exposure to a broader group. Also recommended an information night for the teachers prior to their nomination process to familiarize them with the program.

PWP 2024: Georgi Proulx reported the next processing meeting is September 15, 1:00 p.m., at Gay Campbell's. Next steering committee will be on Wednesday, September 20, 1:00 p.m. at Camano Library.

Candidate Forum: Georgi Proulx shared for Elaine Richards there will be no "forum" this year due to only two positions: Stanwood City Council and Stanwood Camano School Board. Instead we are partnering with the League of Women Voters of Snohomish to promote its schedule of virtual forums. October 9 at 6:00 p.m. and 6:45 p.m. are the two positions that apply to our community.

SC Give: Mary Raymond has submitted the website form for our participation in the November 28 event.

Program: Rose Olson shared the October 12 meeting will be at the Stanwood Library. Cat Olson will present the Stanwood-Camano Arts Advocacy Commission (SCAAC). November 9 will be Celeste Mergens discussing the creation of Days for Girls. Purchase her book before October 3; bring it and she will autograph it; location to be announced.

Membership: We now have 49 members. Thea Wellington requested "business cards" with contact information for sharing with women with whom she discusses our branch and possible membership; she will email Georgi the information she wants on the cards.

Sunshine: The passing of Patti Pontikis' husband and recent health scare for a dear member were shared, and cards were sent by Mary Ann Schradi.

Activity Groups:

Book Group: Finished Lessons in Chemistry and picked the book list for 2024.

Movie Group: Anne Milton reported movies should restart in the fall as the writers' strike ends. Mary Pilkington recommended "Golda".

Day Trippers: Lynda Buehring hopes to lead three outings for 2023-24. The late fall event is in the planning stage.

JAVA Break: Next gathering is Wednesday, September 20, 10:00 a.m. at the Cookie Mill.

New Business: General discussion regarding restarting our Volunteer School Partners mentoring program at the elementary schools.

Announcements: Lynda Buehring announced Hope Unlimited Human Trafficking Resource Fair at the Camano Library on September 23 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Adjourn: Helen Smith adjourned the meeting at 8:29 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Georgi Proulx

Secretary for Linda Lynn



*Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered,
weak and weary, Over many a quaint and curious
volume of forgotten lore - While I nodded, nearly
napping suddenly there came a tapping, As if
someone gently rapping, rapping at my chamber
door.*

~Edgar Allan Poe