



# Stanwood-Camano Branch of AAUW

## In Touch

November 2023

Founded in 1936 - Celebrating 87 Years

Edited by Martha Huyler and Georgi Proulx



[www.aauwsc.org](http://www.aauwsc.org)

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

November Board Meeting  
Camano Library

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**November 9th  
Thursday  
12:30 p.m.**

Social Half Hour  
1:00 p.m.

General Meeting  
Camano Center

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**November 15th  
2nd Wednesday due to  
Thanksgiving  
JAVA Break**

**10:00 a.m.**

Cookie Mill

*For Coffee and Conversation  
Bring a Prospective Member*

### President's Message

Helen Smith

I find it difficult to leave summer behind, but the weather is reminding us that we're in the autumn season now. November is a busy month with an election on the horizon. It's imperative that we consider the Stanwood-Camano Schools candidates for school board thoughtfully. Many districts are finding their funds are woefully short, and school board members must make difficult decisions. Voting is a big part of our democracy, not to be taken lightly, so let's get out and vote!

Our general meeting is November 9 at the Camano Center, 1 pm. with a dynamic speaker, Celeste Mergens, who is the founder of Days for Girls International. Her ideas and teams of volunteers have made school possible for young women and girls during menstrual periods. Small kits with supplies, hand sewn by volunteers, mean girls in developing countries aren't excluded during this time, and their education can continue. Her book: The Power of Days is a story of courage and persistence. I encourage you to read it. I can't wait to meet Celeste and hear about her journey for equality for young women with such a simple, profound idea.

I'm excited about the possibility of some free memberships available to the branch if new members join during an open-to-the-public meeting. Your branch board is working on an idea to make a few memberships available to those of all income levels. Thanks to Jackie DeFazio and Joanne Drewson for working on a plan for this in a timely manner to coincide with the National AAUW program of bonus memberships.

Finally, I hope your Thanksgiving celebrations will be grateful gatherings of friends and family for all that we are blessed with here in America.

### November: Meet Celeste Mergens of Days for Girls

Rose Olson

Please join us on November 9 at the Camano Center as we welcome speaker Celeste Mergens. Social Half Hour begins at 12:30 followed by the program at 1:00 p.m.

Celeste Mergens is the founder of Days for Girls International. She has led the organization since its beginning in 2008 driven by twenty years of nonprofit and business management experience. Her "can do" team-building approach has inspired thousands of volunteers and social enterprises worldwide.



Under Celeste's stewardship, Days for Girls has won the SEED award for gender equity and entrepreneurship and was named as a "Next Ten" Organization poised to change the world in the next decade by the Huffington Post and is two-time Girl Effect Champion. They have provided menstrual wellness resources and health education to 2.8+ million women and girls and communities in 145 countries.

Bring a guest to this Shape the Future event. New members that join and pay dues at the meeting pay \$70 instead of \$106. We're working to have credit card payment available as well.



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## Future Events

### December Board Meeting Probably November 30

To be discussed at Nov 2 Board

1:00 p.m.

Helen Smith's Home

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### December 7th

Thursday

12:00 p.m.

Holiday Luncheon

*Il Granaio Authentic*

*Italian Restaurant*

*Mount Vernon*

\*\*\*\*\*

### December 19th

Tuesday

**JAVA Break**

10:00 a.m.

Cookie Mill

*For Coffee and Conversation*

*Bring a Prospective Member*



Visit our branch website:  
[www.aauwsc.org](http://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](http://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/)

## Encouragement - The Purpose of All Those Purses

Jackie DeFazio, Gay Campbell

"Nine tenths of education is encouragement," Anatole France, French poet and novelist, wrote. As each of us knows, the road to achieving a college degree can be long and arduous, but it is much easier to travel if someone along the way encourages us and believes in us.

Here in Stanwood-Camano AAUW, our work on **Purses with Purpose 2024** evolves into encouragement for our scholarship recipients and the students we send to Tech Trek camp. Each purse contributed to PWP 2024 adds to reaching our collective goal of funding those scholarships and Tech Trek awards for the next two years. Equally important, this recognition tells the recipients that we believe in them and encourages them to pursue their educational goals.

At this time, we have reached more than half of our goal of collecting 200 purses and have many beautiful purses purchased through the thoughtfulness and generosity of our members. But we need at least 60 more purses donated by mid-January. We are looking for new and gently-used purses that will appeal to guests at the April 27, 2024 PWP Benefit Luncheon & Auction. Even if you've already made your contribution, you may have a friend or neighbor who would gladly contribute a purse they rarely use, or you may find another great purse on sale. All price ranges are needed.

As you begin your holiday shopping or talk with your friends, think purses! Keep an eye out for that perfect purse. You know the one we mean. It's that purse that will translate into funds to provide encouragement toward a college degree.



## Membership through Shape the Future

Joanne Drewsen

Let's emphasize our opportunity through Shape the Future!

Shape the Future is a membership program developed with National AAUW providing a wonderful chance for new members to join our Stanwood/Camano AAUW branch at a significantly lower rate- \$70 vs the usual \$106 when they join at an event open to the public. However, interested people need to be prepared to bring a check to a general meeting that is public and join at that meeting. Credit card payment may be available; we're working on this availability.

Our next public general meeting is November 9. 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](#). Please think of people you know to invite who are interested in this topic and might be interested in joining AAUW. Our mission attracts many people not to mention enjoying friendship and common interests with others in our community.



## Tech Trek - Help Needed with Camper Selection

Mary Chesney

I am looking for members who would like to be involved in the process of Tech Trek camper selection. This is an opportunity for you to help the Branch make one of the most important decisions that takes place every year, selecting campers who we sponsor and send to camp.

You will make a difference and help ensure the best possible candidates are chosen. All the nominee and parent/guardian interviews are done virtually as well as any meetings the team needs to hold prior to the interviews. Because of this, you need to have some level of comfort using a computer.

We work together to develop a calendar that fits into everyone's schedule for the planning stage of the selection process as well as the interviews. There will be two weeks in April when you will need to have availability for nominee interviews late afternoon to early evening (approximately 4:00 p.m. to no later than 7:30 p.m.) nearly every day but Sunday.

If this sounds interesting to you, let me know and I will send you the description of expectations for the Tech Trek committee.

Join the team to make a difference!



## 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: Upcoming State Legislation

Anne Milton



During the last two months, the focus for this monthly policy report was 'Equal Rights Amendment' and pay equity. Both have legislative actions ahead but are currently stalled at the federal level. Our state AAUW Public Policy team is now prioritizing the legislative bills that may get some attention in addition to the state budget actions.

AAUW-WA is first highlighting Bill HB 1837, known as the vending machine contraception bill. According to Kelly Cleland, Executive Director of the American Society for Emergency Contraception: "the 2022 ruling overturning Roe vs. Wade is putting people's lives at stake, so it makes pregnancy prevention all the more urgent. If you live in a state where you cannot get an abortion and you can't get an abortion anywhere near you, the stakes are so much higher than they have ever been before". The University of Washington led the way last November with the first installment in a campus library of a vending machine stocked with ibuprofen, pregnancy tests and the morning after pill. The machines are now part of a push on college campuses to ensure emergency contraceptives are cheap, discreet and widely available. There are now 39 universities in 17 states with emergency contraceptive vending machines and it's growing. Some, such as the University of Tulsa in Oklahoma, are in states where abortion is largely banned.

Bill HB 1837 would allow public colleges to apply for a \$10,000 grant that would support installation and upkeep of these vending machines. (The state has set aside about \$200,000 total for schools to establish additional vending machines.) A pharmacy student, Zoe Amaris at UW noted that there was a stigma associated with getting access to this medication. Although the morning after pill has been approved by the FDA for over-the-counter sale, many pharmacies keep it locked up behind the counter, requiring identification for purchase and making the experience of purchasing it intimidating.

A new report on Book Bans and Curriculum Gag Orders by the Federal House Oversight Committee was released last week. The AAUW-WA Policy committee expects to see several state bills introduced in 2024 that will address book bans and curriculum as well as protections for educators and librarians from disciplinary actions related to the "culture wars".

Accordingly, Activist groups have challenged hundreds of books across the country, predominantly asserting that popular children's books are actually vehicles of liberal indoctrination. The escalation of these efforts to delegitimize teaching, ban books, and prohibit teaching certain subjects in the classroom contributes more stress to teachers already reeling from the pandemic and related safety measures.

In fact, a survey conducted by the National Education Association revealed that 55% of educators said that they are more likely to leave education sooner than they planned because of the pandemic and that 90% of educators cited "burnout" as a very serious or somewhat serious issue.

For your information and review, I am enclosing the report with the newsletter email. As always, stay tuned. Our December policy report will highlight the state priorities for the annual AAUW-WA Lobby Day event in late January.

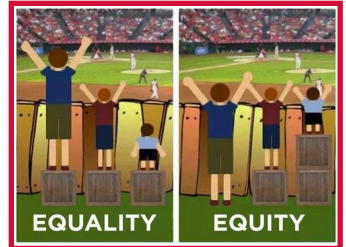
## DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) Spotlight

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:

**Intersex:** A term used to refer to people who are biologically between the medically expected definitions of male and female. This can be through variations in hormones, chromosomes, internal or external genitalia, or any combination of any or all primary and/or secondary sex characteristics. While many intersex people are noticed as intersex at birth, many are not. As intersex is about biological sex, it is distinct from gender identity and sexual orientation. An intersex person can be of any gender identity and can also be of any sexual orientation and any romantic orientation. PFLAG National opposes the practice of genital mutilation on infants and children who are intersex. Formally, the medical terms hermaphrodite and pseudohermaphrodite were used; those terms are now considered neither acceptable nor scientifically accurate.



### Upcoming Opportunities:

American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month

November 6, 7:30 p.m.: PFLAG Skagit is sponsoring a free showing of the film *Every Body*, a revelatory investigation of the lives of intersex people at the Lincoln Theatre

<https://lincolntheatre.org/film-every-body>

November 10, 7:30 p.m.: *The Aunties: Women of the Salish Sea*, Mount Baker Theatre, Bellingham

[https://mountbakertheatre.com/Online/default.asp?doWork::WScontent::loadArticle=Load&BOParam::WScontent::loadArticle::article\\_id=B2EE458F-99C1-42B6-AA17-6BEF7A5BFD4C](https://mountbakertheatre.com/Online/default.asp?doWork::WScontent::loadArticle=Load&BOParam::WScontent::loadArticle::article_id=B2EE458F-99C1-42B6-AA17-6BEF7A5BFD4C)

[https://mountbakertheatre.com/Online/default.asp?doWork::WScontent::loadArticle=Load&BOParam::WScontent::loadArticle::article\\_id=B2EE458F-99C1-42B6-AA17-6BEF7A5BFD4C](https://mountbakertheatre.com/Online/default.asp?doWork::WScontent::loadArticle=Load&BOParam::WScontent::loadArticle::article_id=B2EE458F-99C1-42B6-AA17-6BEF7A5BFD4C)

November 18: 9:30 a.m.: Port Townsend Branch Speaker: Rosealee Walz, a Chimacum Elder and chair of the Chimacum Tribal Services, The Elks Lodge, 555 Otto, Port Townsend

## Gifts to AAUW Produce World-Changing Women and Research

Jackie DeFazio

For nearly 135 years, AAUW has funded the educations of women so they could follow their dreams. From astronauts to zoologists, the recipients of AAUW's fellowships, grants and awards represent nearly every imaginable field of endeavor. Overall, we've given more than \$135 million to over 13,000 women and nonprofit organizations around the world.



This funding has a tremendous impact. It helps to ease the burden of student debt, which disproportionately affects women, so that promising women can excel in their fields and become leaders in business, government, academia, community activism, the arts and sciences. Among the women whose academic work has been supported by AAUW are Marie Curie, the first woman to win a Nobel Prize and astronaut Judith Resnik, the second woman to travel in space.

In addition, we've published hundreds of research reports, from an 1885 paper disproving a prevailing myth that college impairs a woman's fertility to, more recently, a study documenting the economic impact of workplace sexual harassment. And today AAUW has a prominent voice in the national conversation about the gender pay gap, anchored in our annual publication of *The Simple Truth about the Gender Pay Gap*.

Continued support from generous members and branches like Stanwood-Camano will ensure that AAUW can continue to invest in world-changing women and research through its fellowships and grants program for many decades to come. Let's all keep that in mind as we make decisions about end-of-year giving.

## 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

### 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.

**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.*

**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?"*

**January 8, 2:00 p.m. at the Home of Nancy Voelckers**

Red Paint, The Ancestral Autobiography of a Coast Salish Punk by Sash taqwseblu LaPointe

*"Red Paint is an intersectional autobiography of lineage, resilience and above all the ability to heal that chronicles Sasha's struggles navigating a collapsing marriage while answering the call to greater purpose. Set against a backdrop of tour vans and the breathtaking beauty of Coast Salish ancestral land and imbued with the universal spirit of punk-an ethos that challenges us to reclaim what's rightfully ours: our histories, our power, our traditions, and our truths-Red Paint is ultimately a story of the ways we learn to heal while fighting for our right to a place to call home."*

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



### Day Trippers to Hibulb Cultural Center

Lynda Buehring

Join us on December 6 for a day of history, fabulous eats and pleasure shopping.

Enjoy the Hibulb Cultural Center in Tulalip followed by lunch at Cedars Café. A new cultural exhibit begins on October 28 which explores six of the language groups that surround the Salish Sea: Klallam, Twana, Nooksack, Northern Straits, Northern Lushootseed and Southern Lushootseed.

Center admission: Adults - \$10.00, Seniors over 50 - \$7.00, Military-\$6.00

Lunch at the Cedars Café in the Tulalip Casino after our tour. We'll be close to the Seattle Outlets if you wish to shop. Use the link below to view the Cedars Café lunch menu.

<https://www.tulalipresortcasino.com/Base/File/TRC-Cedars-Lunch-Menu-20230901>

We will carpool from Terry's Corner and the I-5 Stanwood Park and Ride. Departure times will be announced.

Please contact Lynda Buehring no later than December 1 if you are interested in attending and indicate if you can be a driver for the carpooling. You are encouraged to invite a friend. Hope you can join us.



Giving Tuesday is November 28 for our local Stanwood-Camano Give. Our AAUW project is to raise \$2800 for "Science and Technology Camp for Girls", our AAUW Tech Trek program.

You have two opportunities to help:

- #1** Follow our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/stanwoodcamanoaaauw](http://www.facebook.com/stanwoodcamanoaaauw) for prize announcements and incentives throughout the day then share on your news feed to spread the word.
- #2** Get the word out before the event by sharing this publication with friends and family around the country, even the world. Friends everywhere can donate online at [www.scgive.org](http://www.scgive.org).



DONATIONS MAY BE TAX DEDUCTIBLE; CHECK WITH YOUR TAX ADVISOR

SCGive offers ten opportunities to make your on line donation go further while adding a little spice to your day if you choose. Check them out below: [#GIVINGTUESDAY](https://www.facebook.com/stanwoodcamanoaaauw) • [SCGIVE.ORG](http://www.scgive.org)

**Early Bird Boost** - 12 a.m.-7 a.m. - The first 20 - \$25 donations from different donors given between midnight and 7 a.m. will be matched by RE/MAX ELEVATE and EVERGREEN HOME LOANS.

**Snooze Button Boost** - 7.a.m. - 9 a.m. - The first \$1000 in donations of any amount up to \$500 from different donors given between 7 a.m. and 9 a.m. will be matched by the STANWOOD-CAMANO AREA FOUNDATION.

**Morning Motivator** - 9 a.m. - 10 a.m. - The first 20 \$50 donations from different donors given between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. will be matched by COASTAL COMMUNITY BANK.

**Lunchtime Lift** - 12 p.m. - 1 p.m. - The first 10 \$100 donations from different donors given between 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. will be matched by the STANWOOD-CAMANO AREA FOUNDATION.

**High Five Hour** - 3 p.m. - 4 p.m. - Matching funds for the 5th, 15th, 25th and so on, donations given by different donors between 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. A donation to multiple organizations is ok. Up to \$1500 in donations will be matched by SEASIDE SERVICES INC.

**Happy Hour Helper** - 5 p.m. - 6 p.m. - The first 6 donations of \$250 from different donors given between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. will be matched by LENZ ENTERPRISES.

**Power Hour** - 8 p.m. - 9 p.m. - The project with the greatest number of unique donors between 8 p.m. and 9 p.m. will receive \$250 provided by the PICNIC PANTRY.

**Happy Homestretch** - 10 p.m. - 11 p.m. - The first \$1000 in donations between \$100 and \$250 from different donors given between 10 p.m. and 11 p.m. will be matched by the STANWOOD-CAMANO AREA FOUNDATION.

**Last Minute Miracle** - 11 p.m. - midnight - The first \$1000 in donations of any amount from different donors given between 11 p.m. and midnight will be matched by EAGLES LANDING INDUSTRIAL LEASING & STORAGE.

**Golden Ticket Prizes** - \$250 prize given during specific hours to the project that has received the most donations for that hour. Given during the hours of 10am, 11am, 1pm, 2pm, 4pm, 6pm, 7pm, and 9pm. Provided by the STANWOOD-CAMANO AREA FOUNDATION.

All matches are based on a donation made in the qualifying amount to a single organization, not to multiple organizations totaling the qualifying amount.

All matches are limited to one match per donor household per prize category. Households can qualify for matches in more than one prize category throughout the day.

If you have any questions contact Georgi Proulx or Mary Raymond.

Good luck and thank you for your support. Have fun with this; it's for a great cause.

## Member Moment

Mary Ann Schradi

Mary Ann Schradi, aka Mimzi Schradi, attended the Write on the Sound Conference in Edmonds the first weekend in October. There she met up with Jamie Ford, whose book, The Many Daughters of Alfong Moy, will be discussed at the Book Club meeting in November 6 at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Mary Pilkington.

Mary Ann met Jamie when he first started out as a writer, shortly after his book, The Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet, was published. She will share her experiences meeting him and following his career as a writer/author the past 13 years, at the November AAUW Book Club meeting.

At the Conference, Mary Ann received Honorable Mention for her poem, *The Bunny's Pantoum*. It is a rather simple poem at first glance, but the entire poem is a metaphor for a person trying to understand the invisible world and exploring the fact that our loved ones never truly leave us.

Enjoy the poem ~



Mary Ann Schradi and Jamie Ford

### The Bunny's Pantoum

A visitor enters my path, staring at me.  
I, in haste, pause for a while,  
Wondering and thinking of the invisible world.  
How many times has he come before, unseen?

I, in haste, pause for a while,  
Admiring my new friend found in nature.  
How many times has he come before me unseen?  
Into my peaceful garden, to take refuge from the world.

Admiring my new friend found in nature,  
I speak silently, wishing him well and say, "Come...  
Into my peaceful garden, to take refuge from the world."  
Linger a while. Enjoy the good."

I speak silently, wishing him well and say, "Come...  
Rest—stay, my friend, in peace.  
Linger a while, Enjoy the good.  
For what was once invisible will be seen—again and again.

Rest. Stay, my friend, in peace.  
I do not doubt your presence but seek it.  
For what was once invisible will be seen—again and again.  
I, with you, will rejoice in this new day created for us.

I do not doubt your presence but seek it.  
Wondering and thinking of the invisible world."  
For what was once invisible will be seen again and again.  
A visitor enters my path, staring at me.

July 26, 2023 Mimzi Schradi

## General Meeting Minutes - October 12, 2023

*Program: Cat Olson, Executive Director of the Stanwood Camano Advocacy Commission; Stanwood Library*

**Attendance:** Helen Smith, Rose Olson, Anne Milton, Jackie DeFazio, Martha Huyler, Joanne Drewsen, Nancy Voelckers, Judy Prince, Linda Lynn, Lael Williams, Joyce Leak, Marianne McGarry-Bloom, Gay Campbell, Mary Raymond, Patti Pontikis, Katie Farrey, Kathy Cunningham, Lynda Buehring, Mary Ann Schradi, Robin Hanks, Mary Pilkington, Doris Taylor

**Welcome:** Helen Smith called the meeting to order at approximately 1:04 p.m. Rose Olsen introduced the speaker, Cat Olson. A link to Cat's presentation is below:

[https://www.canva.com/design/DAFw4n95XpM/4Q4zIE1btJfKEjRz5ZWGqg/edit?utm\\_content=DAFw4n95XpM&utm\\_campaign=designshare&utm\\_medium=link2&utm\\_source=sharebutton](https://www.canva.com/design/DAFw4n95XpM/4Q4zIE1btJfKEjRz5ZWGqg/edit?utm_content=DAFw4n95XpM&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=sharebutton)

**Call to Order:** Following the presentation by Cat Olson, the general meeting began at 1:52 p.m.

**DEI Land Acknowledgement:** Katie read the land acknowledgement honoring our native peoples and land.

**Sunshine Report:** Mary Ann Schradi asked us to let her know if a member needs a sympathy or cheerful card, and she will arrange it.

**Prior Minutes from September General Meeting as Printed in the October newsletter:** Kathy Cunningham moved to approve; Mary Raymond seconded, and the motion was carried.

**Finance Report:** Robin reported. Income included dues from two members, \$9.89 in money market interest, a \$150 donation for purses, and a \$1,000 PWP business sponsorship donation from Dick and Bonnie Cavell. There were no expenses and assets total \$44,385.22.

**PWP 2024:** Jackie DeFazio reported. We are still collecting purses, and have about half of those needed. The goal is to have all purses collected by the end of January. Mary Pilkington has obtained gift cards totaling \$600 to go into the purses. We were advised to check with her before asking any potential donors for donations to make sure we are not asking the same businesses more than once. Georgi has re-configured seating at the tables, so that if needed, we can sit more attendees.

**SC Give:** Mary Raymond told us that everything has been submitted and accepted. On November 1, we can start publicizing, and Georgi will handle posting on the website and on Facebook.

**Membership:** Joanne Drewsen told us that new members can join under the "Shape the Future" benefit, which will save them a substantial amount of money; Martha prepared a poster about it. The membership committee will meet on October 18 and will propose goals.

**Programs:** For the November meeting on November 9, we will have Celeste Mergens, founder of "Days for Girls", from Mount Vernon as a speaker. This meeting will be held in a meeting room at the Camano Center and open to the public; links regarding this meeting can be shared with non-members. The Camano Center will include information in their newsletter in case their members want to attend. Celeste will autograph pre-purchased books.

**Public Policy:** Anne Milton discussed that the passage of the ERA should go hand and hand with pay equity which has not improved in 3 or 4 years. With current problems in the U.S. Congress, not much is happening right now. In regards to pay equity, women are still behind men in earnings, particularly minorities. On the AAUW website, there is information and encouragement about how to summarize and articulate requests to get more money in the workforce.

**New Business:** Mary Pilkington told us about a national non-profit organization "Reach Across America", a veteran's group. Nationally, volunteers place wreaths on graves of 2.3 million veterans. Volunteers are needed this year. Please contact Mary Pilkington for details.

### Activity Groups:

**Book Group:** Katie announced the book for November is the The Many Daughters of Alfong Moy. December's book will be The Marriage Portrait.

**Java Break:** Tuesday, October 17, 10:00 a.m. at the Cookie Mill

**Movie Group:** Anne is working on next movie – some good movies are coming out in November

**Day Trippers:** There is a meeting on October 12 to discuss.

**Adjourn:** Helen Smith adjourned the meeting at 2:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Lynn  
Secretary



*If you've got nothing to dance about, find a reason to sing.*

*~Melody Carstairs*