



In Touch

December 2023

Founded in 1936 ~ Celebrating 87 Years

Edited by Martha Huyler and Georgi Proulx



www.aauwsc.org

**November 30th
December Board Meeting**

1:00 p.m.

Helen Smith's Home

**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*



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President's Message

Helen Smith

As we head into busy holiday seasons, I hope that you all take time to pause and take a breath for yourselves. Our board members have been busy with the yearly schedule, keeping things on track, and furthering the cause for equality. Many thanks to all the board members who have taken on the responsibilities that it takes to keep us current and on track in our mission. Each and everyone of you are a positive addition as we plan our year, execute our events and reap the rewards. Thank you!

Special thanks this month to Georgi Proulx and Martha Huyler for always making our newsletters creative and exciting to read. As the "great communicator" Georgi is spot on in getting out announcements and reminders of events and deadlines. This president needs all the reminders she can get!

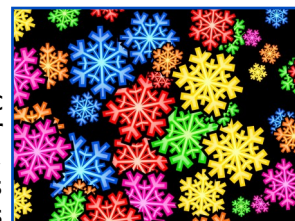
Also thanks to Mary Raymond for setting up our Giving Tuesday event at www.scgive.org. There are so many matching donations waiting to be claimed for our campers if we donate. Let's do this!

Wishing you all a very wonderful Hannukah or Christmas season with family and friends and a very Happy New Year.

December: Holiday Luncheon, Il Granaio

Rose Olson

We look forward to seeing you at Il Granaio Authentic Italian Restaurant at noon on December 7 for our annual Holiday Luncheon! In addition to delicious food, there will be a raffle basket (proceeds go to our dues assistance fund) and a fun mixer game. Raffle tickets are one for \$1 or six for \$5; please bring CASH!



Reservations for this event will be accepted until noon on December 3. Please email Rose Olson or Mary Raymond with your intention to attend. If you have RSVP'd that you are attending the luncheon but not yet paid, please mail your check for \$35 to AAUW-SC, P.O. Box 2652, Stanwood WA 98292; with "holiday luncheon" on the notation.

Remember that parking at Il Granaio is tight; carpooling is recommended. If you are interested in car pooling email Rose or Mary.

Looking ahead to 2024, mark your calendar for January 11, when our branch will hear from our member and School District Superintendent, Deborah Rumbaugh, discussing and answering questions about our local schools.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy holiday season!

Future Events

January 4th

Thursday

1:00 p.m.

January Board Meeting
Community Resource Center

January 11th

Thursday

1:00 p.m.

General Meeting
Camano Library

*Program: Superintendent,
Deborah Rumbaugh, discussing
Local Education*

January 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/)

Purses with Purpose - Power + Pleasure

Jackie DeFazio, Gay Campbell

"Purses are an integral part of the female social fabric," writes Emma Bowd, fashion writer and consultant. In a little book entitled *Mad About Bags*, she waxes eloquently about the "magical powers" of handbags, noting that they "provide instant glamor with no dieting involved" because "handbag therapy" is both calorie-free and pleasurable.

But we here in Stanwood-Camano AAUW know that the power of purses extends far beyond the pleasure they provide as fashion statements. Our *Purses with Purpose* benefit auction/luncheon provides guests with the opportunity to use the contents of their purses to help young women and girls in the communities we serve complete their college educations or discover opportunities in STEM fields that they might otherwise never have found.

To accomplish these goals, though, WE NEED MORE PURSES! Our current count stands at approximately 150. Our goal is to have a minimum of 200 purses for the sale. We can use about 10 more purses for the live auction and at least another 40 for the silent auction. **The deadline for completing procurement is January 31, 2024.**

Here's how YOU can help:

- If you have not already donated a purse or funds to purchase a purse, now is the time to do so. We need purses in every price range, new or very gently used. If past donations have emptied your shelves of extraneous bags, check with family, friends, or neighbors to see what may lie unused on their shelves. Or take advantage of post-holiday sales to pick up a bargain new purse.
- If you have already donated, consider partnering with another branch member to add one more purse to the collection - new or gently used.

Bring your donation to the Holiday Luncheon on Thursday, December 7. If that doesn't work for you, call either Jackie or Gay to arrange a pickup. All we want for the holidays is purses, purses, purses - calorie-free or otherwise!



Purses with Purpose 2024 - Think About Volunteering

Georgi Proulx

April 27, 2024 will be here sooner than you think and now is the time to ponder how you can help with the actual event in addition to the wonderful purses you have donated/collected so far.

Late Friday afternoon (about 4:00 p.m.), April 26, will be "all hands on deck" to prepare the Camano Center for the next day. On the Saturday we need the help of 10-14 people to handle the silent auction bid sheets/purses and be live auction spotters, recorders, and runners - not too much running...walk the purse to the winner.

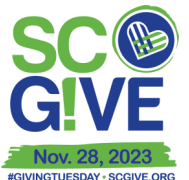
Please let Kathy Cunningham know if you can help with any of these opportunities. Our goal is to raise funds for 6 scholarships and 20 Tech Trek camperships. YOU can make the difference...VOLUNTEER today!

Giving Tuesday - November 28th

Mary Raymond, Georgi Proulx

...and once again our community stepped up to the challenge to raise \$2800 for our TECH TREK Science and Technology Camp for Girls. Due to the generosity of 41 donors, our preliminary total received is \$3475 plus the \$25 Early Bird Boost (courtesy of Re-Max and Evergreen Home Loans).

Thank you, your family and friends for their generous support of this successful event.



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: Lobby Day

Anne Milton

Each year, AAUW-WA hosts Lobby Day, a virtual workshop, where the AAUW-WA Public Policy team brings AAUW members together to: explain priorities, host several speakers and explain how our lobbying efforts work. The 2024 State Legislative Session starts on January 8 and it will be a short session. (2 months) The AAUW Lobby Day will be held on January 22 and the following week (January 22 - January 26) will be designated as Lobby week.

The AAUW policy team will have an agenda for Lobby Day ready by early December. However, the list of Lobby bills will be delayed by a few weeks. Essentially, new bills can't be introduced until 30 days before the session starts. Washington state has a two-year process like Congress. Any bill introduced in 2023 that didn't pass automatically gets rolled over to 2024. It has the same bill number and will go back to the house of origin where it was first introduced.

The Public Policy team is busy reviewing 2023 bills that didn't pass. They believe there were a lot of good ones and are reaching out to key legislators to learn what new bills they plan to introduce. It is anticipated that new bills may cover School Safety and Student Well Being, Book Ban and Curriculum Gag orders, Gender pay gaps, gender equity and equal rights support, etc.

Details on Lobby Day will be outlined in the January newsletter. For your information, I have provided a word document that outlines both our state and national AAUW Public Policy Priorities for 2023 and 2024. These priorities serve as the backbone for legislative bill advocacy and support. Here are some additional resources:

Sign up for AAUW-WA's Legislative Update

<https://aauw-wa.aauw.net/advocacy/legislative-updates/>

Sign up for AAUW National's monthly newsletter and Action Alerts.

<https://aauw.org/resources/news/media>

Sign up for Two Minute Activist

<https://aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/>

Please see attachment with this newsletter issue:
2023 Public Policy Priorities-DecN/L.doc

Tech Trek - Progress!

Mary Chesney

Last month I put out a request for another member to help in the important activity of selecting campers for our Tech Trek Camperships. I am very pleased to announce one of our newest members, Wanda Hill, eagerly accepted the offer. Wanda has worked for the Everett School District with a background working with students in STEM. She has worked for the Northwest Council for Computer Education and taught in school districts around the USA teaching Microsoft products. We met as a group and developed our schedule for this year's interviews.

And I am also pleased to inform you that after a drought of three years, it appears we will again have applicants from the Arlington School District. I met virtually with one of the counselors at Post Middle School along with a former camper. One teacher has already let me know she has girls she would like to recommend.

2024 is going to be a terrific Tech Trek!



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:

Gay: A term used to describe people who are emotionally, romantically, and/or physically attracted to people of the same gender (e.g. gay man, gay people). In contemporary contexts, lesbian is often a preferred term for women, though many women use the term gay to describe themselves. People who are gay need not have had any sexual experience. Attraction and self-identification determines sexual orientation, not the gender or sexual orientation of one's partner. The term should not be used as an umbrella term for LGBTQ+ people, e.g. "the gay community", because it excludes other sexual orientations and genders.

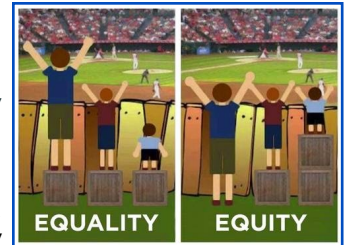
Upcoming Opportunities:

Dec. 6, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m., Let Freedom Read, A Discussion of Book Banning

Hosted by AAUW WA Online Branch

<https://www.evite.com/event/0001GM2MVBAAEWMIAPONBUPNROZBA>

Dec. 27-29, 7:00 p.m., Dec. 30th noon and 7:00 p.m., Lincoln Theatre: Killers of the Flower Moon



A Gift for the Future of Women & Girls

Jackie DeFazio

Gifts come in many forms. Some are wrapped in shiny paper and tied up with bows. Some are handmade from home kitchens or studios or workshops. Some come in donations of time and energy spent in support of causes we deeply benefit from or believe in. To all of you who support AAUW locally, at the state level or nationally, please know how much your gift of time, energy, support, and—of course—cash is appreciated.



At this time of end-of-year giving, as you make decisions on causes you want to support financially, please consider the value of belonging to AAUW, a nationwide network of members working together to promote gender equity through advocacy, education, research and philanthropy.

In the words of Gloria Blackwell, AAUW CEO, AAUW members' advocacy is "a powerful tool for transforming societal norms and dismantling systemic barriers." Not only does an investment in AAUW "contribute to the **research, policy work, programming, and public awareness campaigns** necessary to garner support for **policy changes that champion the rights of women and girls**...it is *essential* for AAUW to carry out advocacy and lobbying efforts effectively to ensure *our* voices are not only heard but also heeded."

To include national AAUW in your personal end-of-year giving, go to www.aauw.org and click on "Donate." Your financial support is an investment in a future where every woman and girl can thrive.



Day Trippers to Hibulb Cultural Center

Lynda Buehring

RSVPs for the December 6 Day Tripper to Stillaguamish Tribal Center, Hibulb Cultural Center and Cedar Café lunch are due at noon on December 3.

Please contact Lynda Buehring 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.

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/
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.

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. "

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

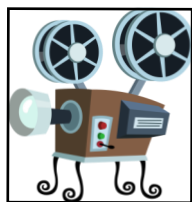
"Red Paint is an intersectional autobiography of lineage, resilience and above all the ability to heal that chronicles Sasha's struggles navigating a collapsing marriage while answering the call to greater purpose. Set against a backdrop of tour vans and the breathtaking beauty of Coast Salish ancestral 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."

February 5, 2:00 p.m. at the Home of Helen Smith

The Rose Code by Kate Quinn

Joining the elite Bletchley Park codebreaking team during World War II, three women from very different walks of life uncover a spy's dangerous agenda years later against the backdrop of the royal wedding of Elizabeth and Philip. "1940. As England prepares to fight the Nazis, three very different women answer the call to Bletchley Park, where the best minds in Britain train to break German military codes. Osla puts her fluent German to use as a translator of decoded enemy secrets. Mab works the legendary codebreaking machines and looks for a socially advantageous husband. Beth's shyness conceals a brilliant facility with puzzles, and she becomes one of the Park's few female cryptanalysts. 1947. As the royal wedding of Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip whips post-war Britain into a fever, the three women are reunited by a mysterious encrypted letter - the key to which lies buried in the long-ago betrayal that destroyed their friendship and left one of them confined to an asylum" -adapted from jacket.

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



See You At the Movies!

Anne Milton, Georgi Proulx

Watch for email updates. We're keeping an eye on The Holdovers, Maestro, and Napoleon.



JAVA Break

Georgi Proulx

Next **JAVA Break** will be on Tuesday, December 19 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 - November 9, 2023

Program: Celeste Mergens, founder of Days for Girls, and author; Camano Center

Welcome: Helen Smith called the meeting to order at approximately 1:02 p.m. and welcomed members and guests.

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

Program: Rose Olson introduced the speaker, Celeste Mergens, the founder of "Days for Girls" and the author of The Power of Days. Following the presentation and a break, the general meeting began at 2:20 p.m.

Sunshine Report: Elaine Richard's brother passed away unexpectedly.

Prior Minutes from October General Meeting as Printed in the November newsletter: Jackie DeFazio moved to approve; Martha Huyler seconded, and the motion was carried.

Finance Report: Robin Hanks reported. Income was \$10.22 in money market interest. Our accountant, Michael Dame, filed our tax return.

PWP 2024: Jackie DeFazio reported. We are still collecting purses, and have more than half of the goal. More are needed, particularly silent auction purses. The goal is to have all purses collected by the end of January. Mary Pilkington has obtained gift cards and advises us to check with her before asking any potential donors for donations to make sure we are not asking the same businesses more than once. We are encouraged to invite our friends and family to the event. The next PWP steering group meeting will be held at the Camano Library on Wednesday, November 15. Martha Huyler and Cathlin Starke are recruiting business sponsorships. With eight guests at each table, we will have 154 attendees. We will need more volunteers for various tasks at the event.

SC Give: Mary Raymond said that Giving Tuesday will be November 28, the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. This year there will be more prizes; many will be based upon timing. The newsletter and our Facebook page have scheduled posts.

Membership: We now have 50 members - two new members joined under "Shape the Future". The board approved goals for next year, including a new dues assistance policy. The new policy will be funded by a quarterly raffle starting at the Holiday Luncheon. Georgi Proulx has made a card for us to carry that contains a QR code. We can share the card and code with people we meet to inform them about AAUW membership. Next year we will have a Saturday meeting, and we will continue Talking Points, a phone/email opportunity to reach every member.

Programs: Rose Olson said that the Camano Center had graciously allowed us to have our November meeting there without charging us their customary fees. The speaker, Celeste Mergens, declined the customary \$50 honorarium that we have available for speakers. Kathy Cunningham moved that we donate the \$50 to "Days for Girls". Jackie DeFazio seconded and the motion was carried.

The December meeting, which is traditionally the holiday luncheon, will be held at the "Il Granaio" restaurant in Mount Vernon on December 7. The Cama Beach restaurant is unable to accommodate us this year. Carpools are recommended due to the small parking lot. The January meeting will feature a talk by the Stanwood-Camano school superintendent.

Public Policy: Anne Milton told us that the ERA and pay equity bills are stalled in the House. At our state Lobby Day on January 22, 2024, the AAUW state legislature committee is focusing on two items: HB1837 regarding contraceptive vending machines and banning book bans. They are asking for \$10,000 to put vending machines on college campuses.

Tech Trek: Mary Chesney, the Tech Trek coordinator, told us that currently the people working on Tech Trek are Mary Chesney, Judy Prince, and Karla Jacks. She said that they would like a 4th member as well. The fees have gone up, and it now costs \$1700 per girl to send to camp. She asked for member's opinions on whether we should consider candidates who have many other opportunities; some of the applicants have attended many other camps. She would like us to contact her with our opinions on that issue.

Activity Groups:

Book Group: December's book is The Marriage Portrait at Mary's Chesney's house in Arlington on December 4. She needs a count of attendees as she is furnishing an Italian lunch, so please let her know.

Java Break: Wednesday, November 15, 10:00 a.m. at the Cookie Mill

Movie Group: Anne Milton is working on scheduling the next movie event.

Day Trippers: The next trip is to the Hibulb Cultural Center in Tulalip on December 6.

Adjourn: Helen Smith adjourned the meeting at 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Lynn
Secretary

**MAY A SNOWFLAKE
REST ON YOUR
NOSE.
HAPPY HOLIDAYS**

