

In Touch



January 2024

Founded in 1936 - Celebrating 87 Years

Edited by Martha Huyler and Georgi Proulx



www.aauwsc.org

January 4th

Thursday

1:00 p.m.

January Board Meeting
SC Community Resource Center
9612 271st St NW, Stanwood

January 11th

Thursday

1:00 p.m.

General Meeting
Camano Library

*Program: Superintendent,
Deborah Rumbaugh & Dr. Colin
Ryan, discussing Local Education*

January 17th

Wednesday

JAVA Break

10:00 a.m.

Cookie Mill

*For Coffee and Conversation Bring
a Prospective Member*

January 22nd

Monday

Lobby Day, Virtual Event

8:30 a.m.

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President's Message

Helen Smith

Dear Members and Friends,

I hope you all have enjoyed the holidays and its accompanying events of concerts, family gatherings and celebrations. It's almost here...the new year! 2024 sounds amazing!

We look forward to this banner year to host our Purses with Purpose Benefit Luncheon and Purse Auction on April 27 to continue our mission. Now the real work begins for the rest of us who haven't been on the committee making the decisions to see that everything runs smoothly. Volunteer to assist where there is need and enjoy the rewards of the successful event.

Thanks goes out to Rose Olson and Mary Raymond for organizing our holiday luncheon at Il Granaio in Mt. Vernon. The holiday luncheon was memorable as we greeted long-time members and enjoyed each other's company. A big thank you to Joanne Drewsen for organizing the raffle basket to raise monies for the dues assistance fund.

Also thank you to Lynda Buehring and Jill Johnstone for organizing the tours of the Stillaguamish Tribal headquarters and Hibulb Cultural Center in Tulalip. Although we encountered some unexpected changes again it was just what life brings us--interruptions!

Be sure to consider attending Lobby Day, virtually, on January 22 where we will hear about legislative bills, relating to women and girls, which will be outlined by Washington AAUW. Please read Anne Milton's informational article on page 3 regarding the virtual Lobby Day plus more.

Looking forward to our general meeting on January 11. See Rose Olson's article below with the details. Please attend and learn more about our local school district status and needs.

January: School Presentations and Vote on Scholarship Budget

Rose Olson

General meeting on January 11 will be held at the Camano Library; social half hour begins at 12:30 p.m. followed by our guest speakers from the Stanwood-Camano School District:



School District Superintendent, Deborah Rumbaugh, will discuss and answer questions about our local schools and the upcoming levy.

Our second speaker is Dr. Colin Ryan, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Support, who will present a Teaching and Learning Department update.

This is your opportunity to have your school district questions answered. Hope to see you there!

During the business portion of our meeting we will be voting on the Scholarship Budget for 2024. Please see a copy of that budget included on page 4 of this newsletter.

Future Events

February 1st

Thursday

1:00 p.m.

February Board Meeting

Location TBD

February 10th

SATURDAY

10:00 a.m.

General Meeting

Open to the Public

Location to be announced

Challenges for Women in Politics

February 20th

Tuesday

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 - Last Call for Purses!

Jackie DeFazio, Gay Campbell

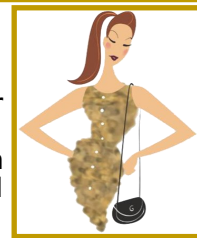
For months now we've been asking for donations of purses or money to purchase purses to meet our goal of having 200+ new and gently used purses for our branch's Purses with Purpose 2024 Benefit Luncheon/Auction scheduled for April 27, 2024.

At this point we have 24 of the 35-purse goal for the live auction and 150+ new/gently used purses for the silent auction, where we hope to have enough merchandise for every guest to be able to purchase at least one item.

Procurement must be completed by the end of January, so this is our "last call" for more purses to meet our goals and bring in enough money to fund the scholarships and Tech Trek camperships that give purpose to all our efforts.

"Last call" gives patrons the chance to make one more purchase, and that's what we're offering you - the opportunity to donate one more purse. Post-holiday sales are already underway online and offer excellent bargains. Take one more inventory of your closet shelves to see if you have a gently used bag you're ready to part with or check with that friend, neighbor or relative you've been meaning to ask.

The 11th hour is here. Answer this last call. Donate another purse!



Purses with Purpose 2024 - Calling All Members!

Georgi Proulx

There are two options for how you can support our April purse fundraiser: donate a purse and buy a ticket to bid or donate a purse and volunteer to help during the event. Tickets for our fundraiser will begin for members the end of January, actual date to be announced but now is the time to sign up to volunteer.

First, 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!

When thinking about to whom you're going to invite to our event consider promoting to your guest(s) their participation is helping us raise money; there are no bargains at this event.....FUN while raising money is a plenty.

Start your planning now.....

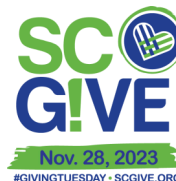
Giving Tuesday - Final, Final Results

Mary Raymond, Georgi Proulx

We are proud to announce our final, final total raised on Giving Tuesday was \$4,300 from 41 unique donors including two \$25 matching prizes.

Our community rocks...

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

The 2024 legislative session starts on January 8 and it is a short 60-day session. **Washington State AAUW is hosting our annual Lobby Day on January 22 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** It will be held virtually on Zoom to encourage all members to join.

The session will open early at 8:30 a.m. for a "meet and greet" which will be an opportunity to interact with others, but this half hour will not be led by any one individual.

Lobby Day speakers will start at 9:00 a.m. and will discuss Voting, Media Literacy, Girls at Risk and various topics from our lobbyist, Nancy Sapiro.

The cost is \$10.00. When registering, please provide your email and the zoom link will be sent a few days before the event. If interested, I am providing a second link to obtain the weekly legislative updates on the lobby day priorities.

Use the link below to register for Lobby Day:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/aauw-wa-lobby-day-tickets-774031417807?aff=oddtcreator>

Below is link to sign up for AAUW-WA 2024 Legislative Updates, *This Week in Olympia*:

<https://signup.e2ma.net/signup/1964781/31230>

Pay Inequality: both the Washington state Congressional District and Legislative District data has been finalized. This data outlines pay ratios and also includes data on the percentage of female households (single and single with kids) living below the poverty level in both Congressional and Legislative Districts.

See the attached WA State Pay Gap Data Spreadsheet taken from the December 2023 AAUW-WA newsletter. As anticipated, the rate varied a lot. In Congressional District 1(Federal Way, Highline) it was 67 cents for every dollar compared to Congressional District 9's (Kirkland, WA.) 87 cents. The range in Legislative Districts was 57 cents to 94 cents. This data confirms that pay equality will continue to be prioritized.

ERA – December 2023 marked the 100th anniversary of the Equal Rights Amendment being introduced into Congress. There have been no new legislative updates on this topic in the recent months and AAUW stresses that advocating for gender equity includes electing policymakers who support gender equity. AAUW national is putting together a 2024 Voter Education Toolkit.

Book Bans: A recent AAUW event sponsored by the Highline Branch discussed book banning and stressed the importance of understanding the needs of children. Dr. Brandon-Felder, a key speaker made a point that readers need to read stories about themselves. If a child does not read something that relates to their lived experience, the child feels ignored. Children also need to read about others' experiences so that they can understand their situations.

All agreed that intellectual freedom includes stories that mirror and reflect all persons. They also stressed that "The public cannot censor a book based on viewpoints from seventy years ago under McCarthyism. The vague statement "harmful to minors" is inadequate." Lastly, the American Library Association has a publication called *Read These Banned Books: A Journal and 52 Week Reading Challenge*.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S-171o3B52E>



Scholarship Budget for 2024

Robin Hanks

At the January 11 meeting we will be voting on our Scholarship Budget for 2024. A copy of the proposed budget is below for your review in preparation for the vote. Your board will be reviewing the AAUW funds available and proposing distribution of the \$3000 line item at the January 11 meeting before the vote to approve.

Comments, questions and discussion are welcome at the meeting, but if you have questions prior to then please contact Robin Hanks, VP-Finance.

AAUW - STANWOOD CAMANO 2024 SCHOLARSHIP BUDGET

	2023 Budget (approved)	2023 Actual (1/1- 10/31/23)	2024 Budget (proposed)	
INCOME				
Donations-non-designated	0.00	515.00	0.00	
Donations-Tech Trek	2,200.00	7,164.27	3,475.00	A
Interest income	50.00	177.89	50.00	
TOTAL INCOME	2,250.00	7,857.16	3,525.00	
EXPENDITURES				
Tech Trek	-7,700.00	-14,000.00	-13,600.00	B
STEM Expense	-300.00	-205.40	-300.00	
Scholarship Admin/Printing	-150.00	0.00	-150.00	
College scholarships	-30,000.00	-30,000.00	-30,000.00	C
Webhosting (1/3 of total)	-110.00	0.00	-110.00	
Auction Software Subscription	-868.00	-867.35	-868.00	
AAUW Education & Training (4450)	-1,500.00	-1,500.00	0.00	
AAUW Greatest Needs (9110)	-1,500.00	-1,500.00	0.00	
AAUW - Fund tbd	0.00	0.00	-3,000.00	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	-42,128.00	-48,072.75	-48,028.00	
Net before 2024 PWP activity	-39,878.00	-40,215.59	-44,503.00	
2024 PWP				
PWP income		1,800.00		
PWP expenses		-1,000.00		
NET		800.00		
Net 2024 Scholarship Budget	-39,878.00	-39,415.59	-44,503.00	

A - 2023 SC Give projected proceeds

B - Eight students @ \$1,700 each

C - Three scholarships @ \$10,000 each

DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) Spotlight

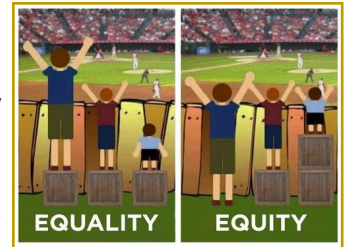
Katie Farrey

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:

Gender: Broadly, gender is a set of socially constructed roles, behaviors, activities, and attributes that a given society considers appropriate.

Gender Dysphoria: The distress caused when a person's assigned sex at birth and assumed gender is not the same as the one with which they identify. According to the American Psychiatric Association the term is intended to better characterize the experiences of affected children, adolescents, and adults.



Upcoming Opportunities:

Jan. 5, 7:00 p.m., Lincoln Theatre

Gina Touche & Friends, a night of drag and non-drag singing talent

<https://app.arts-people.com/index.php?actions=7&p=5>

Jan. 11, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m., Stanwood Camano Community Resource Center

Allyship 101: How to be an Effective Ally to the LGBTQIA+ Community

Please RSVP with the number in your party to pflagstanwoodcamano@gmail.com

Jan. 12, 7:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m., YMCA of Snohomish County Inspirational Weekend
Inspirational Breakfast, Angel of the Winds Arena

Jan. 15 Day of Service, Stanwood-Camano Impact Day with the Foodbank

Meet at Stanwood-Camano YMCA, 7:30 a.m.

<https://www.ymca-snoc.org/mlk/>

The Greater Everett Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Celebration

Jan. 14, 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m., Sunday service, First Presbyterian Church of Everett

Jan. 15, 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., March and Rally, Everett Memorial Stadium

<https://www.scbhcwa.org/>

Jan. 27, 1:00 p.m. Hibulb Cultural Center

Film Screening: Facing the Storm: The Indigenous Response to Climate Change, Episode 1

<https://www.hibulbculturalcenter.org/Events/Calendar?category=Community>

Tech Trek - Anticipation!

Mary Chesney

January, the start of new beginnings and the beginning of the Tech Trek nominee review period. Schools in Stanwood, Arlington, and Lakewood received their request for nominations in early December. In the past they were sent at the beginning of January but due to a comment from one of the schools about the short time for the teachers, they were sent out early.

The Board has approved eight camperships for this coming year, based on the current finances. That doesn't mean if someone wants to donate all or any part of the \$1700 to cover a campership that the number can't be increased (hint, hint). I know, I am shameless when it comes to Tech Trek.

Now we wait...



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.

Pictured to the right is the table Mary Chesney set for the Book Group meeting December 4 when we discussed "The Marriage Portrait." We enjoyed an authentic Italian meal and table setting. Thank you Mary for a marvelous experience.



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

"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.

March 4, 2:00 p.m. at the Home of Martha Huyler

A Fever in the Heartland by Tim Egan

"A historical thriller by the Pulitzer and National Book Award-winning author that tells the riveting story of the Klan's rise to power in the 1920s, the cunning con man who drove that rise, and the woman who stopped them. The Roaring Twenties--the Jazz Age--has been characterized as a time of Gatsby frivolity. But it was also the height of the uniquely American hate group, the Ku Klux Klan. Their domain was not the old Confederacy, but the Heartland and the West. They hated Blacks, Jews, Catholics and immigrants in equal measure, and took radical steps to keep these people from the American promise. And the man who set in motion their takeover of great swaths of America was a charismatic charlatan named D.C. Stephenson. Stephenson was a magnetic presence whose life story changed with every telling. Within two years of his arrival in Indiana, he'd become the Grand Dragon of the state and the architect of the strategy that brought the group out of the shadows--their message endorsed from the pulpits of local churches, spread at family picnics and town celebrations. Judges, prosecutors, ministers, governors and senators across the country all proudly proclaimed their membership. But at the peak of his influence, it was a seemingly powerless woman--Madge Oberholtzer--who would reveal his secret cruelties, and whose deathbed testimony finally brought the Klan to their knees."

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

Day Trippers to Stillaguamish Tribal and Hibulb Cultural Centers

Lynda Buehring

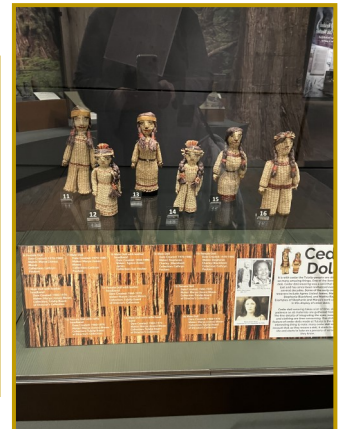
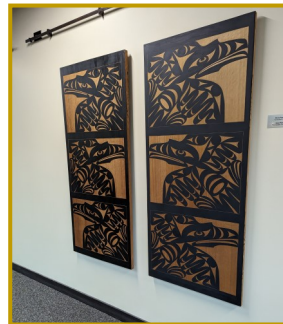
Tidbits of our great Day Tripper outing on December 6 to the Stillaguamish Tribal and Hibulb Culture Centers followed by lunch at the Tulalip Cedars Café. Throughout the day members and guests joined us and had to leave but all total there were about ten who participated. Thank you Lynda Buehring and Jill Johnstone.

Enjoy our memories below.

Stillaguamish Tribal Center, Arlington. Helen Smith and Linda Lynn are pictured on the right.



Hibulb Cultural Center, Tulalip below:



Holiday Luncheon at Il Granaio Authentic Italian Restaurant, Mount Vernon, Page 1 of 2

Photos by Martha Huyler



Dawn Boyden, Gay Campbell, Anne Milton



Janet St. Clair, Tracy Gilroy



Marianne McGarry-Bloom, Nancy Voelckers



Mary Ann Schradi, Darlene Dubay



Cheryl Gruger, Cheryl Allen



Patti Pontikis, Susan Knipe



Joyce Leak, Bev Maxwell



Judy Trammell, Helen Smith

Holiday Luncheon at Il Granaio Authentic Italian Restaurant, Mount Vernon, Page 2 of 2

Photos by Martha Huyler



Martha Huyler, Georgi Proulx



Joanne Drewsen



Thea Wellington, Mary Raymond



Robin Hanks, Mary Pilkington



Kaye Sodt



Jo English



Lynda Buehring



Mary Chesney

Also present
but without
photos: Jackie
DeFazio and
Rose Olson

No December General Minutes

